

# Sports Beat



BY BILL JOHNSON

**SAY YOU SAW IT HERE...**  
Inflation is the price we pay for those government benefits everybody thought were free.

The fact that we now have three semi-pro baseball leagues active in the area gives rise to a very important question-wonder why the rival leagues do not plan a championship playoff series to determine a city champion?

Local golfers are playing super. Walter Strong won the second flight title in the First Annual Michelob Open Golf Tournament at the Ridgewood Golf Course in Columbia, S.C. last week-end.

Bernard Thompson, Melvin Griffin, Keith Marshall, Shelley Lawrence, Preach Moore and James Boulter were other local golfers who competed in the event.

Gamble captured the third flight championship.

Local golf buffs will be interested in learning that the Raleigh OIC's Third annual Golf Classic will be held August 5 & 6 at the Pine Hollow Golf Course, off Highway 70-A in Clayton, N.C. Entry fee is \$35 per person and the deadline for entry has been set for Monday, July 31.

Address all information to the Raleigh OIC, 415 E. Martin St., Raleigh, NC 27601.

Norfolk State's new basketball coach has corralled two Florida cagers. Lewis Thomas, 6'8" center, and Frank Stallworth, 6-6 forward, have signed grant-in aid scholarship pacts with the Spartans. Thomas averaged 18 points with Escumbe High of West Palm Beach last season. Mitchell describes Stallworth as a "good shooter and excellent rebounder."

Shaw University has a new Director of Athletic. He's Dr. William Spann, a former Bears football star who replaces Dr. James E. Lytle. In addition to his duties as athletic director, Dr. Spann will assume the position of Coordinator of the Health and Physical Education Department.

The National Black Association of Women's Sports (NBAWS) has selected Hampton Institute as the site of their 1979 tournament.

Harding High School's athletic field is going to be an interesting place to attend Saturday afternoon. The occasion is the second meeting of the year between the northside Bombers and the surging Morris Field Rangers. The Bombers, one of only two teams to defeat Herman Thomas's speedy crew, won the first match earlier in the year.

Cleo Graham, commissioner of the Queen City Softball League has high praise for Johnny Duncan, coach of the surprising Derita Blazers who have won three of their last five encounters. "He's doing an outstanding job with a comparatively young team," praises Graham.

Incidentally, Derita takes on the league's east division leaders, Hit & Run Saturday afternoon. It's the circuit's top attraction.

A good guess is that Ken Norton will defeat Larry Holmes in what should be a great heavyweight battle Friday night. It's also a good guess that Norton will KO his opponent near the end. But Norton won't have a breeze against hard-hitting Holmes, who has a cannon of a right hand.

List this reporter among those who are happy to learn that Smokey Joe Frazier is going to hang up his boxing gloves for good.

If current rumors are accurate, local basketball fans will get an opportunity to watch James "The Bird" Sparrow in action when the North Carolina A&T Aggies renew relationship with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte next winter.

BETCH YA' DIDN'T KNOW THAT - the average NFL pro football player weighs 222 pounds and is 28 years old. Also, he has played professionally for 5.3 years, and he is 30 to 40 pounds heavier than a perfectly healthy six-footer might be expected to weigh.

## Instructors Agree

### Ms. Simmons Making Progress

"I was out to the tennis courts one day and I heard about Batch and the clinics that they were offering and I decided to join," said pretty Marilyn Simmons.

"The first time I picked up a racquet was when I was in the ninth grade at Lenoir High School," she added. "I played off and on while pursuing my degree from Appalachian State University. But I didn't begin thinking seriously about it until this summer," she continued.

Marilyn is enrolled in the Batch Racquet Clubs Summer Tennis Clinic program. Her instructors, Charles Parker, Tom Brown and Floyd Young, all marvel at the progress that she has made in the two weeks that she has been in the program.

She combines daily classroom work as a resource special education teacher at Montclair Elementary School with practice in the afternoon at the Hornet's Nest Park.

"My game is really progressing," she said. "The problems I had at first consisted of the following things that all beginning tennis players go through. And my coaches reminded me that nobody started off playing like a pro."

"I had trouble keeping the ball in play. I had trouble keeping the ball low. I had trouble gaining control of the flight of the ball."

"I also didn't know that the body played such a great role in the placement of the ball. I

am very anxious to play and would like to be in a tournament before the end of the year," she added.

Ms. Simmons also takes a course at Central Piedmont Community College to improve her tennis game.

"We had several courts in our West End area in Lenoir but I wasn't as nearly interested in playing as I am now. I wish I had been," said one of Charlotte's up and coming tennis stars.

### NSC-WSSC Game Will Be

### MBN's "Game Of Week"

Norfolk-Norfolk State College's Spartans will be among the nation's top black college teams headlining the 1978 Mutual Black Network football Game of the Week schedule.

The Spartans home clash with defending CIAA champion Winston-Salem State University at Norfolk's Foreman Field will be aired September 30 at 1:30 p.m.

The nation-wide broadcast will highlight a 10-game Norfolk State slate that includes six home contests and eight CIAA tilts.

In addition to Winston-Salem, the Spartans will take on Livingstone College (Sept. 9), Fayetteville State Uni-

versity (Sept. 16), Elizabeth City State University (Sept. 23), Virginia Union University (Oct. 21) and Bowie State College (Oct. 28) at Foreman Field.

Road games will include the season opener at Saint Paul's College (Sept. 2), N.C.A. & T. State University (Oct. 7), Hampton Institute (Oct. 14) and Virginia State College (Nov. 4).

Elizabeth City State will be the Spartans Fish Bowl Classic opponent and Bowie State will make its first homecoming appearance in clashes scheduled to get underway at 2 p.m. Night game foes are A & T (7:30 p.m.) and Virginia Union (8 p.m.).

### PRC To Sponsor Citywide Circus

The city pet circus sponsored by the Charlotte Park and Recreation Department and the Mecklenburg Humane Society will be held on June 23 in the Freedom Park Lake area.

Anyone 15 or younger should bring their dog, cat, duck, rabbit, anything but a reptile, to win a trophy, ribbon or prize.

The city pet sponsored by the Charlotte Park and Re-



James Black, local professional golfer is pictured with Pete Brown, left, and Lon Hingle. The group gave an exhibition at Crystal Springs Golf Course last week prior to the Kemper Open. Black is involved in youth work.

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L60-14	\$60.00	\$3.57	E70-14	\$42.00	\$2.44
L60-15	\$60.00	\$3.69	F70-14	\$47.00	\$2.57
			G70-14	\$47.00	\$2.73

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