Bees' cage coach still waiting for improvement he expected

Things haven't gone as well on the hardwood for University of Baltimore as basketball coach Frank Szymanski expected.

The Bees' mentor was not greatly dismayed over the 4 - 21 record of 1978 - 79, because he felt certain improvement was just around the corner.

"Players who have gone through a 'down' season such as we had, are now willing to listen to the coach," Szymanski told the AFRO just before opening the campaign Nov. 30, at Canisius.

There was reason for his optimism.

He has back seven of the 11 players who received the introduction to Division I last winter, and 23 of the club's 25 games were played on the road. This year, 10 games will be played at home.

Colts fire Marchibroda

Baltimore Colts owner Robert Irsay on Thursday, directed general manager Dick Szymanski to inform Ted Marchibroda that the team is "making a coaching change, effective immediately."

No mention was made of plans to look for a new coach in Irsay's terse statement.

Nehemiah among entries for CYO-M Club meet

With the indoor track season about to begin and interest in the Olympics picking up, Gerald McGee, meet director of the CYO - M Club National Invitational is beginning to set the field for the thirteenth annual event.

Maryland's premier hurdler Renaldo "Skeets" Nehemiah was the first entry for the Jan. 11 meet in Maryland's Cole Field House and appropriately enough the second is a two time winner of the Cardinal O'Boyle Outstanding Performer Award Dick Buerkle.

Buerkle has called the Maryland track "one of the finest and fastest tracks in the country." It is understandable that Buerkle likes the track as he set a world record for the mile run in 1978 with a 3:54.9 and a meet record in the two mile in 1974 with an 8:26.2

Buerkle has been a crowd favorite in Cole Field House and will be running in the event that will rival Nehemiah's hurdles event as the premier race of the evening, the mile run. He will be running for the New York Athletic Club.

Thomas Wessinghage of West Germany won the mile last year in 3:57.2 with Paul Cummings of the Pacific Coast Club second in 3:57.8. Wessinghage has run a 3:52.4 Mile and those three alone should make it an outstanding race.

WELCOME OF ORANGES — Orange Bowl committee members bearing oranges and a football, welcome Oklahoma's All - American and '78 Heisman Trophy winner Billy Sims on his arrival in Miami. Sims and his Sooner teammates take on unbeaten Florida State in Orange Bowl football classic New Year's night.

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'BUT I'LL BE READY' — Houston's sensational running back Earl Eampbell, led off field by trainers, sat out second half of wildcard victory over Denver with severe groin injury. However, Campbell insists he'll be back for the Oilers' conference title game tomorrow (Saturday) against the Chargers at San Diego.

Title rematch tops mat card

Pat Patterson, No. 1 contender, challenges World Wide Wrestling Federation heavyweight champion Bob Backlund for the thirrd time in the one - fall finish headliner of the six - event wrestling card at the Civic Center tomorrow (Saturday) night.

In a 3 - of - 5 fall 8 - man tag team co - feature the three violent Valiant brothers — Johnny, Jerry and Jimmy — will join Swede Hanson in opposing the popular four man alignment of Tito Santana, Dominic DeNucci, Larry Zbyszko and Andre the Giant. The latter is a seven - foot, four - inch, 565 - pound French man - mountain.

Backlund and Patterson battled to a draw in their first Civic Center meeting when they collided, were knocked out and counted out.

Patterson was returned victorious in a rematch, but Backlund retained his title which can be won, or lost, only on a pinfall. The champion was counted out when he was unable to best the referee's 20 - count while attempting to reenter the ring their last time out.

Four additional supporting matches list: Bulldog Brower vs. Mike Masters, Johnny Rodz vs. Angelo Gomez, Jose Estrada vs. Frank Williams and Dave O'Hannon vs. Joe Mascara.

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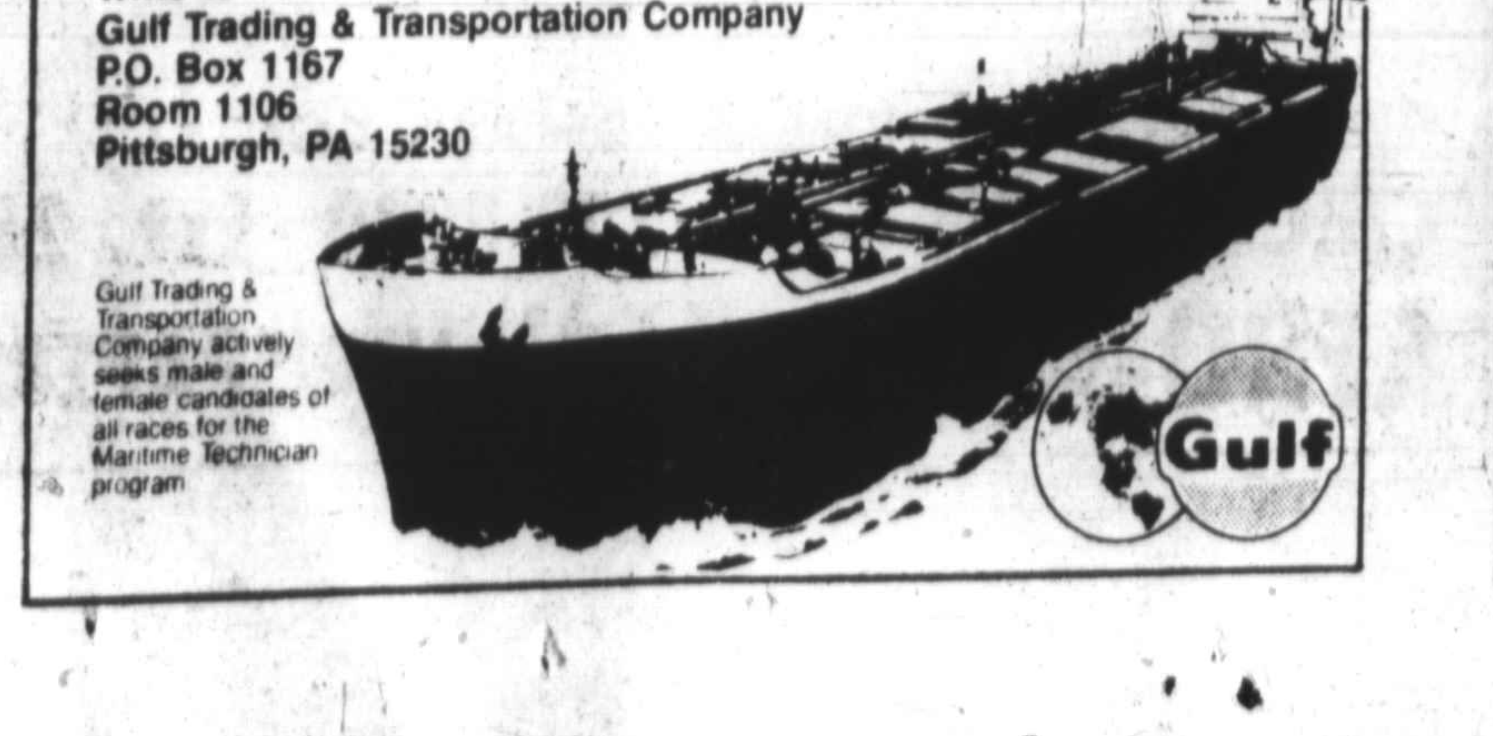

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Gulf

WES UNSELD, veteran captain of the Washington Bullets, showed that he can be an offensive as well as defensive threat for the Bullets. Unseld has been a steady performer for the Bullets although the team is far behind in its usual mid-season statistics.

Poet-Laker rivalry has new twist

By Samuel Davis

Maybe the hottest basketball rivalry between two public schools in Baltimore is that between Dunbar and Lake Clifton. Since 1971, when Lake Clifton was opened, games like this year's overtime thriller won by Dunbar in the final round of the Poet Laker Tournament a few weeks ago, have entertained onlookers.

As it has been in recent years, the two are on top in their respective divisions in "A" conference of the MSA, both showing 3 - 0 league marks.

The ironic thing is that both have turned to the type of game coaches Woody Williams (Lake Clifton) and Bob Wade (Dunbar), have not been accustome to in the past. They are depending upon their benches.

Williams, whose Lakers are currently in Annapolis for the Capital Classic, feels that due to the depth of this year's team, it could be better than his team of recent years.

"I'm very confident with the people coming off the bench this year," explained Williams. "It used to be that I would have five guys and when they got into trouble I'd just be pulling at straws for replacements."

The situation at Dunbar is similar.

"We're depending a lot more on our bench to take over," said Wade, who has his team in Alexandria for the Edison Holiday Invitational Tournament this weekend.

The Poets look to players like Rodney Coffield, Kenny Missouri, Kevin Woods, Brian Maddox, Herman Braxton, Joe Williams and Mark Lyles for strong support from the bench.

Missouri usually starts when Wade uses a three - guard set. Woods, at 6 - 4 is included in the bigger lineup.

With those two rotating, maybe the purest and most effective substitute has been, the 6 - 3 Braxton, a second year forward or swing man. Seeing spot time, he is averaging seven points and five rebounds a game.

Md. Lottery

The winning numbers in the Maryland lottery at Wednesday's drawing were as follows: six digit, 701944; five digit, 46648; four digit 7106; three digit, 267; and two digit, 76.

Bonus: Tree, 77; Box, 43, and Stocking 3.

Sat., Jan. 5
Central Pratt Library: Film — "The Flying Deuces," Wheeler Auditorium, 2 p.m.

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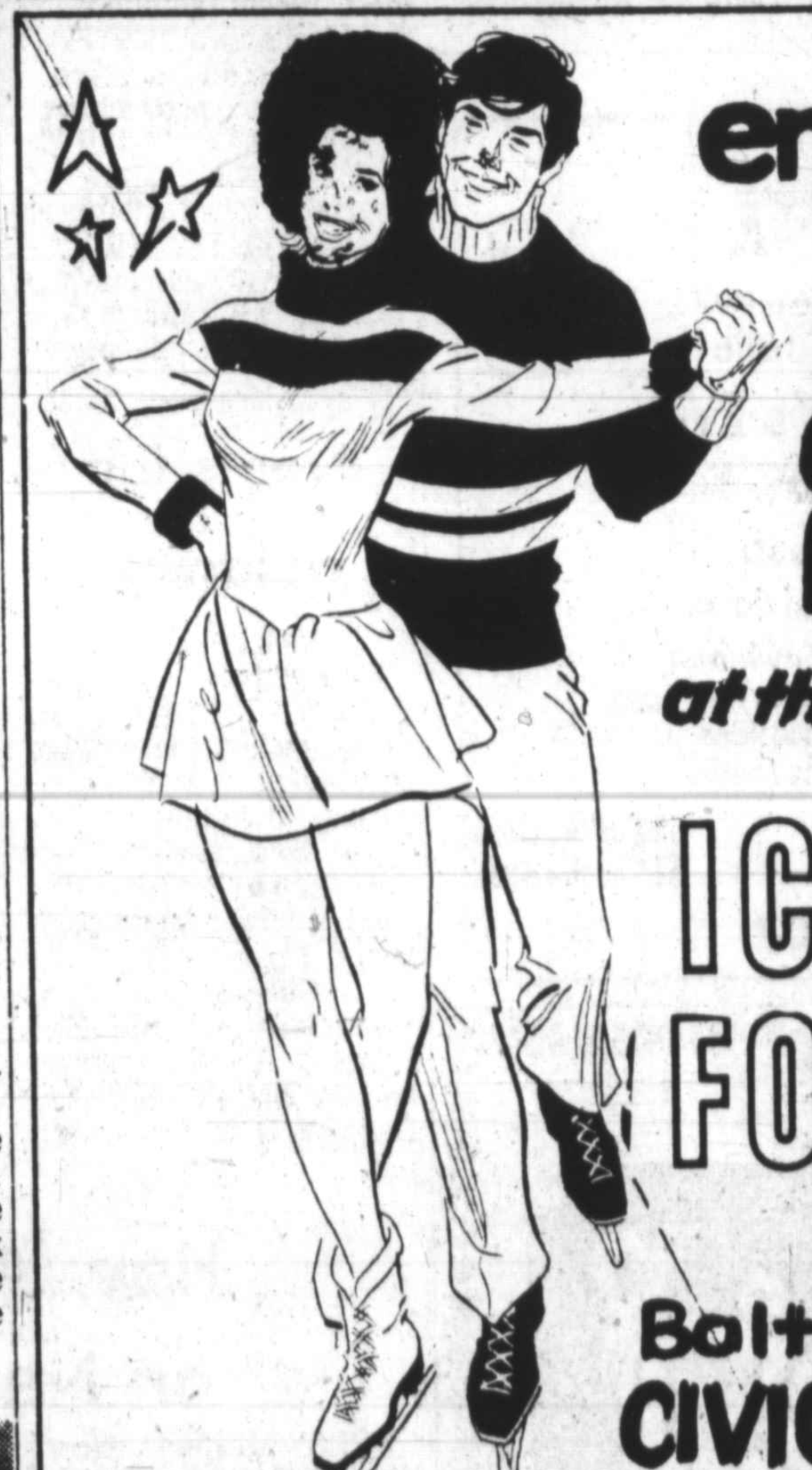
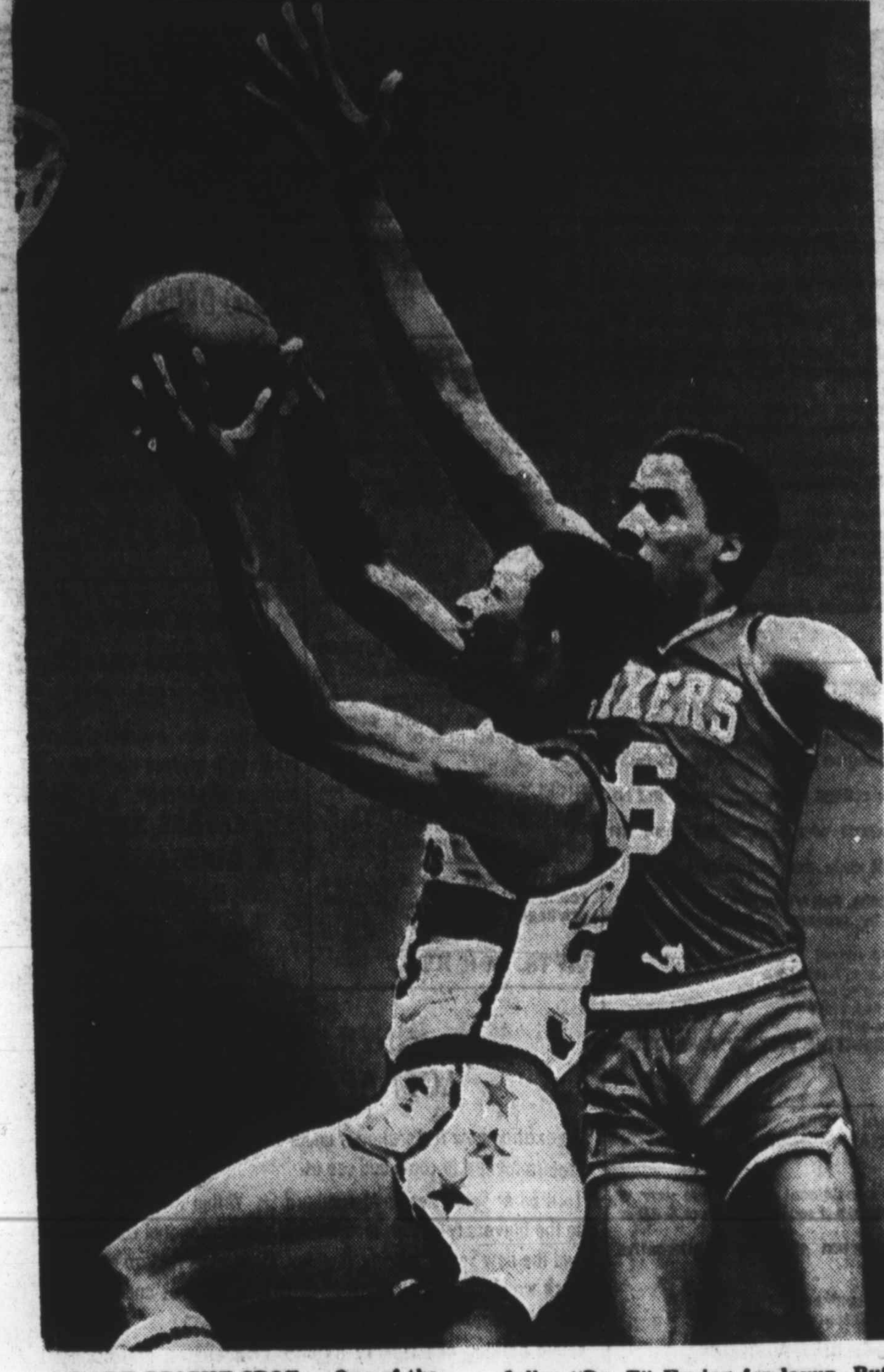




A RARE BRIGHT SPOT — One of the few smiles to reach Washington Bullets faces thus far in the NBA season, is displayed by Jim Cleamons as he beats Julius "Dr. T" Erving for layup. But Erving and 76ers went on to deal Bullets a 95 - 92 Christmas Day turkey, Washington's 17th loss in 31 games.

Ex-champ Spinks to fight Jan. 12

NEW YORK (UPI) — Former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks will make his first ring appearance in more than seven months when he faces former European heavyweight champion Alfredo Evanglista in Atlantic City on Jan. 12.

Spinks won the heavyweight crown when he upset Muhammad Ali on Feb. 15, 1978, but then lost the WBA crown in a return match on Sept. 15 of the same year.

Evangelista, who has won his last five bouts, went 15 rounds with Ali in his first title bid in 1977 and then was stopped in seven rounds by WBC champion Larry Holmes on Nov. 10, 1978.

The Saturday afternoon bout at Resorts International will be telecast by CBS.

Leon Spinks back in action

New betting system set for Bowie

BOWIE, Md. — The initiation in Maryland of the revolutionary, computerized ABC (all betting and cashing) System and the second running of the $50,000 added Resolution Handicap are on the Bowie agenda when the 1980 Thoroughbred racing season is launched here Jan. 1.

There will be nine races daily. General manager Alvin A. Karwacki has set a 12:30 p.m. first post for opening day, half - hour earlier than the 1 p.m. post which will prevail for the remainder of the 60 - day meeting which continues through March 14.

The opening day also will mark the "ribbon cutting" for the Post and Paddock Corral located in the main grandstand wagering area, a setting for 30 redwood picnic benches to provide additional seating for patrons who may conveniently watch the racing scene from five television monitors while enjoying a light repast of hot dogs, beer, soup and chowder.

The Resolution Handicap is one of 14 stakes totaling $645,000 to be contested. The major events program is highlighted by the $100,000 John B. Campbell Handicap which will have its 26th running March 8.

Weekend basketball

Friday
Howard at Evansville
Bowie at Fairmont St.
UDC at Md., Balto. County
Morgan at Norfolk
Eliz. City at Norfolk
Siena at Balto. Univ. (Civic Center)

Saturday
Howard at Evansville
UDC at Md., Balto. County
Morgan at Norfolk
Va. State at Norfolk
Eliz. City at Norfolk

College bowl schedule

FRIDAY
GATOR BOWL, Jacksonville, 9 p.m. — Michigan vesus North Carolina.

SATURDAY
HALL OF FAME, Birmingham, 7 p.m. — South Carolina versus Missouri.

MONDAY
PEACH BOWL, Atlanta, 3 p.m. — Clemson versus Baylor.

BLUEBONNET BOWL, Houston, 8 p.m. - Tennessee versus Purdue.

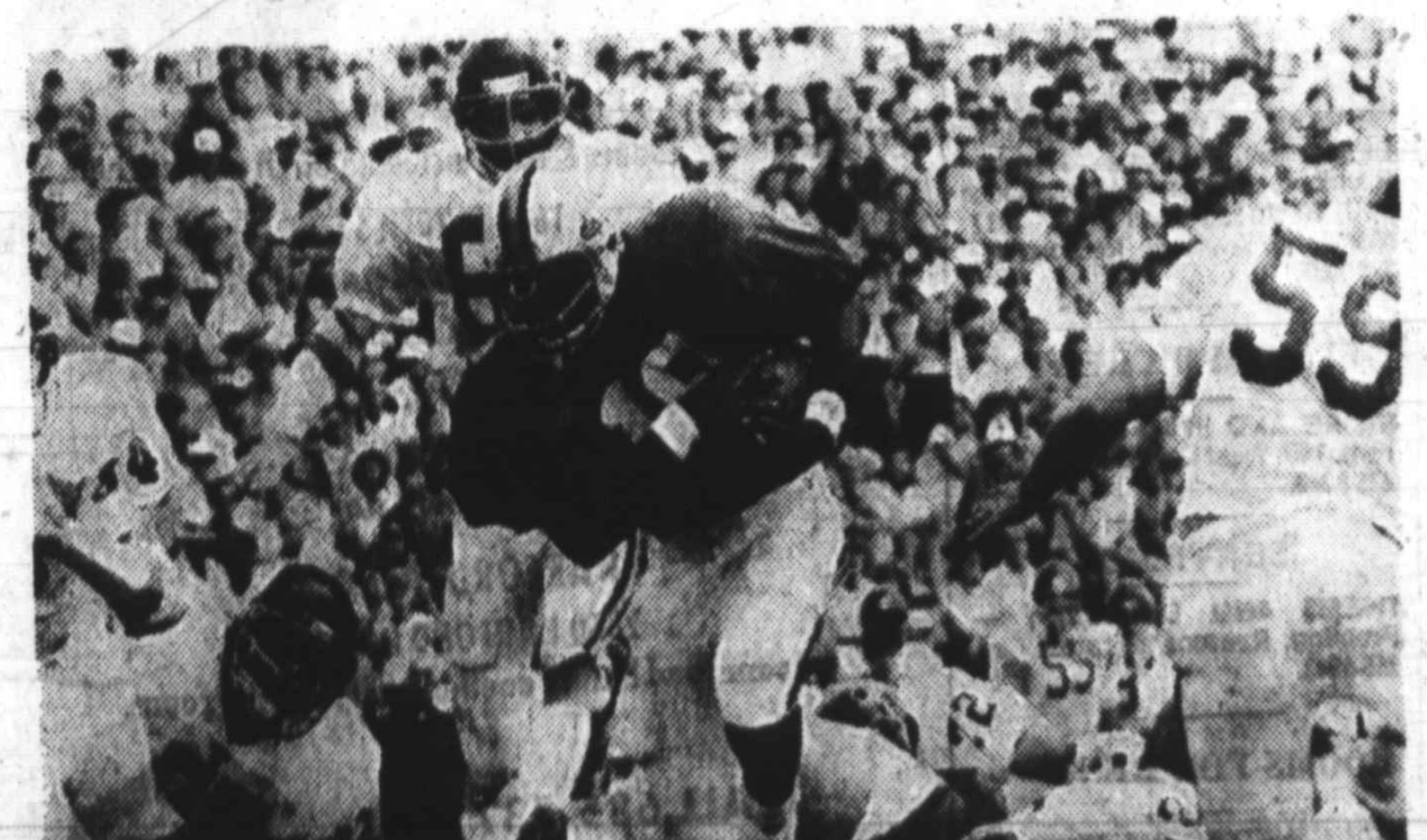
TUESDAY
SUGAR BOWL, New Orleans, 2 p.m. — Alabama versus Arkansas.

COTTON BOWL, Dallas, 2:15 p.m. — Houston versus Nebraska.

ROSE BOWL, Pasadena, 5 p.m. — Ohio State versus Southern California.

ORANGE BOWL, Miami, 8 p.m. — Oklahoma versus Florida State.

JANUARY 5
BLACK COLLEGE Bowl, New Orleans, 3:30 p.m. — All - Star teams selected from predominately black colleges.



CHARLIE WYSOCKI, Maryland University running back, was one of the bright spots in the Terrapins' offense. Charlie gained more yards in a single season than any previous Maryland player.

Bits o' briefs

Most for Moses

Moses Malone of the Houston Rockets moved into first place among East centers in fan balloting to select the starting players for the 1980 NBA All - Star Game, it was announced Wednesday.

Malone, the league's most valuable player last season and who again leads the league in rebounds, has collected 61,080 votes while San Antonio's Billy Paultz and Dave Cowens battle for second place.

San Antonio's George Gervin and Atlanta's Eddie Johnson continue to pace the guards and Hawk teammates John Drew and Dan Roundfield are on top at forward.

More for NBA

Two terms will be added to the National Basketball Association within the next five years and international competition also is on the horizon.

"We are considering expanding the league to 24 teams," said NBA commissioner Lawrence O'Brien, "But then I don't foresee any further significant expansion for some time.

"Sometime in the 1980s I see a strong possibility the league would be moving toward international competitition.

"The quality of play in Europe and parts of Asia has been rising rapidly and it's not unreasonable for the NBA to contemplate playing a series of games with them."

'OJ' numbers game

Ottis Anderson, voted NFC player of the year by UPI early this week, is called "OJ" by teammates in St. Louis.

It is coincidental that O. J. Anderson arrives on the NFL scene just when O. J. Simpson, a former "player of the year" and a candidate for all - time greatest honors, departs via retirement.

Whether it was by design or coincidence no one outside the Cardinal front office can be sure, but when O. J. Anderson took the field this fall he was wearing No. 32, the same jersey number made famous by O. J. Simpson.

Cup to Civic

The Baltimore Civic Center, which has hosted nearly everything from rock concerts to minor - league hockey games, will be the site of the Federation Equestre Internationale World Cup final April 23 - 27.

As many as 40 riders from around the world will compete for $60,000 in prize money and the title of World Cup champion, the highest international honor awarded to amateur and professional riders in individual competition.

The meet is only ints second year, but is important because it is the last major jumping event before the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow.

In the NBA

Friday
Indiana at New Jersey
Denver at Detroit
New York at Chicago
Boston at Los Angeles
Kansas City at Phoenix
Portland at Seattle

Saturday
Milwaukee at New York
San Diego at Washington
Detroit at Atlanta
Denver at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Houston
Utah at Indiana
Kansas City at San Antonio
Boston at Golden State

Sunday
Utah at Milwaukee
Phoenix at Los Angeles
Seattle at Portland

GOLD BOWL GOLD — Greyhound Corporation representative Lumus Byrd (R) presents gold watches to S.C. State head coach Bill Davis and two of his players after Davis' Bulldogs defeated Norfolk State in the annual Gold Bowl game at Richmond earlier this month.

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F78-15	Bias Ply NW PETL	32.25	2.22
G78-14	Bias Ply NW PETL	35.25	2.38
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