

sports

Columns, Scores, Profiles, Predictions

Dedication, Natural Talent Keep Them Going

By EDWARD HILL JR.
Staff Writer

In a day of specialization in athletics on all levels, the three-sport athlete has become a rarity.

The competition for positions in the popular sports such as baseball, football and basketball has become so intense that athletes have chosen to concentrate on one sport.

Still, there are a few local athletes who have the God-given physical talents and the love of sports to be good enough to excel in three areas.

Among them is Cedric Moss, a rising senior at Reynolds High School. In baseball, Moss batted a hefty .417. In football, he rushed for more than 500 yards and scored four touchdowns. And in basketball, he averaged almost 15 points a game as a guard. Moss says he does it mostly for the love of sports.

"I know that, if I'm going to be good in three sports, I have to put in hard work. That same kind of hard work has to be put in the classroom if I'm going to succeed there."

-- Brian Howard

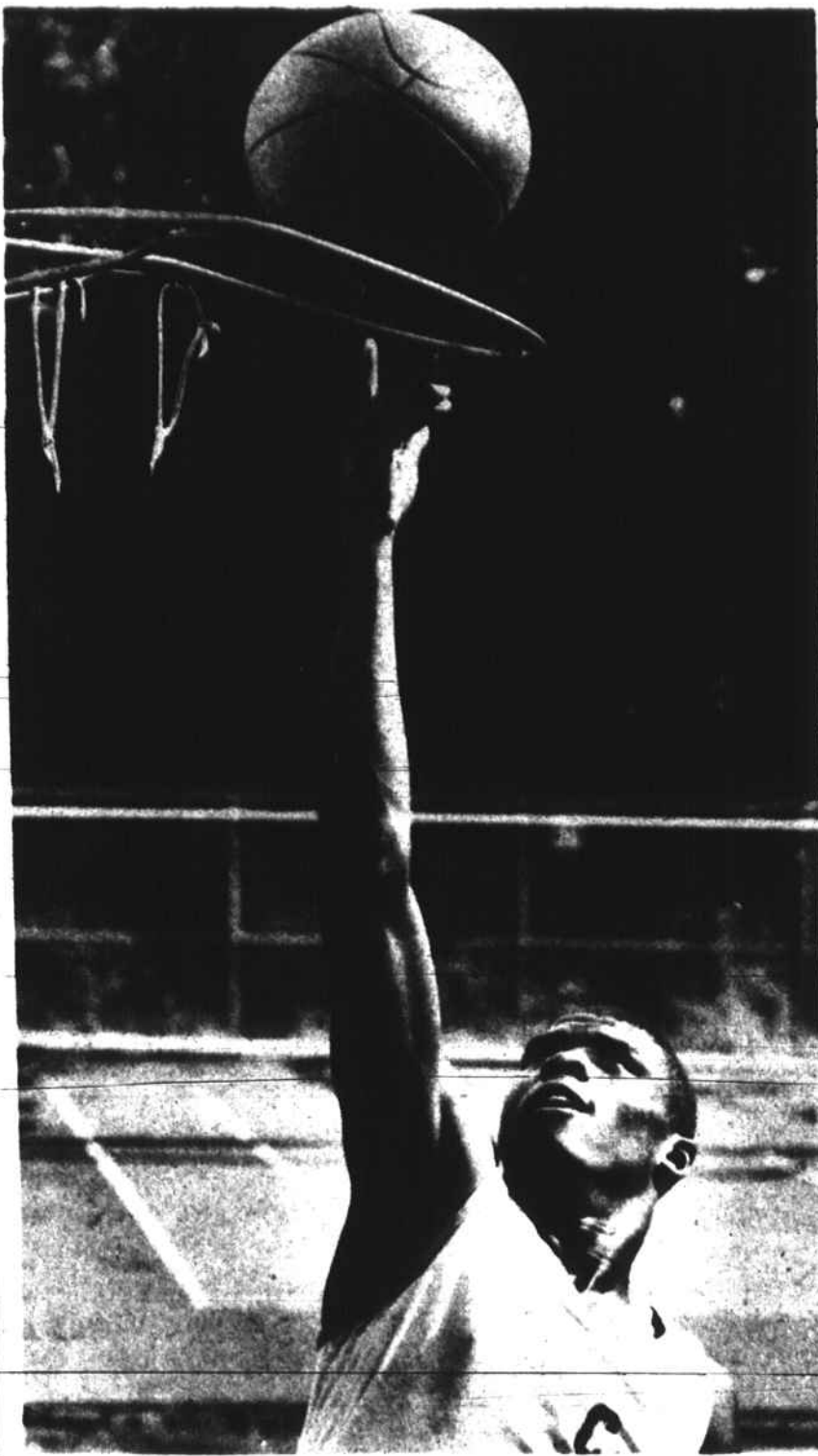
"I started playing more than one sport at the age of 10," says Moss, who is 5-8 and weighs 160 pounds. "I realized I could do them all and do them well. The more I played, the more I loved them. I have to keep doing something. By the time I practice, play a game, come home and do my homework, I'm ready to go to bed."

Greg Scales has college scouts drooling. The 6-3, 185-pound senior looks as if he's been chiseled out of granite.

As a junior at East Forsyth last season, Scales caught 20 passes, good for five touchdowns, on a team that emphasized the run. He also scored 12 points and pulled down 11 rebounds a game at center. Although he didn't see much playing time on the baseball team, there is a consensus that he will start and make a significant contribution this coming season. Scales says excelling in three sports gives him more options.

"A cousin of mine told me a long time ago that the more sports you were good in, the more chances you would get of securing a scholarship," says Scales, who ranks among the top receivers in the state. "I also like to use sports to stay in shape from one to the other."

At the age of 12, Tim Burl realized he had special athletic abilities. That, he says, prompted him to pursue



From The Grid To The Hoop To The Diamond

Tim Burl is one of those rare athletes who excel in three sports. A rising well in three sports is having natural ability and love for the game. Burl intercepted seven passes last year, averaged 14 points a game and batted a hefty .410 on the baseball team. He says the key to do-

three sports -- basketball, football and baseball.

It paid off for the talented junior-to-be as he went on to bat .410, score 14 points a game and intercept seven passes last season at Carver.

"When I was in the seventh grade, I realized things came naturally to me," says the six-foot Burl, one of the best young pure shooters around. "When something comes that naturally to you, you began to love it and appreciate it."

Because of the amount of time that is involved in practice, regular-season games, tournaments and summer development programs and sports camps, study time is often reduced, thus affecting an athlete's grades.

So student-athletes Brian Howard of Carver and Robert Hill of East Forsyth are especially rare, as they have managed to maintain excellence in both areas.

"You have to know what's important," says Howard, a sophomore who many feel is potentially the best basketball player to ever play in this area. "I know that, if I'm going to be good in three sports, I have to put in hard work. That same kind of hard work has to be put in the classroom if I'm going to succeed there." Howard accomplished both, compiling a 3.2 grade-point average in the classroom and leading the Yellow Jackets to championships in both football and basketball and a second-place finish in track.

"Because I'm not the type of person who is what you would call a real smart person, I have to work very hard to maintain good grades," says Hill, a senior. "With practices and games right after school and all, I'm sometimes tired when I get home. But I know that if I don't do what I'm supposed to in the classroom, I won't even be playing one sport, let alone three. My family just doesn't play that." Hill made the honor roll this year in addition to leading the basketball, football and baseball teams to the playoffs.

The athletes all agree that there is little or no transition from one sport to another. For him, Howard says, there

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Prize winners in the Amateur Lights at last week's Winston Lake Pro-Am are, from the left, Floyd Moore, Dr. J.R. Oliver, Dr. O.G. Hairston, Lorenzo Worthy, Charles Jewel and C.Y. Young.

Walker Captures Jones Pro-Am

By ROBERT ELLER
Sports Editor

Robert Walker used an opening-round 8-under-par 64 to grab a two-shot lead over Joe Johnson and made it stand over the final 18 holes Sunday to claim his second straight North American Golfers Association tournament in the E. Jerry Jones Pro-Am at Winston Lake Golf Course July 23 and 24.

In winning his second Jones Pro-Am (he also won the event in 1977), Walker picked up \$1,100. His final-round effort of even-par 72 gave him a 36-hole score of 136, one shot better than Johnson, who followed his first-round 66 effort with a 71 over the final 18 holes, and Chris Tucker, who had the best round of the day with a 66. Tucker shot a 1-under-par 71 on Saturday.

Both Johnson and Tucker collected \$487.50 for their efforts.

Walker, who also claimed first-place money in the Asheville tournament last week, entered the event ranked third in the NAGA Player of the Year point standings with 43 points.

The 45-year-old Georgian said of his brilliant first round 64, which was only one shot off the course record set by James Black back in 1972, "It was just one of my times. I felt good and every shot I hit felt good, I had good concentration and good lies all day."

Walker, a runner-up here on three other occasions when he saw the lead slip away over the final 18 holes, said he didn't think about losing the lead this time. "I've been playing well this year, and when you shoot a 64, that certainly helps your confidence. I didn't really play that

hard today; I just wanted to hold on and not make any mistakes."

The pros saw their final round briefly interrupted for 45 minutes by rain shortly after the 2 p.m. start. Walker said the brief but hard shower changed the course slightly. "The ball was a little slower on the greens," he said, "but this course drains so well that it wasn't a problem at all."

Point leader William Lewis started the day six shots back after carding an opening-round 70 but fell victim to the narrow Winston Lake tract and ballooned to 77 on Sunday. His 147 total placed him in 12th place. He took home \$125.

Defending champ Chuck Thorpe, the event's only five-time winner and ranked second behind Lewis in NAGA points, bypassed this year's event to play in the St. Louis Open, which reportedly offered a \$23,000 purse.

Veteran Nate Starks, also a former winner of the event, carded back-to-back 69s over the 36 holes. His 138 total was good enough for fourth place and a \$325 payoff.

George "Tater Pie" Wallace and Eric Lawhorn followed Starks, both finishing at 141 and tying for fifth place. They each collected \$241.50.

John Plyler, who started the day three shots back of Walker after shooting a first-round 67, saw his putting game forsake him and carded a 75 for a 142 total.

Bobby Stroble, a winner here in 1980 and one of the pre-tourney favorites, came back from a 74 Saturday to shoot 70 Sunday and wind up in eighth place with a 144 total. Mike Rowland at 145 was ninth, while Alvin Grier and local pro Robert Bethea had 146 totals and tied for

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R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Hawks Earn It With Tournament Performance

By EDWARD HILL JR.
Staff Writer

The Patterson Avenue YMCA Hawks' performance in the recent National AAU/Junior Olympics Tournament in Monroe, La., sent a clear and convincing message: Basketball has arrived in Winston-Salem.

Competing against the top teams from 25 states, the 12-man, 17-and-under Hawk squad made it all the way to the quarterfinals before bowing to a powerful California team, 74-59. That gave the team a fifth-place finish overall.

But other factors make the team's accomplishments even more remarkable:

- The Hawks were the youngest team in the tournament.

- The Hawks were made up of players from Winston-Salem only, whereas the other teams gathered the best players from their respective states.

- The majority of the teams that reached the final eight had large companies sponsoring them, thus allowing them the luxuries of flying to Louisiana; the Hawks had to travel by bus (which broke down in South Carolina).

Despite the disadvantages and inconveniences, Robert Dunlap, who sponsored the team, says the squad did better than he expected.

"I'm really proud of this group," says Dunlap. "They went down there and represented Winston-Salem against some of the best in the United States. To be frank, when I

looked at the overall talent that was down there, I did not realistically think we would do as well as we did. This group and the coaches are really to be commended."

The Hawks won the first round with an easy 67-55 win over the Pennsylvania team. They then had to hold off a late-game rally to edge Arkansas 68-67. That put the Hawks in the quarterfinals against the tall and talented team from California.

"Their guards were bigger than our front line people," says Dunlap. "They had four guys 6-7, three 6-8, two 6-9 and two 6-10. They just overpowered us. They were concerned about our speed and quickness, so they employed a full-court press and that was the difference."

The Hawks displayed balance throughout the tourna-

ment, twice having four players to score in double figures. Dunlap singled out Brian Howard, a 6-5 sophomore at Carver; Greg Scales, a 6-3 senior at East Forsyth; Scottie Johnson, a 6-5 junior, and senior guards Cedric Moss (Reynolds) and Robert Hill (East Forsyth) as having impressive performances.

"The real surprise was Scottie Johnson," says Dunlap. "He was not intimidated by the bigger players he faced. Brian Howard what can you say about him? He never ceases to amaze me with his complete play. And Scales did just a tremendous job on the boards."

"Offensively our guards were the keys, though. Moss (14 points per game) and Hill (20 points per game) did a

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