THE DAY THE BIG MAN CRIED — The curtain raised Sunday at Memorial Stadium on the 1968 edition of "Violence on a Sunday Afternoon." Put another way, the Baltimore Colts began their quest for the National Football League champion. The normally violent world of Professional Pootball, however, was tempered Sunday with touches of tenderness. Jim Parker retired "Old No. 77," had his day and the Gentle Giant cried. In first panel Jim accepts proclamation from Fourth District Dels. Isiah Dixon Jr. and Troy Brailey. The proclamation, passed as a resolution of tribute to the former All-Pro lineman by the Maryland General Assembly, lauded his athletic ability and admirable qualities as a father, husband, nd outstanding citizen. Municipal Court Judge Robert B. Watts, who read the proclamation looks on. In center photo, the emotional impact of the moment temporarily overwhelmed the honoree and he wept on the shoulder of his wife, Mrs. Mae Parker and baby, David. Harvey Kasoff and Judge Watts, members of the Citizens Committee for Jim Parker's Day, applaud. At right, Ed Adams of the Colts Associates (at microphone) introduced William Boucher, (light coat at right) co-chairman of the Citizens Committee. Other members of the committee, from left: John Young and Robert Recker, Colts Corral; The Rev. Melvin Chester Swann, Waters AME Church; George W. Collins, A. Mouldrow, David T. Mason, David McDonald, Del Dixon, Mr. Kasoff, Mrs. Parker and son, Judge Watts, the honoree, Jim Jr., Mr. Brailey, who sponsored the tribute; Supreme Bench Judge Solomon Liss, ity Solicitor George L. Russell Jr., and Charles Tildon.

Decision For Ellis Called Hoax By Satellite

By SAM LACY

I was reminded of Thomas A. Dorgan, Saturday afternoon, as I watched Jimmy Ellis gain a referee's decision over Floyd Patterson in the World Boxing Association heavyweight title bout.

Dorgan was a sports cartoonist of some years back, who syndicated over the signature "TAD."

You now may be wondering what a deceased cartoonist had to do with a September 14 fight in Stockholm, Sweden. You also may be puzzled about my reason for thinking about him at this particular time.

* * *

HERE's Why:

TAD once did a drawing of a battered prizefighter being admonished by his manager to "stay with it, Kid, you're winning easy. That guy hasn't laid a hand on you."

To which the bloodied and bruised gladiator replied:

"Well, Skipper, you'd better keep your eye on that referee, because, somebody in that ring is busting the daylight out of me."

SUCH was the line that Ellis might have thrown in to the ridiculous situation when referee Harry Valan explained why he scored the 15-round bout 9-6 in favor of Ellis.

"Patterson," he said, "didn't throw enough punches; all he did was pose."

JIMMY, meanwhile, was standing beside him, bleeding from cuts around both eyes and a broken nose. He might well have turned some of the thunderous boos that greeted the decision into a few receptive chuckles, had he replied:

"Well, Ref, if Floyd wasn't punching, you must have been in the fight, too."

NOT SINCE Leif Erickson was gypped out of the honor of discovering America by claims of Columbus, has a greater hoax been perpetrated on a Scandinavian.

In case you aren't aware of it, Patterson is now a Swede. He took out citizenship papers shortly after his marriage to aswedish girl.

There is one advantage Columbus had on Ellis. His hijacking act wasn't exhibited before the entire world via Satellite.

ACTUALLY, it isn't fair to cast aspersions on Saturday's winner. Compared to a legitimate champion, Jimmy is fair game for enough of them without adding new ones, undeserved ones.

Ellis fought as best he could — which has never been much in the view of this writer — and received what many witnesses felt was a loaded decision.

He didn't make the decision, Valan did.

MILLIONS of TV viewers and approximately 25,000 in stadium spectators, thought Patterson had won. He had scored the most obviously telling blows, including a right — the first real punch of the fight — in the first round which broke Ellis' nose.

And, he had connected in the 14th with two hooks that sent Ellis down, dragging Patterson with him. Valan began counting, but changed his mind and decided not to score it as a knockdown.

The referee, appearing in his fourth title fight, told newsmen later he did not score a knockdown because Ellis "just slipped."

Defending his controversial decision, Valan said in reference to Patterson: "You cannot win a fight backing away."

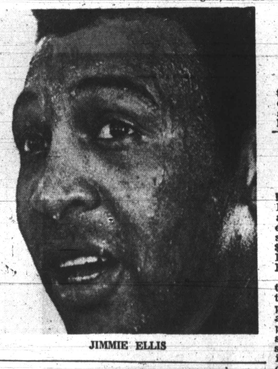
PATTERSON has lost a number of fights, and for the most part, they were genuine defeats. But he has every reason to believe that he isn't exactly in good company when he cavorts under WBA control.

For the record, Floyd whipped Jerry Quarry in their WBA elimination tournament match last winter, but didn't get the decision.

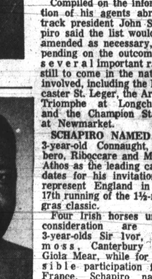
HE'LL never be a Muhammad Ali. But neither will Ellis or Joe Frazier or Sonny Liston or Thad Spencer. Mentioning of any of these names in the same breath with Ali's is sacrilegious.

The tragedy, as I see it, is that the boxing people, influenced by the WBA, sacked the only heavyweight around who can fight, declaring it's in the best interest of the game.

Yet, they permit, a one-man Brinks job to be pulled and expect respect.



JIMMIE ELLIS



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Football Coaches Foundation, 57 Freeman Street, Newark, New Jersey.

High-finance talks set between Russell, Celts

BOSTON (UPI) — Negotiations expected to produce the most expensive singel contract in pro basketball history will resume this weekend when Bill Russell, player-coach of the Boston Celtics, completes a summer of movie-making in Hollywood.

The lanky, bearded kingpin of the National Basketball Association champions returned East early in the week, according to Celtics general manager Arnold 'Red' Auerbach.

* * *

THE FORMER Celtics coach said he expected to sit down with Rusell and the big center's lawyer to work on a pact which speculation has placed as high as $200,000 for next season.

Aurbach said only one other member of the team that shocked the Philadelphia 76ers in last spring's NBA playoffs had not yet agreed to terms for the 1968-69 season.

He is guard Lary Siegfried, who was injured during part of last season and who failed to sign following one session with Auerbach recently.

Takeshiba-O and Hikaru Takai, already have accepted invitations to participate in the race.

'Int' setting

LAUREL, Md. — Sixteen horses from England, France, Ireland, Germany, and Italy are being considered at this time for possible invitations to the $150,000 Washington D.C. International at Laurel Race Course.

Compiled on the information of his agents abroad, track president John Schapiro said the list would be amended as necessary, depending on the outcome of several important races still to come in the nations involved, including the Doncaster St. Leger, the Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp and the Champion Stakes at Newmarket.

SCHAPIRO NAMED the 3-year-old Connaught, Ribero, Ribocarre and Mount Athos as the leading candidates for his invitation to represent England in the 17th running of the 1½-mile grax classic.

Four Irish horses under consideration are the 3-year-olds Sir Ivor, Levmoss, Canterbury and Gioia Mear, while for possible participation from France, Schapiro named the 3-year-olds Tapalque, Vaguely Noble and Zeddan and the 4-year-olds Taj Dean and Topyo.

The English-bred 4-year-old Luciano was named as an outstanding German possible for the invitation at this time, while from Italy, Schapiro said he was considering the 3-year-old Hogarth, winner of this year's Italian Derby, and Ruysdael, winner of this the 1967 Italian Derby.

Two Japanese horses,

LUCKY COLT FAN — Beginning with this edition and continuing throughout the Colts 1968 home games the roving AFRO Photographer will photograph faces of spectators. If a fan's face is circled (as is the smiling Colt watcher above) he or she wins $5. To collect, they only have to come to the AFRO office and establish their identity before 5 p.m. Friday.

FOOTBALL

PRO SCHEDULE
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Saturday
Atlanta at Minnesota
Sunday
San Francisco at Baltimore
Washington at Chicago (TV)
Philadelphia at Green Bay
New York at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at New Orleans
Detroit at Dallas
Monday
Los Angeles at St. Louis
AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Saturday
Houston at Miami
Sunday
New York at Kansas City
Denver at Cincinnati
Oakland at Buffalo

COLLEGIATE SCHEDULE

Saturday
Frostburg State at Eliz. City

SCHOLASTIC SCHEDULE
Baltimore Gaffes

Friday
Mervo at Pikesville
Washington Games
Friday
Anacostia at Dunbar
Ballou at Coolidge
Springarn at Cardozo
Bell at Fort Hill (N)
St. Ralph's at Roosevelt
Gonzaga at Wilson

Saturday
McNamara at Eastern

PRO SCHEDULE
NATIONAL LEAGUE

Sunday
Baltimore at Atlanta
Washington at New Orleans
Chicago at Detroit
Cleveland at Dallas
Minn. vs. G. Bay at Milwaukee
New York at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles
St. Louis at San Francisco

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Saturday
Houston at San Diego (N)
Oakland at Miami (N)
3 Sunday
Buffalo at Cincinnati
Denver at Kansas City
N.Y. vs. Boston at Birmingham

COLLEGIATE SCHEDULE

Saturday
Glenville St. vs Norfolk State (Portsmouth Fish. Bowl)
Kentucky State at Tenn. State (N)
Ala. State at Savannah State
Prairie View at Jackson State

SCHOLASTIC SCHEDULE
BALTIMORE MSA

Friday
Chamberlain (D.C.) at Carver
Dunbar vs. Mervo (Kirk Fld)
Edmondson at Chamberlain (Pa.)
Patterson at Bennett (Salisbury, Md.)
Forest Park at N. Western
Saturday
Forest Pk. at Wicomico (Salisbury, Md.)
Good Counsel (DC) at Northern
City at Glen Burnie
Atholton at N. Western

WASHINGTON INTERHIGH
Friday
Anacostia at Fairmont Hgts.
Chamberlain at Carver (DC)
Western at Eastern
Coolidge at McKinley
Spingarn at Wilson
Hen. at Hammond (Va.)
Cardozo at M. Walker (Richmond)
DeMatha at Roosevelt

ALBANY MENTOR — Albany State College president Thomas Jenkins last week announced the appointment of J. R. E. Bobby) (Lee 3rd, as head football coach. Lee, a former Florida A and M star, succeeds Obie O'Neal, who was named chairman of the college's health and physical education department.

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ATHLETE AND MAN: NO. 19, JOHN UNITAS

By SAM LACY

John Unitas is the quarterback of the Baltimore Colts football team. . . He is the best in the game at his position, some contend he's the best of all time. . . John Unitas also is white.

Because of the reason papers like the AFRO exist, this column deals primarily with colored athletes. . . It is designed to tell little inside stories pertaining to the stars, to present their side in controversy — a side which frequently goes unpublicized in the major news media — and to praise and criticize their behavior, as well, as evaluate their performance.

There are times, however, when the need to salute a while player is felt. . . not necessarily in relation to a colored player or group of colored players, or as an integral part of a particular team. . . Unitas, of course, is important to the Colts, and the Colts are one of several clubs where a bond of fellowship prevails that is noteworthy and rewarding.

A to Z

No. 19, the man

But this bit has to do with John Unitas, the man. . . In all the years I have been associated with Baltimore football, the young man who wears No. 19 on Sunday afternoons in Memorial Stadium has impressed me as one of the finest all-round individuals I've known in sports.

A top-drawer competitor, I've never heard him utter an alibi for a boo-provoking effort. . . I've never heard him speak an unfavorable word about another individual. . . and that goes for teammates who blow a play, as well as for opponents who level him with "cheap" shots in the heat of action.

As has everyone who follows the Colts, I've seen John flare up in a hot moment of a game, even throw a punch or two. . . but when questioned later, it was he who took the brunt of the blame as he discussed what happened.

Teammate testimony

Raymond Berry, the one time great split end, once described John's personality. . . "He's a born competitor who strives for perfection," said Raymond. . . "He works hard at being precise and expects everyone to do the same. . . If there were times when I failed to connect with a pass he threw me — and it was obviously my fault the play didn't work — I got no more than a quizzical look from John as I went back to the huddle. . . Invariably, he'd put the same play back in to prove to me that he knew I wanted success as much as he, and that I'd appreciate the chance for vindication".

Jim Parker, who was Unitas' chief bodyguard during the Colts' title winning years, also pays tribute to the brilliant young quarterback. . . "If I missed a block," said Jim sometime after his retirement last season, "it made no difference that the guy I missed laid John out, he rarely complained. . . The nearest he ever came to it was put in the form of a question: "How'd he beat you that time, Seventy-Seven?"

No flowers, please

I'm sure I'm not the only newspaperman in town who recognizes Unitas as one of the warmest — and more cooperative — athletes in professional sports. . . Last February, I was given an excellent example of this Unitas attitude. . . John was called at the peak of his off-season program. . . He set up an interview appointment for me on a Monday.

He had been on the road for three weeks, making personal appearances and attending midwinter banquets. . . He arrived home late Sunday night, and was scheduled to commence another travel itinerary on Tuesday that would keep him away from his family for two more weeks. . . At 10 a.m., on Monday, John Unitas was at a designated place to keep a date that was tremendously important to me, though infinitesimal as far as value to him was concerned.

While the Colts star is having arm troubles at the moment and his future may be in some doubt, this is not meant to be interpreted as an epitaph to his career. . . We say often that it does more good to pay homage to the living than to mourn at the bier.

No in-betweens

There may be many pro athletes of similar stature. . . Young men who earn admiration and respect through performance on and off the field of play, who compete to the utmost of their courage and comfort, and who regard all their fellow athletes as human beings — color differences and personality frailties notwithstanding. . . Although I admit they probably exist, I have had the pleasure of knowing only three who left their mark on me, personally.

The first one I met was Pee Wee Reese, the old shortstop of the Dodgers. . . The next were Artie Donovan of the Colts, and John Unitas . . There've been no in-betweens.

On the other hand

In contrast to the fellowship described in the opening of this piece, racial friction reportedly runs rampant in the camp of another National Football League club not far removed from the home of the Baltimore Colts. . . A large number of colored players remain on the team roster — a larger number, in fact, than can be found on several other clubs — but there is a growing suspicion that this window dressing. . . It is rather difficult to determine whether the administration so intends, but it is not hard to suspect that strong factionalism exists in the clubhouse and on the field. . . and that these factions are drawn along racial lines.

For several years, the team has been a mystery to everyone, its most rabid fans included. . . Each season, there's happy anticipation for a strong performance, and each year the record has become progressively worse . . . player manipulations — involving both trading and position shifts — have been confusing and, for the most part, unproductive, and morale appears to have depreciated to an alarming extend.

That the problem is racial seems obvious . . . A key player was asked not long ago, how the team looked and what kind of season is in store for it. . . "Don't ask me," was the reply, "go talk to the Mau Mau."

SAM LACY

AFRO Sports

Semi-pro victim of grid injury

DETROIT (UPI) — Linebacker Glenn Hepburn of the Omaha Mustangs, injured Saturday night in a game with the Michigan Arrows, died early Tuesday without regaining consciousnes. He was 31.

Hepburn, a popular Boys Town graduate who handled some office assignments with the club in addition to playing, suffered a brain injury during the second quarter of the Continental Football League game at the University of Detroit Stadium.

* * *

DOCTORS AT Martin Place Hospital, where Hepburn died at 4:26 a.m., said tests had shown he suffered a ruptured cerebral aneurysm, or brain hemorhage, one not accessible to surgery.

Hepburn was considered one of the prime movers of the Mustang team since its formation several seasons ago. This past summer, he had assisted in ticket promotion and public relations.

Immediate survivors included his wife, Carol; daughter, Felicia, 3, and son, Mark, 15 months.

Burial was in Miami, Fla.

* * *

ROBERT ADWERS, chairman of the board of the Mustangs, said Mrs. Hepburn requested that no games be called off in memory of her husband.

An Omaha bank immediately made plans to establish a fund for the family.

GLENN HEPBURN

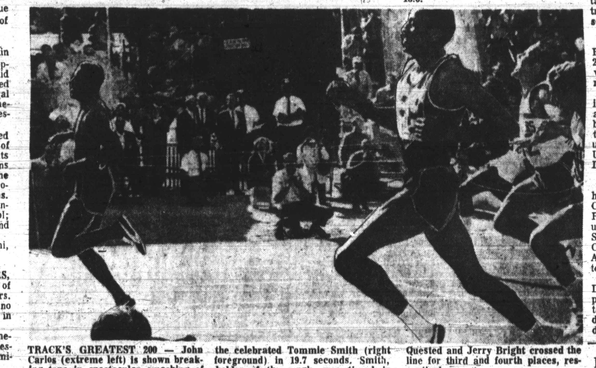
Trenton middleweight wins in Portland

PORTLAND, Maine (UPI) — Georgie Johnson of Trenton, N. J., jabbed his way to a 10-round unanimous decision over Wilfredo Hurst at the Exposition Building.

Hurst, of Miami, suffered a cut on the nose in the fifth round and a cut next to the left eye in the eighth. There were no knockdowns.

Johnson weighed in at 162 pounds while Hurst weighed 158.

CIAA STAR HOME FIRST — Leon Coleman (right) of Boston, a product of Winston-Salem State College (NC) wins a heat in the 100-meter high hurdles at the United States' high-altitude Olympic training camp at South Lake Tahoe, Cal. Coleman was just three-tenths off the world record of 13.2, in beating Willie Davenport (left), of Southern University, and Richmond Flowers of Tennessee. Davenport and Flowers were caught in 13.6.



TRACK'S GREATEST 200 — John Carlos (extreme left) is shown breaking tape in spectacular smashing of world 200m-eter record, outfinishing the celebrated Tommie Smith (right foreground) in 19.7 seconds. Smith, holder of the mark, was timed in scintillating 19.9 seconds, while Larry Questad and Jerry Bright crossed the line for third and fourth places, respectively.

Ashe wins again cops Vegas title

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI) — Arthur Ashe, the nation's top amateur player, captured the featured singles final last weekend in the first annual Desert Inn Invitational tennis tournament by defeating Clark Graebner of Cleveland, 9-7, 6-3.

After taking a 5-2 lead, Ashe ran into trouble as Graebner broke his service and evened the first set at 5-5.

Ashe then settled down to take the set and had no trouble winning the second set.

* * *

THE VICTORY ran the Richmond star's string to 28 consecutive matches without defeat in tournament play.

Ashe, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, stationed at West Point, appears to be holding his edge and therefore is being looked upon as the chief hope for Uncle Sam to regain the Davis Cup to these shores.

GRAEBNER, after an hour's rest, teamed with Charles Pasarell of Puerto Rico to score a 6-3, 7-5 upset doubles victory over Stan Smith of Pasadena, Calif., and Bob Lutz of Los Angeles, the national amateur and open championships.

The entire United States Davis Cup squad participated in the three-day tournament played in 100-degree temperatures on the desert inn courts.

DEPARTS COLTS — Fullback Tony Lorick, after five years with the Baltimore Colts, has been traded to the New Orleans Saints. The Colts' top ground gainer in 1966, he had been idle this fall with a pulled leg muscle. Baltimore received a second-round draft pick in exchange.

K. N. Hylton heads Mich. democrats

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (NPI) — Kenneth N. Hylton, a Black Detroit lawyer, last week was elected chairman of the Michigan State Democratic convention, after he won popular support from various factions of the party. He was found to be acceptable to blacks and whites, 'doves" and "hawks' of the Vietnamese conflict. Mr. Hylton previously was vice chairman of the state party.

Edwards, the third Services, Colonel Cotton is responsible for KB's open messes, providing support for dependent schools, off duty educational programs, libraries, golf courses, the entral Base Fund, athletic Central Base Fund, athletic services.

Red-tape shenanigans may nix world marks by 20 Olympians

S. LAKE TAHOE, Calif. — America's track and field stars are rewriting the record book at high altitude, but that old bugaboo —officialdom — is lurking in the background ready to cheat them out of their hard-earned rewards.

John Carlos, a happy-go-lucky speedster from the sidewalks of New York, and Bob Seagren, from the other side of the tracks — and country —are the likely victims.

Both Carlos, who smashed the world record for 200 meters with a fantastic 19.7 clicking, and Seagren, who scaled the inconceivable height of 17 feet, 9 inches, are being red-taped.

CARLOS IS in deeper than Seagren.

It seems he used running shoes which may not be approved by the IAAF. If not, goodbye record, and also Tommie Smith's 19.9 performance for a second-place finish.

The shoe in question has 68 needle like spikes across the sole. An IAAF rule says no shoe should have more than six, but the rule is ambiguous in that it doesn't spell out what is meant by a spike.

The shoes Carlos and Smith used, in accordance with IAAF rules, offer no advantage except that some athletes prefer them to others for comfort reasons.

That one, too, goes to the IAF to be muddled over.

* * *

CARLOS, happy as he could be with his record — and victory over Smith — said he couldn't care less about the shoes.

"What do I care about the shoes," said the man who won the 100-dash at the Little Olympics a year ago. 'I set the record, not the shoes, and the way I was juiced up I could have done it in my bare feet. Man, I was flying, and don't forget this is the first time I ever beat Smith."

* * *

SMITH, who has had stomach problems since coming to 7,377-foot high Echo Summit, held the recognized record at 20 seconds flat, set a year ago at San Jose, Calif. He also broke his own mark with his 19.9 performance. And Larry Questad, a man who has never done better than 20 in the past, tied the Smith mark of 20 flat to gain the third Olympic berth in the 200.

It was a race which Payton Jordan, Olympic track and field team coach, called the greatest of all time.

* * *

AFTER Seagren had cleared the pole vault bar two different officials scaled a ladder and reported it was a 17-9 effort.

However, when the officials tried to justify 17-9 on the metric scale, they couldn't do it. So, first they announced the height at 17-8¾, which figures out to 5.41 on the metric scale then thought better of it and said the mark stand at 17-9.

A little later, after a meeting of the men's Olympic rules committee, it was decided to turn the matter over to the International Amateur Athletic Federation, a body composed of members from nations who use the metric system rather than feet and inches.

Don't bet Seagren doesn't lose a quarter inch by the time that one is decided.

DOUBLE LIGHTNING — Charlie Greene of Nebraska, and Jim Hines of Texas Southern, after Hines he persis'ent rival finals of 100-meter dash trials at mountain-top U.S. Olympic training camp. Jim was caught in world record tying time of 10 seconds flat, with Charlie flashing across the line just a tenth of a second later.

Grambling integrates

GRAMBLING, La. — Head coach Eddie Robinson has announced the enrollment of 170-pound quarterback, James Gregory, of Corcoran, Calif., as the first white athlete to receive a football scholarship from Grambling.

Robinson made the announcement Friday morning after Gregory joined the regular 70-man squad in morning drills. A rollout-and-run type signal caller, who can also drop back into a pocket and set up before unloading the ball, Gregory will serve his apprenticeship under the able senior quarterback, All-American candidate, James Harris.

* * *

BOTH GREGORY and Harris are spending the next few weeks in preparation for the season opener with Morgan State College, September 28 at Yankee Stadium.

Sponsored by the Football Coaches Foundation, the game will benefit the Street Academy Program, which offers high school dropouts from underprivileged neighborhoods a chance to continue their education.

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