AFRO Sports

More than 4,000 youths eye state cage honors

The Baltimore City Bureau of Recreation will conduct the Eighth annual Dribble and Shoot Contest at the Herring Run Recreation Center, 3001 Sinclair Lane, on Tuesday, at 7 p.m.

A total of 4476 boys and girls, in four age groups, will be competing for the city championship and the right to represent Baltimore in the state finals on Sunday, March 7, at the Capital Center in Largo, Maryland.

The state finals will precede the NBA contest between the Washington Bullets and the New York Knickerbockers.

* * *

Competing in this year's event will be several winners of past seasons who will be defending their crowns. Heading the list is Jerrelyn Keene, the Mount Royal Recreation Center representative, who was the 1975 city champion in the girls' 10-11 years division and who also placed third in the state finals.

Lisa Scott, of Cahill Recreation Center, will be competing in her second city finals. Last year she placed sixth in the 8-9 division, and this year will represent District 9 in the 10-11 division.

Vanessa Scott, also from Cahill, is another two-time district winner moving up in age class this year. She placed fifth in last year's city finals in the girls' 12-13 division.

For the eighth consecutive year, Dribble and Shoot is being sponsored by the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Baltimore, Md., and the Washington Bullets, in conjunction with the Baltimore City Bureau of Recreation.

O's get 'younger' Harper for Davis

The Baltimore Orioles released Tommy Davis early this week, holding that his advancing age and physical handicaps dictated a move toward youth and dexterity.

Shortly thereafter, the Birds invited Tommy Harper, a 13-year veteran, to try as a replacement. Davis is 37, Harper is 19 months younger.

General Manager Hank Peters said Harper, a free agent, will be given a tryout and said he hoped he will fill the Orioles' needs for another right-handed hitter.

"Tommy will report to camp without a contract. He will be given every chance to make our ball club," Peters said.

Harper played for California and Oakland last season and has a .257 lifetime batting average. He hit .259 in 89 games for the Angels and batted .339 in 34 games with Oakland after his contract was sold to the A's in August.

An outfielder-first baseman, Harper has stolen 404 bases since breaking into the majors in 1967 with the Cincinnati Reds. The stolen base total ranks Harper fourth among active players.

8 black youths win Scholar-Athlete nods

What was reported to be the largest gathering in the 13-year history of the dinner, was on hand Wednesday night at the annual Scholar-Athlete awards ceremony.

Some 1,262 persons applauded the 79 candidates honored by the Maryland Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame.

Eight of the youngsters selected to represent their schools in athletic and classroom excellence were black.

The winner, LeRoy Katz of McDonogh, received a huge trophy and a $1,000 scholarship for use in pre-med training at Yale or Johns Hopkins.

* * *

Among the honorees were (alphabetically) Kevin Anderson of Fredrick High, Robert Baker of Northern, Kevin Billups, St. Paul's; Greg Crosland, Southwestern.

Also Marvin Cruise, City; James Pleasant, Carver; Donald Thomas, Walbrook, and Earl Woodard of Edmondson High.

Each received a plaque symbolic of election...LACY

LeRoy Katz
grand prize winner

NO ONE LIKE MA—World heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali may insist he's "the greatest" and the answer to all problems, but when he is taken down by the flu bug, on whom does he call? Right. That's his mom, Mrs. Odessa Clay, giving with the old home relief in his San Juan hotel room. Ali is readying to defend his title Friday against Belgian Jeanne-Pierre Coopman in the Puerto Rican capital.

Ali routine is the same with a sorta fiery twist

SAN JUAN (UPI)—The more things change around Muhammad Ali, the more they are the same.

Tonight (Friday) he will defend his heavyweight crown for the fifth time since taking it from George Foreman, and this time the challenger is a total unknown.

It's pretty difficult to make out any kind of a case for the smiling Belgian, Jean-Pierre Coopman, so as usual it has been up to Ali to sell the fight.

But a hotel fire? That's going a bit too far, yet the fact that smoke billowed through the El San Juan Wednesday morning came as no surprise to writers who have trailed Ali over the entire world the past year and a half.

The kitchen smoke wasn't enough to stop Ali's lackadaisical workout, however, and the champion went through the monotony of skipping ropes, punching the big bag, and peeling off the last few pounds of fat he had acquired since his Manila victory over Joe Frazier.

On Tuesday the champion cancelled a sparring session before 600 fans who paid $5 a head to see him practice. He kept the audience in stitches with one of his famed, "I am the greatest in the world" monologues.

Still suffering from a cold he picked up over the weekend, Ali continually coughed and wiped his nose while shadow boxing in the glare of television floodlights.

At one point he proclaimed himself "in tip-top condition," and then fell over against the ropes as if dead.

"He'll come in," said handler Angelo Dundee. "at 223. Same as for Joe."

Will he be as sharp?

Dundee shrugged. "He's always sharp enough, or has been. These "easy" fights are the ones that give you a kind of nagging worry, though, until Ali puts it together."

As for Coopman, if they take pictures of both men on the scales late this afternoon, a lot of people may be shocked. The 29-year-old stone cutter from Flanders has presented a pleasant face and manners since arriving, but oldtimers have not been impressed by his training, which he wound up Tuesday.

Perhaps the contrast in the physiques of the two men is the reason. Ali at 225 will have almost 25 pounds over Jean Pierre. Ali is 6-3, Coopman 6 even. Ali's reach is 80 inches, the Belgian's 75.

The few who have seen Coopman fight say he is a three - minute - a - round man, always boring in, throwing punches which have had deadly effect on such peonie as Siegfried Ackers, Erwin Jozefa, Florence Cristofokak and Kittokko Annobebele.

Along the way, he was knocked out in two by someone named Ireno Werleman, but returned the compliment by putting Ireno away in one in a rematch.

The promotion of the title match—first ever for heavyweights in Puerto Rico—reportedly is going smoothly. The Roberto Clemente Coliseum can seat 12,000 for boxing, and a crowd of 10,000 is expected.

With the ticket scale dropping from an eye - opening $200 for the best at ringside to $10 in the rear balconies, the gross may approach $400,000. That, plus the $1.1 million from CBS for live telecast rights will cover Ali's $1 million and Coopman's $100,000.

Basketball

COLLEGE RESULTS

Bowie State 131, Gallaudet 80
Norfolk St. 96, St. Paul's 81
Morgan 77, Howard 73
Coppin State 101, St. Mary's 66
N.C. Central 78, W. Salem 75
St. Aug 105, Livingstone 96
Va. Union 94, Hampton 71
Lincoln 73, Stockton 50
Norfolk St. 91, Va. State 86
St. Paul's 95, Fayetteville 73
W. Carolina 79, A and T 77
W. Salem 86, St. Aug. 82
Ky. State 117, Bellarmine 89
Central St. 68, W. Illinois 67
Mars Hill 105, Morris 72
Ohio Dominican 95, Wilberforce 87
Southern 96, Alcorn 82
Mo. Lincoln 83, Ark.-Little Rock 72
Bishop 86, Texas Southern 83

WEEKEND SCHEDULE
COLLEGE GAMES

Friday
Norfolk St. at Va. Union
W. Salem at Va. State

Saturday
Morgan at Md., E Shore
Lincoln at Coppin State
S.C. State at Howard
Delaware St. at Va. Commonwealth
Va. State at Elizabeth City
A and T at Fairleigh-Dickinson
Anne Arundel at Essex
Towson St. at UMBC
N.C. Central at J. C. Smith
Fayetteville at Shaw
Grambling at Alcorn
Southern at Xavier

Monday
Howard at Toledo
Wilmington at Federal City
Frostburg St. at Bowie St.
S. Eastern at Lincoln
Randolph-Macon at Hampton
S.C. State at W. Salem
Paine at Bethune
Xavier at Southern

NBA GAMES

Friday
Phoenix at New Orleans
Portland at Chicago
Washington at Detroit
Milwaukee at Houston
Boston at Los Angeles
Philadelphia at Seattle

Saturday
Detroit at Buffalo
New Orleans at New York
Phoenix at Houston
Atlanta at Washington
Portland at Kansas City
Boston at Golden State

Sunday
Houston at Cleveland
Atlanta at New Orleans
Chicago at Milwaukee
Philadelphia at Golden State
Los Angeles at Seattle

Monday
Cleveland at Houston

Wheelchair cage event slated for Baltimore

The national wheelchair basketball tournament will be played at Catonsville Community College, March 27-28.

The top four teams of more than 150 entries in the U.S. and Canada will compete in two divisions for the 1976 national championship.

Although championship wheelchair tournaments have been staged for the last 28 years, Baltimore is hosting the tournament for the first time.

Wheelchair basketball the first time.

* * *

Wheelchair basketball combines the skills and tactics of pro basketball and the speed of roller derby with the mayhem potential of ice hockey.

To be eligible an athlete must have some disability involving the legs. The wheelchair competitors must be in top shape to play the exciting, grueling sport.

* * *

The host team Baltimore Ravens, 7 and 2 in league play this year, has only an outside chance of making the tournament. The Richmond Charioteers, led by former Raven player-coach Tom Brown, have compiled Tom Brown, have compiled an 8-0 record and are a good bet to finish among the top four.

The championship doubleheaders begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 and 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 28. Tournament tickets — good for all four games — cost only $2.

Baltimore host to wheel tourney

Mayor William Donald Schaefer and Baltimore County executive Theodore G. Venetoulis have announced that the Baltimore area has been selected from nearly 100 sites around the country for the 29th National Wheelchair Basketball Championship tournament.

The Capital Conference and Baltimore City's team, the Ravens, will host some 200 participants from 35 states who are expected to take part in the tournament.

The three-day event will be held March 26-28 in the Catonsville Community College Physical Development Center located in Baltimore County.

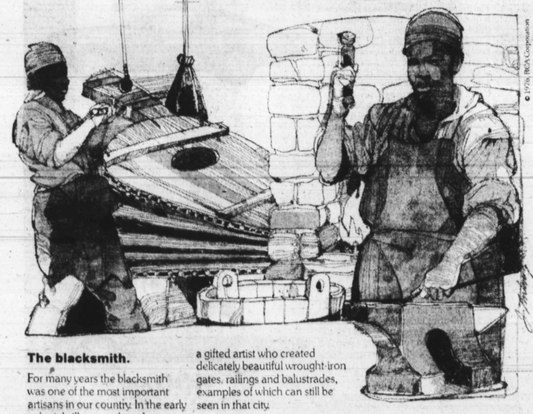
The Ravens are co-sponsored by the Maryland Rehabilitation Center and the Baltimore-Central Maryland League for Crippled Children and Adults.

NW high's Pugh top ECAC cager

Four freshmen players including David Pugh of Baltimore, form the nucleus of a Springfield (Mass) College five that has won seven of its last nine games.

Pugh, a product of Northwestern High School, was named co-player of the week in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference, on the strength of his team-leading 18.5 points a game average.

He also leads SC in field goal percentage at .514, and tallied 31 points in the 3-point loss to Hartford, one of the two recent defeats.



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"The blacksmith" is included in our booklet "Craftsmanship. A tradition in Black America." For your free copy, write RCA, Department 119N, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10020.

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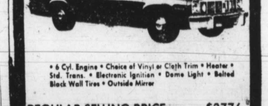

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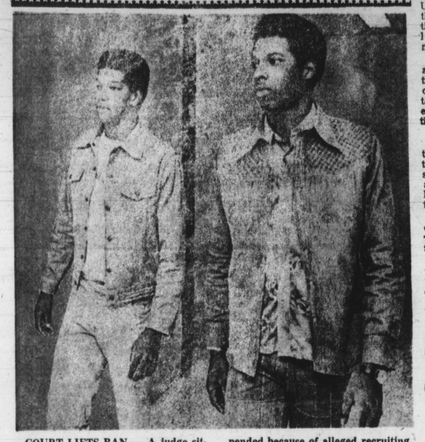

COURT LIFTS BAN — A judge sitting in U.S. District Court in Dallas has ordered the Southwest Conference to reinstate Karl Godine (left) and Jarvis Williams to the Texas A&M basketball team. The conference had ordered the two youngsters, both of whom were starters, suspended because of alleged recruiting violations. The judge ruled they had been deprived of their rights to a proper hearing and must be reinstated until the conference informs of the alleged breach and permits the accused to reply.

Ashe, fellow players flee coup, safe in Rome

A greatly relieved but mentally tired Arthur Ashe led a vanguard of 11 American players into the opening round of the World Championship Tennis tournament at Rome (Italy) Wednesday, following a half-raising experience in Nigeria.

Two days earlier, the WCT's African stop had been halted by an abortive military coup.

"While we were playing in Lagos, some armed soldiers came on the courts and ordered us to stop," Ashe said. "From that moment on, we were always accompanied by an armed escort until we left Nigeria for Acra. But I want to say there were no incidents between us and Nigerian police."

Insurgents killed Nigerian President Gen. Murtala Mohammed last Friday but loyalist forces quickly put down the attempted coup and Mohammed's deputy, Lt. Gen. Malumsum Obasanjo, took over as his successor.

* * *

Ashe was playing a semi-final match with Jeff Borowiak, also of the U.S., at the time of the disruption by Africans who were upset by the continuation of the tournament during the period of mourning.

The 11 Americans are among 16 players entered in the tournament in Rome. Organizers postponed its start from Tuesday until Wednesday because of their delayed arrival.

Arthur Ashe
Lagos match halted

Race track disclosure bill approved

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — Without discussion, the state Senate Wednesday gave tentative approval to a bill expanding disclosure requirements of the race track owners.

Under the measure, any person holding a two per cent interest in one of the state's tracks must list others who will benefit from the investment.

The law is designed to control use of so-called "front men" who often list their names on ownership documents, but the stock is actually held by someone else.

The legislation was spurred by the federal indictment of Gov. Mandel and five others on charges involving the Marlboro Race Track. According to prosecutors, one of Mandel's confedendants was listed on ownership documents, but ownership was actually in the hands of others.

Mrs. Page to be cited

A testimonial dinner in honor of Mrs. Ethel Page, owner of the Apex Beauty School, will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 7 at the La Fountaine Bleu, 3100 block Erdman Ave.

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2 down and 1 to go for MSU

Racing to an 86-63 victory over South Carolina State in their final Hill Field House game of the season, the Morgan State University Bears captured the second of their last three contests of the regular schedule Thursday night.

The win put Nat Frazier and his Bruins in the relatively comfortable position of being two down and one to go for a tie in the Eastern Athletic Conference title chase.

* * *

While Frazier has no thought of taking anyone in the MEAC lightly, Morgan supporters are anticipating a sort of mop-up activity at Maryland, Eastern Shore tomorrow (Saturday).

The Hawks are on lean days at the moment having won only once in the conference campaign.

A score at Princess Anne will enable the Bears to match the 11-1 record of A & T, thus throwing the coveted top seeding in next weekend's MEAC tournament into a coin flip.

Coppin cops easy 28th

The unstoppable Coppin State College Eagles rolled to their 28th victory in 30 starts Thursday night, despite the fact they were functioning without the guidance of head coach John Bates.

Bates, called to his native South Carolina by death in the family, turned over the coaching duties to his assistant, Charlie Moore, and the latter had no trouble whatever maintaining the winning basketball pace.

The Eagles romped to a 58-28 halftime lead then coasted to a final 129-56 decision over the Gallaudet College quint on the latter's floor.

* * *

Tony Carter and Mickey Heard set the pace for Coppin, each tallying 28 points as their teammates virtually blew out their deaf opponents.

Tomorrow (Saturday) night, the Eagles will be seeking their 29th win against two losses when they entertain Lincoln at the W. North Ave. gym.

Terps' Larry Gibson still on sideline

Injured Larry Gibson continues harnessed to the sideline as his University of Maryland teammates play out the remainder of the regular schedule.

After studying the latest x-ray slides of the big center's right knee, Dr. Sam Lavine said Wednesday that the former Dunbar (Baltimore) High star will not rejoin the Terps until the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, March 4-6 at Capital Centre.

Track officials clinic at Morgan

The Maryland Officials Club will host a track and field clinic at Morgan State University's Hill Field House Wednesday evening commencing at 7:30 o'clock.

Topics to be covered before the introduction of U.S. Olympic coach Leroy Walker by former Morgan coach Marse Hill, will be techniques in starting, hurdling, finishing and women's participation.

Clinicians for the above will be Ed Kirk, Nick Lee, Bob Martin and Marilyn Bevans, respectively.

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NCAA cage poll rates Morgan 5th

Morgan State University, a half-game behind A and T in the MEAC standings, is placed fifth in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division II basketball rankings.

The Bears are 17-4 in overall play. Tennessee State is second, behind Philadelphia Textile, and Winston-Salem (NC) State is fourth.

Kentucky State is ranked No. 12 in the division.

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Beautiful Baltimore contest set by bureau

For the 12th consecutive year the Bureau will coordinate the "Keep Baltimore and Maryland Beautiful" poster contest.

The contest, sponsored by the Continental Can Company, who contribute the 10 first prize $25 Savings Bonds, Exxon U.S.A. donnator of the 10 $10 second prizes and Keep Maryland Beautiful, Inc. is open to all ages and is judged by the sponsores on on the idea each poster fosters and on the art work depicting it.

While some are painting, others, at Cylburn Park will be participating in a house plant workshop, to be held on Wednesdays through March or in a gardening workshop to be held on Tuesdays through March and April.

The former will deal with propagation, general care, requirements for winter, fertilizer and light, specific types of plants and their problems, the treatment for insects and diseases.

The gardening workshop will deal with both vegetable and flower gardens and will be concerned with perparation of soil, fertilization, starting plants, planting, and general care with some emphasis on roses.

The sessions will be held at the Cylburn Park Mansion and City Greenhouse in the park at 4915 Greenspring Ave.

All plant material grown in either workshop will become the property of the participants and will be theirs to take home. For each there is a minimal fee to cover the cost of the instructor.

Information and details of any one of the three activities may be obtained from Mrs. Elizabeth Merryman, Bureau of Recreation, 1129 North Calvert St., Baltimore, Maryland 21202 or by calling 396-5649 or 396-5642 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. during the week.

Brazil, Ladd top Sunday mat card

United States Worldwide Wrestling Federation champion Bobo Brazil and former All-Pro football tackle Ernie Ladd are among the headliners set to appear in the Sunday mat card at Capital Center.

Brazil will defend his heavyweight crown against 315-pound challenger Buggsy McGraw, while Ladd will take on Dominic De Nucci.

In other title defenses, Bruno Sammartino and the team of Louis Cerdan and Tony Parisi face rugged opposition.

Sammartino opposes Russian Ivan Koloff, and the Cerdan - Parisi duo defends against Mikel Scicluna and Frank Monte.

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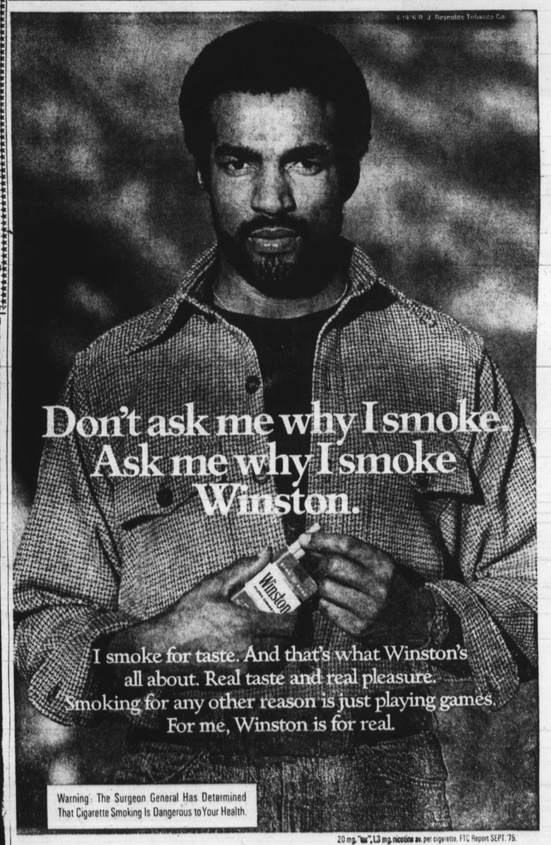

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