SUMMER SPORTS

The AFRO's weekly view of community athletics

Presstman's past and present preside

A blood-related combination of youth and age works together with fine high school talent to make the 14-16 age group Presstman Cardinals in the National Junior League 64 B a formidable foe for any opponent.

The father-son duo of Robert Smith, the veteran mentor of the Cardinals who just retired this year, and Roland Smith, the 23-year-old former Morgan University athlete, make for easy relations with the youthful high school age Cardinals.

"I really like working with the kids," Roland said recently, during the middle innings of his team's revenge-win over Mosby's Furniture. "I feel like I owe them something."

The elder Smith, Robert, smiles and says his involvement is an "inspiration" and a labor of love that "closes the generation gap."

Robert Smith has been with the young team as a manager, since 1963. He hasn't lost any of his spunk, either.

When the Cardinals' catcher, Darryl Anderson, and a Mosby batter got into a flare up over the catcher's third strike tag out, Robert quickly ran up to the umpire in support of his son's player.

"I was about to tell you that they (his players) were gentlemen," he laughed, "but a little heat got to them."

Roland says that one of the former Cardinal players, Gerald (Skeet) Coleman, was drafted by the Orioles last January. It is to that end, he says, that he coaches.

Besides, "I really like working with younger players," the Morgan infielder of two years ago said.

His father agrees with his son's assessment of the tie between the younger Smith and his players.

"There's not too much difference in their ages," Robert Smith said. "They (players) want somebody to play and he can put a whole lot more into it than I can. Sometimes he's (Roland) out here when I'm not even out of bed."

The only cloud over the Cardinals, especially after the success over Mosby's, is what the older Smith calls a lack of parental support.

"It is the one thing to express vehemently," Robert Smith said. "We want the parents to come out more. The boys want to look up in the stands and see their parents.

"Sometimes we play teams from Sykesville or Towson and there are more parents from there than ours."

That doesn't seem too much too ask, especially coming from a former father spectator turned coach. He, and his son, are simply examples of what dedicated game attendance can do.

HANDS ON HIPS, Cardinal manager Roland Smith, recaps his team's mistakes even though it just won the game.

CARDINAL PLAYERS HAPPILY shake Nick Mosby's hand in celebration of their revenge victory over his team.

Net clinic a community affair

For the next six weeks, youngsters anywhere from ages nine to 17 years can benefit from the capable tennis instructors offered by the Junior Tennis League of Baltimore Inc. in its annual free tennis clinic at Druid Hill Park's Lake-Side courts.

With registration completed Tuesday, the tennis teachers settled down Wednesday into their rhythm of instruction that will culminate in an Aug. 5 tournament among the clinic's students.

"This year, they were so impressed with the clinic, the Maryland Tennis Association decided they'd help sponsor," Sarah Daignault, chairperson of the clinic, said earlier this week.

Ms. Daignault said money for the four-year-old recreation event usually comes primarily from the Junior League's tennis tournament, the Indoor International Tennis Championship.

Optimistically, Ms. Daignault said she hopes that up to 200 students will take part in the clinic which would match last year's participation number.

Besides giving kids something to do (a primary stimulus for the clinic's beginning), Ms. Daignault describes the community causes for the clinic's inception.

"We wanted to give them the opportunity to learn tennis without paying," she said. "We give them racquets and balls and at the end of the year, they can buy their racquet for one dollar so they can keep playing."

The group's neighborhood thrust is also reflected in the site for the clinic: Lake-Side.

"It's a central point, and has good bus lines running to it," Eloise Massey, another director in Junior League said.

"And many neighborhoods touch the park," echoed Ann Koger, one of the instructors.

"The clinic is well supervised," Ms. Massey says, pointing out that this removes the major concern for parents who go to work, leaving their kids at the clinic.

"And the kids learn very good basics," she adds.

Ms. Daignault says the policy of the Junior League is to "get all our projects going" and then "turn them back, so someone in the community can run" them. The tennis clinic is at that stage now, she says.

And besides the money raised through donations, the league gets help from a tennis club and sports stores as well.

"We put boxes around at a lot of different clubs," Ms. Daignault said, which donated a lot of balls." Additionally, she points out, sometimes the donated racquets need stringing.

"Almost all of the sporting goods stores in the area restrung them for us free, Ms. Daignault said.

Right now, the clinic is only a summer event, the chairperson says.

"We don't" go inside during the fall and winter yet," she said.

"We are trying to work out a way to take the advanced kids inside during the fall," Ms. Daignault says hopefully. The problem is matching money with the facility, she says.

In the meantime, however, there seems to be no real problems with this year's clinic.

During Tuesday's registration period, for example, one young woman came up to the bench were signing up was being held.

"I'd like," she paused, counting, "forms for 11 kids."

ANDREW JACKSON SERVES and Brian Quarles watches as the two work out in the Jr. League tennis clinic.

THE HUMAN SIDE

A reluctant women's director

It's not often that you get a chance to see a long-time dream finally come true.

But, for Barbara Williams, that rarity is reality, thanks to persistence and a lot of luck.

William is co-director of the month-old Madison Square Women's Unlimited Basketball League. Thanks in part to her imagination and, now her administration, the league offers Baltimore women a much needed athletic outlet.

"While in college, we were discussing, and thought it would be nice to have a summer league for women," she recalled at the league's opening ceremony a month ago. "We had no backing, it was just an idea," she said.

After treking around to Baltimore city athletic organizations, such as the Recreation Department, without receiving support, Williams and her three organizing friends from college took the idea to the new league's other director, William Wells.

Not long after that, bang! the league's operating money materialized thanks to the golden arches people.

"For me, it was dream come true," Williams confided.

The ironic thing, however, is that Ms. Williams, who has played basketball "ever since I was 14," cannot play in her dream league.

"Being truthful, I'd rather be playing," she smiled, not too sadly, of course. "I'm more of a player than an administrator. But I have to do it, I am having a part of the action and that's better than nothing."

Her position as a senior leader in the Recreation Department, which calls for her to "run the center" during times when the director is absent, will surely allow her to administrate the league well enough.

Those commissioning duties, Ms. Williams said, include accepting complaints, ruling on "discrepencies" in calls of officials, handling protests and "oversee-ing" the coaches' board, which solves players' and coaches' grievances.

Seems like a lot of work tall Ms. Williams. But don't think she can't handle the chores. As a former guard in basketball, she has had more than enough experience driving the lane against the "trees' underneath.

The diversity of her commissioner's duties apparently won't awe her either. Anyone who can play "all positions" in softball, can probably handle anything.

(AFRO staff photo by Norma Spencer)
PAPERS IN HAND, Barbara Williams stands in the Madison Square gymnasium.

Future Games

JULY 1

Madison Square Unlimited Basketball (Women):

Madison Square vs. Sophisticated Ladies, 6 p.m.; Lyndhurst vs. Ramblers, 7 p.m. and Towanda's Tigers, vs. PS 85, 8 p.m. (All games at Madison Square Recreation Center).

Junior Cub:

Dodgers vs. Pirates, Carroll Park No. 3, 6 p.m.; McClean vs. Everett, Marine Armory, 6:15 p.m. and Mets vs. Braves, Kratz, 6:15 p.m.

Midget:

Northern Pharmacy vs. Orioles, Keys No. 3, 6 p.m.; Crown vs. Ham O Lea, Keys No. 1, 6 p.m.; St. Dominic vs. Fathers Club, Keys No. 2, 6 p.m.; Harford Rec. vs. Optimist, Kratz No. 2, 6:15 p.m. and Expos vs. Dodgers, Patterson No. 2, 6 p.m.

Midget:

B and O Post vs. Chesapeake, Kratz No. 3, 6:15 p.m.; Firefighters vs. Yankee Rebels, Herring Run No. 4, 6 p.m.; Southwest Police BC vs. Grand Marquis, Carroll No. 1, 6 p.m.; Hawks vs. Yale Heights, Archbishop Curley, 6 p.m.; Putty Hill vs. Raiders, Parkville, 6 p.m.; Gardenville vs. Hustlers II, Herring Run No. 1, 6 p.m. and Twins vs. Cards, Gwynns Falls No. 2, 6 p.m.

Junior:

Bel Air BC vs. Highland Federal, Herring Run No. 2, 6 p.m.; Harford Park vs. Salvation Army, Kratz, 6 p.m.; Mike's Auto vs. Gardenville, Sixth Street, 6 p.m.; Kelly Post vs. Putty Hill, Herring Run No. 3, 6 p.m. and White Sox vs. Reds, Carroll Park No. 4, 6 p.m.

Coaches' Helper

Q: Defensively, what are the toughest positions for the young baseball player?

A: Without a doubt, shortstop and catcher are the toughest positions. Both require natural coordination and ability, not to mention stamina, strength and reflexes.

First, a breakdown on shortstop. The player there usually gets most of the grounders to the infield; there are just not many strict pull hitters in the younger leagues. With that kind of action, the young shortstop has to, without doubt, have excellent reflexes.

He must be able to move instantly at the crack of the bat, position himself behind the ball and field it, coming up throwing. This is not to say that none of the other positions need good reflexes. Of course they do. Yet, nowhere else in the infield does the player have to make such a long throw.

And if the shortstop fails to get in front of the ball hit into the hole, he won't get anything on his throw, creating the tough scoop or stretch for his first baseman.

Additionally at short, the athlete must always be moving to be effective. For example, on a steal, he may have to cover the bag.

He has to move in behind the pitcher on all throws back from the catcher.

THE COACHES' HELPER is a weekly AFRO Summer Sports page column designed to help coaches, players and fans better understand sports as they relate 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.

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ARENA PLAYERS, INC. MARK 24TH YEAR

Lou Gossett, Trazana Beverly among honorees

By Michele L. McRae
AFRO Staff Writer

The Arena Players, Inc. marked their 24th season last Friday evening with the presentation of the twelfth annual awards banquet.

Guests gathered at the Blue Crest North for one of the highlights of the social season and to congratulate members of the group for devoting some 24 years to the cultural advancement and enrichment of the Baltimore community.

Founded in 1953, the Arena Players, Inc. is headed by Samuel H. Wilson Jr., president, who presided at the banquet.

In Mr. Wilson's welcoming address to the audience he thanked those people who through their efforts have made the continued existence of the group possible. He said:

"A most vital element in every theatre is the audience. Our group has been very fortunate in receiving excellent community cooperation. Our audiences are responsive, supportive and often actively involved in the productions.

"Arena Players offers theatre for the people, of the people, and by the people. We thank 'the people' for twenty four years of continued assistance, cooperation and support and urge them to work with us toward the realization of 'The Possible Dream.'"

Highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards to an actor and actress of national acclaim, two civic-oriented persons and a promising Baltimore youth.

Lou Gossett Jr., better known to people throughout the country as "The Fiddler," popular movie actor who appeared in "Roots" and Trazana Beverly, better known as "The Lady In Red" who is presently starring in the New York play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf," headed the list of honorees awarded by the Arena Players.

Both celebrities received the Artistic Award.

Mr. Gossett, described as a creative man with many talents, would have, if he had pursued his initial goal, become a neurosurgeon; then again he might have become a superstar of the professional basketball courts, had not the boredom of convalescence from a leg injury caused him to "fiddle around" with the performing arts.

At his hometown Abraham Lincoln High School, New York City, he early established himself as one of the brightest and most popular of students who could jump like a kangaroo on the basketball court.

It was at New York University, where he earned a bachelor of science degree on a combined athletic-dramatic scholarship, that he set his sights on becoming a neurosurgeon. However, the cry of the greasepaint and the magnetism of footlights won out and his goals changed.

As stated in Mr. Gossett's biographical sketch, "Boredom because of the inactivity of waiting for a leg injury to heal, Lou Gossett tried out for the school play, 'You Can't Take It With You.' He so impressed Gustave Blum, his English teacher at Abraham Lincoln High and the drama coach of the play, who was once a Broadway producer and director himself, that Mr. Blum convinced producers Lynn Austin and Tom Noyes that they should try out Mr. Gossett for the lead role in "Take a Giant Step.'"

"After winning the role over 445 contenders, he took to acting like a duck takes to water, giving a run of performances that belied the fact he had never been before the professional footlights and winning for him the 1953 Donaldson Award for the Best Newcomer of the Year."

Trazana Beverly is a native of Baltimore and the daughter of a brickmason and a school teacher. She attended the schools of Baltimore, graduating from Western High School. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. William Beverly.

Miss Beverly describes her family as being very close, supportive and wanting for her what she wants. She vividly describes them as being this way from her very beginnings as "Goldilocks" in her Northwest Baltimore church, (Sharp Street United Methodist) play. Her background is solidly religious.

The young actress attended W. Virginia State College and went to New York University where she

(Continued on Page 26)

LOU GOSSETT JR. who played "The Fiddler" in the awards winning story "Roots" by Alex Haley was given the Artistic Award by the Arena Players at their annual awards banquet last Friday evening at the Blue Crest North.

All photos by Norma L. Spencer
TRAZANA BEVERLY who is now appearing in "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf" in New York City was also presented the Artistic Award by the Arena Players.

ROBERT C. EMBRY JR., assistant secretary for Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, received the Civic Award last Friday at the Arena Players Banquet. Mr. Embry is the former commissioner of Housing and Community Development for the city of Baltimore. The presentation was made by Samuel F. Wilson, president, Arena Players, Inc.

DAVID CALDWELL, a graduate of Forest Park High School, was awarded the Lorraine Hansberry Scholarship Award by the Arena Players at their annual banquet last Friday evening.

ETHEL J. DAY who has been actively involved in the Baltimore community for the past sixty years was awarded the Sheldon B. Haskins Humanitarian Award by the Arena Players at their annual banquet. Making the presentation was Clifton W. Sherrard.

HILDA E. FORD

Black, driven and committed

By Kip Branch
AFRO Guest Columnist

In a time when cities and city administrators are under tremendous pressure, the city of Baltimore should, by current standards consider itself lucky in having found Hilda Ford, recently named City Personnel Director.

Sitting in her office in the building that was once the main Post Office, and surrounded by paintings and sculptures that make one feel as if they are in the Museum of Modern Art, Ms. Ford commented on her early years. "My mother and father were born in the West Indies, in Trinidad and Barbados — in an agricultural setting, a farm setting, and God knows how, but they manged."

The warm smile that was on her face disappeared as she continued, "They got the money together and went to Cuba and came to this country with aspirations and hopes that here they were going to get jobs and be successful, and get the opportunities that they would not have in the West Indies."

"They have imbued all of their children, and there are three of us, with the need to be excellent, in fact you might say they have made us neurotic about being excellent in whatever we do," she continued.

Like many black women of her era, Hilda Ford's early employment days were centered around the kinds of work that have seemed to elude the public eye of today; the kind that were after slavery, but were certainly pre-women's liberation — long before her entrance, and subsequent graduation from Brooklyn College. She talked of the kinds of jobs, and of the kinds of attitudes she encountered as a young woman in the working world. "During the time when I was growing up, I had to work — and I have worked since the time that I was nine, ten, eleven years old."

"Initially I did housework — I worked as a domestic, I did babysitting, sleeping in jobs and that kind of thing, and I remember losing my first job as a domestic. The woman who hired me insisted on calling me by my first

(Continued on Page 28)

Hilda Ford, recently named city personnel director for the city of Baltimore began her career as a domestic worker, but now she has a BIG JOB and works long and tedious hours.

Photo by Robin McGinty

Speaking of Women

(A look at what black women are doing locally)

Lilyan F. Slater

Lilyan Slater Retires

Lilyan F. Slater, a well-known Baltimore city community heath nurse, has retired after 32½ years service.

Her last four years were spent on duty at Lake Clifton Senior High, which she says were "most rewarding and challenging because I was serving youth."

A graduate of the Provident Hospital School of Nursing, she has held the following other assignments: Supervisor of the National Youth Administration; a staff nurse at Freedmen's Hospital in Washington; a teacher of home nursing in the Baltimore city adult education department.

In addition, through the years, she has provided volunteer service with the Red Cross and affiliated herself with civic and charitable organizations. She joined the Baltimore City Health Department in 1944, serving at a number of centers, including the Eastern Health District.

A native of Baltimore, Mrs. Slater is a graduate of Douglass High, and in addition to Provident Nursing School, has pursued additional studies at Morgan State University, the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University.

While at Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, she focused on maternal and child health services.

Mrs. Slater is a charter member of Gamma Chapter of Chi Eta Phi, a nurse's sorority which recently cited her for her contributions. She also belongs to the Big Sisters Club Inc. and has served on the group's committee which annually awards scholarships to deserving high school graduates.

Additional honors were paid Mrs. Slater on last Friday. She was one of four retiring nurses honored at a luncheon by the School Nurses' Association. Similar honors were bestowed earlier last month by the Bureau of Community Health Nursing Association at the Blue Crest North.

Mrs. Slater, and her husband, Edward, a retired postal worker, plan to use their retirement days doing volunteer work in the community, and also taking time off to indulge in their favorite recreation — travel here in the U.S. and abroad.

Alma Garrick

Alma Garrick Masters from Peabody

Alma (Dee Dee) Garrick is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Stepney N. Garrick Jr. She recently graduated from Peabody Conservatory of Music with a master's of music degree in voice. She is a student of Ms. Elaine Bonazzi.

Miss Garrick received a B.A. degree in music from Talladega College, Talladega, Ala. and served as a soloist for the college and concert choirs. She was a recipient of the Thomasine Hamilton Jeter Award which was given to the music major in the judgement of the music department, after a period of four years, who had maintained the highest scholastic average and possessed the highest promise in the field of music.

Miss Garrick was "Miss Freshman," a sweetheart of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity for five consecutive years and inducted into Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

In 1976-1977 she received a $1000 graduate scholarship from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

She attended Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia, S.C. She represented and was placed twice in the Omega Psi Phi Talent Hunt. During her senior year Miss Garrick was voted "Most versatile" and "Most Talented."

A member of Second Calvary Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C., Miss Garrick has served as organist for the junior and senior choirs.

Her hobbies include swimming, cooking and making friends.

She is the sister of La' Nona Garrick and the niece of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Hanberry of Columbia, S.C.

Vanessa R. Martin

Vanessa R. Martin Receives honors

Vanessa R. Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Martin, 810 Lyndhurst St. is a June 1977 graduate of Northwestern High School.

Vanessa has managed to keep a perfect attendance record from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. She has never been late or missed a day of school.

Vanessa is also a National Merit Scholarship winner. She received a Northwestern High School faculty scholarship, and a New Shiloh Baptist Church Scholarship.

For the 1976-77 school year, Miss Martin served as managing editor of both the "Northwester Yearbook" and the Compass, the school newspaper. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Thespian Society and was selected to Who's Who Among High School Students. In addition, she was a recipient of the Mayor's Award on two occasions, once for English excellence in and once for scholarship and perfect attendance. Miss Martin, also received awards from the mathematics, engineering and science achievement program; principal's award; best supporting actress award in chemistry and English Excellence.

Miss Martin also had interest outside the classroom. She was a Girl Scout and received a special award from the community director. She did volunteer work at the University of Maryland Hospital as a candy striper. At one period she attended church school for more thn 6½ years before missing a single session.

She and her family are now members of New Shiloh Baptist Church. Vanessa plans to attend the Masschusetts Institute of Technology in September, 1977.

Mr. Martin is employed by the Baltimore Post Office, and Mrs. Martin by the University of Maryland Hospital.

JUL