

# AARON AT BAT

## An Important Step

The naming of Bill White as the new National League president is a historic moment in baseball history right on line with the day Jackie Robinson signed a contract with the Dodgers. As someone who has been very much involved with trying to create new opportunities for minorities in baseball management, I am very excited about Bill's achievement.

I've known and admired Bill for many years. There's only about a week's difference in our ages. He broke in with the old New York Giants in 1956, two years after my rookie year with the Braves. Most of his career was spent with the St. Louis Cardinals and the Philadelphia Phillies as a first baseman.

During his playing days, he was a good competitor who was always doing something at bat or in the field that would win games for his team. While he wasn't thought of as a slugger, he always seemed to end the season with 20 or more home runs. Most years his average was around the .300 mark, and his reputation for clutch hitting was earned by a series of seasons during which he batted in more than 100 runs.

If you had to pick one word to describe Bill White the baseball player, it would be "solid." He was the type of player a manager loves to have as the keystone of his team.

Since his playing days ended, Bill has remained involved with baseball as a broadcaster of the New York Yankees' games.

As president of the National League, Bill will have major responsibilities, including everything from disciplining players, managers and owners who step out of line to the supervision of umpires.

It is my hope that Bill's appointment will be the beginning of new opportunities for minorities in the front office as well as the coaching and managing ranks. I emphasize the word "beginning," for the attitude should not be "we've done it now and that's as far as we need to go." The owners of individual baseball teams should see this as a signal that qualified minorities deserve a chance to prove their value in management.

Beyond that, other sports should see this as an example that should be followed. Professional football, for example, is one sport where the opportunities for minorities after their playing days are over have been very limited. **ll**

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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## Charlotte Hornets Ready For Lottery

All across America, lottery fever is getting contagious. State lotteries with huge prizes hold the promise of riches for a fortunate few individuals.

But the stakes will be just as high this Sunday when the National Basketball Association holds its fifth annual Draft Lottery and, with the luck of the draw, the winners could be Hornets fans throughout the Carolinas. At halftime of this Sunday's televised Eastern Conference playoff game on CBS, NBA Commissioner David Stern will conduct the lottery which will determine the order of selection for the first nine teams in the June 27 NBA Draft.

Representing the Hornets will be Vice President and General Manager Carl Scheer. Hornets owner George Shinn was originally scheduled as the team's representative but is unavailable because of a scheduling conflict.

"The odds are one-in-nine that we will be fortunate enough to get the No. 1 pick in the draft," said Scheer. "For the nine non-playoff teams, it's strictly luck, but we do have one remarkable good luck charm in George Shinn."

The draft lottery drawing will begin at approximately 2 p.m. at the Equitable Center in New York City. Cards bearing the logos of the nine teams involved will be placed in sealed envelopes and mixed in a transparent barrel. The first six envelopes drawn will represent picks four through nine and the cards will be arranged in inverse order

## J.C. Smith Signs Two Recruits

Johnson C. Smith has signed Shawn Jackson and William Settle to basketball scholarships.

Jackson, a 6-6, 185-pound forward from East Orange, N.J., was a second team all-New Jersey selection who scored 19 points and pulled down 13 rebounds per game for East Orange High.

Settle, a 6-2, 157-pound guard from Waldorf, Md., was an all-county selection and was nominated for the McDonald's all-American team. He averaged 15 points and four assists per game in addition to hauling down three rebounds a game for Thomas Stone High.

of the team's regular season record.

The next three envelopes drawn will represent picks three, two and one, in that order. The Hornets are guaranteed to select no worse than fifth, based on the regular season record, should they not be selected in the top three.

"Based on our record and the fact that we need top quality players to continue this franchise on the course for success, it's unfortunate that we are not guaranteed a selection in the first or second positions," said Scheer. "However, even if we pick as low as fifth, we will still be in a position to help ourselves greatly."

A consensus of top nine draft prospects include 6-1 guard Mookie Blaylock from Oklahoma, 6-8 swingman Sean Elliott from Arizona, 6-9 center Pervis Ellison from Louisville, 6-10 forward Danny Ferry from Duke, 6-9 forward Tom Hammonds from Georgia Tech, 6-11 center Stacey King from Oklahoma, 6-4 guard Todd Lichti from Stanford and 6-6 guard George McCloud from Florida State, 6-7 forward Glen Rice from Michigan and 6-8 forward Randy White from Louisiana State. University of North Carolina junior J.R. Reid, who declared his eligibility last week, will also likely surface on terms wish lists as the count-down to the draft continues.

The NBA draft will be held June 27 beginning at 7:30 p.m. and will be televised nationally by WTBS.

## Hoop Tourney Deadline Is Extended

The entry deadline to the Primetime three-on-three tournament has been extended to May 19.

The double elimination tournament, to be played Saturday and Sunday at Eastland Mall, guarantees each team at least three games.

Registration is \$60 per team, \$50 if all team members are under 18 years of age. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Charlotte Parks and Recreation Department.

Forms can be obtained at all Charlotte Parks and Recreation centers, Mr. Sport, Men's Name Brand Shoes, Harris Teeter, and Athletic Clothing and Shoe Supermarkets.

## Bailey To Speak

ORANGEBURG, SC - Edwin Bailey, a former All-American at South Carolina State and a seven-year starting offensive lineman with the Seattle Seahawks, will be the speaker Friday at the Branchville High School Athletic Awards Banquet, beginning at 7 p.m. at the school gymnasium.

Varsity and junior varsity athletes in eight sports, including cheerleading, will be presented awards for outstanding achievement during the 1988-89 scholastic season.

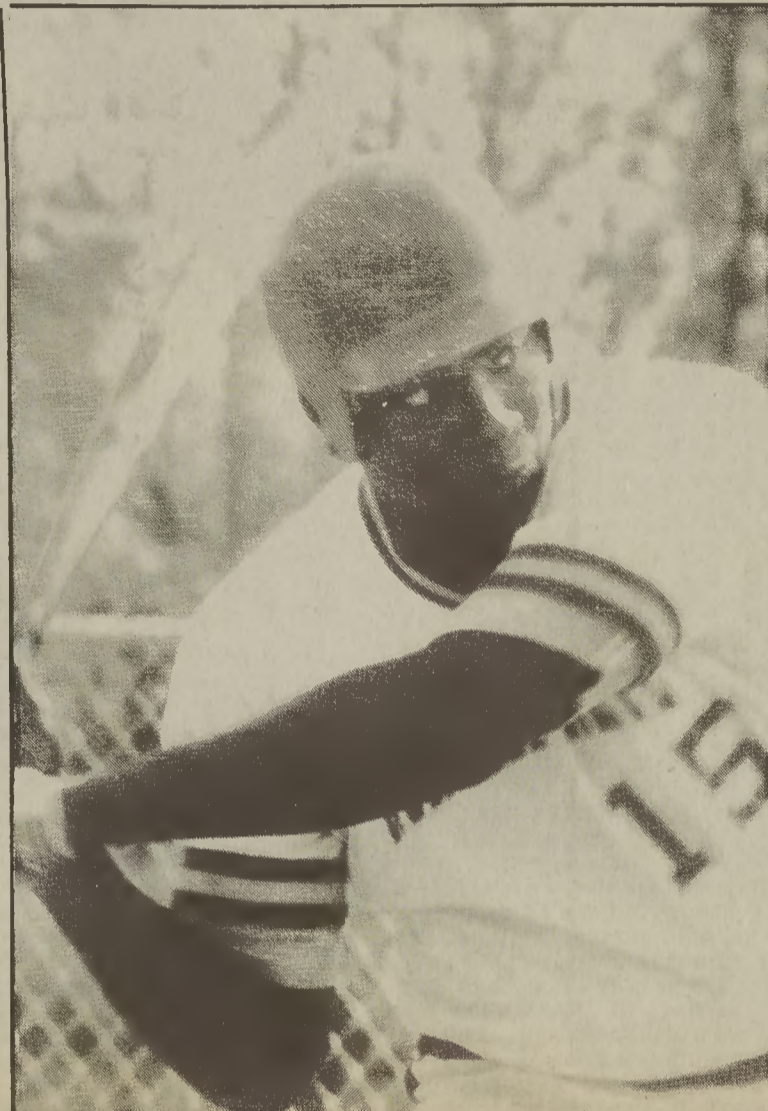
The affair, which begins with dinner, is opened to the public at a cost of \$5, according to a school spokesman. Bailey was the Seahawks' fifth round draft choice in 1981 and became an immediate starter for Seattle, a participant in last season's NFL

playoffs. He started all 16 Seahawk games last year and has started 90 of 190 games the last eight seasons.

His 109 career games with Seattle is the most games played by a Seahawk lineman and, his 90 starts equal the club record for an offensive lineman.

Bailey, during an illustrious career at S.C. State, earned All-America honors as a junior and senior by the Mutual Black Network and American Football Coaches Association, respectively. He also garnered All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference honors three times while playing for the Bulldogs.

Bailey, a Savannah, GA, native, now resides in Augusta during the off season.



Norfolk State's Melvin Wearing is batting .482 for the Spartans.

## Norfolk State Star Is Still Wearing Out Opponents

NORFOLK, VA - Melvin Wearing, a West Haven, Conn., product, is ranked among the top hitters in the nation for the second straight season. This year, in leading Norfolk State's baseball Spartans to their third successful CIAA championship, Wearing is hitting an impressive .482 with 17 home runs and 64 RBIs.

Not only is Wearing a candidate for NCAA Division II All-America honors, but he is also getting strong consideration for Player of the Year honors in the Division II ranks.

The 6-3, 230-pound junior, highly regarded by the pro baseball scouts and a likely high draft in this year's pro draft of baseball talent, played high school baseball and football at West Haven High School.

In leading the 28-10 Spartans, the nation's No. 20-ranked team

in NCAA Division II, to its 12th league title in 17 years, Wearing was named to the all-conference team for the second straight season was named the CIAA's Player of the Year again (he was also as the top player in 1988).

Wearing's banner season follows up a .497, 13 home run and 65 RBI year in '88. Recruited originally as a football player out of West Haven High School by Norfolk State, he gave up football after his freshman year to concentrate solely on baseball.

After a winter of hard work on his defensive play at first base, Wearing is now an accomplished performer around first base. This year, he handled 289 chances in the field, made 266 put-outs, 14 assists and just nine errors for a fielding percentage of .968.

## NYSP At JCSU This Summer

The National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), sponsored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Office of Community Services, will be held on the Johnson C. Smith University campus, June 12 - July 19.

The program provides area youngsters with sports training, athletic competition and exposure to the benefits of higher education. Benefits include a health examination (required), a daily meal furnished by the USDA, health education and counseling in study and career opportunities. Activities include volleyball, basketball, track and field, modern dance, lifetime sports, softball, gymnastics, swimming and cultural enrichment.

The NYSP is held daily (M-F) from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Forms are available for pre-registration from the JCSU athletic offices beginning June 1. Registration, including medical exams, will be held from 8 p.m. to noon June 10, at Brayboy Gymnasium. There is no fee for the program.

For more information, contact JCSU Athletic Director Horace Small, or Activity Director Steve Joyner, at 378-1072 or 1073; or, 378-1206 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

## Triple County Schedule

Sat., May 30	Where They Play
Clover Hornets at Q.C. Rangers	Morris Field
Westside Eagles at Hoskins Giants	Hoskins
Norwood Pirates at Charlotte Bombers	Northwest Jr. HI
Charlotte Trojans at Rock Hill O's	Rock Hill
Charlotte Red Birds at Lincolnton Twins	Newton
Sun., May 31	Where They Play
Q.C. Rangers at Westside Eagles	Dixie
Hoskins Giants at Norwood Pirates	Norwood
Charlotte Bombers at Charlotte Trojans	J.T. Williams
Rock Hill O's at Lincolnton Twins	Newton
Clover Hornets at Charlotte Red Birds	Spaugh Jr. High

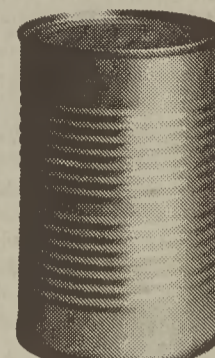
All Games Are Doubleheaders and Begin at 2 p.m.

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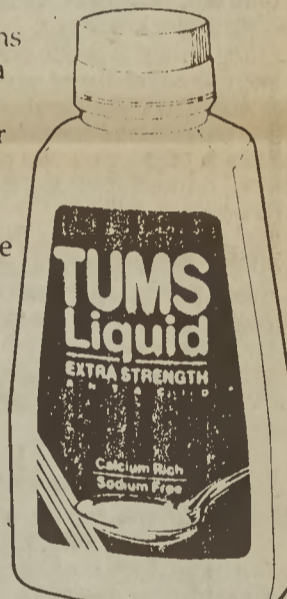
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