

# Sports Beat

BY BILL JOHNSON



## TELLING IT LIKE IT REALLY IS.....

Here's hoping that you and yours have had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year, and that happiness will be yours throughout the New Year!

If you watched football on television last weekend, you probably will agree that NBC's Curt Gowdy is the worst sports announcer on the tube.

And have you ever seen a professional football team as lucky as the Atlanta Falcons? The Philadelphia Eagles apparently went to sleep in the dying moments and were knocked out of the playoffs with a timely bomb that exploded the Falcons into this week's second rounds.

Charlie Cox, the popular coach at Johnson C. Smith, is making big plans for black college swimmers. Look out for additional information shortly.

If a major shakeup comes about shortly at a popular MEAC university, just say you saw it here first. There will be a coaching change that will shock you free of your New Year Eve's hangover. The announcement likely will come after the first of the year.

If you're wondering why St. Augustine's College's basketball team is not living up to its pre-season expectations, it's because coach Harvey Heartley has reportedly lost three top players to poor grades.

WBTB's sports department, which rates an "A" in excellency, has a great attraction scheduled for January 3. It's the first meeting of the year between UNC and Clemson. If given the opportunity to select only one back as the greatest in professional football, based on contribution to his team, this reporter would choose Earl Campbell over Franco Harris or Walter Payton.

You'd never guess who is leading the CIAA basketball teams in "team defense" It's the run-and-shoot Spartans of Norfolk State, who come to town in Mid-January to clash with the young Bulls of Johnson C. Smith. Bet you didn't realize that a person who does not read is no better off than the person who cannot read.

The Trojans of Virginia State must be for REAL...In addition to setting the early pace for the northern division teams, VSC is only a shade behind Winston-Salem State in the race for team offense. Robert Moore's young Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls were shooting a red-hot 51.8 percent from the floor when they took their break for the Christmas holidays. Would you like to try my favorite Christmas turkey stuffing recipe? It contains two secret ingredients...hennessy and soda water!

Big Harold Carmichael has climbed into second place on the list of all-time NFL record 105 consecutive games with a pass reception. The Philadelphia Eagles' fine receiver has grabbed an aerial in 96 straight regular season contests. Danny Abramowicz is the record holder.

A&T is pushing James Sparrow for All-American honors. "At 6'6", he's what the guard game is coming to in the NBA. He's got a ton of offensive ability and with this extra year of college, under the guidance of Gene Littles, he could develop into a high draft choice," is the high praise given by Lee Daniel, Indiana Pacers PR Director.

CBS will begin its weekly NBA telecasts on Sunday afternoon, January 14. You won't be able to see it, however....Unless you are fortunate enough to have cablevision. None of the local TV stations seem to believe that professional basketball has a strong viewing audience. The say you'd rather watch an ancient Tarzan movie. Now you know why Record City is selling so many record albums.

Look for an announcement shortly about the formation of a football bowl contest in Washington, D. C. We hear that the promoters of the Capital Classic, a popular event in the 150's, is planning to stage another post season bowl game in the nation's capitol.

Look out for the Fuzz.....BUSTER!



GUARD EDWARD ROPER ...NCCU standout

## In Rugged MEAC Ed Roper Optimistic

### About Central's Chances

by Chase Vance  
Post Sports Writer  
North Carolina Central University star guard, Ed Roper, is optimistic about his team's chances in the rugged Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC).

"I think we will do better than most people think," Roper said. "They aren't expecting too much from us and we have been in every game that we have played. At times we have been up by as many as ten points only to lose."

The Eagles have won one and lost six as they break for the Christmas-New Year holidays.

The lone win was over St Augustine's. The losses, all on the road, were at Tennessee State, Tennessee-Chattanooga, Norfolk State, Virginia State and Virginia Commonwealth.

The schedule doesn't get any easier.

On January 10th, the team plays nationally ranked Georgetown in Washington, D.C. Maryland-Eastern Shore and Delaware State are the next two opponents.

The first home game is with South Carolina State on January 18th.

"It is hard to play on the road," said Roper.

Fellow Charlottean, Ron James, is a 6-0 guard for the team. Robert McClelland is a 6-6 center. Dave Binion is a 6-6 forward. John Robinson is a 6-6 center. Roper is a 6-5 guard.

"We could be taller," said Roper in assessing his team's abilities. "In our conference, the favorites will probably be A & T and Morgan State. But we hope to be good at tourney time."

The MEAC holds their annual tournament in Greensboro.

Roper is a senior business major who hopes to get a job "out there in the job market" when he graduates from college.

Check the ads in the Charlotte Post each week for the best bargains in town.

## Cage Race "Is Going To Be A Doozy"

by Chase Vance  
Post Sports Writer

The Southwestern 4-A Conference boy's race is going to be a doozy. The conference is allotted only one state playoff representative this year and that really complicates matters.

In the pre-season, West Charlotte, Olympic and South were rated as the teams to beat.

The West Charlotte Lions have enough talent in key areas to reign supreme in the conference. They have a good inside game with Darryl Broome, Ron Stanley and Larry Broome. They have good guards in Wendell Anthony, Dana Berry and James Mitchell, and they have a good sophomore reserve in Frank Henderson.

The Lions' biggest problem is lack of team play. At times, they look like they are on the playground. Another big problem is the lack of an adequate passer who can get the ball inside to the big men for the easy basket.

South's Sabres are getting good inside play from Johnny Edwards and Bryant McKnight. They are weak at the guards and slow. Tim Sawyers, 6-6, is not living up to his pre-season expectations. Dave Price's coaching can take them a long way, but unless the guard situation improves.

The Olympic Trojans, winners of their Holiday Tournament for the first time in its nine-year history with a 74-73 escape over the Harding Rams, have been a pleasant surprise. No one expected them to be 7-1 with the season at the Christmas Break.

Sporting two of the best guards in the county in Rick Stevenson and Johnny Mathias, they are dangerous. Mathias and Stevenson are hitting for 20 plus points per game. That's 40 points out of Hedrick's backcourt. Freddie Fee and James Guy, both good shooters, are hitting the boards hard.

Center Greg Ardrey gives them an inside threat. The Trojans' problem is a lack of depth. But the starting five is capable of winning the Southwestern 4-A Champ-



Derrick Dewalt .....6'4" center

good rebounding team, perhaps the best in the conference.

The lack of guards and their tall lineup is hurting the North Vikings.

Eddie Scales, Eric Givens and Scot Williams are not rebounding with the tenacity the team could. A North trademark in past years, good outside shooting, is also missing this year.

The East Eagles will be better when Ron Curbeam returns at the semester break. Curbeam's absence means the Eagles have no guards. Center Trent Westmoreland has been a pleasant surprise.

The Independence Patriots

are another team capable of winning it all. With center Derrick Dewalt, guards Jeff Means and Kevin Galloway and forward Eric Boyd all hitting in double figures, the Pats are tough. A good full court press is their trademark.

The West Meck Indians will surprise some people but lack depth and guard ability to be much of a threat. Cleo Alexander and Jerry McDow are both good ball players and the Indians will win more than they did last year.

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## Golden Bulls

### To Compete In

### TABCA Tourney

by Chase Vance  
Post Sports Writer

The Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls travel to Norfolk, Virginia, Thursday and Friday to participate in the TABCA Holiday Tournament.

The Bulls open against Elizabeth City State, a team led by sophomore guard Arthur "Boo Boo" Gaskins who is averaging 30.5 points per game and 4.5 steals per contest.

St. Paul's and Norfolk State are the two other teams entered in the contest.

Sophomore transfer, Ronnie Thompson, is expected to be a tremendous help to the Bulls. Playing only half a game in the latest contest with Belmont Abbey, he collected 12 rebounds, hit four of five from the field and two of two from the charity line.

"We are disappointed to let the Crusaders come from behind us and beat us," said Coach Robert Moore. "But we will be more competitive as the year goes on and we deal with CIAA competition. Hopefully, we will reap a larger return in the long run by paying the price against non-conference forces now."

Bill Tibbs with 19.8 points per game, leads the Bulls in scoring going into the Norfolk Tournament. He also leads in rebounds with 9.9 per game.

Tim Logan is second in scoring with 13.2; Peter Smith is second in rebounding with 6.0 per game.

Tibbs leads in field goal percentage with 60.2 per cent. Peter Smith has 56.4 per cent followed by Phil Flores with 52.9.

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