

Whom Will The Hornets Draft?

By HERB WHITE
Post Sports Editor

The Charlotte Hornets have an interesting dilemma going into Tuesday's NBA draft. The selection of college players isn't imposing, but there are plenty of good ones available. When the Hornets exercise the fifth pick, they will have some perplexing questions to answer.

- Will they take the best athlete available, regardless of position?
- How about the guy with local ties, a sure-fire way to heighten fan interest?
- Is it best to pick a big man who is a tough defender, a prolific scorer or a combination of the two?

A possible answer to those riddles is J.R. Reid, a 6-9 256-pound forward from North Carolina. Although Charlotte's front-office people won't say publicly what the Hornets will do, it is no secret that owner George Shinn likes local talent, especially of Reid's caliber. Sidney Lowe of N.C. State and Muggsy Bogues of Wake Forest are former ACC players currently on the roster.

Charlotte has pressing needs going into this year's draft, mostly on the front line. The Hornets' best young prospect is Brian Rowsom, a 6-10 power forward, but Charlotte is looking toward the future while beefing up its inside game. The current big men are not considered consistent offensive threats and only 6-11 Greg Kite likes mixing it up in the middle.

The first pick is a foregone conclusion to most observers. Duke's Danny Ferry will go to Sacramento and the L.A. Clippers will take Sean Elliott of Arizona, although there's a possibility of the order reversing. Louisville's Pervis Ellison and Michigan's Glen Rice, the hero of last year's NCAA tournament, will go next, leaving the Hornets and a decision.

Reid has all the tools to be an impact player. First there's his size and strength, major factors to being a successful NBA player. He is sound fundamentally, the result of three years under Dean Smith. But perhaps most important is the fact that Reid won't face a zone in the pros, which should allow him to maneuver easier around the basket. If he develops a consistent jumper out to 15 feet, he has the potential to be the dominating force everyone expected him to be in college.

Also likely to be available to Charlotte will be Oklahoma center Stacey King and Louisiana Tech forward Randy White. King has superior offensive credentials but some observers consider him a soft touch on defense. Still, he could give the Hornets a boost on offense.

White is considered a raw talent who runs the floor well, is physical and can hit the three-point shot. The 6-8, 240-pounder often draws comparisons with another Louisiana Tech star, Karl Malone, who now plays for Utah.

The Hornets are hoping for more success from its second-round pick than last year, when Tom Tolbert played 14 games before being cut in December. Charlotte reportedly is leaning towards getting a point guard and there are at least six who can give the Hornets solid playmaking: Mookie Blaylock (Oklahoma); B.J. Armstrong (Iowa); Dana Barros (Boston College); Sherman Douglas (Syracuse); Tim Hardaway (Texas-El Paso) and Pooh Richardson (UCLA).

Rating The Draft's Top Prospects

Charlotte Hornets director of player personnel Gene Littles rated scores of players who are eligible for Tuesday's NBA draft. Here are his impressions of the cream of the crop, the experts' "lottery picks."

Sean Elliott, 6-8, 198 forward, Arizona: "Could be first pick...multi-talented...can play three different positions...could have immediate impact on a team."

Pervis Ellison, 6-9, 210 center, Louisville: "Most legitimate shot-blocker draft."

Danny Ferry, 6-10, 240 forward, Duke: "Could be first pick in draft, has all skills and is a great passer. One of the smartest players."

Stacey King, 6-10, 240 center-forward, Oklahoma: "Could go 3-7 in the draft, can score off the block, similar style to Waymon Tisdale."

Glen Rice, 6-7, 210 guard, Michigan: "Multi-talented...can shoot and score very well."

J.R. Reid, 6-9, 255 forward, North Carolina: "Can be legitimate center, can score inside and rebound well...runs floor well."

Randy White, 6-8, 240 forward, Louisiana Tech: "Can play small and power forward...runs floor well...can shoot the three-pointer."



James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

Sabres Make It To The Top Of The Class

Let's Go Sabres. The South Mecklenburg Sabres brought another championship trophy to Charlotte when they went to Wilson Hunt and became the second straight Charlotte team to win the state 4A baseball title. Harding won in 1988.

As a result of the win, the Sabres vaulted to number thirteen on the Super 25 USA Today High School Baseball Rankings Chart. It was their first appearance.

Splitting the first two games of the series winning 7-2 and losing 7-6, the team was led by Mac White who pitched a four hitter for his fourth victory of the season striking out nine batters in the process and hitting five for nine with four runs batted in. Billy Crawford was six for nine with four runs batted in and winning pitcher in the opening game and Davin Juckett was six for twelve with six runs batted in. The Sabres ended the season with a 27-3 record.

There were other heroes. Mike Tanksley moved Crawford to third in the bottom of the third inning on a double and Andy Griffin sacrifice to tie the score at 1-1. Then White singled Tanksley home, reached second on an error and stole third. He increased the score to 3-1 when he scored on an error. The Sabres were never contested again.

Mac White reigns this year as the Charlotte Post's Mr. BASEBALL. Congratulations on your outstanding season and a job well done, bringing a state title to South Mecklenburg High School. Through the first six innings of the championship game, White had given up only two hits and the Sabres were comfortably ahead by a 9-1 margin in the game at Fleming Stadium in Wilson.

Fifteen individuals received Distinguished Service awards from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association at the 1989 NCHSAA Annual Meeting.

The event, which was part of the association's 75th Anniversary was held in Bowles Hall in the Koury Natatorium on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In this fourth year of the awards designed to honor those who have excelled in their work with and support of high school athletics, the recipients are Lee Stone of Asheboro, Bill Eutsler of Rockingham County, Doris Howard of Fayetteville, Bill Sweel of Swansboro, Bill Lundy of Rocky Mount, Bo Farley of Greenville, Mary Garber of Winston-Salem, Amos Sexton of Ruston, Louisiana and Carroll King of North Fort Myers, Florida.

Posthumous awards were presented to members of the families of W. T. Armstrong of Rocky Mount, D. T. Carter of Fayetteville, Frank Mock of Kinston, Bill Ludwig of Salisbury, Hank Madden of Charlotte and Tom Cash of Winston-Salem.

The Sport psych Workshops 1989 national Program will include a stop in Charlotte on July 29 at the Marriott City Center on West Trade Street.

The workshops are being conducted by the Mental Skills Training Consultants and are one-day events which will provide "hands on" experiences and will touch on a number of different topics. Coaches, administrators, parents, athletes age 15 and older, counselors and others might find the workshop very useful.

Members of the Mental Skills training Consultants faculty have Ph. D's in sports psychology and extensive applied experience including competing, coaching and working with a variety of teams at various levels.

Dr. Andy Andersen, himself a former coach as well as a former all-American swimmer at Indiana University, is director of Mental Skills training Consultants and has sent material to each high school in the state relative to this offering. You can get more information by writing to Dr. Andersen, Mental Skills Training Consultants, Box 891, St. Charles, IL 60174.

Several Charlotte area administrators and coaches are active on the state high school level with committees of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Dave Harris works with the committee to study Realignment Process. They always handle a tough job with expertise.

George Litton of Crest is on the Committee to study Make-up and Selection Process of the Board of Directors.

And Ray Barger of Olympic is on the Committee to study Football Issues. Also serving on that committee are Bob Patton of North Gaston, Jim Taylor of Shelby, Ron Green of Burns, and Mike Stewart of Crest.



Photo/CALVIN FERUSON

Ron Ferguson of the Charlotte Bombers uncorks a pitch as shortstop Reggie Latta (1) moves into position in a game against Clover.

Rangers Have Bad Baseball Weekend

By BOB JOHNSON
Post Sports Writer

For the Queen City Rangers, last weekend was a weekend to forget. On Saturday, the Rangers tried to get revenge on the Bombers 14-5 straining on April 30th. The Bombers sent Melvin Latta and the Rangers dispatched Joe Barman to do the pitching. A pitcher's duel was expected but a slugfest occurred. As the Bombers defeated the Rangers 21-10. Rangers' pitcher Joel Barman (2-1) took his first defeat since joining the Triple County League and his first defeat since June 14th, 1987. One former teammate of Barman's said the trick to beating Barman is to get to him by the third inning, and the Bombers did just that; hitting him early and often. However, stop-

ping the Bombers was not an easy task. After Barman's exit, the Bombers continued to pound the Rangers and capitalized on six Ranger errors resulting in an explosive nine run third inning. Bombers' pitcher Melvin Latta was knocked out of the game early, also, but Lafayette Currence came in and silenced the Rangers' bats and picked up the victory.

The Bombers were led at the plate by James Young with a homerun and two singles, and Larry Dye with three singles. The eleven hits, twenty-one run attack boasted the Bombers record to 15 wins with 2 set backs, while the Rangers dropped to 12 and 5.

Bombers 429004110 2116
Rangers 223030000 10126

Just when they thought it

couldn't get any worse, the Rangers suffered yet another blow out at the hands of the Hoskins Giants, 22-5.

Hoskins starting pitcher, Gene Raley was the winner and Ray Hughes picked up the save pitching the final three innings.

The Giants started early battering Rangers starter Bill "Chilli" Davis (3-3) for eleven runs in the first inning. They sent fifteen men to the plate. Once again the Rangers' problems were errors. They committed nine and the Giants capitalized on all of them.

The Rangers' record is now 12-6. However, "It's still not over," says Ranger manager Wayne Brown. "We must get ready for the Red Birds next weekend, and the rest of the season."

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The Charlotte Bombers edged the Clover Hornets, 8-7, Sunday in what was a grueling contest. The Bombers saw a 6-1 lead disappear as Clover fought back to take a 7-6 lead in the 7th inning. The Bombers tied the game in the eighth.

They won it in the bottom of the tenth when James Weeks led off with a triple and scored on a single by Gary Barber.

James Weeks belted a single and two triples, and Melvin Latta blasted a solo homer to lead the Bombers offensive attack. Reggie Latta and Charles Latta, Jr. played terrific defense in the latter innings. Ron Alexander was the winning pitcher.

Hornets 001031200 0-7121
Bombers 032100010 1-8151

World-Class Swimmers To Gather For Charlotte Meet

World-class swimmers, including Fort Mill, SC, Olympian Melvin Stewart, will compete in Charlotte UltraSwim his weekend, a meet that has grown to become one of the country's top amateur summer invitationals.

"The meet has emerged and broken through to become one of the elite invitational meets of the past couple of years," said Dennis Pursley, National Team Director of United States Swimming. "This year it promises to be just as good, if not better."

Hosted by the Mecklenburg Aquatic Club (MAC), the meet this year took a giant leap forward with a four-year sponsorship commitment from UltraSwim, a multi-product line of merchandise for swimmers.

That commitment leads up to the 1992 Olympics. In addition, WTBS will televise portions of the meet at Revolution Park nationally on a tape-delay basis.

Jeff Gaeckle, MAC head coach, said this year's event rivals the 1988 meet (known then as the Pepsi Open) when 24 members of the 1988 Olympic team competed in what was a preface to the Olympic Trials.

"This year we will have more than 20 Olympians from all over the world," said Gaeckle.

Stewart, a member of the 1988 U. S. Olympic Team and a Gold Medalist in the 1986 Goodwill Games in the 200-meter butterfly, now swims for the University of Tennessee, where as a freshman last year he set a record by

entering 13 events in the NCAA Championships. He also captured first-place in the 200-yard butterfly for his first NCAA Championship.

Joining Stewart will be Dave Wharton, 1988 Silver Medalist in the 400-meter individual medley; four-time Olympian Jill Sterkel, the 1988 Gold Medalist in the 50-meter breaststroke.

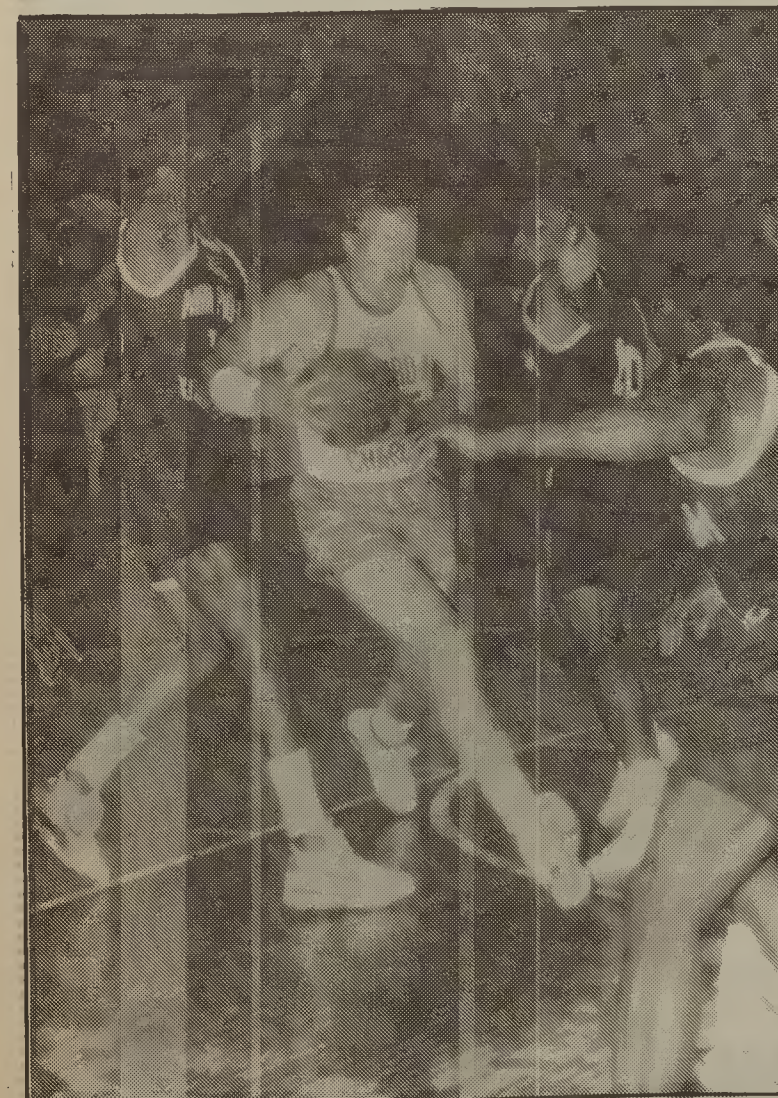
Pursley said the swimmers will use the Charlotte UltraSwim to prepare for the national championships and the national team trials July 21-Aug. 4 at the University of Southern California. Members of the national team will also compete in the Pan-Pacific Games in Tokyo Aug. 17-20, and then in a dual meet Aug. 24-26 in Atlanta be-

tween the United States and the Soviet Union.

Pursley added that while the Olympics are three years away, meets such as UltraSwim are very important in assembling and training the best talent.

"United States Swimming plans to do things differently this year in terms of changing our basic philosophy on approaching the Olympic Games," he said.

Preliminary competition begins at 9 a.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday with finals set for 5:30 p.m. On Thursday, timed finals for the 800-meter freestyle and the 200-meter medley relay begin at 4 p.m. Admission is free all four days.



Photo/CALVIN FERUSON

Tim Kempton of Damon's drives the ball into the basket in the NBA Pro-Am last weekend at Johnson C. Smith.