Colony: but rooting for Partez

By Sam Lacy

Tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon, blacks in general and black racing fans in particular will be rooting like mad for a 3-year-old colt named Partez to win the Preakness at Pimlico.

Among them, I must confess, will be the AFRO sports desk.

In fairness to the reader, the prediction stays with Pleasant Colony, which was picked to win the Kentucky Derby two weeks ago. And one rarely abandons a winner.

But, call us provincial; here at the AFRO; call us prejudiced or call us anything you like, our hearts will beat faster with every clomp of the hooves of Partez.

Partez, you see, is owned by a black man, Henry Greene, in partnership with a woman, Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, a former Los Angeles accountant.

There never has been black ownership in the Preakness.

And should Partez win, Greene will have duplicated the feat of Berry Gordy, whose co-owned Argument won the last major stake in Maryland, the D.C. International at Laurel last fall.

That, also, was a first.

Gordy, like Greene, emerged from meager beginnings to reach the upper echelon of the so-called "Sport of Kings."

Berry launched his career on borrowed money with which he started a one-room record company that blossomed into the dynasty known as Motown.

Greene, a Mississippi cottonfields laborer, climbed slowly through purchase of a ghetto grocery store, to a greasy-spoon restaurant, to a "transient" motel, to another of the same and still another.

Married to a strong-willed, business-like wife named Annabelle, they saved enough for a modest retirement, entry into a small racing operation, and finally purchase of Partez along with Mrs. Davis, also a thoroughly competent businesswoman.

Talking to the AFRO and other reporters in the restricted area around Partez's stall on Wednesday, Greene beamed:

"We're gonna win this thing."

Should he do so, the irony would be inescapable. With blacks having a share of the winning purses in the state's most prestigious thoroughbred events — the International and the Preakness — it would be like saying to the managements at Pimlico and Laurel:

"You won't let us work at your tracks, so we'll let your tracks work for us."

BUT PULL FOR HIM — Although the AFRO sports desk, desiring to be honest with readers, picks Pleasant Colony to win tomorrow's (Saturday) Preakness, the sentimental rooting will be for Partez (above). Provincial? Discriminatory? Mabe. Partez is co-owned by black Henry Greene. The last big stakes winner in Maryland was Argument (DC International) co-owned by a black Berry Gordy.

Preakness bus stuff

Special express service to Pimlico Race Course will be provided by the Mass Transit Administration (MTA) for the 106th running of the Preakness tomorrow (Saturday).

Buses will originate from Patapsco and Hanover Sts. in South Baltimore at 10:38 a.m., Liberty Pkwy. and Dunglow Rd. in Dundalk at 10:30 a.m., Old Eastern Ave. and Back River Neck Rd. in Essex at 10:35 a.m., and the Providence Road Park 'n' Ride Lot at 10:50 a.m.

Interim, express-only stops will be made along the South Baltimore, Dundalk and Essex routes.

A fifth route originates at Memorial Stadium at 10:45 a.m., and makes one interim stop at the Poly-Western Complex at 11:00 a.m.

Sugar Ray follows 'Hit Man'

CHICAGO — Conscious of the promise by his chief rival, Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns, that he plans to win all the titles up to, and including the light-heavyweight division, Sugar Ray Leonard made some predictions of his own here Wednesday

The World Boxing Council's welterweight champion said that after he wins the junior middleweight title June 25, his third major goal will be in sight — the middleweight crown.

Leonard, who was in town to promote his scheduled fight in Houston against Ayub Kalule for the World Boxing Association's junior middleweight title June 25, said he has dreamed of capturing three titles before he retires.

"I'm very confident and expect it to be a very tough fight," said Leonard, who is stepping up in weight division. Kalule "has never fought here and I want to give him a welcome and take his title away.

"The fight will be interesting because Kalule has so much to gain. If he defeats Sugar Ray Leonard, he's on top of the world. Everyone wants to fight me."

Leonard called the possibility of a middleweight championship "my ultimate challenge."

Charges of NFL racism get Congressional look

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Rep. Augustus Hawkins, D-Calif., didn't issue a "warning" Tuesday, but encouraged NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle to talk to a citizens committee looking into charges of institutional racial discrimination in pro football.

At a Capitol news conference, Hawkins and other subcommittee members chastised Rozelle for not responding positively to a study by Dr. Jomills Braddock of Johns Hopkins University documenting "serious discrimination and employment exclusion problems in the NFL in the selection of assistant and head coaches."

The committee asked for a congressional investigation into the fact that the NFL has had no black head coaches. Hawkins did not agree to call the House Subcommittee on Education and Labor, which he chairs, for such an investigation.

"Evidence on one side of this issue has been presented to this committee," Hawkins said. "I think the proper thing would be for Mr. Rozelle to present the owner's side. I think the matter should be settled in a peaceful, non-congressional way.

Pete Rozelle Congress asks why

"The issue is broad enough to bring an obligation to settle it. The worst possible thing would be to just let it stir around.

"I'm not issuing a warning. But before the snow falls in the Sierras, before the next football season, and hopefully this summer, I would hope this issue would either be settled or be in Congress."

When invited to meet with the committee, Rozelle referred the matter to the NFL Management Council as being labor-management related.

William E. Pollard, director of the AFL-CIO department of civil rights, as chairman of the committee asked Rozelle to attend meetings on April 9 and again Tuesday.

The NFL Players Association, commissioned Braddock's study and made it public. Jack Donlan, executive director of the NFL Management Council, objected in an April 3 letter to Pollard, to learning of the study indirectly.

"We were first made aware of the union's unilateral study when its conclusion were announced as a press conference," Donlan wrote. "We learned of the union's unilateral formation of its committee via a subsequent press conference.

"In these circumstances, we must respectfully decline your invitation. We see no way to avoid the implication of acceptance of Dr. Braddock's conclusions. We cannot and do not recognize the validity of a unilateral study, commissioned by persons with an obvious ax to grind."

16-wrestler free-for-all tops Capital Centre Bill

An 11-event card is arranged for Capital Center wrestling next Saturday (23rd) commencing at 2 o'clock.

A Texas-style free-for-all will feature the program. combatants.

The contestants will then be paired in individual bouts in order of their elimination.

Also, a 4-man midget battle will enliven the afternoon, Kid Chocolate and Carolina Kid opposing Fran Jerome and Sky Low Low.

Ross Fields is convicted

LOS ANGELES — Boxing promoter Ross Fields, also known as Harold J. Smith, was convicted Tuesday of falsifying an application for a passport four years ago.

U.S. District judge Manuel Real reached the verdict after proceedings that lasted less than 30 minutes. The defendant, free on bail, was ordered to return to court for sentencing June 1.

Fields, a central figure in an alleged $21.3 million embezzlement scheme at Wells Fargo Bank, faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a $2,000 fine.

D.C. sports in brief

Howard University's basketball coach A.B. Williamson has signed to Kevin Thomas' a 6'9 forward from Neptune, New Jersey, to a letter of intent. Thomas helped Neptune High to a state championship in his senior year.

"We are very pleased to have Kevin as a part of our program. He is a quality player that should help us with his strength and scoring."

Women's basketball coach Sanya Tucker headed west and signed three highly regarded recruits. She signed JoAnn Glenn, Audrey Branch and Claudia Eaton. Glenn attended Takoma (Wash.) Community College, where she scored 21 points per game.

Branch, a graduate of Seattle's Roosevelt High School, is 5, 10 and scored 12 points per game. Eaton is a transfer from Oregon University. She will play center for Howard next season.

"I'm very pleased with the signing of these young ladies. I feel they are top-notch recruits and should help the program tremendously," said Tucker.

The baseball team will participate in the Finger Lake's Tournament in Ithaca, New York. Chuck Hinton's squad finished with poor 19-31 record. Errors have been the downfall of the Bisons this year.

But they played well lately with a season closing 11-4 victory over Towson State. They won four in a row to finish out the season. "We've been playing better. Probably the most important thing is that we have decreased our errors," said pitcher Mike Toomer.

The Bisonettes track team will be heading into the nationals (in Austin, Texas) with yet their best season yet. During a meet at Penn State, the Bisonettes captured the 440 yard relay in a time of 47.8 seconds. Rosalind Love took the 100 yard dash in a time of 12.2 seconds.

"This year, we are going into the regionals physically stronger and mentally prepared to have a good meet," said Coach Ron Woods. "I know that the team is mature and cohesive enough to accomplish the goals that we have set," he added.

Sharon Jewell placed in the top five in both the 100 and 400 meters hurdles. The Mile relay team finished second with a time of 4:03.8.

Jim makes dent

For the first time in more than a year, Jim Dent dented the list of 100 leading money winners in pro golf last week.

His improved finishes in the Tallahassee and Houston events raised his year's earnings to $14,636 and 90th place.

Calvin Peete continues as the top black winner, holding 48th place with $32,995.

Ashe names Cup team

John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Sandy and Gene Mayer have been named by captain Arthur Ashe to face the 1980 champions from Czechoslovakia in the Davis Cup July 10-12.

It will mark the first time since 1970 that the three top ranked players in the United States will take the court.

Ashe, Cliff Richey and Stan Smith led the U.S. to a 5-0 victory over West Germany in that series.

Connors last played in the Davis Cup in 1976, winning three of four singles matches against Venezuela and Mexico.

UM track meet at Byrd

All area track teams are eligible to compete in the Potomac Valley Athletics Council 1981 men's and women's track meet which will be held at Byrd Stadium at the University of Maryland. There will be three divisions of competition during the meet. A senior division (over 40) an open division and a junior division. The first three finishers will receive medals.

The entry deadline is May 22. Contact Georgetown's track coach Joe Lang for more information at 625-4283.

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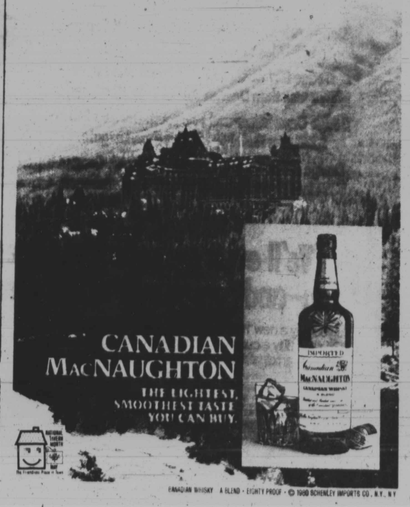

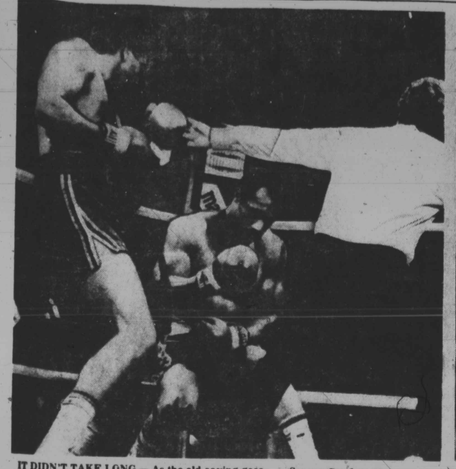

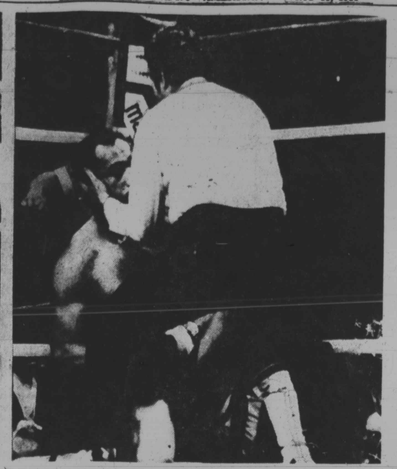

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG — As the old saying goes about the rooster who said to the hen, "this won't take long, did it" Gerry Cooney measured Ken Norton in short order Monday night at Madison Square Garden. The newest, and apparently most legitimate "White Hope" stopped the former WBC heavyweight champion after 54 seconds of the first round. Norton is crumpled with a bruising left after a heavy barrage of rights, and then is administered to by referee Tony Perez (right). The victory for the unbeaten Cooney firms up a shot against champion Mike Weaver for the WBA title.

Cooney scores 54-second knockout

Norton's plight called 'frightening'

By Logan Hobson

NEW YORK (UPI) — Undefeated Gerry Cooney, who destroyed Ken Norton with an eerie suddenness, admitted he was "frightened."

"I got a little bit frightened," said Cooney, who took only 54 seconds to demolish former World Boxing Council champion Norton in their scheduled 10-rounder Monday night at Madison Square Garden.

"I was hurting him and I knew he was unconscious. I was frightened. He was unconscious and he was just lying on the ropes."

Cooney, 25-0, made Norton his 21st knockout victim. Cooney opened up with a flurry of punches and had Norton helpless in his corner as Norton lay propped up on the bottom strand of the ropes.

"I hit him with a right to the jaw and then I hit him to the body and I heard him gasp — I knew he was hurt," said Cooney. "Then I started going upstairs and downstairs and I knew he was out on his feet."

Referee Tony Perez leaped in and pulled Cooney away with Norton sitting in a crouch on the lower strand of the ropes and out.

"Kenny looked bad," said Perez. "His eyes were rolled up and he didn't know where he was. He was in really bad shape and he was taking one hell of a beating. The lower strand was holding him up and that's what kept him from going right out. I had to grab Gerry and get him away.

"The way Kenny looked, one or two more shots would have been fatal."

One of the ring doctors, Edwin Campbell, also thought Norton may have been hurt seriously.

"Both Dr. Earl Shaw and Frank Folk were in the ring before me," Campbell said. "My first reaction was fear, but Perez stopped it just right. He was completely unconscious for two or three minutes."

Martial arts expert to host anti-crime marathon

Yusef Muhammad, the well-known local martial arts expert and community worker, will be hosting a "Break-a-thon" against crime on July 11 and 12 at Calvert Educational Center, located at North Ave. and Charles St.

The purpose of the event, according to Muhammad, is to raise funds for a community center which will "combine the educational with the physical." According to Muhammad, many of today's youth get involved in crime because they're not provided with any other influences, and many current recreation centers or youth organizations fail to adequately respond to the needs of these youth. youth.

During the exhibition, Muhammad, who established the world brick-breaking record here several years ago, will break a series of bricks which are labeled with certain crimes or bad habits.

Also featured on the bill are a local drum and Bugle Corps, The Last Poets, and several other area entertainers. Tickets for the affair can be purchased by calling 669-5740.

There will also be a write-in contest leading up to the event, and all local youth are eligible. Prizes for winners in the contest include free tickets to the affairs and a "break-a-habit-crush-a-crime" tee-shirt.

Rules for the contest are simple. Just write a letter to Muhammad telling why you feel that a community person should receive an award for their anti-crime efforts. Send the one-page letter to Muhammad, at 1528 Moreland St., 21216.

By the way...

By Joe Black

The National Administration is planning budget cuts for several domestic programs. There is a resurgence of activity by the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazi party. Who, or what group, speaks as the leader for Black Americans?

Unemployment is still high in the Black community. These are only a few of the headlines that Black people have read during the past few months.

Yes, my friends, there are some difficult times ahead for Black people. But the problems are not insurmountable. We, Black Americans, can and will overcome. We can gain moral support from yesteryear's quote: "Trouble don't last always," but we will have to take more positive action if we are to overcome these obstacles to improve socio-economic conditions.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "We must learn to live together as brothers, or perish as fools," and I echo his sentiments when I urge that we use non-violent methods to improve conditions.

Our economy can be improved through jobs and/or entrepreneurship. The development of new business is never an easy task and the probable reduction of funds for minority business development won't make the task any easier. So let's take the path that requires nothing but desire, discipline, dedication, and initiative. I am talking about educational and job preparation. Our young people have to stay in school and not only do their best, but they must select courses of study that relate to the jobs that they want. And Black adults, with dead-end jobs, must give up some party-time and enroll in some evening classes that will make them more competitive in today's labor market.

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

Bits o' briefs

Aw c'mon, guys

After being knocked cold in less than one minute, heavyweight Ken Norton said Monday night he is "not certain" whether he will retire.

After watching his son, Marvis, score his fourth straight heavyweight victory the same evening, Joe Frazier said he is thinking seriously of comimg out of retirement to fight again.

Norton is 38, Frazier is 37, Aw c'mon, guys.

Cal and Jim

Calvin Peete dropped two places and Jim Dent climbed a couple on this week's list of the 100 top pro golf money winners.

Calvin is 50th with $33,631. Dent is 95th (from 97th) with $14,656.

All-Star voting

Balloting for the 1981 All-Star Game, scheduled for July 14 in Cleveland, will begin tomorrow (Saturday), the baseball comissioner's office announced Monday.

The balloting, done once again by the fans, will select starting lineups, exclusive of pitchers.

Cooney-Norton TV

Gerry Cooney's 54-second knockout victory over Ken Norton Monday night will be shown by ABC-TV during its Wide World of Sports show May 17, the network announced Wednesday.

Interviews with both fighters also will be shown.

AFRO Sports

Goodwill sale slated

Baltimore Goodwill Industries, Inc., will be holding its annual Memorial Day "Antiques and Uniques" sale on Monday, May 25. The sale begins at 10 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. at the Belair Road Goodwill Thrift Store, at 3421 Belair Road, two blocks north of Erdman Ave.

The many bargains featured include Oriental rugs, toy trains, marble top tables, brassware, toys and curios. There will also be a fine assortment of summer clothing. Call Virginia Hoefner at 247-3500 for details.

MEAC selects Bear stickers

Two Morgan players — senior Cedric White and sophomore Frederick Smith — were named this week to the Mid-East Conference all-star lacrosse team.

White is a goalie and Smith a midfielder.

Two other Bears — junior Gene White and senior Michael McBride — were granted honorable mention.

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