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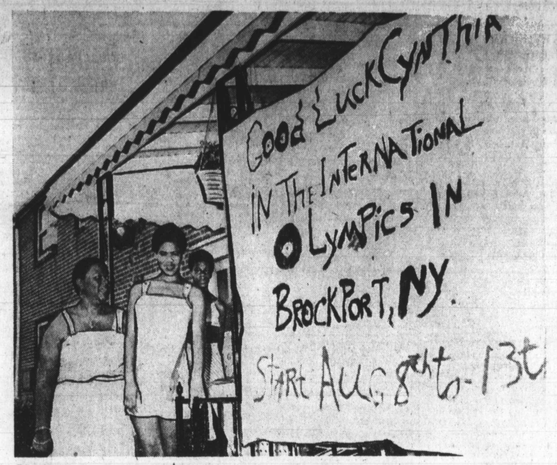
Representing Baltimore

Cynthia Garlando off to Special Olympics



OLYMPIAN—Cynthia Garlando (C), is representing Baltimore at the International Special Olympics in Brockport, N.Y., Aug. 8 to 13. Cynthia is flanked by her foster mother, Mary Foxy (R) and a foster sister, Johnnie Mae Parrot. Her family painted the giant "good luck" banner which hangs from the porch.

By Samuel Davis

At 5200 Newbern Ave., a tablecloth hangs from a beam in the ceiling of the porch. Painted on this tablecloth in big black letters is a message reading "Good Luck Cynthia, in The International Olympics in Brockport, N.Y. Starting Aug. 8 to 13.

The sign does not tell the whole story.

The Olympics are the Special Olympics, and Cynthia Garlando is a lovely 18 year old exceptional girl who will join three others as representatives of Baltimore, along with 3,500 other kids from 25 countries.

Th other three from Baltimore are Donnie Beatty, who will run in both the 50 and 220 dashes, Kevin Black, a softball throw and 50 meter dash competitor, Sam Sloan, whose event is the pentathalon, and Cynthia, who will run in the 50 meter dash and throw the softball.

Cynthia's path to the International Olympics was not a simple one. She had to first win gold medals in her two events in the Baltimore City Special Olympics, which were held in May, and she did.

She also had to win gold medals in her events in the Maryland Special Olympics in June. She accomplished this feat, too.

The next step was completely out of her hands, for her name was placed in a drawing along with others who had matched her performances. She was chosen to participate, therefore making her physical education instructor, Robin Polansky, eligible to make the trip as her chaperone.

Robin said Cynthia is a very good athlete.

"Cynthia has the speed agility and coordination to be an athlete, she's very competitive and has good sportsmanship. She understands and knows how to handle winning or losing," said Ms. Polansky, who has taught Cynthia for two years.

In the Maryland Special Olympics, the 5 feet, 3 inch, 115-pound Cynthia, ran the 50 meter dash in nine seconds flat, and threw the softball for a length of 18 meters and 28 centimeters.

Cynthia, a foster child, lives with her foster parents, Mary Foxe, a homemaker and student, Stellie Foxe, an assistant manager at a paper and chemical company and Mrs. Foxe's daughter by a previous marriage, Carolyn Flemming, a foster sister, Johnnie Mae Parrot and two pets, Todd who is a wolf dog and Toby, a Rottenweiller.

In a very well - kept two-story row house, along with four gold medals, the family cherishes Cynthia's four silver medals, numerous blue ribbons and one bowling trophy from a first place finish in 1975.

The unique thing about Cynthia is that she's more than just a good athlete, she has a radiant personality.

"Cynthia gets along with other kids well," said her mother. She goes to dances, loves parties, and is very active at the church she attends."

And a creative streak runs in Cynthia also. Of all her art works her mother remembers one Christmas card that topped all.

The card read, "Merry Christmas. What do you see when you open this card? What you see is who I love." On the inside of the card was a mirror with the words, "I love you very much."

Eagles defense: unsung but strong

By Samuel Davis

When a football team has the likes of a Joe Gilliam on its offense, it's no wonder all of the publicity would go to the offense.

The controversial former pro quarterback, now with the Baltimore Eagles, has been drawing the media to him the way Billy Carter formerly did beer, but always answering, "No comment.

And it's no wonder they continue to try and interview him.

He has been simply marvelous on the field, passing for 677 yards and eight touchdowns. His 42 completions out of 65 attempts give him an impressive 64.6 passing percentage.

The rest of the offensive squad has been impressive also, only allowing the opposition to sack the quarterback four times, while scoring 120 points.

Runningbacks Rick Bielski and Dave Kirchoff have rushed for 148 and 141 yards respectively, while the team has a 5.3 yard rushing average per carry.

Wide receiver Frank Russell has been an ace at his position, catching 15 passes for 256 yards and four touchdowns.

Now while the offense is putting on such a performance, the defense has sort of been forgotten, but they haven't done a bad job.

At the beginning of the season, they had vowed not to let any team score, but they did allow seven points to the Buffalo Geminis.

These seven points are the only points the defense has allowed after four games. The odd thing, is that they have scored more total points (18) than the total scored against them this season.

"We were hoping to go the full season without giving up any points," said defensive coach Tommy Davis, a former professional defensive tackle and graduate of Gilliam's alma mater Tennessee State. At Tennessee, he was coached by Gilliam's father Joe Sr.

The business of the publicity going to the offense and Gilliam does not bother Davis nor his defense, as a matter of fact, this was the general idea.

"All we want to do is get Joe back in the pros. I love it when he gets the publicity, because that's our objective. He came here to do a job and so far he's doing it," explained Davis.

Of course Gilliam's comment to all of this, "No comment."

Joe Gilliam

Davis' defensive backfield, in which five separate members have picked off passes, has only allowed 23 completions out of 72 attempts for a total of 239 yards.

Out of 122 carries, the opponent has rushed for 331 yards, averaging a mere 2.7 a carry.

The Eagles' next game will be on Saturday, Aug. 4 against the Niagara Spartans, at Niagara.

The next game is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 11 against the Syracuse Bisons at Cardinal Gibbons.

Arthur Ashe suffers heart attack

NEW YORK — Tennis star Arthur Ashe may have suffered a heart attack, a New York hospital spokesman has reported.

"He has had some chest discomfort and there is a possibility of some heart problem," the spokesman said, Aug. 1, of the 36 - year - old former U.S. Open and Wimbledon champion who underwent "diagnostic tests" Aug. 1.

As he had been admitted through the emergency unit Tuesday, July 31, evening, complaining of weakness and pains.

"We just didn't know yet if he had a heart attack or not," said the spokesman. "Further tests are being done and it might take a day or two before we know."

Ashe was listed in satisfactory condition. The name of his physician was withheld at the doctor's request.

Jo Ann Tancer, night administrator of the hospital, earlier reported that Ashe walked into the emergency room about 8 p.m. July 31 and complained he "just wasn't feeling well." She termed his problem "an episode of weakness."

Ashe, who won Wimbledon in 1975 and the Open in 1968, made a successful comeback last year after undergoing surgery on his heel. He played in 28 tournaments in 1978, earning over $214,000 with three victories and an appearance in the finals of the Masters.

The Richmond native was seeded seventh at Wimbledon this past June but was upset in the first round by Chris Kachel of Australia.

A graduate of UCLA where he was national intercollegiate champ, Ashe also received All - American honors from 1963 - 65 and was player of the year in 1975. He has been a member of the U.S. Davis Cup team 11 times and has earned nearly $1.7 million in purses since turning pro in 1969.

Arthur Ashe

Boxing tonight

Champ A.C. will sponsor its first summer boxing show on Aug. 4, at 7 p.m., at the Eutaw Gardens Recreation Center and everyone is invited to attend.

The main bout will feature Dexter Harris of Champ A.C. against Larry Spriggs of Operation Champ.

Police brutality case is behind Swann 'retirement'

LATROBE, Pa. (UPI) — Okay, so Lynn Swann says he is officially retired. Now all he has to do is get someone to believe him.

"He'll be back pretty soon because he doesn't want me catching too many passes," joked the Pittsburgh Steelers other wide receiver, John Stallworth. "You know Swanny, he'll be leaping all over everybody once his trial is over."

With the Steelers' first preseason game at Buffalo just three days away, Swann had yet to put in an appearance at the training camp of the SuperBowl champions.

He remained in San Francisco with his two brothers and cousin, embroiled in a $2 million lawsuit against the Bay City.

The four men have charged the city with false imprisonment, assault and battery and police use of racial slurs in connection with a 1974 incident in which they were arrested and jailed during the hunt for the Zodiac killer. Swann was the Steelers' No. 1 draft pick that year.

Swann agreed to his "retirement" — but didn't put it in writing for the NFL offices — this week after coach Chuck Noll was quoted earlier as saying "We'll just assume you're retired" because he wasn't in camp.

"I'm retired, at least for a while," the five - year veteran from USC said Tuesday, July 31. "I just can't make up my mind."

Steeler president Dan Rooney said Aug. 1 he thinks the All - Pro wide receiver will rejoin the team "when the time comes."

"I think he must have said that he heard that we made a comment that he had retired. He must have answered that," Rooney said.

"My position is that when he does return I will sit down with him and find out what his story is. But I think he will be back."

Swann was a high school "all - America at San Mateo High on the San Francisco peninsula. His parents live in nearby Foster City and his brother, who was involved in the incident, is now a dentist in East Palo Alto, also on the Peninsula.

Swann said of the jailing incident that police officers at the northern station were upset when they learned who he was and that one beat him around the knees because he was a football player.

He also said an officer took his watch, smashed it with a nightstick, and then returned it to him, saying it was broken.

In this matter, Swann's teammates are behind him.

Stallworth, on a more serious note said "If we were in his position, we'd feel a lot different than we do as outsiders looking in. I imagine it was a very degrading thing to go through."

"Knowing Lynn, I don't think he's playing around to get away from camp," said wide receiver Jim Smith, who should benefit the most from Swann's absence. "It it wasn't important to him, he wouldn't be there."

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BULLETIN

Redskins owners buy Orioles

BALTIMORE (UPI) — A corporation headed by Washington Redskins President Edward Bennett Williams bought the Baltimore Orioles Thursday for $12 million and promised to keep the American League team in Baltimore as long as the city supports the club.

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