Paul Blair and coach John Williams trophy presented for league title

Orioles' Blair praises Provident cage champs

Paul Blair, centerfielder for the Orioles, was guest speaker at a recent trophy awards dinner at Provident Hospital.

The Provident Hospital basketball team, the Pill Pushers has won the championship for the third year in a row.

Other hospitals involved in the league were Lutheran, Sinai, St. Joseph's, Union Memorial and GBMC.

A banquet to honor the players and to present the individual trophies was held recently at Provident Hospital. Team members include: Sanford Vaughn, Charles Wilson, James Brown, James Wells, Woodrow Vaughn, Darryl Thornton, James Vaughn, Michael Lynch, Ronald Brown, Michael Coffee, Thomas Hughes and Clinton Hyman.

• • •

All are either full or part-time employees or volunteers of Provident Hospital.

John Williams, director of Security, coached the team on to victory. George Ford, printing supervisor, served as team manager.

Blair said at the end of the evening, "If the Orioles had as much good luck and team-work as the Provident Pill Pushers, we wouldn't have a thing to worry about.

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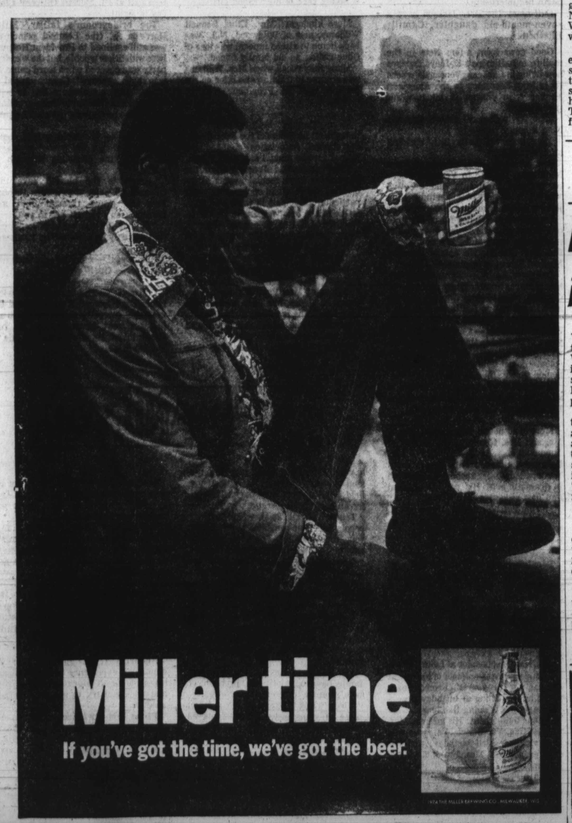

AFRO Sports

Player boycott in support of him checked by Robby

Monday was a day in which people rallied 'round the flag, and the Cleveland Indians rallied 'round manager Frank Robinson.

And, if there's strength in unity, the Indians may have just begun to flex their muscles.

Unhappy over a stiff three-day suspension and $250 fine levied against Robinson by American League president Lee MacPhail for a shoving incident with umpire Jerry Neudecker May 17, Cleveland players Monday threatened to boycott their three-game series with the California Angels.

All the Indians either signed or supported a petition initiated by pitchers Dave Larsche and Tom Buskey, calling the suspension "unjust and unfair" and offering to sit out Robinson's suspension "to show our disapproval."

However, Robinson met with his troops before the afternoon's game and told them if he appreciated their action, but a better to them that he appreciated way to show their appreciation would be to "go out there and win the ballgame."

"It was more or less a show of solidarity," said Frank Duffy, who that day had three hits in an inspired 9-3 clubbing of the Angels. "We signed the petition because we thought it was unfair to have Frank suspended. We didn't think what he did warranted that stiff suspension."

• • •

Robinson was astounded by the attempted boycott — and proud.

"I was surprised," said baseball's first black manager. "I t made me feel good that they felt that strongly. But I felt that couldn't let them do it. It's not worth it to sit out three games.

He watched nervously from the broadcasters' booth as coach Dave Garcia managed the club to victory.

"It was frustrating up there," Robinson said. "It looks easy but you're so far away from the game there. There's nothing to do but bite your nails."

Frank's nail-biting ends tonight (Friday) when he returns to the dugout to resume command against the world champion A's in Oakland.

Frank Robinson back after 3-day suspension

Unseld's simple answer: 'Best team won NBA'

Washington Bullets fans may argue long into the summer why the underdog Golden State Warriors humiliated their favorites in four straight games to win the National Basketball Association crown — but Wes Unseld knows why.

"We can give excuses and reasons and everything else, but all I can say is that they won.

"The best team always wins," said the 6-7 center after the Warriors came from behind — again — to win last Sunday's finale, 96-95.

"We didn't play as well as we could, but that's sour grapes and that takes away from them and nothing should be taken from them," Unseld said.

• • •

But if the bullets, their fans and the oddsmakers were surprised at the results of only the third four-game playoff finale in the NBA's 29-year history, Warrior Jeff Mullins wasn't.

"They were shocked the entire series," Mullins said. "You could look in their eyes and see them saying, 'Let's get out of here, we're in a buzz saw.' They didn't have that confident look."

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Bears' Webster in $1 million cage saddle

Because he forsook baseball and football in favor of basketball when he reached Edmondson High School four years ago, Marvin Webster finds himself astride a million-dollar pot of gold today.

The 7-foot center from Morgan, a first-round choice in Thursday's National Basketball Association draft, is now awaiting the June 16 selection meeting of the American Basketball Association.

Inasmuch as the Atlanta Hawks, who chose Marvin as the No. 3 pick, also drafted David Thompson of N.C. State, both he and his advisor, coach Nat Frazier, sense an opportunity to make an excellent deal.

General manager Carl Scheer of the ABA's Denver Nuggets, already is on record as being determined to obtain either Thompson or Webster. His team picks first at the ABA meeting by virtue of having secured the top pick from St. Louis in last year's hassle over Marvin Barnes.

Scheer is certain that the Hawks, suffering at the box office last year, won't be able to swing the huge bonuses necessary to sign David and Marvin.

For that reason, the Nuggets — who had the best season record in pro basketball last year — are willing to enter a bidding war with Atlanta.

And Webster is right in the middle of it . . . LACY.

Pitch 'n Putt golf tourney set

The Pitch and Putt Golf Club will hold its annual amateur open tournament, June 8, at the Pine Ridge Golf Course.

Gulf Oil Corporation is co-sponsor of the 18-hole medal event.

Four flights are scheduled in both men's and women's divisions, with three trophies in each competition in each flight.

Pine Ridge is located near Lutherville, Md., reachable from Exit 27 of Baltimore Beltway, route 695.

NBA hardship draft nixed by Dantley

Adrian Dantley, the young basketball All-American from Washington, D. C., via Notre Dame, changed his mind about turning pro on the eve of the National Basketball Association draft of college talent.

The NBA announced Wednesday that Dantley had withdrawn his name from the list of eligibles.

The former De Matha High star has indicated a week ago that he was planning to continue his college education through his final year at Notre Dame.

Blue says blanking O's just 'ordinary' effort

There is little doubt that Vida Blue compounded the frustrations of the Orioles Wednesday night when he implied that his 4-hit, 5-0 shutout of the hapless Birds was just an ordinary pitching job.

There is little doubt also that manager Earl Weaver and his troubled henchman are looking forward to putting the current weekend series against the Angels in Anaheim behind them. They return home Tuesday night against the Texas Rangers.

• • • •

On Blue's own scale of one to 10, the Wednesday throttle of the O's rated no more than a seven on eight.

"I've pitched better and I've pitched worse," said the Oakland A's left-hander after becoming the majors first nine game winner. I don't keep track of my games, to be truthful. You pick a number on where to rate this one. I guess it was a seven or eight. I don't know."

Following the 3-game set with the Rangers, the K.C. Royals visit the stadium and then the A's for two.

Both Oakland games will be bargain nights for Oriole fans.

Vida Blue 'pitched better, worse'

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Were you there this time?

ARE YOU ONE OF THESE youngsters in the focus of AFRO reporter-photographer Ben Phillips, taken at a recent Baltimore area sports event? Both will receive checks for $5 if they bring this clipping to Mrs. Gertrude Steele, third floor, AFRO Building and identify themselves BEFORE NOON Tuesday. They're to be rewarded for being in the right place at the right time.

5-year-old 'There' winner has dollar for each year

"We started taking Lori to the games last year. She really enjoys it. I don't know if it's the crowd or what. However, she does know when a home run is hit."

Mrs. Shirley Winston, a Baltimore City public school teacher talking about her 5-year-old daughter, who was featured in "Were You There?" in the May 24 edition.

Since winners in the contest are awarded $5, the little lady received one dollar for each of her years.

• • •

Lori is in the kindergarten at Grove Park Elementary School. She has a brother Mark 8, in the third grade at the same school. Her father, Daniel Winston is an engineer.

Mrs. Winston purchases her AFRO's in a drug store on Garrison Blvd. She likes to read it because it keeps her "informed on the happenings of black people." Her sister, Mrs. Christine Veney, discovered the picture.

The family attends the Wayland Baptist Church on Garrison Blvd., where the Rev. Darneal F. Johnson Sr. is minister.

Lori Winston right place, right time

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Death of Ezzard Charles ends saga of warmth, class

The moving life story of a heavyweight champion who weathered adversity from birthright to deathbed and never lost his smile, ended early Wedseaday morning.

Ezzard Charles died at the Westside VA Hospital in Chicago at the age of 54, a victim of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis which had kept him confined to a wheelchair the last three years of his life.

Charles was born on July 7, 1921, in the tiny hamlet of Lawrenceville, Ga., one of 3,000 persons listed on the townhouse registry.

Two others on the roll were Dr. Webster Pierce Ezzard, and grandpa Mack Charles. It was from them that the champion-to-be got his name Ezzard Mack Charles.

On a trip into Baltimore some years later, Charles laughed through his crippling illness by telling an AFRO writer that nothing could dim his outlook or cause him to succumb to self-pity.

From early youth, he said, he had loved boxing as much as life itself, and there was no memory of a day in which he did not anticipate the eventual winning of a world championship.

In his early youth, he heard about Jack Johnson, and later about Joe Louis, whom he came to idolize. And it was one of the most ironical twists in the annals of sports that resulted in Charles ascending to the heavyweight throne by defeating, of all people, Louis.

The two met in New York in September of 1950, after Charles had won a series of bouts to gain partial recognition as the logical successor to the retired Louis, and the latter attempted a comeback.

Ezz was the winner by decision and thus acquired universal recognition.

The combination of tales about Johnson and Louis, along with the word of a fellow-Georgian Tiger Flowers having made it to the top, inspired Charles as a youngster.

His interest in boxing was insatible. So much so that he set up a home-made dummy filled with sand in his grandmother's back yard and punched away at it for hours at a time.

With 50 cents his grandma gave him, he went to a gym. They tossed him out, telling him a stringbean of 130 pounds would do better to find something safer to do with his time.

He stuck to it, however, despite constant discouragement, and kept learning and building.

He was still in high school when he started his amateur career in 1937 as a welterweight. He won every crown he ever competed for, including two National AAU middleweight titles.

By the time he graduated High, he was already established as a solid name fighter.

On March 15, 1940, still a middleweight, Charles turned professional. He won 20 straight fights, 14 by knockout.

As he rose to the title, Ezz became something of an oddity in the fight game. During his climb, he remained faithful to a promise he had made to his grandmother. He continued working toward a college degree at Wilberforce University.

Charles remained champion for a little over two busy years after his victory over Louis. His reign ended July 18, 1951, when he was kayoed in seven rounds by Walcott. It was his eighth defense.

Mainly because he followed in the footsteps of an international idol, Joe Louis, Ezz was never a popular champion. Still he was elected to the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1970.

His boxing career continued until 1954, when he lost twice to the late Rocky Marciano, the first time over 15 rounds, the second on an eighth round knockout.

He tried a comeback briefly in 1958, but gave up after a few bouts and began working for the Illinois Motor Vehicle Bureau. Later he worked for Mayor Richard J. Daley's Youth Foundation, even after he was confined to a wheel chair because of his disease.

During his 122-fight career, in which he won 96 bouts, knocking out 58 opponents, he defeated such fighters as Archie Moore, Gus Lesnevich and Joey Maxim.

In recent years, Charles helped with community projects in Chicago's Englewood area. In 1971, the Ezzard Charles School, a Montessori school, was founded on Chicago's south side.

"Ezz is a great guy," said the Rev. Clyde Allison during a recent visit to Charles at the hospital. "He's an amazing guy. The thing is he can't talk, he can't move his hands. He can't do anything, but when I see him he has a smile on his face."

MAY 30..

All Employment Security offices of the Maryland Department of Employment / Social Services are closed Friday, May 30 (Memorial Day).

Ezzard Charles as champion the smile never ended

By GREG Logan

Last Friday's MSA championship track meet was one of the most exciting sports events I've seen in years People from all the different schools were in attendance at Poly and the event was marked by good fellowship and keen competition.

As expected, McDonogh's otustanding sprinter Keith Brown and distance runner Bobby Dryden were the standouts. Brown swept the 100-yard dash with a time of 9.6, took the 440 in 48.2 and then captured the 220 in 21.2 seconds.

Dryden, meanwhile, took the mile in 4:24.1, and the 2-mile with a time of 9:59.3. He passed up the 880 because it was scheduled too close to the 2-mile run.

• • • •

In overall scoring, Northwestern and Poly tied for first place, both gaining 69 points, followed by Edmondson with 67; McDonogh with 60; city with 45; Northern with 31; Mt. St. Joseph and Douglass tied with 26.

A good clue to the prospects for the future was offered by Edmondson, Poly and Northwestern. These three schools were the top three varsity finishers, and the top three junior varsity finishers.

• • •

The Baltimore City Bureau of Recreation will hold tryouts for the United States Youth Games track and field team on June 4 at Edmondson High School at 4 p.m

Boys and girls, 15 and under who live in a ten-mile radius of Baltimore, are eligible to compete. For further information, call Art Milburn at 396-0693.

• • •

The John Carroll High School Youth Coaches Football Clinic will be held June 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Instructors for the clinic will include Bob Vogel, former offensive tackle for the Baltimore Colts; Alex Sotire, Gilman football coach; and George Connelly, Aberdeen High School football coach.

• • • •

Northern High School defeated Patterson High School, 7 to 3, to win the citywide public school girls softball championship.

Address all news and suggestions for this column to Teensports, c/o the AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 21203 . . . or call me at 523-3018 after 4 p.m

LITTLE LEAGUE

MOSHER STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE		
Orioles	1	0
Athletics	1	0
Mets	1	1
Tigers	0	0
Twins	0	1
Yankees	0	1

NATIONAL LEAGUE		
Giants	2	0
Cubs	1	0
Cardinals	1	0
Dodgers	1	1
Braves	0	2
Pirates	0	2

MOSHER RESULTS

Giants 15, Twins 8
Cubs 13, Dodgers 3
Mets 13, Yankees 9
Cardinals 4, Braves 3
Orioles 7, Pirates 2
Dodgers 9, Braves 0
Athletics 8, Mets 3
Giants 12, Pirates 6

MOSHER SCHEDULE

Saturday

Cubs vs. Braves, 11 a.m.
Orioles vs. Twins, 1 p.m.

MONDAY

Cardinals vs Pirates 6 p.m.

BY THE WAY...

by Joe Black

As I travel around the country on business, many of you take the time to toss bouquets my way, for the things I say.

But I have to tell you, I get a fair share of brickbats, too.

Seems some people think that some of the topics I discuss are inappropriate. Things like the insidiousness of Black-on-Black crime. And its consequences, as I see them.

To take issue with an issue like this has earned me labels like "White man's Tom," "Oreo," "Advocate of the white man's genocidal practices." And "handkerchief head."

That's OK. I can take it.

Just as I can turn an ear to the passive philosophers, sociologists, and do-gooders who spout nonsense that Black-on-Black crime is a reaction to years of suppression and denial.

But consider this. Whether or not you agree with my point of view, you must look at some bleak truths.

Because facts are facts.

For instance, because of the high Black-on-Black crime rate today, every heavily Black populated urban city is suffering economically.

Job opportunities are dwindling because high insurance rates and fear make it unattractive, often impossible, to open a business in many Black communities.

Black children and concerned adults are denied the hard-earned freedom and privilege of walking in, playing in, and enjoying their own neighborhoods, because of fear.

I am truly thankful that concerned women in many of these areas have chosen not to tremble and curse the darkness.

But rather, they have come together to offer a light at the end of the tunnel, by creating coalitions to stop the senseless brotherhood of Black killing and crime.

If our women can do it, can't we all?

Shouldn't we start, starting now?

Joe Black
Vice President
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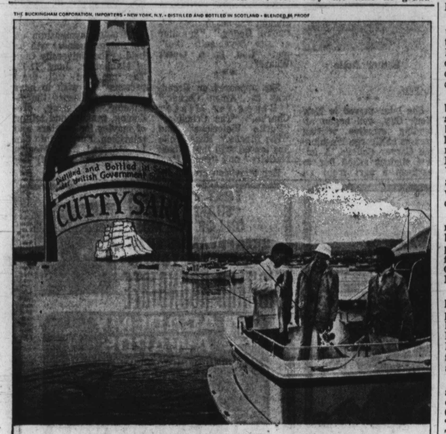

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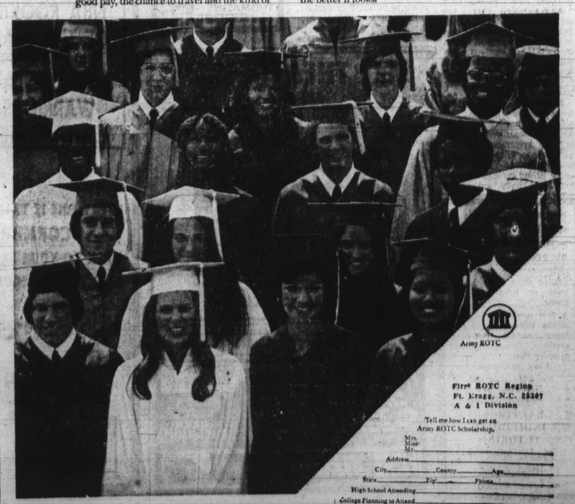

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