

# Sports Deal



BY BILL JOHNSON

SAY YOU SAW IT HERE.....

The NCAA Playoffs, which get underway tonight (Thursday) are being played for more than sheer pleasure and the genuine love for the game of basketball.

The teams lucky enough to reach the championship finals in Indianapolis' Market Square arena three weeks hence will bank \$320,000 each. First round losers this week will each receive \$80,000 and the teams losing in the Regional play next weekend will take home \$200,000 apiece.

NCAA officials project revenues from the tournaments will exceed 6 million dollars.

If you were to name the top-drawing conference in basketball, who'd you pick? The ACC?.....right?.....Wrong. The Big 10 Conference attracted an average of 12,000 fans to each of its games this past season to rank number one in the category. They also set a new attendance standard for college conferences.

Quick Now!....Can you remember another time in history when UCLA came into the national playoffs with such a low rating?....If the salaries for coaching at the college level continue to escalate, it won't be too long before the mentors will be earning as much as their athletes.

Two months ago, I wouldn't have bet a plug nickel that Robert Moore would stay around for a third year at Johnson C. Smith. Maryland and Duke are rumored among the schools bidding for the services of the highly successful Golden Bull cage coach.

However, sources very close to the young coach say Bobby would like to stick around for one more season to win the CIAA Southern Division and, more importantly, the conference's basketball tournament. If Moore should option to leave the westside campus, look for William Joiner, his knowledgeable assistant, to get the head coach reigns.

Our informants are reporting that coach Wylie Harris is quietly recruiting top football talent for his Johnson C. Smith University squad. Wylie is also making some changes in his coaching staff.

Former A&T State basketball superstar Al Attles, the veteran coach of the Golden State Warriors in the NBA, has suffered a torn achilles tendon. He likely will miss the remainder of the season.

Alcorn State is rated 27th among the nation's top 40 college basketball teams, the only predominantly black college team so highly honored. In addition to leading the nation in team offense (92 points per game) Alcorn is college basketball's top rebounding team. It also owns the scoring margin leadership.

Thomas (Hollywood) Henderson may possibly be on his way out of football. The former Dallas Cowboy all-pro linebacker, was turned down last week by the New Orleans Saints, who apparently felt that the first-round draft choice Dallas is seeking in return for their superstar is a bit too much.

Florida A&M's football coach Rudy Hubbard has dismissed last week's cross burning on the lawn of his Tallahassee, Fla. home as a "prank by neighborhood kids."

Inflationary Notes....Only 10 big league baseball players were making more than \$100,000 10 years ago. This season finds the average earnings for major leaguers approaching \$150,000, and there are more players being paid a million or more dollars a year than you could shake a stick at.

During the same 10-year period, the attendance soared from 28.7 million to over 45.6 million.

Have you heard of the hotshot prep athlete who enrolled in an institute of higher learning to grapple with such vital advanced studies as: 1. basketball philosophy; 2. basketball fundamentals and techniques; 3. physical conditioning; 4. wrestling theory; 5. health; 6. safety with hand powered tools.

Now....that's the living end!

Billy Ray Bates, who aroused basketball bluffs in Philadelphia last summer with super performances in the famed Baker League, has been signed to a multi-year contract by the Portland Trail Blazers. Bates failed in an earlier bid to earn a position with the Philadelphia 76ers. Winston Lake pro E. Jerry Jones is making final plans for the 16th annual Spring Festival Golf Tournament to be held at Winston Lake Golf Course March 29-30. According to tournament director Amos Lewis, entry fee for the event is \$40, including green fees. Lewis says there will be seniors and ladies' flights as well as championship and other flights. "The specific number of flights will depend on the number of entries," he concluded.

Entry forms may be obtained from Mr. Lewis by writing 4150 N. Hampton Drive, Winston-Salem, N.C.

## Football Recruiting

### A & T Signs 29 Athletes

GREENSBORO—With an emphasis on in-state recruiting, North Carolina A&T head coach Jim McKinley announced the signing of 29 student athletes to football national letters of intent.

Twenty of the 29 players signed are from North Carolina, as McKinley, who will begin his fourth season at A&T in September, felt the state had an outstanding senior class.

"We are very pleased with our recruiting efforts this season," McKinley said.

"This recruiting class should give us the kind of depth that will allow us to go to our bench with more confidence than we've had in the past two seasons when we experienced so



Jim McKinley

...Looking good

many injuries. "North Carolina had a

tremendous amount of talent in this year's senior class and we believe we have signed some of the best of that class."

The top priority at the A&T recruiting efforts was defensive backs, all from North Carolina, and eight defensive linemen.

Also included in the A&T signings are 8 offensive linemen, 6 linebackers, one wide receiver, one running back, and one quarterback.

"All of the signees were highly recruited and most of them signed conference letters with other major colleges and universities," McKinley said.

#### Watches

Watches not worn frequently should be stored in plastic bags. If not in constant use, they should be wound once a week. Watches more than ten years old should be cleaned once a year.

## In Annual Salaries

### 12 Black Athletes

#### Earn \$12 Million

The total annual salaries of the nation's 12 highest paid Black athletes could serve as an impressive budget for one of the smaller Third World countries. They're now earning a combined \$12 million a year, enough to launch

meaningful and productive programs for some underdeveloped countries, but hardly raising eyebrows here in sports-minded America.

If Dave Winfield of the San Diego Padres baseball team gets what he's asking - \$20 million for 10 years - he'll be far and away the highest salaried athlete in the world. Bu right now, that distinction belongs to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the fluid, dominating super center of the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team, whose newly negotiated contract calls for \$1.3 million per year.

Jabbar's recent increase now puts him above Houston Rockets' center Moses Malone and Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Dave Parker, who themselves collect a cool million from their respective basketball and baseball teams.

In reviewing the super salaries of today's athletes, one thing stands out once you get over the dollars being pocketed by these performers. Black superstars are the world's richest athletes, based solely on salary. From Winfield and Jabbar down to Vida Blue of the San Francisco Giants and Julius Erving of the 76ers, who collect only \$700,000 per year, Blacks dominate the escalating payrolls. Among the top 13 salaries, Blacks hold 11 of them, with only the Phillies' Pete Rose (\$800,000) and Boston Red Sox' Fred Lynn (\$700,000) cracking the elite group.

Other Blacks in the high-salaried group include George "The Iceman" Gervin of the San Antonio Spurs basketball team, \$900,000; David Thompson, Denver Nuggets, basketball, \$800,000; Rod Carew, California Angels, baseball, \$800,000; the retired O.J. Simpson, San Francisco 49ers, football, \$767,000; Jim Rice, Boston Red Sox, \$750,000; and Dr. J and Vida Blue at \$700,000.

Although he's out there by himself, World Boxing Council heavyweight champ Larry Holes has been averaging over a million bucks a year and could triple his previous year's income by the time December rolls around.

#### Freddie Smith

#### Enters Spring

#### 100 Race

Freddie Smith, a 15-time winner last season at Charlotte's Metrolina Speedway, has filed entry for the March 9 Spring 100 at the half-mile dirt track.

Smith, of Kings Mountain, N.C., will be driving a Camaro maintained by his father "Grassey" Smith, also of Kings Mountain.

Other early entries in the Late Model Sportsman division include Bennett Clontz, Charlie Hughes of Dalton, Ga., Jerry Rector of Fountain, Inc., Ken Hocken Smith of Mansfield, Ohio, Stick Elliott of Gaffney, S.C. and Union, S.C.'s Billy Scott.

Clontz, of Glen Alpine, N.C., posted three LMS feature wins at Metrolina during the 1979 season. He drove a Camaro last season but has entered a Dodge in the upcoming Spring 100.

The Spring 100 card is headlined by a 75-lap LMS feature that will pay \$2,000 to the winner.

A 25-lap Semi-Modified chase and a 10-lap Street Division main event with winners' purses of \$600 and \$200 respectively are also slated.

Qualifying for all three divisions will be held Saturday, March 8 at 2 p.m. following an 11 a.m. practice session.

The Spring 100 will get underway at 2 p.m. the following day.

#### CD Performance

#### Report Available

The city of Charlotte's Community Development Department (CD) has submitted its Fifth Year Annual Grantee Performance Report to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The report indicates the progress that CD has made during the calendar year 1979.

Copies of the report are available at the Community Development Department and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, both in the Cameron-Brown Building, 301 S. McDowell Street; and at the Office of the City Clerk, the Public Service and Information Department, and the City Manager's Office, all located at City Hall, 600-E. Trade Street. The application is also available at these CD site offices: 3215 N. Davidson Street, 1427 South Boulevard, 2601 E. Seventh Street, and 916 W. Fifth Street.

The currently approved Community Development Neighborhood Strategy Areas are: Grier Heights, North Charlotte, Cherry, Third Ward, West Morehead, First Ward Extension, Southside Park-Brookhill, Five Points, and West Morehead.

## Here April 11-13

### Antique Car Buffs To

#### Break Attendance Records

The first full-scale gathering of the new decade of antique car buffs and old car "parts peddlers" is certain to break attendance records for a non-racing weekend at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

The Charlotte '80 Flea Market and Antique Car Show is set for April 11-13 and the experts are already projecting a record number of exhibitors and spectators.

"The spring show at Charlotte is the fastest growing meet in the country," said Dennis Carpenter. "It's second only to the traditional Hershey (Pa.) show... and it's getting bigger every year."

Carpenter, a transplanted Midwesterner who operates Dennis Carpenter's Ford Reproductions, Inc., out of spacious show

less than a mile from CMS, is a bona fide old car expert. His firm specializes in manufacturing "every part you've ever wanted for a Ford (1932 models to the present) but couldn't find." He attends between 12 and 16 major old car meets each year, and he's quick to brag about his "hometown" event.

"The reason the Charlotte meet has grown so fast is because it quickly established itself as a 'good selling' show," Carpenter said. "Vendors will come from all across the country to work a show that has a

good-selling reputation." "And the timing for the Charlotte show is perfect," Carpenter added. "It comes in the early spring after the exhibitors have had all winter to improve their equipment and scratch around for hard to find parts. One of the best collections of quality merchandise of the entire year always show up at the Charlotte meet."

The upcoming event at CMS, which will also feature Antique Auto Club of America displays and an old car auction, is expected to attract over 1,200 exhibitors and 20,000 spectators.

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