

SPORTS

Herbert L. White



Class and sport not exclusive

Scott Lilly is a sweet-shooting guard on Independence High's boys' basketball team, but that's not his best attribute.

He is a throwback to a kinder, classier time when athletes were taught that sportsmanship was a sign of respect, not weakness. When Lilly fouled out of last week's N.C. 4A Western sectional game against Hunter Huss, he could've sulked. After all, his team was on the verge of losing a hard-fought game in overtime despite his 18 points. But instead of storming off the court and burying his head while waiting for the final horn, Lilly did the unusual. He walked over to the Huskies players and shook their hands, then Huss' coaches. In these days of selfish, me-first prima donnas, it was refreshing — and shocking — to see such behavior from a schoolboy, of all people.

"It was just good sportsmanship, I guess," Lilly said. "They had played a good game and they beat us, so I just wanted to wish them the best of luck on through the state."

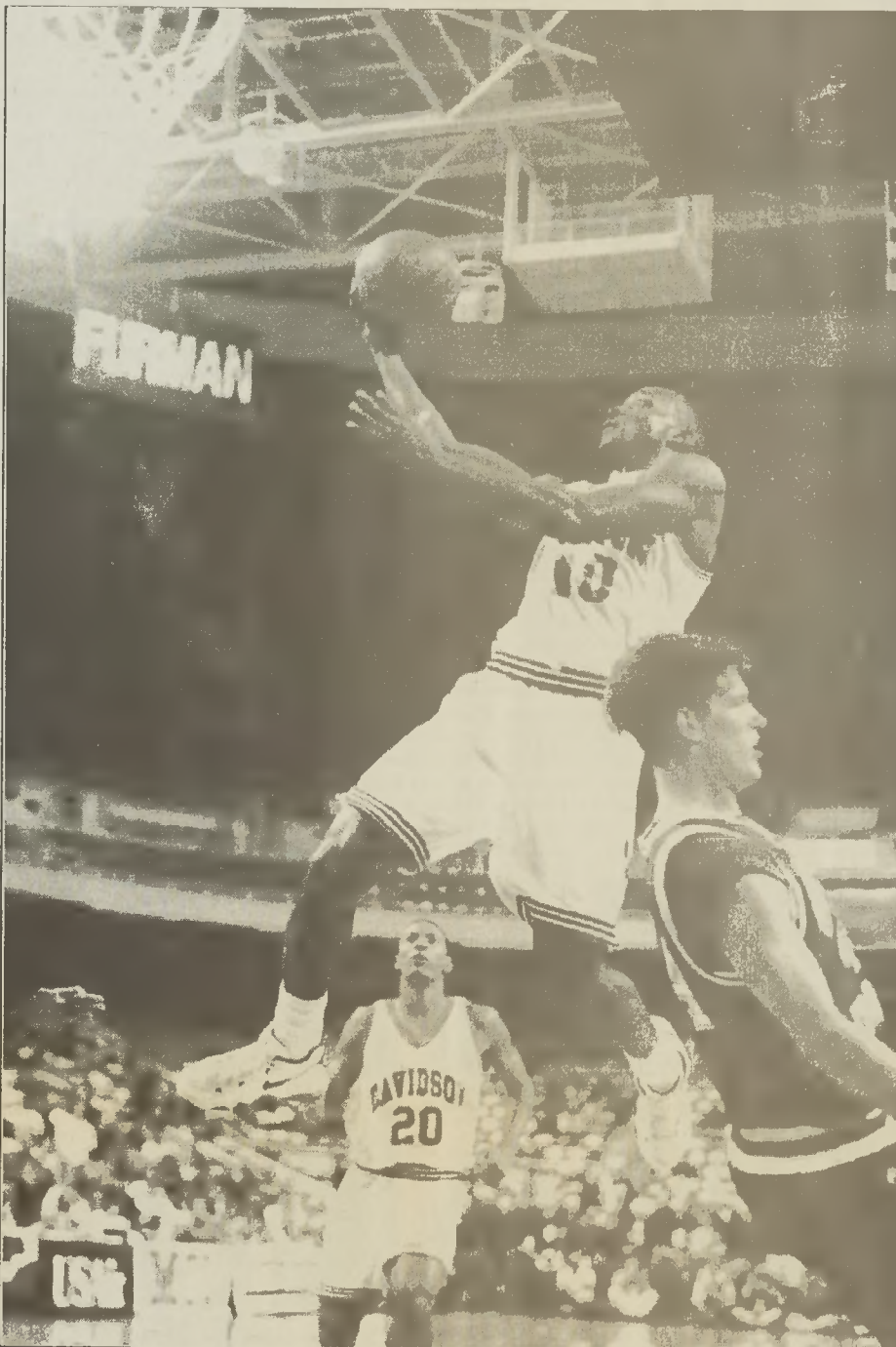
What's so unusual about Lilly's action is that it was a heartfelt show of appreciation for an opponent's giving the game his all and coming out the victor. Give it your all, be proud of your effort and gracious in victory or defeat. Noble? Yes. Antiquated? Sadly, the answer is yes, too.

After a few years of watching boorish behavior, one can become hardened to such shenanigans. The showboating, showing opponents up and taunting can be found from the professional level to the Pee Wee ranks, which is anything but cute. Anyone can be a jerk, but the media as a whole is only too happy to point it out among black athletes, from Dennis Rodman and Derrick Coleman to Albert Belle and Deion Sanders, which leads to copying from young athletes and more attention.

Guys who are just barely talented now figure the world is all about them, and aren't shy about telling the world in addition to bashing the fans and media that made it possible for them to pull down millions of dollars and some semblance of comfort. Problem is, fans and media are sometimes so gullible we're taken by the hype instead of the substance. OK, it's not bragging when you

See CLASS Page 11B

Finally, time to start the dance



Davidson and forward Brandon Williams (40) didn't get an invitation to the NCAA tournament despite a 24-5 record, so the Wildcats had to settle for a date with South Carolina in the NIT. That's fine, Davidson coach Bob McKillop says.

PHOTO/WADE NASH

Bulldogs aren't intimidated by Jayhawks' rep

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference has never won an NCAA men's basketball tournament game.

S.C. State gets a shot at ending that streak Friday. The Bulldogs, who won the MEAC championship almost two weeks ago, play Kansas at Tempe, Ariz. in the first round of the West regional. The Jayhawks, coming off a loss to Iowa State in the Big 8 tournament final, are one of the nation's elite teams. The Bulldogs, whose only other appearance in the 64-team field was in 1989, are 22-7 and swept to the tournament title by beating opponents by an average of 19 points. S.C. State coach Cy Alexander said he sees no reason why the Bulldogs can't be the first MEAC team to win in the tournament, and he's told his players that. The league is 0-14 in NCAA play.



Alexander

"We've had a great year and we don't intend for it to end Friday," he said. "We want to make some history. These guys aren't intimidated, and they aren't nervous."

The Bulldogs will try to slow the pace down against Kansas, which has a definite height advantage with 6-11 Raef LaFrentz, who leads the Jayhawks in scoring and rebounding and Jacque Vaughn, a 6-1 point guard, is a national player of the year finalist. S.C. State will rely on high-percentage shots and defense to keep the game close. The Bulldogs placed three players among the MEAC's top 10 in rebounding, and one of them, forward Derrick Patterson, leads the team in scoring (16

See BULLDOGS Page 11B

NIT another chance for Davidson to shine

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

So Davidson didn't get the NCAA tournament berth the Wildcats thought they deserved.

They're happy to take the consolation prize to a storybook season.

The Wildcats missed out on the 64-team NCAA tournament, but played South Carolina in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament in Columbia Wednesday. Davidson, which rolled through the Southern Conference before losing

See WILDCATS Page 11B

Handicapping the tournament? Here's an NCAA primer

By Jim Litke
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The NCAA selection committee got a free weekend stay in a nice hotel, permission to order up more room service than Buster Douglas in Las Vegas, and enough flattery to make Dick Vitale cringe. And for what?

For narrowing a field of some

300 teams — give or take a New Mexico State and whoever else is on probation at the moment — to 64 for this tournament? Please.

We could have done that in a matter of minutes. To prove it, we'll peel the remaining 64 down to a single national champion in just about that long. But remember: don't try this at your office when copies

of the bracket are handed around. We take the dangerous shortcuts so you won't have to.

And because we'll still have enough time left over to pause here and recognize two coaches whose responses to being left out shows why the profession is a never-ending source of wonderment.

The runaway winner for this

season's loss-of-perspective award goes to Providence coach Pete Gillen. The Friars went 17-11 in the Big East, which just may be the toughest conference in the land. But Gillen apparently had a nagging feeling that wouldn't be enough. Anticipating the selection committee would bypass the Friars, he began preparing his players Saturday for the

disappointment. "Life isn't fair," he said at the conference tournament. "People are born blind and crippled. Little kids die in plane crashes. I think we deserve to get in, but you don't always get what you deserve."

No, life isn't fair. But after those remarks, leaving Providence out of the 64-team

See TOURNEY Page 12B

Tyson's outlook on life and boxing changed since 1989 Bruno fight

By Ed Schuyler Jr.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Frank Bruno says Mike Tyson will see a different fighter March 16 than the one he stopped in 1989.

Well, says Tyson, Bruno's going to be seeing a different fighter, too.

In a conference call Tuesday from Las Vegas, the site of the rematch, Tyson said that he was in a stage of burnout and was losing interest in boxing when he stopped Bruno in the fifth round of a defense of the undisputed heavyweight championship Feb. 25, 1989.

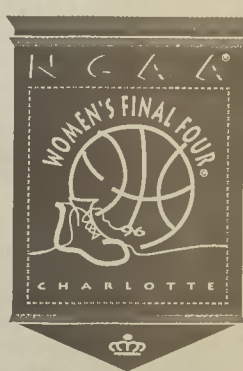
Now the fight is the thing for Tyson, and boxing is what he wanted to talk about. He put off questions about non-boxing questions by saying, "My personal life, I'm adjusting to since my release from prison."

"I'm anxious," Tyson said of his upcoming challenge to Bruno, the WBC champion.

See TYSON Page 11B



Tyson



• **When:**
Semifinals March 29
Finals March 31

• **Where:**
Charlotte Coliseum

• **Tickets:**
Sold out since April 1995.

Duke hopes to have Devil of a time in women's tourney

By Karl Petraroja
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Two years ago, the only way the Duke Blue Devils had a chance of getting to the women's Final Four was to buy their own tickets.

Now, they hope to get to Charlotte on their merit.

Much has changed for the Blue Devils, starting with coach G. That's Gail Goestenkors, who joined Duke in 1992. Under Goestenkors, the Blue Devils have steadily improved from 12-15 to 16-11, then 22-9 and finally this year, to 25-6.

They made a second straight

appearance in the ACC tournament final in Rock Hill, losing 71-54 to Clemson. Despite the loss, it's been a great year and the Blue Devils hope it continues when they host James Madison Saturday in round one of the NCAA tournament.

Should they win, they'll also host a second game Monday.

The Blue Devils are led by junior Kira Qrr, a 5-6 fireplug

of a point guard. She made the all-ACC tournament first team, scoring 41 points in three games, including a last-second half court bomb that helped put away Wake Forest 67-61 in the tournament opener.

Orr's star took off last year in Rock Hill, when she hit two long-range buzzer-beaters, including one in overtime for a stirring 83-82 upset of top seed Virginia. Her first buzzer-beater, sent the game to overtime.

"Yeah, as soon as it went in, I said, Ahh this is definitely my gym," Orr said with a laugh. "Then I was just still thinking about the game from then on."

See DUKE Page 12B