

Sports Beat



BY BILL JOHNSON

SAY YOU SAW IT HERE...

Look for the official word that Jerry Fitch will not return to Johnson C. Smith University as head basketball coach this fall. Word is out that Mike Turner is being interviewed and likely will become the new Golden Bulls basketball coach. William Joiner, the Winston-Salem native who starred during Joe Alston's era, is also being considered for the post.

HOW ABOUT THIS - Researchers are saying your sex life improves during bad weather. If there is a measure of truth in the prediction, the good folks around Lake Norman can expect a population explosion in about nine months.

Leon Spinks, who didn't own an automobile before he defeated Muhammad Ali for the World's Heavyweight Championship, now has three expensive cars in his garage. It's ironic that Mr. Spinks does not have proper driver's licence no proper license plates for either of his wheels.

Muhammad Ali, who is a genius at coining phrases, has come up with I believe to be his best yet. In reference to his next fight with Spinks, the great one intoned, "I'll whup his tail if he stays out of jail!"

Dr. Walter Lavett will bring his Hampton Pirates to town next September 23 to meet the Golden Bulls of Johnson C. Smith in a top CIAA football attraction at Memorial stadium. It will be the second of two appearances the new look Pirates will make in the area this fall. They tangle with Winston-Salem State in Winston-Salem on September 9. Both are night games.

Incidentally, Lavett's Hampton team will return 39 lettermen and they are a prime candidate for the CIAA championship this season.

It's official now, UNCC and N.C. A&T will stage their basketball classic at the Coliseum here January 23. It's a sure sellout.

Amazing what a little success will do. For example, the San Francisco Giants, who lost most of their close followers when they got rid of Willie Mays and the other old line stars of some years back, are back on the winning circuit with a cast of new heroes and their fans around the nation are forming long lines getting back on the bandwagon. As a most loyal Giants fan, this reporter heads the list.

Peggy Beckwith, a great deal with a unique flair for doing the right things, will make an announcement shortly that will put local golf fans on cloud nine.

Speaking of golf, William Gill was among the local golfers looking for a match at Crystal Springs Golf Course Sunday afternoon. Could it be that Gill's game is so good that his regular playing partners are avoiding him?

Sign in a local loan office window reads "for the man who has everything and hasn't paid for it."

ACCOLADES OF THE WEEK - To Rev. Robyn Gool, who advanced to the semi-finals of the Charlotte City Tennis Tournament here last week...And to Robert Morris, who is playing great golf (for him) in recent weeks. Despite the short routes and quick cures, there's no easy way to anything that's worthwhile.

George Adams, former basketball great at Gardner-Webb is the new program director for the Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department.

In my opinion, Atlanta may have plucked a gem with its selection of Howard University's Gerald Glover in the sixth round of the recent NBA College draft. Glover was the most valuable player in the MEAC last year. He most likely will become an instant hit with the Hawks fans.

UNCC will have its first full time trainer and baseball coach Saturday, July 1. He's Gary Bartley, 27-year-old native of Fort Matilda, Pa.

Did you know that former major leaguers Eddie Stanky, Robin Roberts, Harry "The Hat" Walker, Jack Lambe and Ron Maestri are all coaching college baseball? They are all in the Sun Belt Conference.

According to Spencer Haywood, the famed pro basketball star, the definition of a "superstar" is a man or woman who is raising six kids on \$150 bucks a week and teaching them good values. I'll buy that!

Dub Cuthbertson, popular manager of the Charlotte Hawks, will take an all-star team to the North Carolina Invitation Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament in Lenoir, beginning July 13. Made up of standouts from the Triple County League, the team will compete with 10 other teams for the crown Lenoir Sur-Pak has won for three straight years.

Cleveland Steele, an outfit out of Rowan County, has been tabbed as the "team-to-beat" this year.

At this early date, it is becoming more apparent that no one is going to catch the Mecklenburg Orioles in the chase for the Jackie Robinson Semi-Pro Baseball League championship. Minnie Mendoza's great crew is cruising along with an impressive 20-1 record to date

Big Schools Itching For Opportunity To Sign Local Preps

By Chase Vance
Post Sports Writer

There are some big schools roaming around Charlotte just waiting for the opportunity to get local athletes' signatures. It was a good year for the Southwestern 4A Conference.

East Mecklenburg won the state championship in football. Myers Park won in tennis. West Mecklenburg was a runnerup in baseball and South Mecklenburg was champion in tennis.

Individual state winners included Mike Rodriguez from Garinger who threw the discus 175 feet for a new state record, Mark Dillon who outclassed the rest of the state's stars in Chapel Hill and Becky Brown of Myers Park who won the girls discus.

Lenoir Rhyne, Appalachian State, Western Carolina, South Carolina State, North Carolina A and T, Winston-Salem State, and North Carolina Central, look like the big name schools getting most of the athletes.

WEST CHARLOTTE-Coach Rudy Abrams reports that his superstar Ralph Waymer has signed with the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champion Bulldogs of South Carolina State University. Waymer was an exceptional quarterback who set modern records at the Westside school.

Defensive end Calvin Easter, wide receiver Ronnie Johnson, and tackle Steve Mitchell are set to attend Winston-Salem State.

Basketball star Malcolm Pharr has signed with Ohio Valley College in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

WEST MECKLENBURG-Kenny McCorkle star half-back, and quarterback-defensive end Anthony Maddox of West Mecklenburg are headed towards Winston-Salem



Malcolm Pharr ...to Ohio Valley State's powerhouse on full grant-and-aids.

No basketball players from West signed after a dismal season.

HARDING-Defensive end John Caldwell will attend North Carolina Central University where he will try out for defensive end and quarterback for the Maroon and White Eagles.

Star roundballer, Willie Robinson is one of the highly recruited players for the Ohio Valley Junior College Program in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Playmaker Vincent Lineberger will play for the Howard University Bison.

INDEPENDENCE-The dismal year in football left the Patriots with no reported scholarships. The biggest star on the basketball team is a junior, Derrick DeWalt, who will return next year.

MYERS PARK-The Mustangs' football team was dominated by Curtis Wilson and Darryl Byrd, both of whom will be back next fall for their third campaign on the local gridirons.

Calvin Smith, and Dee Dee Hemphill have not signed with



Larry Brown ...to Appalachian any school at this point in time.

OLYMPIC-Coach Joe White had his best football season in years and one of the state's highest recruited players was Milton Moore, who decided to enroll at Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory.

Moore will play tailback for the Bears of the South Atlantic Conference.

SOUTH MECKLENBURG-Miles Massey, who gained several yards for the Sabres has decided to go to North Carolina A and T University where he will try out for a running back position with the AGGIES.

Reggie Bonaparte will join his brothers Thad and Napoleon at North Carolina Central University. Accomplished in track and football, the Eagles seem to be delighted to get a player of his caliber.

NORTH MECKLENBURG-The Vikings had a super football team. Pete Raeford will go out for defensive end at Northern Michigan University. George Works who starred at halfback will follow him to the school on the peninsula of the northern woods near Candad.



Fred Coleman ...to Lake City Angelo Reid has decided to attend Gardner Webb College. Angelo was a star safety for the Vikings.

Mack Walls, who led the Vikings to the conference championship in basketball is reportedly headed to UNCC or Winston-Salem State.

Jeff Crump will enroll at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

EAST MECKLENBURG-The Eagles had a good year on the basketball court and the football field. The 1977 State 4A football champions with a 13-1 record will send their leading scorer Calvin Seegars to South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, S.C. Highly touted Seegars visited the campus and was immediately impressed.

Wide receiver Joe Collins has signed with North Carolina A and T University.

On the basketball court, Curtis Crawford one of the Southwestern 4A conference leading scorers has decided to enroll at Ohio Valley Junior College in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Martin Carson has signed with Isothermal Junior College of Spindale, N.C.



Jeff Crump ...Will enroll at UNCC GARINGER-The Wildcats will send tackle Charles Allen to Southern Illinois to play for the Salukis.

Tailback Larry Brown will attend Appalachian and try out for a running back position.

James Holland of the Wildcat hoopers will attend the University of South Carolina



Ronnie Johnson ...Winston-Salem state bound at Spartanburg in the first year of the school's new four year program.

Albert Kelly has signed with Isothermal Community College. Fred Coleman will attend Lake City Community College in Lake City, Florida.

David Thompson of Florida State and Ron "OO" Anthony played their college ball there.

Competition Gears For Starting Spots In "300"

Competition for starting spots in the October 7 World Service Life 300 Late Model Sportsman race at Charlotte Motor Speedway will move into high gear this weekend.

Twenty thousand dollars and 20 of the 44 starting positions for the richest Sportsman race in history have been put up for grabs in the World Service Life Invitational Series. The unique qualifying system will take place at 20 different "down home" short tracks in eight different states.

Beginning Saturday night, June 24, local Sportsman stars throughout the eastern states will be waging war in WSL Invationals - every track during the summer.

Franklin County Speedway in Callaway, Va., will host the first of four Invitations in that state. Former IMS National Champion L. D. Ottinger, Jack Iron Man Ingram and Grand National regular Dick Brooks will be among the field of 22 starters on that high-banked asphalt oval.

A number of the Grand National stars are running in as many IMS races as they can before September

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