

Pond Giants Come Back To Win WSBL

By Robert Eller
Sports Editor

"This is going to be a rebuilding year for us," commented Pond Giant manager Nelson Petree before his team took the field for the first game of their 65th semi pro baseball season. Thirty-two wins later, Petree looks back on the rebuilding year from behind his second Winston Salem Baseball League Tournament title in three years.

After claiming the WSBL tourney title in '77 and winning the regular season crown in '78, Petree was apprehensive about his teams chances at the title this season with the loss of such longtime stars as Dickey Edwards, Marvin Shaw and others. But Petree picked up some of the area's best high school talent and began the task of molding the new look Pond Giants.

The molding process came to an end this past week when the Pond Giants, who struggled to a 9-6 record during the WSBL regular season and fell to fourth place in the final league standings, bested the Warden Motors MG's 6-5 to win the tournament title for the second time in its three year history.

John Bolton pitched his second complete game victory of the event and struck out twelve in the championship game as the Pond Giants erased 4-0 and 5-1 deficits.

The MGs got to Bolton for two runs in the first inning and added two more in the third before the winners got on the board with a three run fourth.

Bob Jones led off with a triple and scored on Bolton's single, Ron Fowler tripled Bolton in and scored on Ed Greenes infield single.

After Bolton surrendered another run in the fifth the Giants struck back in the sixth.

Bolton led off with his second single of the night, Ron Jessup followed with another hit before Fowler sacrificed both runners into scoring position.

Greene then singled-both runners in, moved to second when John Zinglinski reached on an error, and went to third when Jerry Tuttle walked to load the bases.

Don Hill who replaced starter David Peterson after Greene's hit then uncorked a wild pitch allowing Greene to score the winning run.

The win was the fourth in succession for the Pond Giants who bested the 1st 2nd and third seeded Indians, Astros and MG's in earlier tourney contests.

"This game meant a great deal to me,"

said Petree after congratulating the team. We felt we had a good team all season but we lost the close games. Going into the tourney, the players felt they had something to prove, they felt they had let me down and they played inspired baseball. Our pitching was excellent as it has been all year led by Bolton and Scott Austin and our hitting timely."

"Warden had beaten us twice going into the tourney and we were hoping they would beat the Astros in the losers bracket game after we beat them the first time. We wanted the chance to even the score with them and we did. We are a young team and we should be better next year but 32-13 in a rebuilding year isn't bad."

Other WSBL teams only wish that Petree's rebuilding process had been a little slower.



Billy Diggs

Special Olympians Win World Titles

Two Winston Salem Forsyth County Special Olympians won medals at the International Summer Special Olympic Games held August 8-13 at the State University of New York College at Brockport.

Eighteen year-old Susan Hilton won a gold medal taking first place in her division of bowling, while 15 year-old James Kirby came away with silver medals in both the frisbee distance and accuracy competition.

The two were part of a contingent of 60 special olympians from throughout North Carolina who made the journey to New York for the games.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hilton of 1025 Leona Street, Susan won the right to represent

Winston Salem and North Carolina by taking both local and state bowling titles in the fall 1978. Her winning average on the state level was 78 but she improved that score by more than 35 points while practicing for the international competition. The Diggs school student called the trip to New York one of the biggest thrills of her life.

"I met Phil Donahue and saw a lot of other famous people. It was a lot of fun. We stayed on the college campus and got to go to Niagara Falls." Still when Susan stepped off the plane following the flight home she said, "I'm ready to go home and see my family, I can't wait to eat some of my mothers cooking."

Kirby, the son of Mrs.

Fred Kirby of 4676 Deshler St. is a rising freshman at South Park High School. He attended Northwest Junior High last year and like Hilton was a local and state winner in the frisbee events.

Local Special Olympic chairman Robert Eller was overjoyed with the showing of the two athletes. "I'm very proud of both James and Susan. Both of them worked very hard preparing for these games and they did a great job representing Winston Salem. To have two international winners speaks very highly of our local program."

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Photo by Beatty

Winston-Salem Mayor Wayne Corpening congratulates James Kirby on winning two silver medals in International Special Olympic Games. Looking on are sponsors Jerry Thrasher and Dave Trivette of Stratford Kiwanis Club, Jim Robertson and Ben Davis of Coca Cola, and Robbie Bach of Reynolds Key Club with Tommy Gavin Assistant Recreation Director and Robert Eller, Winston-Salem Forsyth County Special Olympic chairman.

Black on Sports



Robert Eller
Sports Editor

Billy Diggs came back to town this past week. The super blocking sure-handed All-American receiver for WSSU last year had just missed hanging on with the Minnesota Vikings of the NFL.

After being drafted in the ninth round, Diggs had signed a reported three-year \$200,000 contract six weeks ago and many "in the know" sports buffs felt he was a sure bet.

But Diggs failed to survive and the news came hard to him.

Crushed Dreams Of Billy Diggs

As he sat on the bank of the Rams practice field, watching his former teammates prepare for A&T, Diggs still seemed stunned and bewildered by his short experience with pro ball.

"I really thought I had the team made," he said with more than a hint of frustration. "From the first day on, I was told I was doing well."

"I got compliments on the way I ran my patterns and I know my blocking was exceptional," he continued. "I had a little trouble for a while with the long grass. It was slippery and I had on short cleats but once I got smart and switched to long cleats, I had no trouble at all."

"I tried to be honest with myself and I think I was," Diggs went on. "I knew I wasn't going to beat out Sammy White or Ahmad Rashad, but I know I was as good or better than the rest of the guys."

"It was really funny the way things turned out."

He stopped talking for a moment as something in the distance caught his attention. Then, after a deep sigh, he resumed his story.

"I really hated coming back and having to explain why I didn't make it and it's not just because I was cut," said Diggs firmly.

"It's because nobody told me why. They didn't tell me what I lacked or why they didn't keep me."

Again his voice trailed off as he stared at the practice field. However, his attention seemed elsewhere. Then, he smiled and returned back to the conversation.

"I only got worried one time in camp and that was when they brought in this free agent," said Diggs. "He had good moves and could really catch the ball. I felt he might beat me out but he was cut after only a few days."

"But the guy they kept," his voice rising to a higher pitch, "I don't even remember his name, but he's from Rice University, a white guy who didn't show me anything."

"I just can't understand it."

"The receivers coach gave me the news. When I asked him why, he said the word came down from Bud Grant. He told me he would check with San Diego and maybe they would give me a try, but I don't expect anything to happen."

"I'm just going to look for me a job and wait 'til next year."

With that, Diggs strolled away. As he did, this writer couldn't help but wonder how many white receivers the Vikings had in camp and just how many promising young black players were cut this summer to maintain the NFL's quota system.

Morgan State Second in Wins

Quick now, name the all-time winningest team in Division 2 football.

No, it's not a black college. West Chester State holds the honor with a 50-year winning percentage of .723 (314-116-15).

But second is Morgan State, with a 58-year winning percentage of .696 (316-130-29). Bethune Cookman is third with a 40-year winning percentage of .662 (225-110-20) and Tuskegee is fifth with a whopping 80-year winning percentage of .639 (395-213-49).

Someone asked Lon Harris what he'd most like to be. Harris is a halfback for North Carolina A&T. Said Harris "President, so I could run things the way I wanted them run. Plus, I'd get a decent pay check now and then."

Savannah State quarterback Arthur Dilworth describes his most embarrassing moment in sports:

"It was finding both of my girlfriends at the same party and having to decide who I wanted."

Shaw University, a member of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, had dropped its football program and will concentrate on other sports. Shaw officials said it simply cost too much to field a football team. Shaw also has a new basketball coach. He is Warren Reynolds, former assistant basketball coach at Delta State College in Cleveland, Miss. He replaces Ira Mitchell, who left Shaw after two seasons.

Woody Hayes—the former Ohio State coach—is coming to Tallahassee, Fla. Sept. 1 to speak at the Florida A&M Boosters' annual kickoff dinner. Hayes may be the biggest name to ever speak before the Rattlers.

A player to watch this year is Winston-Salem State's Timmy Newsome. He is the leading rushing and scoring returnee in Division 2. Last year, he rushed for 1,377 yards and led Winston-Salem to an undefeated season and a berth in the Division 2 playoffs.

"He's a model player," said Rams' coach Bill Hayes. "He's what every coach wants to find in a ball player." Newsome is 6-foot-2, 220-pounds. He also draws rave reviews from WSSU assistant coach Charles Bailey.

"Timmy is like Secretariat," said Bailey. "He just gallops along with those five yard strides."

Newsome averaged 9 points per game last year.

You might also watch Prairie View's Tracy Jones. Jones caught 41 passes last year for 592 yards. His 4.1 catches per game averaged was good for 13th in the country last season.

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