



# CHRONICLE SPORTS

## Who's the Best

### All-Around Athlete Gene Frazier Merits Some Votes

By Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

While many persons in the city of Winston Salem have conceded the honor of the top junior high athlete in the area to Mt. Tabor's Tommy Gregg, there are quite a few doubters in the small town of Stokesdale where a 15-year-old phenomenon by the name of Gene Frazier is raising eyebrows.

Frazier, like Gregg, is a three sport star at his junior high school but, unlike the Mt. Tabor star, he is doing it without a lot of publicity and fanfare. Frazier, a ninth grader at Northwest Guilford Junior High was named the school's Most Valuable Player in football, basketball and baseball this

past school year, while leading his team to conference titles in all three sports.

In addition, he was elected student body president and received the school's citizenship award. "I really don't think about the honors I have received," said the shy young Frazier in a telephone interview this past week. "I just love to play sports and I always give it my best whether its in school or whatever."

During the past nine months his best has always been good enough to make his team the best. As an offensive guard and linebacker on the football team he led the squad to a 6-1 record.

In basketball he served as point guard, attesting

and as many assists while being the team's top defensive player as they finished 13-3.

Frazier's favorite spot is on the baseball diamond however, and like Gregg this is where he excels the most. "My father got me started playing baseball when I was five years old and I've loved it ever since," says the youngster who batted .405 while leading his team in every hitting department during the season. When not in leftfield during the season he moved to the mound where he compiled a 6-0 record with 4 saves in his team's 11-3 season.

His father, Allison, is coach of the Forsyth A's semi pro baseball team and Gene joined the team last

season. In his first game he hit a home run over the leftfield fence at Ernie Shore Field. "He is playing in the Colt league now," says his proud father, "and he is busting the fences. I only wish he were on my team now. We haven't won a game yet and we need his bat in the lineup."

Marians Poultry needs his bat in their lineup more and because of it they lead the league with a 7-1 record. Gene doesn't pitch for the Colt league however. "His coach says he is too valuable in the field and at the plate," comments his father.

While Gene is little known in Winston Salem, he is very well known in

Northwest Guilford where he will be attending the Senior high next year. "I'm looking forward to next season. I think senior high athletics will be more of a challenge for me."

When asked if he plans to run for student body president at the senior high, he answers shyly. "I don't know. If the students want me I just might."

At least one other factor must be weighed into any comparison between Gregg and Frazier. What do the scouts think of them? Frazier will know just what the scouts think after this weekend. He has been asked to tryout with the Los Angeles Dodgers. "I was standing around after the game Monday night," ex-

plains his father and I noticed this man talking to Gene's coach. Then he went over and spoke to Gene for a while. I didn't think anything more of it until we started home and then Gene said he was asked to try out for the Dodgers."

"I really didn't think it was that important," said the younger Frazier. "I'm going to go over to Greensboro Saturday and give it my best but there is no pressure. I've got three more years of school left ahead of me yet. Then I'll start thinking about pro ball."

His father feels the same way. "I always wanted to play pro ball but I want Gene to get an education.



Gene Frazier...  
three-sport star and student body president

## CIAA Approaches Sweep of State's Black Colleges

By Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

The addition of North Carolina Central and Bowie State to the CIAA will give the conference a near monopoly on black college sports in North Carolina, plus give the conference an outlet in the Washington, D.C. area, according to Commissioner Bob Moorman.

"Adding these teams will have a positive effect on the CIAA," said the commissioner during the league's spring meeting here last week. "It will give us an outlet in the D.C. area and it will tighten our hold in the North Carolina market."

Central had been among the six schools which broke from the CIAA in 1971 to form the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference in hopes of being the first black conference to reach Division One status. When MEAC



Moorman

Commissioner Ken Free mandated that NCCU and two Maryland schools qualify for Division One by next year, Central applied to join the CIAA and opted to stay in Division Two.

North Carolina A&T State University is now the only school in the state belonging to the MEAC. The CIAA has eight member schools in North Carolina. Only Barber Scotia College, among co-educational black institutions in the state, belongs to neither.

Morgan State and Maryland Eastern Shore were also rumored to be headed back to the CIAA but UMES' application for membership was turned down and Morgan did not apply.

Bowie, an independent institution with an enrollment of 3,400, brings their dual membership in the NCAA and NAIA to the league for the first time.

The expansion now gives the CIAA 14 teams with 12 of its members fielding football teams. Morman said both new entrants will be eligible for league championships in 1980-81.

In other action taken during the meeting, the league amended its constitution to include women's sports as part of its official program.

A move to oust St. Augustine's and Shaw from the league because of their lack of football programs was defeated. Instead, a

new clause stating that any new school coming into the league must participate in football, basketball and track, but that present members can participate in only two of the three sports.

The consolation game was also dropped from the league basketball tourney with the women's championship game to be played before the mens' title game.

The majority of the institutions were pleased with the additions and rule changes. Representatives of the womens' program felt the move to give their programs support of the league was "a move in the right direction to conform with Title IX."

Both Shaw and St. Augustine's were pleased with the rule allowing present members to choose which of the two official sports

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## MEAC's Free Responds to Move

DURHAM - Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Commissioner Ken Free has mixed feelings on North Carolina Central University's readmittance to the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. He expressed sorrow for having lost that institution, but he was happy that they were able to reenter their old conference.

Free said, "I respect that decision, which indicates that they are not ready for big-time college competition, in this case; Division I-AA football and Division I in all other sports. I wish them well as they take a step backwards to a level where they think survival will come more easily."

"Some of Central's athletic leaders continue to maliciously state that they were put out of the MEAC, however; the fact is that they refused to adhere to the mandate imposed upon all conference members by the league's governing body in a meeting nearly two years ago, advising each to comply with all criteria as it relates to Division I," said the Commissioner.

"In the beginning, I was not sure, but now I am certain the major reason Central wants to remain Division II is to recruit players with high school averages less than 2.0 on a 4.0 scale," he added. Division II allows an insti-



Free

tution to recruit at 1.6, where Division I's requirement is 2.0 or better.

"Central has talked many times of having economical problems, but it is obvious they want recruiting privileges of signing good athletes with minimal academic skills, and eco-

nomics is purely secondary," Free charged.

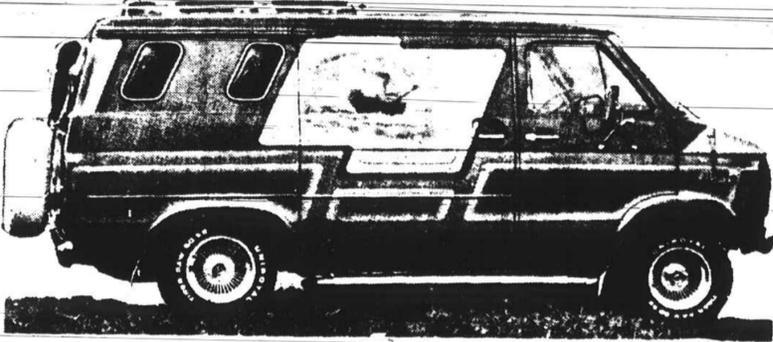
To MEAC followers, Commissioner Free said, "We are definitely not going to fold, disperse, or slow down to any degree."

We will go on with our four Division I institutions (NC A&T, South Carolina St., Howard, Delaware St.), and I feel our expansion program will be enhanced by the simple fact that we are a Division I conference. The decisions made by the other schools have my blessings, and has released the ball and chains that bound me, and hindered MEAC progress. If they feel not ready for big time, they have my well wishes."

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