

SPORTS

Capital City Comets Set Fast Pace In Event

Raleigh's Capital City Comets, under the leadership of head coach Bennie A. Mack, Sr., and assistant coach Ray Debnam, set a fast pace at the Developmental Track Meet sponsored by the Chapel Hill Pacers recently.

The track team, which is only two years old, has a total membership of 88 kids, ranging in age from five to 17. These young athletes, many of them from Raleigh's inner-city projects, not only performed superbly on the track field, but their off-the-track decorum was also beyond reproach.

Winning a total of 41 blue ribbons, 22 second-place ribbons and 17 third-place ribbons, this club is truly on the move. They are currently looking for a sponsor, and interested civic organizations or businesses are asked to contact Mack at 851-4778.

To date, the Capital City Comets have participated in two invitational meets, winning a total of 233 ribbons, placing first through sixth in various events. Average team speed for the Comets in the 100-meter dash is 15.2 seconds. This is a combined average of ages 5-17.

Blacks Dominate Recent NBA Draft

Twenty-one of the 27 first-round picks in the recent National Basketball Association draft were blacks, including the first 14 picks.

Blacks comprised 72 percent of NBA rosters this year, and the disparity promises to become more acute next season, as the first round choices wedge their way onto the NBA rosters.

The first pick in the draft was Syracuse's Derrick Coleman, the NCAA's all-time leading rebounder. To no one's surprise, Coleman was chosen by the New Jersey Nets, who needed help at every position. Guards were the favorite draft picks, as at least a dozen of the first 27 picks will see backcourt duty as pros.

The first guard chosen was Gary Payton of Oregon State, followed by scoring guard Chris Jackson of Louisiana State, who came out of school two years early.

Only two players from traditionally black colleges were among the 54 players chosen in the two-round draft. Hot-shooting guard A.J. English, Small College Player of the Year for Virginia Union University, was chosen 37th by the Washington Bullets. English was the first pick for the Bullets. The Indiana Pacers selected Kenny Williams, a 6'9" forward from Elizabeth City State.

Houston's Rozier Now Faces Two Paternity Suits

Houston Oilers' running back Mike Rozier has been named in two separate paternity suits filed recently in Houston.

The latest suit was filed by Rita Baldwin, 25, who claims that Rozier, 29, a five-year veteran and a former Heisman Trophy winner, is the father of her baby, according to her lawyer, Glenn Lilly.

Lilly is also the attorney for Pamela Gobert, 23, who filed a paternity suit against Rozier earlier in June.

K. C. Royals Say Bo Jackson Now Trade Bait

The Kansas City Royals have confirmed that slugger outfielder Bo Jackson, the most valuable player of last season's All-Star Game, and an NFL running back with the Los Angeles Raiders, could be trade bait.

Jackson, batting in the low .270s with only 12 home runs, was rumored to be offered for San Diego slugger Joe Carter. Jackson earns only \$1 million per year. Carter earns \$3.1 million per year. Jackson lost a bid to have his salary hiked by \$1 million during the off-season. He earns only the 10th highest salary on the team, despite leading the team in homers and RBIs.

Atlanta's Bruce Sacked With Garbage Detail

Atlanta Falcons' linebacker Aundray Bruce won't be sacking quarterbacks, he'll be sacking garbage after being assigned to pick up trash as part of a court-ordered community service requirement.

Bruce, the NFL's No. 1 draft pick in 1985, failed to show up for a charity golf event, and was then given trash duty. Bruce was placed on probation in April after he pleaded no contest to one count of disorderly conduct for allegedly threatening a pizza delivery man with a BB gun. He was fined \$500 and given a 12-month suspended sentence.



SHOWBIZ BUSINESSMAN — Ben King, the showbiz and entertainment promoter known as much for his media rhetoric as for his promoting tactics has a widespread reputation as a shrewd businessman. He is often charged with making professional boxing a "gala affair."

Johnson Says He'll Compete When Suspension Lifted

Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson predicted that he will still be able to compete as a sprinter when his two-year suspension ends in September.

"I have no doubt in my mind that I can run fast again," said the Jamaican-born Johnson, 28, who was barred from running for two years and stripped of the gold medal and his 100-meter world record after testing positive for steroid use at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"Hopefully, people can forgive me. It's been tough for me and my family,

my lawyer and all those who supported me," said Johnson.

Johnson had insisted for months after the Olympics that someone had tampered with his urine sample, or someone had spiked his water bottle. Later, he admitted the steroid use.

Asked why he lied, Johnson replied, "At the time, there was a lot of pressure on me. Yes, I lied, but it's something I'm not ashamed of because everybody lied."

"Yet I'm very sorry I did it. It's something I'd never do again," said Johnson.



Dual-Sport Athletes

In high school and college, it's normal for kids to participate in more than one sport, and that's fine.

But when it comes to playing more than one pro sport, I personally don't like it. I think one of the sports always has to suffer.

Of course, Bo Jackson is probably the best-known professional athlete today who plays two sports, playing for the Kansas City Royals and the Los Angeles Raiders. Bo is a very gifted athlete, and I think Deon Sanders is probably going to be in the same category. The New York Yankees and the Atlanta Falcons are lucky to have Sanders. Deon may not hit as many home runs as Bo, but with his speed and some of the other things that he can do, I think he will contribute a lot to a major-league club.

On the other hand, I just don't know how these guys can really put in enough effort in trying to make themselves better athletes—better football players, better baseball players—without concentrating on one sport. Bo Jackson has been able to do it for the last two years, but I think that the older he gets, the more he's probably going to concentrate on one or the other.

Even in playing one pro sport, there's a danger that an athlete will wear himself out. But with two sports, you never give your body a chance to rest during the year. You go from one sport to the other, and each requires a different fitness. In football, you can afford to have huge thighs. In baseball, you can't play built that way. You need to be a little more streamlined, like Deon Sanders, in order to be a great ballplayer.

A few athletes in the past have managed two sports: Ron Reed, for instance, played basketball for the Detroit Pistons one season and also pitched for the Atlanta Braves. Gene Connelly of the Milwaukee Braves and the Philadelphia Phillies also played in the NBA. There were a few of them through the years, but I still think you have to concentrate on one sport or the other.

Reed, for instance, didn't have a Hall of Fame career, but he certainly had a better career in baseball than he would have had in basketball. He was a dependable major-league pitcher for many years.

All sports require different uses of concentration. It's hard to be tops in more than one. And I'm not sure it's fair to the teams you play for. A pro athlete is paid to give his all to his team. I just don't see how that's possible, when one sport is always going to take away something from the other, no matter what. **Ed**

Mark Aaron is the top home-run hitter of all time with 755 homers. A member of baseball's Hall of Fame, Mark is under vice president of the Atlanta Braves.

49ers Craig Makes Mark As Actor

Roger Craig, running back for the Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers, is making his mark in another arena, acting.

Craig will make his acting debut in

the movie "The Untouchables," currently filming in Los Angeles. Craig portrays an FBI agent who pursues the gangster boss of the city in the movie.

Craig's acting career began in 1987 when he landed a part in the movie "The Untouchables" with Jack Nicholson, Sylvester Stallone and Robert

Student By Day, Boxer By Nite Mark Lewis Bests Champion

A Job Corps student by day and amateur boxer by night, Mark Lewis defeated U.S. boxing championship title holder Steve Johnson from Denver in a 4-1 decision at the Las Vegas Goodwill Games "Box-Off" on June 8. This upset followed Lewis' win of the highly coveted national title at the USA Amateur Boxing Tournament in Miami, Fla., where he defeated top-seeded Nevada state champion Patrick Briseno.

Lewis will represent the U.S. at the 1990 Goodwill Games on July 28 in Seattle and compete in the 130-pound weight class against international contenders from Cuba and the Soviet Union.

These achievements are remarkable for a student enrolled full-time in the Sacramento Job Corps carpentry program. Job Corps is a federally funded residential, education and training program for disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16 and 21. Lewis' regimen starts every morning at 5 a.m., when he leaves his dorm to run from 5-10 miles before eating breakfast in the cafeteria with the 400 other students who live at the Sacramento Job Corps center. From there he attends his educational class, where he is studying to pass his GED. After lunch he receives hands-on training in carpentry sponsored by the Home Builders Institute, the educational arm of the National Association of Home Builders.

After dinner, Lewis and other members of the center's Boxing Club are taken to the local Police Athletic League gymnasium—where incidentally, Lewis learned about Job Corps.

The group returns to the dormitories in time for the 10 p.m. curfew.

For the 21-year-old Lewis, traveling to Seattle will have an added bonus: his carpentry classmates will be in Seattle to perform on-site construction maintenance for the games. While Lewis will be in training the week before the games, his fellow carpenters in training will be putting the finishing touches on athletic lockers to be used by competing athletes. His classmates will have the chance to see him box and to root him on to victory.

For the past 18 months, Job Corps students have spent more than 40,000 hours working on assorted construction projects for the 1990 Goodwill Games. An estimated 700 students from 10 Job Corps centers in the Pacific Northwest have built 236 platforms for press seating, 242 custom press tables, 112 team bike dividers, 88 volleyball barriers, 614 sandwich signs and more. In what could be a lucky omen, the Job Corps has also built what are known in international athletic parlance as "kiss and cry platforms" upon which winners are awarded their medals. The Job Corps community is hoping to see one of its own, Mark Lewis, among those winners.

Getting to compete at the internationally acclaimed Goodwill Games is a milestone for Lewis, whose lifelong goal is to be a world champion. Born in 1968 in Laurel, Miss., he started boxing in Plainfield, N.J., at the age of 12. In 1983, when he was living in Merced, Calif., Lewis joined a local gym and later became associated with the Merced Boxing Club.

At the suggestion of a boxing enthusiast friend, Art Porras, he went to Sacramento in 1987 with another young Merced boxer, Ray Lavoto. Porras felt that two young fighters had great potential and could benefit from the Sacramento Police Athletic League Gym under the watchful eye of Harry "Pop" Wilson, PAL's director of boxing.

Familiar Names Engraved On '90 Wachovia Cup

Three familiar names will be engraved on Wachovia Cup awards this year as Grimsley of Greensboro, T.W. Andrews of High Point and Hendersonville won their classifications, while Monroe High School won its first cup award.

Grimsley won the 4-A cup for the fifth time in six years; High Point Andrews took the 3-A cup for the fourth time in five years; and Hendersonville won the 1-A classification for the fifth straight year. Monroe, the runner-up last year, withstood strong competition from the N.C. School of Science and Math to break Salisbury's stronghold on the 2-A award.

The Wachovia Cup program recognizes schools that have the best overall intercollegiate sports programs in North Carolina. It is sponsored by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and Wachovia Bank and Trust Co.



CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM — Kabele Temple 1983 Little League Championship team, coached by Henry Hall is shown. Kneeling, left to right: Freddie Bryant, William Crockett, James Upchurch, Robert Harris, Tony Dunn, William "June Rabbit" Harfield, Arthur "Cool Man" Harris, Atlanta Anderson, Milton Riddick, Brad Cox, Jr. and Roy Nicks. Standing left to right: James "Jim" Lytle, assistant coach; Wilbert Lasher, Jr., Leon Dunn, Benjamin Hall, Ernest Kelly, James Elbery, Robert Jones, Joseph Dunn, Wiley Latham, Harold Stone, Lawrence Jordan, Coach Henry Hall. Hall has coached many championship teams since 1981 and received many awards and citations.

U.S. Soccer Players Urge Recruit Inner City Blacks

After the United States' dismal performance in World Cup soccer play, exiting in the first round with three straight losses, one of only two blacks on the team says that the United States should cultivate inner-city youths for the sport.

Desmond Armstrong, who, along with Jammy Banks, were the only blacks on the team, criticized the U.S. Soccer Federation for paying lip service to recruiting minorities.

"The federation hasn't done anything to recruit black athletes," Armstrong told USA Today. "There have been many talented black soccer players who have played with state teams. But something kept

them from making the national team and they dropped out."

Armstrong said black players are forced to change positions once they get to the national team, as he and Banks were. He cautions that having more blacks on the team won't mean more U.S. team success. But he says, "When we tap into all segments of this country, then you'll find a player with hunger and more desire. That will make for a more aggressive, attractive and competitive brand of soccer."

Armstrong said he and Banks were trying to start youth programs in their hometowns of Baltimore and Milwaukee, respectively.

Birmingham, Ala. Councilman Seeks Cancellation Of PGA Event

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A Birmingham, Ala., city councilman is seeking to have the Professional Golfers Association cancel a scheduled tour event in his town because the host country club has no black members.

William Bell said he's "grateful" that the PGA chose his city for the event, to be held at Shoal Creek Country Club, which could pump \$50 million into the local economy, but he thinks that the city might be violating a law by contributing to discriminatory groups.

"I know that there are no black members," says Bell, who has introduced a resolution to drop the city from sponsorship. "It's not that many blacks might be able to afford a private club. It's the principle," he says.

A spokesperson for the PGA says

that the Shoal Creek Club has passed its inspection for discriminatory bylaws, even though it has no black members. Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington, who is black, had not commented. Arrington approved \$1,500 for an ad to run in the tournament program, the only city involvement. The ad has since been canceled.

Joyner-Kersee In Form At Meet

In what has been her first open long-jump competition since she won the Olympic gold medal in 1988, Jackie Joyner-Kersee recently defied gravity and leaped her way into the event's first place spot during the Mobile Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

soaring some 23'24" into the air, the American record-holder, Ms. Kersee, clinched her second national title.