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Post Sports Writer

Some Accolades From The CIAA's SID Of The Year

On being recently honored as the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Sports Information Director of the Year for 1988-89 in my capacity at Johnson C. Smith University as the assistant sports information director in charge of football, basketball and spring sports operations, I would like to accept this award and thank those who helped make it possible. No man is an island and I have been fortunate to be surrounded by calm and peaceful waters full of life and vitality.

At the two local 4A tournaments held at historic Brayboy Gymnasium on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University, the girls of West Mecklenburg and Hunter Huss and the boys of West Charlotte and Hunter Huss emerged as the winners.

Comments heard during the tournament:

"We really enjoyed playing at Brayboy Gymnasium," said Charlotte-Mecklenburg athletic director Dave Harris. "The people are so accommodating and so nice."

"We enjoyed hosting the Southwestern 4A and Tri County 4A tournaments," said head basketball coach Steve Joyner. "We hope that they will return."

Sounds like a nice, amicable relationship between the two entities.

Congratulations to all those young players who made All Tournament.

Southwestern 4A Boys

Shawn Smith, Hunter Huss, Most Valuable Player; Rodney Floyd, Hunter Huss; Kevin Armstrong, Hunter Huss; Marlon Stewart, Garinger; Keith Ison, Garinger.

Southwestern 4A Girls

Robin Williams, Hunter Huss, Most Valuable Player; Becky Dayvault, Myers Park; Melanie Trexler, Myers Park; Chris Byers, Hunter Huss; Kelly Fields, East Mecklenburg.

Tri County 4A Boys

Junior Burroughs, West Charlotte; Vodrick Bess, North Mecklenburg; Derrick Brewer, North Mecklenburg; Steve Rivers, West Charlotte; Harvey Petty, Crest.

Tri County 4A Girls

Seleta Moore, West Mecklenburg, Most Valuable Player; Djuna Miller, Crest; Jill Hensley, Crest; Felicia Butler, Olympic; Tina Tucker, West Mecklenburg; Calondra Dooley, West Mecklenburg.

Here's wishing success to new Garinger football coach James Teague of Eastern Alamance High School. Teague comes to us from the Mid-South 3A Conference and his teams were 5-5 and 4-6 in his last two seasons. He was the coach there for four years.

Teague has his work cut out for him at Garinger where the Wildcats were 0-10 last year. He replaces Ken Lowrance.

The Wildcats' last winning season was in 1984 when they were 10-3 and advanced to the third round of the state playoffs before losing.

The Charlotte Independent Schools Athletic Association all conference team consists of Jennifer Deckleman, Melinda Nichols and Jean Roddy of Charlotte Country Day; Kristin Coke and Jennifer Reeder of Charlotte Christian; Beth Anderson, Missy Plott and Kim Thompson of Charlotte Latin; and Heather McKaig and Amy Carver of Providence Day.

Smith Women Cap Best Year Yet

The Johnson C. Smith women's basketball team won 14 of its last 15 games before bowing to Shaw University, 83-69, in the CIAA Tournament Championship Game. The Bulls finished the 1989-90 campaign with an impressive 20-9 mark, including 8-2 in the CIAA Southern Division. Overall in CIAA action, the

team was 12-5.

Making the All-CIAA Tournament team were Kim Brewington, Atonlea Sanford and Angela Hamilton. Second year coach Hythia Evans-Liebert, disappointed in the final game still said, "We are happy with the progress our girls made as the season progressed."



Smith's Kim Brewington (middle) led the Bulls to a runner-up spot.

One Hurdle To U.S. Win

By HERB WHITE
Post Sports Editor

Rory Maxwell loved running, but not hurdling. Nor did he like indoor track meets. Now the Garinger senior loves both and is on the verge of being a national champion to boot.

Maxwell, the N.C. champion in the 55 meters hurdles, will be in the National Scholastic Indoor Championships in Annapolis, Md. this weekend. His accomplishments this year are more surprising considering Maxwell had to be talked into hurdling last year.

Maxwell's original plan was to run indoors to get ready for outdoor meets, and this winter's success has capped a memorable run to the top.

"I really ran indoors to prepare for the outdoor season," he said. "But now that I'm here, I'm going for it."

Nate Glenn, Maxwell's coach, persuaded the 17-year-old to give the hurdles a try a year ago, and the results were mixed. That was the incentive Maxwell needed to improve this year.

"My junior year, I was okay, but I wanted to be better," he said. "So I set a goal to be the best high school hurdler my senior year."

Maxwell accomplished that goal, blazing to a 3-0 mark during the indoor season and capped it with the state title in Chapel Hill. He also set a personal best with a time of 7.2 at a meet in Blacksburg, Va., three-

tenths of a second better than the qualifying time for the national meet.

The difference in Maxwell this year is confidence. Gone are the days of apprehension for a former sprinter who was uncomfortable with a new event.

"I've matured more," he said. "I didn't want to run hurdles, but coach made me realize I could do it."

Hurdling requires more physical preparation than sprints, which makes the 55 meters more of a challenge, Maxwell said.

"It takes quite a bit more work than sprints," he said. "You have to prepare yourself before you run and you have to think you're the best before you get in the blocks."

Since the state finals, Maxwell has been preparing for the Annapolis meet, which will be held at the U.S. Naval Academy.

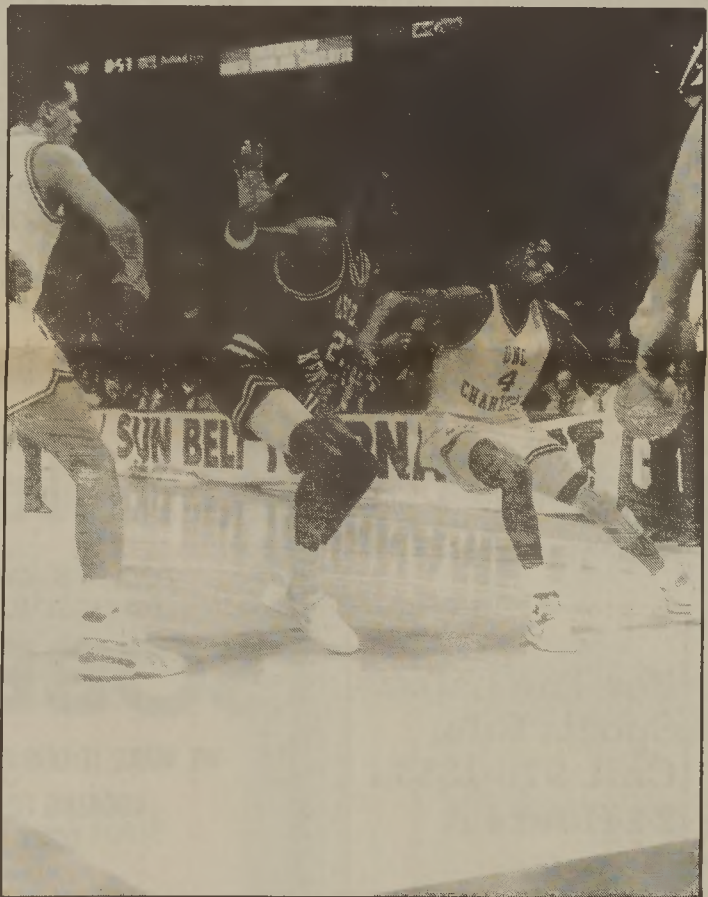
"I'm ready. I've been exercising and eating all the right foods," he said. "Other than my schoolwork, I've been blocking everything else out."

Colleges are taking note of Maxwell's exploits, with Tennessee, S.C. State and N.C. State making contact with him. The notoriety is good, Maxwell said, but there is more work to do.

"I don't think I've reached my peak. Right now, I want to win the nationals," he said.



Garinger's Rory Maxwell will participate in the National Scholastic Indoor Championships in Annapolis, Md. this weekend.



UNC Charlotte's Byron Dinkins (4) drives around Western Kentucky's Brett McNeal in the 49ers' loss to the Hilltoppers in the Homelite Sun Belt basketball tournament at the Charlotte Coliseum. Even with the loss, UNCC (17-11) is still in consideration for a berth in the National Invitational Tournament.

Tripucka Enjoying New Lease On Life

CHARLOTTE - For the previous two seasons, Kelly Tripucka was languishing on the bench of the Utah Jazz, not certain if he would ever again play the role of a starter and scorer that he had become accustomed in his first five NBA seasons with the Detroit Pistons.

He had been traded to Utah for Adrian Dantley prior to the 1986-87 season, when his average of 32.4 minutes and 20.0 points fell sharply to 23.6 minutes and 10.1 points. Both numbers continued to dwindle the following season as Tripucka appeared in only 49 games.

But on June 23, 1988, Tripucka got the chance he had been waiting for. On that date, the day of the expansion draft, the Hornets and Vice President and General Manager Carl Scheer traded Mike Brown, selected from the Chicago Bulls, to Utah for Tripucka, a move that was hailed as one that would help make the Hornets competitive in their charter season.

Tripucka responded, climbing back among the NBA leaders in scoring, averaging 23.0 points and 33.1 minutes per game.

"Kelly's performance this season is exactly what we envisioned when we traded for him," said Scheer. "Our confidence in his abilities has paid off for the Hornets, our fans and for Kelly himself. He has displayed tremendous poise in regaining the confidence he had in his own game while at Detroit."

Along with his veteran leadership skills, Tripucka has provided the following to the Hornets' unexpected inaugural season success:

- has led them in scoring in 33 of his 51 games to date,
- has scored in double figures in 49 of his 51 games to date,
- has scored over 20 points 17 times, over 30 points 13 times and 40 points 3 times,
- among NBA leaders in free throw shooting at 86.4 percent,
- among NBA leaders in three-point shooting at 38.7 percent, including seven straight and

• has scored more points after 51 games this season than in last two seasons at Utah combined.

Tripucka averaged just 8.8 points per game over his two-year stint at Utah, suffering a career low of 7.5 points last season. Struggling with his shot early in training camp, Tripucka regained his form when the regular season began.

"There is no secret why I'm having a good year. I'm simply getting more playing time," Tripucka said. "I'm like an old TV show that played for five years, went off the air and is now back for reruns."

Prior to the March 2 game at New Jersey, Tripucka needed just 63 points to reach the milestone of 10,000 career points, a goal that perhaps seemed unattainable during the previous two seasons.

"He's played well, maybe even better overall than he did at Detroit," said Hornets coach Dick Harter, who was an assistant at Detroit during two of Tripucka's five years with the Pistons. "Kelly is the epitome of the NBA player. You can go to him when you need points or boards."

Harter isn't the only coach in the NBA exploiting the praises of Tripucka's comeback season. Following is a sample of what other coaches and players are saying about him:

Milwaukee Bucks head coach Del Harris - "I can't think of anyone who deserves Most Improved Player more than Tripucka. One of the best things about Tripucka is that he is not coming back from drugs, but that he is coming back from just not getting the playing time."

Sacramento Kings forward Wayman Tisdale - Kelly is a great player. I thought he should have been playing all along. I always thought he was great when I was in college. Now that I'm playing against him (while at Indiana), I know he is great. He is virtually impossible to stop on offense."

Tennis Ratings Sessions To Be Held By City

Rating sessions for tennis will be held Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Charlotte Parks and Recreation Department's York Road Renaissance Park Tennis Complex, 1520 Tyvola Road. The rating session will be held in preparation for 1989 league competition. All league players must have a USTA (United States Tennis Association) rating to participate.

Persons wishing to be rated should call Brenda Gunsallus at 523-2862 to schedule an appointment.

The Charlotte Parks and Recreation Department will be sponsoring the national USTA Volvo Tennis League at York Road Renaissance Park Tennis Complex on weekends beginning April 1.

Men's and women's leagues, made up of eight individuals with the same USTA rating (ranging from 3.0 to 5.0) will compete.

Names of individuals who do not currently participate in league play, but are interested in joining, will be distributed at a meeting of team captains to be held March 9 at 7 p.m. at the Tennis Complex.

"We are happy with the progress our girls made as the season progressed."

--J.C. Smith women's basketball coach Hythia Evans-Liebert

Coach Liebert summed up the impressive season by adding, "We set several records this season and we consider it a success. We went to the finals which was a first for Johnson C. Smith University." Despite losing several key players to graduation, the Bulls are expected to field another strong team next season.

Rangers Manager Is Retained For 1989 Season

The Gastonia Rangers manager for the 1989 season will be paying a visit to North Carolina. Orlando Gomez will return for his second season as manager for the Class A team.

Gomez managed Gastonia in 1988 when the Rangers finished with an overall record of 47-90. Gomez has a career record of 392-506, for a .440 winning percentage. In addition to managing in the Texas farm system, he has also managed for Oakland and Cleveland at the minor

league level.

Gomez was originally drafted by the New York Yankees and played professionally from 1964 through 1976.

Gastonia officials are also expecting Marty Scott, director of player development, or a representative of the Texas Rangers to be present. Several local dignitaries will also be in attendance.