

# Clark Recaps AIA International Tour

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wear including NIKE running shoes and sweats, T-shirts and even vitamins which are much needed there.

After three days and two nights in Timisora, we moved on to Ura-dea, Romania. I really got a chance to feel the pulse of the city there. After meeting a young christian fellow (Emille) from a local church, he invited a couple team-mates and myself to his home. His family was very nice. They fed us all the cherries and apricots we could eat and his sister even gave us hand-made place settings that she had made. In the mean-time, we fail to realize that we had stayed out past midnight the curfew hour. So, before we left, we all prayed in his home before we began our 45-minute journey back to our hotel. On nearly every street corner stood two Militemen (policemen) and Emille told us that if we were caught we would end up in jail. It was just like being in a movie but it was reality. The economy is so bad there that they don't burn street lights at night and we couldn't see two-feet in front of us. This worked in our favor because every time we neared a guard post, we would duck down through an alley. This was one time that being Black worked to my advantage because it was so dark. As we neared the Hotel Transylvania where we stayed, a Militia Wagon sped around with flashing blue lights on top. Emille ordered us to be silent as we darted down another alley. Fortunately our guardian angels were watching over us and we were not spotted.

The next morning we had breakfast and headed for Poland. Our first stop was Krakow which

has the highest respiratory death rate in the world because of air pollution. We spent the night there and when I took a shower the next morning, I saw an extra layer of dirt leave my body.

After shopping, we hit the road again for Wroclaw, Poland. On the way, we visited Auschwitz, a former concentration camp where the Nazi's killed four million people during World War II. The morning of the meet, I was selected to represent our team at a meeting with the city authorities and athletes from seven other countries. The mayor and a local

sheriff spoke and afterwards we exchanged gifts.

Later at the competition, I jumped 7-3 again to win the Most Outstanding Performer Award while breaking another record.

On the way back to Germany, we had lunch in Praha Czechoslovakia on a Sunday.

By this time, I was having lots of fun, but I couldn't wait to get back home.

AIA sends athletic teams abroad each summer and if the Lord is willing, I will return to continue the spiritual war overseas in the future.

# Prep Chatter

With James Cuthbertson



The West Charlotte Lions won the first two Charlotte Observer Tip-Off tournaments and will return to defend its title at Belmont Abbey on November 25, 27 and 28.

West Charlotte, Olympic, Hunter Huss of Gastonia, Anson County, Lancaster, S.C., North Gaston, Bessemer City and McBee, S.C., will head the tournament.

Game times are 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m. each night. The tip off will use the three point shot adopted for boys prep basketball next season which is 19'9" from the center of the rim.

Opening pairings will have West Charlotte, who was 16-1 last year, playing Olympic, who was 5-17 at 3 p.m.

McBee (13-12) will play Bessemer City (6-16) at 5 p.m. North Gaston (15-15) will play Hunter Huss (10-14) at 7 p.m.

Anson County (13-10) will play Lancaster, S.C. (5-16) at 9 p.m.

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Top stars coming back to the football scene this fall include linebacker James Melton, who is 6-1 185, and halfback Cornwell Cater, who is 5-9 165.

South Mecklenburg has 5-11, 175 quarterback Chris White, 5-9, 175 running back, Greg Lindsey and 6-0, 265 tackle Reggie Cureton.

East Mecklenburg is loaded with 5-10, 160 flanker Anthony Sowell, 5-10, 180 defensive back Bryant Robbins, 5-9, 175 halfback Reggie Gordon, 6-0, 175 placekicker Funso Ulowafoyeku, 6-5, 295 fullback tackle Frank McKee, 6-1, 200 tight end Lamar Richardson, 5-11, 190 tight end Derrius Deese, and 6-5, 210 Tony Horton.

North Mecklenburg seeks a return to the promised land with 6-0, 155 quarterback Paul Singleton, 5-6, 145 running back Bernard Sherrill, 5-6, 140 running back Marvin Sloan, 6-1, 190 lineman Maurice Mason, 5-10, 190 linebacker Tony Graves, 5-5, 222 offensive lineman Lee Mercer, 6-0 262 center Danny Brown, and 5-9, 275 tackle Henry Pryor.

Garinger has 6-0, 180 quarterback Dale Rainey, 5-10 180 running back Vernon Grier, and 6-4, 245 tackle Tony Hinson.

Olympic has a bevy of all-stars returning in 6-1, 170 quarterback Linwood Armstrong, 5-10, 170 fullback Antonio Ellis, 5-10, 190 fullback Barrett Blue, 6-0, 195 fullback Harry King, 6-0, 180 placekicker Mike Pennington, 6-2, 280 offensive guard Calvin Colson, 6-3, 320 noseguard Cecil Perry, 6-3, 215 defensive end Mike Foesch, 6-0, 195 tight end Will Choate, 6-3, 230 offensive guard Scott Barber, 6-2, 270 offensive guard Eric Funderburk, and 6-3, 240 defensive tackle Ricky Bass. West Charlotte Lions returning include 5-10, 150 quarterback Carl Pettis, 5-7, 140 cornerback Maurice Staton, 5-11, 170 tailback Sean Brannon, 6-2, 225 tackle Antoine Rivens, 6-1, 250 tackle Rusty Faulkenberry, 6-3, 210 tight end Chris Anderson, 6-0, 215 noseguard Sergio Dawkins and 6-2, 290 noseguard George Washington.

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The Harding Rams will return 6-2, 170 wide receiver Robert Johnson, 5-10, 185 fullback Johnathan Byers, 6-1, 170 safety Darrin Kent, 6-1, 201 offensive lineman Mark Lattimore, 6-2, 215 offensive tackle Sam Pressley, 6-2, 265 lineman Darrell Gray, 5-10 outside linebacker Vincent Guy, 5-10, 165 outside linebacker Tony Rhynes and 5-8, 148 wide receiver Wendell Weather.

Independence has 6-0, 203 slotback Efrim Harrison, 5-11, 150 defensive back Kris Gresham, 6-1, 235 offensive tackle Steve Hudson, and 6-1, 298 defensive tackle Charles James.

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A veteran observer of football in the area has selected the following as the top teams in the conferences: Harding in the Tri County and Gastonia Ashbrook in the Southwestern.

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# AARON AT BAT

## Streaks and Slumps

Why is it that some teams get on a tear and for two weeks are unbeatable? Then a month later that same team loses 10 games in a row.

Why do some players burn up the league for two weeks and then go a month during which they can't seem to buy a hit at the plate or a victory on the pitcher's mound?

If I could find the answer to those questions and bottle it, I'd be a billionaire. Among today's players, Dale Murphy of the Atlanta Braves is known as a streak hitter. When he's hot, pitchers can't keep the ball in the park. I remember my old teammate Joe Adcock from the championship days of the Milwaukee Braves. When he got into a streak, nobody could get him out. You could throw him a low, outside slider and somehow he'd get it up on his bat and hit it 15 rows into the stands. Five days later, throw him that same pitch and he couldn't do anything with it.

This year, the Milwaukee Brewers got off to a super start and won a lot of ball games. Then they went the other way for a long period. That will happen with a young team. The players are relaxed at the beginning of a season when the team is going well. Then when the team is going badly, those same players put too much pressure on themselves and try to do too much.

Through the years what made the Dodgers and the Yankees such consistent clubs is that they always had that one pitcher who could go out and win a close, low-score ball game. By having a pitcher who could go into a series and win a game 1-0 or 2-1, the team was able to relax a little bit and get back on track. That kept them from getting into a deep losing streak.

I do have some personal theories about avoiding slumps. I think the problem is concentration. Some players will go along and have a good week or a good month and have no understanding of what they are doing that's working for them. Then when they get in a slump, they have nothing to fall back on. If you hit a home run on a change-up, how did you stride on that pitch? How close were you standing to the plate? You've got to know what you're doing that's right. You can't wait until you are in slump and then try and figure out what you're doing that's wrong.

These days coaches use videotapes, and it really helps picking out a batter's problems at the plate or spotting if a pitcher is releasing the ball wrong. But looking at a picture cannot replace knowing yourself. ■

Hank Aaron is the top home run hitter of all time with 755 homers. A member of baseball's Hall of Fame, Hank is vice president of the Atlanta Braves.

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