

SPORTS

Gilbert Set To Defend Title

By BOB JOHNSON
Post Staff Writer

Craig Gilbert, a wiry young left hander who plays the game of golf beyond his seemingly young years, will defend his Par Busters title this weekend.

The Par Busters Golf group along with the people at Budweiser will sponsor their sixth annual open, golf tournament Saturday and Sunday, August 19-20, at the long and treacherous Renaissance Park Golf Course.

Gilbert finished sixth in 1986 at Eastwood Golf Course with a two day score of 149. He did not enter in 1987 when the tournament was played at the 6,510-yard Pawtucket Golf Course.

However, in 1988 the tournament returned to Eastwood - conceivably Craig's home court - and the UNCC student proceeded to strip the short course like typing paper through a shredder.

Gilbert backed up a two under par round 69, the first day with a nine under par 62 to win the tournament by eight strokes over Beau Brown.

Since Budweiser and the Par Busters linked in 1984 - changing the tournament name from Greater Griertown Open - the tournament has had four champions. Haywood Stevenson won the inaugural tourney with a two-day score of 141, at Pawtucket.

Donald Littlejohn won the rained-shortened '85 tournament with a score of 67, also played at Pawtucket. Harry Jeter carded a two-day round of 139 to win in 1986. In 1987 Donald Littlejohn brought Pawtucket to

its knees with a seven under par round of 137, and the Craig Gilbert heroics in 1988.

Winning the tournament itself will be an arduous struggle at best because of the strong field and toughness of the course, let alone repeating as champion. Donald Littlejohn, who's resting on his laurels after his victory in Charlotte's City Amateur Tournament, will try to improve on his third place finish last year.

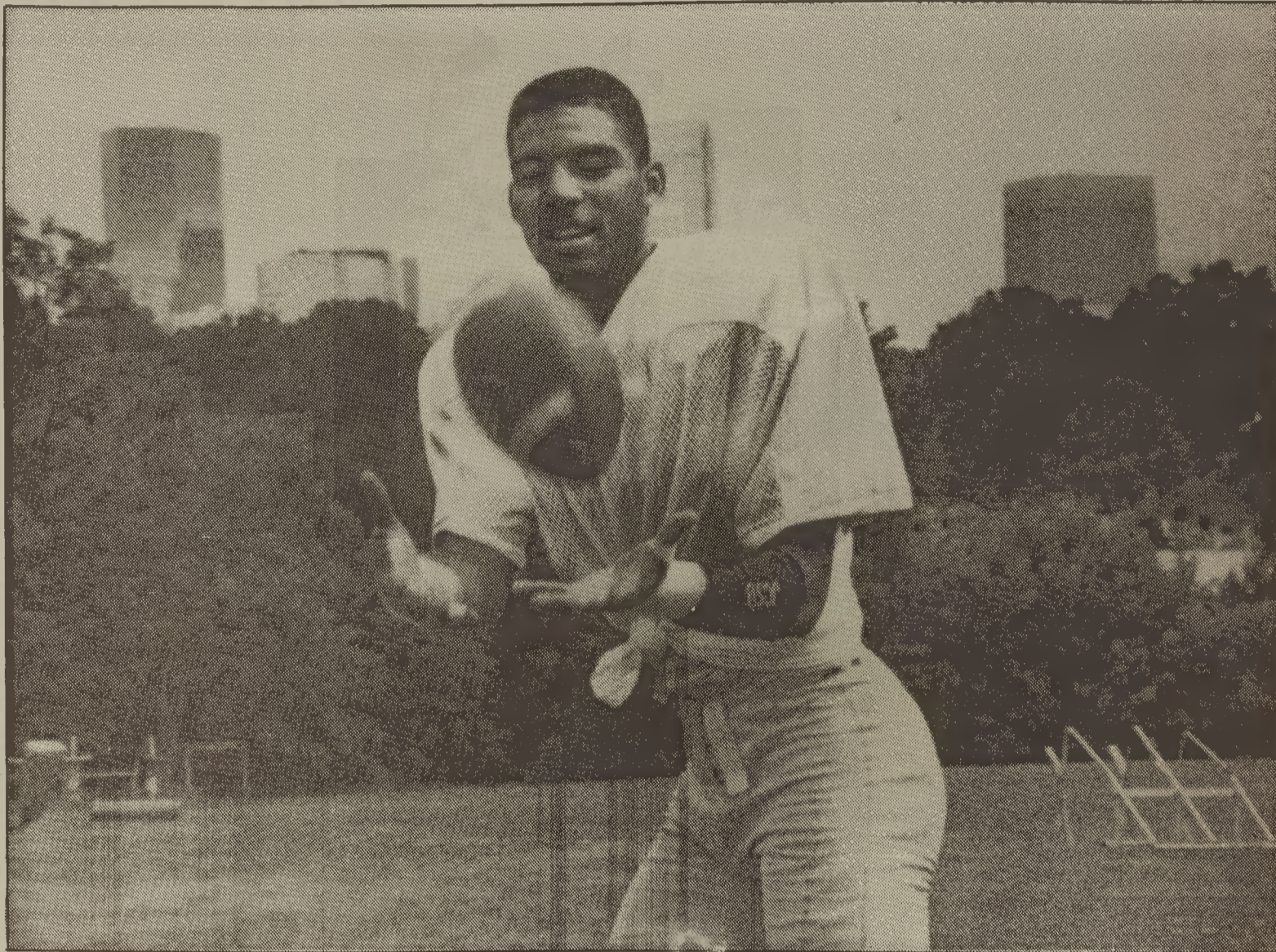
Phil Neely, a true competitor in every sense of the word, will be seeking his first Budweiser-Par Busters victory. He's finished second, third and fourth, respectively. Tom Polito, another competitor who has experienced slivers of success, will be looking for his first victory in the open tourney. He's finished second, third, fifth and sixth.

Then, there is the young Shawn Sanders, a young college student with extraordinary ability, but a temperament that hinders his success. If the two (ability and temperament) co-habitate this weekend, Shawn will surprise a lot of people.

If these four contenders are not enough there is a field of over 100 players vying for the big trophy and other amenities that go along with winning the Open.

Tee times for this event will be 8 a.m. til 12:45 p.m. each day. The tournament will comprise six amateur flights with an 18-hole women's flight at Revolution Park, a closest-to-the-pin contest and a social gathering at the Excelsior Club on Beaties Ford Road will be held Saturday night. The public is invited.

Catcher On The Fly



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Joe Weinberg likes Smith's chances this football season: "We have the right attitude this year."

Smith Receiver Joe Weinberg Wants Golden Bulls To Erase Poor Seasons

By HERB WHITE
Post Sports Editor

Joe Weinberg has seen his reputation grow as a football pass-catcher, but he would rather see Johnson C. Smith's program reverse its sliding fortunes.

Weinberg, an all-CIAA selection last season, caught 36 passes for a 15.9-yards-per-catch average and five touchdowns. His goal this year is to help the Golden Bulls to its first winning season since 1981.

"I'd like to repeat (as all-conference), definitely," he said. "But I'd rather see us win the CIAA. I've wanted that since I got here."

When Smith opened preseason drills last week, the talk on the field was a new attitude, with a crop of freshmen and underclassmen that are more focused on erasing the memory of a nightmarish 2-7-1 season.

"We have the right attitude this year," Weinberg said. "Last year was old school. We're new school this year."

The Bulls, who open Sept. 2 at Bowie State, will need a potent passing attack to keep pace with the likes of two-time defending league champion Winston-Salem State. Weinberg expects to be junior quarterback Maurice Flowers's main target, which means he'll likely get more attention from defensive backs than last year. With the departure of last year's reception leader Marvin Bartee (50 catches and five touchdowns), Weinberg will have to find new ways to shake defenders to get open.

"I'm going to work even harder," he said. "They'll probably play me

like they played Bartee last year. That'll open up things for Rodney Martin Martin, Ronald Meadows and the other guys."

Flowers, who threw for 1,001 yards last season, will be the key to Smith's offense. He has developed into a more confident player, Weinberg said, which should help the Bulls score more points.

"Maurice has matured a lot. He's taking the leadership role," Weinberg said. "He's going to be the backbone of the offense."

The 6-1, 185-pound Weinberg doesn't have blazing speed, but has developed into one of the best pass-catchers in the CIAA. He said it's not so much how fast a receiver gets to a spot, but what is done to get there.

"I consider myself a control receiver," he said. "I've got game speed. I'm not a 4.2 or 4.3 (in the 40-yard dash). It's just somehow, I get open."

Weinberg's exploits have already been noticed outside the CIAA. He was named a preseason All-American by a national publication, but that doesn't carry much weight, he said.

"When I heard about it, I was surprised. But I don't think they should have preseason All-Americans," he said. "They should wait until after the season when you've played."

With the season less than three weeks away, Weinberg is confident he'll have a good year. But he realizes it's going to be a difficult one as well.

"I'll just take it one step at a time," he said. "Just do what it takes to have a successful season."

Steroid Spotlight Is Focused On Preps

By A.C. TURNER
Post Staff Writer

When sprinter Ben Johnson tested positive for steroids after decisively winning the 100-meter dash at the 1988 Summer Olympics, concern increased about the abuse of prescription drugs by athletes.

The concern is now focused on high school athletes who use steroids to improve their performance and receive college scholarships.

Charlotte endocrinologist Stuart Tucker says the most common steroids used by high

school athletes are androgens and anabolics, each of which can be dangerous when not used properly.

"These drugs are used to treat low hormone levels in males, some anemias, and some cancer. When they are used to promote just muscle gain they can have an adverse effect," he said.

"While the steroids increase the size and strength of the athlete, he can contract illnesses such as liver cancer from using oral pills and AIDS and hepatitis by injecting," Tucker said.

Doctor Deborah Scott warns

that athletes who abuse steroids risk serious diseases and conditions that they might not be aware of.

"While athletes are taking steroids to get an artificial edge and accelerate their growth, they can acquire long-term muscle weakness, cataracts in eyes, heart damage, ulcers, infertility--any number of things," Scott said.

"In addition to the physical side effects, androgens and anabolics can be mentally additive," pharmacist Karen Dayer said.

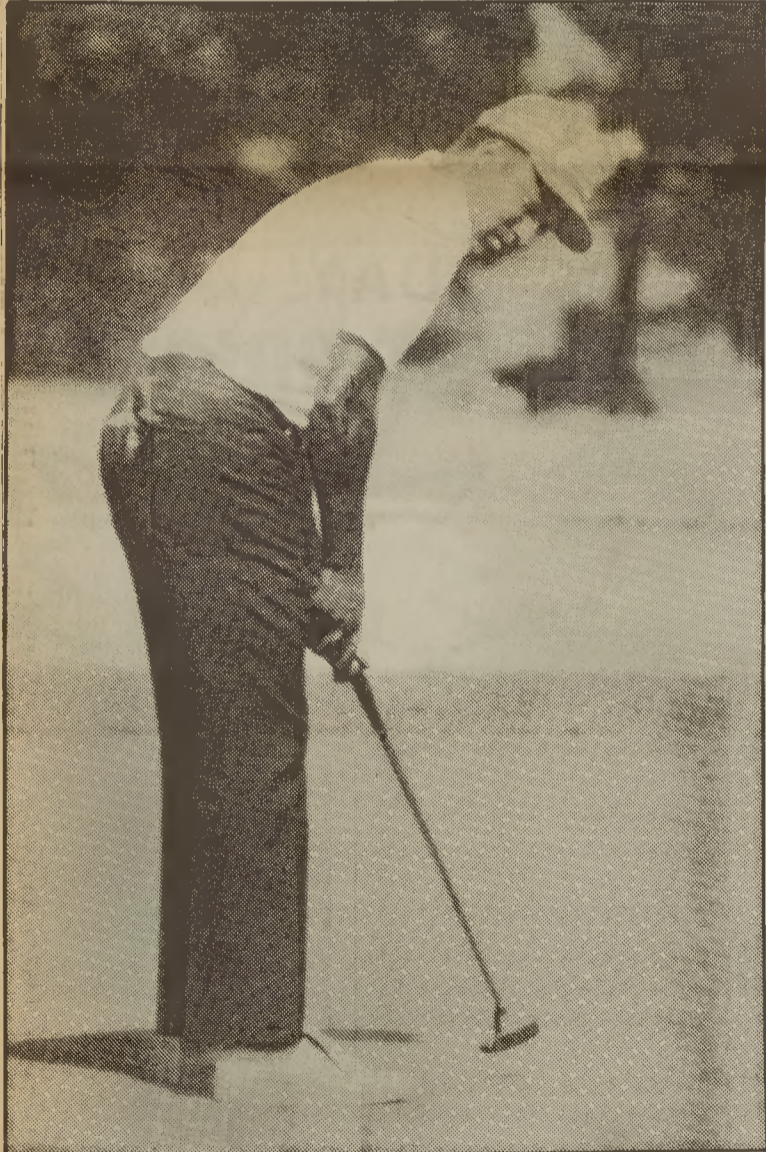
Athletes who have chosen not

to use an artificial means of building muscle admit that the opportunity to cheat is present.

"I know guys who people say are on steroids. I don't feel like I have to use them. I hear that you can go bald and I like having hair," senior West Charlotte football player Donnie Surratt said.

The 5-10, 205-pound Surratt says he has often been accused of being on steroids by friends but maintains that he has never considered using them.

"You can get steroids as easy



Phil Neely

Ribbs And His Eagle Are Set To Fly

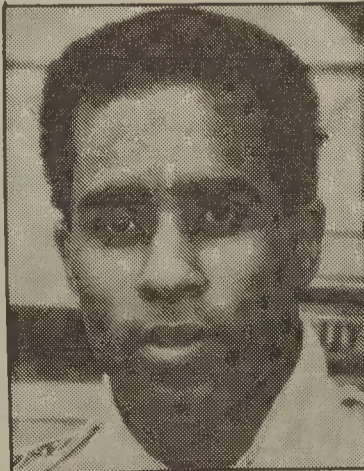
From Staff Reports

TORRANCE, CA - Willy T. Ribbs and the Toyota Eagle built by Dan Gurney's All American Racers are beginning to soar.

Ribbs, the premier black race driver in the country, piloted the car to a fourth place qualifying position at Portland International Raceway July 30. He and Rocky Moran teamed to guide the car to an eighth place finish.

"This is the best the car has ever felt," said Ribbs, 32, of San Jose, after the qualifying session. "We've had some teething problems, but now that the chassis is working and we are getting good power, this car can really move."

With six years of experience in the GTU and GTO categories, Toyota opted to move to the highest class of racing in the International Motor Sports Association - Camel GTP. Two cars are being campaigned, a former Group C car which has proven to be quite fast, winning pole po-



Ribbs

sitions at Road Atlanta and Lime Rock, and the Toyota Eagle which was designed and constructed by Gurney's shop.

The best finish for the Eagle this year is fifth place at Mid-Ohio, but hopes are high for even better performances at the remaining five races.

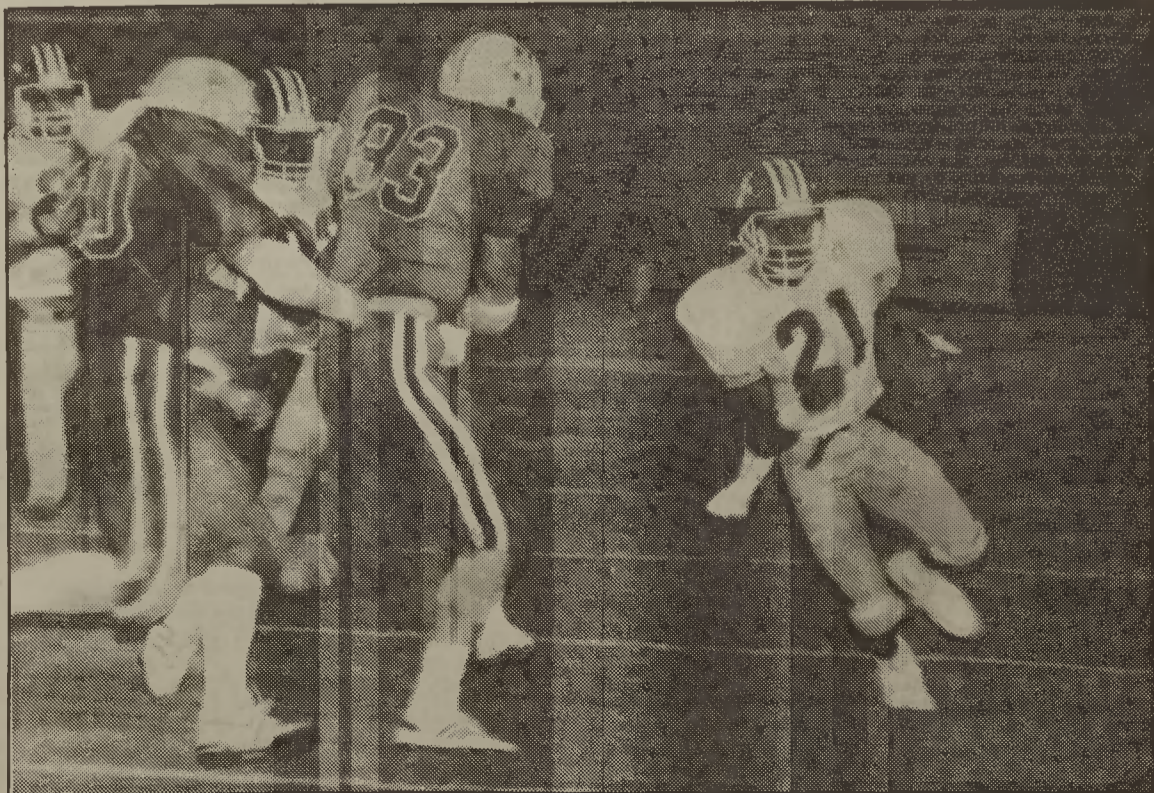
Says team owner Gurney, "The

lap times we were running at Portland were right on with the leaders, which pleases us to no end. Now that we seem to be on track with the car, we are hoping to do some fine tuning and be in the front of the pack in the coming races."

Gurney, who has been in charge of Toyota's IMSA efforts since 1983, hired Ribbs in 1987 to drive a Celica Turbo in the GTO class. In addition to winning numerous races, Ribbs was voted by the media to win the Norelco Driver's Cup in both 1987 and 1988 for his outstanding driving.

"Driving a GTO car is like being a rodeo cowboy," says Ribbs. "You can throw it around, let it buck and be a little rough. But driving in GTP is like riding a thoroughbred in the Kentucky Derby. Every move has to be smooth and graceful or the car won't do what you want."

"My goal for this year was to run with the dogs," says Ribbs.



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Benny Cureton (21) returns an interception in the Charlotte Barons' 58-7 win over Harrisburg.