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Gene Locklear still the crowd pleaser during NBA playoffs

by Bruce Barton
Mt. Airy's Gene Locklear has received a lot of favorable press the last few days. I heard his name during TNT's NBA play off telecast, and read about him in the *Sporting News* (May 29, 1995) and in *U.S. Today* a couple of Tuesdays ago. Here's the article that appeared in the *Sporting News*:

Crowd pleaser

Gene Locklear was a major league baseball player from 1973 through '77 who could hit anyone, catch no one and paint everyone.

That's right, paint. He was a professional artist before he was a professional athlete, selling his work to galleries while he was in high school. Locklear, who went to several tryout camps before being signed as a 17-year-old, painted throughout his days as a player, making more as an artist than a ballplayer.

His career batting average for the Reds, Padres and Yankees was .274. I told him I remembered him as a poor fielder. He laughed and said, "I had a few problems there, but I could hit anyone." He could, even batting .321 platooning for the Padres in 1975, but his hitting wasn't enough to overcome his fielding, so they traded him away. He rebelled at being sent to the minors and left for a season in Japan and a career in art.

Locklear's art sells well and hangs in the White House and art museums and has been shown in the Smithsonian Institution. In 1993, he came up with a twist: He painted a mural at the Super Bowl in front of a crowd. Fans enjoyed watching, and the original was auctioned for \$25,000.

Locklear continues to paint in front of crowds: His work from the 1994 Super Bowl sold for \$25,000, from baseball's All-Star Game in '94 for \$50,000 and the '94 and '95 NBA All-Star games for \$25,000 each. He is negotiating with the NHL.

His experience playing ball in front of crowds enables him to paint in front of them, too, he says: "Most artists have to have quiet. As a ballplayer, you learn how to center in on what you're doing."

Turner Sports saw the excitement of the crowd watching him paint and was receptive to another twist: to provide live paintings for the studio during the NBA playoffs. "I'm taking the highlight of each game and doing a painting they use the next day on the show," he says.

Not many set decorations draw your attention, but the question remains whether they will attract interest. "If an artist can make money doing something, you have to allow for that," says Steve Mannheim, a professor at Herron School of Art who writes about art. "But I'm not knocked out by it. It's not first-rate illustration; that takes weeks. It's not that good as art, it's not that good as sports art."

Sports art is, as Mannheim puts it, "a funny sub-species of art. You're paying for the excitement of the moment. Sports art is like religious art was in centuries past."

Locklear is providing those exciting moments quickly. ♦

—TED ROBBERS

Lumbee Homecoming Schedule of Events July 1-July 8, 1995

Lumbee Homecoming, sponsored by LRDA, will be held this year July 1-July 8. A Schedule of Events follows:

July 1-Awards Banquet, Pembroke Jaycee Hut, 7 p.m. \$10 per person.

July 2-Farewell Tea, James B. Chavis Center, PSU, 3:00 p.m.-by invitation.

July 3-Strike at the Wind Aet Dinner, Holiday Inn, Lumberton, 6:30 p.m.-Reception; 7:00 p.m.-Dinner. \$30 per person.

July 5-Little Miss Lumbee and Junior Miss Lumbee Pageants, PSU Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m. \$6 per person.

July 6-Gospel Sing, Elrod Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m. No fee.

Senior Ministers Banquet, Purnell Swett High, 7 p.m.

July 7-Miss Lumbee Pageant, PSU Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m., \$8 per person.

Coronati9n Ball, Pembroke Jaycee Hunt, following pageant. \$10 per person.

July 8- 5-K Run, Pembroke Park, 7 a.m.

Parade, Downtown Pembroke, 10 a.m.

Antique Car Show, PSU Parking Lot, 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration \$12, Registration-\$15.

Activities in the Park, Pembroke Park, 10 a.m. \$45/booth.

Gospel Sing, Pembroke Park, 11 a.m.

Opening night of "Strike at the Wind," N.C. Indian Cultural Center, \$7/adults; \$5/65 and over; \$4/12 and under; \$2 off groups of 10 or more.

American Indian Science and Engineering Society Pow Wow, PSU Quad Area, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

For further information on Homecoming activities, call LRDA at 521-8602.

Lowry wins GEM fellowship award



Leslie Lowry, a 1995 graduate of Pembroke State University, is a

recipient of the GEM fellowship award. She is the daughter of Richard and Cassie Lowry of Pembroke.

GEM, the acronym of the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc., has been in the business of recruiting under-represented students to graduate study nationwide provides an opportunity to pursue graduate studies by awarding portable fellowships to minority students.

GEM fellows, the technical leaders and professors of the future, will begin their graduate studies after participating in paid summer internships at Fortune 500 companies and government laboratories. The internship experience is a key factor in GEM's production. GEM masters fellows have achieved an 89% graduation rate. This year's pool of minority students boasted an average grade point of 3.38 with 36% of these students having a grade point of 3.5 or better.

GEM members, consisting of Fortune 500 companies, government laboratories and universities, provide sponsorship for this pool of talented students that continues to be under utilized. These GEM members recognize that the job demands of the future will be met by persons trained at the post-graduate level to perform in a technologically complex work place.

Tribal Council Districts 11 and 18 to hold community meetings

On June 25, 1995 at 7 p.m. tribal members are encouraged to come out and meet with their tribal council members. Doreen Sampson, representing District 18 and Ponce Chavis Jr., representing District 11 will host a joint meeting for those two districts. The meeting will be held at Deep Branch Community Building. For further information, please contact Mr. Chavis at 910-521-2857 or Ms. Sampson at 910-521-8009.

Council District 9 Community meeting Saturday

Lumbee Tribal Councilman Garth Locklear, representing District 9 will host a community meeting on Saturday, June 24 at 10 a.m. in the Pembroke Court House. Members of this district are encouraged to attend and have input into their tribal government. The Lumbee Constitution provides for these community meetings in order to share information about the tribal government and to allow the elected tribal council person to receive input from tribal members.

Local News Briefs

Benefit Singing for Lonnie "Jr." Maynor, Jr.

A benefit singing is scheduled for July 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Sandy Plains United Methodist Church near Pembroke for Lonnie "Jr." Maynor, Jr., who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Everyone is welcome. Music will be provided by Carla and Redemption, Youth in Christ, and The Plainsmen. A love offering will be taken and refreshments will be sold.

Taxes stay the same in County

Lumberton - It was good news for county residents Monday night when the County Commissioners adopted a \$72.2 million budget for 1995-96, without a hike in taxes or water rates.

Property owners will continue to pay .99 cents per \$100 of assessed property values, or \$742.50 yearly for a home valued at \$75,000.

The budget was presented by Leo Hunt, the Interim County Manager, who noted that the budget reflected a growth rate of about 2% in the county's tax base, and that no pay raises are included for county employees.

Oxendine supporters appear at Scotland Board of Education

Ray Oxendine from Scotland High provoked a large turnout by parents, teachers, and students. They gathered at the Monday meeting of the Scotland County Board of Education to protest his ouster as principal of Scotland High.

The popular Oxendine was transferred to the principalship of the Alternative Learning Academy. More than two dozen of the 300 parents, teachers, and students spoke passionately in behalf of Oxendine, asking the board to take another look at transferring Oxendine and Annie Curleton, who was also transferred. Ms. Curleton, who also received much popular support, was transferred to the county board from Pate-Gardner Elementary School.

Oxendine was the previous principal at Purnell Swett and South Robeson High Schools. In news reports he said, "I feel good about the job that I did" and that the positive comments and large turnout are sort of "a reward for the relationships that I have developed with the community."

The board promised to take another look at transferring the two popular principals, but accepted Superintendents Gus Martin's resignation at the self-same time. The popular Oxendine, a native of Robeson County, is the brother of PSU Chancellor Dr. Joe Oxendine.

Upward Bound students to participate in Food Program

The Upward Bound Project at Pembroke State University will participate in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Summer Food Program for Children, along with its regular activities. The Food Program is sponsored by the North Carolina State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction, and provides nutritional meals for children through age 18 or younger who are determined to be eligible. All students will be served the same meals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or handicap. Students who are members of food stamp households or AFDC assistance units are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits.

The Summer Food Service Program for the Upward Bound participants will begin June 18th and end July 28, 1995.

For further information, please contact Larry L. McCallum, Upward Bound Coordinator at 910-521-6276.

Purnell Swett High News

The following freshmen were selected by the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce for their academic performance and involvement. Sabrina Renee Pickens, Adrian Jacobs, Karen Kristy Dine, Rhiannon Chavis-Legeria, Saurlet Marie Chavis, and Sara Ransom Locklear as the most outstanding freshman.

Sara has been honored with prestigious awards and honors as Woodmen of the World Award, Presidential Academic Fitness, Superintendents Academic, AAA Award in basketball, highest GPA in science and social studies in the 8th grade. She was also secretary of the Beta Club and participated in basketball, volleyball, and softball. During her freshman year, she has been selected as Ambassador for the freshman class, vice-president of the 95-96 sophomore class, Superintendents Honor Roll and academic award, PSRC All Academic Team in basketball, volleyball, and softball. She also attends the Young Scholars Program for Native Americans in Golden, Colorado and will attend AISES Life Science Camp for Native American in Iowa. She is the daughter of Dr. Cheryl Ransom Locklear.

The Fine Arts Department of Purnell Swett High School presents in concert, The Concert Band, Mixed Choruses and the Wind Ensemble, on May 23, 1995.

Directors of this special event were Allen Bethea (Band) and Ellen Jackson (Chorus). Seniors were recognized and awards were presented.

Seniors recognized were Mary Beth Locklear, Heather Lowery, Alexander Gilmore III and Dawn Lucas.

Most Outstanding Senior - Dawn Lucas, John Phillip Sousa Award - Mary Beth Locklear, Most Outstanding Junior - Ryan Moore, Most Outstanding Sophomore (Wind Ensemble) - Jennifer Blue, Most Outstanding Freshman (Wind Ensemble) - Stefanie Collins, Most Outstanding Sophomore (Concert Band) - Karen Sampson, Most Outstanding Freshman (Concert Band) - William Jacobs, Most Improved (Wind Ensemble) - Johnathon Locklear, Most Improved (Concert Band) - Samantha Gordon, Outstanding Musical Contributions - Christa Paga, Outstanding Musical and Contributions - Brian Locklear.

Local pediatrician, Dr. Joey Bell, is guest speaker at Highlands Summer Program

Dr. Joseph T. Bell, a Lumbee Indian, was a recent guest speaker at the Highlands Summer Program on June 12, 1995. The program is being held on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.

health courses. Over 30 Indian students from eastern N.C. have attended the program over the past 20 years. Dr. Bell encourages any Indian high school student interested in health careers to consider attending Highlands. Information can be obtained from high school counselors, Indian Education or by contacting Dr. Bell.

The Native American Resource Center at Pembroke State University presents

All Our Stories

a session of storytelling by people of all backgrounds and cultures, featuring teachers from the Public Schools of Robeson County and anyone else who has a story to share.

Whether your story is true or not so, traditional or modern, serious or funny, about your Grandma or your Uncle Joe —

WE WANT TO HEAR IT!

Tuesday, 27 June 1995
7:00 PM

Native American Resource Center
Old Main Building
Pembroke State University

This is the final segment of a series of five events entitled **Our Cultured Planet.**

Sponsored in part by the NC Humanities Council and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited to participate.