

# Sports Beat

BY BILL JOHNSON



## THE WAY IT LOOKS TO ME ...

The often used "Somebody Up There Must Like Me" was never more evident than in New York's famed Madison Square Garden on Saturday and Monday nights...The amazing success of the 49ers of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte is a brilliant example of some assistance from some "supreme power."

Coach Lee Rose and his daughtly crew have made believers of millions of basketball fans throughout the nation. Rose is a classic example of the proverbial riverboat gambler working miracles against a stacked deck. He has no super stars of national recognition. He has no big man who ranges near 7-feet with size No. 16 shoes and oversized paws. He has no super-quick guard who can thread needles with bullet-like passes. His bench is not laden with ready subs. All he has is a wealth of spirit that apparently exudes confidence of the you-can't-beat-me variety in his dandy crew.

Following the surprises of Saturday and Monday, it would cause no raised eye-brows if Rose and his men do it good to unpredictable North Carolina State in the Garden tonight (Thursday).

It's difficult for a veteran reporter to determine if the 49ers are a truly great basketball team of it they're performing far beyond the fondest expectations of their loyal followers on the injection of adrenalin that usually accompanies the first opportunity to grasp national fame.

Whatever the cause, Rose and company have let the nation, a great number of Charlotteans included know that there is indeed a University of North Carolina at Charlotte. And, most of all, that there is a basketball team in our midst that warrants our support. LET'S GO ALL THE WAY, 49ers!

Sudden thought - It's important to build character. Sometimes it's even more important to rebuild, IT ALL ADDS UP. A little boy, when scolded by his father for his low grades in arithmetic, retorted: "Aw, pop, I don't want to study arithmetic. It ain't no use." His dad replied firmly "What...A son of mine grow up and not be able to figure football scores, batting averages and race-track odd!" Now you know!

Words from Winston-Salem are that new-coach Bill Hayes has signed several outstanding football stars. Hayes reports the real prize is a 6-2, 180-pound running back, George Miles of Roanoke Rapids who was one of the most highly recruited players in Virginia. He was reportedly recruited by more than 50 schools. Hayes has also signed two of Richmond Virginia's best prep gridders. They are quarterback Kermit Blount and tackle Elbert Grinnell, both from Armstrong High School, once a fertile ground for Eddie McGirt and Johnson C. Smith...

It wouldn't surprise me if Warren Reynolds, A&T's head basketball coach, wins the top prize in the "Wish I Hadn't Said That" category this season. Reynolds is fooling no one with his rather blunt statement, he felt A&T should have been chosen in the NCAA Championship Playoffs over North Carolina.

Perhaps the veteran A&T coach would have been better off if he had listened to his former coach and now Athletic Director of the Greensboro, N.C. school, Cal Irvin, who stated during a television interview that "Black colleges simply would have to improve their calibre of basketball." He could have easily added...and coaching."

The semi-pro baseball campaign opens in the area in Saturday, April 3 and reports are that there will be no action in the Mecklenburg County League this summer, a local baseball fixture for more than 40 years.

## Led By Mobley

# South Mecklenburg Sabres Advance To State 4-A Championship

by James Cuthbertson  
Post Sports Writer

There are eight 4-A schools left in the running for the coveted title of the 1976 North Carolina High School Athletic Association Basketball Championship.

One of these schools, South Mecklenburg, coached by David Price and led by stars, Pete Jordan, Jerome Mobley, Reggie White, and Aaron Cunningham have been in the March competition in Greensboro several times before.

In fact South, which has produced such stars as Denver Nugget standout Bobby Jones and University of North Carolina star Walter Davis, make five trips to the tournament from 1969-1973 and won in 1970, 1971 and 1972.

A last second shot last Friday night at the South gym from the left corner by sophomore whiz John Fitch gave the Sabres who were 10-14 last year a 68-66 victory over a strong Durham Hillside Hornets team, lead by Kevin Lee who reportedly is being wooed by local schools.

## NIT Semi-finals

### Cinderella UNCC 49ers Face

### N.C. State In Crucial Test

by James Cuthbertson  
Post Sports Writer

Two of North Carolina's flowers in the National Invitational Tournament in New York City bloomed while the other turned to seed.

North Carolina State and UNCC have advanced to tonight's 7 p.m. all old North State semifinal in Madison Square Garden.

The 49ers wearing the glass slipper after opening upsets of San Francisco (79-74) and

## Triple County To

## Sponsor Banquet,

## Dance March 26

The 18 teams of the triple county Semi-pro Baseball League will kick-off the 1976 baseball campaign with a Kick-Off Banquet & Dance Friday night, March 26, at the Metrolina Fairgrounds, Stateville Road to Highway 21 North.

The price of admission is \$2.50 in advance per person. The organization, which opens its new season on Saturday, April 3, will give away two prizes during intermission.

Music for the occasion will be furnished by the Night Hawks.



Jerome Mobley  
...South's Leader

The team hopes that Friday's euphoria carries over into a 7 p.m. Wednesday meeting with 14-10 Northern Nash from Rocky Mount. The winner will play in the semifinals Friday against the winner of the other 8:30 p.m. game Wednesday pitting Burlington Cummings (19-5) against Richmond County (23-2). On Thursday Cary (22-5) will face Marion's McDowell Central (21-5) at 7 p.m. and Greensboro Page (16-6) will face Fayetteville Sanford (19-8) at



Reggie White  
...Star Center

8:30 p.m. All games will be held at the Grimsley High School Gymnasium in Greensboro.

Mobley, a Charlotte Post All-County First Team Member and honorable mention teammate White, Cunningham, and Jordan scored 13, 12, 4 and 2 points in a very balanced attack.

"Well it's the same old wonderful feeling," said Price in expressing his jubilation that the Sabres had weathered the

Southwestern 4-A conference storm as champions and has successfully entered the state quarterfinals. "The Southwestern 4-A regular season made veterans out of our players in a hurry," smiled Price.

"It felt pretty good," said affable Pete Jordan. "I think we are going to win it all." Jordan plans to attend North Carolina Central University and wants to try out for the team as a walk-on.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie L. Jordan of 425 Heathcliff Street. The 17-year-old high jumps during the spring.

"I am just glad to be playing in the state," said Mobley the 17-year-old Junior who is the son of Mrs. Ida Mae Mobley of 9504 Loblolly Lane.

"Hillside was rough. They were tall and had a good team. I am glad its over," said Aaron Cunningham, who quarterbacks for the football

team and plays shortstop and catches for the baseball team. He is the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cunningham of 700 Walnut Avenue and is a former Charlotte Post Football Player of the Week.

Star center Reggie White could not be reached for comment on his thoughts about a trip to the state but judging from his expression after the Hillside game it is "pure pleasure."

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