



Black-On SPORTS

by Robert Eller
Sports Editor

Well the longest pro basketball season in history finally came to an end Sunday with the Boston Celtics capturing the title from the Phoenix Suns.

The old battle tested Celtics proved to be a little too much for the young inexperienced Suns, but still it was a great series.

With a little luck and a lot of negotiating the NBA will have four ABA teams in its midst next season. This will add both revenue and interest to the sport.

But some of the NBA teams may be less than delighted with the prospect of having to do battle with the Denver Nuggets and the New York Nets.

Here's one writer who is looking forward to the merger. What could be more delightful on a Sunday afternoon than a Julius Erving - Bob McAdoo dual followed by a David Thompson - Phil Smith clash.

A merger is probably the best thing for pro basketball but it does have its drawbacks.

With the bidding war over college stars will probably not receive the lofty contracts their predecessors have.

But the real drawback is the fringe player. If the NBA only accepts the four teams that have applied Kentucky and Utah (formally St. Louis) will be left out leaving such stars as Artis Gilmore, Mavin Barnes and Maurice Lucas to be picked up. Thus quite a few players of last season will be unemployed.

Now that the Olympic basketball squad has been cut to fifteen and coach Dean Smith has succeeded in getting seven ACC players of the list (including four Tarheels) maybe he can stop complaining that the coach does not have enough say so in the teams selection.

If all four of his players were picked with such a lack of influence on his part one must wonder if given a free hand he might have taken his entire North Carolina team.

It stands to reason that with such a limited amount of time to prepare for the games players who have played together will make the team stronger, but, it also stands to reason that players like Ricky Green and Mo Howard have as much ability as anyone on the team.

The NBA draft was held this week and the No. 1 draft pick was Maryland's John Lucas, a North Carolina native. David Thompson last year's college player of the year is also a native Tarheel. Whatever happened to the days when many said the great players came from the New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, D.C. area?

Janet Guthrie may have gotten the headlines but she's not the only young lady with auto racing fever. Last Sunday there were three other young ladies racing.

In the Texas 500, a 500 mile United States Auto Club (USAC) stock car race Arlene Hiss took a ninth place finish. (There were 15 cars running at the end). Martha Wideman was also running at the conclusion of the race.

While at North Wilkesboro in the Baby Grand Division of NASCAR Lillian Vandiver who drove at Charlotte in the same division lasted 45 laps of a 164 lap race before going out with a burned piston. Keep reading my column ladies I'm becoming less chauvinistic every week.

The man who drinks Scotch
is in a class by himself.

The man who drinks Cutty
is at the head of the class.



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