Basketball roundup

School Sports Scene

Will Dunbar retain 1st place title this year?

By Mark Gail
AFRO Staff Writer

"Keep going harder," the motto of the Lake Clifton championship football team, was picked up by the Lakers' basketball team along with the same winning spirit as the team beat the Poets of Dunbar, 67-59 last week-end.

The victory allowed Lake Clifton to take the honors at the Lakers-Poets tournament game.

AFRO school sports scene thinks giving local prep basketball fans a sneak preview of what they can expect in the Maryland Scholastic Association "A" Conference horse race, which starts officially Dec. 16.

The top three contenders, Dunbar, Lake Clifton and Walbrook, who have always carried the race to the wire, should have a little added company in the form of Douglass and Southern this year.

Here's a pre-season preview of the MSA "A" Conference:

DUNBAR (23-0—When it rains it pours on Poets coach Bob Wade, whose team lost to a city public school last week, the first time since 1975. The loss was also costly, guard Gary Graham (6'3") sprained his left ankle and star player Rodney Cofield (6'1") managed to chip a bone.

Despite the injuries, however, Coach Wade still smiles and says that "the monkey is off our back now as far as losing. We will just have to play one game at a time and win our division."

Dunbar will look to football standout Brian Maddox (6'2") in the forward slot, along with Hermann Braxton and transfer student David Wingate from Northern.

Wade believes that his strengths are in his team's quickness and in the winning tradition that has been set by the school, but he maintains that the team has been hurt by his players' lack of game experience together.

LAKE CLIFTON—"The win was good for our program. It was a good way to open the season and hopefully, we can end the season the same way," said Coach Woody Williams after upsetting his arch rival, Dunbar.

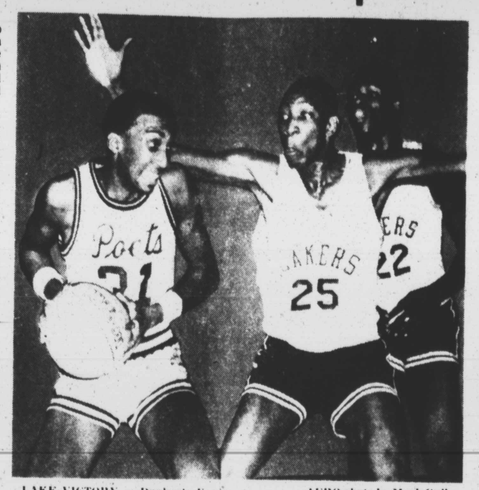
But the tournament also cost the Lakers one of their star players, center Eddie Johnson (6'8") sprained his ankle in first round action against Patterson.

The Lakers lost William Boatwright, a 6'5" forward, to graduation, but Williams has three players from his championship football team playing for him: Carl Fair, Eddie Payton and Randy Jones.

He also has Henry Montague, Vernon Allen, up from the junior varsity team, and Dave Barthlomew, who scored 37 points in play action last week-end.

"We have no time to get over-confident about our victories," Williams said.

"We have to win our division first and then face Dunbar again."



LAKE VICTORY — Dunbar's Kevin Woods tries to get pass two Lakers defenders as Dunbar lost 67 to 59 to the Lake Clifton in last weekend's tournament action.

AFRO photo by Mark Gail

WALBROOK—The Warriors gained "Blue Chip" player in the attainment of transfer student Frank Jones, but the team will have to wait until the beginning of the season on Dec. 16 to see him play because of a knee injury he sustained in a scrimmage against Woodlawn earlier in the season.

James, at 6'6", will be joined by Gary Jefferson, Brian Degrateriord, Anthony Jones and Charles Dorsey, among others who will be returning to varsity action after brief absences.

Walbrook will be playing its aggressive man-to-man defense, which has often led the Warriors to early foul trouble.

To test the tournament awards room to find out what we could do under pressure," said Walbrook coach Jerry Boyd, "and what I noticed is that we need to improve our side shooting."

DOUGLASS—The Ducks are off to a good start with their taking of third place in last week-end's tournament victory over Walbrook.

James Bruce, a 5'11" senior guard who scored 21 points against Walbrook was used in the battle, along with Jerome Beale, a sophomore, Perry Nelson, a transfer student from Southern, and Alston Smith. All of the players, according to Douglass coach John Nash, were able to capitalize on quickness and speed which Nash believes will get him through the season despite the lack of height and depth on the team as a whole.

"We are going to be more competitive this season and the tournament proved it," Nash said. "We hope the season will be just as good."

EDMONDSON—Redskins coach Pete Pompey hopes his team will fool a few non-believers, both on and off the court this season.

"Our quickness will hopefully make up for our lack of height," he said.

The Redskin attack will be led by Maurice Sherrod, a 6'1" center who scored 37 points last week-end. Verne Wilson, a small but deadly shooting guard, along with forward David Williams and Brian Ridley, will also be key men to watch.

SOUTHERN—The Bulldogs have what many coaches would like: plenty of tall players in the form of Collins Satterfield, a 6'8" forward, and Freeman Griffin, who stands at 6'7".

Coach Meredith Smith also has some good ball handling guards, who, he says, can also think, in Keith Harmon, Gilbert Brown, both up from junior varsity, and James Griffin, a senior returnee from last year's team.

Smith also can call on Edgar Johnson, 6'5", who scored 23 points against Douglass, Jerry Westbrook, and Donald Barkside, a small player with exceptional floor sense.

Coach Smith points out that his only weakness is that only two players have varsity experience.

"We are going to be in the thick of it," he siadsaid. "We just need the attitude to win."

CARVER-The Bears are hungry for a piece of the rock this year, says Coach Moore, even though they lost two of their leading scor- ers to graduation last year.

Carver will look to Kerney Moore, a 6'3" forward guard, Michael Tate, a 6'8" center, and Dennis Pope and Darryl Sally, known as "Salt and Pepper." Pope and Sally, both forwards, got the nickname from their aggressive play action, said Moore.

"We are going to depend on our defense, which has a different look, to help us with our rebounding," said the coach, adding that rebounding was the team's weakest area.

SOUTHWESTERN—Coach Warren Schwartz wants his players' experience to make up for their lack of height and depth.

Starting with Keith White (6'2"), center Austin Coates (6'5"), Tim Graves, Guy Bell and Darryl Barksdale, Coach Schwartz hopes to finish in the middle of his division.

NORTHWESTERN—Lack of experience will be the Wildcats only problem this year, said Coach Melvin Washington, with only two players having junior varsity experience under their belts.

Coach Washington hopes that Jerry Harris, William Campbell, Lorenzo Walker and Michael Walker, along with center Milton Fason, can develop better playing ability to butt the Wildcats in the ballpark.

FOREST PARK—"Going 500 or above would be good this year," said Forester coach Bill Hice, lookin back at last year's 5-9 record.

The Foresters hope that speed and quickness will more than make up for the weak spot of giving up too many turnovers.

Coach Hice will look to Michael Pittman, 6'2" forward, Greg Gill, a 6'2" player up from the junior varisty to help out, and Kevin "Max" Howard, to do the job.

NORTHERN—Vikings coach Manny Werner is another coach that is looking forward to reaching the 500 mark this year.

Lacking height, experience and rebounding talent, Coach Werner sees bright spots in this team's speed and quickness.

Freshman Derrick Lewis, 6'2", will take the floor, along with James Wise, Darryl Knox and David Boyd.

The Vikings are looking forward to winning some games, but are counting on the junior varsity for next year's squad.

POLY—The Engineers lost one of the best basketball players in the schools history, 6'4" center Chet Brightful, but coach Bucky Kimmet is looking forward to being in the playoffs this year.

Poly's lack of height is made up by speed and excellent scoring ability in the form of Bob Garrison, 6'3", who put 30 points on the board in a recent game against Curley. Helping Garrison will be returnees Ralph Lee and Bob James and Al Wells, along with Bryan Koger, who joins the team from junior varsity.

CITY COLLEGE—"We are going to have to take our lumps for a while," said Coach Gene Parker.

The Black Knights lack size as well as speed as they return to the first year varsity play since 1979. City will have to rely on defense to finish the season with a couple of wins.

Parker's center will be Kevin Curtis, a 6'3" sophomore, and the ball handling of Clyde Byrd, 5'7". In addition, Eric Jones, Danon Vidson and Michael Coleman will round out coach Parker's small team.

MERVO—"Attitude makes the difference" according to first-year coach Ron Malone, who hopes to improve last year's 9-8 record.

To do this, Malone plans to use his leading scorer, 6'2" forward Charles Massenbury as much as possible, as well as guard Keith Brooks, forward Carroll Mitchell and center Renny Morgan.

Mervo's primary weak spot, according to Malone, is lack of experience. He also said the team could use more depth. But he feels the problems will be balanced by his players' quickness and togetherness, which has always been a big part of the team's philosophy.

PATTERSON—Clippers coach Tyrone Seymore hopes that his team can make a strong showing in his division even if his team is made up mainly of sophomores and juniors.

With the likes of James Ball, a 6'5" center, Tim Thomas, a forward standing at 6'5", Robert Frazier 5'10" and Edwin Boyd, Coach Seymore also has the leaping ability of forward Mark Welch and guard 6'1" Allen Carr.

TOP UNSUNG HERO — Arnold B. Smith of Carver won top honors at the 1st annual McCormick Unsung Hero's Banquet. Arnold is shown here with asst. coach David M. White, athletic director Joanne McKenna and varsity coach Emanuel B. Butler.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

Gino's to hold game at UMBC

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County, will host the Gino's Classic, scheduled for Dec. 28, 29, 30 and 31 at the UMBC fieldhouse.

Area high schools, including Edmondson, Western and Carver, will participate in the match, which is held annually.

According to Ted Van Hessen, sports information director for Gino's, the match is held to "bring the best players together". Hessen calls the game "one of the most innovative in the country."

Competing in the games will be not only high schools, but teams representing area colleges as well. There will be both male and female competition.

Colleges which will be included are Western Maryland, Notre Dame and UMBC.

For more information on the games and times, call the sports information office at UMBC, 455-2197.

Sports Schedule

Friday, December 12
Basketball - Boys
Douglass at Southern
Gibbons at Northern
Southwestern at Forest Park
Dunbar (D.C.) at Dunbar
Basketball - Girls
Forest Park at Eastern
City at Mervo
Dunbar at Walbrook
Wrestling
Lake Clifton at Edmondson
Poly at Poly
Southwestern at Southwestern
Eastern at Douglass
Southern at Carver
City at Boys Latin
Swimming
Lake Clifton at Edmondson
Southern at Forest Park
Southern at Mervo
Southwestern at Walbrook
Douglass at Southwestern
Patterson at Dunbar
Severn at City College
Saturday - December 13
Basketball - Boys
Edmondson at Gibbons 7 p.m.
Monday - December 15
Basketball - Boys
Carroll Park at Samuel Gompers
Howard at Poly
Joseph Briscoe at Fairmount Hill
Basketball - Girls
Forest Park at Patterson
Wrestling
Patterson at Forest Park
Tuesday - December 16
Basketball - Boys
Lake Clifton at Southern
Poly at Edmondson
Dunbar at Northwestern
Forest Park at Northern
City at Walbrook
Mervo at Southwestern
Douglass at Carver
Basketball - Girls
Edmondson at Eastern
Southern at Western
Lake Clifton at Mervo
Carver at City
Wrestling
Walbrook at Lutheran
St. Paul at Dunbar
Swimming
Dunbar at Northwestern
Douglass at Northern
Lake Clifton at Forest Park
Southern at Mervo
Patterson at Southwestern
Carver at Severn
Walbrook at City College
Wednesday - December 14th
Basketball - Girls
Northwestern at Northern
Walbrook at Southwestern
Douglass at Dunbar
Gymnastics - Girls
Poly at Lake Clifton

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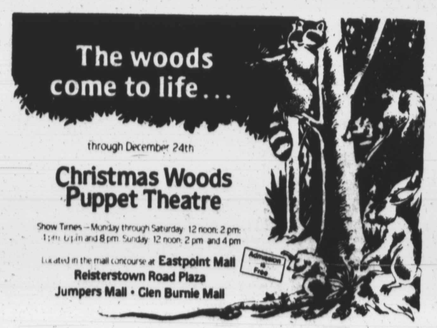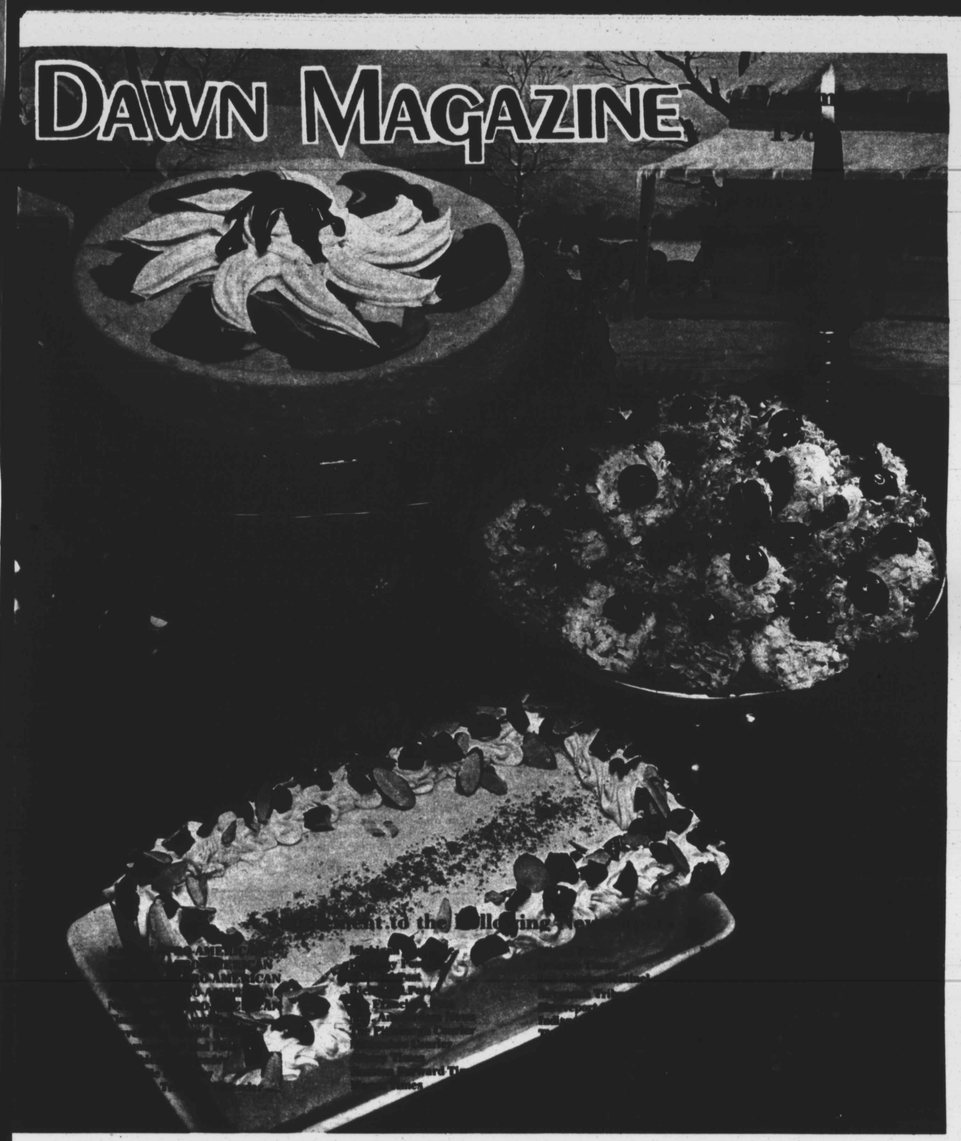
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