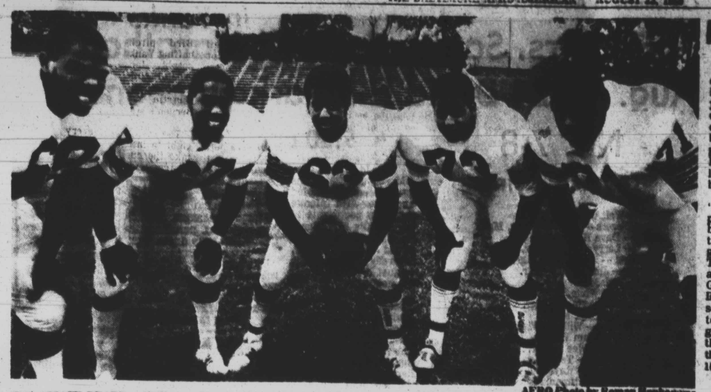

THE ATTACK BEARS — If Morgan State quarterbacks such as all-league Darrell Coulter, Earl Dillon, Daryl Brown, etc., are to get the Bear offense rolling this year, this well-mixed line must function well. Freshman tackle Demostenes Christie, junior guard Henry King, senior center Mike Henderson, junior guard Mikal Abdul Saboor Vincent, and sophomore tackle Valentine Jones (L to R) are awaiting the Sept. 6 opening test with Towson State at Hughes Stadium.

AFRO Photo by Lennox Hawkeswood

Fair Lanes bowl for youth

What may be the most exciting and innovative bowling program for young people ever developed by a major owner of nation-wide bowling centers is planned by Fair Lanes, Inc., the country's largest independent bowling chain.

It is to be known as the "Young America" program with the new breakdown of participants into four basic groups by school grades. The groups to be known as Red, White, Blue, and Gold Divisions. The Red Division will be for pre-schoolers and others up to and including 3rd grade; the White, 4th through 6th; Blue, 7th through 9th and the Gold, 10th through 12th.

A special program to stimulate interest and encourage enthusiastic participation has been carefully designed for each group. Thus, the smaller children will be offered a minimum amount of basic instruction and many novelty bowling events while the older youngsters will be given more sophisticated instruction and will participate in more demanding events.

Registration for "Young America" will begin tomorrow (Saturday) at all 70 Fair Lanes' centers located in Metropolitan Baltimore, Washington, Chicago, Atlanta, Phoenix, Houston, Jacksonville, Orlando, South Florida, North Carolina and Tidewater, Virginia.

For the address and phone number of your local Navy recruiter, call toll-free 800-492-8787.

Sickle-cell attack believed to have killed grid prospect

ABILENE, Texas (UPI) — An Abilene Christian University football player who died within hours of his first workout choked on his own vomit, but doctors also believe a form of sickle-cell disease contributed to his death.

Initial findings of an autopsy Monday by doctors at the Hendrick Medical Center showed Gregory Todd Pratt, 19, had sickle-cell trait which, combined with other factors from the workout, led to his death.

Sickle-cell trait is a form of sickle-cell disease, which primarily strikes blacks, but does not necessarily include the anemia that is common in other forms of the disease.

The full autopsy report was not expected to be released for several days.

Dr. Graham Bray, who tried to save Pratt, said the youth died by suffocating on his own vomit.

"We know that was the cause of death," Dr. Bray said.

Pratt died early Monday following Sunday afternoon's physical exams and agility drills on the ACU campus.

Pratt, from Miami, Fla., had played two years of junior college football in Taft, Calif. He arrived in Abilene last Thursday and reported along with the rest of the Abilene Christian prayers Sunday.

After being given a physical examination, the players ran a 40-yard dash and an agility drill and then took part in a mile run.

The tests were conducted in relatively mild temperatures after a cool front had passed through the area.

Shortly after Pratt finished his testing, he developed muscle cramps. After ice treatment failed to help the athlete, he was taken to Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

School officials said doctors there gave Pratt muscle relaxers and glucose and, after his condition appeared to have eased, released him at 9:30 p.m.

The officials said Pratt developed the cramps again and began vomiting about 11 p.m. He again was rushed to the medical center, where he was pronounced dead at 2:12 a.m. Monday.

Pikesville kids drill

The Pikesville Youth Football Junior League will hold tryouts at Pikesville Junior High School, 7701 Seven Mile Lane, Aug. 25-28 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Cable TV supported

"The cable TV industry has utterly failed to provide adequate public access and equal employment opportunities," said National Black Media Coalition chairman, Pluria Marshall in declaring the coalition's support of a moratorium on urban cable franchising.

The moratorium, organized by the National League of Cities, is intended to protest the efforts of the National Cable Television Association (NCTA) to obtain legislation deregulating cable and removing the industry's responsibility to provide public access and local origination facilities in urban areas.

The league has been unsuccessful in attempts to develop a code of good franchising practices with NCTA.

Marshall noted that while cable could provide a meaningful alternative to broadcast television for blacks and other minorities in urban areas, the industry has sought to avoid any requirements to provide meaningful non-entertainment program fare.

Furthermore, Marshall said, the cable industry has the worst record in minority hiring of any media industry in the country. Of over 4400 cable systems, only one is black owned.

"Until the cable industry recognizes its responsibilities to the public it serves, we will oppose any further attempts by cable operator to ride the gravy train of urban franchising," Marshall said.

Giants test Colts

The yet-to-be-proved Colts may raise their pre-season log above .500 tonight (Friday), when they host the New York Giants at Memorial Stadium.

New head coach Mike McCormack hopes to discover whether his optimism over the Baltimore outlook is misplaced. He has said after each of the clubs' first two games that he is pleased with what he saw.

This view held after the losing effort to the Redskins, 13-9, on 33rd Street and after the 17-3 triumph over the Packers at Milwaukee.

The truth is that Green Bay showed nothing and the Colts whipped a bad team.

The Giants, on the other hand, had little to boast about in downing the Denver Broncos, 9-6, in a battle of field goals last week.

Quarterback Bert Jones will start with backfield support from running backs Joe Washington and Mark Bailey, with No. 1 draft pick Curtis Dickey certain to see service.

Cornerback Derrick Hatchett, another promising draftee, starts on the left side of the defensive secondary.

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Bits o briefs

Ex-Colts axed

Two former Baltimore Colts — Glenn Doughty and Don Hardeman — were dropped from the Denver Broncos roster via squad cuts Tuesday.

Wide receiver Doughty had been picked up after being cut by the Colts two weeks earlier, and running back Hardeman had been obtained in a 1979 trade with Baltimore.

Gals at 'Charlie'

Women jockeys are riding high at Charles Town at the moment.

Mary Ellen Logan, already the leading rider, was aboard four winners last week and on Friday night had the front end of the meet's largest exacta payoff. Her mount, Speedy Trick, edged veteran Stanley Small on Chicken of Bagdad to create a $423.60 take.

And this followed a Thursday night trifecta which paid $827, with Brenda Lee Mumaw leadint the finish on Tiger Jack Fox.

Fergy vs. 'Bird'

A crowd of 42,117 showed up Aug. 17 in Detroit when the uniform of Hall of Famer Al Kaline was retired and Tiger favorite Mark "The Bird" Fidrych took the mound against the Texas Rangers and Ferguson Jenkins.

A sportswriter asked Jenkins how he felt about facing Fidrych.

"I've won 256 games in the big leagues," he said. "Mark won 19 games once. Shoot, I could win 19 games pitching lefthanded."

'Cornbread' choice

BOSTON (UPI) — Cedric "Cornbread" Maxwell, a vital factor in the Boston Celtics' resurgence last season, signed a 4-year contract Monday, ending speculation he would leave the club.

Maxwell, a consistent inside scorer and strong offensive rebounder, was close to signing with another team after becoming a free agent at the end of the season.

He said Monday he might end up with less money but he will be playing with the team of his choice.

Paratroopers

All former members of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion and its cadred organizations of 3rd Bn., 505th Abn. Inf. Regt.; 3rd Bn., 188th Abn. Inf. Regt.; 80th and 503th AAA Bns.; and the 2nd Ranger Company (Abn.) are invited and urged to attend the "second reunion" of these units at the Hilton Inn, Albuquerque, N.M. on Oct. 1 through 4.

PROBE FIGURES — Seattle coach Lenny Wilkens (left and Utah Jazz forward Bernard King are among NBA figures involved in the drug-abuse study. Wilkens hope to check the ill by-player-contract clauses. King was arrested in January and charged with possession.

Widespread cocaine use among NBA players

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — NBA commissioner Lawrence O'Brien has confirmed that the league is worried about drug use by players and said a special committee has been formed to study a problem that sources say is a virtual epidemic.

O'Brien issued a statement Tuesday in the wake of a story in the Los Angeles Times which quoted several sources, including players, as saying up to 75 percent of the highly paid athletes are using cocaine and its more potent dervative, free base.

The commissioner vowed that 'any player proved to have engaged in such activity (using illegal drugs) will forfeit his right to play in the NBA." But he also said he would not "take precipitious action on the basis of mere allegations."

Michael Gearon, president of the Atlanta Hawks, estimated that as many as half the players in the league use cocaine and 10 percent may use free base. Atlanta general manager Stan Kasten put player use at 75 percent.

"I believe we are on the verge of an epidemic of free base," Gearon said. "It is time we identified the problem. Free base is as dangerous as heroin and it's a serious problem."

Cocaine is most frequently used in a social setting. A fast-acting drug, it produces euphoria and mood elevation. Because it can alleviate fatigue and enhance sexual enjoyment, some view it as an aphrodisiac but researchers say that, used excessively, it may lead to sexual indifference.

A cocaine high lasts several hours, particularly the feeling of mood elevation. For basketball players leading a pressurized, transitory life on the run, jetting to and from a series of all out, one-night performances, the drug's ability to alleviate fatigue and elevate mood make it a favored way to unwind and party after a game.

Free base is said to produce a euphoria so intense that users may go on 5-day binges that can cause psychological addiction and can cost from $2,000 to $12,000.

Cocaine and free base are expensive drugs, ranging from $90 to $125 a gram for cocaine and more for free base. The average salary in the NBA is $180,000.

Utah Jazz forward Bernard King was arrested in January on charges of sodomy and possession of cocaine and teammate Terry Furlow, who died in a car accident in May, had traces of valium and cocaine in his blood.

One player, who left the league a year ago, said, "Coke is rampant in the league, man. I mean, 75 per cent use. It's like drinking water."

One player who asked not to be identified said of cocaine use: "It's really scary. Some of the best players in the league, players who don't even drink, are into free base, and they are spending some very big sums of money.

Seattle general manager Zollie Volchok said he held extensive discussions with coach Lenny Wilkens on drugs and they decided to insert a clause in every player contract saying that a drug conviction will make a contract null and void.

St. Paul's $20,000

The J. M. McDonald Foundation Inc., of Cortland, N.Y., and Scottsdale, Ariz., has pledged $20,000 toward the construction, remodeling and equipping of the Science Building at Saint Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Va.

The McDonald Foundation was incorporated in 1952 in Nebraska to carry out the charitable interests of the donor, the late James M. McDonald, founder of the McDonald Stores, a merchandizing chain in the Midwestern and West Coast states.

Saint Paul's College has undertaken a $1,200,000 campaign to enlarge its science teaching facility.

Unique water event Saturday on Potomac

The wettest, wildest, wackiest nautical extravaganza since the Boston Tea Party hits the waters of the Potomic River for a full day of sun, fun, surf and suds, tomorrow (Saturday) for the third annual WPGC Ramblin Raft Race.

Homemade riverboats, live musical entertainment and oceans of beer are the order-of-the-day for this event, which pits hundreds of self-styled flotation devices in numerous different competitive categories, ranging from style, construction and imagination to seaworthiness and speed of craft.

The event is co-sponsored by radio station WPGC, Anheuser Busch, Inc., and the American Rafting Association (ARA), an Atlanta-based operation which coordinates Ramblin' Raft Race events in 17 cities across the United States.

Holy Name night set

The 27th annual Holy Name Society night will be held Aug. 28, when the Orioles face the California Angels at Memorial Stadium.

Archbishop William Borders will throw out the first ball.

Anyone wishing to support the Catholic charity which provides educational grants to high school prospects, may purchase tickets at $3 each via check, money-order or in person at the Holy Name Society, 917 W. 33rd St., 21211.

HNS will also, if requested, distribute the purchased tickets among school kids and other

Weaver does in Yanks

New York owner George Steinbrenner may not be able to buy another manager the way he acquires players like Gaylord Perry, but he wouldn't be the least embarrassed to do the next nearest thing: fire the one he has.

The enraged Yankee boss hopped a jet to Seattle Tuesday night to lay it on the line to team manager Dick Howser and high-priced players Reggie Jackson, Bob Watson, Jim Spencer, Eric Soderholm, etc.

There is no question that Steinbrenner was irked by the way Earl Weaver and his Orioles had "done in" his Bronx millionaires over the previous two weekends.

Weaver, who was slapped with a 3-day suspension by American League president Lee MacPhail for a prolonged show of outrage against Saturday's umpires, spent the rest of the weekend outmaneuvering Yankee pilot Howser at every turn.

Howser, actually, looked amateurish in comparison, himself setting the stage for obvious Weaver moves.

Except for games hurled by the recently acquired Perry and big-money acquisition Tommy John, the Yanks couldn't win.

Weaver played percentages to the hilt and succeeded magnificently, and with Bird pitchers handcuffing Yankee hitters — notably Jackson — at crucial times, Howser was placed in the role of Charlie McCarthy on Bergen's string.

The O's had every right to insist that Earl take the curtain call at series end ... SAM LACY.

Earl Weaver, umpire Shulock suspension doesn't deter him

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Baltimore Gas and Electric Co.

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company will pay a total of $1,000 as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the five persons who assaulted its employee about 3:30 P.M. on Monday, August 18, 1980, in the 600 block of East Madison Street (between Greenmount and Harford Avenues), Baltimore City.

The Company will not disclose the name of any person or persons furnishing such information to it.

Anyone having such information should call 234-5197.

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