

With James Cuthbertson



James

Prep Chatter

Derrick Knox of Charlotte received the J. Howard Williams Award presented to the outstanding male athlete at Wingate College.

Knox is a former Garinger graduate and captain of the Wingate basketball team.

The 6-4 forward pulled down 6.2 rebounds per game and led the Bulldogs (21-10) in scoring (16.2 points per game) and in field goal percentage (63.1). His best game was 34 points he tossed in during the 92-88 defeat to Atlantic Christian of Wilson, North Carolina.

Knox was named to the All-NAIA District 26 and the All-Carolinas Conference teams.

He scored 1,113 points during his college career and graduated with a degree in business administration.

METROPOLITAN BASEBALL RANKINGS

1. East Mecklenburg, 2. West Mecklenburg, 3. South Mecklenburg, 4. Crest, 5. East Gaston, 6. Olympic, 7. Independence, 8. Ashbrook, 9. Garinger, 10. North Mecklenburg, 11. West Charlotte, 12. Myers Park, 13. Harding, 14. Hunter Huss.

4A WEST BASEBALL TITLE CONTENDERS

East Mecklenburg, South Mecklenburg, West Mecklenburg, South Caldwell, Winston-Salem Reynolds, Kannapolis A.L. Brown.

3A WEST BASEBALL TITLE CONTENDERS

Sun Valley, West Rowan, South Iredell, North Iredell, West Caldwell, South Point of Belmont, North Gaston, Shelby.

2A WEST BASEBALL TITLE CONTENDERS

Charlotte Catholic, Randleman, North Rowan, Mooresville, Monroe Parkwood, North Stanly.

Congratulations to East Mecklenburg's Eric Abrams who defeated teammate Mike Weber, 6-0, 6-2, in the finals to advance to the state finals this week in Chapel Hill.

Weber beat West Charlotte's Brian Watt, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Abrams, Weber, Watt and John Williams of West Charlotte will be advancing to the state finals in Chapel Hill.

The East Mecklenburg doubles team of Eric Zimmerman and Randall Phillips won the doubles championship.

The doubles teams going to Chapel Hill will also include West Charlotte's Joey Sie and Chris Kroll, Garinger's Richard Wike and Ricky Anderson and Myers Park's Jack Ho and Chris Terrell.

East won the team standing with 52 points to South's 25 and 20 for West Charlotte.

The other point totals were Concord 10, Forest Hills 10, Northwest Cabarrus 10, Garinger nine, Myers Park seven, West Mecklenburg four, Olympic three, North Mecklenburg three, Anson County three, Independence one and Central Cabarrus one.

BEST TENNIS TEAMS AROUND THE STATE

Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds, Winston-Salem Mount Tabor, East Forsyth, Eden Morehead, Scotland County, Wilmington New Hanover, Fayetteville Terry Sanford, Raeford Hoke County, Fayetteville Pine Forest, Pinecrest, Fayetteville E.E. Smith, Gastonia Ashbrook, Kings Mountain, Hickory, Shelby South Iredell, South Point, and Lincoln.

STATE'S BEST TENNIS PERFORMERS

Rod McGeachy, W-S Reynolds; Denard McLendon, East Forsyth; Tom Murray, R.J. Reynolds; Ramu Nallamala, R.J. Reynolds; Scott Smith, Morehead; Charles Land, Morehead; Eric Temple, Pine Forest; Mike Vaughn, Pinecrest; William Carter, Raeford Hoke; Mitchell Mason, Scotland; Christ Collins, Terry Sanford; Chip Collins, Terry Sanford; Winston Deane, Richmond County; Kenny Goodman, Richmond County; Willy Ellison, Scotland; Michael Leonard, Scotland; Dan Pearson, New Hanover; Johnny Turfow, New Hanover; Jason Spargo, Ashbrook; Deke Shepler, Hickory; Bryan Jones, Kings Mountain; Anthony Teague, Alexander Central; West Brown, Ashbrook; Mark Taylor, Ashbrook; David Pharr, Shelby; Will Lutz, Shelby; Eric Lutz, Hickory; Eddie Alala, Hickory; Jeff Baker, South Point; Hody Buckner, South Point.

Congratulations to the Phil Hughston Award winners, Cindy Ballenger and Jeff Neal.

Named for the Garinger football player who died in 1971, the Award is presented to a male and a female student who demonstrate leadership, scholarship, character, service and athletic ability.

Ballenger, a senior at South Mecklenburg High School and Neal, a West Mecklenburg senior, were among 19 students honored and given plaques at the 15th annual awards ceremony.

Ballenger ranks third in her class and played basketball and volleyball.

Neal ranks fourth in his class and played football and soccer and was wrestling team co-captain.

Hughston was 16 years old when he was hurt in a September 1971 football game. He died a month later from injuries sustained in the game.

Other nominated students and their schools were: East Mecklenburg, Sabine Emig and Charles Andrew Howard II; Garinger, Melinda Miller and Dennis Bean; Harding, John Parks; Independence, Mark DeVries and Tina Malchesky; Myers Park, Hunter Hogewood and Patricia Castellanos; North Mecklenburg, Sheila Williamson; South Mecklenburg, Roman Phifer; West Charlotte, Karen Freeman and Robert Vest; and West Mecklenburg, Jennifer DeCann.

Basketball Reaches New Horizon Through Sports League

By Joe Brown
Post Staff Writer

A new horizon in women's basketball takes light in the form of a sports league, the National Women's Basketball Association (NWBA), that sets off a 48-game season in November 1986.

The Carolina Blaze with general manager Tom Patrick, Charlotte-based team, represents one of the eight teams that make up the league. The Carolinas team will play home games and six exhibitions on its home court at Park Center.

NWBA Commissioner Wayne Fulcher said the league is the result of a grassroots approach that has drawn the best ideas from people involved with women's basketball at every level.

"The NWBA has been formed for one purpose and one purpose only and that is to give the young women athletes of America an opportunity to compete on a professional level at home. There are thousands of women athletes in our country who graduate or leave our colleges and universities each year and their talents are going to waste. These talented women usually have to put an abrupt end to a career that has been a major portion of their lives. Some of these women are forced to go to Europe and play on teams which are not their equal. We are looking to be around a long time," concluded Fulcher.

The new national sports association has its corporate headquarters, a 6,000 square foot office complex, in Lake Wylie, S.C.; located in Heritage Park on Highway 49.



Wayne Fulcher
.....NWBA commissioner

Eight teams across the country will begin play this season the first week of November: the Carolina Blaze in Charlotte; the Virginia Mermaids in Richmond; the Georgia Peaches in Atlanta; the Louisiana Blues in Monroe, La.; the Texas Twisters in Austin; the California Stars in Orange County; and the Cincinnati Tiger-Cats in Ohio.

Fulcher said they have received 500 written player applications for the 96 spots, 12 per team. He added that the coaches have not been named, but are expected to be in place by the end of the month. The coaches will be selected primarily from among 20 NCAA Division I coaches who have applied.

The league has signed a contract for the Blaze to play in 3,500-seat Park Center. Patrick expects to

announce within a few weeks details for a season ticket package that would cost \$230 and include 24 regular season games, six exhibitions and a long sleeved Blaze T-shirt and cap. "The same package will be announced in the seven other cities," details Fulcher.

Fulcher says, "We have also signed a contract with the Supervisor of Officials, John Russell." Russell has officiated in the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Olympics.

Two attempts have been made to introduce a women's professional basketball league to the American public, and both were unsuccessful. Two reasons for past failures were apparent. First, the management of the leagues were not satisfactory and, secondly, the salaries that were paid to the top players on the teams were so exorbitant that the league could not physically stay in existence.

"We have been in contact with several high ranking officials in the old women's leagues," claims Fulcher, "and they have been very helpful in trying to help us not to make the same mistakes that they made."

He continues, "We have eliminated mistakes made by the former attempts at women's pro leagues, mainly \$60,000 salaries and insufficient local funding for most of the franchises."

"All the franchises will be owned by the league at least a few years," Fulcher reports. "This way we're hoping for stability and avoid investors using the teams as tax

write-offs." Players' salaries will range from \$10,000-\$18,000 for at least the first season. He announces that the league can sustain itself in its first season with a television contract.

League officials will hold preliminary tryouts at the end of the month in Los Angeles; Tulsa, Okla.; Hartford, Conn.; and Charlotte, N.C. On June 20, tryouts for free agents will be held at four sites that will be announced later, including Charlotte. Final tryouts will be in July in Charlotte.

The league is looking at one of the area's top stars, Cassandra Howell, former Johnson C. Smith standout who averaged 10 rebounds and 18 points per game.

Chanda Truesdale, another former outstanding Lady Golden Bull, will be a strong prospect to make the league.

"I strongly believe Charlotte and the Carolinas are very hungry for a professional team, so why wait for the NBA or NFL," stated Fulcher.

For information concerning the NWBA, call the office at 200 Heritage Park, Lake Wylie, S.C., 704-831-8476 or contact Wayne Fulcher, Commissioner, at P. O. Box 240298, Charlotte, NC 28224.

L-R Offers Nine Sports Camps This Summer

Hickory - The Lenoir-Rhyne College "Champions of Tomorrow" summer sports camp program has been announced and will offer nine separate camps in five different sports beginning with an individual boys' basketball camp June 8-13.

The program includes individual camps in boys' and girls' basketball, football, girls' volleyball and boys' and girls' soccer and team camps in boys' and girls' basketball and volleyball.

The schedule opens the week of June 8-13 with an individual boys' basketball camp under the direction of Bear basketball coach Lee Gibbs. A second session of the boys' indi-

vidual basketball camp will be held July 27-August 1. Gibbs will also hold a boys' basketball team camp on July 13-18.

Head Lady Bear basketball coach Barbara Buchanan will hold an individual basketball camp June 15-20 and a team camp June 23-27.

A girls' individual volleyball camp under the direction of Lenoir-Rhyne head coach Robbie Cameron will be held July 6-11 with a team camp on July 20-25.

Head football coach John Perry will hold his individual football camp July 13-18 and head soccer coach Gary Hall will direct a soccer day camp for boys and girls on

August 3-8.

For registration information concerning the "Champions of Tomorrow" summer sports camp program at Lenoir-Rhyne, contact the athletic office at 704-328-7115.

Seventh Annual Softball Marathon Meets

Softball enthusiasts from the greater Charlotte area will be joining forces on June 7-8 at Hornet's Nest Park in Charlotte for the Seventh Annual Softball Marathon for Easter Seals.

The marathon will again be sponsored by 1110 WBT and Bud Light (Bealer Wholesale), with manpower supplied by the Fraternal Order of Police. Teams comprised of local individuals will participate in the event by securing pledges and playing against other teams of similar ability. Each team can rate its own playing ability from "Highly Skilled" to "What's a Softball?"

Participating teams will be eligible to win cases of Bud Light or Pepsi, as well as specially designed T-shirts, caps, and duffel bags.

The top fund raising team in this year's event will win a team trophy, a party at Pantera's Pizza (formerly Godfather's Pizza), Budweiser caps, and limited-edition softball marathon jackets, while the second place team will also win a trophy and T-shirts from WBT. The individual raising the most donations will win a trophy and a weekend for two at Ocean Dunes-Sand Dunes Resort in Myrtle Beach. The second place individual will receive a trophy and dinner for two at Bennigan's. All trophies for the marathon will be donated by Faber's Trophy Shop.

Proceeds from the Softball Marathon will help support Easter Seals Services for physically handicapped children and adults in North Carolina, including equipment purchases and loans, speech and language therapy, adapted swimming programs, physical and occupational therapy clinics, a stroke support network and residential

Triple County League

Action continues this Saturday, May 24, in the Triple County Baseball League with the Phillies taking on the O's; the Rangers vs the Redbirds; the Cardinals vs the Trojans; the Dodgers vs the Bombers; the Hornets vs the A's; the Jets vs the Giants; and the Eagles vs the Pirates.

The last team mentioned in the series is the home team.

Northwest Baseball

The Northwest Babe Ruth Baseball League pitched action in the Bambino Division this past May 14 and May 17. The games resulted in the Royals routing Plaza No. 2, 19-2 at Briarwood School and the Plaza No. 1 squeezed out a 1-0 victory over McCrorey Y on Revolution Field. (Both games on May 14.)

This past Saturday, May 17, WC Optimist slid past the Royals 14-13 on Revolution Field.

camping opportunities at Camp Easter-in-the-Pines.

Anyone interested in entering the Seventh Annual WBT-Bud Light Softball Marathon should call the North Carolina Easter Seal Society, toll-free, at 1-800-722-0652.

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