School Sports Scene

Basketball

Dunbar, Walbrook victors in public school games...

TENSION MOUNTED ON THE BENCH in the last moments of last week - end's tournament match between Walbrook and Western High, with Walbrook taking the final honors 47 - 45. Walbrook head coach Pete Connally sits grimly by while assistant coach yells out move to players.

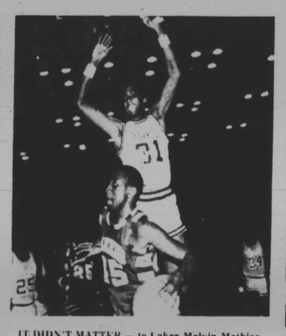
AFRO photos by Mark Gail

GOING FOR THE SHOT — Western's Sauncirae Alexander competes against Walbrook player for the ball. Alexander was named to the tournament first team.

LOOKING FOR A MIRACLE — Western players coax their fellow teammates in the final two minutes of last week's game. Head Coach Joe Rosendale looks on.

...while Lake Clifton, Western bow to defeat

A SOBER - FACED WOODY WILLIAMS, the Laker head coach, looks for some sign of hope as the Dunbar team crumples Laker offense. Assistant coach Mark Woods (L) seems to share sentiments.

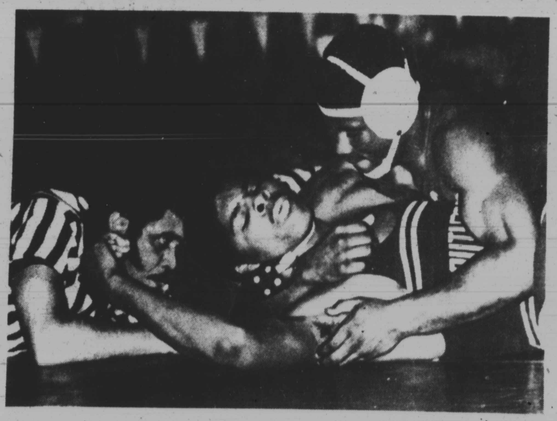


IT DIDN'T MATTER — to Laker Melvin Mathias that Dunbar guard Kevin Wood presented a formidable defense. Mathias missed his shot despite his moves, as Lakers lost the game, 74 - 70.

THE AGONY OF DEFEAT — Lake Clifton star center looks on grimly, while Melvin Mathias bows his head as it became obvious that there would be no way for the Laker team to pull a victory from Dunbar.

Wrestling

Poly pins team title in city's first wrestling tournament



CITY'S BEST — William Curtis of Lake Clifton prepares to pin Thomas Wilson of Southern in the 185 weight class, displaying some of the city's best wrestling talent in the championship bouts held at Mervo last week.

(AFRO PHOTOS by Mark Gail)

All-Metro linebacker signs with Villanova

Kevin Chapman, All Metro, 1st team linebacker from the Mount Saint Joe Gaels has signed a scholarship with Villanova University. The 6', 198 lbs. linebacker - fullback led the Gaels to a 7-4 record this past season.

Villanova coach Spencer Prescott feels Chapman has a great chance to play as a freshman and is no doubt one of the best players in the entire state of Maryland. He is a hitter with a nose for the football and the desire to make things happen. If he does not play linebacker we might move him to strong safety or put him on the offense in our wishbone attack.

Chapman led the Gaels in rushing this past season with 150 carries totaling over 800 yards. He also led the team in tackles even though he was hurt and did not play in four games. He was selected 1st team linebacker All-Metro by the AFRO - AMERICAN. Ex-head coach Hal Sparks commented, "Kevin is a winner and I am glad to see him have the opportunity to play major college football. He has had the opportunity to obtain a quality education and this will help him at Villanva. He deserves the chance to play big time football.

Kevin Chapman

Mt. St. Joe star to attend James Madison

Vernon Williams has announced his signing with James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va. Vernon lives in Baltimore City and is a resident of Grantly Street. The 6' 1", 205 running back is the fifth Gael to sign a full scholarship this year.

He is a B average student and is Vice-President of the senior class at the Mount. He is very active in the student government program and tutor program. He is also a member of the Gael track team and runs a 9.8 hundred in the sprints.

He has been heavily recruited by Boston College, Villanova University, Duke, Richmond, William & Mary and Brown. Coach Jimmy Prince thinks, "Williams is our number one running back prospect in Maryland. He has the size and speed to play here immediately. We feel that he has well coached and will be an asset to our program."

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AFRO Black History Supplement

Baltimore Afro-American
WE ARE NOW IN OUR 89TH YEAR
FEBRUARY 21, 1980

Afro-American History Month

The theme: Role Model for Youth

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

National Afro-American (Black) History Month

February 1981

All Americans can be proud of the accomplishments and goals of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. Knowledge of our past is one of our most treasured possessions, for only with an accurate picture of where we have been can we see where we must go.

The observance of Afro-American (Black) History Month serves to focus national attention on an endeavor of awareness that should follow us throughout the year. Understanding the history of black Americans is a key to understanding the strength of our nation. Their struggles, achievements and perseverance help us understand the moral fiber of America and our commitment to freedom, equality and justice.

This month's theme of "Black History: Role Model for Youth" goes to the very heart of our best hope for the future of our nation. We will hand to the youth of this nation the responsibility of preserving our heritage for future generations. The minds being shaped today in classrooms around the country must be fully enriched. The achievements and courage of individuals provide an inspiring example of the essence of the American spirit.

I urge all Americans, particularly those in our schools and civic groups, to study our history and incorporate in their activities projects to help us all understand those individuals who played so great a part in our development. We must ensure that the gains of the past are not lost in the future, and in so doing we can look to tomorrow with confidence.

Ronald Reagan

(Photo by Milton Williams)
FLOWERS FOR DR. WOODSON — Mrs. Willie B. Miles, associate for program and development of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, places flowers at the gravesite of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder and director of the Association For Study of Negro Life and History, at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery. Mrs. Miles, who worked closely with Dr. Woodson in life, has been placing flowers at his gravesite for 31 years. Dr. Woodson is the father of Black History Week, not Afro-American History Month.

Woodson had pride in Black Achievements

Mourners sparsely filled the lower level of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Northwest Washington at the funeral of Dr. Carter G. Woodson more than 30 years ago.

Although the annual Negro History week was widely observed in public schools and the Journal of Negro History was read by black students throughout the country, many people simply did not know of Woodson.

A loner in his efforts, the solitude surrounding his death was also present in his life. Working in a time not attuned to his philosophy, Woodson saw a need for black people to develop a sense of pride through a knowledge of black contributions to history.

On Sept. 9, 1915, he organized the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). In 1916 he published the first volumes of the Journal of Negro History, a scholarly periodical which served as a reference for students of black history.

He established Negro History Week in 1926 and initiated the Negro History Bulletin in 1937.

In 1922 Woodson purchased a row house at 1538 Ninth St., N.W. He lived on the third floor and turned over the two lower floors to the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

In the unpainted building with its bare floors Woodson and his small staff made outstanding contributions to historiography. His writings, including numerous articles and 17 books clearly establish him as the personification of the 1915-1950 Negro History Movement in the United States.

However, it was generally believed that he would not succeed. He was ridiculed by many of his acquaintances when he first began his work.

DR. CARTER GODWIN WOODSON
1875-1950

"He was supposed to be peculiar," Willie B. Miles, an associate for program development at ASNLH, said. "But, I don't know. People call me peculiar."

"He was very interested in young people. He was never too busy to stop his work and lecture a visiting class. He would always tell a true story about some phase of black history," Ms. Miles, who has been with the association for 38 years, added.

Black children, in particular, Woodson believed, needed to develop a pride of race and a sense of potentialities through black history.

In an article appearing in a 1950 issue of the "Negro History Bulletin," Langston Hughes wrote, "In the mid-1920's when I worked for Dr. Woodson, he set an example in industry . . . since he himself worked very hard. He did everything from editing the "Journal of Negro History" to banking the furnace, writing books and wrapping books."

"One never got the idea that the boss would ask you to do anything that he would not do himself. His own working day extended from early morning to late at night. Those working with him seldom wished to keep the same pace. But he always saw that we had enough to do ahead to keep our own working hours entirely occupied," Hughes indicated.

It was found after Woodson's death that ASNLH owed him a considerable amount in salary which he never bothered to collect When he died he left his personal possessions and his files to the association.

Woodson never married and often referred to his work as his bride.

"On one occasion," Miles recalled. "I had the audacity to ask the great Dr. Woodson why he never married. He told me he fell in love with a young lady and she eloped with another man. He said he thought he would go crazy. Three years later he heard from the young lady and, he said, she was crazy,. He ended by saying he was married to the association."

Dr. W. Montague Cobb, a close acquaintance who knew Woodson well, wrote in the Journal of the National Medical Association: "Woodson had no aversion to the ladies, but never married. He said he could not afford a wife. He even cautioned me against over-doing it in my earlier years."

"You have a wife and children, Dr. Cobb, and you can't live like I live. I am a coal miner and I can take almost anything," Cobb recalled Woodson warning him.

Born Dec. 19, 1875, in Buckingham County New Canton, Virginia, Woodson was the oldest of nine children of former slaves, James Henry and Anne Eliza Woodson.

The family farm was in one of the poorest counties of the state and the children had to work hard to help make a living. Woodson was unable to attend the local school during much of his early years, however, through self-instruction he mastered the fundamentals of the basic subjects.

He and his brother, Robert Henry, moved to Huntington, W. Va., where they attended Douglass High School. Woodson was able to devote only a few months a year to his education while working on the railroad and in the coal mines of Fayette County, W. Va.

In 1897, he graduated from Douglass High School at the age of 22. Two years later he received a certificate from Berea College in Kentucky and began teaching at Winona in Fayette. He became the principal of Douglass High School in 1900.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Berea in 1903 and accepted a position as supervisor of schools in the Philippines for four years. While in the Philippines, he learned to speak Spanish fluently.

He received a master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1908 and traveled for a year in Asia, Egypt and Europe. He also attended the Sorbonne in Paris where he took graduate studies in history and mastered the French language.

Woodson received his doctorate in history from Harvard University in 1912 and later taught in the D.C. public schools. He served as principal of Armstrong High School in 1918.

He accepted the dual positions of dean of the School of Liberal Arts and head of the Graduate Faculty at Howard University in 1919, but remained only one year.

Woodson had gone to Howard with the zeal for the promotion of the study of black history. He pushed hard for his goals and, consequently, clashed with the school's president, J. Stanley Durkee.

He was notified that the continuation of his employment depended upon "whether or not he was willing to make amends required by President Durkee and to apologize in writing to the president of the university."

Woodson refused. His employment at Howard was terminated. He accepted a post as dean at West Virginia State College. While in West Virginia, he organized the Associated Publishers, but realized that school administration was not for him.

He returned to Washington and headed the ASNLH until his death. Willie B. Miles was his secretary when he died Apr. 3, 1950.

"When Dr. Charles Drew died in an accident, Saturday, the first day of April, a man came from Baltimore the moment he heard of the accident. He asked if Dr. Woodson was up and went upstairs and told him the news," Miles said.

Drew, the subject of Woodson's last article, introduced the use of blood plasma during World War II and established the American Red Cross Blood Bank.

Woodson, she remembered, "had a very bad heart. He had worked hard and was physically worn out. He passed two days later."

Known today as the Father of Black History, Woodson devoted his life to the study and dissemination of black history. Three decades after his death, exponents of black awareness have adopted his ideology. Black studies programs in most of the nation's major universities are centered around his work.

Woodson saw ignorance as the basis or racism. He stimulated research in black history with the hope of offsetting unfavorable propaganda about blacks.

WILLIE B. MILES

History Week established in 1926; later extended to a month of celebration