

Sports Beat

BY BILL JOHNSON



SAY YOU SAW IT HERE.....

The Morris Field Rangers, who have regained the leadership slot in the current Triple County Semi-Pro Baseball League standings, will participate in a pair of state-wide tournaments in July.

Manager Herman Thomas will take his speedy chargers up to Lenoir, N.C. July 15 to compete in the annual North Carolina State Semi-Pro Eastern Division Tournament. Thomas' crew will return to Lenoir in mid-August to participate in the National City Invitational Baseball Tournament. This meet will offer a \$2,000 cash prize to the winner.

It will be Morris Field's second appearance in the State-wide tournament. They finished fourth last July.

A couple of Johnson C. Smith students are making big noises in the Triple County League. Oddly, both are playing with the young Charlotte Hawks. Toney Koonce is a centerfielder who is drawing rave notices and Thomas Haigler is a pitcher who has yet to lose a contest.

Incidentally, the Hawks will not compete in the semi-pro baseball tournament in Lenoir this year. It will be the first time in the last 15 years that Walter Cuthbertson has not taken a team to the biggest and most prestigious tournament in the state.

He who talks like a big wheel may be only a spokesman.

How silly can you get? Muhammad Ali, the greatest fighter ever, has been challenged to a 15-round non-title fight by a white truck driver, who says he got so mad after watching the Ali-Evangelista waltz that he sent a telegram to ABC-TV asking for the opportunity. Wonder if he sent a second letter to his psychiatrist?

The Long and Short!...Norfolk State has signed 6-7 Elliot "Scooter" Hennigan and 5-9 Ron Dillard to basketball grant-in-aid scholarships. Here in a full round of applause for Walter Lovett, the gentleman head football coach at Hampton Institute. Lovett took a team that won only three games three years ago and built it into a team that finished a 7-4 season last fall, most wins for a Pirate team since 1958.

If you're wondering why Arthur Ashe did not play in the famed Wimbledon Tennis Tournament this year, it's because of conjunctivitis (whatever that is) of the right eye and a slow healing left heel.

Like Spencer Haywood's definition of a "Superstar." Says the star forward with the New York Knicks, "A super star is a man or woman who is raising six kids on \$150 a week and teaching them good values." Amen!

Looks as if Muhammad Ali will fight Ernie Shavers in New York's Madison Square Gardens in September.

In "Game Of Year"

Morris Field Rangers Take On Redhot Hoskins Giants

A couple of semi-pro baseball's hottest outfits will come together here Saturday afternoon.

The contest, which is being billed as the "Game of the Year" matches the red-hot Hoskins Giants with the Morris Field Rangers, starting at 2:30 p.m.

An overflow crowd is expected to be on hand at Harding High School athletic field to see if the Giants, who have posted a 15-3 Triple County League record, can overpower the surging Rangers, who are

18-1 for the year. Both managers - James "Sonny" Berry of Hoskins and Herman Thomas of the Rangers - refused to name a starting pitcher for the important contest.

"I will wait until just before game-time before making my mind up on either Floyd McDowell or Benny Little," Berry said earlier this week. Little is a hard-throwing lefty with a 5-0 league record. A curve ball artist, McDowell is 2-0 for the year.

Thomas expects to have

three hurlers ready. He likely will open with Ricky Summers, who is 3-0. Roger Coleman, who didn't work last week, is 2-0, and Londell McClary, probably the best pitcher in the loop, is 7-0.

Thomas indicated he would rather use the versatile McClary "some other place in the lineup and pitch him only if it's absolutely necessary."

Both clubs can manufacture runs on mass production basis. Rudy Falls, Lawrence Izard and Randy Falls are all hitting above .400 for the

Rangers and Victor White, Bobby Jones, Willie Hancock and Lawrence Cousin are consistent hitters for the Giants.

Berry may not be able to start a healthy lineup. Hancock, the team's homerun leader, is suffering with an injury, and Wilson is away in camp and may not get back in time to play.

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Londell McClary
Likely starter



Bobby Jones
Consistent hitter

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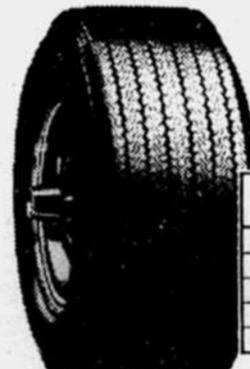
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SEE THE EXCITING

Morris Field Rangers

In 3

Big Baseball Games This Weekend

Saturday, July 2

-vs-

Hoskins Giants 2:30 p.m.

-vs-

Charlotte Hawks Sunday, July 3 3:30 p.m.

vs.

Statesville Twins Monday, July 4 3:30 p.m.

HARDING HIGH ATHLETIC FIELD

Admission

Adults 1.00

Kids 50¢

GOOD YEAR