

BILL CURRIE

Mouth of the South

NBA Squabble

To me, the National Basketball Association is acting like a bunch of old biddies at a garden party with its sanctimonious condemnation of the ABA for signing another college star.

Michigan State star Ray Simpson has signed with two years of college eligibility left, and NBA Commissioner Walter Kennedy says there can't be a merger until this stops. Even Jack Dolph, the ABA Commissioner, says it can't happen, that he won't approve the contract and that he will fine the Denver club \$10,000.

Denver, which made great hay out of Spencer Haywood, says Simpson is another hardship case. He has eight brothers and sisters under sixteen years old. His father is an invalid, and his mother is subsisting on welfare assistance.

The boy wants to quit school and go to work at what he does best to help his family. If he were a singer or a dancer, or an actor he could go right ahead without anyone's caring. But since his talent is athletics, the rules say he cannot be gainfully employed until his class graduates from college.

Well, of course it is all going to end up in the courts. Simpson has a right to work anywhere he can sell his talents, and at any time satisfactory to him.

It is immoral, and clearly illegal for the pro leagues to conspire with college coaches to keep a boy from playing until his class graduates. The courts will throw this junk out in PDQ order.

Pros Need Colleges

Obviously the basis for the rule is to keep the college coaches from being sore with the pros. The pros need the coaches to help them spot and sign players, and the colleges don't want their teams raided.

But nowhere is there any consideration for the player. He is just a pawn to be pushed around and used for someone else's convenience. To me it is certainly a noble and worthwhile thing for Simpson to help his family, and to reduce the welfare rolls. To deny him this right for two years is the ultimate in selfishness and unfairness.

Greed is the most commonplace human sin, and one which always in the end works to the disadvantage of those who are the greediest. The unfair manner in which the ruling elders of basketball for amateur and professional are trying to handle Simpson will result in an overturning of their rules, and a mass exodus of good players from the college ranks to the pro league as soon as they can get the money.

Actually there is no justification for the "hardship" rule. A young man in a free country ought to be able to quit school and do whatever he pleases anytime he pleases. It is just such rot as this which is causing the whole fabric of society to tremble. Fairness is a commodity without which nothing can long exist.

If the ABA wants to pioneer in fairness it ought to open the door and test this matter. Once it gets in court the outcome is certain, and the league which tries to be fair without the coercion of the law will have a great plus on its side.

Should Encourage Pros

Not many ball players are good enough before they finish college to play professionally. Those who are certainly should go ahead if they want to.

The danger of delay in the beginning of an athletic career is that a man can break a leg or otherwise hurt himself and end his playing before he ever makes a dime out of it. If the college coaches were really sincere about helping young men they would encourage a man to turn pro when he can.

It is a poor employer who stands in the way of a subordinate who has a chance to better himself.

These sentiments are not likely to win me any awards from the college coaches association, but I know some college coaches who really do care about their players and their welfare, and these are the guys — exceptions though they are — who make the game great because they have not succumbed to greed.

Robin Benson Takes Twin Cedars Title

Robin Benson defeated Von Shelton, two and one for the championship of the Twin Cedars Golf Club.

Jim Millar claimed the consolation title with a two-up win over Jimmy Carter. Other winners include: First Flight — Ross Wands, a two and one winner over Boone Trexler; Second Flight — Jerry Shore, a winner over Jimmy Whitaker; Second Flight Consolation — George Daywalt, a two and one winner over Bob Knight; 3rd Flight — Bob Henry, a nine and six winner over Mickey Adams; Third Flight Consolation — David Jordan, a five and four winner over Jim Ellenburg; Fourth Flight — Ben Moore, a four and three winner over Mike Jordan.

Twenty Golfers Enter Tournament

Twenty local golfers will play in a one day handicap tournament at Mountain Golf Club in Newland this Sunday. This one-day tournament is sponsored by the Carolinas Golf Association.

The following will play out of the Twin Cedars course:

Ray Mabe, Kenny Mabe, Bob Benson, Robin Benson, Jim Ellenburg, Ronnie Shoaf, Jerry Shore, Coy Robbins, Red Adams, Ben Moore, Grady Foster, Melvin Dull, Boone Trexler, Jerry Hendrix, Otis Penninger, Harold Wilson, Jesse James, Jerry Hendricks, George Daywalt and Robert Allen.

Shoaf, Lindsey Score Aces

Bill Shoaf and Larry Lindsey of Coolee both scored holes-in-one at Twin Cedars Golf Club this month. Shoaf had his first ace on the 161-yard fourth hole, Lindsey had his on the difficult 185-yard ninth.

Bobbie Benson Enters Tourneys

Davie County's young Jr. Amateur Girl Golfer will compete in the fourth annual Twin States Girls Junior Golf Association Tournament to be held at Cleveland Country Club, Shelby, on July 8th and 9th.

Bobbie Lynn will also play in the fifteenth annual Carolina Junior Girls Golf Tournament to be held July 21st through July 24th at the Salisbury Country Club.

Ecology Workshop Begins On Monday

A Freshwater and Marine Ecology Workshop for teachers in grades 1-10 and other interested adults will begin on Monday, July 13, at the Supplementary Educational Center, 1636 Parkview Circle.

The two week workshop will include laboratory studies of freshwater and marine plants and animals. The wise use and abuse of our natural resources will be stressed.

Two hours certificate renewal credit will be earned by those completing the sessions.

Register now by calling the Center at 636-3462.

Library News

The Fourth of July holiday is now past history — Let your library furnish some of your summer fun!

Try love stories, thrilling adventures, travel accounts, interesting side-lights on history — (visit the Davie County History Room), amazing descriptions and tales of animal life! Read about the mountains,



GOLFING FAMILY—Bobbie Benson and Robin Benson (inset) are sister and brother golfers. They are the children of Bob Benson, owner of Twin Cedars Golf Course. Bobbie will play in two upcoming tournaments, and Robin just won the Twin Cedars tourney.

Herbicide Danger

Don't Eat Berries Along N. C. Roads

RALEIGH (AP) — A botanist at Duke University is cautioning motorists not to eat blackberries picked along North Carolina roadsides. He says they may contain dangerous levels of the controversial herbicide 2,4,5-T.

Dr. William Louis Culbertson said Monday he first became aware of the situation when he noticed the blackberry bushes along Highway 50-51 South were dying from what seemed to be an application of 2,4,5-T.

The herbicide has been withdrawn from use in Vietnam, and from most domestic uses by federal agencies because of possible harm to unborn babies. It is being used to control weeds on state highway rights of way throughout the state.

Earlier this year a highway commission spokesman denied that the herbicide was still being used by the agency.

But Monday, Frank Brant, landscape engineer for the commission, said the agency had sprayed 2,000 gallons of the weedkiller along rights of way since January of this year.

The chemical is an efficient killer of woody vegetation a mower can't handle. Brant said it's use has decreased and the commission has issued careful instructions restricting its use since the controversy began over the chemical earlier this year.

He said the commission issued instructions to the state's 14 maintenance divisions not to use the weed killer around recreation and water areas, farm ponds, homes or food crops.

"We are being cautious," Brant said. "I doubt anyone would get harmed from eating those blackberries. I think the whole thing has been overemphasized. I don't know what the scientists claim, but we've never considered it as a poison."

Federal restrictions on the use of the chemical resulted from a report by government scientists at the North Carolina Research Triangle's National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences that pregnant mice fed 2,4,5-T produced a large number of deformed offspring.

Weldon Huske Completes UNC Pre-Registration

CHAPEL HILL — Weldon Huske of Coolee, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Huske of 7 Church St., Coolee, has just completed a day-long pre-registration session at the University of North Carolina here.

Entering students are encouraged to participate in pre-registration prior to their coming to the university in the fall.

During pre-registration students take placement tests prepare their course of study, and familiarize themselves with the campus. It is co-sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and the General College.