

Are minorities on right track?



AARON SHEININ

By AARON SHEININ
Carolina Life Editor

A new study has just been released by Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society regarding minority opportunities in professional sports. The grades may not be surprising, but the inferences are infuriating. To me, anyway.

Pro basketball received the highest mark of an A. The NFL earned a B-plus for improvement. Major league baseball, however, was slapped with a C.

Some may brand me a racist for what I am about to write, but this is not the case. Racism, I believe is manifested by people who hold their questions and concerns inside. I will not become a victim of this. What better forum to voice

these questions, than your friendly campus newspaper?

I am not judging the intentions, but I am confused on a few points.

In the story by *Associated Press* reporter Richard Lapchick, the center's director, said, "It is very disheartening to see how little progress has been made in major league baseball. There are very few blacks holding those positions."

Okay, here we go. Now, was the point of this study to find out how minorities (this is the plural form) fare in sports or how blacks fare? The last time I checked, blacks were not the only minority group out there. It is time for blacks to quit hiding behind the veil of minorities (the plural again) if they are only going to talk about their own minority.

Richard Lapchick, what about the Asian, Latin American, Jewish, Armenian and even the women minority? Did you forget to include them in your study, or did you merely study the black minority in sport?

The study also said that minorities (that's right, plural) have made progress, on the field and in pay, but not in front office management. Well, call me crazy, the last time I saw, possibly the second most powerful man in baseball was black. His name is Bill White (ironic, isn't it?), and he is president of the National League, the Senior Circuit.

Also, Frank Robinson, the first black manager in baseball, who was fired as skipper of the Baltimore Orioles, was named assistant general manager. Just the fact that he was fired might have done more for the cause than his hiring. By firing Robinson, the Orioles proved they did not hire him to be a token. They did prove that he was given the job because of his great knowledge of the game.

In Robinson's defense, let me say that he did an outstanding job. The reason the Orioles remain perennial cellar-dwellers is due to the front office management, or lack thereof. This is an example of baseball's paranoia. When a team

starts doing poorly, the manager is always the first to go, not the .200 hitter or the pitcher with the ERA higher than his shoe size. Robinson has the chance to right the wrong.

Let's get back to the study. There is one mention of a woman, and a couple of statistics that include Latins and Hispanics. There was not a mention, of Jim Esian, the Chicago Cubs manager, who became the first manager of Armenian descent. Doesn't this count as a minority? Or is it because he is a member of a white minority?

Does this make me a racist? I hope not. I am, however, tired of sitting on questions such as this for fear of being labeled a racist.

If I am totally off base here, please write me and let me know. I don't want this to cause continued harboring of ill-will. As I said before, these are questions that I've wondered about for some time. They are not direct attacks on anyone. However, they are direct attacks on the insinuations that blacks are the only minority being prejudiced against.

Charlotte replaces Littles as coach

By The Associated Press

The Charlotte Hornets on Tuesday announced a major front-office shakeup, replacing coach Gene Littles with team vice president Allan Bristow.

Littles will become a team vice president and a special assistant to club President Spencer Stolpen, officials with the National Basketball Association team said at a news conference.

"We're not moving people in or moving people out," Stolpen said. "We're realigning ourselves to help build our franchise."

The new director of player personnel will be Dave Twardzik, who was director of scouting for the team. His duties had been part of Bristow's job.

Bristow, 41, who was an assistant to former Denver Nuggets coach Doug Moe for six seasons, has no head coaching experience in the NBA. He becomes the third Hornets coach in the team's brief history.

"When the call came over the last couple of days, I got real pumped up about coaching the Hornets," he said. "I felt I was young enough to take the challenge. There would have been a void in my life if I didn't try it."

Littles, 48, who replaced Dick Harter in during the middle of the 1989-90 season, posted a 37-87 record as coach. Last year, the team won a club-high 26 games with him on the bench.

Littles joined the team when Charlotte won the franchise in 1987 as director of player personnel and later joined Harter on the bench as an assistant coach.

Littles said he was excited to move to the front office.

"There were rumors three months ago that I was moving up, but that was not to a position that was favorable to me," he said. "This is favorable."

He said it was his decision to take the job or remain on as coach.

"I was not pressured into doing this," he said. "It was my choice. Right now I don't feel like I want to coach."

Littles made a quick reference to the team's problems on and off the court last season.

"It was a tough year for me last year," he said. "We had our ups and downs."

At one point, Littles and former first-round draft pick J.R. Reid sparred in the media. Then Littles got into hot water with Bristow. Reports surfaced that Littles would be replaced.

Bristow and Littles had what Littles described as a "misunderstanding" earlier this summer over the team's first pick in the NBA draft. Littles reportedly told two newspapers that he preferred Syracuse forward Billy Owens but that the team would select Nevada-Las Vegas forward Larry Johnson.

Johnson was eventually selected by the Hornets, who picked first in the draft. He remains unsigned.

Littles said any friction between him and Bristow was now in the past.

"If there was a problem they would have moved me out," he said. "They wouldn't have given me a management position."

He added that media accounts of his differences with Bristow over the team's No. 1 pick in June's NBA draft were "blown out of proportion."

Stolpen said Littles will assist him and owner George Shinn in dealing with the league as well as the day-to-day operation of the franchise.

"George and I value Gene's knowledge and advice and know that Gene will thrive in this new job," he said.

Shinn, who is recovering from minor foot surgery, did not attend the news conference.

"Gene has done a terrific job in all of his duties over the past three seasons with the Hornets," he said in a prepared statement.

"When he indicated he was interested in moving into management, things fell into place as Allan had the same motive to become a head coach and Dave (Twardzik) wanted to move up."

Football players prepare for season

By The Associated Press

Quarterback Bobby Fuller and wide receiver Robert Brooks have spent much of this summer in Columbia doing school work and working out.

The two seniors have tossed the football, but also are working in school-related internships, attending classes and lifting weights.

Now they are ready for practice to begin Aug. 15 and for the season opener Sept. 7 against Duke.

A major goal this year for the Gamecocks is a major bowl, something they missed last year because of a miserable midseason. After winning four of its first five games, South Carolina lost three straight to The Citadel, North Carolina State and Florida State.

"We all wish we could have won some of the bigger games last year," Fuller said. "Going to a bowl would have been nice. But we ended up strong (beating West Virginia 29-10 in the last game),



Fuller

and that kind of took away the sour feeling we had during the middle of the year.

"It seemed like things kind of fell apart a little, but everybody got their mind back into it by the end of the season."

If the Gamecocks are to improve on their 6-5 record of a year ago and make a bowl, Fuller and Brooks will likely show the way. Last year, Fuller threw for 2,372 yards — the third-highest total in school history — in his first sea-



Brooks

son as a Gamecock after transferring from Appalachian State.

Brooks caught 33 passes for 548 yards despite missing two games with a knee injury.

Brooks won't be Fuller's only target, however. Seniors Eddie Miller and David Pitchko also return, giving the Gamecocks, on paper at least, a strong passing attack. That will help compensate for what will be an inexperienced running game led by sophomore Rob DeBoer.

"That doesn't mean people can zero in on one thing," Brooks said. "We've got a lot of weapons. We can be just as good as we want to be. I have high expectations for myself and my teammates. We want to excel and be great like everyone wants us to be."

Fuller said the Gamecocks can't afford to depend on the passing game totally.

"We're going to have to run the ball and make it work," Fuller said. "We can't sit back and throw all day. The offensive line is rebuilding, and we've got a lot of young players, but I think we'll come through."

This season will be the last for South Carolina as an independent. The Gamecocks will compete for the Southeastern Conference championship in 1992, and a good performance this season will provide a solid send-off into what is one of the toughest college football leagues in the nation.

Greatest wrestler alive gets fired by money-grubbing executives

By DAVID BOWDEN
Editor in Chief

A nation mourns. The firing of "Nature Boy" Ric Flair from World Championship Wrestling (WCW) has stunned the world. Flair, the highest paid wrestler in the WCW and seven-time world heavyweight champion, was dismissed earlier this month following a dispute over his contract. The WCW, which is owned by cable-mogul Ted Turner, reportedly wanted to cut Flair's \$780,000 salary in half.

Ric Flair is widely regarded as the greatest wrestler of all time. He is the master of the Figure Four leg-lock, one of the most fearsome submission holds in the wrestling arsenal. Flair has always been known for his high-profile "stylin' and profilin'." His characteristic war-cry of "Woooo!" humbles all but the heartiest opposition. He is as suave and sophisticated as he is self-confident. And he is a master of his sport.

Who can forget his colorful rivalries with Dusty Rhodes, Ricky Steamboat, Terry Funk, Lex Luger and the noisily nice Sting? He has given some of the most memorable speeches in wrestling history, with some hilarious catch-phrases. For example, he has often proclaimed that he is a "sixty-minute man going all night long" and "custom-built from head to toe."

As leader of the ruthless Four Horsemen, Flair reigned like a king, striking terror in the hearts of

foes. Ric Flair has been challenged for supremacy, but he always comes out on top, like I am sure he will in this fiasco.

This bleach blond, sequin-covered superstar has lunched with the President of the United States. He is good friends with our state's governor. In fact Governor Carroll Campbell declared September 5, 1989 "Ric Flair Day" in South Carolina. Flair is obviously a legend in his own time.

By firing that legend, Ted Turner is showing the same genius in wrestling that he exhibits as owner of the Atlanta Braves (who are succeeding despite their owner). This could very well mean the end of the WCW. The World Wrestling Federation, the deplorably awful wrestling organization that is the WCW's chief rival, should dominate with the firing of Flair. In fact, it is rumored that Flair will sign with the WWF on August 2. This would vastly improve the "Hollywood wrestling" of the WWF, where Flair can run roughshod over kiddy heroes such as Hulk Hogan and the Ultimate Warrior.

Flair is a consummate entertainer and performer. The Nature Boy has brought joy to millions of wrestling fans. In an era where wrestlers are judged more on their pectoral size than on their skill, Flair remained a bastion of "real" wrestling style. He will be missed, but to use his own words, diamonds are forever and so is Ric Flair.

Predictions made on baseball

By JACQUES TRAP
Insane Lunatic

Well, the second half of the baseball season is underway and teams are preparing for a pennant chase. The Blue Jays, Tigers, Mets, Pirates, Dodgers, Braves, Reds and all of the A.L. West will be shuffling players trying to make the best deal for their pennant chases.

To save you baseball fans from the surprises of trades, I decided to make a few fearless predictions of my own:

■ The Giants will trade Roger Craig and Will Clark to the Mets for Dave Magadan. It's a risky trade but the Mets need a manager and a first-baseman. The Giants have a better chance of beating God in a wrestling match than winning the N.L. West.

■ In order to shake up the team, the Dodgers will hire former USC President James Holderman as a towel boy. Holderman, in desperate need of a job, will buy Darryl Strawberry and Orel Hershiser lavender bath robes.

■ Cecil Fielder will hit 40 home runs in the last 60 games of the year to break Roger Maris'

record. Fielder will go to take his team to the World Series, only to lose to the Pirates.

■ The Braves, in a mode of cleverness, will trade away Tom Glavine and Steve Avery for Mike Marshall. The trade throws off the Dodgers, making them trade Ramon Martinez and Tim Lincecum. The trade works, as the Braves finish above the Dodgers but lose to the Reds.

■ The Oakland A's in a blockbuster trade will send Jose Canseco to the Seattle Mariners for Ken Griffey Jr. and Ken Griffey Sr. Rickey Henderson will lead his team to the A.L. West title again but lose to Detroit.

■ The New York Yankees, in need of power, decide to trade away Don Mattingly for Paul Molitor of the Brewers. I did not say this trade made any sense, just that the Yankees did the trading.

■ Ozzie Smith, while doing a flip in mid-air, has a traumatic heart attack. The event causes the Cardinals to call up former USC player Tripp Cromer to take over. Cromer goes on to have outstanding numbers.

■ Otis Nixon, leading the league in stolen bases, over slides third base and lands in the vis-

iting team's dugout. He is taken to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, where he is diagnosed as having two broken arms. The Braves, however, do not put him on the disabled list and trade him away for Luis Gonzalez of Houston.

■ Deion Sanders comes to work in the wrong uniform one day.

■ Lenny Dykstra is convicted of DUI and forced to work with MADD. This takes away from his baseball time, so he retires.

■ In a surprising turn of events, Mike Heath goes on an incredible tear and former *Gamecock* sports editor Steve Johnson's prediction of Heath winning the N.L. batting title is actually correct. Heath dedicates his trophy to Steve saying, "I couldn't have done it without his support."

■ Desiring his dream of being a Baptist preacher, Kevin Mitchell quits baseball.

■ Finally, the Yankees hire USC Coach June Raines as their new manager.

Oh well, keep your scorecard handy and see how many I got right!

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Editor's Note

Sports Editor Rich Taylor is tending to an illness in the family in Florida. He will return next week.

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