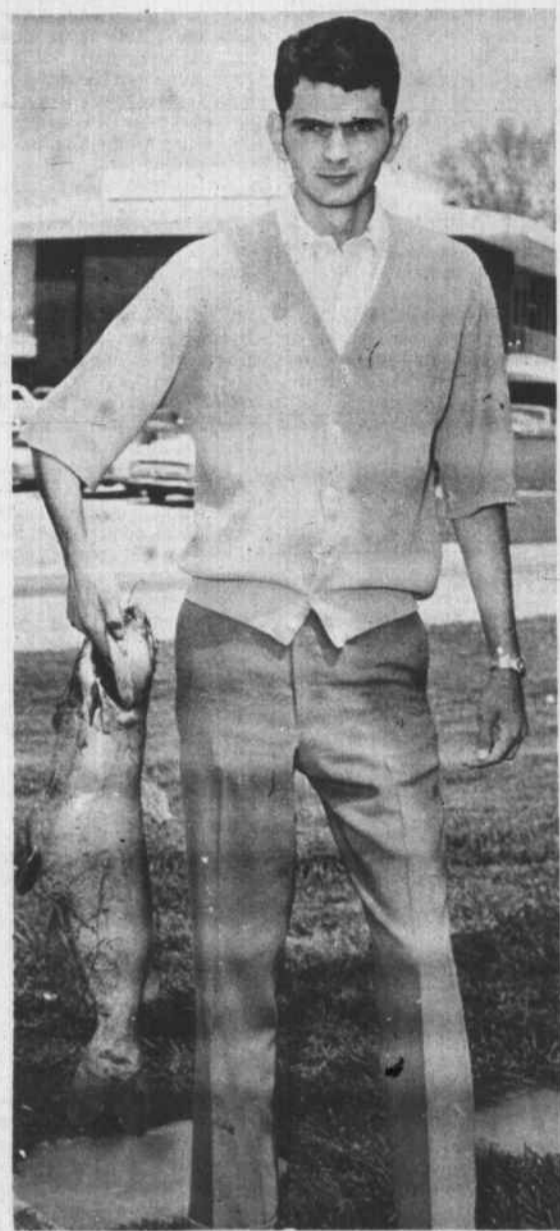


Franklin League Expands To Eleven Teams

Oxford Orphanage, Cardinal-Gibbons, Apex New Members

Edward Best, Epsom Return



Soap For Bait

Ossi Smith, Louisburg College, student from Oxford, is shown above with the 11 pound 4 ounce catfish he hauled from Tar River Tuesday night. Smith also caught an eight pound, 10 ounce cat Monday night. He says he used soap as bait. Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

The Franklin County League, operating for years as a seven-member athletic conference and last year as a six-school league, has expanded to eleven teams for the 1969-70 school year. The action came Monday night in a meeting here. After debating about thirty minutes on requests to join, league members voted 4-2 to accept Oxford Orphanage of Oxford, Cardinal-Gibbons of Raleigh and Apex High School of Apex as new members. Edward Best and Epsom were allowed to return to the league after having withdrawn for this year. Louisburg and Gold Sand voted against the additions. Franklinton, Bunn, Youngsville and Wakelon voted in favor of the expansion.

The three new schools said their reason for requesting admission into the Franklin league was that they "had no place to go." Thomas Currin, head of Oxford Orphanage's High School told the group, "We have no place to go. We have been in the Vance County league and in the Franklin County league for baseball. We will work with you in any way to cooperate." Franklinton School Superintendent R. B. Gordon said that Oxford Orphanage, "is a very good school to deal with."

The spokesman for Cardinal-Gibbons said about the same promising that his school "hospitality wise--gives the greatest treatment around to teams and spectators. One-A schools just aren't around anymore," he said. "This would take a terrific burden off us," he added. Joe Collins, speaking for Apex said, "We're another lost soul looking for a home." He said Apex is committed in football for this year in the Harnett County league but that he would be "interested in football another year." He also said his people, "have supported us well."

Epsom and Edward Best were represented and asked to be taken back into the league. Both schools decided not to field teams last year. Both will participate in baseball and basketball next year in the league but left the question of girls varsity or boys jayvee squads hanging. Some discussion was held about the late exit of Edward Best and Epsom from the league last year which resulted in the loss of some funds to the other schools which were unable to fill their schedules after the two schools withdrew.

Marvin Moss, League President told the group that with the new teams the league could now have five championships. He mentioned football (although this sport has not yet been consolidated into the league), baseball, basketball, track and golf. There is to be a meeting of the Tar River Football Conference tonight in Oxford, Louisburg, Franklinton, Wakelon and Oxford Orphanage are members of both leagues now. Elm City and Saratoga Central have indicated they would like to join the football conference next year.

A motion to change the name of the league to Franklin-Wake-Granville was killed when there was no second. Another suggested dropping the word "County" and making it simply the Franklin League. This failed to get a motion and Moss named a committee to study and report back on May 14 when the league will meet again to set up schedules and elect officers.

All schools indicated they will field girls basketball teams except Franklinton with Edward Best and Epsom saying they were not sure. Most said they will have boys jayvee teams in basketball and some mention was made of boys jayvee football. For many years the league operated with the six schools in the Franklin County school unit and Franklinton in the Franklinton City School unit, all in Franklin County. With the withdrawal of Epsom and Edward Best last year and the acceptance of Wakelon into the league, the six-team conference worked satisfactorily this year. Some coaches voiced concern at the hasty action Wednesday night and questioned the possibility of major problems arising.

The question of scheduling a season of all conference games arose and the length of the season question was never resolved. The distances from Gold Sand, Epsom and other schools to Apex was also discussed. Most of the questions are expected to come up again in May. Apex was given until Friday to confirm its membership since Collins told the league that he would meet tonight with another conference. However, he said he could give an answer last night and that Apex would join the Franklin league. Youngsville expressed concern that the new lineup might prohibit their scheduling basketball with Wake Forest, which has proven profitable gate-wise over the years. Louisburg expressed similar concern over its traditional rivalry with Warrenton.

The next meeting of the league was set for 7:30 P.M. Wednesday, May 14 at the Franklin County School office.

Finch To Play In Boys Home All Star Game

Thomas Finch, one of the most outstanding athletes ever at Louisburg High School has collected another honor. Finch has been chosen to play in the Boys Home All Star Game to be played in Ficklen Memorial Stadium at Greenville, N. C. August 2. Finch and Enfield's Sammy Rothrock are the only boys selected from Class A schools on the squad. Both will play for the North.

Twenty-seven of last year's North Carolina high school football stars have been selected, according to an announcement from the North Carolina Jaycees, sponsors of the benefit game. Players were selected jointly by the North team coaching staff of Homer Thompson of Winston-Salem, head coach and Don Palmer of Lexington, assistant, and the Boys Home All Star Game Advisory Committee. Selections were made from over 400 nominees from throughout North Carolina. Finch, a senior and a three-letter man at Louisburg, is an outstanding linebacker and defensive end. He has been All Conference three years and All East 1-A for the past two years. As a freshman he averaged 14 tackles per game. As a junior he broke all conference records for the most passes caught, most yards gained by passing and most unassisted tackles. He scored nine touchdowns that year. Plagued by an injured

knee in his senior year, his performances were still outstanding. Playing sparingly, he caught 19 passes for 198 yards, made 68 tackles and averaged 40 yards per punt.

Coach Tommy Twitty said that Finch is certainly deserving of this latest honor and adds that he will do well in the game.

This year's North squad consists of 15 linemen and 12 backs, including:

BACKS: Johnny Charles Jr., Elkin; Bruce Shelton, Winston-Salem; Allen Allbrook, Scotland Neck; Gill Markham, Pasquotank Central; Sammy Rothrock, Enfield; David Shepperd, Williamston; Ronnie Miller, Thomasville; Steve Evans, North Davidon; Conrad Graham, Winston-Salem; Mickey Hickerson, Lenoir County; Jimmy Henderson, Lexington; Dan McNatt, Mt. Tabor.

ENDS: Harry Threath, Rocky Mount; Charles Brantley, Durham; Thomas Finch, Louisburg; Robert Batts, Williamston.

TACKLES: Rick Sigmon, Jr., Lexington; Heber Whitley, III, Greensboro; Don Pope, Winston-Salem; Phil Johnston, Millbrook, Raleigh.

GUARDS: Gary Cecil, High Point; Larry Johnson, Williamston; Alex Hargrove, Tarboro; Fred Beeson, East Davidon.



FINCH

Vikings Take Eagles

Creedmoor - Glen Brinkley's sacrifice fly brought Robb Haskin scampering across the plate with what proved to be the winning run as South Granville squeezed past Edward Best, 1-0 here Tuesday.

Haskin led off the inning with a double and moved to second on a ground out by Charles Emory. Brinkley then flied deep to center to score Haskin.

LC Golfers Down Southwood

Louisburg's golf team scored a 302-358 victory over Southwood here Tuesday. The scores were much better than in the past match against Chowan. The victory against Southwood pushes Louisburg's record to 7-1 in conference play, and 8-2 overall.

The 'Canes golfers were led by Dwight Leadbetter who returned to his old form by recording a 74(38-36) which included consecutive birdies on the last two holes. Not far behind Dwight came Stamper's 75(39-36), and Green's 75(37-38). High point of the day was Deane

Hege's 78(39-39). Deane has had trouble all season getting his scores below the 80 mark, but in this match, everything fell into place even though he had 6 three putt greens. His 78 rounded out the scoring for Louisburg with Klingel following with an 81, and Radford with an 83.

The next match is Monday against UNC. In the previous match against them, Louisburg lost 12-6 in a close one. This match should prove to be very interesting for both teams, and fans will see excellent golf played by both sides.

Louisburg Takes Doubleheader

Louisburg swept a doubleheader from Youngsville, 8-6 and 16-3, here Tuesday afternoon. Charles Moon and Mike Wynne picked up the mound wins for Louisburg.

In the opener, Robby McDonald and Jimmy Wrenn each got two hits for Louisburg while Worth Keith and Beryl Keith collected three apiece for Youngsville. In the nightcap, Robby McDonald had three safeties for Louisburg while J. Wrenn, Carey

Wrenn, and John Davis had two each.

Upsets Vance

Zebulon - Wakelon handed top-ranked 1-A power Vance County its first loss of the season by edging the Cougars, 3-2, here Tuesday afternoon behind the three-hit pitching of Earl Bunn.

Wakelon kayoed starter and loser Pete Newman in the first inning on Ricky Rogers' run-producing double and a two-run triple by Robbie Kembell. Bill Ellington doubled for Vance County.

Thorne Leads Bunn

The Bunn Bulldogs downed the Franklinton Rams Tuesday afternoon, 13-7 behind the hitting of McGreg Thorne. Bunn's Phil Hagwood struck out 12 while walking four Rams. Collins fanned five and walked eight for Franklinton.

Thorne had a triple and two singles and Allen Pace grabbed a three-bagger to lead the Bulldogs. Mack Beckham and Harold Kearney paced the Rams with a double a piece.



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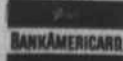
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