



Photo courtesy of Black College Sports Review

The Black College Basketball Classic has the potential to become a must-see event for pro basketball scouts to evaluate black college talent.

Basketball Classic needs a few new wrinkles, but has so much potential

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE
Chronicle Sports Editor

It's too bad that more people didn't show up for the first annual Black College Basketball Classic at Rock Hill, S.C. After all, the top black college seniors convened for two days of competition to demonstrate their skills in front of a dozen scrutinizing NBA scouts.

Too bad for black college roundball fans.

For the scouts, however, word has it that they were pleased with the concept and how the two-day event was run. It's been quite a while since so much black college talent (60-plus players) has been assembled on one floor.

But in the meantime, the scouts weren't able to get very thorough looks at this year's all-star participants. With 17 guys on each team, there wasn't sufficient playing time for everybody. The substitution patterns tended to be wholesale, with most people playing in six or eight minute spans.

That's not enough time for a scout to get a good look at a would-be pro

prospect.

For that reason, observers say the roster size of teams should be reduced to 10 -- the best 10 that is. That way, the talent level is at its highest and people get more quality playing time to strut their stuff.

IN RETROSPECT

The NBA scouts were very impressed with this classic. So impressed, according to some observers, that the NBA may seriously consider becoming a part of it. But before that takes place, this classic needs to be sanctioned by the NCAA. Without NCAA approval, the league isn't likely to be of great assistance in helping this all-star game get off the ground.

In addition, observers feel it's a good idea to set the teams up by conferences, thereby generating the kind of interest that already exist for each league and its roundball programs.

Nevertheless, the bottom line will have to be dealt with. Sponsorship is

mandatory and so is the need to induce people to attend the games.

But based on the ticket prices from this year's event (\$15 per game), it's easy to understand why few people showed up for the four games. Matter of fact, estimates of crowd attendance ranged from 100 and 200 for each night.

For that reason, the classic may best be served by moving to a smaller setting, for the first two or three years anyway. The Winthrop Coliseum (site for the '91 game) seats around 6,500 but was still as empty as a canyon. That should tell you something.

To build spectator interest, observers say that there's nothing wrong with playing in a high school gym that seats 2,000 or so. That's what they do for the Portsmouth Invitational, which over the years has become one of the prestigious all-star games that attracts fans and a plethora of pro scouts.

All this classic needs is a little tinkering here and there to bring about optimal results. The tremendous potential of this kind of venture is too

Magic hungry for another shot at NBA finals

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — As Magic Johnson enters the late stages of his career, a trip to the NBA Finals means more than it once did.

"In the post-Kareem years, we haven't been there," Johnson said, referring to retired teammate Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. "And I think the older you get, the more you want to be there, too, and have an opportunity to win it."

"You just want to end up with as many opportunities as you can on your way out."

Johnson's Los Angeles Lakers can take a giant step toward another appearance in the finals with a vic-

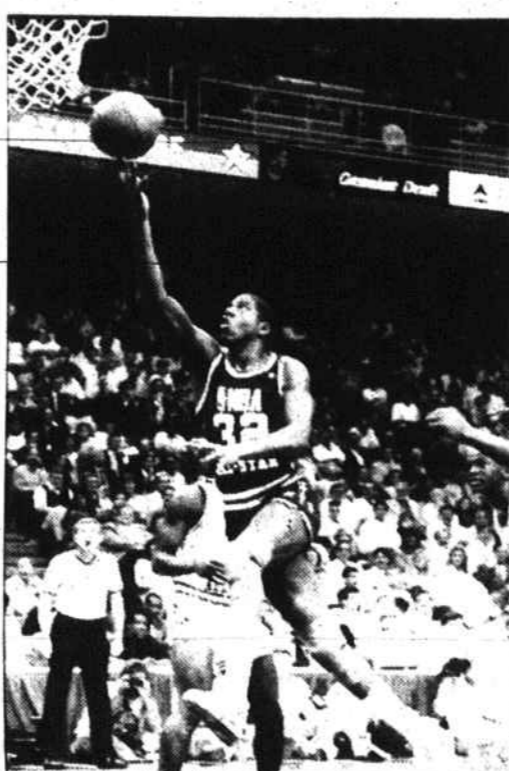
tory tomorrow over the Portland Trail Blazers.

The Lakers and Blazers have won one game apiece in the Western Conference finals. LA seized the home court advantage via a 111-106 victory last Saturday on the Blazers' home court.

Johnson said it's tough to get to the finals, even though the Lakers have been there eight times in the last 11 years.

"Even to get to this point where we're at now is very hard, very difficult," he said. "And to actually go the championships, that's very difficult. Then to win it, oh man. The competition is so much tougher now."

Johnson said there is a natural



Magic Johnson

tendency for a team to relax after winning a big playoff game on the road.

"We're trying to keep everybody into it and not relax," he said. "You can't relax with them (the Blazers) because once you exhale, you're blown out, quickly."

Lakers' coach Mike Dunleavy said he doesn't trust the homecourt advantage in this series. Portland beat the Lakers twice in Inglewood during the regular season.

"I just think the way these two teams have played during the year and because of the talent they both have, nobody's homecourt is safe," Dunleavy said. "Therefore, you don't want to say you just need to get one victory on their court. You may need more than one."

Taylor is very critical of Giants management

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor criticized general manager George Young for allowing coach Bill Parcells to quit.

"George Young, I think it's a little bit his fault," Taylor said to The New York Times before playing Friday in a celebrity golf tournament in Farmingdale, N.J. "More money, whatever it takes." Parcells, who led the Giants to

their second Super Bowl title in five years in January, quit Wednesday and was replaced by offensive coordinator Ray Handley. Parcells said that money was not an issue.

"Phil Simms, Otis Anderson, Carl Banks, Leonard Marshall, Lawrence Taylor were just players," Taylor said. "Bill Parcells is the blueprint. Without him, nothing works. ...

"I'm going to miss him. He's been a big part of my life. I've never gone on the field without Bill Parcells being there."

After the Super Bowl, Giants defensive coordinator Bill Belichick quit to become head coach at Cleveland.

"We win the Super Bowl, then we lose our top defensive guy," Taylor said. "Now we lose our main man."

Roadrunners open TAC track season on Saturday

The Winston-Salem Roadrunners Track Club opens its summer season with a Junior Olympic Qualifying Meet on Saturday at the North Forsyth High School track. The meet begins at 8 a.m.

The top five finishers in each event will qualify to compete in the North Carolina TAC/Junior Olympic Regionals, June 29-30 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. The top three finishers at the regionals will advance to the TAC nationals which will take place July

25-28 at Chapel Hill.

This qualifying meet features competition in various age groups from eight to 18 years old. The cut-off date of 18-year olds is July 28 of this year. The entry fee is \$3 per athlete and \$5 per relay team. Athletes who run on relay teams must be a member of a sanctioned TAC club. Entry deadline is May 18.

Athletes must also have TAC cards which are \$8 each. Your TAC membership

card number must appear on the entry form for this meet. In addition, birth certificates are required to verify ages of participants. Participants may submit a photocopy of their birth certificates with their entry forms.

Entry forms and TAC cards may be secured by contacting the Winston-Salem Roadrunners Club, 3230 Parrish Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27105, or call V.G. Simpson, meet director at 722-5517, 337-2689, or 784-7661.

National Youth Sports registration begins this Saturday at Winston-Salem State

The National Youth Sports Program will begin registration of participants on Saturday at the C.E. Gaines Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State.

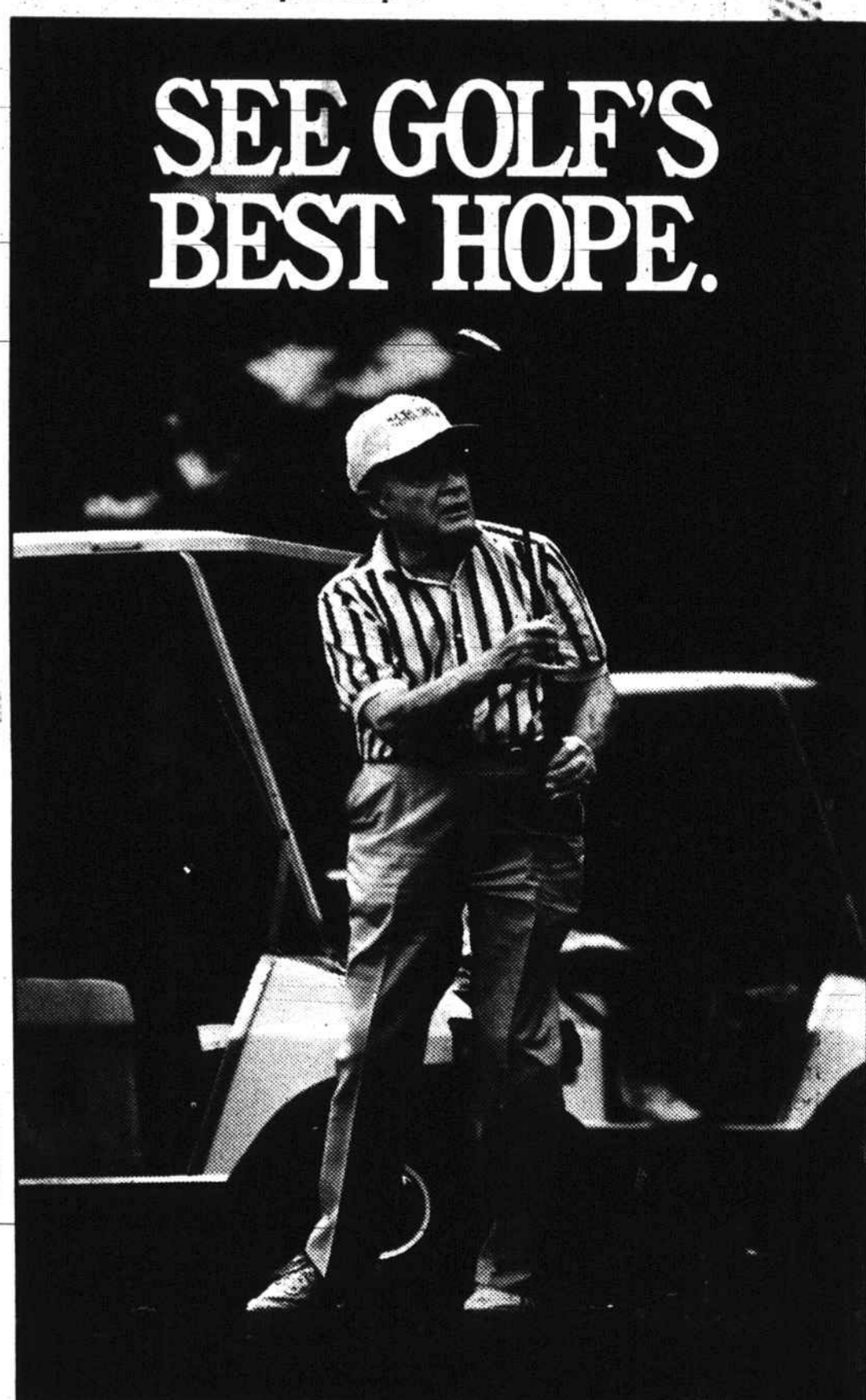
The two other dates for registration will be June 1 and June 8. Registration will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all three dates.

NYSP is a free program that runs

from June 10 through July 12.

Youths from the community are afforded an opportunity to be educated in the areas of crime prevention, drug awareness, etc., as well as getting instructions from professionals in various sports.

For more information, call Tim Grant at 750-2594.



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