

Catfish: country boy makes it in the big time

by John Dunlap
Sports Writer

Scene: A meeting of the country's elite, the men who run America — the millionaires. The meeting takes place somewhere in Texas at a hotel ballroom. The president of the organization, Sinclair Gulf, approaches the

podium after some preliminary entertainment.

Fellow millionaires, it is a pleasure to welcome you back to Texas and this splendid meeting of America's elite. I sincerely hope you enjoyed the entertainment of Big Bertha and the Banana Strips. Now it is time to get

on with our appointed business.

As you know, it is my pleasure to introduce new members to our clan. This year I have the distinct joy of introducing our newest brother, one who comes from the world of sports.

Now before you fellows start thinking that

we are taking in another owner, let me happily dispel that idea by telling you he is a player. Yes, that's right, a player.

His name is synonymous with greatness in the world of baseball. He has pitched for the World Champion Oakland A's the past few years. Their success, thanks largely to his efforts, are well known. And now, due largely to an unprecedented effort at the bargaining table, we welcome a fellow millionaire — Jim "Catfish" Hunter.

A Country boy

Jim, or "Catfish" as he is known throughout this great country, is a country boy from North Carolina. I know that you all are puzzled as to how a fellow like this could come to be a millionaire. Let me explain it to you.

You see, Catfish is a pitcher, and a very good one. This past season he won the Cy Young award as the best pitcher in the American League. For the past four seasons in a row, Hunter has won over 20 games. He is known as one of the true clutch pitchers in baseball, a person to call on when you have to win a game.

But during the past World Series against the Dodgers, Catfish spoke out against a fellow member of this club, Charlie Finley. Hunter said Finley was not fulfilling his contractual obligation.

So Hunter took Finley to court and won. Catfish then became a free agent, open for offers from all the other major league teams. The New York Yankees won out for the rights to Hunter by offering over \$3 million to be spread out over a five-year period.

We all know, fellow members, that no baseball player is worth that much money. And we especially know that no pitcher is worth that much money, since they have a habit of coming up with sore arms. You all know about Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale. Any baseball fan with a head knows that you pay for all-round players like Bobby Bonds, which by the way, the Yankees are also doing, and not a pitcher.

Fellow members, I don't want you to hold this against the man. Though he is from North Carolina and does not deserve all this money, he is smart enough to hire good lawyers. And that is good enough for us.

So it is with pleasure that we welcome Catfish. I only wish he could be here for his induction into the millionaires club. But he is in North Carolina at this time — hunting.

Wrestlers on a rough road

North Carolina's wrestlers travel to Lockhaven State and Penn State this weekend for their most rugged road trip in recent seasons.

The Tar Heels wrestle small college power Lockhaven State Thursday and fifth ranked Penn State Saturday.

UNC opened the season last week with home wins over Pembroke and arch-rival N.C. State. The matmen got unexpected pins in the 177- and 190-pound weight classes to surge past the Wolfpack 24-17. They routed the Braves 35-6.

"The crowd was the reason we won the State match," said UNC coach Bill Lam. "The fact we had over 3,000 people yelling for us really kept us going when things got tough in the middle weights. We have some good matches

coming up at home with East Carolina, Maryland and Virginia. If the students support us, we will be hard to beat."

In addition to Lockhaven State and Penn State, the Tar Heels wrestle 10th-ranked Navy next weekend at Annapolis, Md. before returning home against the University of Maryland Feb. 3.

"Our schedule is tougher than it has ever been," said Lam. "It would be real easy not to have a winning season. I hope I have not made a mistake where it hurts our confidence. But we have got a young team, and I have to be looking a year or two from now. We think if you want to be the best, you have to wrestle the best. So that's exactly what we are doing."

One of the highlights of the road trip

will be the 126-pound match Saturday between Penn State's Mark Fritz and UNC's Steve Breece. Fritz was the national third place finisher last season, and Breece is rated a possible national champion.

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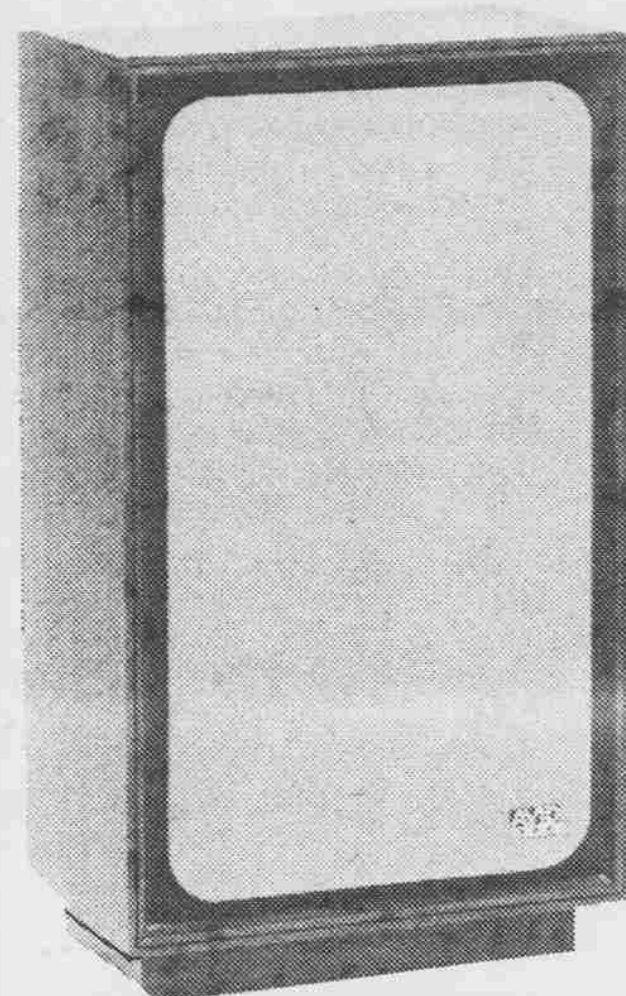
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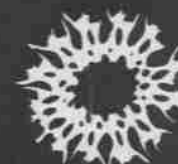
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