

WEE PALS

®

By Morrie Turner

SPORTS

In Playoffs COUGS & COLONELS

GREENSBORO - It's a rematch of last season's Eastern Division finals as the Carolina Cougars and the Kentucky Colonels hook-up in another best four-of-seven series, as the American Basketball Association begins another set of pressure-packed post-season struggles.

In last spring's finals, Carolina, the Eastern Champ, had the homecourt advantage, but still dropped a 4-3 verdict to the regular season runner-up, Kentucky. The situation is reversed this April as the Colonels, again in second place, boast the homecourt edge against the thirdplace Cougars.

Carolina had a 7-4 edge in regular season play, copping three of five in North Carolina and four of six at the Kentucky home sites. The Cougs were 5-1 vs. the Colonels with Billy Cunningham and 2-3 without him.

Leading the Cougar scoring in the eleven-game series was Jim Chones (18.2), Mack Calvin (17.8), and Marv Roberts (13.8). Roberts topped the Cat rebounders with a 9.0 average followed by Tommy Owens at 8.5. On the Kentucky side, the all-star trio of Artis Gilmore, Louie Dampier, and Dan Issel as expected inflicted much of the damage. Issel at 26.5, Dampier at 17.2, and Gilmore with 15.9 were the Colonels' tops, while Artis pulled down 16.6 rebounds a game in the series.

The series began in Louisville's spacious Freedom Hall Monday, April 1st.

A&T Swinging Hot Bats

GREENSBORO - The red hot North Carolina A&T baseball team has streaked to a 4-0 record, but the Aggies' coach said the fast getaway is no big thing.

"I'm not going to come with a lot of hogwash," said Mel Groomes. "I'm not going to say we have a lot of good pitching and hitting. Our only weapon thus far is the attitude of our players."

Even though Groomes has had to tolerate the losing of three of his most promising pitchers before the season got underway, the Aggies have been impressive in whipping Clark College (twice), the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and St. Augustine's.

As quiet as it is kept, Groomes does have a couple of pretty good weapons on his team. First of all, he has stocky pitcher, Al Holland, one of the finest hurlers ever to wear the Aggie blue and gold.

Holland, a native from Roanoke, Va., earned All-American honors two years ago as a freshman.

"I don't know if I can say that Holland has gotten better," said Groomes. "But I know that he can get better."

In his initial two victories, Holland struck out a total of 36 batters and he has an earned run average of .60.

Also off to a fast start is senior centerfielder Artis Stanfield of Burlington.

Stanfield currently leads the Aggie batters with an impressive .462 average and is also way out front with 11 stolen bases.

Following Stanfield in the power department are Greensboro's Willie Morrison, batting .385; and Keltz Summers, hitting .308.

Catcher Aaron Ball of Washington, and Toney Mooney of Rutherfordton, are both batting .300.

Sharing the pitching thus far with Holland have been Tommy Kimber of Burlington and Rodney Hairston of Martinsville, Va.

Champ Says He Needs A Rest!!!

CARACAS - Heavyweight champion George Foreman, who needed only five explosive minutes to demolish a Ken Norton who lasted 24 rounds against Muhammad Ali, said Wednesday he needs to rest his injured right knee before risking his title against Ali in Africa in September.

"I need some rest," declared the unmarked champion during a victory celebration after his technical knockout triumph over Norton at exactly 2:00 of the second round Tuesday night.

"I'm really in bad shape." You couldn't prove that statement by Norton, who made the mistake of thinking he could trade punches with Foreman and paid for it by taking three painful trips to the canvas before referee Jimmy Rondeau mercifully called a halt to their scheduled 15-round title bout, unbeaten Foreman's 40th win and second title defense.

The 25-year-old champion, hardly looking "in bad shape," had a post-midnight victory snack on the poolside terrace of his hotel, while crowds of wellwishers pressed around.

WHILE THE crowd of 10,000 - only two-thirds filling the Poliedro stadium because there was live home television in Caracas - booed Foreman and cheered Norton, it saved its loudest yells for ex-champion Ali.

Ali, who is supposed to fight Foreman at Kinshasa, Zaire (the old Belgian Congo) in September, predicted afterwards that he would regain the heavyweight title he lost when he refused to obey a draft order. "Foreman was meant for me," he said.

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Durham High Senior Cougar Winner

GREENSBORO - Edward Lester Moore, Jr., a senior at Durham High School, was judged winner of the First Carolina Cougar-American Basketball Association Leadership Scholarship Award.

Moore's selection was announced at halftime of the Cougar-Virginia regular season finale on Wednesday (March 27th) at the Greensboro Coliseum by club President and General Manager Carl Scheer.

One of six North Carolina finalists, Moore was judged the winner by a national panel which considered leadership, scholarship, personality, and athletic endeavor.

The \$1,000 scholarship will be deposited at the college of Moore's choice.

The son of Mrs. Faye O. Moore of Durham, Edward lettered in each of the three major sports at Durham High - football, basketball, and baseball. His greatest honor came in January when he was named the recipient of the annual Thom McAn Award given each year to the top student-athlete in the Durham City-County area.

According to this basketball coach, David Odom, one of those who recommended Edward, "He has shown great ability as an athlete-scholar in an era when such a combination seems to be the exception. He has proven an invaluable team leader and has always tried to set a mature example for his peers."

Asked what goals he would like to achieve in college, Moore answered, "I would like to get a better understanding of the ways of the world and of society itself, so I could make a better decision as to how I would live my life and what profession I would enter."

ABA PLAYOFFS

Game # 3

carolina cougars vs. KENTUCKY COLONELS

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