

Speaking for Joe Fan

By A. SPECTATOR

Ballots are being counted to determine the collegiate players who will be invited to Las Vegas April 15 for the Pizza-Hut Classic. The top vote getters, based on voting in more than 300 Pizza Huts across the country, plus those chosen by the coaches advisory board, will compete in the East-West affair. Naturally, many ballplayers will have signed pro contracts by then or will have academics or some other excuse for not attending. It's not likely that a player would miss any scheduled games for an excuse as flimsy as his studies. Can you imagine a player involved in the NCAA tournament saying, "Gee coach, I just gotta dissect that frog in zoo lab this week?"

The early polls indicate an overabundance of players for the East squad as hailing from the Southeast or Ohio Valley areas. The West squad looks like an all-Missouri Valley team. Perhaps there are a great many Pizza Huts in those areas.

BOOKER WASHINGTON was among the others receiving votes, and who knows, Book may make it on his own right. But if not, you can be sure he'll be chosen by the advisory board. It always helps attendance to have a local draw in a game of this type, plus we all feel Book deserves a shot at prominence for his outstanding, if unnoticed nationally, play in the past three years.

Speaking of Booker, UNLV's fine defensive end, BILL BOOKER, has signed a pro contract with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian League. The 22 year old was inked as a tight end, a position he played before UNLV, and a spot he'd rather play anyway. Good luck up north, Bill.

How about 59 years young, slamming SAMMY SNEAD? Sam has gone at par or under in about 10 of his last 12 tournament rounds. He's also been a definite threat in each of the last three tournaments which makes you wonder if life doesn't begin at 60!

A slice of life that has to be rated as authentic American as apple-pie and all the rest of that, is a state high school basketball tournament. This once-a-year tournament probably commands more newspaper ink, discussions, cracker-barrel oratory, and fodder for the hot-stove leaguers, than any other single athletic happening in the country. One can't help but show favoritism or get involved to some extent when tournament time comes every year. Nevada probably has one of the smallest turn-outs statewide for the event but it's hard to imagine any state having any more pageantry or enthusiasm the local fans and teams employ.

The AAA and A finals were played locally at the Convention Center while the AA tussle was played up north. The only AA school locally is Boulder City, so it wouldn't really be fair to hold that division so far from the competing schools.

The local finals melted down to LV and Clark High in the AAA division, and Storey County (formerly Virginia City) and Indian Springs in the A game. None of these finalists was entirely unexpected, least of all Storey County, a team that should be broken up to give the other schools a chance. The Muckers have won this tussle so many times that the finals should be named the Storey County Invitational. Led by the steady play and shooting of MVP BOB GALLAGHER, the Muckers systematically destroyed two opponents before engaging newcomer Indian Springs in a spine-tingler. The northern school, with an entire enrollment of 30 (we know that must be a national record), prevailed 71-70. Indian Springs showed a little more talent in a couple of spots and had a little edge in height but the poised Muckers had been here before and their cool, along with a good coaching staff, prevailed for the 8th time in 12 years.

The AAA division finally brought out the most fans, naturally, with the smallest yet most precocious being Las Vegas High vs. regular season leader and slight favorite, Clark. The screaming was evenly vociferous with the Wildcats having the edge in senior fans due to their longevity as a public school. Folks came out who must have played for the Wildcats in the 30's when L.V. High was built. At any rate, again it seemed to be a showdown between the coach SHERRILL STEPHENS classy, contained, poised club and Clark's run and gunners. Clark did miss the moves and scoring

SAM KEITH TURNS DEMOCRAT, WILL RUN AGAIN FOR STATE OFFICE

Keith, a life long Republican, quoted. "I no longer can pretend or support a 'Do nothing' party, whose principles and leadership have forgotten the welfare of its people. I am not bitter, just disappointed. These changing times, with all the vast problems, creates an adjustment of philosophy within myself concerning the needs and welfare of my fellowman. As a republican, I have nowhere to go. My political ambitions cannot be fulfilled with a dead party. This is not an overnight decision. After conferring with high ranking local and state Democrats and Republicans, I have come to a final decision to switch to the Democratic Party."

Keith, defeated for County Commissioner in the 1968 and 1970 general elections added, "I can see little hope or future for the Republican Party in Nevada for the next decade. I believe in a two party system, but I cannot live



ELAINE MILLS, MANAGER OF B. DALTON BOOKSELLERS AT BOULEVARD MALL, LOOKS OVER A COPY OF "THE DAY THE ANGELS CRIED" WITH ITS AUTHOR, SAM KEITH OF LAS VEGAS. THE NOVEL WHICH KEITH EXPECTS TO BE SOMETHING OF A BOMBHELL, DEALS WITH A NUCLEAR TEST WHICH DEVELOPS INTO AN UNCONTROLLABLE RUNAWAY REACTION.

with a party whose principles have failed to recognize the working man. I do not believe in a party who momentarily finds solutions to our many problems,

only because of political motivations, leaning toward a forth coming election year."

"I resign my offices as member of Republican Central Committee

--As Executive Board Member -- District Director and State Delegate. I have worked many years to achieve and to be elected to these offices. It isn't easy to give up what you have worked for and believed in all your life. "Yes, I'll be a working member of the Democratic Party and serve to the best of my ability when and where needed." (Signed Sam Keith).

Asked about his future political aspirations in Clark County and Nevada, Keith concluded: "I will definitely run for office in 1972. As a Democrat, I shall seek the office of State Senator or Assemblyman. I have not made up my mind at the present time which of the two offices I will run for, but I will be a candidate. I will continue to run for office, because my desire is to represent the people for better government and that's what it's all about."

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antics of one WILLIE SMITH somewhat as Smith has been bothered by an injured hand, and wasn't really himself, altho he did pop in 14 points to lead the team. Clark seemed to be running without a motive and their attempts to press the Wildcats never bothered smooth ballhandler EDDIE WASHINGTON.

The tournament MVP was EDDIE BURTON, who is only a soph, but a 6'5" one at that. He's hard to move inside and shows tremendous poise for an underclassman. Rather reminiscent of JIMMY MILLER as a soph at Vegas High. So the argument will continue for another year as to who is the best and we'll see you at the Convention Center again next March.

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