

# SPORTS BEAT



Bill

## DIDJA YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT.....

Diplomacy is the art of being able to say "nice little doggie" until you have time to locate a rock!

A recent study launched by college presidents reports that 80 percent of the black college athletes and 40 percent of white athletes could not meet the higher academic standards.

Black parents should bear the brunt of the blame for these academic failures. In my opinion, a kid (black or white) should know how important education actually is long before the college recruiters come knocking.

Another important point to remember is that black leaders cannot afford to wait until after black athletes go down the drain and then luxuriate in the ancient practice of blaming in all on "Mr. Charlie."

History shows that the black athletes, who were disciplined and inspired by loving parents, have done extremely well academically.

Dr. Robert Albright, the distinguished president of Johnson C. Smith University, makes a strong point in stressing being a student first and an athlete second.

Blacks cannot afford to ignore this!

Calvin Peete was in Detroit Monday of last week teaching junior golfers how to play the game. Peete, who has earned close to \$300,000 on the PGA tour this season, stresses the importance of involving young black golfers in clinics, and has made a point of appearing wherever he can to instruct youthful golfers.

After viewing the last two NBA Championship games between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Boston Celtics, I'm firmly convinced that the conference should rename the series "The NBA Heavyweight Championship Fight." It's been real rough, with fisticuffs and the back-alley-type brawls.

New York Mets outfielder George Foster donates \$318 to the Foster Home Branch of a New York hospital each time he hits a home run. His agent, Lonny Berney, doubles each donation.

The Los Angeles Lakers' salaries average \$703,000, that's twice as much as the average team salary of the Celtics and the other NBA teams. Now you know why the Boston players are so angry.

Muhammad Ali is not as ill as he would have you to believe. It's an act. The popular former heavyweight champion loves to "put" people on. He's in fairly good health.

Carl Lewis may be hurting Carl Lewis even more than one can imagine. The famed long-jump artist pocketed \$20,000 for just one jump in the recent UCLA-Pepsi Meet. He had previously agreed to take six.

The experts are convinced that the NBA lottery for the draft rights to Patrick Ewing had to be rigged. They figure placing Ewing in the huge New York market would strengthen NBA's negotiating for renewal of its lucrative contract with CBS. The fact that more than 2,000 fans have already purchased season tickets since the announcement should add fuel to the Knicks' bargaining power.

When you tell your problems to other people, 80 percent don't give a damn and the other 20 percent are happy you have them!

George Foster and catcher Gary Carter of the New York Mets are playing hurt.... Now you know why they own unimpressive hitting averages. Foster is suffering with a bad right knee and Carter has been performing with a fractured rib.

The Florida A&M Rattlers are considering returning to the Division II Conference. FAMU reportedly is operating with a \$700,000 deficit with its sports programs.

South Carolina State coach Chico Caldwell, who has signed five recruits that he figures will be a big boost to his basketball program, moans "most of the top players in the state slip through our hands." Nonetheless, Caldwell is very high on Rodney Mack and 7-foot center George Faulk.

If you believe all the rumors, Georgetown's fabulous basketball coach John Thompson will be coaching at two different places next winter. Reports are that he is considering a multi-year \$350,000 contract offered by the Chicago Bulls to serve as coach and general manager. There's also talk that Thompson is headed for the Seattle Sonics.

William Andrews, the strong runner who set the NFL ablaze two years ago, may not play football this season because of a 1984 knee injury. He, however, is currently coaching running backs at the Falcon mini-camp.

It's official, now! O. J. Simpson will be back! He'll join Frank Gifford on the "Monday Night Football" team this fall, along with newcomer Joe Namath, who replaces Don Meredith.

A recent study by the College Football Association reveals that football players graduate at the rate of 44.8 percent. On the other hand, the American College Testing Service's most recent survey states male non-athletes graduate at a 41.5 percent rate. Surprised?

CBS is reaping a financial harvest with its telecasts of the NBA Championship series. The Nielsen ratings for Game Two was 16 percent higher than for the same game a year ago. The rating was a near-record high of 42 percent higher for Game One this year than last. The three-game average is 33 percent more than the 8.3 for last season.

Must be something to hitting the baseball with regularity in major league contests. The San Francisco Giants are leading the major league's ERA, with an impressive 2.47 average, but they're dead last in the National League West standing, eight and a half games back with a 19-29 won-lost record.

Consistent Curtis Strange has moved to the top of the PGA Money Leaders list with \$423,993. In the meantime, Calvin Peete slipped from second place among the leaders with \$291,530. Jim Thorpe's \$38,016 places him 91st among the leaders.



When the temperature is a scorching 95 degrees, where is the best place to beat the heat? For these frolicking contestants of the Little Las Amigas contest, there was no other answer, but to take a cool dip in the pool. This swim party, which culminated with a cookout, is only one of the many activities being sponsored by the Las

Amigas, in conjunction with their annual pageant. Members of the local organization were on hand to help the young ladies dry off and to ensure the safety. The swim party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Waddell.

## Panthers Sign Willie Walker

High Point College basketball coach Jerry Steele announces the signing of 6-5 guard-forward Willie Walker of Charlotte. Walker is a graduate of Garinger High School where he averaged 15.3 points, 4.5 assists and 4.5 rebounds per game. Garinger posted a 13-11 record this year.

Walker has been a three-year starter at Garinger, averaging 13 points, three rebounds and three assists as a junior. He has twice been an AAU Junior Olympic team member and was named to the All-Mecklenburg County team this year. "I think he is an outstanding

athlete," commented Steele. "He has played just about every position in basketball and will be a good player for us. He is capable of doing so many things."

Walker is the brother of Odell Walker, an All-Conference and All-District 26 selection at High Point this year, one of four seniors to graduate.

With the signing of Walker the Panthers now have four players committed for next year. They include guards Tony Bolden of Reidsville and Chris Windlan of Brookville, Md.; and forward Roy Smith of Gastonia.

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