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Post Sports Writer

A Day In The Life Of NBA Pro-Am

Once confined to the winner, Naismith's sport of basketball is now a year round thing for the professionals, the collegians and the amateurs.

Brayboy Gymnasium is an imposing structure nestled in the wooded south campus area of Johnson C. Smith University and has been home to several outstanding Golden Bull victories.

During the summer, it used to be deserted and looked like a lonely person in search of friends.

Thanks to the NBA Pro-Am League organized by Bill Shelton, its summers are now filled with the exciting sound of bouncing basketballs.

The activity begins at 1:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and lasts until 9 p.m.

In the center of the gym, a red and white sing with a Coke insignia and white stripes served as the host for the event, "Welcome NBA fans."

Dressed in maroon and white, Phillip Morris, one of the league's best teams and led by Charlotte superstar collegians Dante Johnson, Eric Boyd, Jeff Ervin and Byron Dinkins, were playing a black and white-clad Spartanburg team led by Charlotte superstar collegians Keith Greene and Donald Simmons.

Coaching the black and white team was Johnson C. Smith University Ed "Buc" Joyner.

This game was typical of most of the games to be played in the gym this summer.

With 2:14 left in the third quarter, the score was tied 65 all.

Buc was watching the clock and pacing nervously as his team went ahead 71-67. Keith Greene, the turnaround jumper put Spartanburg up.

Greene got called for a charge, attempting to make another basket.

"The referee looks like Stevie Wonder," said coach Buc.

With the nip and tuck game winding down, his team behind 88-85, coach "Buc" gave some instructions to his team and with a few hand claps sent his troubadours back on the court for the battle.

It's basketball at its best. It is pure excitement at the NBA Pro-Am Summer Basketball League in historic Brayboy.

Ahead by three at the 4:20 second mark, Dinkins drove the lane and drew a foul.

The first free throw was good.

"Hit it Dink (Dinkins)."

"That's it."

Dinkins sank the second free throw.

Raymond Lawson hit a basket with 3:18 left to pull Spartanburg to within three at 90-87.

Donald Simmons hit two with 1:49 left to put Spartanburg, who had fought back from a deficit, to a 93-90 lead. It lasted eight seconds as Boyd came down and pumped in a three pointer to tie the score at 93-93 with 1:41 left.

Boyd hit a two pointer at 1:09 and put Phillip Morris up by a 95-93 mark.

Lawson tied the score at 95 all with 55 seconds left.

Dinkins missed on drive and Smith rebounded.

Thirty-one seconds left!

"You don't want to give up a three pointer. It's thirty one seconds left. You want to play good, tough and hard defense. All we need is a two pointer. Take it inside. No fouls. Understand what we are talking about - defense."

Those encouraging words came from Coach Buc.

Johnson laid it in to make it 97-95 as Spartanburg prepared for the final shot.

Coach Joyner did not like the way the team was responding to the setup by point guard Jimmy Brown and Coach Buc summoned them to the bench.

An errant pass and the Maroon Phillip Morris team was headed down the court with a two point lead.

Take your lottery ticket.

Three points or two.

Maroon or Black.

It had come down to this. Someone had to win.

A foul and Boyd went to the line.

Seven seconds left. Boyd made the first one. It was 98-95.

The announcer gave play by play. "The second shot was no good."

"Coach Buc, we still have a chance to win."

The team with the lead in the later stages of the game is usually the first one back on the court and so it was with the Maroon.

This would go down to the last shot.

Could the Black win it?

Would the Maroon prevail?

Lawson took the three pointer and missed. A tip in went in for the final 98-97 score. Spartanburg needed a three. They got a two.

I was EXCITING. It was the NBA Pro-Am Basketball League action at Johnson C. Smith University.

You couldn't see much better basketball. The Hornets are even represented by Damon's, the Place for Ribs.

Tyrone "Mugsy" Bogues, Earl Cureton, Dell Curry, Tim Kempton, Sidney Lowe, Robert Reid, and Brian Rowsom all play on the team.

Come out to the Golden Bulls Palace and enjoy yourself.

Three-On-Three Signups Are On

Do you like to watch a good game of basketball? Do you like to play basketball? There is an event for you!

Charlotte 3 on 3 returns to the streets around Marshall Park on August 19 and 20. Now is the time to get involved. If you want to play, you can save money by getting your team's application

in by June 23 Final deadline for team registration is July 14. Applications are available at all Charlotte area Wendy's and YMCA locations or by calling 549-4882.

Volunteers are also needed to help stage the event. If you wish to volunteer call 365-2861.

Politics Taking Fun Out Of PGA

By **BOB JOHNSON**
Post Sports Writer

The Charlotte Post is beginning a new sports item titled "Golfer of the Week" Profile. We are proud to have as our first golfer Charlie Sifford.

Charlie Sifford, the legendary pro golfer from Charlotte, was in town recently visiting his sick brother, Frazier. While he was here this reporter had an opportunity to chat with him.

Our informal conversation was supported and sometimes enhanced by the NBA draft, that drew attention to the TV screen in the lounge of the McDonald's Inn, where Sifford was staying. Watching the NBA draft wasn't by chance because Charlie is an avid sports fan, and pro basketball just happens to be one of his favorites. When he's not playing golf, he's in an arena somewhere watching blocked shots, three pointers and slam dunks.

The 67-year-old pro started playing golf while caddying at Charlotte Country Club. He continued to develop his game and became feared by local golfers with his precision shot making and accurate putting. Armed with dedication, determination and a good game, he moved on to the pro ranks. The pro tours (regular and seniors) have enabled Charlie to amass over \$1 million.

However, it has not been an easy road. According to Sifford, the politics of the PGA Tour has kept him out of a lot of satellite money making events, and has taken the fun out of the game. Charlie is invited to two or three pro-am events a year out of 25 or more. Pro-am matches are held on Mondays and are sponsored by golf courses and major firms. The pros can pick up an easy \$3 - \$5,000 during these events. Merrill Lynch, a company that Charlie has invested about \$500,000 in, says Charlie, sponsors 15 to 20 shoot outs a year. These events have not been opened to Sifford, and they too offer easy side money to the players. Charlie's talents and efforts made his money. The tours have just been the vehicles used. The politics of the game, that seem to not favor black players,

will probably cause Charlie to hang up his gloves in about two or three years.

Sifford spoke candidly about some of the other black players of the game. He has tremendous admiration and respect for Jim Dent, who recently joined the senior circuit. Says Charlie, "Dent should do well on this tour because he never stopped playing golf. He played on all the satellite tours keeping his game sharp."

The Senior Tour is comprised of players 50 years old and older. Charlie hopes that James Black, another Charlottean with the talent to make money on the Seniors Tour is continuing to play. Pete Brown, he says, manages a golf course in Dayton, Ohio. Calvin Peete has the ability to make money on the older men's tour, however, with his current back problems; and by the time he reaches 50, the tour will be much larger - both may hamper his chances.

"A general misconception of the Seniors Tour is that it is easy," says Sifford. "It is not, though. You have to have a game to be successful." Seventy-two players tee-up for each senior event. There are four or five qualifying spots each week, filled from a field of about 200 players. The rest are exempt for various reasons: 1) They must be one of the all time money winners on tour. 2) They may have won the previous year's tournament. 3) They may rank among the top 28 golfers. 4) Eight are chosen from the tour school based on performance. 5) Four are sponsored. The Senior tour is a grind just like the regular tour, and both take talent and serious dedication.

At this writing, Charlie is in Concord, Massachusetts playing in the Digital Classic.

Charlie presently resides in Kingswood, Texas.

The Charlotte Post is interested in profiling local golfers for our golfing series. To be included, please call Bob Johnson at 378-0496 to arrange for a photo session and more information on your game.



Golfer of the Week

Profile

Name Charles Sifford

Age 67

Years Played 50 Years

Clubs Used Wilson

Balls Used Titleist, Wilson, Dunlop

No. of Tournaments unknown

Favorite Tournament Mutual Life Ins. Legions

Favorite Golf Course none

Best 18-Hole Score 63 - L. A. Open (eventual winner)

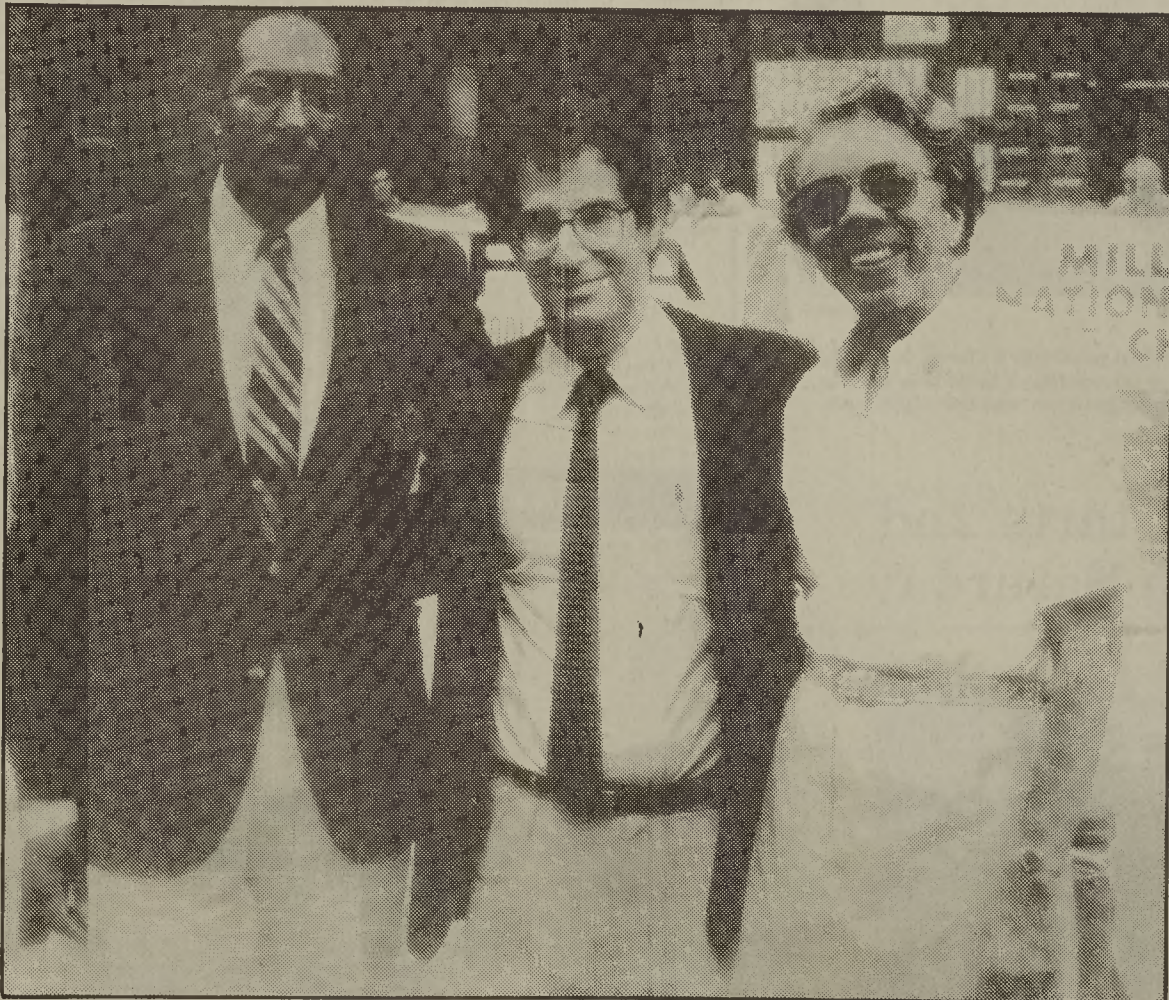
Last Tournament Performance 77, 75, 69

Syracuse Sr. Classic

Last Match Performance none

Golf Tip Start young with proper fundamentals preferably

in junior high and high school.



Former Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion Althea Gibson celebrates the opening of the national paddle tennis championships to New York with Lou Belcher of Miller Brewing (left) and Steve Farhood (center), the tournament director.

Torres Writes To Mike Tyson

From Staff Reports

NEW YORK---"Champions come and go," commented former light-heavyweight boxing champion Jose Torres, who believes that the emotional turmoil experienced recently by heavyweight champion Mike Tyson has left "dangerous" wounds that could mean the end of his career.

"I'm not saying you should quit, Mike, not by any means," Torres wrote in an open letter to Tyson, which will be published Sunday in Parade magazine. "But you've got to guard against those small wounds."

Torres, who has known Tyson since he was 12 years old, asserted, "I believe the ballyhoo surrounding your betrothal to Robin Givens, the marriage and the divorce, your troubles with and break from the people who helped you from the start, and your new relationship with Don King, the promoter, have all left small wounds in your psyche. And those wounds are dangerous."

Emphasizing that Tyson should concentrate on his craft and not let himself be controlled by his promoter, Torres advised him to get a good lawyer.

"Let King be your promoter," he declared, "and you stick to boxing, but get a lawyer to make sure you don't get taken."

Torres, whose recently released book, "Fire and Fear" created a sensation, said it has become difficult for the two to speak.

"I wish we could sit down somewhere and have some lunch and talk about the past and, especially, the future. ...I know you're smart enough to get back on the track, and I believe you will."

Triple County Baseball Updates

By **BOB JOHNSON**
Post Sports Writer

The Charlotte Red Birds improved their standing in the Triple county Baseball League recently with wins over the Queen City Rangers and the Newton/Conover Twins.

Chris Calloway, allowing six hits in 4-1/3 innings, was the winning pitcher against the Rangers. Rick Carelock picked up the save, allowing three hits in 4-2/3 innings. The pitchers were helped at the plate by Darrin Hart who connected on two singles and a triple; Mike Peake, Rick Carelock and Calvin Smith with two hits each.

The outstanding play of the

game, and of the season, was a rarely turned triple play. The Rangers had the bases loaded in the seventh inning when Leary Herron grounded to third base where Darrin Hart backhanded the ball, stepped on the bag, then threw to second where Calvin Smith flipped a strike to first baseman Mike Peake.

The final score was 8-4.

In the second game, the Red Birds knocked off the Newton Conover Twins behind the pitching of Alfreda Molina (5-0), and the hitting of Mike Peake, Mike Smith and Gerald Patton.

The final score was 11-6. The Red Birds are now 11-9 with five consecutive victories.

Barons Open First Football Camp

From Staff Reports

The Charlotte Barons of the Minor League Football System are preparing for their initial season with the opening of training camp.

The camp, which opened July 1, stressed contact drills and conditioning along with implementing the play system.

The July camp is the first opportunity for the coaches to

See BARONS On Page 8B