



CHRONICLE

# SPORTS

## Black on Sports



Robert Eller Sports Editor

## Funderburk: A Coach For All Seasons

By Robert Eller Sports Editor

In today's highly specialized society it is almost impossible to be successful in one area of endeavor. To be able to excel in two or more areas is a rare exception. The three sport star or the coach who handles a number of athletic teams at almost any level is a disappearing breed.

But in the case of Walter Funderburk, he must serve as a coach for a number of sports, and a number of teams in each sport.

Walt is a co-center director at Sprague Street Recreation Center for the city. As a center director his broad duties are to plan, organize and supervise the activities of Sprague Street Center.

But his specialty is coaching, or as Walt sees it, "teaching." And his success with athletic teams speaks for itself. Since joining the Recreation Department in 1973 his teams have claimed championships in recreation leagues in softball, baseball, basketball and football.

A native of Charlotte, N.C., he was an All-State selection at quarterback for Second Ward High School. He was picked as the team's Most Valuable Player, and played in the 1964 Shrine Bowl Game. He went on to play for North Carolina Central University with WSSU football coach Bill Hayes.

Walt wasn't your average super jock even then. At 5-9 145 pounds, he served as trainer for the football team until he became a star during his senior season. "I guess I served my apprenticeship," he says with a smile, when shown an old high school article which is captioned, "former waterboy becomes star quarterback."

But there is still more to this young man of deep convictions. He lost his father at the age of five and his mother was left to rear he and four older sisters. The experience left him with determination rather than scars, and that determination has become the root of his character.

A quiet, even-tempered individual, he gets along well with his peers and his "students" at the center; Sprague

Street being one of the few integrated recreation facilities in the city.

His athletic teams reflect that deep character and ability to get along with others. There is no squabbling among players on his teams. They are always well mannered, respectful and exhibit teamwork.

During his six years with the Recreation Department he has worked at Hanes, Lowrance, Carver, Happy Hill, and on special assignment to assist with teenage activities, special events, and athletic programs for six months before moving to Sprague.

In each of these six years his team has played for the towel tag football championship. His teams have won two girls' 13-18 softball titles, two girls' 13-18 basketball crowns, a 13-15 boys' basketball and baseball title as well as dominating the boys' 5th and 6th grade basketball league for the past four years. They won title in each of the past three years and were beaten this year in the finals by a YMCA all-star team after Funderburk had missed the last part of the season with an operation. These same teams have gone on to bring championships to Philo Junior High the past three years.

His philosophy is simple and basic. "What I teach the kids in sports want to help them in everyday life, because your attitude, good sportsmanship, and the hard work ethic in kids through sports that will help them in everyday life. There is just more to coaching than teaching the game of sports," he says with a sense of deep concern in his voice. "Kids want leadership today, and they are looking for it but few adults take the time to work with them. That's what I enjoy about my job. The chance to work with kids."

Walt is an ambitious person but his convictions even temper his ambition. "I want to better myself but I want to feel as good about myself then as I do now. I want to always be able to respect myself. These things were instilled in me when I was growing up."

The young people who have been coached or "taught" by Funderburk could not do better than to have this same character instilled in them.

By the time you read this the 26 major league baseball teams will have begun their 162 game regular season quest for a spot in the 1979 playoffs.

And even though the free agent draft has made 38 year-old singles hitter Pete Rose a millionaire in Philadelphia, oldtimers Tommy John and Luis Taint part of the World Champion New York Yankee pitching staff, Rod Carew and Angel and Jim Rice, George Foster, and Dave Parker happy at their present locations, the balance of power in the sport has not shifted significantly.

The Yankees were the first team to "open the wallet" to the free agents a few years ago. They have two consecutive championships to show for it, and are the favorites to add another this time around.

In addition to the Yanks, the experts are picking the same three teams to take their respective divisions again. This writer feels slightly different and here is how he sees the new season unfolding.

In the American League the Yankees are the pick here to take it all again. With Taint and John added to the likes of Ron Guidry, "Catfish" Hunter, and Ed Figueroa, Ken Clay and Jim Beattie waiting in the wings and "Goose" Gossage in the bullpen, they have the strength where it counts. Add this to an air tight infield and an outfield made stronger by the addition of Juan Beniquez, and turn their bats loose. It's a pity that the Boston Red Sox, Milwaukee Brewers and the Orioles have to be in

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## Winston Lake Sponsors Tourney

Winston Lake Golf Pro E. Jerry Jones announced plans for the 16th annual Spring Festival Golf Tournament to be held at the course April 28 and 29 early this week.

Jones will be taking over the running of the tourney after a one year absence when the Winston Lake Golf team handled the event.

The tournament will be a thirty-six (36) hole medal play affair with five flights running from championship to fourth flight. First, second, and third place prizes will be given in each flight. Trophies and

merchandise will be given to first place winners in each flight. The merchandise will consist of Pro-line irons. A total of \$2,000 in trophies, merchandise and gift certificates will be awarded.

Jones said the entry fee will be \$35.00 for non members and \$25.00 for members of the club.

Saturday's first round play will determine the flights for Sunday. A cocktail party will be held for the winners from 8 to 10 p.m. on April 29 at Diamond Jim's, 834 4th Street.

To enter or for more information contact E. Jerry Jones at 727-2703 or 727-9659.

## Bowlers Win 1st Tourney

By Robert Eller Sports Editor

Deloris Wall and Nancy Carswell captured the doubles title in the Winston-Salem City Bowling tournament held at Major League Bowling Lanes Saturday, March 31.

Ms. Wall, who began bowling about six years ago, bowled a 543 series. She had games of 176, 176, and 191. Ms. Carswell had games of 145, 172, and 154 on her way to a 471 series total. Ms. Wall with a 177 handicap wound up with a 720 handicap series while Ms. Carswell used a 168 handicap to amass a 639 handicap series score. Their series total of 1,359 gave them the title.

The tournament is held on a yearly basis at the Lanes.

Both ladies bowl two nights per week during the winter months. Ms. Wall is a member of the Wednesday night league at Northside Lanes, called the Poor Housewives League.

She and Ms. Carswell, along with Ms. Wall's husband George, compete in the North Carolina Baptist Hospital Nighthawks League on Friday nights at Major League Lanes. The three of them make up a team called the Rams.

Ms. Wall says she first became interested in bowling while dating her husband. "We bowled some together before we got married but after we were married I stopped but when George kept on and began to win tournaments and sport. For about \$60 you trophies I decided to get back into it."



Deloris Wall and Nancy Carswell

She says that more blacks are getting into bowling than ever before and says she would encourage more black women to get involved. "There are very few black women in our league and I'd like to see more of them out. Bowling is a fun sport. It helps me relax and I've met a lot of nice people at the bowling alleys."

"It is a challenge for me to bowl and it is also a sport the whole family can participate in together. My husband, son, and I, often go bowling together on Saturday afternoon, and bowling is also an inexpensive to win tournaments and sport. For about \$60 you can get everything you need to bowl."

"More families should get involved in it because like I said it's something the family can all do together and the family that works, plays, and prays together stays together," she notes, looking at her husband of 15 years.

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