AFRO Sports

NBA players back Jabbar in fighting 'speech' fine

NEW YORK (UPI)—Larry Fleisher, attorney for the NBA Players Association, said he would pull out all stops in assisting the American Civil Liberties Union in combatting the $300 fine levied against Milwaukee's Kareem Abdul-Jabbar by Commissioner Walter Kennedy.

Paul Silas of the Boston Celtics, president of the association; Wes Unseld of the Washington Bullets and Bill Bradley of the New York Knicks also were adamant in their belief that "all athletes have a right to speak out and that a player's feelings should be not be muffled by the league."

Fleisher, a guest speaker at a lunch announcing the joint sponsorship of the NBA Players Association and the YMCAs of the United States in promoting junior basketball competition, said "it was improper for the league office to fine a player for stating his opinion about officiating" in the NBA.

Abdul-Jabbar enlisted the aid of the ACLU after being rapped by a stiff fine for calling referee Jerry Loeber inept in his job.

"The ACLU called me at Kareem's behest," Fleisher said. "They are going to charge the NBA with stifling free speech. It will be a constitutional matter with them.

"We are going on the theme that Kareem did not do anything detrimental to the game with his outburst and we'll fight the $300 fine."

Abdul-Jabbar was soaked $200 for what he said to Loeber in public and another $100 for entering the referees' quarters.

"Players in the past thought primarily of their jobs, but now there is a new breed of athlete," said Silas. "Kareem is the most dominant figure in the game and he speaks out for what he feels.

"The right to speak should not be cured. I admired Jackie Robinson because he too was a dominant figure in sports and people listened to him. Kareem, too, is Knowledgeable on what he speaks of."

Unseld said he "wouldn't limit players criticism to officiating, but then I'm not the type of player who gets into any controversies."

The Bullets star indicated that a referee's decision is something to be accepted, right or wrong, but that if a player feels strongly enough to dispute it, he should be allowed to speak out.

"I can see both good and bad in criticism. Sometimes it helps. But then again it can get out of hand. I cannot see stifling that criticism. After all we, the players, get it from coaches and the press."

Bradley was adamant in his thinking that "Kareem had every right in the world to speak out."

Concerning the players association's affiliation with the YMCA, Silas said kids will receive an opportunity to develop their skills in "Y" philosophy and in basketball. "We of the players association feel the joint program will succeed and we'll do everything to make it so."

Fleisher said if players feel this is not a commercial venture and he expects the program will attract a maximum number of youngsters around the country.

There are 1,600 Y's in the U.S. and 86 other countries.

Basketball writers to honor Wes Unseld

NEW YORK (UPI)—Wes Unseld, center for the Washington Bullets, has been chosen to receive the first annual citizenship award by the Professional Basketball Writers Association.

Unseld, who is on the board of directors of Kernan Children's Hospital in Baltimore, got nearly 50 per cent of the votes from the PBWAA.

The five-time all-star is noted for his work in neighborhood basketball leagues and is active in the guild for infant survivors and the special olympics for handicapped athletes.

Kevin Loughery, coach of the New York Nets and former teammate of Unseld, said, "I was in Baltimore when Wes Unseld got there. It didn't take the players long to figure out that on top of being a great player, Wes is a great man."

A seven-years veteran of the NBA, Unseld outpolled Nate Archibald of Kansas City-Omaha Kings, Dave Bing of the Detroit Pistons and John Havlicek of the Boston Celtics for the award.

Unseld will receive the 1975 award during halftime of a Bullets playoff game at the Capitol Centre in Landover, Md.

Steve Hershey of the Washington Star-News and chairman of the Washington chapter of the PBWAA will make the presentation.

Preakness program announced

The Mayor's Office of Special Projects has announced its program of events for Baltimore's celebration of the 100th Preakness.

Preakness Week in War Memorial Plaza

May 9 — The Preakness 100 Pogo-Stick Jumping Contest at 12 noon. Crash helmets, elbow pads and pogo-sticks will be provided.

May 10 — The Mayor's Office and Maryland National Bank will sponsor the Sixth Annual Birdhouse Making Contest at 11 a.m. At 3 p.m., the Susquehannah Players will present "Shakespeare is Alive and Well in Musical Comedy".

May 11 — At 11 a.m., there will be a special Preakness 100 Scrabble Crossword Game Tournament.

May 12 — At 12 noon, a Preakness Dance Review will be presented.

May 15 — At 12 noon a cake decorating demonstration by Mrs. Judy Congliaro.

May 14 — Neon, Preakness Week Mayor's Frog Hop.

May 15 — The Peabody Ragtime Ensemble will perform.

May 16 — Gardenville Recreation Center will hold its pre-school graduation exercises at 12 noon.

May 17 — Preakness

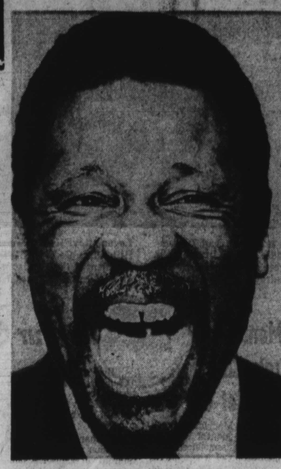
APRIL 5

The St. Joseph's Monastery Mothers' Club will hold an auction in the lower school hall, Old Frederick Rd. and Morley St. from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 5.

Week Open Chess Tournament at 10 a.m. At 3 p.m., the Susquehannah Players will again present "Shakespeare is Alive and Well."

May 19-20 — At 12 noon, the Mayor's Office will present "Salvation Army Days at the Plaza".

For further information, call the Mayor's Office of Special Projects at 396-4891.



A WINNING COACH — Seattle Supersonics Coach Bill Russell had reason to laugh as his team defeated Portland Trail Blazers 98-88 Sunday to earn their first-ever playoff berth in NBA Play-offs. The NBA champ 11 times in 13-year career with Boston, said "working with th. my most enjoyable year in basketball." (UPI Telephoto)

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EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Pirates vs. Phillies at Clearwater; Red Sox vs. Reds at Tampa; Rangers vs. Astros at Al Houston; Expos vs. Twins at Daytona Beach; Yankees vs. Pirates at Bradenton; Mets vs. Tigers at Lakeland (N); Cardinals vs. Tulsa at St. Petersburg; Orioles vs. Braves at Jacksonville (N); Cubs vs. Brewers at Sun City; Giants vs. Santa Clara U. at Santa Clara; Dodgers vs. Angels at Anaheim (N); Indians vs. A's at Tucson.

SATURDAY

Pirates vs. Cardinals at Bradenton; Rangers vs. Astros at Houston; Tigers vs. Mets at St. Petersburg (N); Yankees vs. Phillies at Clearwater; Expos vs. Red Sox at Winter Haven; Reds vs. Twins at Orlando; Orioles vs. Braves at Birmingham (N); Royals vs. Giants at San JJose; Padr vs. White Sox at Yuma; Cubs vs. Brewers at Albuquerque; Indians vs. A's at Mesa; Dodgers vs. Angels at Anaheim (N).

SUNDAY

Yankees vs. Pirates at Bradenton; Mets vs. Tigers at Lakeland; Orioles vs. Braves at Birmingham; Rangers vs. Astros at Houston; Twins vs. Red Sox at Winter Haven; Angels vs. Dodgers at Los Angeles; Brewers vs. Cubs at Midland, Tex.; Giants vs. Royals at Stockton; Padres vs. White Sox at Yuma.

UCLA star named top 1975 player

SAN DIEGO (UPI)—Richard Washington, UCLA's 6-foot-9 sophomore from Portland, Ore., was voted the most valuable player of the NCAA Championship Basketball Tournament after leading the Bruins to a 92-85 victory over Kentucky for their 10th title in a dozen years.

Washington and 6-8 teammate Dave Meyers were named to the all-tournament team along with Kevin Grevey of Kentucky, Allen Murphy of Louisville and Jim Lee of Syracuse.

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Ashe first to qualify for WCT finals in May

DALLAS (UPI) — Arthur Ashe, winner of three World Championship Tennis tour events this year, has become the first player to qualify for the $100,000 WCT finals to be held May 7-11.

The top eight players from the three WCT tour groups qualify for the Dallas tournament, which in the past four years has grown to be one of the top tennis events in the world.

Ashe, a member of WCT's Green Group, has amassed 550 points with only two tournaments left to play before the Dallas finals. Even if Ashe does not win a match in the final two events he will still qualify to have a shot at the $50,000 first prize at Dallas.

He and Rod Laver are the only players to have qualified for all four previous WCT finals and Laver, who has never won the WCT championship, is all but certain to return to Dallas this year.

Laver is in the midst of a WCT record setting 30-match winning streak and has won four times in the WCT's Blue Group this year, but he is just short of clinching a berth among the final eight.

The top two players in each group, plus the next two leading point gatherers regardless of group, qualify for Dallas.

Sweden's Bjorn Borg follows Ashe in the Green Group while Roscoe Tanner is second behind Laver in the Blue Group. John Alexander of Australia leads the Red Group with Harold Solomon, Dick Stockton and Mark Cox of Great Britain tied for second.

John Newcombe, the defending WCT champion, did not play on the tour this year. Ken Rosewall won the first two WCT titles and Stan Smith won the crown in 1973.

MOST VALUABLE — Center Bob McAdoo (1975 filer) on the verge of capturing his second straight NBA scoring crown, has been named the league's Most Valuable Player, it was ter Bob McAdoo (1975 filer) announced Tuesday by Commissioner Walter Kennedy. (UPI Telephoto)

AFRO Sports

Fuhz Sports

By Greg Logan

This week I interviewed Delwin Chavis, a junior at Poly who is the only black trying out for the Poly golf team, which finished first in the MSA last year with an 8-4 record.

Del became interested in golf when he was 12 years old when he began caddying at the Suburban Golf Club. He says that he hated golf at first, but began to like it as he saw those he caddied for play it.

That nex year, he entered the United States Golf Association Championship (USGA) and finished in second place.

Del's first win came in 1971, when he won the CPGA Caddy Championship at the Carroll Park golf course. He also won that tournament the following year.

He has also captured first place in the 1972 Capital City Opener and the Suburban Club Championship in both 1973 and 1974.

* * *

Delwin, an outstanding student who is also interested in basketball and football, hopes to attend college on a golf scholarship. He says that the best golf schools include Wake Forest, N.C. State, Georgia Tech, Virginia U., Texas U., USC and Houston although he "wouldn't mind attending Carnegie-Mellon or the University of Maryland."

I can only wish Del continuing success in the future.

I would like to mention the names of some outstanding City College athletes such as: Kenny Allen, Melvin Rhodes, Theron Mills, Robert Rush, Brian Morene, Alfred Washington, Milton Clarke, Leon Stanley and Nate Johnson in baseball; Philip Wilson, Larry Richardson, Gary English, Leandrew Jones, Tony Lucas and Rodney Early in lacrosse and Maurice Evans and Greg Curley in tennis.

Send all news and suggestions for this column to Teensports, AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, 21203 or phone me at 523-3018

Want to join Scrabble Club?

The Bureau of Recreation and the Mayor's Office of Special Projects are sponsoring a Scrabble Players Club for Baltimore City.

The club is open to anyone 16 years of age and over from the metropolitan Baltimore area. Membership is limited to 40 members.

* * *

The purpose of the club is to bring Scrabble Crossword Game players together for an evening of fun, competition and a chance to enter national competition.

The club will meet Mondays from 7-9 p.m. at Furley Recreation Center, Furley and Sipple Avenue 21206. Membership dues of 50 cents a week will be collected.

For further information, contact the club director, Mrs. Jeanine Byrd, at 633-1602 or club owner, Miss Virginia Baker at 336-4891.

Green named All-American

Timmy Greene, freshman forward at Catonsville, was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-American Basketball.

Greene was a 6-4 center and a graduate of Dunbar High School. During the season he averaged 24.34 points and 17 rebounds per game.

He also was Catonsville's co-captain and was selected to the Maryland Junior College Conference, National Junior College Regional Twenty and Maryland Junior College Tournament first teams.

He was coach Sam Knisley's second All-American in the last three years and the third in the last five years.

Middleweight bout set

Promoter Eli Hanover has signed Johnny Baldwin, the eighth ranked USA middleweight to meet Lamont Lovelady in the 10-round main bout at Steelworkers Hall on Friday, April 11.

Baldwin has a streak of 20 straight wins without a loss. He is undefeated in his pro career.

The Kalamazoo (Mich.) whiz will provide an acid test for Lamont Lovelady, the up and coming middleweight from Des Moines (Iowa), who owns a victory over Alvin Anderson of Baltimore among his 13 wins against but two defeats.

Hanover is shaping up a supporting card of local favorites.

TO BACK YOUNG — Members of the National Basketball Association got together recently in New York with Belford V. Lawson Jr., president of the National Council of the YMCA's of the U.S.A. to announce joint sponsorship of nationwide junior basketball leagues for boys and girls from 10 to 18 years old. (L-R) are: John Havlicek of the Boston Celtics; Lawson; Celtics' Paul Silas, president of the NBA Players Association, and Wes Unseld of the Washington Bullets. "This is the first time professional athletes as a group have become so closely involved in a youth sports program," Silas stated. (UPI Telephoto)

Colts schedule date for season transfers

The Baltimore Colts have announced that until April 30 the club will accept season ticket transfer requests.

The policy of transferring season tickets is confined to next of kin, but, during this period, the Colts will allow transfers of any kind.

To initiate a transfer, season ticket holders should write or visit the Memorial Stadium ticket office with the information as to whom the tickets are to be transferred.

Operation Champ cage tourney opens Apr. 7

Operation Champ, sponsored by the Urban Services Agency will hold its first Invitational Basketball Tournament from April 7-11 at the Harlem Park Recreation Center from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

A unique boxing vs. karate exhibition is scheduled at Harlem Park Recreation Center also, on April 11 at 8 p.m.

Science Fair at Hopkins U.

The 20th annual Baltimore Science Fair was open to the public on Wednesday and Thursday at the Johns Hopkins University.

Presented by the university and the Kiwanis Clubs of Baltimore City and Towson, the fair was held in the Newton H. White Jr. Athletic Center on the university's Homewood campus.

The participating 120 junior and senior high school students answered questions about their exhibits from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday. Awards were announced at special ceremony Thursday evening.

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H78-15	LeSabre, Riviera, Newport, Galaxie, Monterey, Olds, Pontiac & others	$55.35	$38.74	$2.92
L78-15	Cadillac, Buick Estate Wagon, Imperial, Mercury Marquis & others	$59.95	$41.96	$3.21

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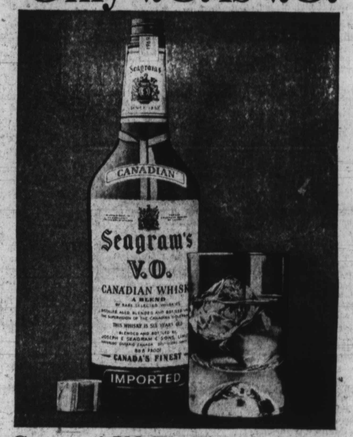

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