



The Preliminaries

Gilbert Rucker, left, and Kelvin McCorey listen to instructions during an organizational meeting of the Winston-Salem Recreation Department Summer Basketball League held at 14 Street Recreation Center. League play began on Monday at Carver Recreation Center (photo by James Parker).

Kennedy: Transition to pros isn't easy

From Page B2

The leap from the amateur ranks to the pros is a big one, Kennedy says. "There is a big difference between the two," he notes. "The pros are more active and the gloves are smaller, and, of course, they hit harder. "But there are some things that I had already learned as an amateur. I learned two or three years ago not to go for the knockout. I just keep throwing punches and the knockouts will come."

Ever critical of his performances, Kennedy is quick to point out his weaknesses. "I need to work on my defense," he says. "A guy who wades in looking to land the knockout punch doesn't last long in boxing. You only have one brain, one set of eyes and so on. So a good

defensive fighter can have a long and successful career." While he is aware of the dangers of the sport, Kennedy says, he loves it nevertheless. "Boxing is a beautiful sport when it is done right," he says, "but I'm not naive enough to forget that pro boxing is a business." Kennedy also knows what he wants out of this "business sport." "I want security," he says, his face turning ring-serious. "I want to be able to take care of my mother and my little daughter and I want people to look at me and say he did it because he was willing to work hard and he didn't give in." "Then," he adds with a smile, "I want to come back home, take some other kids like me off the street and give them a chance to work hard and better themselves."

Pond Giants, Indians considering game

From Page B2

says -- if he is asked. "I've been asking them to play me for the past three years and they have booked around me," he says. "I don't have any hard feelings against them but we are the state champs now and we played in the national tourney last year. So, if they want to play, they will have to ask us." "If we are asked to play," Wilkins adds, "we will play. We will make an open date if we have to." The idea of the two local teams playing makes as much sense as the mergers of the NBA and ABA or the NFL and AFL. Both Petree and Wilkins say they are looking for community support to keep semi-pro baseball alive in the city. And both constantly complain about poor turnouts at their games. A game between the two would surely produce the

largest crowd of the season for both teams. "A weekend series with a game on Saturday and another on Sunday would probably draw at least 500 fans, if we publicize it right," says Petree. That's probably true. And such a game could also bring out a few of the fans who have turned away from semi-pro baseball in favor of softball over the past few years. I, for one, would love to see the contest. Last season, after a long debate, the two teams decided to play each other on July 24, but Mother Nature interfered. When the game was rained out, the Indians, with the national tournament ahead, were unable to work the game in. Let's hope that won't happen again this season, for the sake of semi-pro baseball in the city as well as bragging rights. Come on, fellas, let's play ball!

A good NBA draft for black collegians

From Page B2

when he came out of Florida A&M. Now he is a respected player. "All these kids I mentioned from the black schools have a chance. It all boils down to how hard they want to

work." Still, the odds are high. Of 228 players drafted each year, fewer than 50 make it. "But," as Blake says, "you never know."

"Sometimes it's still tough to tell.... The last time I saw (Hampton Institute's) Rick Mahorn before he got drafted, he looked awful. Now

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Schools considering forming new league

From Page B2

"major" football power in America, met in Dallas recently to conceive a TV package to present to the major networks.

chance of that that it's already making plans for a \$300,000 Jagger-Jackson music video -- which insiders figure will end up costing at least double that amount....

The package, which apparently will exclude small and predominantly black schools, is being prepared in the hope that the U.S. Supreme Court will rule in favor of the CFA this summer and strip the NCAA of its control of football television rights.

Sidney Poitier auditioned no less than 2,500 ballet dancers in order to select eight young leads for the Columbia "Shootout" film he'll start directing in New York. Based on an original story by Poitier, "Shootout" will tell the tale of a group of young dancers who leave their Ohio homes to find a place for themselves in New York's world of ballet....

This And That

ORLANDO, Fla. -- Other black college tidbits: Alabama State thinks it may have come up with a steal in Mark Medlock, a high school quarterback from Dearborn Heights, Mich. Medlock passed for 1,337 yards and 12 TDs last year. A three-year starter, he was named to both the *Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press* all-star teams.... to meet Jackson in a recording studio where they proceeded to wax one of Michael's original compositions. I've learned that an agreement's been made stipulating that, if either star isn't happy with the duet, it won't be included on the LP. But Columbia Records sees so little

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