

By Bill Johnson

SPORTS BEAT



Bill Johnson

TELLING IT LIKE IT REALLY IS!..... Character building is almost like the weather; everyone talks about it but very few do anything about it.

Jimmy Grier, the best tailor in town, says the Morris Field Rangers are being re-organized and will field a semi-pro baseball team here this spring and summer. According to Jimmy, the team will probably operate under a different name and it will play its home games on a field near the old Plato Price school.

Johnson C. Smith is fielding a women's softball team. The Lady Golden Bulls (what a name!) will host Shaw in a twinbill here Tuesday afternoon. Kenny Powell's track squad will compete in the Atlantic Coast Relays in Raleigh Saturday.

Garinger will name its new head football coach here Friday morning; at the same time a new head basketball coach will be appointed at South Mecklenburg.

The one thing that most men can do better than anyone else is to read their own writing.....Look for the St. Louis Cardinals to peddle hard-hitting outfielder George Hendrick this spring to make room for Davey Green.

The USFL is paying its officials a mere \$250 per game. Now you know why the quality of their game needs to improve. Georgia football coach Vince Dooley has named his black Labrador Retriever, "Herschel Walker Dooley." "TV Guide" reports NBC is paying Ahmad Rashad \$135,000 a year as a television commentator.

Did you know that the New York Yankees have 33 former collegians on their roster?

Contrary to what you may believe, the ACC is not the most televised conference in college basketball. The Big East owns the distinction. Sixty-nine of their 79 conference contests were televised this past season, and 86 percent of all BE games will be on television through 1986. In case you're wondering, the NCAA will earn more than \$20 million for its 1983 Playoffs. Each team that lost in the first and second rounds will receive over \$100,000 each and the teams advancing to the final four will be paid more than \$500,000 apiece.

Have you ever heard of Mahdi Abdul-Rahman? You haven't! He's Walt Hazzard, the former UCLA basketball great who has undergone a name change. Tennessee State president has overruled athletic director Sam Whitmon, giving basketball coach Ed Martin a year's reprieve. Whitmon recommended that Martin be dismissed.

One reliable source reports the 23 NBA franchises lost a total of \$24 million last year. The loss, they say, will reach \$27 million this season. Don't be too surprised if Billy Martin returns outfielder Rickey Rivers to the New York Yankees roster before the 1983 major league season gets underway. Rivers is currently patrolling the outer gardens for the Texas Rangers.

A sign of the times -- or is it a word of warning. An estimation of only \$150,000 per week was bet on the USFL opening games. The normal bets placed on NFL games is between \$1 and \$2 million each week.

Adidas has agreed to pay Herschel Walker between \$1 and \$2 million a year just to wear their shoes, and to endorse the company's athletic shoes. Tampa Bay quarterback Doug Williams' original contract expired February 1, 1983. He is talking of returning to Grambling, where he set a bushel basket full of school and conference records, and coach football if contract talks are not agreeable. Don't bet on it!

NFL scouts are predicting that Anthony Reed of South Carolina State, Benjamin Tate of North Carolina Central and Tennessee State's Larry Kinnebrew will go high in the 1983 National Football League draft. They also list Otis Brown of Jackson State among the best bets for stardom in pro football.

With 16 Starters Returning

Johnson C. Smith Opens Spring Football Drills

By Phil Busher
Special To The Post
As the Johnson C. Smith gridiron veterans suited up Monday for spring drills, head coach Wylie Harris and his staff were putting the finishing touches on what appears to be the best recruiting year since Harris arrived in Charlotte five years ago.

Sixteen starters return from the 1982 CIAA Southern Division co-champions, including nine starters from a defense that ranked sixth in the NCAA II stats in pass defense and 13th best in points allowed. Associated Press small college All-American line-backer (second team) Craig Warren leads a veteran unit that includes All-CIAA and ALL-NAIA



Stephone Darby
...Linebacker

performers LB Stephone Darby, FS Alveraz Abernathy and SS Steve Gray. The offense returns seven starters, but will have rebuilding work to do on the line. CIAA Offensive Player of the Year, John

Henry Thomas, graduated from the QB spot, leaving sophomores Keith Harris and Eddie Glaze to battle senior Hubert Jewsome for the honors this spring.

Spring practice will end with the annual Blue-Bold scrimmage on campus on April 23 at 1:30 p.m.

There will be some mighty large freshmen aiming for the vacant spots along the line. Best of the crop appears to be Everett Jackson, a 6'4", 290-pound All-Florida tackle from

Other signees expected to make early contributions include Tony White, a Fort Mill, S.C., linebacker named to the Charlotte Observer All-South Carolina team; Leon Shipp, a 6'3" wide receiver from East Gaston High and Joseph Baysmore, a 6'1", 249-pound tackle from Suffolk, Va.

Several prime Charlotte athletes have signed as well, including West Charlotte's Jackie Wilkes (three year starter as OG-LB) and TE Henry Thomas (two year starter) along with South Mecklenburg's Darryl Wallace (FB-DE).

In all, 26 newcomers will be reporting to campus in August.

"I'm pleased with the caliber of student-athletes

we've been able to recruit," assessed Harris. "I feel that as many as six of these recruits would be considered blue chip prospects. Certainly a good many will be heating up the competition for starting positions this fall."

Attic Sale

Charlotte Latin School is planning an attic sale for Saturday, March 26, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

Items for sale include quality used clothing, samples, baby equipment, small appliances, plants, toys, games, sports equipment, linens, kitchen items, jewelry, books - the list goes on!

There will also be refreshments available.

Charlotte Latin School is located at 9900 Providence Road, 1.5 miles past Highway 51.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the school.

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