

# Sports Beat

BY BILL JOHNSON



## SAY YOU SAW IT HERE.....

History will be made here this weekend when the new Jackie Robinson Semi-Pro Baseball League opens its first season. The circuit is made up of the top 10 teams in the Charlotte area and it's destined to become one of the most popular leagues in local baseball.

However, one has the early feelings that the other nine teams will have difficulty keeping up with the Mecklenburg Orioles, who won the Triple County League Playoffs a year ago.

When some people talk about their family tree, they trim off a branch or two here and there.

With the new baseball season upon us, it's going to be interesting to watch the progress of the big money players, the majority of whom didn't fare well last campaign.

Kenny Powell is staging the annual Johnson C. Smith Invitational Track and Field Championships on the campus here Saturday. It's an affair that deserves your support.

Another interesting event in the area Saturday is the Spring Football Game North Carolina A&T has scheduled for the West Charlotte Stadium, beginning at 11 a.m.

Washington Bullets' star Elvin Hayes has written a book, "They Call Me The Big E." It deals with his religious ideas, and explains his views on many other subjects.

Rumors are that Charlotte native Wylie Harris is in line for the head football coach position at Johnson C. Smith University. Harris is a former Second Ward High School griddler who went on to star at A&T where he later served for a number of years as an assistant coach.

Walter Payton, the flashy Chicago Bears speedster, needs only 1,496 yards this coming season to become the first player in the history of the NFL to reach the top 20 all-time rushers in pro football. O.J. Simpson and Gale Sayers reached the charmed circle in five seasons.

If you're wondering why the Buffalo Bills dumped the "Juice," you need to look no further than the \$700,000 Simpson is reportedly drawing each season.

The University of Maryland, Eastern Shore will have a new head football coach next season. He's Joseph R. Redmond Sr., a graduate of Fisk and a former offensive coordinator at Northern Illinois University.

Former heavyweight champion George Foreman says he will use his return to boxing as a "pulpit for his religious belief." Wouldn't it be much better if he'd use the church?

Lee Elder, who admits his earnings on the PGA tour is below par and disappointing this season, helped to pick up both his spirit and his 1978 earnings with the \$6,760 check he pocketed Sunday at The Greater Greensboro Open. Elder upped his earnings to just over \$19,000 for the year.

The St. Louis Cardinals have extended Lou Brock's contract through 1979. The new pact gives the 39-year-old outfielder an opportunity to reach the 3,000-hit pinnacle, a select circle that includes only 12 batters in the history of professional baseball. Brock is only 166 basehits shy of the mark.

To accept good advice is but to increase one's own ability.

There's a rumor afoot that the president of the Cuban Amateur Boxing Federation has offered \$20 million for a world's heavyweight fight between Leon Spinks and Olympic champion Teofilo Stevenson of Cuba.

The Charlotte Orioles will open their 1978 Southern Baseball League campaign here April 13, when the Savannah Braves come to town for a 7:30 p.m. contest. It will be a four-game series.

And, speaking of baseball, local fans of the Los Angeles Dodgers will be happy to note that their beloved team is opening the National League season in Atlanta, Ga. this weekend.

## Jackie Robinson

# Semi-Pro League Begins New Season

If weather permits, umpires at five area baseball fields will yell "Batter Up" here Saturday.

Starting at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon, the Jackie Robinson Semi-Pro Baseball League will open its first campaign with a five-game schedule.

Top local contest will match the Morris Field Rangers against the Hoskins Giants at the Hoskins diamond off highway 16 and the Royal Bums against the favored Mecklenburg Orioles at Crockett Park.

Other games on the agenda will have the Norwood Pirates playing the Davidson Jets in Davidson; Charlotte Mets facing the Kings Mountain "A's" in Kings Mountain and the Northside Bombers clashing with the Union County Dodgers



John Staley  
...New Commissioner



Londell McClary  
...Rangers Hurler

in Union County. Five more games are slated for Sunday afternoon. Of these the top local battle will have

the Hoskins Giants playing the Royal Bums at the West Charlotte High School diamond. The Orioles will visit

the Northside Bombers, Kings Mountain will journey to Davidson, Morris Field Rangers to Norwood, and the Charlotte Mets will entertain the Union County Dodgers at the Southside playground.

Lefthander Laffayette Currier will start for the Rangers on Saturday and Londell McClary will be on the mound when the Rangers tangle with the Pirates Sunday afternoon.

The Orioles, who bashed the Rangers in an exhibition contest here last Sunday, expect to open the season with Bert Cueto on the mound.

## BATCH Wallops

## Rock Hill Club

The BATCH Racquet Club's Traveling All-Stars walloped the Head Racquets of Rock Hill, South Carolina recently in a spring exhibition season match for both clubs.

Winning the number one men's match for BATCH was Charles Parker. Parker defeated Jim Paoge 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 to take the number one men's singles match. Other winners were Ernest Felder (2), Calvin Davis (3), Phil Chilles (4), James Cuthbertson (5), Rudy Abrams (6), and Tony Barnes (7).



ERIC WESTBROOK is another former Charlotte prep standout who chose to further his education and athletic pursuits at North Carolina A&T State University.



FRANK CARR is another in the long line of Charlotte football standouts who chose to further their education and athletic pursuits at North Carolina A&T Carr will be in action in the Aggies' Blue-Gold game at West Charlotte High Saturday morning.

## Donald Littlejohn, Haywood

## Stevenson Win Golf Tourney

Donald Littlejohn is one of the better golfers in the city of Charlotte.

Littlejohn, the athletic director at Cochrane Junior High School coaches track and football. Teamed with Haywood Stevenson to win the Par-Busters Four Ball Tournament held recently at the Sunset Hills Golf Course.

Littlejohn and Stevenson shot a 68 and 65 to beat runnersup Robert Brown and Paul Harris who had a 69-70 for a total of 139.

Other winners included William Gill and Rock Johnson who won the first flight with a 73-69, 142; Carl Stowe and Hazel Brown who won the second flight with a 76-70, 146.

## Sherard Wins John Chase Scholarship

Hampton Va.-The scholarship committee of the CIAA has granted post-graduate scholarships to three outstanding young men. This is the initial award of this nature.

One thousand dollar scholarships were awarded to Lawrence Carnige of Hampton Institute, Martin Towe of

Elizabeth City State University and Reginald Sherard of Winston-Salem State University. All were outstanding in academics as well as athletics.

Reginald Sherard was a repeat winner of the John Chase Scholar-Athlete Award for the year 1977-78. Reggie is

a championship wrestler, a member of the championship football team in addition to being an honor student.

He has already been accepted in Meharry Medical School for the fall semester.

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## A&T Signs

## Antonio Wright

## To Grid Pact

GREENSBORO- Jim McKinley, head football coach at North Carolina A&T, has announced the signing of South Carolina prep standout Antonio Wright to a national letter of intent.

The 6-1, 180 Wright, who was named to the All-Conference and All-Area as a defensive back while playing at Berea High in Greenville last season was heavily recruited by the University of Tennessee and Furman University.

"We think Antonio was one of the best prep defensive backs in South Carolina last season," McKinley said. "We are anticipating big things from him in the future."

A&T is a member of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and finished the 1977 football season a 7-4 record.

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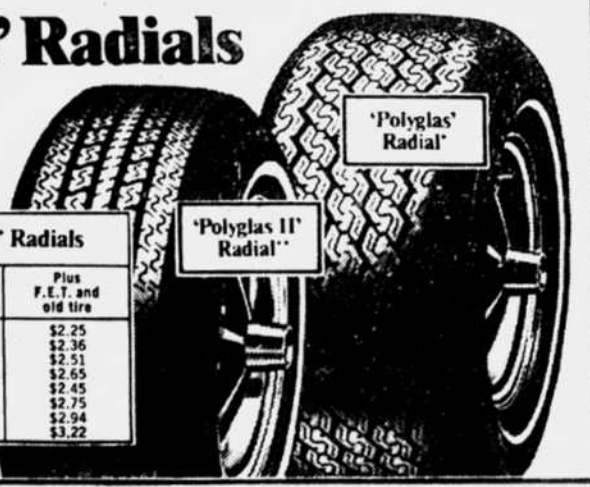
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## Entertaining Ideas

by Laura Wells

Webster defines a shower as a "party at which a number of gifts are presented to the guest of honor." It is also a joyful occasion filled with the anticipation of a happy event, usually a wedding or a new arrival.

There is no mention in Webster of the exclusivity of the female sex at such parties and it is pleasant to see that this tradition is gradually giving way. When or where was it ever decreed that men were not interested in gifts for their future home or offspring? The next time you plan such a party, why not consider including the men on your guest list.

Showers are usually planned around the guest-of-honor. His or her favorites should provide an excellent starting point for menu planning. One of the simplest and most festive party favorites is an elegant punch bowl. Filled with a sparkling punch adorned with fresh strawberries, it transforms an ordinary party into a celebration. Here's the recipe for one of my favorites:

- 2 quarts water
- 2 cups Boodles Gin
- 1 1/2 cups Leroux Cherry-Flavored Brandy
- 1 1/2 cups lime juice

1/2 cup superfine sugar  
3 quarts club soda  
1 pint strawberries  
3 limes, cut in thin slices

In a 2-gallon punch bowl, combine Boodles Gin, Leroux Cherry-Flavored Brandy, lime juice and superfine sugar. Stir well until sugar dissolves. Gently stir in the club soda and float the strawberries and lime slices on top. Float an ice block in the punch and let stand 15 minutes until well chilled. Makes approximately 16 punch-size servings.

Finger sandwiches, cut in fruit shapes, and a raspberry parfait is all you need to make this menu complete. If you want more substantial fare serve a favorite one-dish casserole, and a raspberry chiffon pie.

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