Kings open Bullets season October 23

LANDOVER, Md. — The Washington Bullets will open defense of their Eastern Conference championship on Oct. 23 when they tip off the 1975-76 NBA season against the Kansas City Kings.

Bullets play four games against each team in the Midwest and Pacific divisions. Last year they were 15-5 against the Pacific Division, 13-3 vs. the Midwest, 10-6 vs. the Atlantic and 22-8 against the Central Division.

Following the opener on Oct. 23, the Bullets have an 8-day rest until their second game, Nov. 1 at Golden State, in the first rematch of the NBA championship finalists. The second game will be Nov. 4 when the Bullets host the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Muhammad and daughter Rasheda romantic interlude for heavyweight champ

Muhammad 'Jekyll-Hyde' Ali charms fight camp visitors

By Milton Richman

DEER LAKE, Pa. (UPI)—His four-year old daughter, Rasheda, nuzzled up to her father, making his face wet with soft, moist child-like kisses and you should've seen Muhammad Ali as he ate it up.

He kissed his little girl back and stopped talking about the subject he had been, his heavyweight title defense against Joe Frazier in Manila, Sept. 30.

Eventually, though, he got back to it.

"You wait until I get ugly, short, Joe Frazier and pop him on his flat nose," said Ali. "Movin' an' stickin' an' boxin, tvin' him up and takin' my time I ca-i-n't lose. No way I can. Frazier ain't the Frazier he wuz."

As Ali spoke, a young married couple seated only a few feet away from him listened. Dennis Moore, a postal employee, and his wife Joan, had driven 200 miles from their home in Grand George, N.Y., simply hoping to see the champ.

"Muhammad, I owe you an apology," Mrs. Moore said to Ali. "My husband has always been a fan of yours, but after we arrived here and knew you were in your house, I said to him 'I'll betcha he'll never come out to talk to us.' I was wrong."

In his gym later, where Ali sparred three rounds with Gene Wells of Louisville, Joan Moore stood off to one side. She watched Ali permit Wells to hit him and said:

"He does himself such an injustice. I wish he'd let more people know how humble he really is instead of putting on that act of his."

When there is a crowd around, Muhammad Ali invariably projects the image most people have of him. He's loud; he's flip; he's animated. When no one is around, he's entirely different.

A few weeks ago, a little boy was dying at Good Samaritan Hospital in Pottsville not far from here. Ali went to see the boy and after he left, the 82-year old mother superior at the hospital said of him:

"He's so gentle, such a fine man. He shouldn't be a fighter."

Supposedly Ali never shuts up or is lost for words. That's not true either.

His business manager, Gene Kilroy recalls the time Ali was training for George Chuvalo in Vancouver, B.C., and had just returned to his hotel after finishing his road work.

Ali was sitting in the hotel lobby when an old lady, who was white, came over to him and said:

"My, you're a handsome man."

"Thank you ma'am," Ali replied.

"You're better looking in person than you are on television," the lady offered.

"Thank you ma'am," answered Ali again with one of his warmest smiles.

"And such a beautiful smile."

"Ma'am, I'm a married man," Ali said, purely in self-defense.

The woman was completely taken aback.

"Young man," she said, "I'm 84 years old, and I didn't have anything like that in mind. Besides I'm from Alabama."

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AFRO Sports

Duane Thomas, Redskins reach 'point of no return'

Duane Thomas is looking for a home again and this time the only site available may be in the World Football League. He has reached the "point of no return" with the Washington Redskins.

Thomas, the controversial running back who once was being touted as a second Jimmy Brown, has been unable to come to contract terms with Washington after playing out his option and Wednesday the Redskins announced that he is free to make his own deal.

There might not be any takers — in the National Football League, at least. Thomas is asking a six-figure contract and not many clubs are willing to risk that much money on a back who, despite his tremendous potential, has done very little the past few seasons.

Duane Thomas can deal himself

"We told him Tuesday and we told him twice before, he is free to go to another club," said club executive Tim Temarario. "If he can work out an arrangement with a team, all they have to do is phone and we'll reach an agreement (for compensation). We won't stand in his way. It would be a very simple procedure.

"George Allen has made it plain — Duane is not included in our future plans."

The 28-year-old Thomas was Dallas' No. 1 draft pick in 1970 and starred as a rookie. But a series of incidents on and off the field sent him into disfavor and he sat out the 1972 season rather than play for New England or San Diego.

Allen, who prides himself on his ability to handle so-called "problem Players," gave up two high draft picks for the former West Texas State star. But Thomas carried just 127 times for 442 yards in two years with the Redskins.

The obvious road is to the new WFL, which is hungry for top talent, but it's doubtful any club has enough money to pay what Thomas wants. And it's also doubtful that Thomas will play for the $500 a game and profit sharing plan set up by WFL Commissioner Chris Hemmeter.

CUT BY CHARGERS — Tight end Ron Mayo on Thursday was waived by the San Diego Chargers of the National Football League. The former Morgan State star saw action in nine games last year with the Baltimore Colts.

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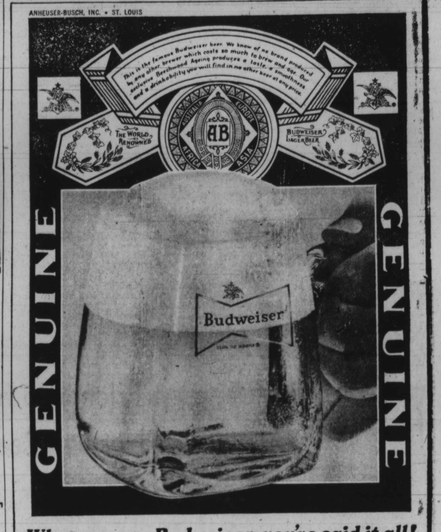

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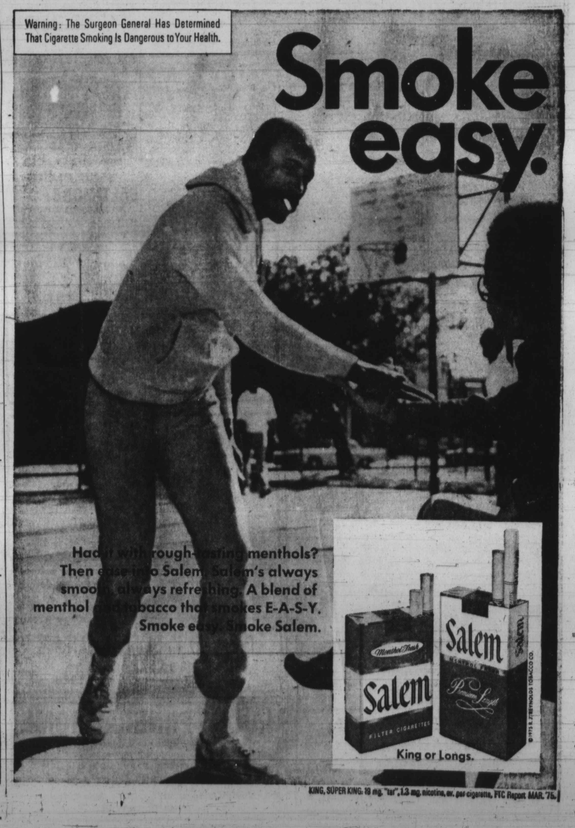

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Webb Center youngsters in water show

By Greg Logan

The Chick Webb Aquatic Club presented a program of water "dances" to music on Wednesday at the Chick Webb Recreation Center. The program was titled "A Summer Madness."

Girls participating in the program were Jan Taylor, Lisa Franklin, Bianca Harvey, Ella-Donna Lanier, Tina Davis, Tanya Leach, Henrietta Gallaway, Gloria Terry, Myra Harlee, Lisa Farrar, Cheryl Smith, Terri Phillips, Wanda Ellis, Vanessa Dargon, Angela Leach, Renee Harvey, Linda Harvey, Robin Dean, Evelyn Harlee and Nancy Morse.

Boys taking part were James Dargon, Nick Cook, Dennis Lewis, Delanto Lewis, Wayne Lee, Mik Cook and Randolph Smith.

• • •

The boys and girls performed to such popular times as "Spirit of the Boogie," by Kool and the Gang; "Love Won't Let Me Wait," by Major Harris and "Sexy," by MFSB.

Also performed were three songs from the hit musical "The Wiz." The songs were "The Wiz," "Ease On Down the Road" and "So You Want To See the Wizard."

The Aquatic Club's coaching staff consists of Dennis Lewis, head coach; Randolph Smith, assistant coach, and Mary Lanier, who served as the mistress of ceremonies.

The recreation staff at Chick Webb are A. L. Cottrill, superintendent; L. C. Nixon, assistant superintendent; D. A. Millard, assistant superintendent; Daniel Clark, district supervisor and Willie Phillips, center director.

Operation Champ crowns titlists at track meet

By Greg Logan

Operation Champ held its track and field finals last weekend at Walbrook Senior High School.

The boys and girls competing were grouped into four age divisions: 10 and 11, 12 and 13, 14 and 15, and 16 to 18 year olds.

Events contested were the 50, 100, 220, and 440 yard dashes; the 880 yard run, the 440, 880, and mile relays; the long jump, the running long jump, the standing broad jump, the shotput, and the trampoline.

THE RESULTS

Boys-10-11: 50 yard dash — 1, Kelvin Burns, Lexington Terrace; 2, Tony Wallace, Winston Recreation Center; 3, Rodney Mooney, Lexington Terrace.

Boys-10-11: 100 yard dash — 1, Douglas Neal, Druid Hill Y; 2, Mark Brice, C.A.A. Center 20; 3, Tony Wallace, Winston Rec.

Girls-10-11: 50 yard dash — 1, Rosalind Shelton, Gazelle's; 2, Lisa Jones, Gazelle's; 3, Shereen Mabin, Lexington Terrace.

Boys-12-13: 50 yard dash — 1, John Wiley, Edward Waters Track Club; 2, Byrone Jenning, Winston Rec.; 3, Vernon Peoples, Winston Rec.

Boys-12-13: 100 yard dash — 1, Rudolph Dasheill, Druid Hill Y; 2, Byrone Jenning, Winston; 3, Jerome Carter, Druid Hill Y.

Girls-12-13: 100 yard dash — 1, Angela Williams, Gazelles; 2, Patience Young, Gazelle's; 3, Donnette Bray, Gazelle's.

Girls-10-11: 100 yard dash — 1, Rosalind Shelton, Gazelle's; 2, Lisa Jones, Gazelle's; 3, Shereen Mabin, Lexington Terrace.

440 Yard Dash — 16—18 Boys — 1, Damon Harris, Edward Waters; 2, Rodney Jones, T.F.A.C.; 3, Charles Campbell, T.F.A.C.

440 Yard Dash — 14-15 Boys — 1, John Lecato, Edward Waters; 2, Wayne Carter, 3, Anthony McKelven.

440 Yard Dash — 14-15 Girls — 1, Marletta Harris, Gazelle's; 2, Victoria Austin, Gazelle's; 3, Roberta Lewis, Winston Rec.

100 Yard Dash — 14-15 Girls — 1, Cynthia Hall, Gazelle's; 2, Joyce Lecato, Gazelle's; 3, Marie Watton, Gazelle's.

220 Yard Dash — 14 15 Boys — 1, Clarence Haskett, T.F.A.C.; 2, Kim Curtis, Rognell Heights; 3, Wyane Carter.

100 Yard Dash — 14-15 Boys — 1, Clarence Haskett, T.F.A.C.; 2, Anthony Adams, Guild Hall (Operation Champ); 3, John Lecato, Edward Waters.

100 Yard Dash — 16-18 Boys — 1, Wayne Cottman, Eastwood; 2, Marvin Reid, Eastwood; 3, W.C. Rogers, T.F.A.C.

100 Yard Dash — 16-15 Girls — 1, Karen Buster, T.F.A.C.; 2, Wanda Trent, T.F.A.C.; 3, Maria Parsons, T.F.A.C.

220 Yard Dash — 13-13 Girls — 1, Patience Young, Gazelle's; 2, Evelyn Blue, Christ Emerson U.M.C.; 3, Donnette Brav, Gazelle's.

220 Yard Dash — 14-15 Girls — 1, Regina Jones, Gazelle's; 2, Victoria Austin, Gazelle's.

220 Yard Dash — 16-18 Girls — 1, Maria Parsons, T.F.A.C.; 2, Wanda Trent, T.F.A.C.; 3, Karen Buster, T.F.A.C.

220 Yard Dash — 16-18 Boys — 1, Wayne Cottman, Eastwood; 2, Willie Rogers, T.F.A.C.; 3, Kevin Reid, Eastwood.

880 Yard Run — 14-15 Boys — 1, Ellwood Thomason, Rognell Heights; 2, Andre Holden, Winston Rec.

880 Yard Run — 16-18 Boys — 1, Anthony Lewis, Area D (Operation Champ), 2, Brian Lee, T.F.A.C.; 3, Allen Allts, Guild Hall (Operation Champ).

880 Yard Relay —14-15 Girls — 1, Cynthia Hall, 2, Regina Jones, 3, Karen Cox and 4, Marletta Harris, all Gazelle's.

440 Yard Relay — Gazelles Girls — All First Place: Karen Cox, Marletta Harris, Cynthia Hall, Regina Jones;

Patience Young, Angela Williams, Rosalyn Shelton and Donetta Brady.

Local pro teams face weekend of decision

Every so often comes a weekend when the fortunes of pro sports in Baltimore are placed squarely on the line. This is one of those times.

It cannot be said that the title aspirations of either the Orioles or the Colts hinge solely on the outcome of their respective weekend performances, but much can be determined by the way they comport themselves.

Beginning tonight (Friday), the Birds engage the Texas Rangers in a 3-game series that closes out the current home stand. It behooves manager Earl Weaver and his charges to make the best of their home advantage because they won't have it again until Aug. 28.

Playing the Rangers at home while the first-place Boston Red Sox are in Chicago for four games, appears to favor the Birds in their pursuit of Boston.

The latter, incidentally, have 22 more home dates in friendly Fenway Park, while the O's have 15 remaining in Memorial Stadium.

Meanwhile the Colts are not really facing do-or-die in their game with Atlanta at Linclon, Neb. It is nothing more than pre-season activity and the score will not be important win or lose.

• • •

However, Baltimore's major football project this season is to build a respectable offense. Much has been done to improve the offensive blocking and in the ball carrying department.

Tomorrow's (Saturday) affair puts the Colt offense into a pure test situation. The Falcons have one of the most rugged defensive lines in the NFL.

It could give a hint as to the potential of the Baltimore attack . . . Sam Lacy.

BOC warmup set

The final tune up meet before the Baltimore Olympic Club All Comers Track and Field Championships, August 31, will be held Sunday at Catonsville Community College, beginning at 6 p.m.

Events scheduled are: 100 yards, 660 yards, 4.5 mile crosscountry, sprint medley relay, high jump and shot put, plus the pole vault.

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3 now among top 100 in golf money

George Johnson crept into 95th place last week to become the third black player among the 100 leading money winners of golf.

Johnson, with $15,705, joins Jim Dent, 64th with $31,620, and Lee Elder, 77th at $20,972.

Bear gridders face task of justifying program cuts

By Greg Logan

After a controversy last year between Morgan State University basketball coach Nat Frazier and athletic director Earl Banks, many observers felt that the Bears' football team would have to prove it is worth the money spent on the football program.

There was an extensive recruiting program carried out by Morgan scouts, and as a result, the Bears feel they have some of the best high school graduates of the class of 1975.

• • •

"We have several good young men this year who are making fast progress," Morgan football coach Nathaniel Taylor said on Wednesday.

This group includes native Baltimoreans Ike Harris, an offensive lineman from Poly; Darryl Wilson, a running back also from Poly; Emanuel Massey, a linebacker from Northwestern, and Ronald Williams, an offensive lineman from Edmondson.

Also drawing attention from the coaches are out-of-towners Monty Patrick from Chicago and Larry Mumphord from Richmond. Both are offensive linemen.

All told, the Bears have about three prospects from Edmondson High, two from Northwestern, three from Poly, and one each from Kenwood, Dundalk and City College.

Coach Nat Taylor loses good kids

"The biggest problem we have in recruiting," said coach Taylor, "is that most kids from the inner city seem inclined to go to an out of town college. The best graduates appear to be anxious to go outside the city."

"Most of the kids from the city live at home," he continued, "and come to Morgan for financial reasons."

• • •

What the coach implied was that Baltimore youngsters find it less expensive to retain their rooms at home than to live on campus.

The Bears are in their first week of drills preparatory to opening the 1975 season on Sept. 6 at home against traditional rival Virginia State.

The following week, Morgan journeys to RFK Stadium in Washington to entertain Grambling, Sept. 13.

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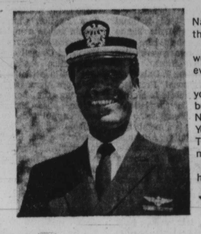

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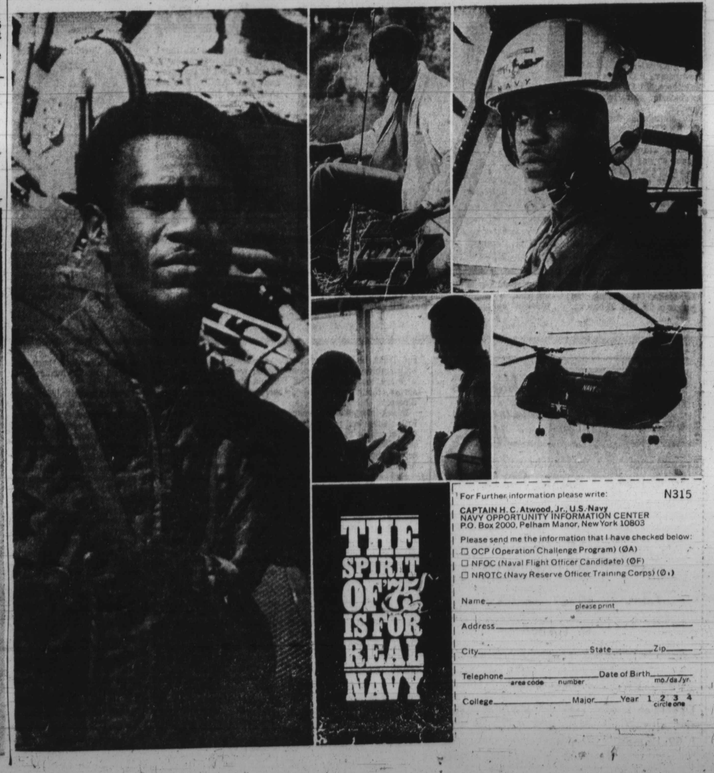

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