Balloting under way for All-Star baseball

The largest non - political election in the nation got under way Saturday as baseball fans began voting nominees for major league baseball's 49th All - Star game.

Ballots will be accepted for the midsummer showcase until July 2, eight days before the opening pitch, scheduled for July 11, at San Diego.

Managers Billy Martin of the New York Yankees and Tom Lasorda of the Los Angeles Dodgers will pick their pitchers. The fans, who cast a record 12.56 million ballots last year, elect all other starters.

If you're a fan and expect to vote, here's the pitch on where to get your ballot and how to mark it.

(1) — Ballots and ballot boxes will be available at all major and minor league baseball parks and at many retail outlets throughout the country.

Gillette is footing the election costs for the ninth consecutive year and will have advertising displays on ballot boxes at stores but not on those at ballparks.

(2) — Ballots, as usual, are computer punchcards including names of 64 players from each league — eight nominees for each position except pitcher — determined by a panel under the direction of commissioner Bowie Kuhn.

To vote, you punch out a perforated box beside the name of the player you want for a specific position. A ballpoint pen or small key will do for a puncher.

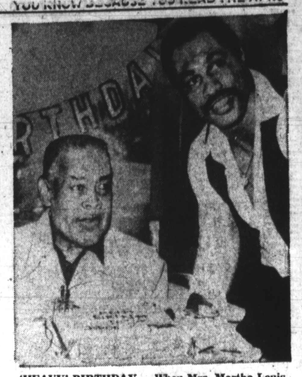
Computer expert Robert Cornwell hopes you won't "have sticky fingers" when handling the cards or you'll slow down his computer and warns not to punch out names of more than one player at any position — such as two second basement or four outfielders — or the whole ballot will be tossed out.

If you don't like nominees picked by Bowie's panel for a certain position, punch out the box in the lower right hand corner of the ballot.

That tells the computer you want to vote for a write - in candidate rather than one listed on the punchcard. Then write in the position and name of your favorite player or players — plainly, please — on one or more of the eight lines provided for write - ins.

For the record, shortstop Ivan DeJesus of the Chicago Cubs led last year's write - ins with 375,389 votes. He's on the ballot this year.

IF AT FIRST — Columnist Farm's Alydar abides by the "try, try again" legend as he preps to tackle Affirmed in Saturday's Preakness at Pimlico. The colt, with jocky Jorge Velasquez astride, has tried Affirmed seven times already and "didn't succeed" on five occasions.



'HEAVY' BIRTHDAY — When Mrs. Martha Louis and Caesars Palace held a 64th birthday celebration for Joe Louis Sunday, an invited guest was Ken Norton. The former heavyweight champion was joined in the cake - cutting by the WBC heavyweight titlist. Leon Spinks, recognized by WBA, was not there.

Sonics star to head camp

Seattle Supersonics center Marvin Webster will return to his alma mater, Morgan State University to head the second Mid - Eastern Athletic Conference basketball camp this summer.

The former Bear little All - American is expected back in the city by July 30, at which time he will complete the instructional staff consisting of high school and college coaches.

All sessions will be held at Morgan. Registrants will be housed at Morgan's O'Connell Hall.

Meadow's mate mellows

NEW YORK (UPI) — The estranged wife of Harlem Globetrotter Meadowlark Lemon Tuesday pleaded guilty to simple assault for stabbing the basketball star with a steak knife last month.

The defendant, Willye Lemon, 40, appeared before Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Betty Elleran on a felonious assault charge, but with the agreement of the district attorney's office she was permitted to plead guilty to simple assault.

She was released pending sentencing June 27.

Police arrested Mrs. Lemon after she stabbed her husband with a five - inch steak knife at 53rd Street and Second Avenue in front of two police officers.

The 45 - year - old Lemon told police his estranged wife had followed him down Second Avenue in a car, repeatedly ramming his car with her own.

Eventually he stopped to protest to police, but she got out of her car and stabbed him in the back.

Lemon, suffering from superficial injuries, was discharged from the hospital the following day.

Fowlkes Morgan

Joe Fowlkes, the 3-time MVP of Morgan State's lacrosse team, took down a major share of honors at the annual dinner honoring Bears stickmen Monday night.

Fowlkes, easily the outstanding lacrosse player in Morgan history, received perpetual recognition on campus by having his No. 37 jersey retired.

In his tribute to the two - sport star (Fowlkes played football also), coach Sheldon Freed made note of the 147 goals which established Fowlkes as the Bears' all - time scoring champion.

"He's tough, no doubt about it," said Davis. "He's a Sherman tank. He just wouldn't go down."

Another midfielder, Dennis Williams, was cited as the team's unsung hero.

The Bears finished the lacrosse season with a 6-6 record.

Olympic teammates go on unbeaten

Leon Spinks, as everyone knows, was a gold medal winner at the 1976 Olympic Games. Also known is the fact that Leon now is the heavyweight champion and unbeaten in eight fights as a professional.

But he isn't the only member of that U.S. boxing team that electrified the sports world at Montreal, to continue undefeated in the pro world of the ring.

Sugar Ray Leonard and Howard Davis have been similarly successful.

Sugar Ray won his 11th professional bout Saturday night with a technical knockout of Randy Milton just five seconds before the final bell at Utica, N.Y.

It was the eighth knockout win for the Olympic light-welterweight champion, now fighting as a welterweight.

Milton, a pro with a 17-4 record, was pursued by Leonard beginning in the second round but held his own through the ensuing rounds and with just 15 seconds to go in the final round, Leonard backed Milton to the ropes.

Finally Milton went down, and referee Jimmy Devlin called a technical knockout with five seconds remaining.

On the same day, at Miami, lightweight Davis boxed his way to a 10-round split decision over rugged Larry Stanton before a national television audience.

"He's tough, no doubt about it," said Davis. "He's a Sherman tank. He just wouldn't go down."

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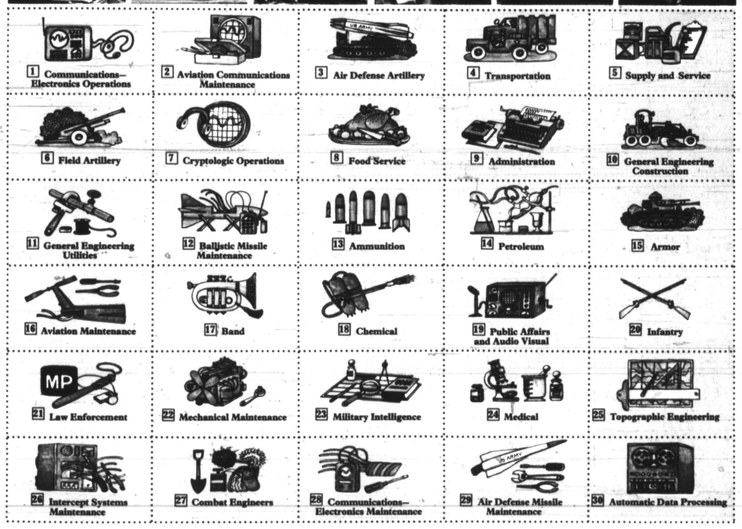

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