SUMMER SPORTS

The AFRO's weekly view of community athletics

Laundry day headaches

"SHOUT IT OUT" DECATHLON FINISH

Mudpie makers' delight

Squishing, squashing and running

To think we make fun of pigs when they do it. Slosh around in mud, that is.

But no matter. For 250 Baltimore city youngsters—aged from under nine to over 14—last Thursday's Shout It out decathlon at Carroll Park was heaven.

Each kid had to race against competitors in their age group, the clock and the forces of nature in the form of freshly dumped, slippery, squashy mud.

And everybody loved it.

"It gives the kids a chance to get muddy with no interference from their parents," laughed Richard Przbylowski the Recreation Department's director of special projects, after the races ended. The rec department co-sponsored the event with Johnson Wax.

"They can get muddy without their parents getting mad at them. In fact, they're happy, too!"

The obstacle course the kids had to run was a drill sargeant's delight, featuring standard toughies like 10 used car tires laid side-by-side with their centers filled with brown, chunky water.

Then there were more exotic hazards like the three hay bales surrounded by—what else— muddy water, which the kids had to jump over.

The course, was designed for filth. Without the balance of a professional tight rope walker, there was no way to avoid ending up smack dab in the muck.

Even if a runner managed to avoid slipping during the first stages of the race, falling, into the cool mud was a sure bet when he got to the barrel-tunnel and splash pool near the end.

Four barrels, with their bottoms cut out, were lined up to form a five-foot long tunnel. To get through it, youngsters had to drop to all fours, and scramble through. And everybody was being pushed by someone behind them.

Once out of the tunnel, the kids raced a short three feet, then leaped, without hesitation, into a rubber back yard pool filled with what looked like Grade A American river water.

Once past these two outrageously dirt producing obstacles, the next one—a rectangular rope ladder—was a breath of fresh air.

Of course, you still had to first slosh through ankle-deep mud which covered the gymnast mat resting under that ladder. Over the ladder, with each rung crusty by caked on mud, the final reward was a cool clean spray from a water hose. It made all the grime worth while.

The first youngster to complete the mud-filled obstacle course in the 9- and under category was Darrell Redmond, 9. Runnersup included James Lofton, 9 and Purnell Randolph, 8.

Winner of the 10-and 11-year old age group was Rona Manning, 11, followed by Neal Pinkeny, 11 and Lucretia McClary, 12, followed by James Anderson, 12 and Lavard Edmonds, 13.

The winners of the 14-and over category were Bill Jackson, 16, in first place, Sidney Pittman, 18, in second place and Vernon Carter, 14, in third place.

RINSING OFF?—Carl Rogers gets all wet from the waist up and stays muddy down low.

THE AFTERMATH — Muddy shorts, sneakers and t-shirts dry out after a day of sloshing.

THE MUDFLECK TWINS — Linwood Mathews (l.) is a carbon of grimy friend Benny Eaddy.

Fun without competition

Baltimore City Department of Recreation FUN IN THE SUN GIRLS SPORTS DAY

Easygoing day in the sun

Games day: ladies only

If you had listened long and hard enough, you might have heard a faint ringing of school recess bell somewhere way off in the distance.

It's only fitting. Last Friday's Fun in the Sun girls athletic day was a perfect summer time copy of a grade school break between classes.

Featuring a day without competition, (hopefully replacing it with one fun and spirited friendship) the Day was designed to offer girls city-wide (ages seven to 18) a chance to run, jump, shout, roll, sit, clap and even, at the end, party, according to Jean Powell, the Baltimore recreation department's director of women's activities

"Everything is non-competitive," Powell said during the lunch segment of the activities. "Many, many people get to play. We have 222 girls city-wide. Nobody leaves here mad today," Powell added.

Powell said the idea for just a "fun" day was thought out at a meeting between leaders in women's sports administration in the rec department. "We found out that everything we do in sports is competitive," she said. The Day without urgency allowed the girls to establish "companionship," Powell said.

Of course, Powell says, games without that 'win or lose' logic had to be found in order to hold such a unique day.

"Some of ur (rec centers') leaders went to (Washington) D.C. for a two-day conference on New Games," Powell explained.

New Games, as it turns out, is just what they are called. Instead of the thrill of victory, playing them is more likely to lead to plenty of laughs and many friends.

played through organized teams, and on chalked fields, they are more likely to be played on an open meadow at a family picnic.

A day "like this is just a lot of fun," Powell said simply as further explanation. "Everything in life is so competitive," she said. The Day without urgency allowed the girls to establish "companionship," Powell said.

Indeed, all the Day's participants received a certificate just for coming out and having what most of us wish we could get paid for: fun.

One game, which had as its only emphasis touching and being touched was the Lap sit; a large circle made by having one person sitting on the lap of the one behind them, which happens till everyone forms a great big human circle.

EVEN GROWNUP GIRLS get into the act.

ROCKIN' ROBIN, TWEET TWEET—Patty cakes to the tune of the popular song adds rhythm to a day of exercise.

DIAMOND CHAMPS

Northwood's gold

The Northwood little league baseball team ages 12 to 14) should now be graciously referred to as the King of the City after last weekendend's double header win over runner-up Yale Heights.

It took some doing. After losing in the first round 4 to 3 to Heights, Northwood had to fight its way back up through the losers' bracket, for the return match.

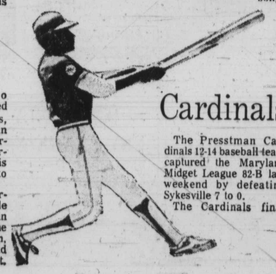
And in the first game of the double header, the champs won in what coach Tony Purnell calls the "normal" way of doing things: coming from behind to finally win 8 to 7 in eight innings.

A lame Gregory Rogers, who recently had a toe operation (ingrown nail), came off the bench to deliver a key single with two outs in the seventh to tie the game seven all.

That set the stage for center fielder Antoine Jones' (leading hitter with a .620 average) double the next frame, which drove in Henry Johnson and won the game. Northwood smashed Heights 11 to 1 in the second game.

On a day of surprises, the championship doubleheader also produced an unexpected hero in Robert Askins, who won both games, in his first pitching performances of Northwood's long season. His team, finished up at 29 to 4.

Askins relieved Northwood's most Valuable Player Troy Thomas in the first game, getting the win on the late inning run, then started the second and coasted in the rout.



Cardinals

The Presstman Cardinals 12-14 baseball team caplured the Maryland Midget League 82-B last weekend by defeating Sykesville 7 to 0.

The Cardinals final record was 19 to 7 as Anthony Hargrove tossed a six hitter and came away with his 16th win against five losses.

In a second round meeting in July, Sykesville sqeaked by the Cardinals by a score of 11to10.

Last year, the Cardinals also took the same league's championship with a 15 to 2 record.

In this year's championship game, the Cardinals put together three runs in the third inning to take off and fly away from Sykesville.

Sykesville's only threat came in the fifth. They got two hits and put two runners in scoring position. Hargrove, however, struckout two to end that uprising. He finished with 10 whiffs.

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AFRAM: a celebration of ourselves

R.S.V.P. SEE INSIDE

AFRAM ENTERTAINMENT — The Olufunmilayo Dancers performed last weekend

TWO LADIES enjoy some of the food that was available at AFRAM Expo '77. (AFRO photo by J. H. Murphy III)

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE — This brother is all concentration as he makes a piece of jewelry. (AFRO photo by J. H. Murphy III)

EXCELLENT VIEW — Three boys perched high above Hopkins Plaza watch the festivities. (AFRO photo by J. H. Murphy III.)

A SCAFFOLD FRAMES two types of AFRAM crowds: second story observers, first floor walkers. (AFRO photo by Norma Spencer).

EXPRESSIVE, COLORFUL and communicative are Baltimore's Olufunmilayo Dancers. (AFRO photo by Norma Spencer)

PRETTY LADY AT AFRAM pauses on the stairs between levels at Hopkins Plaza. (AFRO photo by J. H. Murphy III.)

THE DYNAMICS of a crowd. This segment of AFRAM reflects many thoughts going various directons. (AFRO photo by Norma Spencer).

MORE THAN 200,000 Baltimoreans came to Hopkins and Charles Plaza last weekend for AFRAM Expo '77. (AFRO photo by Norma Spencer).

DANTE GREEN GETS a good view and an easy ride from his 'horsey,' David Green. (AFRO photo by Norma Spencer)

TASTY THUMB — A little girl gets a comfortable ride through the crowds at AFRAM. (AFRO photo by J. H. Murphy III.)