Page 8A - THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, July 3, 1986



I look back at the tragedy of Len Bias and I wonder if this is a message from our Supreme Being that all of this frivolous life that some of our people are living with the drug culture has to cease.

Purposefully, I said "our people" instead of athletes because what are athletes but a segment of our society? We heap accolades on them when they are doing well and we criticize them when they are doing badly.

But underneath all of the sinew and muscle is a human being with all of the human foibles that you and I have. No man is perfect.

The only angels are in Heaven.

The autopsy of Bias revealed that it may have been his first time and it is a shame that the price he paid for a little experimentation was so high.

It showed that the cocaine destroyed his heart, one that was so caring.

There are several athletes across the United States who have used cocaine much more than the one instance that took a life that would have had such a great future ahead of it. There are several athletes who will ignore the Bias tragedy and go snort some more. But hopefully, there are those who will read into the tragedy a message that says you cannot abuse your body without suffering some consequences.

Len Bias is still a hero to me regardless of his weakness. I still grieve that such a talent was taken away from the plains of the Earth in his prime when he was celebrating the proudest moment of his life.

We must stand together in peace and at the time of storm. Let a lesson be learned here so that the life of such a great young man was not taken in vain.

Leave the Coke, Crack and Reefer alone. That message is for athletes and non-athletes.

Before the Bias tragedy, the NCAA had decided to test 3,000 student-athletes in all sports, including some from each of the 64 teams selected for the men's basketball championship. This is a good move. If athletes can't stay fresh during the season then what good are they?

Although basketball is one of the greatest avenues for blacks to make big money, we should realize that it is not a successful dream for all. Everyone can't make the National Basketball Association. We need to take a serious look at some of our athletes and tell them that although they don't have what it takes to be a professional player, they can play in college and earn a scholarship that will give them a degree and allow them to experience a happy

I am glad that the Charlotte City Council voted favorably on the building of our 7,500-seat baseball stadium. Now is the time to move to get the state baseball championships to our beautiful new facility that will be completed in time for the O's to open the 1987 season. Hats off to the Council.

Once again another star has fallen from the athletic skies. Cleveland defensive back Don Rogers died of a drug overdose while celebrating an upcoming wedding.

Where Johnson C. Smith Was

Weak, Anthony Byers Was Strong

By James Cuthbertson Post Sports Writer Anthony Eugene Byers had 31 unassisted tackles and 16 assisted

tackles in eight games last season. At the end of the season this "Super Bull" had two of his best games.

Against North Carolina Central in the Homecoming game, he had two interceptions including one for a touchdown.

When the Bulls played Fayetteville State in the last game, he had two interceptions and a 98-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown when he picked the ball out of the air and raced down the sideline for the glory.

The East Mecklenburg High graduate is a Charlotte native. He is 6-1 and 189 pounds.

The junior physical education major was the most improved defensive player of last season and received the coveted J. Wendell Martin Award for being an outstanding athlete.

A legitimate shot at the National Football League according to many coaches around the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, he has been working out with the weights this summer and doing some running.

week," said Byers. "We could be good next year if we stick together and talk to each other. James Branch, Mustata Shaeed, Willie Harris, Mike King and Anthony Linyard are all working hard to get ready for next season."

since junior high school at McClintock.

a year while contemplating his future and decided to come to Johnson C. Smith University after

walk-on, Byers has impressed coach Small with his talent.

very talented and has a great attitude. He works very hard at

freshmen year when I had to make a lot of adjustments," said Byers. "He was always there encouraging me to do better

practice. We will be a contender in the Southern Division along with Livingstone and Winston-Salem State. Byers believed the biggest pro-

blem with the 1-9 1985 team was not the talent but the schedule.

"We had too many back-to-back games on the road. That got to be a drain after a while," he said. The 1985 All CIAA second team

member is looking for first team status this year.

His number one goal? "I would like to help create unity among the players and to deliver a CIAA championship to coach Small who is more than deserving." Keys to success?

On offense, Byers believes the keys are the ability of the quarterback to direct the team and in Mel Westmoreland, he sees an individual who is very talented.

On defense, Byers believes the line of James McCoy, Billy Banks, Ronald Capers, DeCar Brown, and

If you're hopelessly



Anthony E. Byers

Steve Pinner will be ready for the war in the trenches.

Adding that he cannot wait until practice begins on August 11, Byers said the team will be ready.



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WHITE WALLS

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It is time to leave the drugs alone.

Hopefully, the young athletes will look at this and realize that when you snort or take a puff, it could be your last.

Charlotte Post "Female Athlete of the Year," Andrea Stinson, helped the Charlotte Monarch AAU Team defeat Georgia, 104-98, in action in Planville, Connecticut.

They beat Maryland, 98-53.

Stinson had 32 points in the win over Georgia. Aimee Sockwell had 38 in the win over Maryland.

MEAC Conducts Basketball Officiating School

Greensboro - The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference will conduct its third annual Basketball Officiating School in conjunction with Carl Tacy's Basketball Camp July 6-10 at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC.

MEAC Commissioner Ken Free said the purpose of the school is to provide an opportunity for aspiring basketball officials who want to become better collegiate officials and those who want to improve their overall skills on all levels

"The program will place empha-sis on individualized instruction, team officiating, philosophy of officiating, interpretation and apllication of the rules, techniques, and mechanics of officiating," said school director John Russell. Russell, a long-time MEAC official, was assigned to the 1996 NAIA

Championship Game and is scheduled to carry his expertise to China this summer.

Additional staff members include: **MEAC** Supervisor of Officials Lawrence Hill, and veteran MEAC Officials James Burch, Jimmy Howell, Bob Barnett, and Paul Glenn. Other nationally known officials, and outstanding coaches will serve as guest lecturers. Each registered participant will

be given a professional critique of officiating ability. Since Tacy's campers play some 150 basketball games, there is ample time to hone officiation ability. officiating skills.

The cost for residents is \$175. Non-residents' cost with meals is \$125, and without meals \$100.

Contact the MEAC office at 919-275-9961.

BATCH Moves Into First Place

BATCH's Traveling All-Stars jumped on Winston-Salem's Smokers and never let up recently.

The Traveling All-Stars took a 22-11 win and moved into first place in the Southeastern Racquet Assoc.

They are tied with Greenville. Both teams have 3-2 records. Winston-Salem has dropped into a third place tie with Greensboro. Both are 2-3.

Winning in singles for BATCH were Eric Abrams, Nelson Britt, Alan Blackwell, Frento Burton, Crawford Walker, Eric Law, Sylvester Lee, Ron Johnson, Keith Chisholm, and James Brewer

Also Aldra Greene, Brenda Slade, Wildred Mack. Devon Berry, Marcus Hart, Melvin Cithbertson, and Ritchie Cuthbertson.

Winning in doubles were Nelson Britt and Keith Chisholm, James Cuthbertson and James Brewer, Frenot Burton and Crawford

Walker, Eric Law and Melvin Carthran, and Brenda Slade and Debbie Frazier

The Stars next play an important conference match on July 12 at Greenville, S.C.

J. C. Smith Hosts

"Summer Fling"

Tennis Championship

Johnson C. Smith University Tennis Club will host its first "Summer Fling" tennis championship on July 12 and 13, at the campus' tennis stadium.

Fees are \$8 for singles and \$12 for doubles. The deadline for entry is July 10 at 6 p.m.

For more information and entry forms call Bill Madrey at 394-2356 after 6 p.m.