

[SPORTS] In Our Opinion

By CLINT FULLER

FRANKLIN LEAGUE TAKES GIANT STEP

A year ago, when the Franklin County League voted to accept Wakelon as a member, there were some misgivings. The League had always been made up of schools located within the bounds of Franklin County, even though one was from a different administrative unit than the other six members.

The custom had served the League and the county students extremely well and any change could have endangered the very existence of the League. However, Wakelon's entrance proved to be a good move on the part of the League, especially when Epsom and Edward Best pulled out.

While it was believed that Wakelon was accepted as much as anything else because of the fact that its principal Johnny Alford labored so long as a League member while coaching at Bunn and as principal at Edward Best, there was some merit in the expansion itself.

Last week the League took a giant step which has led to a much larger expansion. Oxford Orphanage, Cardinal-Gibbons and Apex were voted into the League. One night later, Oxford Orphanage and Wakelon-joined Louisburg and Franklinton-in abolishing the Tar River Football Conference. All four voted to join the Franklin County League.

MORE SPORTS, MORE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The four teams only will field football in the League this year. Apex, with a football program, has already made commitments for this year. Cardinal-Gibbons may field a grid squad next year and there is some talk that Saratoga Central and Elm City will seek to enter as football members after this fall.

All eleven schools will have basketball although which are to field girls varsities and boys jayvees is yet to be announced. Baseball, track and golf will also be a part of the League program, but to what extent is yet to be decided.

There is likely to be at least five League championships and more when girls and jayvees are included. Old rivalries will continue and some new ones will undoubtedly blossom.

KEEP THE FRANKLIN NAME

Looking around the room in the League meeting last week, it occurred to this writer that-with a couple of possible exceptions-we had been attending League sessions for about as long as any of today's members and longer than most.

The problem of naming the newly expanded group arose as might be expected. With three teams now coming from Wake County, one from Granville, one from Franklinton City unit and the remainder from Franklin County, it is natural that a name change enter the picture.

We shudder at the suggestion of a Franklin-Wake-Granville conference. This name does absolutely nothing for the members or anyone else. Franklin did not seek to join anybody's else's League. They already had the best in the state. They accepted those who came seeking to join them.

This is not to suggest that the newly expanded organization should not give equal voice in its business to the new members. Indeed, it should. It is to state emphatically that this writer believes that the name Franklin should remain in whatever name chosen.

The Franklin League was formed 42 years ago. It was the brainchild of Julius A. Woodward, former principal at Epsom and J. J. Wolfe, vocational teacher at Edward Best. Formed in 1927, the Franklin County League has succeeded through the years of depression, wars and integration. It has withstood a gross lack of funds and even a gas rationing in 1943, when it was forced to suspend its programs, including basketball.

Originally stated, "The purpose of the organization is to promote a better feeling between the schools in the county, and at the same time give training in every extra-curricular activity practicable".

This the League has done and in so doing, it has built for itself a tradition which is difficult-if not impossible-to match. It would be a great loss to the League past and future if this tradition were to be lost. It deserves a better fate.

It took League members less than an hour to decide on the important action of expanding to eleven schools. Except that a committee was named, the League would have already had a name change. Careful thought should be given before making a hasty decision in this matter.

For what it's worth, a suggestion from one of those present at the Tar River Conference strikes our fancy. How about the FRANKLIN AREA CONFERENCE? We like it.

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Tar River Football Conference Merges With Franklin League

The Tar River Football Conference, down to four teams after the loss of Helena and South Granville, voted to disband and to join the eleven-school Franklin County League in a meeting held at Oxford Orphanage last Thursday night. The four schools, Louisburg, Franklinton, Wakelon and Oxford Orphanage, will be the only ones to field a football squad in the

Franklin League. Helena High School, located at Timberlake in Person County, has been consolidated into Roxboro High School for next year and South Granville at Creedmoor has joined the 2-A Capital Area Conference. The changes have brought on major problems in scheduling for the remaining four teams. The move into the Franklin

League will consolidate the efforts of the schools, which will field teams in other sports, with the League.

Coaches of the four teams expressed difficulty at filling schedules for the fall football season. Tommy Twitty of Louisburg disclosed that the Bulldogs thus far have only eight games slated. He has

open dates on October 17 and November 7. Jimmy O'Neal of Franklinton said he has nine games scheduled but has been unable to get the tenth. Twitty and O'Neal have tried to rearrange their schedules so the Rams and the Bulldogs could play each other twice, but this too has been impossible to do.

The remaining teams will check with Simon Terrill, Executive Director of the N. C. High School Athletic Association, to determine if the Franklin League will be allowed to have a representative in district football playoffs. Thomas Currin of Oxford Orphanage and President of the Tar River Conference will confer with Terrill.

The Conference voted last Thursday to split any funds left after expenses equally

among the six former members. Little money is expected to be left after expenses of the Conference Track Meet slated for Wednesday at South Granville. The events begin at 2 P.M.

Some discussion was held last week on changing the name of the present Franklin County League, but the football conference was without authority to do anything more than offer a suggestion. Currin told the coaches to pass on any name ideas to the League Committee.

Louisburg Takes Bunn Under The Lights, 10-4

Louisburg hitting and Bunn miscues decided the first nighttime contest between the two teams Monday night. Louisburg jumped off to a 2-1 lead in the first inning before one of the largest crowds ever to witness a high school game in the county.

The newly lighted field at Bunn brought out the crowds from the Bunn area and also from Louisburg. Phil Hagwood, Bunn's starting hurler, was not brilliant, but deserved a better fate than he received. Miscues on the part of his teammates spelled disaster for the big righthander. The home standing Bulldogs committed five errors, all at crucial times for Bunn.

Louisburg's workhorse, Thomas Finch, hurled the first four innings and gained credit for the win. He needed help from Mike Wynne to halt a Bunn rally in the fourth. Finch led the hitters

with four for five, including a triple. He was thrown out at third trying to stretch a double into a second three-bagger. Tommy Wrenn had two for four for Louisburg to place behind Finch in the top hitters.

Truby Oakley slammed two triples for Bunn and Jerry Strickland did a good job of relief for Bunn. Holding a 6-4 lead going into the final seventh inning, Louisburg scored two runs and it appeared Strickland had put out the fire until a dropped fly ball in center field allowed two runs to score with two men out.

This was the fourth straight win for the visiting Bulldogs after dropping their first six games.

LOUISBURG 10, BUNN 4
Louisburg 210 300 4-10 10 3
Bunn 100 200 0-4 3 3
Finch, Wynne (4) and Purnell, Hagwood, Strickland (4) and Wheeler. Leading hitters: Louisburg - Thomas Finch 4 for 5; T. Wrenn 2 for 4; Bunn - Truby Oakley hit two triples.

UNC Nips College Golfers

The Louisburg golf team fought as hard as it could yesterday, but at the end, the Carolina JV prevailed 9-8-1. It was a close match all the way to the last foursome where Rick Green sank a

pressure putt to keep the 'Cane golfers right on Carolina's heels. However, it all came down to a 20 foot putt on the last hole by the JV's Parker to rap up the match for Carolina.

Stamper (L) d. Hooks (C) 3-0; Parker (C) d. Radford (L) 2-1-1; Leadbetter (L) d. Potter (C) 2-1-1; Hege (L) 1-1, Battle (C) 1-1; Alexander (C) d. Klingel (L) 3-0; Kincheloe (C) d. Green 2-1.

Louisburg's last match is at home Thursday against COA and Ferrum. If LJC takes this match, then they will be co-champions in the conference with Chowan. Louisburg's record is now 7-1 in conference play and 8-3 overall.



Bob Watkins, Route 3, Louisburg, is shown above with prize catch. Watkins caught the six pound bass in a private pond last Friday.

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Accidents Can Be Prevented

Statistics, it is said, can be used to substantiate any fact. However, according to Sterling T. Tooker, president of The Travelers Insurance Companies, statistics cannot prove how many accidents have been prevented through safety education.

Writing in the 35th edition of his company's annual booklet of highway accident data, Mr. Tooker said, "Our rationale back in 1931 was that if reasonable people know the truth about a problem, the truth will help them solve the problem. In 1969, 65 million booklets later, it is still our rationale.

"Ironically enough, this conviction cannot be based on hard statistics," he said. "Yet we know that hundreds of thousands of accidents have been prevented by drivers and pedestrians who have learned to drive and walk with safety. And the ever-mounting number of miles traveled on many poorly engineered roads clogged by more and more cars and trucks and busses give us real reason to believe that these ghastly casualty totals could be much higher," he added.

"Alcoholocaust" is the title of the 1969 edition of The Travelers booklet. And for the first time it takes a long, hard look at the mixture of alcohol and gasoline. But the booklet does not contain statistics to support the title. Here's why:

The numbers and the classifications are distilled-no pun intended-from monthly reports furnished by state motor vehicle departments (a voluntary service gratefully acknowledged by The Travelers). Energetic and thorough research has nailed down drunk driving as a major accident cause, but absolute precision is still out of reach. A dead driver can't be asked to heel-and-toe or take a breath or blood test. The injured

driver frequently needs swift emergency treatment. Technical examination for alcohol in his blood stream must come later when the aberrant ingredient has been diluted or has disappeared altogether.

The evidence is nevertheless overwhelming. Indeed, the U. S. Department of Transportation has issued a report to Congress which even die-hard statisticians agree is a definitive indictment of drink-then-drive offenders. This landmark study concludes that "the use of alcohol by drivers and pedestrians leads to some 25,000 deaths and a total of at least 800,000 crashes in the United States each year."

"Some" and "at least" acknowledge that the D.O.T. study is not an exact recap either. The point, however, is sharp to all last-ditch apologists for irresponsible social drinkers or social drinkers-and-drivers themselves.

Get the message?

NFO To Meet

The National Farmers Organization will hold a meeting Thursday night at the Agricultural Building, Franklinton High School, it was announced today. All farmers are urged to attend the 8:30 P.M. session.

Rumors are often an effort by one person to destroy the popularity of another.

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