



James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

Slamming And Jamming With The NBA Pro-Am's Best

NBA-type games are never decided until the last quarter and even though the Yellow squad consisting of Ray Lawson, Dante Johnson, Chris Brown, Delaney Rudd, Andre Hawkins, Alvis Rogers, Jimmy Brown, Larry Jordan, Tyrone Corbin and Aaron Johnson was leading the Blue squad consisting of Cleveland McRae, Ace Tanner, Anthony Jenkins, Charlie Hubert, Danny Poole, Benji Tate, Richard Moore, John Edwards, Tyrone Bogues and James Shockley 101-94 with 4:50 left in the third quarter.

Ace Tanner hit a Phi Slammas Jamma dunk at 4:18 to pull the Blue to within 3 at 101-98.

A steal and a Charlie Hubert dunk later and the Blue had moved to within one at 101-100 with 3:42 left to play. NBA type games are never decided until the fourth quarter.

Dante Johnson hit two free throws and a two pointer to put the Gold ahead 105-102.

Coached by James Campbell, Gosnell White and Tom Sorensen the Blue were putting on a stirring rally. The Gold were coached by Herb White and Ed Joyner.

Nip and tuck the score went and at the end of the third quarter the Gold was ahead by a four-point margin.

The game was faster than greased lightning; faster even than a speeding bullet.

Johnny Edwards hit two points to tie the score at 124 all earlier in the fourth quarter.

Nip and tuck the game went until Dante Johnson took control at 3:10 with two points and hit again at 2:51 to put the Gold ahead 138-130.

At 2:26, Tyrone Corbin hit to put the Gold up and 2:26 and at 1:55, 1:12 and :47 seconds Chris Brown hit three three pointers to widen the gap to 155-134 and the Gold won going away.

The final was 157-141.

Johnson was the Most Valuable Player of the game with 53 points.

Other top scorers for the Gold were Ray Lawson with 28, Brown with 14, Delaney Rudd with 26, Andre Hawkins with 8, Alvis Rogers with 13, Jimmy Brown with 8, Aaron Johnson with 6 and Tyrone Corbin with 16.

The Blue were led by Cleveland McRae with 6, Ace Tanner with 28, Anthony Jenkins with 10, Charlie Hubert with 22, Benji Tate with 13, Danny Poole with 6, Richard Moore with 5, Tyrone Bogues with 14, James Shockley with 10, Tim Person 5 and Johnny Edwards 17.

NBA games are never decided until the fourth quarter and this one was no exception. It was TRULY DELIGHTFUL BASKETBALL.

The leading scorers at this juncture of the season in the league are Chris Brown 32.0, Dante Johnson 27.2, Johnny Edwards 24.0, Anthony Jenkins with 23.0, Charlie Hubert 21.3, and Delaney Rudd 20.4.

The rebounding leaders are Ray Lawson 12.0, Brian Rowsom 9.5, Andre Hawkins 9.5, Johnny Edwards 9.0, and Dante Johnson 8.5.

The leading assisters are Delaney Rudd with 7.3, Byron Dinkins 7.0, Jimmy Brown 7.0, James Shockley 6.7, Mike Jackson 6.0 and Charlie Hubert 5.5.

Eight hot basketball teams from throughout the Carolinas will participate in the fifth annual Charlotte Observer Tip-Off basketball tournament in November.

Spartanburg, Clover, Fort Mill, Bessemer City, East Gaston, North Mecklenburg, South Point and West Mecklenburg will play in the tournament beginning November 22 and running November 24 and 25.

Four tournament games will be played each day at 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The Tip Off begins the season for all of the teams. The championship game will be at 9 p.m. on Saturday November 25. A site has not been selected.

North Mecklenburg is the top seed.

First round pairings have North Mecklenburg (1) at Clover (8) at 4:30 p.m., Spartanburg (2) at East Gaston (7) at 6 p.m., South Point (4) at West Mecklenburg (5) at 7:30 p.m. and Bessemer City (6) at Fort Mill (3) at 9.

Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Tournament passes are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students. They will go on sale in November.

Magazine Details Sports Figures' Addiction, Rehab

Numerous professional athletes, who were formerly addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, have appealed to the nation's youth to avoid drugs at all cost, warning that to "just say no" is not enough.

Society has to get rid of its "pill mentality" and its reliance on drugs, according to the athletes, who participated in an informal survey to be published this Sunday in PARADE magazine. They also agreed that education concerning drug abuse has to begin in kindergarten or before.

"Getting into drugs is a hell of a lot easier - a way lot easier - than getting out of them," declared professional basketball star John Lucas, a former cocaine addict who now heads Students Taking Action Not Drugs, a national nonprofit group, and John Lucas Fitness

Systems, a drug treatment therapy based on exercise.

All of the athletes, who participated in the survey including Lucas, who was first addicted to beer, agreed that alcohol played a part in his or her problem and none of them believed they would ever become hooked.

"The riddle is how some people can handle it, control how much they drink, and how some people, like me, couldn't stop," declared Chris Mullen, 26, an alcoholic. Mullen, an all-American at St. John's University, who was the 1985 first-round draft choice of the Golden State Warriors, was making \$400,000 a year in 1986 when he was suspended for one game, then placed on the injured list while undergoing rehab.

All of the athletes surveyed recalled not paying a single cent

for those first few uses of cocaine or other drugs and said it is unfortunate that young people don't seem to believe how costly drugs can become, both to the body and to the pocket-book.

"First, it's free, but then it costs," declared Mets pitcher Dwight Gooden, who became addicted to cocaine in 1986 when he was making \$1.5 million. "You go through a whole heap of money. Looking back, you think you're better off just ripping it up and throwing it in the ocean. The lesson is that there's no free ride. You start with drugs, and you're going to pay and pay and pay, and it'll never be enough."

"Kids aren't armed with the mechanisms to dispute what they are told," declared Derek

"Turk" Sanderson, once the world's highest paid athlete, "so when someone tells them, 'Try it, you'll feel great, it can't hurt,' they go ahead and try it. They might not if they were told this truth. You do feel great, but you do get hurt-bad."

Sanderson, who made \$2,650,000 a year with the Philadelphia Blazers hockey team, lost his fortune after nearly eight years of alcoholism and, according to both Sanderson and his medical report, an addiction to 11 different drugs. The turning point for Sanderson came, he recalled, in 1980 when he tried to get a drink from someone in Central Park who refused. "Don't you know who I am?" he shouted. "Just another drunk," came the reply.

Gattison Takes Aim At Hornets

By HERB WHITE
Post Sports Editor

It's been two years since Kenny Gattison played in the NBA, but the 6-8, 252-pound forward wants people to know he's recovered from a career-threatening injury and is ready to land a job.

The Charlotte Hornets have the first look at the new Gattison, who is on the team's 12-man roster of rookies and free agents for a series of games against similar teams from Atlanta, Miami and Orlando.

"I'm looking to bang, be consistent and maybe get on with this team. The thing right now is getting an NBA contract versus going back to Italy," he said. "What I'm doing now is showing them what I can do and hope they can use me."

Gattison, a Wilmington native who was drafted by the Phoenix Suns in 1986, made the free agent team after last week's camp at the Grady Cole Center. Charlotte is expected to invite three to four players back for the October training camp to compete for a spot on the 12-man regular season roster.

Gattison, a former Old Dominion player, showed promise in his rookie season with the Suns, averaging 5.2 points and 3.5 rebounds per game. The next year, a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee put Gattison on the injured list and threatened to end his career.

To prove his recovery, Gattison played in an Italian league last season while hoping for a call from the NBA. The Hornets rang and now he's ready to make a comeback.

"I had a good season over there and Charlotte expressed some interest in me, so I figured why not play in North Carolina since I'm from there," he said.



Charlotte Hornets coach Dick Harter and assistant Ed Badger (right) oversee workouts during the rookie-free agent camp last week at Grady Cole Center.

Having previous experience as a professional is an asset, but finding a team where that advantage can be best used is the toughest part. Charlotte was Gattison's choice.

"I've been involved with it for almost four years now, so I know I can play in the NBA," he said. "It's just a matter of being in the right place at the right time."

"Out of the choices I had, this was pretty much the best situa-

tion. There are a lot of spots open, and they could use some help."

Gattison may not have the lofty basketball status of J.R. Reid, Charlotte's No. 1 draft pick, but he feels his experience can help.

"J.R. is coming in and he's a big, strong guy, but he hasn't played a game in the NBA yet, so it'll be an adjustment for him."

Gattison said, "While he's working on the adjustment, I can be in there holding up the back door."

Gattison said his physical style, which led him to Sun Belt player of the year honors as a senior at ODU, is suited to the Hornets' needs. What he needs is the chance to prove it.

"I can bang. If I get the playing time, they'll get the production."

Bombers Cripple Giants' Bid For 2nd

TRIPLE COUNTY STANDINGS				
TEAM	WON	LOST	%	GAMES BEHIND
Charlotte Bombers	23	2	.920	---
Rock Hill O's	18	7	.720	5
Hoskins Giants	16	9	.640	7
Charlotte Red Birds	15	9	.625	7-1/2
Queen City Rangers	16	10	.615	7-1/2
Charlotte Trojans	14	12	.538	9-1/2
Newton/Conover Twins	11	14	.440	12
Clover Hornets	6	19	.240	17-1/2
Norwood Pirates	2	21	.083	20

TRIPLE COUNTY This Week's Schedule	
Saturday, 7-29-89	Where They Play
Hoskins Giants at Q.C. Rangers	Morris Field
Charlotte Bombers at Clover Hornets	Clover
Norwood Pirates at Newton/Conover Twins	Newton
Charlotte Red Birds at Charlotte Trojans	J.T. Williams
Sunday, 7-30-89	Where They Play
Rock Hill O's at Hoskins Giants	Hoskins
Charlotte Red Birds at Charlotte Bombers	Northwest

All games begin at 3:30 p.m.

Front-Runners Setting The Pace In Triple County Baseball League Action

By BOB JOHNSON
Post Sports Writer

The Charlotte Bombers experiencing phenomenal success this season, because of the excellent performances of the players and coaches, extended their consecutive win streak to 17 -- with two victories last weekend.

The Bombers defeated the Hoskins Giants last Saturday (at Hoskins) dimming the Giants' chances of a second place finish by a score of 8-5.

The Bombers took an early 3-1 lead, only to see Hoskins tie the game and go ahead in the sixth inning, 4-3. Robert Burris' team went ahead in the seventh, scoring two runs, and were not caught again. Andre Orr, Melvin Latta and Charles Latta led the Bombers' offensive attack. Orr contributed a home run and a single. Melvin Latta - a home run and a double, and Charles Latta - a triple and a single. Fredrick Witherspoon was the winning pitcher and Lafayette Currence got the save.

In Sunday's game, the Bombers knocked off the slumping Queen City Rangers, 12-7, at home.

The Northwest sluggers scored three runs in the second inning on three hits - a triple by Pete Barnette, and singles by Melvin and Charles Latta. They scored two runs in the third, highlighted by Gary Morrow's double and Pete Barnette's single. However, at the end of four innings, the score was 7-5, in the Rangers' favor. After that inning, though, it was all Charlotte Bombers. They scored one run in the fifth and six innings, two in the seventh and three more in the eighth, while shutting down the Rangers with superb defense and pinpoint pitching.

Pete Barnette again led the Bombers' offensive attack with a triple, a double and a single in five trips to the plate. Charles Latta had a triple and two singles in four trips, and Melvin Latta had three singles in four trips. James Weeks added a home run, assisting Melvin Latta with another win.

The Charlotte Red Birds, after playing only one game in three

weeks, relied on their stingy defense and costly Giants' miscues to defeat the Giants, 5-4.

The victory was the Birds' ninth straight and their 12th in the last 14 games. The victory also killed the Giants' chances of finishing in second place.

With the score 3-2, Giant Calvin Smith singled in his brother Mike from third and Thomas Massey from second to put the Birds ahead for good. Catcher Donovan Mitchell scored the winning run in the seventh inning when he hit a line drive shot to the right field fence and took advantage of the right fielder's errant throw to the cut-off man. Donovan, showing good speed, raced home scoring just ahead of the throw.

First baseman Mike Peake demonstrated in the ninth inning why many consider him one of the best at his position. With one out the score 5-4, and Giants threatening, Ted Birds' second baseman Donald "Pooh" Thompson grabbed a grounder and muscled a throw to first that fell short about four feet. Peake stretched and somehow came up with the ball while managing to keep his foot on the bag, registering a big out.

Rick Carelock was the winning pitcher. He pitched seven innings giving up six hits. This was his second win over Hoskins. Calvin Smith pitched the last two innings, gave up one run in the ninth, got the save.

The Charlotte Trojans bombed the Norwood Pirates, 17-7, last Saturday in Norwood.

The Trojans set the stage with seven runs in the first inning and continued with a 23-hit barrage, led by Steve Young, Vernon King, Joe Demus, Zeb Goode and Rodney Alexander. Steve opened the mega-hit episode with his ninth home run of the season. Joe Demus hit his sixth homer of the season, while driving in four runs. Rodney Alexander collected his third round-tripper of the season, topping off two doubles, a single and a triple for five at-bats.

Rodney Dixon was the winning pitcher; Darryl McIlwain got the save, his second.