

Sports Beat



BY BILL JOHNSON

SAY YOU SAW IT HERE—

The size of a man can be measured by the size of the things that make him angry...

Herman Thomas will have his work cut out for him in the NBC Baseball Tournament in Lenoir this weekend. If Thomas' Morris Field Rangers get by Old Fort in Walker Stadium Thursday night, July 22, they will have to return to Lenoir Friday night for a 6 p.m. contest. A victory Friday night would send them into Saturday's final round. If Lenoir wins Friday night and lose to the Rangers on Saturday, the two teams would clash Sunday night at 7 in a playoff game. According to my count, that's four games in as many days for a team that is already short of pitching and long on bumps and bruises.

Yet Thomas exudes confidence. He believes his team can field and run the bases with any team in semi-pro ranks. He, however, has some doubts about the pitching and the hitting of his gladiators.

The Rangers will miss Tim Morris, the fleet centerfielder who has been a terror on the base paths and a demon with the bat.

Early rumbling around the CIAA is that Winston-Salem State will be the conference's next football champion. Don't bet on it! Bob McAdoo, former star of the North Carolina Tar Heels and outstanding scorer in the NBA, is spending the summer playing basketball in Greensboro, his hometown. He's scheduled to have a shoot-out with David Thompson in an exhibition game in the Greensboro Coliseum later this summer.

Don't put your hard earned money on the rumors about Hank Aaron returning to the Atlanta Braves. Credit Muhammad Ali with another chapter in his unmatched success story. Old loudmouth, who is grinning all the way to the bank with more than \$19 million in earnings this year, has added a television viewing record to his personal honors. NBC and Neilsen, the rating people everybody believes, quote 65 million viewers watched the recent Ali-Dunn heavyweight fight in Munich, Germany.

Look for Artis Gilmore, the 7-foot-2 center of the Kentucky Colonels, and Marvin Barnes, the super quick forward of the Utah Rookies, to go high in the pending NBA draft.

Had you noticed that the NFL exhibition season opens this weekend with the Pittsburgh Steelers facing the College All-Stars? Or that Duane Thomas and Ron Johnson, two proven veterans, were among the rookies when the Dallas Cowboys opened training several weeks ago. Both are looking to break into a backfield that is already stacked with outstanding running backs.

Bill Hayes, head football coach at Winston-Salem State University, has added Charles Griffin to his coaching staff. A graduate of Cantonville Community College and Frostburg State, Griffin will serve as the defensive coordinator.

Morgan State promises to upgrade its wrestling program. Would you believe that the sale of tickets for the Muhammad Ali-Ken Norton heavyweight championship fight in Yankee Stadium, September, 28, has already gone over the \$1 million mark?

There could be a change in the Triple County Semi-Pro Baseball League's schedule here Sunday. The Charlotte Hawks and the Morris Field Rangers are slated to meet in their long awaited showdown at Harding High School. If Morris Field wins its games in the tournament Friday and Saturday, the game will have to be postponed until a later date.

If Morris Field should lose, the game will be played as scheduled.

Charlotte Orioles Want

More Blacks To Attend Games

By Sidney Moore Jr.
Post Staff Writer

Minority baseball players for the Charlotte Orioles like their jobs but wonder why so few blacks come to the games. Left-fielder Don Whiting, 21, originally from Kansas, likes the weather and the size of Charlotte. He has played baseball professionally for 3½ years and is now residing in San Diego, Cal. in the off-season.

Whiting, a personable player according to one of the team's promoters, has good anticipation as a fielder. He is a good hitter with lots of power.

When asked if he thinks he is a good hitter, Whiting said, "I like to think so. I'm a little streaky right now."

With about a .275 average, Whiting thinks he could improve his hitting if he would take fewer pitches.

He said minority players would feel more comfortable in Charlotte if more blacks would attend games. Whiting urges the black community to recognize the achievements of minority players and to support them at the games.

The young professional ball player was drafted out of high



Don Whiting

...Bright young star school by the Orioles organization. He said going to the major league is something he does not like to talk about.

Other minority players are Tony Chevez, 22, of Nicaragua and Rafael Liranzo, 22, of the Dominican Republic.

Chevez is a pitcher, who had a 9-2 record in Miami, Fla. He has been with the Orioles organization for three years.

At 2-1 since coming to the Orioles, Chevez is described as a very good pitcher.

He said Charlotte is a good place to be and that he likes the crowds at the games.

Liranzo is a centerfielder



Rafael Liranzo

...Orioles' leader who won the heart of fans that attended the first home game. When he hit a homerun and also batted-in the winning run.

Liranzo has played pro-ball for six years. He plays in the off season at home. He is said to have everything it takes to be a big-leaguer.

The young player has not made an error this year.

Both Chevez and Liranzo have trouble speaking English. Neither thinks this will limit their playing abilities.

Coach Jim Schaffer praised each of these players. He said they deserve the support of fans.

Huntersville Cage League

Provides Fun, Recreation

By James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

"Thud, Thud, Thud", went the sounds of the bouncing ball amidst exclamations of winter in a hot dusty stuffy old gymnasium, formerly Torrence Lyle High School in Huntersville 15 miles north of Charlotte.

"Throw it down the court".

"What are you doing. Make sure you do it right boy", yelled a fan in the stands as a Davidson player kicked the ball around with his knee trying to get an illegal basket in with the referee's attention drawn towards a foul committed in the corner.

"Hey watch that block."

"Get this man. I'll get the other one."

"Check."

Shriek and the whistle blew. Hands up, heads up and feet down one-two combination Erwin McKinley and Howard Staton were leading a barrage of the Huntersvillians up and down the court.

"We've never been beaten as long as the league has been in operation," smiled lean handsome Howard Staton in commenting on the success of the local ball club made up mostly of former North Mecklenburg stars from 18 years and older.

In the winter this is Viking country but in the summer it is the home of one of the franchises in the North Mecklenburg Recreation Basketball League. Each franchise ope-

rates three teams: one pee wee (under 12 years old); a junior (12 to 17); and a senior (18 and above).

Joseph Buggs

Joins N. C. A&T

Football Staff

GREENSBORO - Joseph Buggs, a native of Newport News, Virginia, will join the North Carolina A&T State University football staff as offensive backfield coach.

Buggs, who was the first All-American running back at Elizabeth City State University, formerly coached at Huntington High and Menchville High in Newport News. He spent the 1974 and 1975 football seasons working with the backs at Hampton Institute, one of the most improved teams in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

"I am really looking forward to working with A&T this football season," Buggs said. "We have a lot of veteran backs returning and the situation will be challenging."

Buggs is married to the former Carolyn Wiggins. The couple has one son, Kermit Emil.

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Track Club Sets Marathon Relays

The Charlotte Track Club will sponsor a 24 hour marathon relay for charity at Independence High School from 12 noon July 31 to 12 noon August 1. Each team will be sponsored and the proceeds will go to the Christmas Seal Association, which is locally the Metroline Lung Association.

Chairman of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Bicentennial Committee, and Dr. Edward E. Landis, President of the Metroline Lung Association, will run together to kick off the relay.

Mike Ridge, President of the Charlotte Track Club, will run his first lap in full Revolutionary War attire, sponsored by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Bi-

centennial Committee. Ridge is a member of the North Carolina 6th Regiment of the Continental Line, and fought at the Battles of Charlotte and Gullford Courthouse in May at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

"I think this is really good," Mike Ridge said about the two teams. "We're really excited about this."

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