

# Sports Beat

BY BILL JOHNSON



## Interest In Slow Pitch Soft

### Ball Running At Fever Pitch

There is a new kid on the block. The local baseball diamonds, which generally are over-populated with young men and women competing in baseball, softball, and various other recreational endeavors, will have to make room for still another sport.

It's slow pitch softball. And, according to Cleo Graham, founder and commissioner of the Queen City Slow Pitch Soft Ball League, interest is running at a fever pitch.

### Upset About

### High Electric

### Bills?

Upset about high electric bills? Afraid that rising prices will leave you in the dark?

The North Carolina Utilities Commission will be in town on Wednesday, June 21, for a hearing on a proposed 9.3 percent rate increase by Duke Power company. The hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Center Board Room, at 701 E. 2nd St.

Opponents of the rate increase can contact Carolina Action, the statewide citizens action group, for more information on the hearing and on what can be done. Their phone is 332-2541, and their office is at 1740 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28205.

### What's The Score?

Score, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, is a volunteer group of retired men and women who provide free management counseling to small business owner-managers and those who are considering starting a business. Sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Score was developed by SBA in 1964 as a means of tapping the vast business expertise of the growing ranks of top-notch retired executives for the benefit of the small business community.

In conjunction with ACE, the Active Corps of Executives, Score has aided more than 300,000 small businesses in all parts of the country.

### Archie Risks Life

A guilt ridden and tormented Archie risks his life for Mike and Gloria when he learns that their house is the KKK's (Kweens Kouncil of Krusaders) next target for a cross-burning, in the conclusion of a two-part episode to be rebroadcast on "All in the Family," Sunday, June 4, at 9 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

Graham started the circuit a year ago when he encountered difficulties entering his team in the organized leagues around town, so he started a league of his own.

He has done extremely well in the short period of time since he started.

"I called some people I knew were interested in the game and we started forming teams that played games last summer," the soft-spoken young gentleman said Monday afternoon.

He organized the league this summer and both attendance and player interest have soared. "We have 10 teams currently competing in two divisions," he explained, adding that "we have some pretty good athletes on each team."

Graham's team is called "Knights." It presently is in a dogfight with North Charlotte for first place in the west division, each with 5-1 records. These two teams will clash for exclusive rights to first place two weeks from Sunday in North Charlotte.

"We anticipate an unusually

large crowd for this contest, he informed.

The west division is also experiencing exciting competition, with three teams jockeying for first place. Presently VIP is leading the division with a 5-2 slate, but Tryon Hills and Hit & Run are in close pursuit with 4-2 marks.

Graham believes Derita is going to be the team to beat down the stretch. "They (Derita) have won two of their last three games, including an upset over Tryon Hills. They have truly been the surprise of the league so far this year," Graham continued.

The circuit, which is made up of local businessmen, salesmen, teachers and students, will play an 18-game schedule that will close on August 20.

Post season play includes a playoff set for August 26 and 27 and a tournament that will run from Sept. 2 through Sept. 4.

The games are played on either Saturday or Sunday afternoon, starting at 3 o'clock. When a doubleheader is scheduled, the second game begins at 5 p.m.



CLEO GRAHAM  
...League organizer

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## Where They Play

TRIPLE COUNTY LEAGUE  
SATURDAY, JUNE 3  
Bombers at Charlotte Raiders  
Trojans at Albemarle  
Chiefs at Charlotte Red Birds  
Oak Ridge at Westside Eagles

Charlotte Hawks at Biscoe

SUNDAY, JUNE 4  
Westside at Charlotte Tigers  
Red Birds at Charlotte Chiefs  
Albemarle at Charlotte Trojans  
Raiders at Charlotte Bombers  
Biscoe at Oak Ridge  
Orange Crush at Charlotte Hawks

JACKIE ROBINSON  
SATURDAY, JUNE 3  
Charlotte Mets at Royal Bums  
Davidson at Morris Field  
Kings Mountain at Hoskins  
Union County at Orioles  
Norwood at Northside

SUNDAY, JUNE 4  
Hoskins at Union County  
Morris Field at Kings Mountain  
Royal Bums at Davidson  
Northside at Charlotte Mets  
Norwood at Mecklenburg Orioles

### HITTING THE HIGH NOTES...

The trouble with being a leader today is that you can't be sure whether people are following or chasing you.

Lloyd Harris is seeking support for the young West Charlotte Babe Ruth League. The founder of the loop, which provides baseball recreation for teenage youths during the summer month said Tuesday morning, "I hate to have so many of our young men idle this summer. Especially when it cost so little to provide recreation for them."

Harris is only asking for a "little less than \$700." Walter Tucker of Mechanics & Farmers Bank and County Commissioner Bob Walton were among those who contributed handsomely to the league a year ago.

You can help by contacting Mr. Harris (394-5446) with your contribution to help a worthy cause. The league provides recreation for more than 125 youngsters each summer.

It is going to cost merchants a bundle to bring the Ali-Spink heavyweight fight your way via television on Sept. 15. Anheuser-Busch is among the first to sign as a principal sponsor in the rematch that will cost sponsors from \$300,000 to \$350,000 per minute.

ABC network, which is calling it an "All Fight Night," is paying slightly more than five and a quarter million dollars for the rights to telecast the three-hour extravaganza.

I would give my right arm to see Jim Dent or Arni Palmer win here this weekend. I'd also give a wisdom tooth to see big John Harris take the game of golf more seriously I doubt if there is anyone in the area who could play the game as well.

A truck driver by trade, who spends his weekends on the golf courses and the baseball fields, Harris fired a seven-over-par 77 at Cedarwood Sunday, without serious competition.

Wylie Harris appears to be making giant strides towards getting the Charlotte public involved in Johnson C. Smith football. An excellent guess is that the westside school will witness a sharp upturn in paid attendance and community support this fall.

We again caution that Mr. Harris and his able staff are no greater than the publicity that should give them citywide exposure. Harris's personality blended with organized publicity would set JCSU on top of the world.

A&T has signed another basketball gem. He's Dwight Lynch, 6-5, 220-pound forward from Hampton, Va. High School. An all-state and all-county selection last season, Lynch averaged 26 points and 18 rebounds a game. He reportedly shot an incredible 75 percent from the field and 85 percent from the floor during his senior year. Earlier, the Aggies signed 6-5 guard Brian Graham from Baltimore's Dunbar High School.

Are you ready for this one? National Football League teams are scheduled to play 57 games during the 1978 preseason. In addition, the NFL has expanded its regular season to 16 games.

Did you know that Dallas's victory in Super Bowl XII was the National Football Conference's first in the past six games. Also, it left the series at 8-4 in favor of the AFC. The first preseason contest is slightly more than eight weeks away.

The Philadelphia 76ers, who were ousted from the NBA Championship Playoffs by the Washington Bullets, are \$9,184.61 richer this week. That's the amount each player received from their share of the playoff loot of \$122,500.

The popular Par Buster's Golf Group will have an after Kemper 4-ball Golf Tournament at Sunset Golf Course Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11. For more information contact John Love.

Several of professional football's most familiar personalities will head up a football camp at Columbia, S.C., beginning Saturday, June 3. Among those who are lending their talents to this worthwhile venture are Sandy Stephens, John "J.J." Jones and Willie Washington.

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