SUMMER SPORTS

The AFRO's weekly view of community athletics

Northwood on rampage

There's a confident excitement about the Northwood 12-14 age group little league baseball team.

Playing in their first year, Northwood's players have convinced themselves, and other teams that Northwood is the team to beat.

"We had a 16-19 team last year but there are not as many players to choose from in that group," a smiling Northwood coach Tony Purnell said last week. His team had just conquered a tough Polaris AC team 8-6. "They all can play," he added.

Indeed. Earlier this season a fired up Northwood poured it on last year's 12-14 champ Yankee [illegible] 12-8, [illegible] the [illegible] they [illegible] Polaris. The players say their success is based on team work and hustle, and what coach could ask for more?

"We get a lot of team play," spunky shortstop Henry Johnson said after the Polaris game. Johnson also wears the label of best Northwood base stealer. He has not been thrown out stealing this season. "Everybody always hustles, and we have a good pitching staff."

One of those throwers is Glenn Foster, who ended his victory over Polaris with a flair by striking out the last batter.

The young Northwood players all have an older air about them during game. There is plenty of chatter, and opposing pitchers probably wish they had never taken the mound after the Northwood players finish needling them.

The team's enthusiasm is partly explained by the fact that Purnell coached a younger team last season (10-12) where the players are less inhibited. Northwood's knack for winning can also be attributed to Purnell's younger team, which went undefeated last year.

Purnell says he does, however, realize that winning is not the only thing on earth. He lets the "weaker players" play a lot "against the weaker teams." This allows all 18 players a chance to share the action of 'live' play, he says.

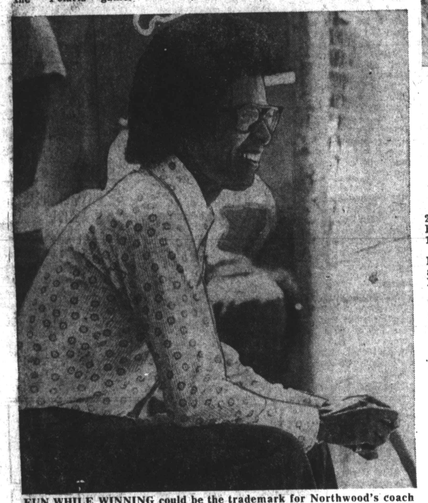
"We have a bunch of good hitters," Purnell said smiling at the luxury. "And I try to play the best guys in the best spots."

The team is made up of young guys from Roland Park, Chinquapin Middle School and Northern Parkway junior highs. The players have submerged their individual school loyalties and formed a team that each and everyone of them can be proud of.

Northwood, undefeated in 16 games spanning three different leagues, has proved what unity can do outside the school grounds in between the lines.

Next up tomorrow, on the Northwood menu is Adam's Seniors, at Herring Run Park at 2:00 p.m.

THE DUST CLOUD can't hide Henry Jackson's (1) concern as he looks to the ump for an out or safe call.



FUN WHILE WINNING could be the trademark for Northwood's coach Tony Purnell, who smiles during a recent victory by his undefeated team.

Rec leagues scoring breakdown

MIDGET LEAGUES

CENTRAL 86-A: May 23, Northwood-12, Yankee Rebels-8 and Putty Hill-11, Brehms Eagles-3.

May 16, Northwood-12, Mary Dobkins Raiders-2 and Brehms Eagles-4, Loch Raven-3.

May 9, Northwood-16, Adams Seniors-6 and Highlandtown Exchange-11, Brehms Eagles-0.

CENTRAL 86-B: May 16, Madonna-10, Cavaliers-8.

NORTHERN MIDGET 95-A: May 24, Armistead-6, Police BD SE-6.

May 17, Police BC SE-11, Little Flower Blue-6.

MARYLAND 82A: June 4, Northwood-8, Polaris-6. May 21, Northwood-9, Adams Seniors-0 and Eastside Braves-12, B.T. All Stars-4.

MARYLAND 82-B: May 28, Ellwood-5, Pressman Cardinals-4, May 21, Presstman Cardinals-9 Violetville-2.

MONUMENTAL 85: June 3, Firefighters-12, Hawks-2.

SUSQUEHANNA 92-A: June 1, Midtown Optimist-6, Brehms Falcons-5.

JUNIOR LEAGUES

BALTIMORE TRI 61A and 61C: June 3, Highland Federal-11, Harford-1.

WESTERN 71-B: June 2, Police BC Southern-6, VSQ Knights-5.

JUNIOR CUB LEAGUES

CARROLL PARK PEANUT 212-A: May 23, Tigers-5, Braves-3.

CUB LEAGUES

BALTIMORE 101: May 21, Yales Heights-7, Famous A's-0 and Salvation Army-7, Baltimore Jets-5.

May 14, Gardenville-14, Salvation Army-4 and Famous A's-9, Baltimore Jets-4.

CARROLL PARK 201: May 26, Braves-6, Dodgers-4.

CENTRAL 109: May 12, Gardenville-12, Little Flower-2.

MONUMENTAL 105: May 18, Salvation Army-9, Dobkin Eagles-6.

Look for the AFRO's SUMMER SPORTS page every week for an up-close view of community athletics

Youth shatters old Owens mark

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jesse Owens' 34 - year - old Ohio high school long jump record was beaten by a 17 - year - old from Middletown, Ohio.

Todd Bell, who is headed for Owens' alma mater, Ohio State, on a football scholarship, leaped 24 feet, 6¼ inches last weekend.

Owens set the state meet record of 24-4¾ while at Cleveland East Tech in 1933.

Bell, a 6-foot-1, 185 - pound son of a minister, has won three consecutive Class AAA long jump titles in the annual competition at Ohio Stadium on the Ohio State campus.

"I thank God for winning," he said following his leap. "It was a privilege to break Owens' record."

Tiger Packer

Nate Simpson, Tennessee State's leading rusher last fall, has been signed by the Green Bay Packers.

The 5-10, 190 - pounder gained 472 yards to cap off a career of 1,988 yards for the Tigers which broke down to 4.9 yards per carry and 18 touchdowns.

The Human Side: *Ron Spriggs*

Like a violent thunderstorm that causes disaster, provokes anger among residents affected, Ronald Spriggs has made a 360 degree change from his early childhood delinquent days to a mature young man who has great potential.

The 225 pound, six feet Baltimorean is all smiles as he reflects or his present situation.

"When I was young I was always in trouble, but now it feels beautiful going in the right direction because you don't have to always look over your shoulder," he said.

At age 14 Spriggs entered Boys Village in Prince George's County for nine months because of auto theft. But the period spent in the Village turned Spriggs completely around because he "fell in love with sports."

Just the glory of sports seems to turn Spriggs on as he boastfully mentions the beautiful feeling of hearing the crowd yell for him.

After leaving Boys Village he went to Charlotte-Hall Military Academy for two years until he had to close for financial reasons.

From there he was sent to Augusta Military Academy and ended up playing football, basketball and throwing the shotput.

Spriggs has won a full-expense paid scholarship to Furrem College, a two year junior college in Furrem, Va., and plans to go to either University of Maryland or Texas A and M after that.

His plans after school indicate a definite aim of going into the field of real estate law because that way "I can be my own boss and meet a lot of different people and I won't have to be confined to an office."

As with anyone who leaves their hometown for an extended period of time, Spriggs is the victim of the rapidly changing society that exists.

"Baltimore has changed a lot because all my buddies are in jail. But everything considered, I feel good because my family is proud of me."

RONALD SPRIGGS "my family's proud..."

Coaches' Helper

Q: In hitting, what is the first step a young player should learn?

A: First thing first. The player should find a bat that is comfortable, can be swung quickly and without too much effort. By using a light bat, a hitter cuts out one of his biggest problems: the slow bat. When a hitter uses a bat that is too long or heavy, he obviously cannot get the bat around against a pitcher who throws hard. Before the season starts, a player's coach should help him select a bat that is easy to handle. And throughout the season, the coach should keep an eye on his players, looking to see if every hitter is getting his bat out in front of the plate on the pitch.

Q: Is batting practice the best kind of hitting practice?

A: Yes, but if it's done with an emphasis on detail. For example, do not let your players just run up to the batter's box, take five or 10 quick swings and run back onto the field. Instead whether you are throwing the practice or standing on the sidelines urge the player to keep his eye on the ball from the pitcher's hand. Make sure he watches the ball as it hits the bat, following the ball as it goes out into the field or even if it's fouled back. By having the player keep his head still and watch each pitch, you develop a good habit for game action.

Q: What is the best swing for a young player?

A: Of course, it varies with the player. But a general rule of thumb is to have the player swing slightly downward. With this swing, he or she can hit line drives or grounders, instead of pop ups. Of course, in a game, you always want your team to hit the ball into the ground, making the other team field every ball, pressuring them to make the play.

THE COACHES' HELPER is a weekly AFRO Summer Sports page column designed to help coaches, players and fans better understand sports as they relates to younger athletes. Please send your questions at least one week before publication to: Coaches' Helper, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, care of Peter Harris, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md., 21201. You ask the question, and we'll find an answer.

Future games

JUNE 10

BALTIMORE CUB LEAQUE 101: — Salvation Army vs. Yales Heights, Patterson field, 11 a.m.; Famous A's vs. Highlandtown Exchange, Clifton, 1 p.m. and Baltimore Jets vs. Gardenville, Clifton 1, 1 p.m.

CARROLL PARK CUB LEAGUE 201: — Yankees vs. Orioles, Carroll Park Diamond, 6 p.m.

JAMES MOSHER CUB LEAGUE 701: —A and B: — Salvation Army vs. Bel Air Air BC, Patterson 1, 6 p.m.; Kelly Post vs. Highland Federal, Kratz, 6 p.m.; Putty Hill vs. Mike's Auto Parkville Junior High, 6 p.m. and Gardenville vs. Harford Park, Herring Run 2, 6 p.m.

MONUMENT MIDGET 85: — Brehms Hawks vs. Gardenville, Archbishop Curley, 6 p.m. and Southwest Police BC vs Raiders, Carroll 1, 6 p.m.

JUNE 11

INTERCLUB UNLIMITED LEAGUE 7: — Jessup Stars vs. Hilton Raiders, Carroll 3, 3 p.m.; Baltimore Blue Jays vs. Baltimore Giants, Druid Hill 3, 3 p.m.

MARYLAND MIDGET 82-B: — Midtown vs. Presstman Cardinals, Patterson 1, 11 a.m.; Sykesville vs. Ellwood, Carroll 3, 1 p.m. and Little Italy vs. Violetville, Patierson 1, 1 p.m.

JUNE 12

MARYLAND UNLIMITED LEAGUE 2A: — Hilton Raiders vs. Challengers, Bloomingdale, 3 p.m.; Baltimore Blue Jays vs. Baltimore Eagles, Druid Hill 3, 3 p.m.

JUNE 14

MONUMENTAL JUNIOR LEAGUE 85A: — James Mosher vs. Southern Police BC, Hanlon, 6 p.m.; Presstman Cardinals vs. Mosby Furniture, Walbrook Sr. High, 6 p.m. and VSQ Knights vs. Gardenville, Bloomingdale, 6 p.m.

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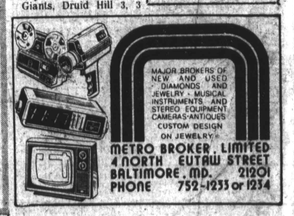

lifestyles, fashions, women, **Reflections** food, youth, society, clubs

THE LOVE BUG ATTACK

Couples unite in elegant wedding services

MR. AND MRS. LARRY O. JONES (former Miss Toni V. McNair)

The summer season was highlighted last Saturday when two couples were united in holy matrimony at two community churches.

The first was that of Miss Toni Vanessa McNair and Larry Oglesby Jones at the Enon Baptist Church, Edmondson Avenue and Schroeder Street. The Rev. Porter W. Phillips Jr. performed the double ring ceremony.

Maid of honor was Miss Joy Lynn McNair along with Bridesmaids, Misses Vonita House, Debra Clark, Sharan House and Audrey Ash.

Best man was Hoyt Allen Jones. Ushers include, Horace Bryant, Gregory P. Jones, Edgar C. McNair and Wayne Frazier. Junior ushers were Denslow Curtis and Herman Saulter.

Ringbearer was Robert Lee Miller III and flower girl, Nicole L. Frazier.

Hostesses were Maxine McCoy, Sherrie Davis, Michelle Johnson, Kim Brown, Wanda Brown, and Loretta Bazemore.

The second wedding was held at Bethel AME Church. It was that of Miss Kym Harris Rainey and Dennis Clyde Schatzman of Pennsylvania. The Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant, pastor of the church performed the service.

Maid of honor was Deborah Ann Diggs. Bridesmaids were Robina Brown, Melanie Paschall, Anita Buckson and Debra Williams.

Best man was Michael Hamilton along with ushers, Dwayne Cooper, Marvin Greer, Del. Walter Dean and Fletcher D. Rainey Jr.

Ringbearer was Darnyle Keith Johnson, and flower girl, Latina Clarice Satterwhite.

Soloists were Eleanor Graham and Bashi Reid accompanied by Harlan Scott, organist.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Alfreda Harris Rainey and is a

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MR. AND MRS. DENNIS C. SCHATZMAN (former Miss Kym H. Rainey)

Speaking of Women

(A look at what black women are doing locally)

The seventh annual Miss U. S. Talented Teen Maryland International pageant will be presented Sunday, June 12, at the downtown Holiday Inn, 5 p.m.

Miss Vanessa Hall, Miss U.S. Talented Teen Maryland 1976 will relinquish her crown to one of the beautiful 19 contestants competing for the title of Miss U.S. Teen Maryland.

Contestants must be 13-16 years of age with a C plus or above average and must have talent.

The contestants are: Tiwana Boone, Wanda Weems, Lilleann Hutchinson, Lisa Bethel, Joan Thompson, Yolanda Woods, Lavern Whitt, Teresa Louis, Netti Millard, Janine Coleman, Bridgehe Braswell, Lolita Dukes, Shelly Demby, Crystal Cummings, Susette Jones, Rochel Galloway, Rana Williams, Devita Morris, and Eva Nance.

State winner will compete on the national level in Hollywood, Calif., July 25-30.

MISS VANESSA HALL Miss U.S. Talented Teen

Some of the national prizes will include a cash "self achievement award" scholarship to be used in an educational category of her choice, a fur jacket, a diamond

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Sigmas and friends 'get it on' at annual spring fling

By Michele L. McRae
AFRO Staff Writer

"People are already calling us asking for tickets to next year's affair," says Joseph Woolfolk, president of Epsilon Nu Sigma Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

And I was among those persons who put in early reservations. That's because the Epsilon Nu Sigma Chapter members and friends really 'got it on' last Saturday night at the fraternity's annual spring dance.

The affair, an annual scholarship fundraiser was hosted at the LaFontaine Rouge. Some 300 well-dressed lively guests and host enjoyed a buffet meal and danced from 10 to 2 to the beat provided by the Grand Jury band and singers.

Scholarships will be awarded to members of the Beta Club, a undergraduate group sponsored by the fraternity.

Other officers of the chapter are Willie Nichols, vice president; Earl Jenkins, secretary; Steve Jones, corresponding secretary; Kenneth Townson, treasurer; Percy Austin, dove of peace. Also there was Clayton McNeill, eastern regional director of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Following the dance some 40 guests were entertained at a breakfast hosted by president Woolfolk at his plush and unique Northeast Baltimore home.

Guests enjoyed a Continental-American breakfast in the interior design of Mr. Woolfolk's Renaissance Room, the English Smoking Room, the East Indian Room and the Nautical Room.

"Culture for Service — Service for Humanity" is the motto of the national fraternity headed by Richard Ballard, national president of Richmond, Va.

One of the largest national projects of the organization is Project-SAD which was initiated

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AFRO staff photo by Ramon Rustomyan

PRESIDENT JOE WOOLFOLK of the Epsilon Nu Sigma Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity chats with guests from left, Mr. and Mrs. George Roberson and Miss Aurielce Parker.

THE GRAND JURY kept the guests of the Epsilon Nu Sigma Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity on their feet at the Saturday night fling.

MORE SIGMA GUESTS were from left, Mr. and Mrs. James Burley, (Yvonne) and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Franklin, (Carolyn).

GETTIN' IT ON at the Saturday night dance of Phi Beta Sigma were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cheatham, (Bonnie).

JAM ... TO THE SOUNDS OF Grand Jury at the Saturday night dance of the Epsilon Nu Sigma Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity were Ms. Tina Brown and Marvin Cheatham.

SIGMA PARTYGOERS included from left, Ms. and Mrs. Meredith Evans, (Dean); Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd B. Bryant, (Carolyn); Ms. Dietra E. Wymm and Douglass M. Parker.