SENATORIAL TOUCH — Maryland State Senator Verda Welcome (center) extends warm welcome to Connie Robinson (left) and Judy Matte as the two sports wives enter the National Decade Team Tennis tournament at the Downtown Racquet Club. Connie is the wife of ex-Oriole Brooks Robinson and Judy is spouse of ex-Colt Tom Matte.

Jockey Thornton recovers from 4-horse Pimlico spill

A Sinai Hospital spokesman told the AFRO Thursday that jockey James "Thunder" Thornton has recovered from injuries he received at Pimlico on May 3, and "probably will be going home this weekend."

Thornton was one of the riders involved in the 4 - horse spill that resulted in the death of jockey Robert Pineda. He barely escaped death and spent five days in the hospital's intensive care unit with a fractured vertebra and heart bruises.

Two other jockeys, Rudy Turcotte and Fred Kratz came out of the mishap with minor abrasions.

Thornton, 34, and Peter Shelton, 34, are perennially among the leading riders at Charles Town. Both have had success at tracks in Delaware,

he's going home

Pennsylvania and New Jersey also.

Meanwhile, the Maryland Racing Commission, responding to a charge by Turcotte that a drugged horse caused the pile - up, has ordered an investigation of the use of butazolidin and lasix by trainers.

Turcotte, in reviewing the race in question, said his horse, Easy Edith, was given butazolidin — also known as "bute" — prior to the event.

He said the drug prevented the horse from feeling any pain until she went down with a broken leg, triggering the spill that killed Pineda and injured Thornton.

"Bute is like novacaine," Turcotte said. "It numbs a horse that may be sore. Without bute, if a horse starts to hurt, he will pull himself up. If he can't fell anything, he'll keep on running."

Defenders of Animal Rights Inc., which has a membership of 2,300, has proposed legislation to ban the pain killing drugs.

James Kovic, the vice-president of the group, said the bill would "probably restrict the use of buteand lasix within a 36 - hour period prior to the race."

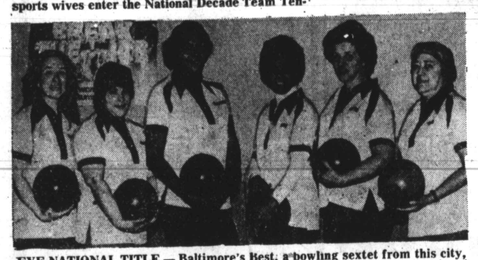
The AFRO stated after the ill - fated race that the greatly expanded racing schedule and increasing number of thoroughbred tracks is largely responsible for the widespread use of pain - killing drugs.

The resulting drain of available horses comes from the need to run animals regardless of their physical condition.

Unlimited Tigers recruiting talent

The Union Tigers unlimited baseball team is recruiting players for participation in the Baltimore Major League this summer.

Practices for candidates are being held daily at Druid Hill No. 2, beginning at 5 p.m.



EYE NATIONAL TITLE — Baltimore's Best, a bowling sextet from this city, is in Miami this weekend to compete in the WIBC women's national championship tournament. They are, left to right — Paula Perkins, Marci Kleiner, Eleanor Gaddy, Rose Jones, Lottie Crim and Rita Coles.

Local gals in national tourney

Six local women, ten pin bowlers, are in Miami through Sunday, to compete in the WIBC's women's national tournament.

The team, Baltimore's Best, which rolls out of Martiranes Pikesville, features Marci Kleiner, 166 average; Eleanor Gaddy, 165 average; Rose Jones, 157 average; Lottie Crim, 1.5 average; Paula Perkins, 171 average, and Rita Coles with a 159 average.

Marci and Eleanor will also be competing in the women's 600 Club national tournament which is being held simultaneously at another Miami bowling center.

This is the largest women's bowling tournament in the country and will be held in Baltimore for the first time in 1981.

Black participation urged

The first Decade National Amateur Team Tennis Championship, the only major team tournament for amateurs in the United States, will get under way on June 30 at 33 sites throughout the country.

The finals of the event, sanctioned by the United States Tennis Association, will be held in conjunction with the U.S. Open at the new Flushing Meadow tennis complex in New York on Sept. 10.

Each team in the competition will include three men and three women, and is open to players 21 years of age and over. Two players must be 35 or older

Entry forms are available through national advertisements, tennis clubs, public courts and product displays in supermarkets and other locations. Entries will close on June 17.

Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company, says: "Our purpose in sponsoring this tournament is to attract the many thousands of amateur players across the country and get them involved in a program that will showcase their skills, promote team spirit and provide an opportunity to play at the U.S. Open."

Baltimore sponsors are anxious for black participation.

Best of week

NEW YORK (UPI) — Boston Red Sox slugger Jim Rice Wednesday was named American League player of the week, it was announced by league president Lee MacPhail.

Rice hit an astounding .552 last week, with four homers and 15 RBI.

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True	5	0.4
Carlton Soft Pack	1	0.1
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Box: 1 mg. "tar", 0.1 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

THERE'S MORE COMING — Walter Davis (right) admires his NBA Rookie of the Year trophy, presented last week by Phoenix Suns' general manager Jerry Colangelo. Declaring that Davis had "a fantastic year," Colangelo said the former North Carolina star "has more coming" in rewards. Davis beat out Milwaukee's Marcus Johnson for the award.

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