



Photo Courtesy of Bob Dunn

Fonner Park closed its gates Saturday and Ak-Sar-Ben opens its 50th racing season today at 4 p.m. This is the first season Ak-Sar-Ben will hold Sunday racing and advance betting on upcoming same-day races. Today's feature is the Ambassador's Stakes, which will be won by Vital Contact. (The DN's double pick, for all of you who care to put your money where our mouths are, is Patricia's Grace (No. 2) to Pledge Pin (No. 5). Longshots are Royal Diana in the first and Shortstop Speed in the second. Remember, you read it here first.)

## Seven consecutive strikes help Warriors capture bowling title

By Richard Cooper  
Staff Reporter

The Colonial Star Warriors rolled seven consecutive strikes in the sixth round of the finals to win the All-University Bowling title and \$200 at the East Campus Union.

The Colonial Star Warriors, the combined No. 6 and 10 teams from the Classic Big Eight League, which feeds members to the university intercollegiate team, got to the finals Monday night by defeating the Basil Bums in the quarter final match.

The final four consisted of two teams from the Big Eight League, No. 4 and the Star Warriors, Schramm Two, from the City Monday Night League, and Better Late Than Never from the East Campus Night Owl League.

Before the finals, eight teams were seeded into pairs. Four of them were left after duel matches. One upset took place in the quarters, when No. 4 scored an upset over the pre-meet favorite Boomer Sooners.

In the first round of the finals, team No. 4 got off to a quick start by jumping into first place. But in the fifth round,

the Colonial Star Warriors made up a 22-pin deficit to cut No. 4's lead to two pins. In the sixth round the Warriors had seven consecutive strikes to finish with 1,358, No. 4 second with 1,324, Schramm Two was third, 1,300 and Better Late Than Never was fourth with 1,213.

Tom Masters of the Star Warriors, and a second-team member on the university team, finished the tournament with a high score of 268 and a 498 series (two games combined). Russ Leeper, of No. 4 team and a first team university member, finished with the second-highest score of 255. Rick Scott, another member of the university team, bowled a 249 in his quarterfinal match.

Ray Koziol, the operations manager of East Union, said he was surprised that the teams from the Big Eight League did so well.

"I thought the teams from the Big Eight League bowled very well tonight," Koziol said. "It appears that club has gotten a little bit better than it was last year."

The members of the Colonial Star Warriors are Jeff Etheridge, Craig Hersinger, Vinny Viespoli and Masters.

## USFL needs to cooperate with NFL to survive

Now that it is three years old, I think it would be fair to give the United States Football League overdue evaluation.

Three years ago, when the idea of this spring league was just originated, the idea was to slowly build until one day it reached a competitive level with the mighty National Football League.

Realizing, however, that the league

could not be attractive without at least one player of a "star" status. The New Jersey Generals infuriated everyone in the state of Georgia by signing Herschel Walker to a multi-million dollar contract when he still had a year of college eligibility.

The signing of Walker was supposed to give the league the credibility it so badly needed, but the other owners of

the USFL franchises must have viewed it as more of a threat. The Los Angeles Express signed Steve Young, the Memphis Showboats signed Reggie White, and the now-defunct Pittsburgh Maulers signed Nebraska's Mike Rozier.

These signings, along with countless others by nearly every USFL franchise, instantly violated the idea of building the league slowly. Countless millions were spent to get these players out of the "star" status.

hearty football fan have to go six months without football. Immediately after the Super Bowl the USFL opened its spring training camps. The emphasis throughout all of this was that the league would in NO WAY compete with the NFL.

The USFL's seemingly greedy owners, however, immediately broke this promise. The Boston Breakers (who later became the New Orleans Breakers, only to move to Portland this season) were the first franchise to break this rule, when they signed former Cincinnati tight end Dan Ross to a multi-year, multi-million-dollar contract while he was still playing for the Bengals.

Not to be outdone, the New Jersey Generals once again entered the picture, as they signed former Nebraska linebacker Willie Harper away from San Francisco, safety Gary Barbaro away from the Kansas City Chiefs and defensive lineman Jim LeClair away

from the Cleveland Browns.

Feeling threatened by these actions, the remaining owners of the fledging franchises signed some players themselves. The Birmingham Stallions signed Cliff Stoudt, a back up to Terry Bradshaw at Pittsburgh most of his career and the Jacksonville Bulls signed Ed Luther of the San Diego Chargers.

These signings, insignificant as they may seem, caused the NFL to take a "cold cheek" attitude towards the league, and instantly ruined any earlier ideas that two leagues could survive without feuding.

The final area that the sinking league has failed in, is in its appeal to the public. When the league was still in its "baby" days, it signed a \$1 million contract with ABC. Now, after ABC officials have watched their television ratings steadily drop week by week, a renewed contract looks impossible.

The league did manage to get a contract with cable channel ESPN, but this is a far cry from what it originally had projected. To put it bluntly, the USFL needs television exposure desperately to gain some credibility, and it simply isn't getting it.

More importantly, the league isn't putting people in the stands. In Denver, home of the famed Denver Gold, the Denver Bears, a triple A baseball franchise, outdraw the Gold. Stories such as this are common around the league. Fewer than 20,000 people show up in Los Angeles to see \$40 million quarterback Steve Young and the Express play yet another one of their "Who cares?" games.

Even with the franchises that do draw well (Orlando, Jacksonville, Tampa) it isn't enough to keep these franchises afloat. There's only so many millions of dollars these free spending owners are going to be willing to lose.

The final area where I would like to evaluate the league is in the area of overall play. In 1982, when the league made its initial appearance, I honestly thought it showed potential. Although its level of play wasn't near that of the NFL's, I thought (dreamingly) that it would one day improve.

Now, however, I realize just how wrong I was. I tried to watch several USFL games and I get so sick of seeing their "stars" doing so well when they probably couldn't even make any team in the NFL.

My point is, the only way the USFL is going to survive is if it combines with the NFL and starts to work with them. The style of play is not near that of the NFL, but maybe, just maybe, with the pre-established league's help, it could survive.

Otherwise, it will end up just like the old World Football League: defunct.

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Another area where the league has gone back on its word is in its relationship with the NFL.

When the USFL was just in its planning stages, it was built up as an alternative to the NFL. No longer would the

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