



CHRONICLE

SPORTS

Indians Take Title

By Robert Eller
Sports Editor

The Winston-Salem Indians had just lost to the Winston-Salem Astros 4-3 in extra innings in their final WSBL game of the season but owner Rip Wilkins still had a broad smile on his face.

"This has been a great year so far," he said as he sipped on a cold beer. "In fact this may be the best team the Indians have ever had. We have got a lot of long ball hitters and great depth."

The lofty praise did not come easy to Wilkins, a long time star for the Indians at second base and a key member of the 1975 team which had a 37-1 record.

Wilkins was all smiles because his team had just won the regular season title of the Winston-Salem Baseball League, finishing the season with a 14-2 league mark.

"We got off to a great start in league play this year," Wilkins reminisced as he took another long drink of what the team called "poor man's champagne." "We made some changes in our organization before the season started and we lost two of our first three games then when the league season opened things just started to com together."

The changes Wilkins referred to were not all on the playin field. Willie Walls, manager for the Past three years, became co-owner with Wilkins and Ted Petree, the teams long time shortstop, took over the managerial job.

Pete Hixon, a one time Negro League player who has a sharp eye for talent became director of player personnel. With that addition, the team was off and rolling despite the loss of Ben Norris, the league's leading homerun hitter, and ace pitcher Gary Groce who defeated the Warden MG's.

Wilkins and his front office crew began to fill holes in the team which already had a solid nucleus of Curft Gibson, Mike Smith, Petree and Frank Cauthen. They picked up speedy centerfield Rick Broadstreet from the Astros, grabbed John Pfeifer, a switch hitter who can play anywhere in the infield and a left handed hitting first baseman, Charlie Hardesty.

Early in the season the word was out that the "Big Red Machine" was loaded with power hitters again but the question was with the pitching.

With Groce gone, Wilkins turned to Mike Smith, his little fireplug who also plays short and thirdbase. Smith responded with some find performances. The team picked up veterans Rick Tysinger and Mark Pavlika only to see them move on to other teams.

That left Wilkins with sore armed David Mizell, son of former major league hurler Wilmer "Vinegar Bend" Mizell. "Sugar Bend," as he is called resopned with two consecutive shutouts and convinced Wilkins that his arm was again sound.

Black on Sports



Robert Eller
Sports Editor

ATTENTION RAM BASKETBALL FANS! especially those of you who have been wondering what "Bighouse" has been doing since those two humiliating 20 point losses to Hampton and Norfolk in last year's CIAA tournament.

Just what has the House been doing since then besides attending the NCAA coaches meeting, planning schedules, directing the National Youth Sports Program and running the school's summer Health and Physical Education Program?

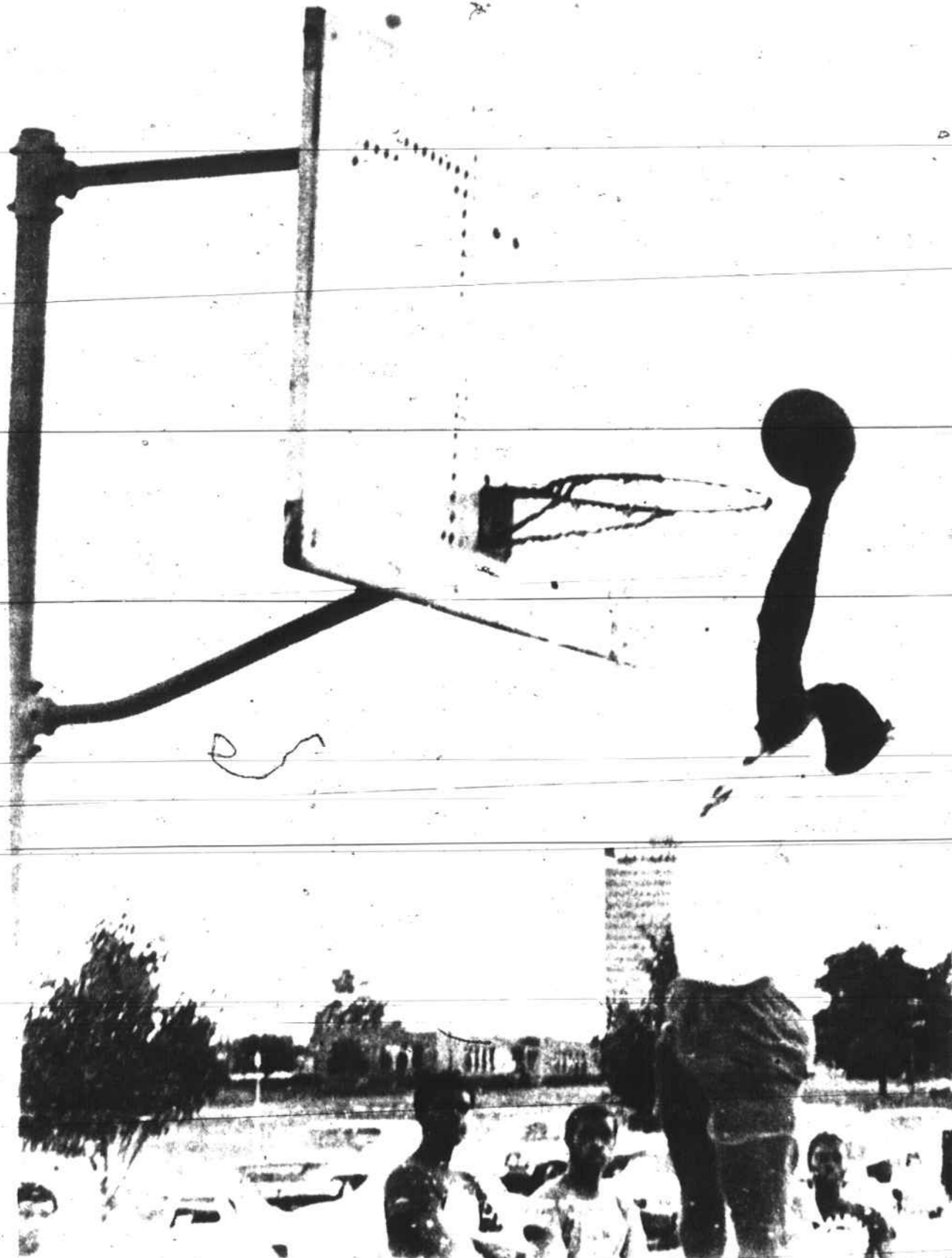
Well, the coach has actually been out recruiting. The legend was more than a little embarrassed with the showing of his team at last years tourney and nobody gets away with embarrassing the "Chief."

Well, if he has been out recruiting then, why haven't we heard about some of the players he has gotten? Every other school in the CIAA has already announced the names of at least three players. When are we going to hear from our school is the question that is often asked of this writer.

Hold your breath no longer, my friend, the coach has released the names of SEVEN, yes, SEVEN, players who are headed for WSSU next season. In addition Gaines hinted that he is hot on the trail of two big men.

In a telephone interview early this week the coach released the names of these players.

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Slam Dunk

An unidentified member of the "Peppers" Basketball team goes in for a slam dunk in a recent game at Rupert Bell Park. The teams are part of the Summer Youth league.

Tennis Tourney Slated

By Robert Eller
Sports Editor

The first annual Mary Garber/David L. Lash Tennis Open will be held August 22 - 26 at the Joe White Tennis Center, it was announced Monday afternoon at a press conference at the Benton Convention Center.

The event for persons 21 and over is being held in honor of Garber, the first female sports writer for the Winston-Salem Journal and the paper's tennis expert, and Lash, who heads the Young Folks Tennis Program here. Lash is a longtime athletic coach for the city schools and has devoted a great deal of his time to helping young people learn the game of tennis since his retirement.

The event is being sponsored by the Greater Winston-Salem Kiwanis Club with the proceeds being divided equally between the Patterson Avenue YMCA and the United negro College Fund. Entry fee is \$5.00. There will be two groups of competition: ages 21-35 and 36 and over.

Co-chairman Shedrick Adams explained the rules for the tourney. "It will be a single elimination, singles play only tournament with a 128 player limit. The seeds as well as the opponents will be determined by experience and drawing with the tournament directors Coach Lash, George Johnson of the Winston-Salem Smokers Tennis team and Martin Mackie of the city personnel office monitoring this process."

Peppers Stay Hot

By Robert Eller
Sports Editor

Led by the league's two top scorers, Dooley Smith and Sidney Wilkins, the Martin Luther King Peppers remained unbeaten in Summer League basketball play last week by drubbing the Bullets 79-56 and stop ping Happy Hill 52-43.

The two wins put the league leaders at 4-0 as the third week of league play began.

Reynolds Black dropped to second place losing to the Boys Club 38-37 despite a superb effort from Vic Duncan who jumped into fifth place n the league scoring race.

Sprague split a pair of games, beating the Bullets 56-53 and losing the Happy Hill 47-42. Sherman Hairston had two fine out- ings and now ranks third in 16.1 average.

Happy Hill and the Boys Club share fourth place with 1-1 records while Reynolds Gold moved into sixth, beating the Boys Club 34-31 for their first wtn.

Reynolds White, the Uniques and the Clippers all stand 0-2 while the Bullets have yet to win in three outings.

League action is set to continue with games set for Rupert Bell Park on both Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00 p.m. In case of rain,

the games will be moved to Martin Luther King center.

League director Hansel Hentz says he is more impressed with the league each week. "The teams look more organized each week. And we already knew there was a tremendous amount of talent in it. We have some find teams that have yet to win a

game, but with the balance there is throughout the league, any team could win the championship."

Hentz admits to being partial to one team -- the Peppers. "If I had to pick a winner I'd go with the Peppers because I coach them, and they have the two leading scorers in the league."

Lion Club Sponsors Benefit Tourney

The Winston-Salem Host Lions Club and the City Recreation Department are again sponsoring the Men's Class B Soft Ball Tournament.

This event will begin July 13 and end approximately August 5 (depending upon the weather). There are 58 slow pitch softball teams taking part in this tournament. Monday through Friday four games will be played each night (weather permitting) beginning at 6:30 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays, four games will be played in the after-

noon beginning at 1:30 p.m., and four games at night beginning at 6:30 p.m.

All the games will be played on the Hanes Hosiery Ball Field on Akron Drive at Indiana Avenue. Admission for adults is \$1.00; young adults (ages 10-15) .25; and young people under 10 will be admitted free. Proceeds will be used for the benefit of the blind and visually handicapped in our community.

Last year's champions, the Sahabi A's will again participate as well as other potential champions.

The Best in Sports Robert Eller & The Chronicle



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