MSA concedes Dunbar title

Dunbar High School is the Maryland Scholastic Association basketball champion again — if.

It is not an "if in the sense that any of the other schools expect to beat the Poets. They don't. They conceded as much at Tuesday's meeting of MSA athletic directors at Gilman.

* * *

The "if pertains to the current strike by the public school teachers. If the problems are solved and the strike is ended by March 1, then coach Archie Lewis and his Poets will have to go on whipping their opposition until the season ends.

In the opinion of most, this would be a matter of going through the motions, little else. The Poets have won 47 straight, lead the loop by three games with only six left to play.

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Lawyers face ex-wife as Foreman eyes Norton

HOUSTON (UPI) — Attorneys for heavyweight champion George Foreman are in California gathering financial records needed for a property settlement between Foreman and his ex-wife, Adrienne.

Attorney Robert Lord says he hopes to have the court-ordered bank records, fight contracts and financial statements before week's end.

"We're bringing all of our records together and trying to save time so when we go back to court we'll be ready," Lord said.

Domestic Relations Court Judge Wells Stewart received the divorce proceeding until the records were available.

Foreman and his ex-wife, married in December, 1971, agreed to the divorce and worked out custody and visitation rights for their one child, Michi Helene, but have been unable to reach a property settlement.

Foreman's attorneys contend their client is almost broke.

The champion faces challenger Ken Norton March 26 in a title bout in Caracas, Venezuela. He has been training for the match in Houston but is expected to return to his California camp later this week.

* * *

Observers at the Houston base were noticeably distressed last weekend when Foreman weighed in at 247 pounds after a workout. This is 30 pounds more than he weighed when he won the title 18 months ago.

But the champion and his trainer, Dick Sadler, were unworried.

* * *

"My weight is fine," Foreman said. "I'm a heavyweight so I don't have to worry about it that much. I just want to get into the best condition possible and in doing so I should get down to my normal fighting weight."

Sadler, the stumpy, beret-wearing handler, was more explicit.

"He's heavy right now, but he'll be down to around where he usually fights," he said. "You know, his weight has never varied much since his first professional fight in 1969. He weighed 218 for that one and 17½ in the last (an one-round knockout of Joe Roman in Tokyo)."

* * *

Foreman said he goes into training with the added weight for a reason.

"That way, I can work harder without having to worry about losing too much weight," said the one-time Olympic champion. "If I put in a good day's work, the pounds will come off."

Mrs. Adrienne Ray Foreman and husband George divorced couple stalled by fight over property rights

Hank Aaron and wife Billye meanwhile they're accepting cheers in Mobile hometown

Commissioner Kuhn irked by Braves' holdout of Aaron

NEW YORK (UPI) — Baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn said early this week he would meet with the management of the Atlanta Braves to examine the club's controversial decision not to start Hank Aaron, on the verge of breaking Babe Ruth's all-time home run record, in the first three games of the 1974 season.

The statement by the Braves last weekend said Aaron would not start in Atlanta's first three games at Cincinnati, but would wait until the team returned home against the Los Angeles Dodgers, April 8.

"I have discussed with Bill Bartholomay (chairman and president of the Braves) on the telephone the Braves' statement of last Saturday," Kuhn said in a released statement. "He has assured me that the Braves will do their very best to win the opening three games in Cincinnati."

The Reds and Dodgers are among the top contenders for the National League West Division title.

Aaron, who has 713 career home runs, will tie Ruth's record with his first homer of the 1974 season and break it with the next. The Braves would like to make sure Aaron's historic clouts come in Atlanta and not on the road.

"In the interest of further exploring the subject and fully satisfying myself, I plan to meet with Mr. Bartholomay, Eddie Robinson (Atlanta's general manager) and Eddie Mathews (the Braves manager) in the near future," said Kuhn, although he did not indicate a possible date.

Stewart top scorer again

ARLINGTON — Richmond's Aron Stewart, the Southern Conference's leading scorer, was named Monday as SC Player of the Week.

Stewart, a 6-foot-5 senior from Jersey City, N.J., is scoring at a 26.2 points per game rate. He is also averaging 11.5 rebounds a game.

In three games last week, he scored 76 points on 32 of 68 from the floor and 12 of 15 from the foul line. He also grabbed 40 rebounds.

Furman's Freshmen Guard Bruce Grimm of Plymouth, Ind., was runner-up Player of the Week. (UPI)

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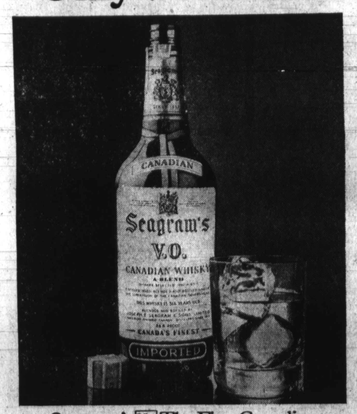

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Spartans ink 2 more players

NORFOLK — Two more Tidewater area scholastic football standouts have been enticed into the Norfolk State College Spartans 1974 grid fold.

With the signing of Frank Welch, Kempsville High School (Virginia Beach) quarterback and James "Jim" Doughtie, Wilson High (Portsmouth) linebacker, the overall total of local recruits reached five this week.

Former D.C. stars lead NBA rivals vs. Bullets

LANDOVER, Md. — Two of the greatest players to emerge from the basketball oasis of Washington, D.C., will lead their teams against the Capital Bullets this weekend.

Austin Carr, a graduate of Macklin High School, and an All-Star guard, will lead the Cleveland Cavaliers against the Bullets tomorrow (Saturday), and the local CYO will honor him as one of its most prominent products.

Carr will have his work cut out for him. The Bullets have beaten Cleveland 13 consecutive times.

* * *

On Sunday, Dave Bing, an alumnus of Spingarn High School, returns to his hometown with a vastly-improved Detroit club. A perennial All-Star, Bing, along with Bob Lanier will lead the Pistons against the Bullets for the last time this year.

Next Wednesday (27th) it will be the Seattle Supersonics, who helped the Bullets open the Capital Centre on Dec. 2, making their final visit of 1974. Spencer Haywood, as usual, will pace the Bill Russell-coached Sonics.

* * *

For the Bullets, February and March is a time of preparing for the playoffs, trying to maintain their Central Division lead and hoping to gain the homecourt advantage over their likely first-round opponent, the New York Knicks.

With the ongoing uncertainty of Wes Unseld's balky left knee, coach K. C. Jones has been working other players into the lineup, specifically rookies Nick Weatherspoon and Tom Kozelko.

Weatherspoon has been gobbling rebounds at such a pace (an average of better than one every three minutes) that General Manager Bob Ferry has already called him "one of the best rebounding forwards I've ever seen."

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Baseball star's sister sues L.A. for '73 arrest

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (UPI) — The sister of San Francisco Giants outfielder Bobby Bonds is in the process of suing the city of Los Angeles for a false arrest that resulted in her spending six days in jail.

Mrs. Rosie Bonds Kriedler, 27, herself a one-time star athlete, filed early this week for $762,500 damages for her arrest in May, 1973, on suspicion of slaying a Wilmington, Calif., tavern owner.

A hurdler on the U.S. women's team for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, Mrs. Kreidler also was at one time a candidate for a seat on the Riverside City Council.

She was jailed six days then released after the Los Angeles District Attorney's office announced it lacked sufficient evidence to officially charge her. Another suspect was subsequently arrested and prosecuted for the murder.

Bear-Hawk showdown Saturday

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. — The long awaited showdown between the basketball teams of Morgan State College and Maryland, Eastern Shore becomes a reality here tomorrow (Saturday) night.

Except on the Baltimore campus at Morgan, the consensus is that the upcoming clash will result in a tie for the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference visitation title.

Maryland is favored to win. And victory for the Hawks will give them a final conference record of 11-1, the same as that of the Bears.

Should such an eventuality occur, MEAC commissioner Leroy Walker will toss a coin to determine which of the two teams will be given the No. 1 seeding in the conference tournament which begins next Thursday at the Baltimore Civic Center.

* * *

This will be the second time around for the two intra-state rivals. Earlier this month, the Bears whipped the Hawks at Baltimore (at Civic Center), but Eastern Shore fans are convinced that their representative was ripe for plucking.

The Hawks had just come off a taxing road trip and were feeling the pressure of a winning streak that had reached 20 games.

Playing in Morgan territory, they fell, along with the pressure and fatigue, set up Maryland for the upset.

* * *

At the moment, the Bruins lead their rivals by one-half game, Morgan 10-0 in the MEAC and Maryland 10-1. A Bear victory, therefore, would clinch the regular season crown and, with it, a first-round bye.

But aside from the conference title and its fringe benefits, there is a degree of prestige at stake.

Going into the game, the Hawks are No. 1 in the NAIA ratings, and the Bears are No. 5 in the NCAA College Division ranking.

Each will be trying to prove its recognition is the more legitimate. . . . SAM LACY.

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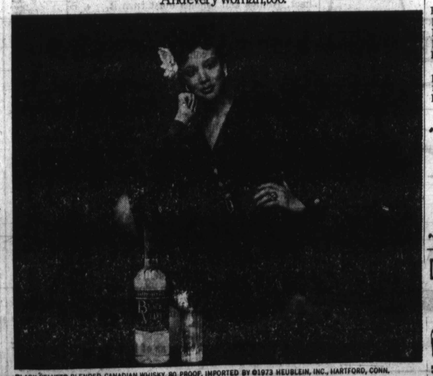

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