School Sports Scene

Promised Rash Field once

Homeless Southern trackmen aim sights high

By Mark Gail AFRO.Staff Writer It is a well known fact

in the sports world that the "home court advantage" plays an im- from on foot. tion in the winning of

support a team ex- purposes, because the Doug Tawney, that Rash periences in its home court or field has been 200 yards. In addition, exclusively by the school shown to give players a says Smith, the curves at for their practices and psychological boost that Latrobe are too short, games. has made the difference between victory and defeat at times when it has counted most.

But Southern High School, located near the city's revitalized Inner Harbor, has had to function without that advantage since the spring of 1978, despite early promises by the city to provide Rash Field for games and practices.

In a letter from the Board of Recreation and Parks dated August 25, 1976, the city apparently agreed to give Southern first priority of Rash Field. The agreement was made at a time when there were no summer festivals that have gained popularity in

But in a second letter dated December 27, 1977, the Board reversed its earlier decision, stating it "would be possible...not in the best interest of the city...for Southern to have the

The condition has persisted to this day, and track coach Morris Smith says the prospects for things changing is not

"It's very hard to have a total track and field program with so many problems, but we have lots to talent," said

The Bulldog trackmen proved their talent with a 6-1 record last season in the MSA "B" conference Division II and with the young season underway, the team is 2-0 thus far.

But the closest park that the team can use for

practice is Latrobe Park, with a deficit like that is on Fort Ave., which is a not easy to take." 2½ mile round trip from In the spring of 1973, Southern, and which the Southern received team must travel to and

pertant and vital func- Once there, the track at that time, Theodore R. can only be used primarily for training from the director of The uplift of fan and not for timing recreation and parks, cinder track is only Field would be used forcing the runners to But as the Inner break their speed to take Harbor developed and competitors, continue to them, after having built more activities became try to overcome the up some speed on the regular features of the straight away.

> "We can use the track and promises of city lost the current situation. part of Rash Field (500 some of its fervor until, Other teams at the yards), but we try not to in 1975, Southern High school, outside of the because of the hard School found itself with a track team, must be track," said Smith. Hard new building and no field bussed to and from track surfaces cause or prospect of a field, in Swann and Carroll Parks painful shinsplints in the works. runners and are avoided "It got to the point that sessions, costing city when at all possible. we used Rash Field off

To make up for the situation, Smith's team practices on the school's parking lot, setting up hurdles after school hours, while the high jumpers set up on the basketball courts.

The disc and shot shotput are practiced at a nearby elementary baseball school's diamond, but often have to give up even that slot when the school has its own baseball game scheduled.

There is no way, says Smith, that the team can vault event. Because there is no way for the trackmen to practice the event, they cannot compete and enter each track meet with an automatic nine-point deficit.

It isn't easy. "I use our disadvantages as an advantage to get the team motivated into putting our extra effort we need. being always the visiting team," said Smith, "but

going into a track meet

written promises from the mayor of Baltimore McKeldin, Jr., and also

area, the commitment

"What we really need and on for a while but at to use is the infield but the discretion of the we can't without special city," said Stanley permission from the Fieldman, Southern's are aware of the Department of athletic director since problems and they work 1967, "and we would be told, sometimes the day before a game, that we couldn't use the field."

> The team would have maké arrangements. It was that cut and dry.

The entire situation, smiled Fieldman, was particularly ironic to him, since he and other members of the school's athletic staff had been called in to give input to architects who were designing the field, since. it was to be for their use.

"It's really a shame," Fieldman said. "We are the only multi-million state that doesn't have some sort of field to call its own."

There was hope that when the present school was built, the old school, located at Warren and Battery Aves., would be razed and used for a field. But that idea quickly lost its buoyancy when it was decided to use the land for condominiums.

And, say school ofthe drawing board for top-again."

another practice field on the site of the present school parking lot, says Doug Tawney. That arragement would move the parking lot a block away. But even that plan is years down the road, and school officials wonder if the city will keep its commitment to that plan in light of the fact that they backed out on the Rash Field plan.

In the meantime, the school teams, and their inconveniences and difficulties presented by for their practice taxpayers \$55 a day.

Coach Smith refuses to let the situation pull him or his team down. They feelings about it, but they refused to be defeated. Some of those players

putting out extra effort are senior Thomas Wilson, a hurdler who finished fourth in the MSA finals last spring who "does everything but drive the bus," according to his

Henry Gaither, in the LOOV 400 and 800 meter relays, as well as the triple jump performance; Kelvin Johnson, who recently jumped 21'10", just a few feet short of the city

to beat us last year." . | meet behind Western,

"Practice field or not," | who handed them their he said, pausing, "we only loss. ficials, there are plans on intend to come out on



PARKING LOT PRACTICE - Bulldog hurdler Thomas Wilson does his thing in the school's

(AFRO photo by Mark Gail) parking lot for lack of a better place to practice.

plays a big part in team ready to run

By Mark Gail AFRO Staff Writer

A track meet is like a record; distance runner | chess game according to Hamen and Saundra Billy Neal, along with Northwestern's Art Herman Hayes, Carlin Milburn. It is a case of the load of the returning Burden and James | matching your talent Dyson, will help the against your opponent's team, overall, surmount with the team that does the odds against them. | the best job of winning. "This season will be as The lady Wildcats did a good or better than last | pretty good job of doing year's," said Coach Just that last year, going "I believe that it will Smith. "We just have to 9-1 and finishing second come down to Lake watch out for Douglass. In the girls city-wide They were the only ones | track championship

> Coach Milburn has nine returnees back from that squad, including junior Dinah Jones, who set the 400 and 800 meter records last year as a at the hands of Douglass,

sophomore. Also returning are Lu Wane Bigelow, a consistent pointgetter for the Wildcats, Pat Jones, senior who placed third in the city in the hurdles. and sprinter Pat Fisher. who plays an important role on the 400 and 800 meter relay teams.

Schoolboy

and Garver.

additional help from rookies Ursula Randall, Renee Newman, Juna Hyman, to help lighten

"We have a young team, but we will be in the thick of the fight for the championship," said the Northwestern coach.

Clifton, Mervo, Dunbar, last year's "B" conference champ, who moved up to the "A" conference, and Western, who are in a class by itself.

So far this season, the lady Wildcats are 2-1, with the lone loss coming which Coach Milburn, in his first year of coaching girls track at Northwestern, blames on not knowing his personnel.

But they are back on the winning track with victories over Northern



AFRO Photo by Mark Gail AND THE WINNER - Northwestern Dinah Jones finishes first in the 800 meter race in 2:48:3 as the Lady Wildcats beat Carver 158 to 122.

STILL CAN SMILE - The homeless Southern trackmen stand on Federal Hill, which they use for training. Overlooking Rash Fjeld (L to R) Jimmy

AFRO Photos by Mark Gail Dyson, Coach Morris Smith, Billy Neill, Norman Smith, Carlin Burden and Henry Gaither.

Sports Schedule

Friday, April 17 Track - Boys Dunbar at Curley Gilman at Carver

Tuesday, April 21 Baseball Edmondson at Lake Clifton Southern vs. Northwesternat Carroll Park Northern vs. Forest Park at N. Harford Rec.

Run Park Mervo vs. Mt. Carmel at Herring Run Park Dunbar vs. Carver at Chifton Park

Eastern vs. Boys Latin at Herring

City at Lutheran Track - Boys Carver at Lake Clifton Southern at McDonogh Gilman at Northern

Southwestern at Douglass

Gibbons at Dunbar Eastern vs. Forest Park at Kirk

Lacrosse Forest Park at Northwestern Edmondson at Walbrook Gibbons at Southwestern Tennis

Forest Park at Lake Clifton Southern vs. Northern at Carroll Northwestern at Patterson

Edmondson at Mervo Lutheran at Walbrook Eastern at City Dunbar vs. Carver at Clifton Park

Softball Western at Lake Clifton Southwestern at Northwestern Forest Park at Northern Southern vs. Eastern at Swann

Edmondson at Poly Patterson at Dunbar Mervo at Carver Walbrook at City

Badminton Carver at Southern Eastern at Northern Douglass at Dunbar City vs. Mervo at Northern Walbrook vs. Northwestern Edmondson Patterson at Edmondson .

Wednesday, April 22 Baseball Poly at Loyola Patterson at McDonogh Lacrosse Patterson at Poly Northern at Lake Clifton

Tennis Loyola at Poly

The championship and consolation games start at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday) in the 11th

tourney started

Annual Baltimore Holiday Basketball Tournament at the Morgan State University Field House which began Thursday.

eight teams featured included three from the Baltimore area. the parochial, metro, and city all-stars.

The other five teams are from Annapolis, New York City, Wilmington, Delaware and two from the Washington. D.C.

·area: The Poets Athletic Club, major sponsor for the tournament, is getting a helping hand from the Shriners Jerusalem Temple No. 4.

Tickets for tomorrow's game may be purchased at the door for \$2.

NEW MOTEL

Rooms for 2 people. \$12.00 and \$13.00 per day plus tax. Air conditioned, T.V.

> 4601 E. Monument St. EA. 7-5900





When you order 52 issues of the Baltimore Afro-American at our regular subscription rate of \$20.00 for 6 months.

L	Yes, I	would	like	52	issues	of	the	Baltimore	Afro-American
	and my	choic	e:						

COUPON SAVER & CUTTER CHEESEBOARD & CUTTER

Ple ase enclos	e your	check,	money	order,	Master	Card or	VISA	
NAME _					-			
ADDRESS	100		* *					

TELEPHONE Card No. THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN

P.O. BOX 1857 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203