Derby toss-up

LOUISVILLE — A 20-horse field that includes several entries which suggest an even-matched race, was drawn Thursday with Proud Appeal as favorite.

The AFRO clings to its choice of Wood Memorial winner Pleasant Colony, with Arkansas Derby champion Bold Ego a distinct threat.

Also considered possibilities in what looms as a wide open, toss-up race are Beau Rit, Cure the Blues and Tap Shoes.

Admittedly, this desk is no expert on the subject of thoroughbred bloodlines, but those people who are declare that the underside (dam) exerts the greatest influence on a young horse's performance. In that case, Tap Shoes could prove one of the strong contenders.

He was sired by Riva Ridge, winner of the Derby and Belmont Stake in 1972. And on the dam's (mother's) side, he is out of Bold Ballet, a daughter of Bold Bidder. The latter was the sire of Spectacular Bid, the 1979 Derby and Preakness champion.

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Showdown match set Sept. 16th

DETROIT (UPI) — The long-awaited welterweight showdown between World Boxing Association champion Thomas Hearns and World Boxing Council champion Sugar Ray Leonard will be fought Sept. 16, it was reported Sunday.

The Detroit Free Press, quoting New York promoter Shelly Finkel and co-promoter Bob Arum, said the date will be officially announced in late May or early June.

Finkel said he has already been selling closed circuit television rights for that date, and said the fight will likely be held either in Houston or Las Vegas.

"It's signed and all set," Arum said. "But we probably won't announce it for another six weeks. We can bleed a lot of publicity for it during that time."

Wills banned

NEW YORK (UPI) — Seattle Marines manager Maury Wills was suspended for two games and fined an unspecified amount by American League president Lee MacPhail Tuesday for allegedly tampering with the batter's box in a game against the Oakland A's last weekend.

Kunkel promptly measured the box and found it to be seven feet long instead of the standard six feet.

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DID IT ANYWAY — Despite being targeted by opposing pitchers — as in this brushback by Chicago's Steve Trout — Ken Singleton set a consecutive hit record of 10 for the Orioles this week. Stopped finally by Richard Dotson of White Sox Tuesday, the Bird slugger nevertheless maintained a .511 batting mark and was named American League player of the week.

Birds perched

The Orioles, showing signs of life, continue their home stand over the weekend.

The Birds are perched in Memorial Satdium against the Blue Jays of Toronto tonight (Friday), Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, they entertain the Minnesota Twins, after which the O's take off for Texas to begin a 9-game road schedule.

Concern has been expressed over the poor start of 1980 Cy Young Award winner Steve Stone, who on Tuesday dropped his second game in three starts.

But, Birdwatchers may recall that Steve lost three of his first five starts last year before settling down to his brilliant performance.

These same followers are hoping the slow urge in batting will continue. During the week, the O's team average at the plate climbed from .212 to .246 . . . LACY.

Bits o' briefs

Caring for kids

Pro football Hall of Famers Johnny Unitas, Joe Schmidt and Norm Van Brocklin will join other gridiron greats such as Sam Huff, Bobby Boyd, Jimmy Orr, Tom Brookshier and Lenny Moore at the Pine Ridge Golf Course on May 18, in a golf outing to benefit the mentally handicapped youngsters in the Maryland Special Olympics.

They'll be among some 36 stars of the past and present who will serve as celebrity - team captains in the NFL Alumni Charity Golf Classic hosted by the Baltimore Colts Chapter.

The 18 - hole, best - ball, team scramble — open to all amateurs regardless of handicap — is the chief fund raiser of the NFL Alumni Inc., a exempt, charitable and educational organization of primarily former pro football players who have adopted the motto: "Caring For Kids."

Preparation!

The night before golfer Lee Trevino won the $300,000 Tournament of Champions at Rancho La Costa, Calif., he used a method quite unique in preparing for play.

Trevino drank 10 bottles of beer. Then, ("maybe I wasn't thinking real clearly") he ate two pieces of cold pizza. And just before making his way to his hotel room for the night, he drank a melted banana split that had been lying around for six hours.

"Damn, was I ready for some golf," Trevino said with a hearty laugh.

"Kanga— who?

After an absence from the American market for eight years, MacGregor has reintroduced ball gloves, made from Kangaroo hide.

The new kangaroo gloves were recently distributed at spring training camps to the 100 or so major league players of the MacGregor advisory staff. They will be used by such star players as Joe Morgan (Giants), Tony Perez (Red Sox), Ron Cey (Dodgers), Vida b-Blue (Giants), Bill-Buckner (Cubs), Garry Maddox (Phillies), Larry Hisle (Brewers), J. R. Richard (Atros), Ray Knight (Reds), Roy Smalley (Twins), Willie Randolph (Yankees) and Willie Wilson (Royals).

The new gloves are most distinctive in that they are all in a rich black color. When you see a player using a black glove, it most likely will be a Kangaroo.

Black leagues re-lived

An ample supply of nostalgia permeated the halls of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington (DC) last weekend as the days of black baseball were re-lived by several players and sports-writers of the era.

The gathering was for the purpose of launching a display of "Black Baseball: Life in the Negro Leagues."

The exhibit contains bats, gloves and other memorabilia, including the copy of a contract calling for $275 a month.

Heading the attending group were Monte Irvin, Buck Leonard, Judy Johnson, Buck O'Neil, Gene Benson, Art Carter and Ric Roberts.

Irvin, Leonard and Johnson are enshrined in the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, inducted as outstanding players in black baseball before segregation.

Carter, now publisher of the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN, was one of the leading chroniclers of the period while a sportswriter who later became an AFRO war correspondent.

Roberts was a sportswriter and columnist for several newspapers and later served as sports information director at Howard University.

Bears close in on .500

Morgan State's young lacrosse team, justifiably proud despite its losing season, moved closer to a .500 record Wednesday with a last-period 11-10 victory over Georgetown in D.C.

Unfortunately, though, the Bears won't be able to attain that level since they await next Wednesday's game at Loyola. Coach Sheldon Freed's youngsters are 5-7, with only one game remaining.

Still, the campaign could be considered a relatively successful one.

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Eight blacks in first 10 picks in pro grid draft

By Sam Lacy

The University of South Carolina's Heisman Trophy winner was the first college player chosen in the National Football League draft Tuesday and Wednesday, which was no surprise.

But, there was a small measure of the unexpected when it was revealed that eight of the first 10 picks in the 442 - player field involved other black prospects.

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Of special interest to area fans, is the fact that Washington and Baltimore fell into the spirit.

The Redskins, after acquiring shifty running back Joe Washington from the Colts, drafted Mark May of Pittsburgh, an All - American tackle and winner of the Outland Trophy last year. The Outland goes to college football's most outstanding offensive lineman.

The Colts, on the other hand, spent their first two picks on hard - running fullback Randy Mc Millan of Pittsburgh, and imposing defensive tackle Donnell Thompson of North Carolina.

Picked in the first round of the Tuesday draw were:

North Carolina linebacker Lawrence Taylor by the Giants, UCLA running back Freeman Mc Neil by the Jets, UCLA defensive back Kenny Easley by Seattle, Alabama linebacker E. J. Junior by the Cardinals ;

Also Pittsburgh linebacker and Lombardi Trophy winner Hugh Green by Tampa Bay, Southern California defensive back Ronnie Lott by San Francisco, Michigan linebacker Mel Owens by Los Angeles, and Kansas wide receiver David Verser by Cincinnati .

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Also worthy of note is the fact that NFL clubs showed unusual early interest in athletes from predominately black schools.

The Houston Oilers, for example, came to Morgan State University for their initial selection when they chose the Bears' talented wide receiver Michael Holston.

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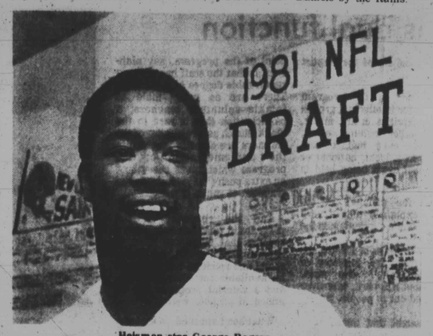
Others drafted from black college elevens were:

Running back Arrington Jones of Winston - Salem State, by San Francisco ; running back Edward O'Neal of Tuskegee, by the Giants; defensive tackle Robert Geathers of S.C. State, by Buffalo.

Defensive back James Davis of Southern University, by Oakland; guard Edwin Bailey of S.C. State, by Seattle and defensive end Curtis Green and defensive tackle William Daniels of Alabama State.

Green was chosen by the Detroit Lions, and Daniels by the Rams.



Heisman star George Rogers
South Carolina standout led all the rest.

Mark May
Skins initial pick

Randy McMillan
first for Colts

Redskins, Colts in May 8 clash

The Washington Redskins will square off against the Baltimore Colts on May 8. But this time they won't be playing football- but basketball. It will be a celebrity game with proceeds going to Ronald McDonald House. Washington Bullet guard Kevin Porter will coach one team, along with two well-known stars of the NFL. A host of sportswriters,sportscasters, Redskin cheerleaders, Captain 20, Ronald McDonald and the Hamburglar will be on hand at the game. The game will start at 8 p.m. at the George Washington University's Smith Center.

Ronald Mc Donald is located at 1326 Quincy Street N.E.,a 17 bedroom house where parents can stay with their children while they undergo treatment for a variety of illnesses.

" Sick children need more than good medical attention. They need the emotional support and understanding of their relatives," said Mark Moseley, kicker for the Washington Redskins.

The benefit basketball game will be a lot of fun for adult football fans who want to see some of their favorite players. Likewise, kids will enjoy seeing their favorite TV and football heroes," he said.

Pitchers wanted

The Surveyors A.C. Fast Pitch Softball Team needs pitchers. Surveyors play in the Druid Hill and Loch Raven leagues, if interested call Tom Hoffman at 448-3032.

Record Preakness expected with many crowding infield

A record turnout surpassing last year's mark of 83,455 is anticipated for Maryland's greatest sports spectacle when Pimlico Race Course presents the 106th edition of the $250,000 - plus Preakness Stakes May 16.

The largest portion of the crowd will be in the infield for the biggest picnic around.

An estimated throng of nearly 50,000 infielders is expected to come equipped with blankets, tents, canopies, lawn chairs, picnic lunches, beverages, frisbees, volley balls, soccer balls, badminton gear, sun-tan lotions and many other self-indulging pleasures.

They will be serenaded by 19 musical groups, dancers, marchers, paraders and a club lacrosse game.

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The show gets under way at 9 a.m., when the gates open and spectators will pour through the turnstiles at the start, giving the infield a resemblance of the Midwest in 1862, when settlers stampeded for free land from the Homestead Act.

Some people make an all-night vigil Friday and early Saturday morning, while preparing to charge for the choicest infield spots to catch a memorable glimpse of the Preakenss that will be contested nine hours and 40 minutes later at 5:40 p.m.

Organized infield festivities commence at 10:30 a.m., when the Maryland Lacrosse Club and the Chesapeake Lacrosse Club square off amid guitars and banjos tuning up for musical sounds to come. The 10-race program begins at 12 noon and will be highlighted by the Preakness, to be contested as the ninth race.

Serving as master of ceremonies for the infield entertainment will be Kerby Scott.

Dent, Brown cash at N.O.

Jim Dent and Pete Brown made rare appearances on the pro golf money roster Sunday.

Dent carded 278 — eight strokes off winner Tom Watson — and Brown scored 289 in the New Orleans Open.

Jim collected $6,950, Brown $696.

U.S. COACH — Georgetown University coach John Thompson has been named to tutor the East team in the U.S. Olympic Committee's National Sports Festival, July 23 - 29 at Syracuse, N.Y.

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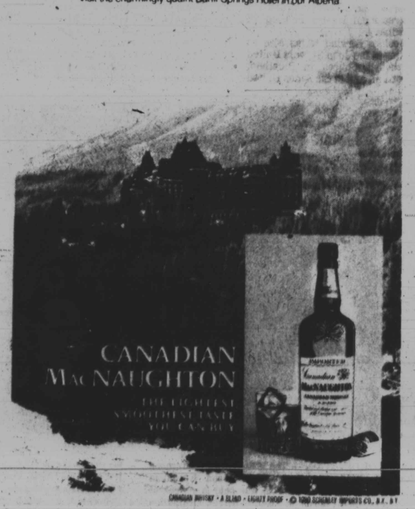

Harness race questions

OXON HILL, Md. — What's the difference between a trotter and a pacer? Which is faster? Why are there more pacers than trotters?

Questions! Questions! Questions!

Rosecroft harness fans — in an effort to learn more about harness racing — are continually quizzing track officials. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions (plus, of course, the answers).

Q: What's the difference between a trotter and a pacer?

A: The trotter moves like a baby crawls or a dog runs, with the right front leg and left rear leg moving forward in unison. The pacer, however, moves both legs on the same side in unison (right front - right rear, then left front - left rear). The pacer is called a "sidewheeler," because he moves from side to side.

Q: Which horse is faster — the trotter or the pacer?

A: The pacer is acknowledged to be roughly one second faster. Rosecroft's pacing record is 1:58, set by Funnyman's Lashout in 1980. The trotting standard is 2:01-4, set by Crockett in 1966.

Q: What is "breaking," and why does a horse break?

A: "Breaking" is when a horse deviates from the legal trotting or pacing gait. Often a horse is trying so hard to win and is going so fast that he can't remain in stride, loses his balance and begins to gallop. A horse may also "break" when broken equipment throws him off - stride, or he steps on the wheel of the cart in front of him or he is jostled by a horse next to him.

Q: What is the colored roll worn on the face of some horses?

A: That's a "shadow roll, a large sheepskin roll worn just below the horse's eyes. It blocks the horse's view of the track ahead so he won't be startled by shadows, stray pieces of paper or other intrusions.

Q: Why do there seem to be more pacers than trotters?

A: It's mostly a question of patience. Trotting is a more natural gait for a horse than pacing. But it's so natural that when a horse reaches a high trotting speed during a race, he tends to slide into a gallop. This tendency is very hard to cure, and more and more trainers avoid it altogether by training the horse to be a pacer instead.

Q: How fast are the horses?

A: A two-minute mile means a 30-mile-per-hour speed, and only the fastest horses achieve it. Under the stress of keen competition, a tremendously fast horse can reach 35-miles-per-hour for a short period.

McMillan is elated

John Mackay, all-pro tight end during Baltimore's halcyon days in football, may not know it but he was a big influence on Randy McMillan, the Colts' first round choice in the NFL draft.

"As a kid in Jarrettsville, I used to watch Mackay bowl over people when he ran with the ball," smiled McMillan Wednesday. "I used to dream of what it would be like to do that for the Colts someday myself.

"Now that I may have the chance, I'm just elated."

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