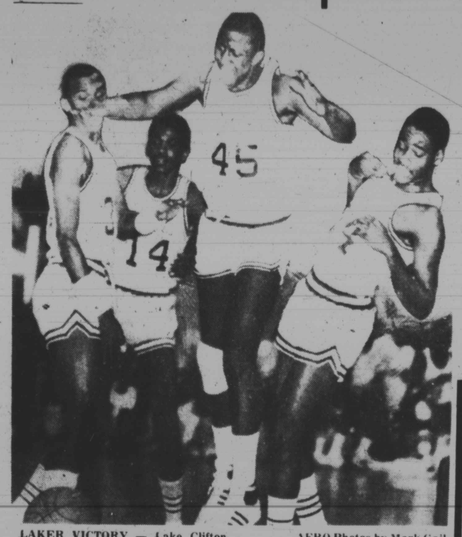
School Sports Scene

MSA Finals

Lakers upset Poets in Overtime



In the photo above, a hopeful Poet bench tries to discourage a Laker on the foul line from shooting the two points which won the game for the Lakers. Carl Fair sunk both baskets.

LAKER VICTORY — Lake Clifton pulled the MSA "A" conference title from the fingers of Dunbar, who were gunning for a fifth straight championship crown. The Lakers stunned the Poets 62-61 in double overtime. In the photo at left, Laker Melvin Mathis goes after a rebound as Poets Kevin Woods and David Wingate let Mathis through. Mathis, a sophomore, was high point man for the Lakers with 14 points.

AFRO Photos by Mark Gail

HAPPY WARRIORS — Walbrook seniors Denise Brockington and Gail Sheppardson, along with coach Pete Connally and the Northwest Region Superintendent Kathleen A. Luchs all pose for a victory picture.

TWO FOR ROSE — Walbrooks Rose Willis goes up for two points as Western's Lisa Bradford tries to make a move on defense. The Lady Warriors beat Western 55-49 for the girl's public high school championship last week.

AFRO Photos by Mark Gail

CHAMPIONS — The Fairmount Hill basketball team had a 12-0 season this year in the Vo-Tech Special Education League. (L to R) — Coach York Eggleston, Charles Cochrane, Paul Williams, Albert Pittman, Jimmy Thompson, Tommy Randall, Malcolm McMillan, asst. coach Daniel Lyon, Duane Richardson, Julian Kimbrough, David Ferguson, Gervin Williams, Kevin Harris, Aaron Thompson and Sherwood Dorsey.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

Junior High roundball league beats odds for five years

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

The idea of a junior high school basketball league just sort of evolved, according to Maurice Malone, as he stood one day and watched a group of junior high boys play the sport in the school playground until long after dark.

"It bothered me," Malone, who is now the basketball coach at Mervo High School, explained. "They had the skill and the talent, and no outlet. It just seemed that something was very wrong with the situation."

He thought about it until he knew he had to do something. He began organizing the young boys, first at his school, which at the time was Hamilton Junior High, and then at others. The idea, not surprising to him, caught on well.

The teams from the 16 schools that participated that first year began to play regular games. Malone says that they played despite the fact that the league had not been sanctioned by the public school athletic department or by the board of education.

"We had to do it that way," he said. "If we had approached the authorities and asked permission to form a junior high league, we would have been turned down flat.

"As it is, when I went to Fred Appleby after our successful first year with the idea, he was convinced it wouldn't work. He didn't know that we had already proved that it would and could work. So I asked him if the league could be. He said no...that it wouldn't work. I threw the folder that held all the organizational notes, including the win-loss records of the first season across his desk. He looked at it for a moment, and threw me out of his office."

That was five years ago. Today, despite opposition and grumbling from within the ranks of the hierarchy, the junior high school league is alive, well and thriving, and promising to start a trend that could spread throughout the entire country.

Malone, an energetic, innovative man, said that membership in the league has wavered some since that first year, due largely to the fact that the program is a volunteer project, which means that all personnel involved, from coaches to managers, donate their time to the young men for no pay.

Each school which has a team in the league, Malone says, donates $500 a year for operating expenses. Plus an extra $200 for miscellaneous expenses. The money helps buy, among other things, uniforms for the players to make it all seem more official.

The kids follow the same MSA rules as do the high schools, Malone says, but he has made some additional rules for the teammembers to adhere to as well.

"The whole idea of this league," he said, "is to see kids develop the right idea about sports and academics." He emphasizes the word "and."

"It bothers me that so many kids on the high school level play good sports but have lousy study habits. Worse, they don't care about their grades.

"It's different in this league. If a kid fails any two of six classes during any academic semester, he is bumped from the team. That's it. No exceptions."

"My idea," Malone says quietly, "is to see the kids bounce the books as well as the basketball."

The teams involved this year included Herring Run, Booker T., Lombard, and Roland Park. According to Malone, Lombard had an outstanding season this year, winning the championship title in the playoffs for the first time.

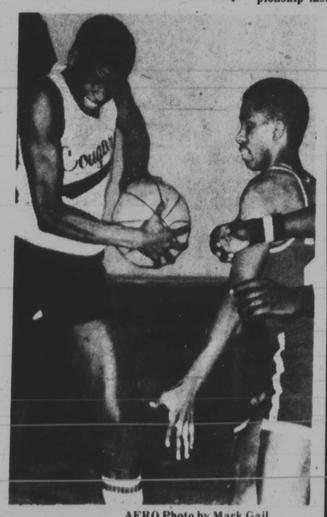
The team had a 96-point game average, relying heavily upon the moves of Rafael Williams, Eric Townes, Clifton Townes, James Rhinehart and William Worrell. Whatever the combination of moves they were taught by Coach L. P. Courts, a gym teacher at Lombard, they worked, including an extremely formidable one-on-one defense.

But Malone shrugs at the success of the league and of the winning team and says the victories are just part of a larger whole....to get kids as involved in their books as they are in sports.

It is, he says, the only way it can be.

Western Beaten Again

Walbrook performs as expected for title



AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

MINE! — A Calverton Cougar comes down with a rebound but it wasn't much help as Lombard beat Calverton 82-80 for the junior high school championship.

Final MSA Standings

M.S.A.
A Conference
DIVISION I

(League Games Only)

	W	L
Dunbar	12	0
Douglass	9	3
Carver	7	5
Forest Park	7	5
Northern	5	7
Patterson	1	11
Northwestern	1	11

DIVISION II

	W	L
Lake Clifton	13	1
Walbrook	12	2
Edmondson	9	5
Poly	9	5
Southern	6	7
Mervo	4	10
Southwestern	3	11
City	0	13

B Conference
DIVISION I

	W	L
Boy's Latin	12	2
St. Paul's	9	5
Lutheran	8	6
Spalding	6	8
Park	4	10

DIVISION II

	W	L
Mc Donogh	14	1
Gilman	13	2
John Carroll	8	7
Friends	5	10
Severn	2	13
Mt. Carmel	0	15

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