

# Sports Beat

BY  
BILL JOHNSON



NOW HEAR THIS.....

Odis Rousseau, the former assistant principal at West Charlotte Senior High School, is not generally known as a "Rip-Off" artist. He wasn't that is, until several weeks ago.

The point I'm trying to make is that at some point and time in life even the best among us undergo a change in character. Rousseau is no different.

Odis, who is not supposed to be good at golf, invited Charles Ramseur and me for a round of our favorite pastime. Golf is not one of Ramseur's better games, either. In fact, it has been quoted in friendly circles that he has a hard time whipping his grandson, and, the fact that he hasn't played in about two years, adds to his woes.

There is no way I can lose today, I thought as Odis wheeled hastily up I-77 headed for Statesville and a golf course he said was in "perfect condition."

The fact that he was so knowledgeable about the playing conditions of the course should have been a tip-off. There were other signs of "something foul in the air," i.e. Odis extending the invitation and offering to drive the long distance without compensation.

Get the message? I was so intent on being the "Rip-off" that I completely ignored the positive signs pointing to the fact that I was about to become the "Rip-Offee."

Ram was first to tee off. He immediately found trouble on the left side among tall trees and high grass. I slammed a little slice that came to rest in the middle of the fairway about 160 yards from the green on a 375-yard hole. Odis, who isn't supposed to know one club from another, smoked a tee shot that caused eyes to open wider than a shapely miss in a bikini with almost everything showing. The ball left the hitting surface as if Jim Dent had powered one of his best shots. "How lucky can he get," I thought as we moved towards our balls.

Five holes and four pars and a birdie later, it slowly came to me that this dude wasn't lucky, he was playing good golf.

"Level with me, Man," I pleaded as we prepared to tee off on No. 6. How in the world could you all of a sudden become so good at a game you played so poorly a short while ago?

"Well, it's like this," Odis answered, rather sheepishly, not daring to look me in the eyes. "I had a few lessons and I have been playing regularly since school closed.

Being a man of unusual courage and with high principles, I decided to meet the challenge head-on. "I'll take a press (new bet), I said, trying not to act like a man who has been made aware of the fact that he's thrown a good dollar after a bad.

It was a bitter struggle through the next two holes, which each of us parred. Odis got under his tee shot on nine, a par three that's 165-yards long. I slammed a four iron into the wind to the edge of the green, and when Odis pitched long, I threw a chip within the leather for a gimme par. Odis missed and the kid was off the hooks.

The struggle continued on the back side. Odis went two up on the first two holes, but the kid got even at 14. The 15th hole was a long par-5 with a dogleg that curled left. Rousseau's drive drifted off to the right rough his second didn't travel very far and his third was not much better. Meanwhile, the kid was looking good with a good tee shot down the middle and was getting set to hit his second shot to take the lead for the first time during the afternoon when the match was interrupted by heavy rain.

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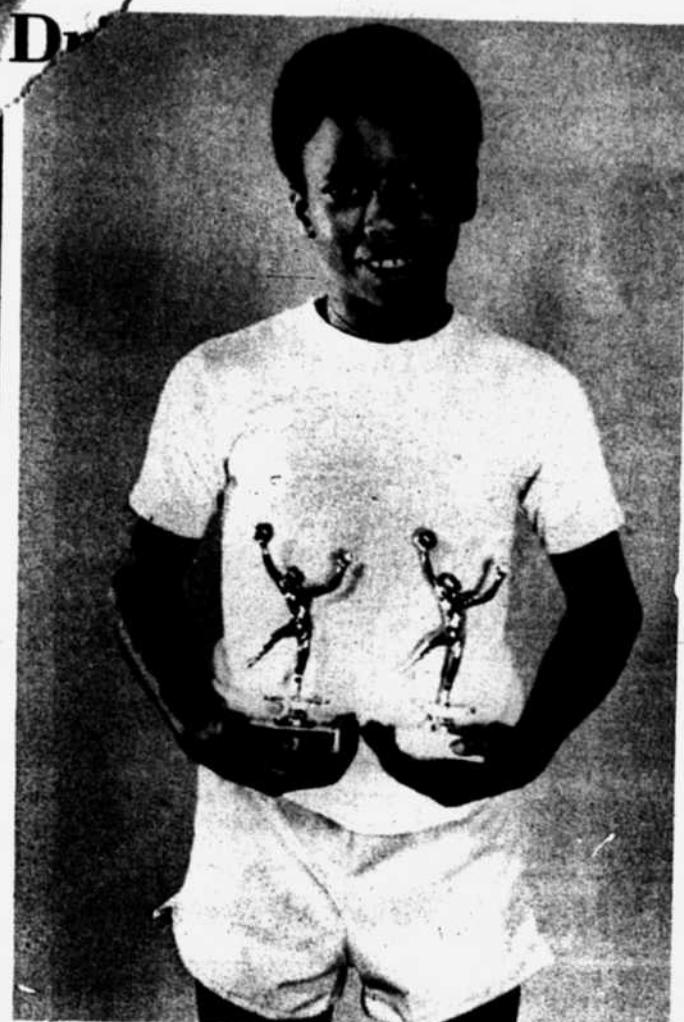
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JOHN PRICE JR.  
...Coulwood student

## Price Receives 2

### First Place Trophies

By James Peeler  
Post Staff Writer

John Price Jr., 14, a 9th grader at Coulwood Junior High School and the son of John and Helena Price of 2233 Abelwood Road, won two First Place Trophies for his contribution to the 3-on-3 Basketball Team and the 2-on-2 Basketball Team during the Davidson College Wildcat Basketball Camp Finals Friday, June 15, at Davidson College.

### Black Sports

#### Features

#### Lew Massey

Charlottean Lew Massey, all-star graduate of South Mecklenburg High School and junior forward of the National Invitational Tournament runner-ups-UNCC, was featured in the June 1976 issue of "Black Sports" magazine as the college "Athlete of the Month."

In the article, Lew six-feet-six, 205-pounds admitted that the most exciting moment this year was visiting New York for his team's appearance in Madison Square Garden and the NIT and seeing the "The Wiz" on Broadway.

In reflecting on the trip Massey makes candid comments on his 49er's performance and the power of the press in making ball players.

#### Gym.

Young Price was second in the 1-on-1 competition won by John Chapman of Lincoln, N.C.

John Jr., had to beat 15 basketball campers to get to the Finals and win his trophies.

The Davidson Wildcat Basketball Camp session attended by Price lasted five days, from June 20-25, and was attended by approximately 100 young basketball enthusiasts who were coached by six outstanding college basketball players including Barron of South Carolina State, Tom Verlin of Davidson, Johnathan Rhyme of Davidson, and Coach Setzer and Boston.

David A. Prichett, Director of the Davidson Wildcat Basketball Camp, awarded Stance and Slide, Shuffling Complete Deny, and Dribbling.

Coach Boston commented on his report card, "If you work on it you can be the next Nate Archibald."

Young Price said his favorite coach was Mark A. Haymore of Indiana University and says he hopes to go back to camp next week.

John, who is a member of Grier Heights Presbyterian Church, pastored by Rev. Raymond Worsley, says he is "undecided about a career in basketball" but "will tryout for the Coulwood Basketball team next year."

### In Lenoir

## Rangers, Hawks To Compete

### In NBC Baseball Tournament

Two of Charlotte's most exciting and most productive Semi-Pro baseball teams will seek national recognition this weekend.

The Morris Field Rangers and the Charlotte Hawks, the top two teams on the popular Triple County Semi-Pro Baseball League, will compete in the 1976 North Carolina NBC Baseball Tournament, beginning Friday night at Walker Stadium in Lenoir, N.C.

The Rangers will face Lenoir-Shur-Pak in the second game of Friday night's opening-round doubleheader. Old Fort and Salisbury Ewart will clash in the opener at 6 p.m. The Rangers will start at 8.

The Hawks, who leads the TCSB league, will encounter Granite Falls Braves at 8 Saturday night.

Morris Field is in the upper bracket with Salisbury Ellis, Gaston Turks, WNC Independent All-Stars while the Hawks are bracketed with Granite Falls, Kernersville, Old Fort and Salisbury Ewart.

The Quarter-finals will be played Saturday, July 17 and Sunday, July 18, with the semi-finals to be staged on Friday, July 23 and the finals will be held Saturday, July 24.

"We're going up there to be the best team in the tournament," manager Herman Thomas of the Rangers said Tuesday. "We view this opportunity as an avenue towards showing us positively just how good we are." The Rangers are 18-3 in the league and 20-3 overall in games played to date.

Thomas said Londell McClary, who is 10-0, will face Lenoir Friday night. "I will play it by ear from there," he informed, noting that he might go with his ace pitcher for "as long as he can pitch."

The Ranger's starting lineup and batting order will be as follows: Harold Adams, lf;

Randy Falls, ss; Alfred Thompson, 3b; Tim Morris, lf; Bobby Reynolds, 1b; Londell McClary, p; Rudy Falls, c; Charley Houston, 2b and Murphy Morris, cf.

Manager Walter Cuthbertson said the Hawks will enter the tournament with "great hope and anticipation." Cuthbertson has taken his team to the state meet 13 times in the past 15 years. They have never finished lower than fourth place. They were third three times and finished second on another occasion.

"We've played good ball all season," Cuthbertson continued, "And I don't expect any great changes at this point. I feel that we'll be more comfortable playing in the tournament this time since we have a great won-lost record against some of the best teams in the state."

Cuthbertson will start John Isaac Jackson, veteran right-hander who has constructed a 3-0 record in the league. He will also have Raymond Blackmon waiting in the wings.

The Hawks lineup of Willie Smith, lf; Calvin Wallace, ss; Palmer Gilmore, cf; Rossevelt Davis, lf; Johnny Davis, rf; Ira Simpson, wb; 2b; Willie Rorie, c; Walter Wallace, 3b; Willie Alexander, dh is loaded with dangerous hitters. Gilmore, Davis and Rossevelt and Johnny Davis has been the team's most productive hitters.

The Hawks will carry an

18-3 league and a 20-3 record in all games into the tournament.

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