



CHRONICLE

# SPORTS

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## Black on Sports



Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

You've heard the old saying one step forward and two steps back. Well that seems to be the way things are happening in the National Football League as the 1978 season draws near, at least for black quarterbacks.

As for the one step forward it was made by Tampa Bay rookie Doug Williams, the Grambling grad, the first black quarterback ever picked in the first round of the NFL draft, led the lowly Bucs to a 23-12 victory over the powerful Baltimore Colts last weekend.

Playing before a hometown crowd of more than 61,000 fans he started the second half with the Bucs trailing 12-3 and led the Tampa Bay club to a stunning 23-12 win tossing a touchdown pass to Louis Carter along the way.

As for the two steps backward, The Cleveland Browns released Dave Mays last week in favor of Terry Luck and rookie Johnny Evans. The 29-year-old Mays got some playing time last year when starter Brian Sipe was injured but was not allowed to "open up" the offense.

Now he will join the ranks of other black quarterbacks who found out that to play quarterback in the NFL, one just about has to be white.

If that sounds a little pointed to you, then take a look at the situation James Harris is facing in San Diego. Three years ago with Los Angeles Harris was the NFL's top passer and a Ram starter. He led the team to the playoffs. The next season he was the second leading passer in the league when he was benched in favor of Pat Haden.

He was then traded to the Chargers and was their starting quarterback until suffering an injury. Dan Fouts then ended his holdout, he was the teams former starter, and as the new season begins the 31-year-old Grambling star doesn't think he is getting a fair shake.

In the words of Harris, "I figured there would be open competition for the starting job. I thought the best man would get it but it seems to be cut and dried. Fouts did a great job last year and finished strong. Now it looks like no matter what I do it doesn't make a difference."

The Philadelphia Eagles John Walton may begin to feel that way soon too. Walton did a great job in the Eagles first pre season game when he led them to a victory over the Miami Dolphins with a strong second half showing but since Walton has not played.

A few weeks ago an NFL scout said that if a player can play it doesn't make any difference what color he is. That may be true for all the other positions but not quarterback, at least not until Williams or some other young black quarterback leads a downtrodden team to the super bowl.

While that racial barrier still stands, another has been broken. This week the CIAA got its first white head coach when Dave Robbins was named as the new basketball coach at Virginia Union University.

Robbins had been a highly successful high school coach in Richmond for eight years producing some outstanding college athletes at Thomas Jefferson High there. At Union he becomes the first white basketball coach in a predominantly black school and the first in the CIAA. Well so much for reverse discrimination.

A few other black pro athletes are letting their feelings about racial prejudice be known as well as Harris. Len "Truck" Robinson the New Orleans Jazz top rebounder said recently that he wants to be traded because, accord-

See Page 10

## Underdog Indians Win WSBL

### Squad Beat Adversity

By Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

The Winston-Salem Indians counted out of the third annual WSBL championship tournament after a disappointing fourth place finish in the regular season used strong pitching, excellent defense, and timely hitting to capture the event for the second year in a row this past weekend.

The Indians seeded fourth in the event after completing league play with a 10-6 record used the four hit pitching of Gary Groce and Ted Petree's three RBI's to turn back the Mt. Airy Yankees 4-3. Curt Gibson's seventh inning triple scored Ben Norris with the winning run.

In quarterfinal action, Norris had three hits and three runs-batted-in as the Indians routed the error prone Statesville Twins 10-3. John Knight picked up the win with relief help from Mike Smith.

In the semifinals the Indians rapped out ten hits in beating their arch rivals and regular season champion Pond Giants 10-4. Mike Smith broke out of a long slump at the plate with a four for five performance and five RBI's. Gary Groce went the distance to pick up his second win in the tourney.

The Indians captured the crown last Saturday night by squeaking past the surprising Walkertown Tigers 5-4. Both teams scored single runs in the first inning and the Tigers took the lead in the second reaching Indian starter Mike Smith for two runs on hits by Bill Robinson and Milton Hairston.

The Indians came back to score three times in the fourth inning and take a 4-3 lead. They scored the winning run in the fifth inning on Fuzzy Marion's second RBI double of the game. The tigers added a final run in the seventh. Mike Smith went all the way for the Indians.

The Tigers seeded sixth in the even reached the championship game by virtue of an opening round win over the Pirates. They beat the third seeded Astros 9-8 in the quarterfinals on Roy Simmons bases loaded single in the bottom of the ninth inning. In the semis they topped the second seeded Greensboro Knights.

"I'm really proud of this team," shouted "Rip" Wilkins, President of the Winston-Salem Indians as the team celebrated their second straight WSBL tourney championship last Saturday night with a 5-4 win-over the Walkertown Tigers.

"This win means more to me than last year's. Last year everyone knew how good our team was and we were recognized. This year we felt we had something to prove after our disappointing regular season showing. All we wanted was a little recognition as a good team, maybe now we will get it."

"We're a late season ball club," chimed in manager Willie Walls, "and we play better when their is something on the line. Our defense was super throughout the tournament."

The Indians, one of the strongest semi-pro teams in the South for many years

had suffered through a mediocre season after being picked as one of the teams to beat in the WSBL western division before the season. They had captured the 1977 tourney in convincing fashion showing awesome power and strong pitching.

The Indians suffered two big blows before the '78 season began when left-fielder Frank Cauthen, the tournaments homerun leader last year, signed with Statesville and centerfielder Thomas Foggie was lost for the season with a back injury.

"We lost two of the best lefthanded power hitters and maybe the two top glove outfielders in the league before the season started," commented Wilkins.

"Maybe that's why I'm so proud of these guys. We got off to a slow start this year but we have come around since the state semi-pro tournament. Willie (manager Walls) and our player coaches Sammy Little and Odell King have

worked hard and its paid off."

The team was strengthened late in the season by the addition of second baseman Rod Johnson of North Carolina State. With Johnson at second the team shored up its outfield by

moving regular second baseman Fuzzy Marion to centerfield. "Fuzzy took to the outfield like a duck takes to water and it didn't hurt his hitting," said Wilkins. "Things are coming together for us now. We looked like a team in the tourney and I'd like to complement all my players."

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## Pond-Giants Hold Ole Timers Game

The Winston-Salem Pond Giants will host their annual "Old Timers Game" at Ernie Shore Field, Sunday August 20, 1978 at 2:30 P.M.

The Pond Giants, who are the oldest semi-pro baseball team in the nation, expect a large turn-out for this game. Nelson Petree manager of the current Pond Giants team, has been the manager of the Pond Giants since 1960 and was one of the best first basemen to play for the Pond Giants.

The Pond Giant Old Timers will be managed by Willie "Chick Crter, the all time great home run hitter for the Pond Giants. Carter played for the Pond Giants from 1947-1956 and hold the home run record for the club.

Some of the Old Time Pond Giants that will be playing are: Jodie Wilson,

Roy Gerald, Don Johnson, Floyd Greene, Dave Harris, B.T. Williams, Harold "Pluto" McClure, Doug Joyner, A.J. Cole, Don Naylor, Lonnie Barker, and William Tatum, Calvin Cheeks, Babe Johnson.

The opponents for this exciting affair will be a team of Old Timers managed by Whit Lowery, former manager of the Winston-Salem Red Legs. Some of his players will be, Angus Lowery, Herman "Big Dog" Wilson, Sonny Wilson, George Fulp, Gene Griffith, and Nate Little.

The rivalry between the Pond Giants and Red Legs provided the fans at Ernie Shore some exciting baseball during the 1960's.

The game is being co-sponsored by Bill McGee's Burger King, and Sambo's Restaurant, Babe Johnson-Parks Chevrolet, Charles "Chuck" Foster-Professional Barber Shop, Gold Fish Bowl and Stonewall's Masonry Service.

Following the Old Timers Game, the Walnut Cove Tigers will play the current Pond Giants.

The Tigers have one of the hardest hitting teams in the Winston-Salem Baseball League, led by Greg Hairston and Roy Simmons. The Tigers are enjoying one of their best seasons.

Other Old Timer's that will be playing are Roy Carter, Allison Frazier, Ellsworth Jessup, James Thompson, Curtis "Stonewall" Campbell, Chuck Foster, James Grace, Thomas Harper and Fred Evans.

at Winston Lake by those fishermen who chose not to exert the energies necessary to catch a bass.

If your fishing was interrupted by the heat and finally the heavy rains, you may take solace in looking forward to the up-coming fall fishing that will insure you of some good fishing

See page 17



It is really no news to me when I learn that George Moore has scored by killing three or more lunker bass. You will probably be surprised when you learn that he walked away from Winston Lake with a catch of one or more lunkers on several occasions.

It is always amazing how he handles a Zebco

202 set on a fiberglass telescopic pole. Dapping a black plastic eel at every bush or stick-up, George patiently works his way along the banks. Concentrating on the action that he knows he must impart to the lure in order to fill his stringer.

Maybe you should take note that catfish and carp are being taken

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