

Today's Sports Parade

By OSCAR FRALEY
United Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Big Neil Johnston, pro basketball's leading scorer for the last two years, today credited a sore arm with making all his sports dreams come true.

Johnston, scoring star of the Philadelphia Warriors in the National Basketball Association, came out of nowhere to become a court ace. Originally he had been trained by his hopeful father for a big league pitching career. "The sore arm changed all that," Johnston grins happily down from his rangy six feet, eight inches.

He was in the Philadelphia Phillies farm system just three years ago, a promising fast ball pitcher who was a bonus player signed while still a sophomore at Ohio State. His father was happy but Neil wasn't.

Dad's Dream

"It was my dad's dream to see me play big league baseball," the lantern-jawed Johnston recalled. "He would rather see me play one baseball game than 50 basketball games."

So Neil went his father's way, pitching at Terre Haute in 1949 and 1950 and posting an 11-12 record in each of those years. In 1951 he was moved to Wilmington of the Interstate League and there his arm started "tightening up."

"They sent me to Tri-Cities in the Western International League in 1952 but the arm was gone," the towering blond explained. "I was a fast ball pitcher without a fast ball."

That gave Johnston his "out." Unable to pitch, he maneuvered a meeting with Eddie Gottlieb, owner-coach of the Warriors. Gottlieb took one look, whipped out a tape measure and found that Neil was six feet, eight inches instead of the six, six which he told Gottlieb he stood.

Best Course

"Maybe some people think I was taking a second best course," said the young man from Chillicothe, Ohio, "but actually I was always more interested in basketball than I was in baseball."

He had played a bit of basketball at Ohio State before becoming ineligible by signing a baseball contract. But he was rusty and, in addition, the Warriors had the sensational Paul Arizin. Thus, that first season, despite his height Johnston stood in Arizin's shadow.

By then Arizin was called into service and since then Johnston has come into his own.

"And he'll be even greater in the next few years," Gottlieb lauded. "He learns fast and he works hard to correct his faults."

There are those in pro basketball who snicker at Johnston's "awkwardness." But nobody among the opposition laughs at the way he pours the ball through the net.

Gets Points

"Awkward or not," Gottlieb declared, "he gets his points on accuracy with a fine hook shot and a good outside shot. And Neil has more moves and deception than any big man I ever saw."

He's durable, too, this slow-speaking, fast-moving man who was honored by the New York writers Monday as the outstanding pro player of the year. In two years

he has never missed a game and in 72 games this year he averaged 46 minutes per contest.

Another thing which makes him happy is Gottlieb's admission that even when Arizin comes back there will have to be a place for Neil. Maybe his dad isn't happy, but Johnston is one pitcher who is delighted that his throwing arm went bad.

SPORTS SHORTS

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Outfielder Ted Williams leaves Sancta Maria Hospital here today on the first step of the long road back to active duty with the Boston Red Sox. The slugger still wears the elaborate cast which encases the ailing left collarbone he fractured during the opening of spring practice at Sarasota, Fla., but this encumbrance soon may be removed.

SUMMIT, N. J. (AP) — Welterweight champion Kid Gavilan of Cuba, interrupts training for his middleweight championship fight with champion Carl (Bobo) Olson at Chicago April 2, today to fly out to Chicago for a day's work-out before going to South Bend, Ind., Wednesday night to receive Notre Dame University's "athlete of the year award" of 1953. Gavilan returns here Thursday to resume training.

NEW YORK (AP) — Welterweight contender Billy Graham of New York will enter Flower Hospital today for an appendectomy. The operation will cause a cancellation of a bout with Frankie D'Andrea at Johnstown, Pa., March 25.

NEW YORK (AP) — Matchmaker Teddy Brenner of Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway Arena today abandoned plans to revive the bantamweight class because of Nate Brooks' superiority and the lack of public interest in the division. Monday night young Brooks of Cleveland, 145, also of Boston, in the main event of a Boston Garden card that drew 10,280 fans Monday night. Referee Mel Manning stopped the fight at 2:35 of the second after the favored 21-year-old DeMarco had jarred his Negro opponent with a smashing left hook.

DENVER (AP) — The lesser lights of the National Industrial Basketball League see action today in a continuance of first round play in the 47th annual National AABU basketball tournament here with the featured game expected to be the clash between Kirby Shoes of Los Angeles and Allen Bradley of Milwaukee.

BOSTON (AP) — Tony DeMarco, 145, of Boston won a second round technical knockout over Wilbur Wilson, 145, also of Boston, in the main event of a Boston Garden card that drew 10,280 fans Monday night. Referee Mel Manning stopped the fight at 2:35 of the second after the favored 21-year-old DeMarco had jarred his Negro opponent with a smashing left hook.

NEW YORK (AP) — Neil Johnston, the Philadelphia Warriors' former baseball pitcher who now huris strikes at the basket, was officially crowned today as the National Basketball Association's regular-season scoring champion for the second straight year. Final official statistics credited the 6-8 pivot man with a grand total of 1,759 points for the regular season—a lead of 376 points over runnerup Bob Cousy of the Boston Celtics.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Sugar Bowl said today that Notre Dame and Holy Cross, National Invitation Tournament champions, have accepted invitations to play in the annual Sugar Bowl basketball tour-

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NOTICE

The first meeting of the Board of Equalization and Review of 1954 will be held at 10 o'clock a. m. March 22, in the courthouse in Lillington.

The following townships will be heard: Buckhorn, Hector's Creek, Black River, Neill's Creek, Grove, Duke and Aversboro.

Only property owners whose real estate values have changed will be heard.

BERLES C. JOHNSON,
Tax Supervisor
Harnett County

Fled To Freedom



SAFE in West Berlin, Lt. Ivanovich Grigoryev, Russian army officer, tells newsmen how he and a girl friend decided to escape the Red Zone while bringing a Communist soldier to headquarters. Instead of returning, they took shelter in the British sector and were picked up by the authorities. The lieutenant and "Fraulein X" sought asylum but their prisoner chose to return. (International)

official statement to kill a rumor like this," Baker said.

Church To

(Continued from page one)
ed at the Götwin and McMillan Churches and pioneered a new work, the Grove Presbyterian Church on the Jonesboro Road. The building for the new work was constructed in 1916.
During his pastorate here, Dr. McQueen was one of the most honored men in the church. He served one term as moderator of the Presbyterian Church Senate, two terms as a commissioner for the church General Assembly of the U. S., and for 25 years headed the Home Missions Department of the Fayetteville Church District.
Not only was he active in his own community, but Dr. McQueen was also active in other works. He served for 25 years as a member of

the Flora Macdonald Board of Trustees, and was for a number of years chairman of the Board of Trustees of Davidson College.
The Rev. Richard R. Gammon succeeded Dr. McQueen as pastor of the local Presbyterian Church in 1946, the first new pastor the church had had in 39 years.
Following the Sunday morning services, Rev. Gammon will present Dr. Roy L. Pridden, Jentist of Fayetteville, who will present the oil painting in honor of his parents. The portrait was painted by Connelly Pridden, also a member of the local family and one of the State's most outstanding portrait painters, from a picture taken around 1940.
Guyton Smith, member of the Presbyterian Church Board, will accept the painting on behalf of the church and will place it in the church parlor.

Prior to introducing Dr. Pridden, Rev. Gammon will review the work accomplished by Dr. McQueen and pay tribute to his service to the church.
The portrait will be unveiled by a son of the painter.



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Air Force

(Continued from page one)
column in Congress by Rep. Frances P. Bolton (R-O). An internationally circulated magazine then used the figure, apparently on the basis of Mrs. Bolton's mention.
A couple of weeks ago a British Sunday newspaper with a circulation of some five million asked the Air Force about it and got a flat denial. But it went right ahead and claimed there were 70,000 illegitimate babies.
Evidently it takes more than an

Tito Interviewed



MARSHAL TITO, president of Yugoslavia, poses for Lee Eitelson, executive editor of the Chicago American, at an interview in Zagreb. Tito indicated that he favors a seat for Red China in the United Nations. He said, however, that he wouldn't guarantee that such recognition of Communist China would necessarily end hostilities in Indo-China or settle the Korean problem. (International)

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