

# SPORTS BEAT



Bill

## NOTES AND MUSINGS

A friend of mine has read so much about the harmful effects of smoking that he has decided to give up reading! The puzzle has been solved... Well, sort of! The scenario of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Southern Division title race is coming to form.

At this writing, it appears that neither Johnson C. Smith nor North Carolina Central will catch Winston-Salem State down the home stretch. The Rams were comfortably out-in-front with a two-game advantage and a 7-1 division slate while the Bulls were 5-2 and the Eagles 5-5. Winston-Salem has four games remaining and would have to lose at least three times to let the pursuing teams get back in the hunt.

In the meantime, the Bulls would have to sweep their five remaining contests to finish 10-2 in the division. That appears to be a bit unrealistic when you consider coach Bob Moore's cagers are playing four games in six days this week. However, if the Bulls sweep their slate and the Rams lost one of their four games, the two teams would end up with identical 10-2 division records.

If you want your son to become rich and famous teach him to play firstbase. Major League Players Association study shows firstbasemen are baseball's highest paid performers. They were paid an average of \$710,000 last season.

New York is a difficult market to crack. The New York Knicks are learning daily how tough the NYC markets can be when they note that only four of their first 21 home games have been sellouts. With Patrick Ewing playing sensationally, you'd expect much more.

List Michael Jordan among those who believe North Carolina center Brad Doughty will be the first player picked in the NBA Draft. My guess is that Kenny Walker of Kentucky will get the honor.

Milwaukee Bucks' coach Don Nelson says he believes the rampant drug problem threatens the existence of college and professional sports. "It (drugs) is not being dealt with. It is not being stopped and unless we stop it there are major dangers," Nelson warns.

Pete Maravich has joined Meadowlark Lemon's "Shooting Stars," an offshoot of the Harlem Globetrotters. If Lemon could talk Curly Neal out of retirement, he would have two of the most colorful cagers ever to play the game in his lineup.

William "The Refrigerator" Perry is my kind of man. The popular Chicago Bears' lineman, who sometimes plays offense, said recently in turning down a movie offer to star with rock star Cyndi Lauper, "It's about her becoming a wrestler and I was going to be her bodyguard. I read the script, but I don't care for her, really. And I didn't want to go out to California and stay no seven days to be in no movie. I'd rather go back home and spend some time fishing."

The Chicago Bears received \$64,000 each for beating up on the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX. The losers were paid \$52,000 for their efforts.

The odds against the USFL playing this fall took a substantial leap when Jim Mora left the Baltimore Stars to coach the New Orleans Saints in the NFL. He took his entire staff of assistant coaches with him.

Billy Martin can't seem to get out of baseball. He's become a member of the New York Yankees' broadcast team. Remember Al Hollands, the star relief pitcher who once resided in Charlotte during the off-seasons? The big, strong lefthander is close to reaching an agreement with the New York Yankees.

Indiana's stormy basketball coach Bobby Knight has lost 24 recruits in 15 years. Guard Delray Brooks recently transferred to Providence College. One of the most sought after players in the nation, Brooks will be eligible to play for his new school next January.

Look for Florida A&M to enter the market shortly for an athletic director. Early indications are that the scalpers will have a field day at the upcoming CIAA Basketball Tournament. All 10,500 seats have been sold and each of the 14 member schools has put up the SRO signs. This will be the third straight year the conference has sold all seats to its four sessions.

The entertaining Harlem Globetrotters is readying a music video of their famous song, "Sweet Georgia Brown" on location in the ballroom of the Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. RCA Records will market the tape shortly.

Fayetteville State's quest for the CIAA Southern Division Championship took an abrupt halt when academic problems removed Edward James and Samuel Nelson from the Broncos' starting lineup. Both are ineligible for the 1986 spring semester.

Coach Eddie Robinson of Grambling State, the winningest coach in college or pro football history, will be honored in Los Angeles March 1.

ESPN, my favorite sports station, has gotten the jump on the other cable outlets with a three-year deal to be the exclusive national cable outlet for Big East Basketball. Beginning next season, ESPN will telecast 22 BE regular season games each year. The Duke-Georgia Tech headliners didn't catch the television viewers' imagination. The contest drew a mere 3.2 rating while the NBA All-Star contest on Sunday drew a healthy 10.6 rating for CBS.

Remember Mike Gminski, the former Duke University standout? Mike, who is now in his sixth season with the New Jersey Nets of the NBA, has donated \$100,000 to Duke's endowment scholarship fund.

Did you know that there are 32 black assistant coaches in the NFL, up from four in 1971? George Stallings became the sixth former Dallas player of assistant coach who is now serving as head coaches in the NFL.

Just when I was beginning to think Georgetown would repeat major college basketball champs, the Hoyas performed like anything but a title-winning team in losing to St. John's Monday night.

## In Crucial CIAA Matchup

# Golden Bulls Host Rams In Charlotte Coliseum

By James Cuthbertson  
Special To The Post

Saturday at the Charlotte Coliseum, Johnson C. Smith University and Winston-Salem State University will do battle before what promises to be a large crowd.

The battle will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the Rams in the pole position and the Bulls challenging. The stakes are the Number One seed in the CIAA and the right to a bye in the first round of the tournament that begins February 25 in Richmond, Va.

The last time the two teams met, the Rams won by a 68-65 count as guard Charlie Spell sank two free throws with five seconds left on the clock to ice the victory and push the Rams into first place in the CIAA Southern Division.

Key matchups are guards Spell and Steve Hood against James Shockley and Rodney Richardson of Johnson C. Smith.

In the previous games, the guards accounted for six of Winston-Salem's points while the guards accounted for 16 of J.C. Smith's points.

In the center position, Gary Cromartie pulled down 17 of his team's 37 rebounds as the Rams out-muscled the Bulls on the boards by a 10-rebound margin.

The center who was most effective against the Rams for the Bulls was Kevin Hinton who was a perfect four for four with eight points. Hinton had four rebounds. Eddie



Coach Bob Moore  
.....Faces great challenge

Jordan was good on the boards also pulling down seven rebounds against the shorter Rams.

The Winston-Salem forward combination of Alex Hooper and Harry Giles accounted for almost half of their team's points. Hooper had a game high 25, while Giles had eight.

Jeff Ervin and ever-ready Dante Johnson are the Bulls' combination that accounted for 20 points in the first game with Johnson getting 20.

The Bulls are a more patient unit than the Rams are. The Rams like to run. The Bulls will be trying to slow down the pace.

The bench strength is in favor of



Clarence Gaines  
.....WSSU head coach

the Bulls. Vincent Brown, Chris Jones, and Reggie Moses are all strong players who can fulfill a starting role if someone is not performing up to par.

The Bulls should have a significant home crowd available in the contest that will probably decide first place in the CIAA.

The Johnson C. Smith University Golden Bulls will more than likely finish either first or second in the Southern Division of the CIAA.

The Bulls have games remaining with St. Augustine's on February 20 and Fayetteville State on February 22.

Both games are at home.

Winston-Salem State has games remaining with Shaw on February 19 and North Carolina Central on February 22.

Both games are in Winston-Salem. Assuming that the Bulls are victorious in the Winston-Salem game and win its remaining games while the Rams lose theirs and finish in first place, the most likely first round opponent would be the winner of the first round matchup between the fourth place northern team and the fifth place southern team.

At this juncture that would pit them against the winner of the Elizabeth City State (almost certain fourth place northern finisher) and Livingstone or St. Augustine's who are battling it for the number four position in the South.

If the Bulls finish number two, the first round opponent would be Bowie State. The Bulldogs of Bowie have one of the worst records in the United States.

You be the judge of which team the Bulls would rather face. Remember that during tournament time, every team is dangerous. Especially a team like Bowie who stands a chance of correcting an entire season's pitfalls with one victory.

So the Bulls' options are pretty clear.

If they should slip and finish third behind N.C. Central or St. Augustine's, they would play the number six team in the northern division which will more than likely be St. Paul's, a team they beat 80-71 in Charlotte during Christmas.

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