



Robert Eller
Sports Editor

Black-On Sports

On Wednesday night of this week the Fifth Annual Winston-Salem Invitational Baseball Tournament began at Carver High School.

Fourteen semi-pro teams from North Carolina and Virginia began play in the event. Some say semi-pro baseball is a dying sport in the nation but none would ever know it by looking on the softball field where the two teams square off as if it were the final game of the World Series and to the players and loyal semi-pro fans it is.

The players are named Rice, Petree, Speas, and Greene instead of Bench, Morgan, Jackson and Munson but the game is the same. The good fastball is still the best weapon a pitcher can possess and speed still is the most valuable asset.

The players come from different backgrounds and neighborhoods but one thing ties them together as a team, the will to win, to be the best, if not the best in the country then just the best in this tournament.

To the young players it's a chance to learn from the old vets. To the college players it's a chance to stay sharp and possibly improve their chances at the big leagues. And finally to players like Marvin Shaw, Ken Valentine, Eddie Adams, and Leroy Galloway who have already had their chances at a major league career it's a chance to again excel at a sport that demands a number of athletic qualities.

As Curt Gibson so aptly put it in a recent interview, "It's not the major leagues but its competitive." Yes the competition is fierce. None of the players stand to make money from their endeavors but they stand to gain something much more valuable to them than money.

Nelson Petree, manager of the Pond Giants and known as the Godfather of baseball in Winston-Salem described it this way. I love baseball, and I guess I always will. There's something about going up to the plate with a bat and hitting a baseball that is travelling at over 90 miles per hour and moving in a different direction each time it is thrown that can't be explained. There's a sense of satisfaction there that just can't be derived from hitting a much bigger ball that it tossed high in the air to you. Anyone can play softball from age 10 to 70 but it takes skill, speed, quickness and a number of other qualities to play baseball and play it well."

But semi-pro baseball is more than just player against player its a combination of things. Take Roy Carter, manager of the Mt. Airy Yankees and Albert Dalton, skipper of the Walnut Cove Tigers. The two have been friends for years and played baseball together and against each other in their semi-pro playing days. The two are never friends now when they talk about their baseball teams. "I'd rather beat Albert than to eat when I'm hungry," said Carter before the WSBF tournament earlier this month. "You had better eat hardy before you come out to play us Sunday then," replied Dalton. "I'd hate to see you hungry and whipped too I like you too good for that."

It's also a game of more than exercise for the younger players. After the Indians captured the WSBF title Lynn Bitting had this to say. "You know I have been wanting to beat the Pond Giants ever since I can remember. When I first started playing they used to beat us by scores of 15-1, 20-3, and things like that. When they had Birmingham Sam (who now plays for the Indianapolis Clowns and starred in the movie Bingo Long) he would scream out to right field for me to build a campfire on those long nights when they would score 7 or 8 runs in one inning. But now those days are gone, the Indians are on top now and I'm glad I can remember those days it makes me appreciate today much more."

If this article sounds corny to you well maybe it is but the guys who play semi-pro baseball aren't corny, they're just competitors who love baseball.

Patterson Y Football League Prepares For Second Season

By Robert Eller
Sports Editor

The Patterson Avenue YMCA football league opened practice last week in preparation for their second season of operation.

The league will again operate with eight teams. Four 9 and 10 year old teams and four 11 and 12 year-old squads will participate. The players will come from Happy Hill, Blum Park, Kimberly Park-North Hills, and

Belview-Morningside and Milbrook.

The program which will include some 200 boys was kicked off Saturday August 20 with a football clinic. The clinic held at Winston Salem State University was conducted by the coaching staff at the institution.

Bobby Dunlap, Director of the program, was pleased with the clinic. "The staff at WSSU did an outstanding job with the clinic. I learned quite a bit myself and I know the

coaches and players benefited from it." The 312th Medical Core of the Army Reserve gave physicals on the same day.

The second season for the league is scheduled to begin September 10 and will culminate on November 19 with the second annual L.D. McClendon bowl to be played at Bowman Gray Stadium. The bowl will feature players from each team in the league against a group from Richmond, Va.



Learning how to block: Football season is here again, and these youngsters are receiving instructions from 'the big guys' on how to tackle the sport.

Downtown Set For Annual Festival

Nationally acclaimed stars from the worlds of jazz, blues and country music were announced as featured performers for the second annual "Carolina Street Scene," a free festival of music, dance, theater, arts and crafts which will be held on the streets of downtown Winston-Salem Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11. "Carolina Street Scene" is being presented by the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company as a salute to North Carolinas, cultural herit-

age, in cooperation with The Arts Council and other area artists and arts agencies.

The musical highlights announced for the two day event include jazz flutist Herbie Mann and his Family of Mann, Eddie Harris and his quartet, and the Mose Allison Trio. Each of the groups will give two performances both days of the festival. The headliners were announced at the Brown Bottle hospitality center of the Schlitz plant here, at a dinner for community

officials and media representatives.

Daniel F. McKeithan, Jr., chairman of the board of Schlitz, emphasized the need to "bring life back into our cities' downtowns. We see the joy that an occasion such as Carolina Street Scene can bring to people, and believe this is proof that our cities can survive, and succeed. We are extremely pleased that last year's festival ranked among the nation's finest."

Dunlap says the league will be stronger this year than last. "The players and coaches now have a year of experience and this should make for a stronger league. Still participation is the number one priority it will be mandatory that each team member plays in every game again this year."

Dunlap stated that there are plans to expand the league in the future but that an immediate goal is to get more parents involved. "We are at-

tempting to organize Booster clubs and anyone who is interested in the welfare of the children in East Winston is invited to join," Dunlap continued.

The league Director also re-entered the need for volunteers to help with the program. "We need people to help with transportation, concessions, and coaches. One doesn't have to be knowledgeable about football to help there are so many things involved. For example we need ladies to

help with the cheerleading squads."

The league games will be played on Saturday's at Winston Salem State University beginning at 9:00.

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Black Driver Wins Race

By Robert Eller
Sports Editor

Back in 1970 James Samuels had just returned from Jersey City, New Jersey when a friend asked him to accompany him to a street race he had entered. As they roared along the friend began to tell James about the high performance extra's his street racer was equipped with. Samuels knew very little about race cars at that time and began to ask questions. "You need to learn something about cars," the friend said.

Seven years and a ton of mechanics grease later Samuels and his partner Van Lyles have learned plenty.

On Saturday, August 20 their Super-Stock Class E Camaro won that class of the International Hot rod Assoc. Winston U.S.

Open Nationals at Rockingham, N.C. In the process they defeated the IHRA world record holder Robert Hughes.

"That comment really got me interested in cars," says Samuels looking back over the years. "The next week I enrolled in an auto-mechanics class at Forsyth Tech. The first car I brought for racing was a 1970 Road-Runner 440 six-pack. During that time it was the age of super cars. You could buy a Chevelle, GTO, Ford Cobra or Super Bee straight from the factory that was ready to run. We would street race and also run the drag strip."

Samuels first competition car was a 1967 Camaro which he and a friend Robert Pettiford bought in 1975. "We outran everybody in Winston who street raced

with it and did pretty good on the strip too", he remembers.

The two owners agree that the win is the biggest thrill that they have ever had in racing.

They will run their 450 horsepower machine at Farmington regularly and in ATCO, New Jersey September 16.

Next season they plan to run many IHRA events as possible, and will try for the IHRA point championship.

The powerful quarter-mile machine of Lyles and Samuels doesn't have a name yet. "We're all set to have the car lettered when we decide on a name, 'New Kid In Town' and 'Pavement Pusher' have been suggested but we're still listening to ideas."

The Drag machine may yet lack a name but after Saturday its already built a reputation.



Gregory Siler

Larritha McConnell

NCCU Alumni Awards Scholarship

By Carolyn M. Neal
Special to the Chronicle

The Winston-Salem Chapter of the North Carolina Central University Alumni Association recently awarded scholarships to Gregory Donnell Siler and Larritha Davette McConnell. Both Siler and Miss McConnell received \$500.00 each.

Siler and Miss McConnell will enter NCCU this fall as freshman.

Siler is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson. He is a graduate of West Forsyth Senior High School and plans to major

in Biology.

Miss McConnell is the daughter of Mrs. Maggier Graham. A graduate of North Forsyth Senior High School, Miss McConnell was a contestant in the Miss Black America of North Carolina Pageant. At NCCU she plans to major in Special Education.

The awarding of scholarships is an annual project of the Winston-Salem chapter. The scholarships are renewable each year. Bernell Jones is alumni president.

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