EVERYONE 'SOULS' IT — Like Pittsburgh manager Chuck Tanner as he greets slugger Dave Parker's return from circling the bases on a game-winning homer.

Morgan mat gets topline recruits

Morgan State wrestling coach James Phillips has announced the signing of Dean Smith of Erie Tech High in Erie, Pa. and transfer Amos Goodlow of University of Michigan.

Smith, who captured the Pennsylvania State crown this season at 119 pounds, has been a varsity high school wrestler since ninth grade. His career record stands at 96-11.

The occasion was the monthly meeting of the club, which honored Thompson as "Basketball coach coach of the Year" and cited his contribution as an assistant to Smith on U.S. Olympic champion basketball team in 1976.

Smith, the head coach at the University of North Carolina, and Thompson took what was considered a "small" United States quad and won back the gold medal it had lost to the Soviets in 1972.

An acknowledged tactical master, Smith is often credited with tutoring Thompson on the finer points of basketball during their brief association as Olympic coaches two years ago.

Thompson blasted the notion. "Dean Smith didn't teach me basketball," he said firmly.

"He is my friend and opened the door for me; black people don't get head by accident.

"But I'm 36 years old and I've lived in the black community all my life. I learned basketball from men like Tillman Sease, Frank Bolden and Sal Hall. They helped me and I've got to give credit to the people who helped me."

Being "the first black" is another pet peeve of Thompson's, who stressed that the discrimination and hardships endured by men like the Pigskin Club members made his deeds possible.

"Please don't call me the first black anything," he said. "That signifies only that I was the first black to have the ability," a notion he felt was very far from true.

"I've had the opportunity to go someplace and I know you made it possible for me to go," he told his audience.

An engaging, incisive speaker, Thompson is clearly not interested in winning popularity contests. More important to him is respect.

"Everytime I pick up the paper I read about John Thompson being 'nice,'" he said.

"I'm not nice, I'm intelligent. It's time for black people to stop being nice. They don't pay you to be nice, they pay you to be intelligent."

Thompson, who accepted his award from TV sportscaster Martin Wyatt for being "more than a coach," wants his athletes to be more than basketball players. He stresses education and makes sure his athletes get their GU degrees.

To Thompson, this is nothing unique. "I don't think it's exceptional that my kids graduate," he said. "I've only had one kid who hasn't graduated and I am hounding him to death."

Thompson wants appreciation for what he has done and not on the basis of his race.

"I want you to send you kid to me because I'm smart, I win and my kids graduate," he said. "Don't send them because I'm black."

The Hoya coach, also assistant to Georgetown President Henie, credited a wide range of Washington people with his success, including men like Hall, Sease and Bolden as well as his own father, "who couldn't read or write but was far from a dumb man."

He also thanked his sixth grade teacher Mrs. Sammetta Wallace Jackson, who failed him but is equally responsible, he tells his kids, "for John Thompson being where he is today."

Georgetown coach KO's some myths

By Gerard Burke
AFRO Staff Writer

Every now and then John Thompson, the man who brought Georgetown University basketball up to national calibre without sacrificing the athletes he recruited, loves to set the record straight.

Thompson did not learn all his basketball from Dean Smith, he will tell you quickly.

The record shows that Thompson is the first black man to coach a team at Georgetown, but the 6-10 Providence College star and former Boston Celtic, considers that reference inaccurate.

And he feels the oft-heard descriptions of him being "a nice man" miss the mark and do not come close to defining him as a man.

A self - described "emotional person," Thompson virtually preaches when he talks, a quality that was well received by the Pigskin Club of Washington audience he spoke to early this week.

SONIC BOOM AHEAD — Whether produced by the Seattle team or by the capacity house, Capital Centre figures to witness its own sonic boom Sunday afternoon. The third game of the knockdown-dragout NBA championship playoff is likely to witness many such violent skirmishes as this one between the Bullets' Elvin Hayes and the SuperSonics' Marvin Webster.

25 dollars for 19 stories (up)

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — Promoters for the heavyweight championship fight between Muhammad Ali and Leon Spinks say the cheapest Superdome seat will be $25 — for a view 19 stories above the ring.

Top Rank president Bob Arum says tickets would be scaled from $200 to $25 for the Sept. 15 rematch that will include four other possibly championship bouts.

About 13,000 tickets for $200 will go on sale, Arum says. First level tickets in the Plaza section will sell for $100, second level seats in the Loge section will be $50 and the lofty terrace seats will cost $25.

The Dome can seat 80,000 for the fight. Local promoters already have guaranteed Top Rank the largest live gate in boxing history at more than $2.5 million, Arum declares.

The fight, carried live by ABC television and radio networks, will be blacked out in Louisiana and within a 200 - mile radius of the city.

Spinks and Ali are scheduled to arrive in New Orleans Sept. 1, and begin their fight preps at Municipal Auditorium the following day. Ali will work out daily at noon, and Spinks will follow at 3 p.m.

Arum said he already has signed featherweight champion Danny Lopez to defend his title in one of the preliminary bouts. Three other matches are yet to be announced.

Arum said the fighters would be going after a total purse of $8 million.

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Greg Morris, Willie Mays enter 'Save-a-Heart' golf

Actor Greg Morris of the television series, "Mission Impossible," will join a long list of celebrities from stage, screen, TV and the sports world who will be playing in the 2nd annual Save-A-Heart Golf Classic June 19-20 at the Hunt Valley Golf Club.

Gallery tickets for spectators, available at $1 each, may be obtained by calling the Save-A-Heart Foundation at 358-0100.

Other national celebrities participating in the tournament are Jimmy Rodgers, Claude Akins, Alan Hale, John "Jack" Swigert Jr., Leslie Nielson and Willie Mays.

Local sports figures scheduled to participate are Johnny Unitas, Chuck Richards, Ron Smith, Vince Bagli, Sam Lacy, Jerry Turner, Tom Mitchell, Willie Richardson, Stan White and Dick Szymanski.

Nearly 200 golfers will help to raise thousands of dollars for the Save-A-Heart Foundation whose primary goal is to benefit coronary care facilities in Baltimore.

Greg Morris in Hunt Valley field

Willie Mays expected to appear

Canada may lure Browner

The Cincinnati Bengals apparently are going to have to compete with the Canadian Football League for the services of their No. 1 draft choice — Ross Browner.

Browner, an All - American defensive end from Notre Dame, was in Toronto Wednesday, talking with officials of the Toronto Argonauts.

"I want to join the team that is most interested in me," Browner said in Toronto. "They (The Argonauts) appear to be most interested in me."

But Bengals' general manager Paul Brown indicated he wasn't worried about losing Browner.

"This is a kind of ploy," Brown labeled the Canadian venture. "To most young men, it (Canada) becomes a foreign country in a very short period of time."

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BNBL opener set June 5th

The 9th season of the Baltimore Neighborhood Basketball League swings into action next Monday (5th).

Under the direction of Charles Colaianni, the BNBL coordinator, a full schedule with 248 teams in 45 leagues and over 2,400 players is planned for this summer on 24 sites.

Mechanical Engineers
Opportunities are now available for mechanical engineers in our parts engineering activities at our BWI site.
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Oriole 'Diamond Ring Sunday' grew from pretty mom's idea

They're calling it "Diamond Ring Day" at the stadium Sunday when the Orioles entertain the Cleveland Indians.

But a rose by any name smells as sweet, said the bard in his heyday.

It is the same "women's day out" that imaginative Delores Snell suggested to the Bird front office a year ago.

Snell, a busybody who has written two books, initiated a local TV show and became a multiple mother between her state government office duties, also is a rabid baseball fan.

Early last summer, while watching the O's in a TV game, it occurred to her that the home club each year schedules "group" games of one sort or another — every kind except one for women fans.

"They don't seem to realize that they have almost as many women who 'live and die' with the Birds as there are men," she told the AFRO.

"Many of us feel 'left out' and 'ignored,'" she continued. "And while the rest of us simply accept it without a fuss, I intend to ask about it."

Snell did just that, contacting public relations director Bob Brown. She followed her letter contact with a visit to the team's office at Memorial Stadium, and from the meeting came an Oriole commitment to set aside a "women's day out" this summer.

Apparently, the idea appealed to Baltimore "trophy king" Larry Beck. He entered the program with an offer of a diamond ring to each of five lucky women fans.

Additionally, all the gals who attend will be presented a silver spoon with the Oriole signet engraved in the handle.

Snell and Beck will share in the first-ball ritual, then hope for good weather.

Delores has authored two books which reportedly are selling well. "How To Keep Your Black Man," was followed by "Hey, Man, Love Your Woman."

She is hostess of "Mata," a popular television show on a Baltimore station, and along with hubby Jerald, is raising a family of five kids . . . . SAM LACY.

Dolores 'Dee' Snell
'they just changed the name'

Ali: 'Y'all were smart'

NEW YORK (UPI) — Muhammad Ali's reaction to his selection as the "Athlete of the Decade" was quintessential Ali.

"I'm so happy to receive this award," said the two - time heavyweight champion. "Y'all were very smart to choose me."

Sports editors, writers and broadcasters around the country participated in the balloting.

The poll, which was conducted by the American Cancer Society, sought to select the individual who between 1968 and 1978 "demonstrated a consistently high standard of excellence, total committment to his or her sport, dedication, courage under adversity and the will - to - win attitude as exemplified on and off the field by the late Vincent P. Lombardi."

Jack Nicklaus finished second, followed by Hank Aaron, Pele, John Havlicek and O.J. Simpson.

In a telephone hookup, Ali, the former heavyweight champ vowed, "I will prove I am the athlete of the decade by winning title for the third time when I beat that you'll Leon Spinks."

The 36 - year - old Ali lost his title to Spinks last Feb. 15 in Las Vegas, Nev., and is scheduled for a rematch Sept. 15 in New Orleans.

Youth Games track tryouts Saturday

The area's United States Youth Games track and field tryouts will be held Saturday at 4 p.m., at Carver.

Boys and girls between 10 and 15 years of age are eligible to compete for berths on the Baltimore squad.

Detailed information for aspiring youngsters is available at 837-3892, Renee Jones.

Bowie State tix shortage cleared

BOWIE, Md., — Auditors for the Board of Trustees of State Universities and Colleges report that a re - examination of records in the Bowie State College Athletic Department has satisfactorily accounted for basketball game tickets reported missing in an audit report.

The tickets, valued at $15,172.50 by legislative auditors, were listed as unaccounted for in an audit report to the Maryland Legislature last fall for the period October 24, 1974 to October 5, 1976.

A. C. Jordan, Bowie State director of athletics, insisted the tickets were not missing and requested a reaudit.

Karl Kohlstadt, auditor for the Board of Trustees said Jordan was able to account for all but six of the tickets previously listed as missing for the two - year period and that the matter has been satisfactorily resolved.

Kenneth W. Miller, budget analyst for the Department of Budget and Fiscal Policy, said in a letter to the Board that he was fully satisfied with the accounting.

"At no time was there any question of misuse of funds or any reflection on Mr. Jordan's integrity," Kohlstadt said of the initial report.

Racing twin bill at CT on Monday

CHARLES TOWN — The first doubleheader of the season at Shenandoah Downs is set for Monday, with 19 races scheduled on the Memorial holiday card.

The Jefferson Jazz, a jazz ensemble from Jefferson High School, will perfrom during the program with the first race of the afternoon card slated for 2 p.m. The nine - race evening program is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. One admission will cover the entire day.

On the schedule for the twinbill will be two Big exactas, eight Trifectas, two Daily Doubles and many exactas as well as win, place and show wagering.

McKim athletes honored

Members of the championship wrestling team and the basketball squad of McKim Community Association will be honored at the annual awards dinner next Thursday (1st).

The affair is scheduled at Charles Carroll of Carrollton School (139), 300 N. Central Ave., commencing at 6 p.m.

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Joe Gilliam to try new league

Declaring that he is a better athlete now that his drug problems are behind, former NFL quarterback Joe Gilliam Wednesday signed to play with the Pittsburgh Wolf Pak of the new Atlantic Football Conference.

Gilliam last Sunday surprisingly showed up at a Dallas Cowboys tryout camp. Apparently, the one - time Tennessee State star received no encouragement there, so he elected to try a different approach to his goal of playing pro ball again.

"I consider myself a better athlete now than when I played for the Steelers," Gilliam said at a press conference in Springdale, a community just up the Allegheny River from Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, where he flashed some moments of brilliance four years ago with the Steelers.

"We're tickled pink to have him, said the Wolf Pak's president R. J. Baker, also head of the North American Fencing Corporation, which is backing the team with its advertising budget.

The 27 - year - old Gilliam's personal battles with drug use and his fall from the National Football League have been well chronicled. During his period of admitted drug use, Gilliam was waived by the Steelers and the New Orleans Saints.

He later went into a drug rehabilitation program.

Joe Gilliam
'better athlete now'

Mason-Dixon seeks soccer officials

Mason-Dixon Conference sources report they are searching for soccer officials to handle games this fall.

Applicants should contact Barney Bentz at 396-6427 during the day for information on the instructional school.

NW highs' Rector to Waynesburg

Former Northwestern High School cage star Tony Rector will enter Waynesburg College in Waynesburg, Pa., in the fall.

The 6-6 protege of coach Melvin Washington established himself as an outstanding shot blocker and defensive specialist.

He was all-tournament in the 1976 Laker Invitational and won MVP honors at the Sewanee (Tenn.) basketball camp.

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Joe Frazier throws hepatitis and the idea of a comeback

NEW YORK (UPI) — Former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier said Wednesday he feels fully recovered from the hepatitis that hospitalized him two months ago but he has given up the thought of returning to the ring.

"I feel good," Frazier said from his gym in Philadelphia where several top boxers train. "I won't bother with fighting anymore, though. I'm just gonna watch.

"I might work out with the fellows a little, y'know show them what the left hook and the body punches are all about. But I ain't gonna do any more serious fighting. I'm gonna do serious singing."

Frazier, whose illness forced him to cancel an April comeback bout against South African Kallie Knoetze, is planning to get his "Joe Frazier Revue" back on the road again, now that he's feeling healthy.

"I'm back in rehearsal," he said. "I'm gonna hang with it as long as I can. It's fun but it's also hard work. I'm about 226 now but you lose weight singing."

One show "Smokin' Joe" is particularly looking forward to is a benefit for the children's wing of Cambridge Hospital in Boston on June 21. The next day the wing will officially be renamed in Frazier's name.

"I love kids," Frazier said. "Anything I can do for them, I love it. I got five kids of my own. It's a great honor naming the wing for me. It shows they love you."

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