Morgan's Mike Streety, Pat Edwards and Marvin Webster
Bears' trio receives tourney trophy from Schaefer's Jim Gray

Morgan to bear weight of MEAC against SWAC

Morgan State College, already winner of two games this week since wrapping up her third straight Schaefer — Metro tournament crown last wekeend, joins Maryland, Eastern Shore in a 4-game confrontation with Jackson State and Alcorn colleges tonight (Friday) at the Hill Fieldhouse.

The 4-team, 2-night affair finds the Bears assuming the major responsibility of representing the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) against the invaders from the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC).

Coach Nat Frazier's youngsters warmed up to the task by taking the measure of two opponents on successive nights.

After defeating Lincoln, 94-51, on Tuesday, they turned back C.W. Post of Long Island, N.Y., 70-63, on Wednesday.

* * *

Since the Bears were forced to share honors with the Hawks last year—and actually lost the MEAC title to the Eastern Shore five — some may wonder why UMES will be taking a back seat to Morgan in the confrontation with the SWAC.

This is so because the Hawks of 1974 are a far cry from the 1973 unit.

UMES lost its coach, John Bates, now in charge of basketball at Coppin State, and its entire starting five.

* * *

Especially missed are all-MEAC performers Rubin Collins and Talvin Skinner. And center Joe Pace accompanied Bates to Coppin.

The Bears, meanwhile, can expect the usual steady performances from veterans Streety, Billy Newton, Jethro Crum and Pat Edwards, while Webster — barring injury goes on in his spectacular fashion . . . LACY.

Versatile Muhammad wows White House and the Hill

Displaying the dexterity that has made him loved in virtually every corner of the world, heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali took over the White House and Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

He moved smoothly from the characterization of himself — a man who worships no governmental authority — to tongue-in-cheek politics and then to an ordinary Joe.

* * *

Seeing the President was not really a guaranteed thing for Ali, but therein lay evidence that Ford is a forehead-to-big-toe politician himself.

The champion had been scheduled for a routine "Very Important Person" tour of the Executive Mansion with nothing more than a tentative promise that Ford would see him "if he could be worked into his busy schedule."

Realizing the impact his failure to greet a fellow of Ali's stature throughout the world would have on his own image, the President apparently "made room" in his "busy schedule." This despite the fact he knew his actions would be criticized by the American Legion, which still regards Ali as a draft dodger.

* * *

"You made a big mistake in letting me come here, because now I'm going after your job."

It was the champion's first remark after being greeted in Ford's office at the outset of a triumphant tour of Washington by the man who once was prosecuted by the federal government on charges of draft evasion.

Ford laughed at what he presumed was Ali's political drop-of-the gauntlet and said of the job: "It's a great challenge. I enjoy the problems. We're going to get some solutions."

Later at a reception in the same room in the Senate Office Building where the Watergate hearings were held, Ali remarked of his one-day political indoctrination: "Now that I have an idea of what it's about, I think it's great. I knew it was great but not this great.

* * *

The VIP treatment accorded him was in marked contrast to his situation in 1967 when the federal government prosecuted him on charges of refusing to be inducted as a draftee because of his balck Muslim beliefs and his opposition to the Vietnam War. Ali's conviction, carrying a five-year prison sentence, was quashed by the Supreme Court.

After his meeting with the President, the Louisville, Ky., native was applauded and lionized in the Senate Caucus Room where senators, House members, congressional aides and others on an invitation-only list of 800 filed by to shake his hand and get his autograph.

The champion, natty in a chocolate-brown tailored suit, shook hands with all comers in the best political tradition. Among them were Sens. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Lowell P. Weiker of Connecticut who a year ago last summer were television personalities as members of the Watergate investigation committee.

* * *

Also in the receiving line was Sen. John V. Tunney, D-Calif., the son of Gene Tunney, an Ali predecessor as heavyweight

(Continued on Page 17)

Muhammad Ali and President Ford
White House greeting for champ

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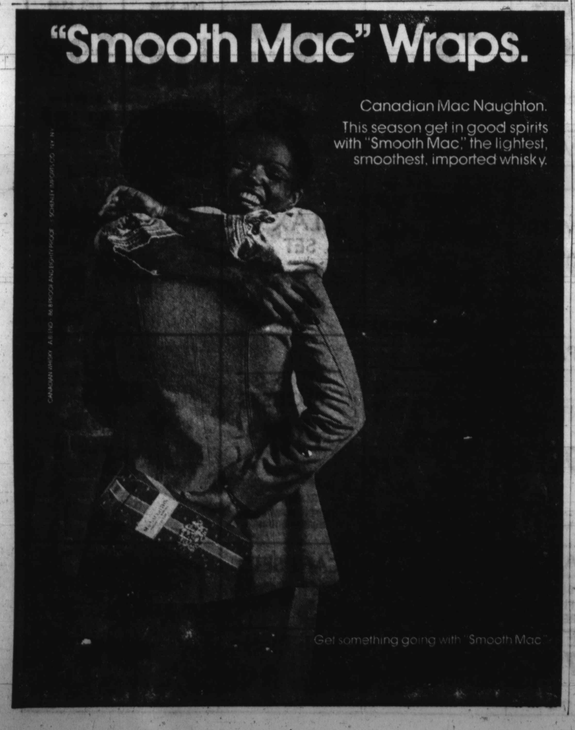

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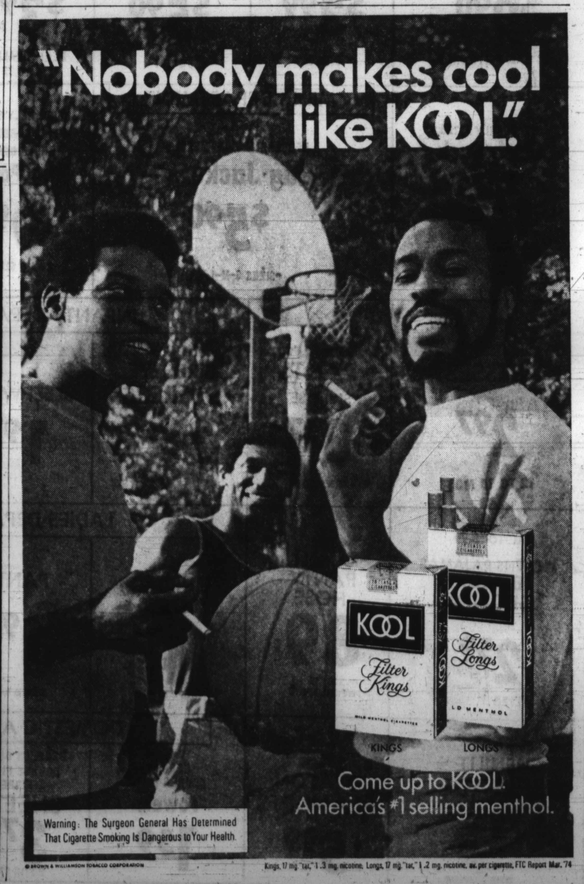

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AFRO Sports

13-year-old MVP star of Little League Bulls

The Reisterstown Little League held its annual football awards banquet last Sunday, with championship trophies being presented to members of the Bulls.

Receiving the MVP citation was Mark Mason, 13, of 10900 Huntcliffe Drive, Owings Mills, Md.

As a running back on the offense, Mark led the league carrying the ball and gained a total of 2,283 yards. He also passed for a total in excess of 200 yards.

He scored 21 touchdowns in only nine games and scored an additional five touchdowns in the championship game.

* * *

According to his coach, Henry Wysham, young Mason accomplished his fantastic record despite periods of illness during which he suffered migraine headaches without complaint.

While competing in the title game — in which he tallied five touchdowns — Wysham says, Mark twice became sick of his stomach but begged not to be taken out.

Mark Mason
21 TD's in 9 games

Minister Ali

KINGSTON, Jamaica (UPI) — World heavyweight boing champion Muhammad Ali will visit Jamaica Dec. 27 with two other Islamic ministers, the government announced early this week.

Prime Minister Michael Manley and Minister Eugene Affick, of the Temple of Islam in Kingston, met to discuss plans for the visit, which will include a ceremony at the National Stadium Dec. 29.

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Frazier nixes Bonavena but says he's Ali ready

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — Joe Frazier won't be in the ring tomorrow (Saturday) in Sydney, Australia, against Oscar Bonavena, but the former champion is keeping himself ready for a possible third go-round with Muhammad Ali.

"The bout with Bonavena is off," Frazier said Monday. "Eddie Futch, my manager, said that the people in Australia couldn't come up with the money. I've been in training now for four weeks, but that's not a total loss to me. I'm keeping my weight down, and waiting for Clay to make his move."

* * *

Frazier, who whipped Ali in an epic 15-rounder in March of 1971, and then lost to Muhammad over 12 in January of this year, is convinced the public wants to see the pair go at it for a third time.

"Sure, Clay draws crowds, but he can't draw the big money without me," Frazier said. "It takes two to tango for the big money. Look at what happened in Zaire. The ringside was $250, and the seats were empty. Look at what Clay and I did in Madison Square Garden each time."

Frazier sees little if any point in Ali — or Clay as Joe always calls him — fighting Joe Bugner or anyone else. "He's beaten Bugner before. There's nothing to be gained by beating him up again, is there" Joe asked.

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Pelican title to Grambling over SC State

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — Douglas Williams passed to Dwight Scales for two touchdowns and scored another on an eight-yard keeper to lead Grambling over South Carolina State, 28-7, in the Pelican Bowl Saturday.

The sponsors of the game called it the national black football championship, matching Grambling, the Southwestern Athletic Conference champion, against Mid-Eastern Conference winner South Carolina State.

The Tigers of Grambling dominated throughout the game and held South Carolina scoreless until the final quarter.

Williams first touchdown pass to Scales was a 19-yarder on the third play of the game after Donald Manning returned the opening kickoff 81 yards. Williams teamed with Scales for a 26-yard score in the third quarter.

Williams, a freshman, skirted left end for the eight-yard score late in the second quarter, and defensive end Robert Barber tallied on a 34-yard fumble recovery.

South Carolina posted its only score on a one-yard run by Neely Dunn two plays after Grambling suffered back-to-back penalties that moved the ball from its 44 to its three-yard line.

Coach cleared, seeks back pay

HOUSTON, Texas — A coach who was fired after a 15-year-old white girl accused him of making improper advances has filed a suit seeking back pay from the North Forest Independent School District.

Felix Phillips, 43, has been cleared of the charges and the school district was ordered to reinstate him by both the school commissioner and the state board of education.

Phillips, presently vice principal of the school operated by the Retrieve Unit of the Texas Department of Corrections, was fired Dec. 17, 1973 with 21 months remaining on a 24-month contract with the school district.

According to his attorney, J. Leonard Gotsäiner, Phillips is seeking $12,400 in back pay and $7,500 in attorney fees.

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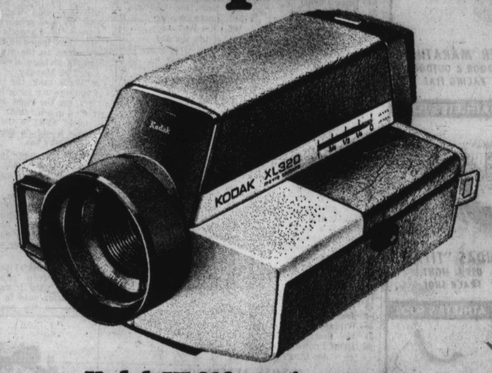

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