

North Carolina State Univ. Signs Local Basketball Star

Ligon High Star First At Local College

Officials of North Carolina State made it final that Willie Cooper had been signed to a grant-in-aid contract, thus becoming the first Negro to be selected by the local college, recently.

Cooper compiled an enviable record academically and sports, at Ligon High School, and closed his high school career as the most valuable player in the

area and Harvey Hearty were high in their praise and felt that he would take to North Carolina State a fine example of sportsmanship, sparked by a character of fair play, on and off the field of athletic competition. "You couldn't ask for a more coachable athlete," offered Hearty. "He has the ability, both physically and mentally, to do that job. I hope he does well."

Cocher averaged better than 19 points a game during the basketball season and had an average of 16 assists.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Cooper, Sr., and resides with them and the other members of the family at 213 Gilliam Lane. He has two sisters and a younger brother. One sister, Sandra, is attending North Carolina College in Durham.



WILLIAM COOPER

NCHAAC state finals, as the Little Blues won the state crown. Coaches P. H. (Pete) Wil-



RAMS DAY SPEAKER - Bob Hayes, right, of the Dallas Cowboys, Rams Day speaker, poses with Earl Monroe, right, star of the Winston-Salem State College Rams and Coach and Mrs. C. E. Gaines following the Rams Day Celebration. The Rams, NCAA College Division Basketball Champions, were feted by the citizens of Winston-Salem, April 15.



BREAKS UP D. P. - Chicago: Reggie Smith of the Boston Red Sox does a somersault after being upset by Tommy McCraw of the White Sox at 2nd base in the 4th inning of game here April 18. McCraw was forced out by Smith but succeeded in breaking up double play on Tommie Agee. White Sox won, 5-2. (UPI PHOTO).



DOWN BUT NOT OUT - Philadelphia: 76ers Coach Alex Hannum holds head of Billy Cunningham, who lies atop legs of Warriors Nate Thurmond. Pair crushed to floor after colliding while going for rebound in 2nd period of game here recently. Neither was seriously hurt. (UPI PHOTO).

Grambling College No. 1

TUCSON, ARIZ. - The Grambling Tigers, 1967 champs of the Southwestern Athletic Conference, rank No. 1 nationally in the current college division baseball poll conducted by the newspaper, Collegiate Baseball.

The Louisiana team displayed impressive hitting and pitching credentials in winning 23 of its first 24 games.

Grambling is coached by the school's president R. W. E. Jones, who has handled the job skillfully and devotedly since 1925.

Jones-coached teams have won 450 games while losing only 77 since World War II.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics inducted him into NAIA College Baseball Hall of Fame in 1963. Other teams in the top 10, announced in order by Collegiate Baseball are: Southern Connecticut; Occidental, Calif.; Pembroke State, N. C.; Georgia Southern; Northern Arizona; Grand Canyon College, Ariz.; Parson Neb.; Central Michigan and Marietta, Ohio.



SIGN FOR REMATCH - New York: Dick Tiger (right), world light-heavyweight champion, and Jose Torres smile April 20 after they signed a contract for a 15-round rematch at Madison Square Garden May 16. Tiger, 37, will be defending his crown for the first time since winning it from Torres last December 16. (UPI PHOTO).



SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS
by Charles J. Livingston

FROM CRICKET TO BASEBALL TO SOCCER

Cricket spawned baseball and baseball spawned soccer, Yankee style.

That statement, odd as it may seem, describes in capsule form the historical connections and transdevelopment of American soccer, which has just attained professional big league status.

However, to get a broader picture of American-bred soccer, one needs to examine its present connections with baseball and baseball's former connection with cricket. So the story really begins with cricket, the so-called "limey" game of bat-and-ball.

It is doubted if many people know it, but cricket pre-dates baseball in this country, having been imported by early English settlers. In fact, baseball sprang almost directly from cricket, with many of the first baseball players being former cricketers.

The organizer and first manager of the first major league baseball team--the Cincinnati Red Stockings of 1864--was a former cricketer named Harry Wright, who, in turn, converted many other cricketers to the "American game" and brought them into the then fledgling National League.

But the impatient sport fan might ask: "What does all this got to do with soccer?" The reply is, plenty. In fact, baseball has just spawned professional soccer in these United States.

How? With money and ball parks to play in. In other words, professional baseball, having long gained full maturity, is now lending a helping hand to get soccer "off the ground."

Let's look further into this baseball-soccer relationship. To begin with, most of the newly-fledged American pro-soccer teams have identified with baseball teams. For instance, the Chicago Mustangs of the United Soccer Association is closely associated with the Chicago White Sox, in whose ballpark the Mustangs play their home games.

Over in the rival National Professional Soccer League, William C. Bartholomey, high ranking Atlanta Braves executive, is also president of the Atlanta Chiefs soccer team.

The 12 teams in the USA and NPSL play their games in baseball parks, since few, if any, stadiums in this country are built expressly for soccer. Meantime, the baseball men behind the sponsorship of professional soccer are evidently shelling out cash to support it, hoping to "cash in" later when the American public takes to the sport. It could be a rather costly venture, because at the present time both leagues are importing foreign players in order to provide the calibre of professional soccer. It would take much longer, you see, to develop American-born players of professional stature.

Like baseball and football, soccer seeks to cash in on the combination of live and television audiences. And the fast pace of soccer should make the game attractive to the TV fan.

But the native-born, unorientated American sport fan might ask: What is soccer, anyway? How does it compare with American football?

Logically speaking, soccer is football, as it is played only with the feet, with a little head-work included, whereas in (American) football, a play starts and usually ends with the hands



EFFORT FRUITFUL - Philadelphia: 76er Lucius Jackson (54) gets a rebound off the boards despite the efforts of Warrior Nate Thurmond (42). Looking on in the rear are 76ers Wally Jones (24) and Warrior Jeff Mullins (23). The 76ers beat the Warriors 124-95. (UPI PHOTO).

Tracksters In Louisiana Flirting With World Records

GRAMBLING, La. (SPECIAL) - A fabulous 440 relay quartet from Texas Southern University of Houston, Tex., highlighted the Eighth annual Grambling Relays by tying the world record for that event here last Saturday afternoon.

Despite a bad baton pass on the third leg of the record tying run a Tiger foursome of Lee Smith, Bobby Evans, Clyde Duncan and Jim Hines teamed up to clock a sizzling 39.6 to tie the world mark set by Southern University of Baton Rouge in 1966. The same foursome came back in the 880 baton event to run a blistering 1:23.3 while the freshman unit from Texas Southern won their division with 1:24.2 clocking.

Hurdle and sprint sensation Southern took top honors in the century with a 9.3 clocking

while Kirk Clayton Grambling sprint ace was a step back at 9.4.

Bristol came back in the 120 high barriers to clock a 13.8 and beat out teammate Bernard Cage and Russell Mitchell of Grambling who finished second and third respectively.

Host Grambling which has been injury plagued most of the season garnered three first places for the fest which included a fine 10:06.0 clocking for the distance medley relay which was composed of Winston Short, Larry Hawkins, Lennox Yearwood and Marvin Solomon.

Soloman came back after the distance medley event to grab top honors in the mile run with a 4:19.5 clocking and teammate Phillip Johnson captured the long jump title with a leap of 23 feet.

Powerful relay teams from Prairie View, Tex., copped the sprint medley with a scorching 3:18.0 and the mile relay with a 3:10.0 clocking to shut out top seeded Arkansas AM&N which finished a poor fourth.

But John Hartfield of Texas Southern came back after an early season injury to clear the high jump bar at 7 feet but missed on three attempts at 7-2.

Texas Southern quartermiler Maurice Pittman logged in a 47.2 to outdistance Grambling ace Henry Noel who snatched down second place honors.

Fresh relay units from Prairie View made fine showings as they were times 41.0 for the sprint relay, 3:14.2 for the mile relay and finished second behind Texas Southern's freshmen in the 880 baton event.

SPORTS PARADE

By Negro Press International
SPEED BEATS GRIFFITH
NEW YORK - The inability of dethroned middleweight champion Emile Griffith to cope with the flashing speed of Italy's Nino Benvenuti evidently cost him his title last week.

Although Griffith floored Benvenuti with a smashing right to the jaw in the fourth round, he was unable to catch up with the European "Fancy Dan" and as a result lost the 15-round decision. He will get a title rematch soon.

WIN TITLE
GRAMBLING, La. - With pitchers Roy Maine and Jerry Washington and sluggers Matthew Alexander, Alfred Gibson and Ben Williams leading the heroics, the Grambling college Tigers blasted Jackson State twice last week, 5-3, 8-1 to win their sixth Southwestern Athletic Conference baseball title. Alexander, Gibson and Williams blasted homers, as the Tigers finished the season with a 17-1, won-lost conference record and an overall mark of 24-1.

TIGER-TORRES FIGHT SET
NEW YORK - Nigerian's Dick Tiger will submit to the acid test of champions when he gives the man he dethroned, Jose Torres, a title rematch in Madison Square Garden, May 16. Tiger will try to beat the proverbial ring jinx which places champions "on the spot" in defending against their victims in rematches. Tiger won the light heavyweight crown from Torres on a controversial decision in the Garden last Dec. 16.

FITNESS POST
WASHINGTON - With the reported backing of various civil rights groups, former football great Jim Brown was being prominently mentioned last week as a prime candidate to succeed Stan Musial as national consultant to President Johnson on youth fitness. Contending with Brown for the post, left-vacant when Musial became manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, are ex-pro basketball star Bob Pettit, and Pat Retacliff, formerly of the pro Philadelphia Eagles football team.

SELECTED AGAIN
NEW YORK - While at least one of his former all-star teammates lost out on re-election, incumbent's Oscar (Big O) Robertson last week was voted a

member of the National Basketball Association's All-Star team for the seventh consecutive year. Bill Russell, player-coach of the Boston Celtics and a perennial Robertson all-star teammate, could only make the second team.

Hampton Wins Over Shaw-ESTC

HAMPTON INSTITUTE, Va. - Dave Phillips, Hampton Institute's top distance runner, won both the mile and the half-mile, Directors of the United States Karate Association as Director of the Association's Fifth Region. The election took place earlier this month at the Association's Annual Meeting and Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. As Director of Region Five, Willis will have jurisdiction over USKA affairs in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D. C., Delaware, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Married to the former Alyce H. Gordon of Warsaw, Va., he is the father of two children, Hulon, Jr., 13, and Kimberly Dawn, 8.



TROPHY WINNER - Lionel Urgan, star sprinter for North Carolina College, holds a trophy received as most valuable team member in the Piedmont Invitational tournament at Furman University, Greenville, S. C., this season. Urgan also holds down positions on the school's record-breaking relay teams, and will be an important factor in the team's performance at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia this weekend.



KARATE REGIONAL DIRECTOR - Hulon L. Willis, Sr., assistant professor of health and physical education and wrestling coach at Virginia State College, Petersburg, has been elected by the Board of Directors of the United States Karate Association as Director of the Association's Fifth Region. The election took place earlier this month at the Association's Annual Meeting and Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. As Director of Region Five, Willis will have jurisdiction over USKA affairs in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D. C., Delaware, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Married to the former Alyce H. Gordon of Warsaw, Va., he is the father of two children, Hulon, Jr., 13, and Kimberly Dawn, 8.

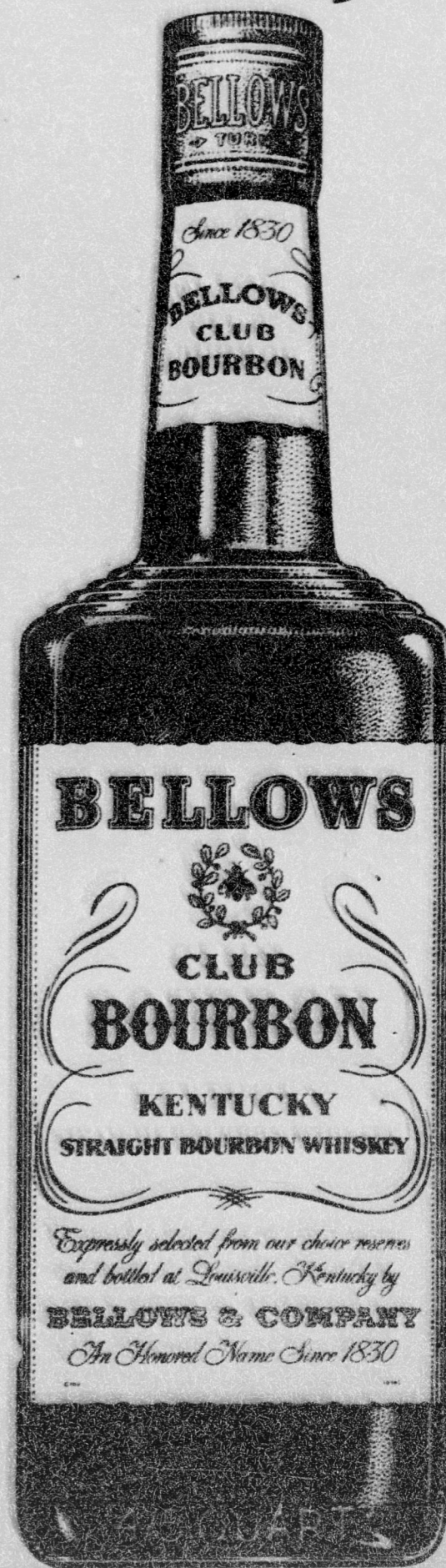
School Club Fetes Farris

The Service Club of Garner Consolidated School, out of appreciation of the job done by Coach James R. Farris, with the basketball team, during the 1966-67 season, feted him with a "Farris Day." It is to be remembered that he was voted "Coach of the Year," in the Wake-Johnston Association which he is the president.

John C. Coleman, president of the Service Club, presided over the program. There was a song dedicated to Coach Farris, which was written especially for the occasion. Carolyn Morgan presented a plaque to the Coach. He was also given a miniature '67 Cougar, and a surprise package, given by the faculty.

Following the program, a dinner was served in the cafeteria, in his honor. The Varsity basketball team was also guests at the dinner.

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