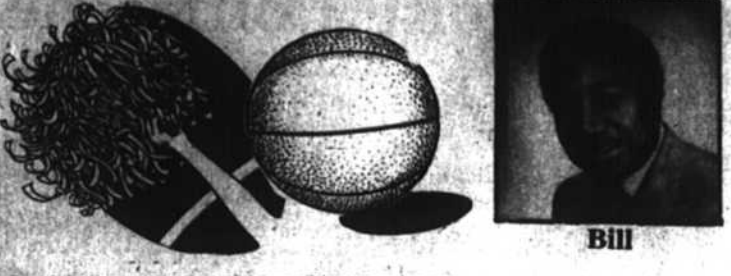


# SPORTS BEAT



Bill

## TELLING IT LIKE IT REALLY IS! .....

School days can be the happiest of all — provided your kids are old enough to go!

Two of basketball's most bitter rivals are heading down the homestretch in what promises to be an exciting finish. Winston-Salem, the perennial winner, and Johnson C. Smith, a new comer to the CIAA championship scenario, appears to be set to battle to the finish line for the coveted southern division title which Winston-Salem State won in a heated scrap with Shaw a year ago.

The 1986 race looms even more exciting with two teams considered in the midst of rebuilding programs, in contention. The odds favored coach Clarence Gaines and his Winston-Salem State Rams, who will be playing at home in six of their last 10 encounters with league opponents. In the meantime, Johnson C. Smith will host conference opponents only three times in their final eight appearances against southern division competition. They have five tough games on road.

The final decision likely will come when the gladiators clash in Winston-Salem February 15. Gaines will bring his quintet to Brayboy gym a week from Saturday for the first of the home-and-home contests that more than likely will determine the outcome.

At the moment, Johnson C. Smith holds a slim one-game lead over the Rams. The Bulls are 4-0 in the division race and Winston-Salem is 3-0 in the southern division.

Bob Moore, who has his Bulls playing mostly on emotions, was named "CIAA Coach of the Week" a week ago as a result of guiding his team to five straight victories.

## ABOUT OTHER THINGS .....

Ever heard of a micro wave shooter in basketball? They're the players who can come into the game and heat up their shooting eye in a hurry. Utah Jazz sharpshooter Adrian Dantley, the leading scorer in the NBA for the past five years, cannot understand why the critics say he can't play good defense. "If I'm supposed to be so bad on defense," Dantley asked, somewhat puzzledly, "what does that say about the guy who's supposed to be guarding me?"

Look for the NBA clubs to raise the salary gap to at least \$500,000 for each team next season. CBS has agreed to pay the NBA \$170 million for the next four years for TV rights. Under the agreement, CBS will televise 15 regular season NBA contests, plus provide live coverage of the popular championship series.

Did you know that Michael Jordan is seven credit hours short of graduation? He has been studying towards his degree in cultural geography at North Carolina while he was mending from an ankle injury that kept him out of the Chicago Bulls' lineup. He is scheduled to return to the Bulls' lineup in mid-February.

Two short years ago Donnie Moore was a sadly disappointed pitcher who was looking for a job. Atlanta had refused his request for a substantial raise in his paycheck and things were generally looking dimmer and dimmer. Dimmer, that is, until the California Angels places him on their payroll. Donnie not only responded with one of the top pitching performances of the year, he also established himself as one of the premier relief pitchers of the times. As a result, he inked a three-year contract worth \$2.85 million last week and is the highest paid pitcher in Angel history.

St. Louis Cardinals owners says his new player contract offers no incentives in contracts over \$500,000, no loans, no no-trade clauses and drug clauses must be included.

My guess is the Atlanta Braves will release first baseman Chris Chambliss and his \$750,000 annual salary. I also believe they will let either Bruce Benedict or Rick Cerrone go, before spring training.

I fail to understand the wisdom of Larry Holmes seeking a rematch with Michael Spinks. The former heavyweight champion reportedly has more than enough money to insure his future and, at age 36, he should be thinking of retirement rather than a comeback. He promises, however, "I want another fight with Spinks badder than a pig wants slop."

ESPN has signed analyst Dick Vitale to a new five-year contract worth \$125,000 per year. The early forecasts have the Bears favored by 10 points in the biggest of all football games Sunday.

More than 2,000 reporters have converged on New Orleans to report every move the players make between now and Super Bowl XX. Media hype is clearly out of hand. For example, ESPN has scheduled a Super Bowl warmup show for 4 a.m. Sunday morning. Wonder who'll be up to watch it?

I applaud NBC's decision not to televise President Reagan's obligatory call to the winning team's locker room.

Jeff Sagarin, a gentleman with more than 20 years of experience rating college and professional teams, lists North Carolina A&T 166th among the top 283 Division I college basketball teams in the nation. Sagarin's computer placed the Aggies higher than any other predominantly black college among those listed.

The most disturbing news of 1986 to reach my desk is the report that Muhammad Ali is planning to return to the ring.

The NCAA honored a great gentleman at its convention last week. Grambling State athletic director and head football coach received a Special Recognition Award as college football's winningest coach. Robinson's all-time record now stands are 329-109-15. He's only the second recipient of the prestigious award.

Vincent Brown and Dante Johnson, Johnson C. Smith's twin towers, have moved up a notch among the CIAA individual scoring leaders. Brown is hitting for a 19.1 average and is eighth among the league's most outstanding point producers. Dante is a slot back with an 18.2 scoring gait.

Johnson C. Smith freshman Angela Hamilton earned "Rookie of the Week" honors with a scintillating performance against St. Augustine's during which she scored 24 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

## Golden Bulls Floor Leader

# Jeff Ervin Sees Himself As A "Role Model"

By James Cuthbertson  
Post Sports Writer

"Basically, I see my role as a floor leader who tries to ignite some fire in the team," said 6-7 Jeff Ervin of Lenoir. "I see myself as a role model and I have this in mind with everything that I do. Whatever the coach asks me to do, I try to get done."

The Lenoir native is averaging 11 points per game for the Golden Bulls and is our leading candidate for Rookie of the Year honors in his first year of CIAA competition.

"I am where I want to be at this time," he said. "I am doing rather well. But I can only do as well as the team. We are not at our peak. We are just really coming together. When we speak, I don't see any team that can beat us. We are like a machine. We have so many interchangeable parts."

"Anthony Anderson and Eddie Jordan are beginning to come around for us," he said. "They see that we need them. They are getting tough. We try to help give them confidence in practice and the coach is spending more time with them helping their game."

"Coach Ike Fullard and coach Roosevelt MacGruder have really worked hard to help this team," he added. "They are the backbones of the program. Coach Moore has one of the best minds in the CIAA."



Jeff Ervin

...Tries to ignite fire

Ervin feels confident that the Bulls can win the CIAA championship for the first time ever.

"We can do it," he said. "If we continue to come together. Vincent Brown is a great passer and point guard. Dante Johnson is a workhorse. He gives us momentum and inspiration. John Dennis is a sleep-

er. Chris Jones has not recognized his potential. The practice sessions against Wayne Moulton, Jerome McCoy and Keith Greene are awesome. Reggie Moses is one of the headiest guards that we have. He can really get the ball up the court and has great court vision. Everybody wants to win and we all challenge each other for positions. We have a strong bench. We know if we don't get the job done there is someone behind us who will. It makes you give 120 percent every game."

Ervin is coming off a broke ankle. He played at Chowan College and at West Caldwell he once scored 56 points, eight dunks, and 28 rebounds

in a game against Bunker Hill. "This is one of the better teams that I have been a part of," he said. "We really have not recognized our full potential. When we do, nobody in the CIAA will be able to stop us." "Our fans really support us," he said, adding that the sixth man on the court always helps. Brayboy is highly touted as one of the most hated gyms in the nation for an opposing unit to play in.

"They are great," he said. "I play for the people, the students, the team and God who is giving us the strength enabling us to win. He is a blessing and helps us to keep from sustaining injuries."

## Half-Price Cage Tickets Offered

Davidson College's Wildcats, Johnson C. Smith University's Golden Bulls and UNCC's 49ers have teamed up with Mecklenburg County to encourage recycling by offering recyclers a 50 percent discount on tickets to their January and February home basketball games.

There is nothing to buy to get a discount coupon for the tickets. The coupons are available at any of the 10 Mecklenburg County Burger Kings. To get a discounted ticket, people must take the coupons, along with three grocery bags full of newspapers, glass containers, or aluminum cans to one of the five participating Mecklenburg County Recycling Centers. There, a Mecklenburg Recycling program staff member will validate the coupon, making it good for one discount ticket.

The validated coupons can be redeemed for half-price tickets at any of the three colleges' usual ticket outlets. There is no limit to the number of discounted tickets one person can receive, but each validation requires three bags of recyclables.

The discount coupons are on the backs of bumper stickers which urge people to Recycle NOW. "We hope

people will put the bumper stickers on when they use their discount coupons," explains Mecklenburg County Recycling Coordinator Betsy Dorn.

"By offering the chance to get half-price college basketball tickets, we believe we can encourage some new people to begin recycling," she says. "We want to show sports fans that recycling can save them some money and at the same time save resources and landfill space."

Burger King, which had participated in a previous effort to promote recycling, is displaying posters with the coupons and maps of where the validating recycling centers are located.

No one has to buy anything at Burger King to receive a coupon," Dorn adds. "The more people we can expose to recycling, the better off environmentally Charlotte-Mecklenburg will be."

The Mecklenburg Recycling Centers validating coupons are: Freedom Drive Center, 2200 Freedom Drive; Tryon Street Center, 732 N. Tryon Street; Harrisburg Road Landfill, 7819 Harrisburg Road; York Road Landfill, 5600 York Road; and Holbrooks Road, of N.C. 115 near Huntersville

## Reid's Inside Play Helps Lions

By James Cuthbertson  
Post Sports Writer

It was the game of the century as far as area fans were concerned. The rumors abounded. "Get your tickets early or you may not be able to get in."

"It will be a sellout. Everyone will be there."

And so it was when the North Mecklenburg Vikings took on the West Charlotte Lions.

When the going gets tough. The tough get going. Last week's featured "Player of the Week," junior Bobby Moore of North, and this week's "Player of the Week," senior Kevin Reid of West Charlotte, were squaring off.

Before a standing-room-only crowd, Moore and Reid excited the masses.

Moore hit 26 in a losing effort and Reid countered with 22 in a winning cause.

Reid's inside play helped the Lions to go up 55-42 with five minutes left in the game but the Vikes, behind

Moore, made a run for it as they cut the lead down to 60-54.

In the final minutes, this week's Charlotte Post "Player of the Week," Kevin Reid, took control of the game with his great shooting and rugged rebounding.

In other games, John White hit 26 in a losing cause to Harding and Andrea Stinson, who had only 12 points at halftime, put on a scoring exhibition of one-handed drives and jumpers to hit 32 points as the Lady Vikings continued their domination of the Tri-County Conference with a 70-50 rout of the Lady Lions.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO STOP RUNNING TO THE NEWSSTANDS EVERY WEEK!**

Get a subscription for only \$17.76 and your paper will be delivered by your friendly postman...in rain, sleet, snow.....

The Charlotte Post  
376-0496  
Start Your Subscription Today

**Braces for Children & Adults**  
**DR. PAUL A. MCGILL, D.D.S., P.A.**

"Practice Limited To Orthodontics"

CONVENIENT LOCATION AND SATURDAY HOURS  
**(704) 375-7005**

1028 West Fifth St., Charlotte, N.C. 28202  
1 block from I-77 near Irwin Avenue Junior H.S.  
Office Hours By Appointment Only

**It Costs So Little And It Means So Much.**

Southern Bell Long Distance is a great way to stay in touch with friends and family at reasonable rates.

A 10-MINUTE CALL FROM CHARLOTTE TO:	
Gastonia	\$1.32
Boone	\$2.67
Salisbury	\$1.99
Rutherfordton	\$2.44

Call on weekends or after 11 p.m. and save even more. Rates listed above are in effect 5-11 p.m., Sunday-Friday.

**Southern Bell Long Distance**

Southern Bell  
A BELL SOUTH Company

**ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH THE FUTURE!**

Dial Station (1+) charges apply. These charges do not apply to person-to-person, coin, hotel guest, calling card, collect calls, calls charged to another number, or to time and charge calls. Rates subject to change. Daytime rates are higher. Rates do not reflect applicable federal, state and local taxes. Applies to intra-LATA long distance calls only.