YOUTH BENEFACTORS — Colts' Corral 954 is a most useful adjunct to the Baltimore community in that it is both sports conscious and youth conscious. The very name indicates the unique organization loves at least one local professional team. That No. 954 also maintains a strong affection for young athletes was evidenced when it raised $900 for the Project Survival Basketball program and its Sam Lacy Scholarship Fund. On hand for ceremonies turning over the money were (top photo) Vernon Wolst, Earl Banks, John Steadman, John Couser, Bob Barnett, Jack Johnson and George Collins, left to right. Also William Fowler and Willie Beard, kneeling. Bottom photo shows a group of the athletes who figured in the fund raising. Earlier, AFRO Sports Editor Lacy supervised the raffle drawings and accepted the $900 check on behalf of Project Survival.

Maryland sends 70 youngsters to international Special Olympics

Seventy mentally handicapped Maryland athletes are on hand at Brockport (NY) State University for the International Special Olympics.

Competition, which commenced Thursday, will continue through Saturday.

Following are the representatives, their home locales and their events:

Anne Arundel County: James Brandford, 50 and 200 meters; Kevin Knopp, swimming; Mike Pfiefer 50 meters, and Cindy Johnson, swimming.

Baltimore City: Sam Sloan, pentathlon; Donnie Beatty, 50 and 200 meters; Kevin Black and Cynthia Garlando, 50 meters and softball throw.

Charles County: Sandra Milstead, Lisa Washington, 50 meters and softball throw; Robert Pittman, 200 and 400 meters.

Washington County: Jerry Leatherman, 50-meter dash, standing long jump; Darla Longnecker, 50 meter, softball throw.

Cecil County: William Bailey, bowling; Ruth Ann Heath, Patty Heath, 50 meters, softball throw.

Montgomery County: Claudia Prentice, Shirley Jackson, Melinda Wilson, Ralph Crawson, John Duiguid, swimming; Jackie Ebaugh, 50 meters, long jump; Derrick Baker, Anthony Bell, 50 meters, softball throw.

Prince George's County: Stanley Thompson, Joseph Battles, 200 meters, long jump; Calvin Calhoun, 50 and 200 meters; John Daniels, 400 meters, high jump; Roger Groomes, 50 and 400 meters.

Rosewood Center: Reginald Gardner, 50 meters, softball throw; Phelix Lawson, Richard Green, Steven Sullivan, 50 and 200 meters.

Carroll County: Ricky Cleamons, Bill Barksdale, long jump and softball throw.

Calvert County: Calvin Wills, Douglas Lee Watts, Elizabeth Thomas, 50 meters and softball throw.

Baltimore County: Lee Putnam, swimming; Warren Gassaway, 50 and 200 meters; Charles Eick, 50 meters and softball throw.

Harford County: Tommy Tabb, swimming.

Lower Shore: Cassandra Lofton, 50 and 200 meters; Chris Jackson, Aaron Hoskins, Kenneth McGinnis, 50 meters, softball throw.

St. Mary's County: Nancy Sullivan, Laurie Fender, 50 meters, softball throw; Kelvin Somerville, 50 and 200 meters.

Talbot County: Don Brown, 50 meters, softball throw; Otis Wilson, 200 meters, softball throw.

Dorchester County: Charles Hobbs, 50 meters, long jump; Randy Cornish, pentathlon.

Frederick County: Eric Garst, Cindy Wills, swimming; Eddie Buck, 50 meters, softball throw; Tom Booth, 400 meters, high jump.

Upper Shore: Patty Addis, Ethel Shahan, Larry Gilbert, Melissa Bauer, 50 meters and softball throw; Bernard White, Marcel McGready, Danny Szymanski, Keith Hill, Dale Anderson, Charles Steele, David Krickbaum, Larry Talley, Carlton Oney, poly hockey.

Bullets list 9 exhibitions

Featuring an all Atlantic Division lineup and the return of guard Kevin Porter, the sixth annual Capital Centre preseason doubleheader highlights a nine-game exhibition schedule announced by the Washington Bullets.

In a rematch of last year's dramatic seven-game Eastern Conference semi-final series, the Bullets host the Atlanta Hawks at 9 p.m. in the feature game of the Friday, Oct. 5 event. Prior to the feature contest, the Philadelphia 76ers meet the New Jersey Nets at 7 p.m.

Porter, who was drafted by the Bullets and remained with the team through the 1975 season, played out his option with the Detroit Pistons following the 1978-79 season and was signed as a free agent last month.

Champ AC boxers eye big chance as they take off for nationals

By Samuel Davis

It's just in the movies, there's a gymnasium in an almost forgotten neighborhood, where these young amateur boxers work out, all waiting for a big break.

Well, it's the same story here in Baltimore, but it's no movie. The neighborhood is the 1800 block of McKean Ave. in West Baltimore, and the boxers are all members of a club called Camp A.C.

Although the big break has not come, for four members of Champ A.C. next week's 15th annual Ohio State National boxing tournament is regarded a step in that direction.

The youngsters, who will leave on Tuesday (14) to begin competition on Thursday (16), have been in training since last August; and according to trainer Bobby Harmon, the nationals rank third to the Pan Am Games and the Olympics for young boxers.

"If we could win just one fight, we would be satisfied," Harmon told the AFRO. "Winning these fights are important and rewarding because some of the guys who participate in these bouts may be in the Olympics next July."

Champ A.C.'s representatives are, in the featherweight category, Tim Davis, an 18-year-old, with a 38-5 career record. Davis's latest fight was a win over Willie Reed last Saturday at a boxing show sponsored by Champ A.C. Fighting in the featherweight ranks, Davis advanced to the semi-finals in last years nationals.

Little Joe Clary, another 18-year-old will battle in the lightweight division. With little experience, he has a 3-1 record, but defeated a much more experienced Warren Borley on Saturday. Borley had corraled 14 wins until the clash with Clary.

Keith Crawford, an artist and father of two from Cherry Hill, represents his club as a junior welterweight. His career record is 3-1 and includes two knockouts.

The heavyweight contender will be 21-year-old Dexter Harris, a student at Morgan. In his last fight, Harris lost to Larry Spriggs in a controversial decision, giving him a 16-2 record that includes seven knockouts. He, like Davis, advanced to the semi-finals last year.

Expected to be included among the more than 700 bouts, will be the son of Joe Fraizer, Marvis, along with 1980 Olympic hopefuls, Twayne Johnson, Jackie Beard, and Bernard Taylor.

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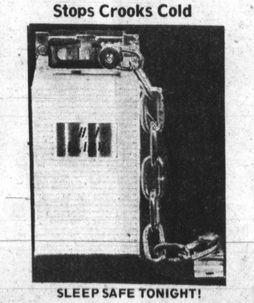

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Orioles and flight fright

Don't quarrel, folks, reach happy medium

By Sam Lacy

Okay, you guys (and dolls), let's stop fretting about the Orioles.

Because Baltimore people are afraid the Birds are going to take wing from Memorial Stadium and Washington folk are scared they won't set down in RFK, the two towns have been in a monstrous turmoil since the O's were bought last week by D.C.'s Edward Bennett Williams.

The result is that Baltimore is criticized because former owner Jerold Hoffberger blamed the club's financial woes on lack of fan support, thus dictating his need to pull out.

Washington, on the other hand, is given a black mark at the gate because that city lost its franchise in 1971 through similar non-support.

The D.C. gallery is hissing Baltimore and the latter audience is ridiculing Washington in a continuing exchange.

The kibitzer at this desk sees a twin cities operation as the quieting solution. Columbia.

Although talk of a facility in the Howard County community has diminished markedly in recent weeks, the thinking here is that a complex in Columbia — one that would house the Orioles, Colts, Redskins and (soccer) Diplomats — would be the perfect peacemaker.

In truth, neither Washington nor Baltimore should be branded as a failure in the fan-backing league. The complaints lodged against both seem unfair.

When the owner Bob Short packed up the old Senators in 1971 and took off to Texas, it was a bad rap on Washington and its fans.

Attendance had surpassed 600,000 despite the fact the team had the worst record in the both leagues, the lowest payroll and the highest ticket prices.

Objective observers would have to admit these 600,000 - plus customers had displayed admirable patience and heroic bravery.

Also, they would be forced to consider the heavy drain on the sports dollar of both cities.

At the atronomical prices demanded in today's market, the various sports teams are eating up each other.

Baseball commences in early April, ends in late October; football begins in late July and finishes the third week in January; basketball quits its long season in May after a September beginning.

They all overlap one another, and at one point in each season, fans are asked to support baseball, football, basketball, soccer and ice hockey at the same time.

Plus horse-racing.

The thoroughbred sport, incidentally, not only eats on the others. It is gradually committing suicide with day-and-night racing seven days a week, year-round.

If one is not fully aware of the impact of racing on the other sports, especially baseball, only this is needed as evidence:

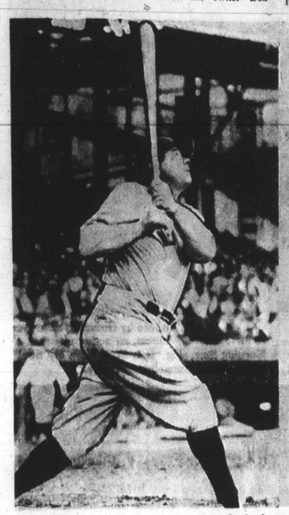
For the most part, horoughbred racing in the Baltimore — Washington area is an afternoon event.

If a potential (night) baseball fan gets broke in the afternoon at Bowie, Laurel, Pimlico, etc., he figures he can't afford the Orioles later on. If he happens to win at the afternoon races, he must fight the urge to continue while he's "hot" and bypass Memorial Stadium for Charles Town, Penn National or, even, the trotters at the raceway.

With two cities feeding a mid-point entertainment, such as Columbia, there could be a sufficient number of non-race trackers, to draw a smile from the dour face of an Oriole (Colt or Redskin) owner.

Providing the Pavilion rock shows don't upset everything.

Really, is there any win?



Hall of Famers Willie Mays (R), Babe Ruth, Leo Durocher was teammate of one, managed the other.

Says man who should know

'Willie was better than Babe'

By Milton Richman

COOPERSTOWN, (UPI) — Leo Durocher had altered his opinion and nothing in the world was going to change it.

He had said the best ballplayer of his generation, the greatest one he had ever seen in his three-quarters of a century, was "Say Hey" Willie Mays, for whose enshrinement into baseball's Hall of Fame he made a special trip here Sunday, and I had asked him what about Babe Ruth?

"I played on the same club with him," Durocher said, intending that to be the clincher. "He was a great player but Willie here was better."

Willie Mays was alongside his old New York Giants' manager listening silently and thoughtfully to the conversation. Over the past 30 years no one ballplayer ever did more things better, in my opinion, than Willie Mays.

I said that to Durocher and also said I knew he had played on the same club as Ruth with the Yankees in 1925, 1928 and 1929. Durocher's opinion on ballplayers is good and carries weight with me. I let him know that, too, but I also told him I saw enough of Ruth to convince me he was a better all-around ballplayer than Mays. Ruth was the greatest I ever saw.

In the long run, perhaps the ultimate judges of a ballplayer's ability are the people he drew to see him perform, and Babe Ruth was far and away the top box office attraction in baseball history.

Willie Mays was right behind him but the Babe was still first. Moreover, he was the best home run hitter I ever saw — i.e., the most natural — and right up there also with the best natural hitters.

Some of Ruth's records as a pitcher still stand and all you ever had to do was see him throw from the outfield to appreciate the kind of extraordinary arm he had. When it came to speed, true, Ruth was no jackrabbit, but he was no tortoise, either, and he ran the bases with the same sound instinct as Lou Brock or Maury Wills. In the field, he was everything you could possibly ask for. He always got to the ball and always caught it.

"That's absolutely true," Durocher agreed with me, "but I'd like you to think about this: Ruth could hit; he could hit with power and he could move.

"But could he make the plays in the field Willie could? Never. Could he run with Willie? No, sir. And could he throw with Willie? No way. You can't tell me he was a better ballplayer. I was with them both.

"Lemme tell you a story about that," Durocher went on. "We were playing the Indians in the spring in Arizona when I was managing the Giants and Willie was new with us. You remember Tris Speaker, don't you?

"One of the greatest outfielders who ever lived, right? Could do everything, hit, run and throw and is right here in the Hall of Fame. Anyway, he's broadcasting the Indians' games for them this particular spring and I say to him Mays is the best ballplayer I've ever seen.

"We played the Indians something like 23 games that spring and he says to me, wait until these 23 games are over and I'll let you know. When the trip was over, Speaker came to me and shook my hand. 'You're right,' he said. 'He's the best ballplayer I ever saw, too.'"

Eager Colts in Cleveland

Flushed by their one-for-one start, the Colts journey to Cleveland tomorrow (Saturday) night to take on the Browns.

This will mark the sixth pre-season meeting between the two clubs. The first was played Sept. 7, 1953, and was won by Cleveland, 23-21.

Baltimore has won the last four meetings, taking the last game, 21-6, in July, 1976, at Lincoln, Neb. Other Colt victories came in 1974 (37-3), 1966 (24-17 and 1963 (21-7).

Behind outstanding offensive performances by second year tight end Reese McCall, and newly acquired quarterback Greg Landry, the Colts won their first pre-season game with a 17-14 come from behind effort. Landry, playing the last three quarters, hit McCall on TD strikes covering 17 and 7 yds. Landry completed 14 of 20 passes for 129 yds.

McCall was the Colts' top receiver with five catches for 73. Fullbacks Don Hardeman and Ron Lee led the Colts' ground attack gaining 41 and 42 yards respectively.

The Colts defense, led by number one pick Barry Krauss with five unassisted tackles, held the Eagles scoreless in the second half. The Colts gained 383 yards in total offense while holding the Eagles to 190.

"You have to feel better when a guy of that calibre (Landry) is behind Jones," stated Colts head coach Ted Marchibroda.

"It's gratifying to play here," said Landry, "not only because the coaches think they made a good trade, but it gives the players confidence that if Bert gets hurt, the whole season is not out the door."

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