



The Lite Report

Clarence E. Gaines (center), head basketball coach and athletic director at Winston-Salem State University, answers questions at a New York press conference announcing the Lite Sports Report on attitudes toward sports in America.

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Soaring For Two

Fast breaks came in bunches during last week's basketball extravaganza at the Hanes Hoisery Recreation Center. Roger Nelson (12) of Winston-Salem goes high for a layup as Brian Wilson of Washington looks on (photo by James Parker).

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of these kids," said Lynch. "Some of them have never been to the South and they may not get the chance again. They got an opportunity to meet kids who live in a different environment from them.

"It's also good because there is not the pressure of winning or losing. It's a chance for them to relax and enjoy a new experience."

The players from Washington also visited the campus of Winston-Salem State University and met basketball Coach Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines.

Funderburk and Lynch both added that they are hopeful the two areas will be able to get together for similar ventures in the future.

NFL Draft From Page 14

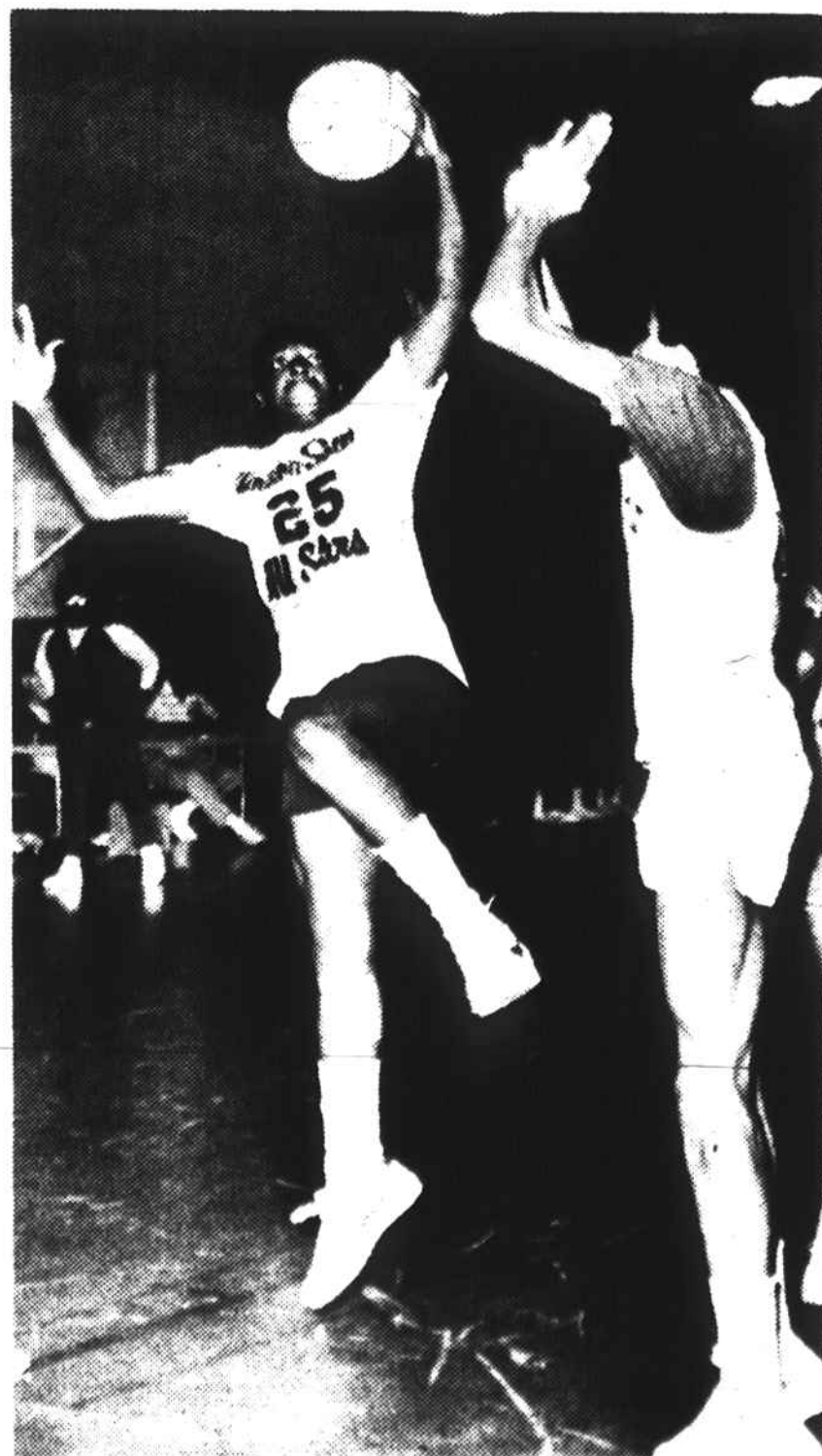
If you don't think that's true, ask former NFL superstars Deacon Jones (South Carolina State) and Larry Little (Bethune-Cookman). They started as free agents, earning peanuts.

Much of this may change now, thanks to the USFL. Because there will be fewer players to go around, NFL teams will be forced to up their ante to get the players they want.

That means more money for every player in the game, be he from a large school or small one.



The Amazon River, stretching 4,000 miles across South America, is part of a massive system of 1,100 connected rivers, that contain two-thirds of all the earth's fresh water.



A Challenge

Johnnie Simmons (25) of the Winston-Salem all-stars tries to get his shot off before Vincent Copeland swats it away (photo by James Parker).

Parents Need Educating, Too

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

When big-time colleges recruit star athletes, they often offer the promise of a quality education. Of course, just the act of being recruited by a college is an education in itself, for the players as well as their parents.

While high school sports and the resulting media coverage can often help prepare a prospect for the rigors of college recruiting, there is no opportunity for a youngster's parents to prepare for this kind of thing.

There is no chance for the parents to learn how to deal with constant calls from a college recruiter, offers of illegal inducements from a college recruiter, pressure from co-workers and friends, and other distractions.

The problem is especially severe in single-parent households, where the mother runs the show. Often, this is a black mother, and her son suddenly is being attracted by such big-time schools as UCLA, Southern California and Alabama.

Chances are she finds the attention for her son flattering, encouraging and altogether good. But as countless statistics show, young black athletes who sign with major universities often don't get their degrees, and many don't experience the success on the field that they had anticipated.

Consequently, the kids end up having wasted four years.

Some of those kinds of situations might have been prevented had the parents been a little smarter.

It is time for parents of star players -- and we'll focus mainly on single-parent, black households -- to become more aware of the rigors of recruiting and find out just what Mr. Big from the University of the Big Time can really do for their sons.

Too often, parents and their athlete-sons fall for empty promises. It is widely believed that there is widespread

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