

# Black On Sports



Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

Sugar Ray did it, yes in the thirteenth round of last Wednesday night's battle for the undisputed world welterweight boxing title, Leonard won this longtime skeptic over.

"There is no way he can beat a man like Hearn's," was this writer's thoughts as he made his way into the Greensboro Coliseum set to watch, in at least half-way decent, almost living color, "The Showdown," as promoters were billing it. The place wasn't filling up like it did for the Ali-Holmes battle, I thought, moving through the crowd to hunt a frontrow seat.

But in only a few moments the Coliseum was nearly half filled with fans anticipating the kind of match that Leonard and Roberto Duran put on their first time out.

Their was no color at all in the picture on the big screen as Marvin Frazier easily put away a fighter whose name isn't important.

"The picture is quite fuzzy and much too dark, I think," beginning to inquire about it from a fellow standing behind the projector. He seems quite perturbed and says, bluntly, "you'll have to talk to some of the Coliseum people, I just do what I'm told."

The crowd talks about the bad picture but all is soon forgotten as the two top fighters of the day enter the ring. Just as this writer predicted, Hearn's takes early control jabbing Leonard with precision. Leonard looks much smaller than he actually is with Hearn's, much taller, connecting with the jab and occasionally hitting Sugar with the right to the body.

Leonard seems almost afraid to do battle with the "Hit Man" and backs away as Hearn's continues to stalk and punch his way to victory in the first five rounds.

Leonard's left eye begins to swell but in the sixth and seventh he comes back and Hearn's begins to box, moving away but still being effective with the jab.

By the end of the 12th this writer and most of the Hearn's supporters are convinced that unless Leonard can somehow knock out the man he doesn't seem overly eager to mix it with, the fight is over.

But Leonard comes out like Duran, in the 13th, charges into the retreating Hearn's, and lands a series of inside body punches. He bullies Hearn's to the ropes and continues to land shot after shot. Hearn's goes down, this writer screams slip, then shudders at the fact that he is openly pulling for Hearn's. I regain my composure just as Leonard begins his second onslaught of Hearn's and sends him to the canvas and nearly through the ropes with a flurry of blows. As the bell rings, the crowd goes wild. The Leonard fans come to life and begin to talk of a knockout.

As the 14th begins Leonard races across the ring and begins to throw his best shots at a still groggy Hearn's. Hearn's backs away and is hit with an overhand right. As he staggers to the ropes, Leonard pours it on, pulls out his windup punch and begins to give the fans a little of his flair, sensing that the battle is his. Soon the referee stops the fight, Leonard has done it. He has beaten the man he Couldn't.

This writer begins to think. Maybe he is like Ali. He came back to take the title from Duran, he took the jr. middleweight crown for his second title, and now he's conquered Hearn's, showing the kind of heart and punching power this writer was never before convinced he had.

Yes, Leonard did it, he won this skeptic over...And his stock can only continue to grow. As for Hearn's, he will get another shot at Leonard. That's when you can find out just how convinced this writer is of Leonard's likeness to Ali.

**PREDICTION...UNION 24...WSSU 17**  
Other CIAA games this week

J.C. Smith at Bowie State... Smith by 20  
Elizabeth City at Norfolk State... Norfolk by 3  
Hampton at Livingstone... Hampton by 14  
Virginia State at St. Paul's... Virginia State by 14

### MEAC Games

North Carolina A&T at Bethune Cookman... A&T by 12  
West Chester State at Delaware State... West Chester by 7  
South Carolina State at Howard... S.C. State by 18

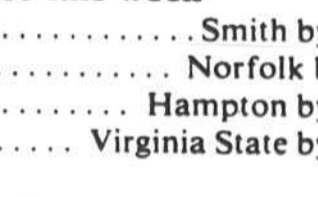
U. H. Rucker, Owner

WASHERS & DRYERS  
REFRIGERATORS & FREEZERS  
RANGES & DISHWASHERS

MAYTAG  
FRIGIDAIRE  
WHIRLPOOL  
KENMORE  
GE  
KITCHEN-AID

Special Rates For Senior Citizens

Specializing in A-1 Used Appliances



U. H. Rucker

PHONE 767-9090

### A-One Appliance Service

ALL WORK GUARANTEED 30 DAYS BY FACTORY TRAINED TECHNICIAN

WASHERS & DRYERS  
REFRIGERATORS & FREEZERS  
RANGES & DISHWASHERS

MAYTAG  
FRIGIDAIRE  
WHIRLPOOL  
KENMORE  
GE  
KITCHEN-AID

U. H. Rucker, Owner

Special Rates For Senior Citizens

Specializing in A-1 Used Appliances



U. H. Rucker

Call 767-9090

# Controversy At Norfolk

By Barry Cooper  
Sports Correspondent

The last time a big scandal hit black college sports, it was at Howard University, where players claimed they were being mistreated by the Bison football coaches. Now, similar charges have been brought against Norfolk State basketball coach Lucias Mitchell.

Basketball players at Norfolk State recently delivered a letter to university officials, accusing Mitchell of "de-meaning and inhumane treatment," misleading and false recruiting inducements and conducting "excessive and extreme practice sessions."

Norfolk State is taking the charges seriously. A committee has been formed to look into the allegations, and athletic director Bill Archie has already told reporters he will recommend the firing of Mitchell if the charges are found to be true.

Mitchell, however, says he will not resign under pressure. One of the best coaches in college basketball, Mitchell won three NAIA national championships during an eight-year career at Kentucky State. His teams at K-State compiled an incredible 192-47 record. Mitchell has a 61-28 record in three years at Norfolk State and was 72-28 in four years at Alabama State.

His career record is a staggering 325-103.

Evidence, however, may be stacked against Mitchell. Two former Norfolk State players have come forth to elaborate on charges contained in the current players' letter.

Michael Johnson and Tracy Allen, who transferred to Hampton Institute this fall, told reporters of practice sessions conducted by Mitchell in which players were made to run around a public park twice, run 20 times up a man-made hill and then run 10 200-yard sprints without rest. Two claim the practice sessions took place during an 11-day stretch last October.

Johnson and Allen claimed any player unable to complete the session was said to be "out of shape," "not a man" and "fundamentally unsound."

One claim which really caught officials' attention was Johnson's claim that he (Johnson) was spitting up blood after an outdoor practice prior to the NAIA tournament last spring in Kansas City.

Mitchell has denied knowledge of that.

Johnson, Allen, and a third player, Terry Tibbs, were described in a recent Norfolk State publication as having been dismissed from the team because of disciplinary reasons.

The publication said the three were "often disciplined by the Spartan coaches."

But Johnson and Allen dispute that.

"He didn't throw us off the team," said Johnson, a 6-foot-9 sophomore. "It was right after that practice in Kansas City that we decided to leave. We submitted a letter asking for our release from our scholarship and we got it."

Spartans' athletic director Archie confirmed that the pair had asked for and gotten a release from their scholarships.

Despite the apparent seriousness of the charges, sources in Norfolk say Mitchell will survive this controversy.

"Once this blows over he'll be all right," said a university employee who asked that his name not be used. "I really don't think the charges are as severe as they appear to be. This is something that can be worked out by instructing Coach Mitchell to change some of his tactics."

The players' main gripes centered around tough practice sessions, but they also complained of a lack of meal money. Allen said players often were not given enough money to eat on during road trips.

Allen claimed that in Kansas City last year, players were given \$25 on the first day of the trip, and had to make that last for four more days.

Mitchell, in a candid statement, agreed meal money in Kansas City was insufficient, but added that he and assistant Coach Mike Bernard gave the team their own money with which to eat.

Mitchell said he has a budget of \$25,000 to pay for equipment, travel, lodging and player meals. He said he was not able to always provide meal money for his players. When that happened, he said, he brought along sandwiches for his team to eat.

This case is another one of those where the object is to decide who's telling the truth. Norfolk State officials have promised to make a decision in the matter over the next few weeks.

## Wadford

From page 13

good this season.

"I'm real excited and can't wait for the season to start," he said recently. "I feel that the team will be able to hold its own against some pretty rugged competition in the CIAA league."

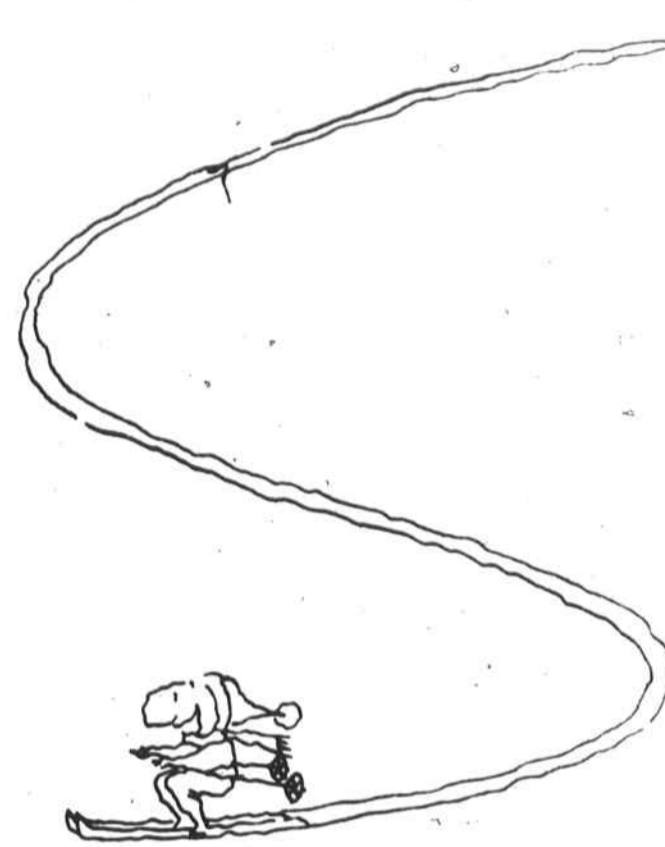
Wadford certainly has his sights set on a professional career in football.

"No doubt about it. I certainly would like a shot at the pros after I graduate. I feel I can kick far enough to make the pros and that's what I'm hoping for. However, I need to become more consistent and better in my hang time (height of punts)."

Just how important is Bertie Wadford to the football program at FSU?

Former head coach Tom Morris put it this way, "Bertie is as important as the quarterbacks and defensive backs. All of them. He's an integral part of our whole program. His kicking game alone has kept us in and gotten us out of a lot of situations."

## Piedmont Takes You To The White Open Spaces.



Send us this coupon, and we'll send you a collection of spectacular ski vacations out west. Pick the package that's just your speed. Then, when you're ready to go, our daily ski lifts to Denver will help you reach your peak.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**PIEDMONT AIRLINES**  
Send to Piedmont Airlines, P.O. Box 414, Austin, TX 78707 W.C.

## SAVE \$2.50 ON RIDES! ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE SEPT. 21-OCT. 1

Get discount admission and ride tickets at all Northwestern Bank offices in Winston-Salem, Advance, Clemmons, Kernersville, King, Lewisville, Walkertown, and Walnut Cove, and at the Coliseum Box Office at the Fairgrounds. Also available to employees at Wachovia Bank (Winston-Salem), Leggs, Leggs DSD, Hanes Hosiery, Hanes Knitwear, Hanes Ball Co., L'erin, Reynolds Credit Union, Forsyth Memorial Hospital Credit Union, Piedmont Airlines, and Integon.

- ★ JAMES E. STRATES SHOWS ★  
9 EXCITING DAYS & NIGHTS
- ★ CHITWOOD AUTO THRILL SHOW ★  
OCTOBER 2-4
- ★ WTQR'S COUNTRY MUSIC CHAMPIONSHIPS ★  
OCTOBER 3, 4 & 10
- ★ CHAMPIONSHIP MOTORCYCLE RACES ★  
—AMA SANCTIONED—OCT. 4—
- ★ SONGS BY THE CHALLENGERS ★  
OCTOBER 6-10
- ★ ALL STAR MUD WRESTLING ★  
OCTOBER 7 & 8
- ★ TRACTOR/TRUCK PULL-O-RAMA ★  
OCTOBER 9 & 10

More Fun For Everyone in '81!  
**Dixie Classic Fair**  
Oct 2-10/ Winston-Salem

**SAIL ON INTO THE EASY TASTE**

After a long recording session, nothing helps us wind down like the cold and wet refreshment of Schlitz. It's a light, smooth thirst-quenching brew. And the taste is as mellow as our music. That's why we call Schlitz the easy taste.

*The Commodores*

**Schlitz**

**THE EASY TASTE**

©1981 JDS SCHLITZ BREWING COMPANY, MILWAUKEE