


# sports

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

**Black on Sports**



Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

In four years as a minor leaguer, Craig Brooks has hit .281, .292, .271, and .361 at present. He has twice made the Carolina League All-Star team, been named Carolina League Player of the Month (May 1980), twice made the Carolina League All-Star team and has moved from center field to left field, to designated hitter (to improve on his fielding) back to left field. He is considered one of the fastest players in the Red Sox organization.

Yet, Brooks has watched a number of outfielders he felt were not as good and who did not hit as well move on to higher competition.

The Boston Club recently called up lefthanded hitting Gary Hancock from their triple A farm club to replace the injured Jim Rice. Jim Dwyer is playing left field for the Sox at present. Carl Yazstromski no longer has the legs to play the outfield leaving Fred Lynn, an established star, Dwyer and Hancock as the lefthanded swinging outfielders.



### NYSP Says Thanks

Participants in the Neighborhood Youth Sports Program at Winston-Salem State University this summer are finding it a little easier to get to and from the campus thanks to the help of some local churches and their buses. Okay gang, let's hear it for the buses...1-2-3 Thanks!

Photo by Gaines

## Kennedy Wins, Gets Ali Shot

By Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

Winston-Salem's William Kennedy had a number of reasons for climbing into the ring with Walt Dixon of Charlotte Saturday night in amateur boxing at the Asheville Speedway.

Kennedy, a former Golden Gloves champ, wasn't very happy with the way things had been going in his young boxing career over the past few months.

But Saturday night he took out his unhappiness on Dixon who had defeated him in an earlier bout and earned the right of return to Asheville August 5 to fight a member of the Muhammad Ali boxing team.

"It was a very gratifying win for me," said the 175-pounder afterwards. "Dixon had beaten me before and I know I should have won that match. This time it was different."

Kennedy also may have lost some of the frustration that had built up inside the youngster after he was disqualified from the state olympic trials last month for having an improper mouthpiece.

"I felt bad about being disqualified," he said. "I felt that I could have won my weight class and gotten a shot at the Olympic trials. That has been one of my goals ever since I first started fighting and it was a pretty big disappointment to lose it without getting to throw a

See Page 12

## Indians Chasing City, State Wampum

By Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

Gary Groce threw a seven hitter and knocked in two runs with a triple and a single, while Ron Fowler and Don Hill knocked in six runs with 6 hits between them, as the Warden Motors Indians trounced the Mt. Airy Yankees 11-2 to win the second half title of the Winston-Salem Baseball League last week.

Groce raised his record to 8-2 on the season with the win and left the Indians with a 13-2 mark for the season.

The Yankees had a chance to spoil the Indians bid for the crown with a win after Ken Criss of the second-place cards the night earlier became the only pitcher to beat the powerful "Big Red Machine" twice this season in a 12-2 Cardinal win. Mark Polivka, who had pitched three consecutive shutouts for the Indians, was knocked out of the game in the third inning and suffered the loss.

After finishing the first half of the regular season tied for first with identical 4-1 records, the Indians and Cards met Wednesday night to decide the first half winner. A win by the Indians would give them their second straight WSBL title.

If the Cards should win, the series would become a best of-two-of-three affair, with the Cards faced with the task of beating the Indians twice more to win their first league title.

John Bolton fired a one hitter and his teammates gave him all the offensive help he needed with a two-run inning as the Warden Motors Indians beat the Mt. Zion Hawks 2-0 in the first round of the North Carolina State semi pro baseball tournament being played in Roxboro this month.

In gaining a spot in the quarter finals this Saturday the Indians did all their scoring in the first inning. Ron Fowler, who recently joined the Indians after playing three seasons with the Pond Giants, doubled with one out. Thirdbaseman Mike Smith promptly singled him in and after cleanup hitter Curt Gibson sacrificed Smith to second, Don Hill singled him in.

That was all the scoring in a game dominated by outstanding pitching and defense.

Bolton, in picking up his sixth win of the season in

seven decisions, struck out 13 and walked only two. He did not allow a man past second base. The only Hawk hit came in the fifth when shortstop Ron Evans singled cleanly to center.

Bolton retired the last 14 men in order as he lowered his league-leading earned run average to 1.03.

The Indians managed only seven hits against the strong Hawks pitching. The team now places its 29-7 record for the season against the Durham Bees on Saturday July 12 at 5 p.m. A bus will leave from Rips Painting and Decorating Service 1217 Waughtown St. at 2 p.m. on Saturday for those fans wishing to accompany the team. The cost of the game and the trip is only \$5.

Indians coach Melvin "Blinky" Hills says he is looking forward to the game with the tough Bees, who were runners-up in the tourney last year after capturing the event in 78.



Craig Brooks

Brooks has watched Reid Nichols, a good friend who had a super year last season, jump all the way to triple A after spending a number of years at Class A Elmira. Why has Brooks remained a single A player now spending his fourth year at age 24 in Winston-Salem? That may be the \$64,000 question. Some of the Bosox Brass say it is Brooks fielding. As a result he was sent back to Winston-Salem last year to work on the weak fielding but wound up as designated hitter. This spring, for the second straight year, he played centerfield for the Winterhaven spring club and didn't make an error but was sent back to his home away from home.

Some say it is because the Bosox have an overabundance of fine young outfielders and Brooks doesn't rank ahead of them. Yet, he has been the most consistent member of the organization in terms of average during his career.

How does the Richmond, California native who grew up playing baseball with Claudell Washington, Ruppert Jones, Alvin Moore and Ed Miller (all major leaguers) view the situation?

"Personally I just don't understand it. I'm not trying to say I think I'm a great player but looking at the other outfielders in this organization, I feel I've been the most consistent. I can hit for power and average and I think I have proved it here. When Reid (Nichols) went up it gave me incentive. I knew how he had labored in single A and I felt if I could have another good year or start out burning the league up I'd move up too."

Brooks has done just that for more than half the season leading the league in hitting from the outset but he still has not heard from the brass.

Much has been said about the Bosox organization and many have called it racist. Over the past few years the Sox have gotten rid of Reggie Smith, Cecil Cooper, Ferguson Jenkins, George Scott, and Roger Moret to name a few. Last season they let Bob Watson sign with the Yankees, then picked up Tony Perez. At present the Sox have only Perez and slugging Jim Rice on their squad.

When asked about the accusations of racism in the organization Brooks says, "I didn't think about the talk of racism before I signed with Boston and I'm not thinking of it now. Just look at the trouble Jim Rice got into talking about it and he is a super star. I've always felt that if I go out and do the job my color wouldn't matter. I just plan to keep on doing my best and I'm still confident I'll get my chance."

Brooks is not saying whether that chance will come with Boston since he enters his option years next season, but it is obvious that while the Sox haven't heard very much about the hot hitting Californian, other clubs have.

Still Brooks hopes to someday soon battle Fenway Park's "green monster." "I like the Boston organization. They pay well and I have a lot of friends in this organization."

Brooks feels he deserves better than to waste away as a single A superstar. "I feel I belong in triple A right now, but I never try to figure out what the front office is doing. I just want to keep hitting the ball."

## BEEP... Visually Impaired Take Their Cuts

By Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

The Winston-Salem Pioneer Lions will be looking for revenge as well as their first win of the season this Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. when they take on the Charlotte Hornets in a beep ball game at Bolton Field.

Beep ball, a form of softball adapted for the visually impaired, is a relatively new sport in the city with the Pioneer Lions entering only their third year of play.

The game is played with a beeping softball and three bases which emit a solid tone. Seven fielders are placed in the field which is sectioned off in areas. A sighted pitcher tosses the ball to the batter and yells "Ball". When the batter makes contact with the ball and it passes the fair territory line one of the bases is turned on the number of the fielder where the ball is located is called. It then becomes a race between the fielder where the ball is located is called. It then becomes a race between the fielder and the batter. If the batter reaches the base before the fielder retrieves the ball he has scored a run. If he doesn't get to the base before the fielder gains possession of

the ball he is out. Each player has five strikes or ten pitches to hit the ball in fair territory. Three outs end an inning.

The game was invented some years back by a man working for Western Electric. There are currently five teams located in North Carolina. Greensboro, Raleigh and Wilmington have teams in addition to Charlotte and Winston-Salem.

Winston-Salem has never beaten the Charlotte team which is the defending state champions.

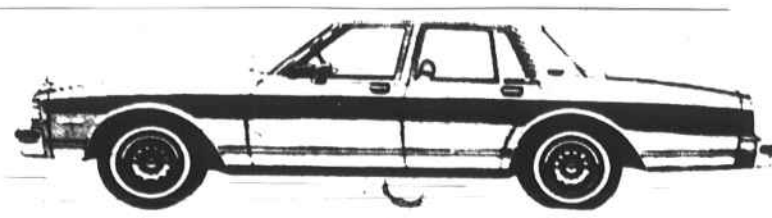
"We gave them a good game in Charlotte earlier this season and two of our starters were missing," said co-captain Booker Winn. This time we are at full strength and we have the home field advantage. We intend to beat their socks off this Saturday."

Charlotte won the first encounter in Charlotte by a score of 23-15 and stopped the Pioneer Lions 25-18 in the tournament semi-finals last season.

In addition to the game Saturday the Pioneer Lions will play Greensboro at Bolton Field at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday July 22 and again on Tuesday August 12.



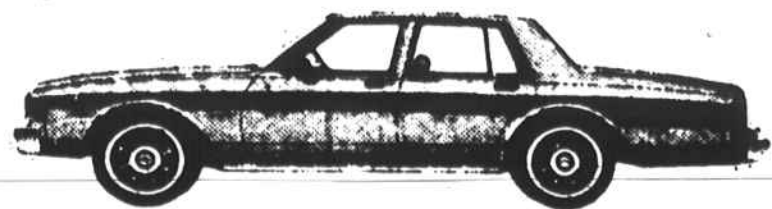
Babe Johnson



CAPRICE

\$1,500

Discount



IMPALA

up to

\$1,500

Discount

LET'S NOT  
IMPORT  
OIL  
or  
CARS

Come in and see for yourself why more foreign cars are traded in on Chevrolets than any other cars in America.

Chevrolet



CHEVROLET, INC.  
"The Little Cheeper Dealer"  
I-40 at N.C. 66  
Exit. Kernersville  
PHONE  
993-2101 or

HOURS: MON.-FRI. 8:30-9:00; SAT. 8:30-5:30