

Smokers Aim For First Title

The Winston-Salem Smokers, fresh from two lopsided wins over the Capitol City Hustlers this past weekend can claim the first Carolinas Wheelchair Basketball Conference title of their history this Saturday afternoon when they take on the second place Palmetto Spinners in a double header at Sprague Street Recreation Center.

The Smokers currently 15-1 in league play can assure themselves of the regular season crown with a doubleheader victory over the Spinners who rank second in the league with a 14-2 mark.

The Smokers put themselves in position to claim the first title in their history - their 10-6 mark good for third place in the league last year was their

best finish ever last weekend by dumping Capital City 62-34 and 52-33 in Raleigh.

They had little trouble in either contest leading from the outset in both. Elmer Clayton and Gary Hooks each scored 14 points in the first game. Otis Thompson added 12. The Hustlers Butch Ferrell led all scorers tallying 15 for the losers in the game. In the second clash Thompson fired in a game high 20 points for the Smokers who are now 22-3 on the season. Clayton had 12 points in the contest.

The Smokers are looking forward to the contests this weekend with the Spinners whose only two losses this season were to the Smokers in Greenville. Riding a 22 game home win streak dating back to last season,



Otis Thompson



James Connelly

they will be led by Clayton and Thompson who boast identical 14.8 per game averages.

Sixth man Gary Hooks is netting more than 11 points per contest.

The Smokers have additional firepower in point man Larry Millikan. The league's leader in assists he scored a season high 31 points two weeks ago as the Smokers captured the Capital City Cage Classic, their second tourney championship of the season. Defense minded Floyd Wilcox will likely draw the assignment of guarding the Spinners Dean Holt who is averaging better than 15 points per contest.

While Clayton and Thompson will probably be matched against the Spinners inside combo of Dewey Webb and Don Gosnell who are both netting more than 14 points per outing.

"We have waited along time for a championship," noted James Connelly. Ever since I've been with the team we have always talked of the time when we could go for the title. And now

the time is here and what's even better, we can do it at home and against the best competition the league has to offer. We'll be ready Saturday."

The first contest is set to begin at 2 p.m. with the second to follow at 4 at Sprague Street Recreation Center.

The two games will be the Smokers last home appearance of the season. They will wind up the regular season against the Greenville Steelwheels in Greenville on February 9.

FISHING

by George Boogie



The first month of the year is behind us which puts us closer to another season of fishing. We have just a few days more than February and we can start wetting lines anticipating some good crappie fishing. In the meantime, all gear should get a going over because the time to fish will be upon us before we realize it.

George Gunter and Jerry Graham took in some good fishing on those warming-up days. They ran into schools of white bass and Gunter pulled out one heck of a crappie. It seems that no one has ever told the

crappie that fish have a season. Fishermen who have had the courage to get out during the winter months have had excellent success catching large crappie and some trophy size largemouth bass.

The earlier you start fishing in the month of March, the greater the chance of getting an outstanding trophy. My first trophy bass was caught during the middle of March. Using a Sonic lure, the forerunner of crank bait. The sonic type lures set up a higher frequency that the modern crank bait. The vibrations could be

noticed right down to the butt of the rod. Bass could not help but be disturbed.

When a bass strikes any fast moving bait it is really hung, the sudden stop makes one feel that a log has been hung. We set the hook to make sure and then take the slack out of the line. The fun begins when we start cranking and the fish heads away from us. Too much pressure and the fish turns and heads in toward us, if we can't crank out the slack and regain a tight line we may as well forget it. A smart old bass had headed for home.

Player Named

The office of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Commissioner has announced that Walter "Peter" Taylor of Florida A&M University is the MEAC Player of the Week, and Jarvis Smith of Bethune-Cookman College is the MEAC Rookie of the Week.

Taylor, a 6-7 senior forward from Waycross, Georgia; had 27 points and seven rebounds in last week's 86-73 win over Jackson State, 24 points and 18 rebounds in the 79-71 victory against N.C. A&T, and 18 points, 19 rebounds in an 80-75 loss to S.C. State.

Smith hit 47 points, and grabbed 19 rebounds in last week's victories over Albany (70-72, OT), S.C. State (79-63), and N.C. A&T (66-57).

ASK BARRY



Q. I have a question about Notre Dame Football. I hope you can help me. I am white, but I notice your column in the Ft. Lauderdale Gazette here in Florida. Can you tell me if Dan Devine was forced out at Notre Dame or what?--Name withheld by request, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

A. Devine says he stepped down because of his wife's failing health. Lately, however, he has expressed an interest in several coaching jobs at other schools. If his wife was so sick, why would he want to coach anywhere else is the question many have asked. Their are only two men who really know if Devine was forced out. One is Devine himself, and the other is Father Joyce, the man who hires all coaches for Notre Dame.

Q. It seems like the Super Bowl always is a fumbling, bumbling football game. Has a team ever gone through a game without making a turnover?--Harriet Richardson, Charlotte, N.C.

A. Yes. The Green Bay Packers in 1968 committed nary a Super Bowl turnover, and the Oakland Raiders were mistake-free in 1977.

Q. How many years has Tony Dorsett rushed for a thousand yards?--Linda Davis, Tallahassee, Fla.

A. Dorsett has rushed for more than 1,000 yards for 10 straight seasons. The Dallas Cowboys running back gained 2,272 yards for Hopewell High School; 6,802 yards for the University of Pittsburgh and has rushed for 4,473 so far for the Dallas Cowboys.

Q. I have been wondering why college football players go running around with their bellies showing under those too-short jerseys. What's the deal with that?--Name withheld by request, New York City.

A. Young men today are highly-conscious of fashion. The minijersey look was introduced by Yves St. Laurent at his spring 1977 showing in Paris. Needless to say, it has caught on all over the country.

Q. I'm trying to find out what has happened to three of my favorite players. Can you tell me what Ben Davidson, Fred Biletnikoff and George Blanda are doing now?--Unsigned, Miami, Fla.

A. All three of those ex-Raiders are alive and well. Davidson is an actor and real estate tycoon in California; Biletnikoff plays for the Montreal Als of the Canadian Football League and Blanda works for the David Burns Sports Celebrity Service in Chicago.

Q. Has there been any talk yet as to whether Gerry Cooney will fight Larry Holmes for the World Boxing Council heavyweight title?--Unsigned, Memphis, Tenn.

A. No, this has not been seriously discussed. There are still some question marks about Cooney, who is the next "Great White Hope." Cooney, 24-0 has not really fought any tough fighters. His toughest opponents were washed up versions of Jimmy Young and Ron Lyle. Best guess is that Cooney isn't ready for Holmes or WBA Champ Mike Weaver.

Q. Who are the top young heavyweights in boxing?--Jose Feliciano, Miami.

A. Top young heavyweights include Gerry Cooney, Leon Spinks, Michael Doakes, Gerrie Coetzee and Greg Page.

Q. Is it possible to order Super Bowl tickets by mail?--Joe Thomas, Miami.

A. Yes it is impossible. About the only way to get Super Bowl tickets is off the black market or from a travel agency. You can expect to pay about \$200 for a ticket that has a face value of \$40.

(Got a sports question? Just write "Ask Barry", P.O. Box 486, Tallahassee, Fla. 32302. Questions will be answered in this space).

Hornets To Rebuild

By Barry Cooper

Dover, Del.--It is here, in the cold Northeast, that former Florida A&M basketball coach Ajac Triplett has come, hoping to turn around the fortunes of Delaware State's basketball program. Last year, in his first season at FAMU, the Hornets were 15-12. Things have not gone so well this season. Delaware State is 3-8, but this is a rebuilding year, says Triplett.

"This is basically a young team," said Triplett. "We have two seniors, two juniors, one sophomore and nine freshmen. So we think the future will be pretty good for us."

Right now the Hornets are going through some trying times. They figure to battle South Carolina State for the conference cellar--at least on paper. Triplett, however, figures the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference race is wide open.

"The conference is very very tough," he said. "Personally, I don't see anybody running away with it. The league is just so balanced."

Part of the reason for the Hornets' lackluster record thus far is their tough, tough schedule.

"It's tough having to play a Division I schedule," said Triplett. But 85 percent of our games have to be against Division I schools, so that's the way it is."

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