

SPORTS BEAT



Bill Johnson

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!
The only problem with being black is thinking it's a problem!

Wish I'd Said That - Danton Wilson, the able young sports columnist with the Michigan Chronicle wonders if the National Football League's theme song next season will be "Things Go Better With Cocaine!"...Wilson also asks, "If in a summer exhibition game in Miami, with the weather report at its season's best, will tests later prove several players were 'snowed out.'"

Every minority has a tendency to blame the majority for its own mistakes!

Did you know that the Larry Holmes-Gerry Cooney world heavyweight bout established a world box office record of \$7,293,600? Even topped the famed "thriller in Manila" fight between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier by more than a million bucks.

Reports are that Terri Putnam, a young Boston woman, is seeking \$100 per week in child support from Boston Celtics star Cedric Maxwell. A criminal complaint has been issued by the Boston Municipal Court against Maxwell, charging him with fathering an illegitimate child a year ago.

Look for the New York Knicks to unload Marvin Webster. The New Jersey Nets are the latest NBA team to nix a trade for Philadelphia 76ers Darryl Dawkins. They say the price is too high. John Lucas recently finished a six-week rehabilitation program. The Durham native admitted he had a problem with cocaine.

Apparently the NBA does not believe that the ACC is the strongest conference in college basketball. They drafted four players from the Southwest Conference in the first round. Six of the first 42 players chosen were from the SWC.

How About This! The Sun Belt had the most players (17) drafted. The Big Ten was second with 16.

Fuel for future arguments - Close to 50 percent of the players in the NBA are first round choices and 85 percent of the players were chosen in the first three rounds.... Vince Scully, the popular CBS sportscaster says he'll not be returning to that network.

Tennessee State football coach John Merritt believes the system is to blame for whatever evils may lead college athletes astray. "When the time comes to actively recruit a boy, the big schools wine him and dine him and then pay him. Any time you do something illegal to get a boy, and he knows it, that gives the boy a license to do whatever he wants to. He ends up tainted by the whole process," explains Merritt.

Boxing has regained a high spot in public appeal...Thanks to television in general and to ESPN in particular. With higher ratings than either golf or horse racing, Home Box Office has completed a deal with middleweight champion Marvin Hagler that will pay the champ \$3 million for three fights.

Roy Campanella and Joe Black will be featured in an upcoming feature-length television movie. The film, "The Boys of Summer," is about the Brooklyn Dodgers of the early 1950's. It will be released around World Series time.

Think About This - The new United States Football League likely will encounter some serious problems when they start booking playing sites in the major cities. Most big city stadiums are under long-term contract with major league baseball or soccer teams during the period.

CBS is contemplating moving its popular Monday Night Team of Jack Buck and Hank Stram from radio to Sunday afternoon television. Look for Bob Costes to take over Bryant Gumbel's spot on NBC's pregame show.

Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson will again go head-to-head in the British Open this weekend. That's my prediction!

I am of the opinion that the writer with the Observer who stated in Monday Morning Sports that "...the only time you see blacks hanging about a clubhouse is when they are waiting to carry someone's bag," is putting down the entire black community. Obviously, he is not aware of the fact that caddies are about as extinct as the buffalo. A little research would reveal that there are a large number of blacks playing golf at the public courses in the area. The greater majority of them have never carried anyone's bags but their own.

Remember the gentleman who was fired from Morris Brown's head football coach post for using an axe handle on a player. He's back in football. Lambert Reed has accepted a job as an assistant coach with the Georgia Pride of the American Football League.

With Very Little Resources

J.C. Smith Fields Its First Intercollegiate Basketball Team In 1928

By Phil Busher
Special To The Post
Johnson C. Smith fielded its first intercollegiate basketball team in 1928 with the completion of the Hartley-Woods athletic building, which now houses the Financial Affairs office on campus. C. Randolph Taylor coached the first squad to a 6-11 record. J. Frederick Thomas, L. P. Byram and Herbert Penn would succeed Taylor as coaches, maintaining a .500 record until Edward Jackson took over in the 1936-37 season. Penn went on to start the first women's team, led by Bernice Blakeney in 1936.

"Basketball wasn't much of a big deal then," recalled Jack Martin of the period. "It was more or less something to do over in that little gym after football season ended and until baseball season would come along."

Football and baseball were king at Johnson C. Smith. Not much in the way of attention or resources were poured into basketball. That is, until Edward Jackson transformed a mediocre program into a big winner for nine straight years beginning in 1936-37. The game featured two-handed set shots, a more



Freddie "Curly" Neal
...Golden Bulls' greatest

deliberate pace and scoring that usually averaged 40 points a game for each side.

"Coach Jackson knew the game well," recalled Kenny Powell, who played center for the Golden Bulls

during that time. "And what coach didn't know, he studied or devised his own solution."

Powell cites the example of J.C. Smith being the only team to stop N.C. College (now N. C. Central) on its

home court in 1940. "The Eagles had a fellow named Downing who was 6'11" tall and shot the ball with a sweeping side hook," explained Powell. "Every opponent center would foul out trying to stop it, but coach Jackson simply devised a special defense that stopped it cold."

Smith was the only team to beat the Eagles in Durham that year. Edward Jackson's success came with his excellent rapport with the athletes.

"He was a true gentleman whom everyone loved," commented Powell.

Guards Pepper Martin and Peter Groom, forwards Charles "Bucky" Walker, "Pream" Bowers, Charlie Westcott and Arthur "Shrimp" Johnson along with centers Powell, "Greedy" Guishard and Alfred "Seaport" Fields led the Bulls to a 148-56 record under Jackson. The 1940-41 team was the first Smith squad to win 20 games in a single season with a 20-5 mark. It was also the time when the fast break offense began to play a major part in the game.

"Most of the games were with the 18 teams in the CIAA, but we did play in

special promotional games in places like Philadelphia and New York City," pointed out Powell. Alumni organizations of those cities would set up contests between JCSU and the best black basketball players of the northern white schools. The special games drew large crowds and were accompanied by dances and balls.

"Coach Jackson would emphasize that he wasn't about to travel all that way to be embarrassed," stated Powell. "We wanted to win bad so that coach wouldn't pull out of the matches and head back to Charlotte. There was no way after one of those long bus rides that we weren't going to join in on the after-game dances and chase after the girls."

Edward Jackson left for Howard in 1945. It was the following year that the CIAA began its Tournament at Turner's Arena in Washington, D.C. George Dr. Bynum coached the Bulls to an 18-10 mark and an invite to the inaugural event, losing to Morgan State in the opening round. Raymond Washington was top gun for J.C. Smith.

Jack Brayboy replaced Bynum the following year, the first of three times he would coach the basket-

ball program. After two years Brayboy turned the program over to Cal Irvin. From 1946 to 1951, Smith was a .500 ball club. In the 1951-52 season Cal Irvin put together a 14-5 team, led by James Hargett, William Jones and Claude Saunders, that finished as CIAA Tourney runner-ups to Virginia Union. Cal left for A&T State as Jack Brayboy took over, compiling a 14-8 record and a fourth place finish at the CIAA Tournament. After a pair of 500 seasons Brayboy handed the reigns to C. L. Cline who managed Smith's worse-ever record at 1-15. Brayboy was forced to step back in for the 1956-57 year for the third time building the program from a 1-15 team to a 15-6 mark in 1958-59.

For the third time, a large administrative load forced Brayboy to turn the reigns to a new coach. This time he felt reasonably sure about his rookie replacement. Eddie McGirt just finished his second successful football season having instantly turned that program around and was now being asked to do the same for roundball.

McGirt had All-CIAA Clarence "Fox" Barnes. See JCSU On Page 12

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