

Sports Deal

BY BILL JOHNSON



TOUCHING ALL BASES.....

Picking a winner at the famed CIAA Basketball Tournament in the spacious Scope in Norfolk, Va. weekend after next is about as difficult as finding a bargain at a Dollar Day Sale.

One's initial impulse is to select the tourney-wise Spartans of Norfolk state, who surprised everyone with their sensational play enroute to the title a year ago. There is also some credence in the fact that Winston-Salem State and crafty Clarence "Big House" Gaines have the tools to become a nemesis. One would also have to believe that Hank Ford's Pirates of Hampton Institute have finally put it all together and are headed for bigger and better days.

The guess here is that Hampton, with the great Ricky Mahorn and the equally talented "Marvelous" Marvin Payne, will store the handsome championship trophy some place on its tiny Tidewater campus shortly after February 24. If Ford can accomplish this, he will then become the first coach in history to win a conference tournament championship for Hampton.

The excitement of regular season play is far from being over. About the only thing certain at the moment, in addition to death and taxes, is that Winston-Salem State is going to win the southern division title. The rest is conjecture. Fayetteville State is currently riding in second place, with Johnson C. Smith a close third. For all intent and purpose, it would appear at this early date that Winston-Salem State, Fayetteville State and Johnson C. Smith can start packing for the trip to Norfolk. St. Augustine's will have to wait until someone knocks off Shaw before they can start making reservations.

The picture isn't clear. Second place likely will be settled when Fayetteville comes to town Thursday night to clash with the "Baby" Bulls. The Broncos appear to have an easier route. They will face Livingstone in Salisbury and Hampton at home following their appearance at the Jack S. Brayboy Gym here. In the meantime, the Bulls will clash with Winston-Salem State in Winston-Salem Friday night before closing their campaign with St. Augustine's here on February 15.

St. Augustine's can begin making plans for the big weekend if the Falcons defeat Shaw in Raleigh Saturday night. Following that contest, Shaw must encounter Norfolk State in Norfolk, Livingstone, Virginia Union and Fayetteville State. In addition to the Bulls, and Shaw St. Augustine's has to play Virginia Union, and Livingstone. It would appear that they are more than a safe bet to get the No. four slot awarded in southern division.

Hampton and Norfolk State are waging a redhot battle down the homestretch for the northern division crown. The coveted bounty, which means a great deal more than just mere "Brag rights," gives the winner the advantage in the conference tournament seeding, in addition to an automatic berth in the NAA District Playoffs.

Interestingly, while Hampton, Norfolk State and Virginia Union are jockeying for first place in the north, Virginia State, Elizabeth City State and St. Paul's are providing more than just a "little bit of excitement" in deciding who is going to the Big Meet as the fourth seeded northern team.

The 32nd staging of this great event, where surprised outcomes have become the rule rather than the exception in the last 31 years, likely will become one of the richest in the long history of the CIAA Tournaments. According to commissioner Bob Moorman, only 2,000 of the 11,000 seats in the Scope are available. Bob also says that there are a "few hotel and motel rooms available within easy driving distance."

DISTANCE. Tickets can be obtained locally through Eddie McGirt, athletic director at Johnson C. Smith University. (372-2370). Hotel reservations must be made direct.

The tournament will again start at 1 p.m. on Thursday, with a 3 p.m. contest closing out the afternoon doubleheader. Games will continue at 6 and 9 Thursday night. The semi-finals will be held Friday night and the championship finals at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. The championship contest will be televised.

The tournament pairings will match the No. 1 team in the north against the No. 4 team in the south in one bracket and the No. 1 team from the south against the No. 4 team in the north in the other one. The No. 2 team from the north will be paired with the No.3 team from the south.

"It's an interesting match-up," Moorman explained Tuesday, "because in this arrangement, the No.2 teams will not have to play each other in the first rounds."

Norfolk State and Winston-Salem will go in as the big winners, each having won eight tournament titles. Virginia Union has won four and Virginia State and Fayetteville State one each. J.C. Smith, Hampton, and St. Augustine's have yet to win a tournament title.

If they qualify, the Vikings of Elizabeth City will be battling for their second crown.



LITTLE LECTURES AGGIES
North Carolina A&T Head basketball coach, Gene Little, talks with players during timeout of recent aggie game. The Aggies are 4-0 in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. Also in photo is Steve Cassell (45). (Photo by Kevin Willis.)

In Top Contest West Charlotte

Encounters Garinger

by Chase Vance
Post Sports Writer
The Southwestern 4A is heading for a photographic finish.

The regular season is for nothing this year. Only the tournament winner advances into the state playoff.

The countdown to the state tournament is getting near.

But all the peaking and jelling before tournament time is all for nought. The first round games at the home sites of the top four finishers could be crucial.

Olympic, West Charlotte and Independence, all of whom have shown flashes of brilliance are in slumps. Harding, Garinger and South Mecklenburg are peaking.

Games this week will go a long way towards deciding the final seeds. Two teams will miss the tournament, a most likely miss will be West Mecklenburg. The ninth position is up for grabs between North Mecklenburg, East Mecklenburg and Myers Park.

"Baby" Bulls Face

"Tough" Weekend

by Chase Vance
Post Sports Writer

The Golden Bulls are getting ready for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's annual conference tournament from February 22-24 at the Scope in Norfolk.

The top four finishers in the Northern and Southern Division of the CIAA are eligible for the single elimination showdown.

To make the NIAA District 26 playoffs, the bulls must finish in the top eight in the district.

It looks like Norfolk State, Virginia Union, Hampton Institute and St. Paul's will be the northern representatives in the CIAA. Southern representatives will be Smith, Fayetteville State and St. Augustine.

The top eight NIAA teams are Gardner Webb, Pfeiffer High Point, Winston-Salem, Fayetteville State,

Friday's games have East Mecklenburg at West Mecklenburg, Harding at South Mecklenburg, West Charlotte and Garinger, Independence at Olympic, and Myers Park at North Mecklenburg.

The Eagles have to win to maintain hopes for the final spot. The Rams are capable of knocking the Sabres out of first place. West Charlotte has to have a win at tough Garinger to maintain any hopes of finishing number one.

Independence and Olympic are probably a preview of a first round tournament game. Myers Park will need a win at North. The winner here is assured of a playoff spot. The loser may miss the tournament.

On Tuesday, East is at Garinger and Myers Park is at South Mecklenburg. Both of these are in the Coliseum. In other games, West Charlotte is at Independence, Olympic is at North, and West Mecklenburg is at Harding.

Beimont Abbey, J.C. Smith and Catawba.

The Bulls have a big week ahead with Fayetteville State Thursday night, February 8, at the Brayboy Gymnasium.

Friday night the Bulls will travel to Winston-Salem for a revenge match with the Rams.

Fayetteville State is one of the teams the Bulls need to beat if they are to gain a NIAA Division 26 playoffs spot. The Rams are another. It will be an interesting week for the team.

Bill Tibbs, Sonny Proctor, Ronnie Thompson, Phil Flores, Blue Oliver, Peter Smith, Frank Reid, Tim Logan, Louis Lowery, Gray Adams and Thomas Williams keep improving with each game.

By CIAA time, I predict the Bulls will be ready.

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

UNCC 49ers Look To Reserves To Provide Needed Depth "Down The Homestretch"

UNCC by Chase Vance
Post Sports Writer

If the 49ers are to make it to a post season tournament the men on the bench will have to provide some depth. There is a lot of talent sitting there with the potential of acting in reserve capacities.

Jerry Winston, 5-9, 150 pound senior from Jersey City, New Jersey, is a reserve who saw sparse playing time at guard until this year. He is a hustler who is full of enthusiasm. The team oriented player is a fine ball handler and passer with excellent quickness.

Matt Houpt, 6-5 190 pounds, led his team to the state playoffs averaging 20 points per game. He is a pure shooter with an outstanding touch from the perimeter.

Matt can be used at the point guard and as a small forward. Donnie Koonce, 6-3 180 pound guard, is from Trantion, N.C.

"Donnie is a steady passer and ball handler," said Coach Mike Pratt.

Koonce has good speed and quickness.

He was all-East as a backcourt stand for Jones County Senior High where he set a school record with 164 assists. He was honored by being named to the East-West All-Star game in Greensboro.

A three sport standout as a prepster, Koonce also earned varsity letters in football and baseball.

At 6-9, center George Devone has become an ag-

gressive ball player

The Clinton, N.C. native had strong game in the 1977-78 season against North Carolina State and South Florida Un-

Devone still holds the Hobbiton High Record for

most points scored in a game with 45. He averaged 22 per game.



ATLAS vs PATERA REMATCH!

Sunday, February 11, 1979, at 3:00 P.M. in the Charlotte Coliseum Ken Patera meets Tony Atlas in the Lumberjack Match for the Mid-Atlantic Title. In a special 2 out of 3 falls U.S. Title Match, Ric Flair takes on Ricky Steamboat. John Studd will go against Dino Bravo, and Paul Orndorff takes on Greg Valentine. In Tag Team action, Johnny Weaver and Rufus R. Jones will meet Swede Hanson and Sgt. Jacques Goulet. Three other bouts round out the card.

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