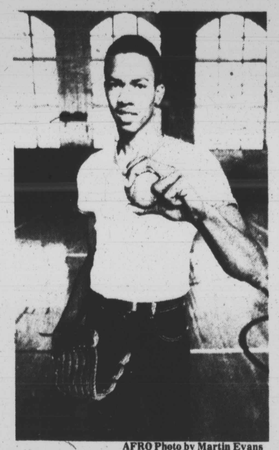
Scholastic Sports Scene



AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

THE OL' HORSEHIDE — John Drake, a pitcher for Eastern High, grips a baseball during a workout in his school's gym Wednesday. Eastern coach Richard Terrill has high hopes for the senior pitcher. "He has a fastball that moves naturally," he said.

Eagles are 'B' conference champs!

For the Eagles of Eastern High it had come close to being a nightmare season.

After a good start, two consecutive losses jeopardized their playoff chances and the players had begun to think about next year's plans.

But ten straight wins, capped by Eastern's 64-57 playoff victory at City College Wednesday afternoon, turned the nightmare into a fantastic dream-come-true.

"I didn't think it was possible," senior forward Tony Cottrell said after the game, reflecting on a season that had come close to disaster.

"I really thought it was all over for us," he said.

Near disaster almost struck at Cottrell's basketball plans before Wednesday's game, too.

Cottrell, who combined with Eagle guard Melvin Horsey to score 27 of Eastern's 41 second-half points in lifting them to victory, missed Tuesday's practice with the flu and was questionable for Wednesday's game.

But the positive attitude which allowed Cottrell and his teammates to overcome the odds and claw their way into the playoffs prevailed, and the forward suited up for the game.

"When I saw him this morning he said he was going to get 40 rebounds," coach Don Wade said, casting an appreciative smile at his yeoman forward.

"He didn't quite get 40 but you can see the kind of job he did for us."

"There was no way I would let myself miss this game," Cottrell said with a smile of his own.

Both teams started out a little jittery, Eastern because they were poised to win the 'B' conference championship in their first year of varsity play, and City because they faced elimination.

City actually pushed ahead by several points in the second quarter, but couldn't hold on to them, managing but a two point lead at the half.

Eastern's coach Wade was able to settle his charges during the halftime. The Eagle defense stiffened in the third quarter and their shot selection improved.

Eastern began to Penetrate, feeding the ball to Horsey and Cottrell, and the two forwards grew fat on short jumpers and layup buckets.

"We had to get the ball down low," Horsey said, assesing his team's strategy. "They couldn't do anything with us down there."

Horsey was guarded by a number of City players in the second half when he helped turn on the Eagles offense.

But he has the strength of a forward and the quickness of a guard, and no matchup proved effective in limiting him. He was the game's scoring leader, edging City's Steve Williams' 17 point effort by a single point.

Some of the Eagle players pondered the significance of what they had done, not only for themselves but for their school.

Tim Parsons, the team's center who collared 10 rebounds in the winning effort, said a team accomplishment lifts the entire student body, making everyone walk a little taller.

Parsons, without whom the team likely would have had little chance to make the playoffs, said the victory and championship might have begun a sense of school tradition.

"I think we started something, sparked something," the tall, strapping senior said after the game.

"I'd like to see them do it again next year."

Coaches eye spring hopefuls

"Hey John, take it e-e-e-easy," the Eagles baseball coach barked at senior John Drake, an early prospect.

Eastern High pitchers and catchers limbered up in the Eagles' cavernous, beaux arts Gothic gymnasium Wednesday afternoon. The sound of horsehide projectiles popping in cowhide mitts echoed springtime from the walls.

Eastern coach Richard Terrill worried the popping was too loud, though.

"The kids have a tendency to try to impress the coach by throwing hard. At this point in the season we are not looking for strength but are just trying to get them loose and warmed up," he said while keeping an eye on the preseason aspirants.

John Drake, a tall, smooth-throwing left hander has a good chance of becoming one of the Eagles' mainstays "if he stays healthy!" Terrill said before trotting away to implore Drake to settle down and give his arm a chance.

Across town, the Western women have been busy getting a jump on the track season, preparing to defend their incredible string of 11 straight MSA championships.

One hundred and fourteen pairs of legs showed up for a Tuesday afternoon tryout, giving Doves coach Breezy Bishop a chance to choose only the hottest burners.

When the dust settled only 64 were still in it, and Bishop said she will make further cuts "in two weeks."

The Western harriers will be bolstered by the return of a number of veterans, including senior sprinters Roberta Randall, Terisa Proctor and Elisa Harris.

Rec centers are b-ball talent havens

When asked how long he has been playing basketball at the Robert C. Marshall Recreation Center on Pennsylvania Ave. James Bruce, the MSA "A" Conference scoring champion answered with a question of his own.

"How long has it been open?" he deadpanned.

Bruce has been making his way to Robert C. Marshall since he was a knobby-kneed kid in 1975, when the center opened its doors. Since then it has been offering kids and young adults a place to go for indoor recreation in the Upton section of West Baltimore.

A senior and high scoring wing guard at Douglass High School, Bruce is a prime example of the home grown talent introduced to basketball skills right in their neighborhoods at one of the 112 recreation centers across the city.

A number of other city stars, including Dunbar basketball sensation David Wingate, got their start at rec centers.

The facilities are not the best for basketball. Short, narrow courts are squeezed by unpadded walls which loom imposingly from within a foot from the end line at Marshall.

Still, the centers frequently are packed, with a number of teams waiting for their turn to hawk the orange orb.

The name of the game is winning. A loss could mean a long wait, or an early evening's trip home. You learn quickly to put up or shut up.

"Growing up small, you don't get a chance to play much if you lose," James Bruce, who cannot be more than 5-feet, 9-inches tall standing on tiptoes, said Tuesday night as he prepared to take to the court.

"You try to score on everything you put up, because if you lose there could be four or five teams in front of you," Bruce said.

Kids of all ages appear at the centers. Moate Bailey, who graduated form Mergenthaler High in 1975, was at the Robert C. Marshall Center Tuesday night. Bailey is a player-coach for his team, the Eastside Bandits.

The centers do allow less talented players a chance to get on the courts, and you do not have to be a Wingate or a Bruce to play.

"House teams" regularly scramble on weekday evenings, pitting local youth in intermural competition.

But the level if talent gears up quickly when one gets into inter-center competition. Each center's best players compete on those teams, and the individuals are smarter, bigger and smoother.

If basketball is not your love, the centers offer games and fun of other sorts.

Roller skating, volleyball, pool and arts and crafts are among the many activities one may pursue at the city-run centers.

The centers are open from 2 until 10 p.m. weekdays. Youth 13 and under are welcome until 6:00 p.m., and people over 13 may enjoy the facilities after six.

AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

FANS SURROUND PARSONS — Eagles center Tim Parsons was surrounded by teammates and fans after the Eastern victory at City College Wednesday afternoon in the "B" Conference finals. Eastern swept the Knights in two games to win the championship.

Dewees holds late sign-up

It will soon be baseball time again for little leaguers in Baltimore.

The Dewees Little League will hold registrations at St. Mary's Church, York Rd. and Tunbridge, and at Dewees Playfield, Alhambra and Tunbridge, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 6.

The League, operated under the auspices of the Bureau of Recreation, is divided into three age divisions: 8-9, 10-11, and 12-14. The divisions are open to all youngsters in the Govens area.

Games will be played at Dewees Playfield on weeknights.

Two citywide teams, composed of players 14-16 and 16-19 years old, also will be fielded if enough interest is expressed.

The season will begin in the first week of May and run through mid-July, ending in playoff competition.

To register, players must have proof of age, a birth certificate or Bureau of Recreation Player Identification Card, and be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Registration fees are $15 for players under 14 years of age and $20 for players 14 and over, and are payable at registration.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Charlie Ross at 254 - 8340 or Mike Marsh at 435 - 5411.

P.J.'s congressional seat challenged by Coppin prof.

Elizabeth C. Gray, an associate professor of Criminal Justice at Coppin State College, will announce her candidacy for the U.S. Congress, 7th District, Friday, March 5.

A life-long Democrat, Ms. Gray is running for the Congressional seat now occupied by Rep. Parren J. Mitchell. Mitchell was elected to Congress about 10 years ago.

According to statement released by Ms. Gray's campaign manager, she is concerned "about social programming, crime by blacks on blacks, ubran renewal and the recent disappearance of black businesses in black communities."

Ms. Gray, who also is a penologist and a real estate agent, will announce her candidacy at the Forum, Primrose at Reisterstown Rd., at 6 p.m. Tickets for the event are $6.

A contributing life member of the NAACP, she also is active in the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the Urban League, the Women's National Democratic Club, the National Association for University Women and the Maryland Classified Employees Association.

Elizabeth C. Gray

Open house

The Prince George's County Public Schools will sponsor an Open House at the new Facilities Services Base located at 4801 Brow Station Road in Upper Malboro on Wednesday, Mar. 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will begin at 12 noon.

NAACP meeting

"Economic Development" is the theme for the Baltimore NAACP Membership meeting on Tuesday, March 9 at Israel Baptist Church, 1220 E. Chester St. at 7 p.m.

Dorothy Brunson, WEBB radio president; Daniel Henson, director, Minority Business Development for the Greater Baltimore Committee, Inc.; and Douglas Sands, director, Maryland State Office of Minority Affairs, will be panelists.

Leonard Blackshear, president, Associated Enterprise DeveloPment will moderate.

The public is invited to attend and participate in this Economic Development Forum.

For more information contact Program Director, Barbara Cooper at 366-3300.

Raymond Haysbert, president and Terry Addison, of the HUB,

Jackson museum membership campaign

When a life member of the Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum visits the museum and brings two new life members, there is cause to celebrate.

The Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum is a non-traditional historical museum, which also is a non-profit corporation. It depends upon membership fees, gifts, grants and proceeds from its annual awards banquet, occurring every fall, for its support.

The cause of celebration at the museum happened earlier this week, when Mr. Harlow Fullwood Jr., who with his wife, is a life member. The Fullwoods were accompanied by two co-workers to the museum: Mr. Osborne A. Payne, owner of a McDonald franchise at 11 W. North Ave., and one at Fremont and Greene Streets; and Mrs. Annita M. Merriweather, whose McDonald's franchise is located at York Rd. and Coldspring Lane, gave checks for life membership.

Mrs. Merriweather has the distinction of being the only black woman on the East Coast to have a McDonald's franchise.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS — Judith Daniels, the museum's director, (L), is pictured with Osborne A. Payne, Annita M. Merriweather.

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Cops seek 2nd flim-flammer

Last rites for MSU's fabled 'Marse' Hill

By Bettye Moss

The Morgan State University Field House, which bears his name, was the scene of impressive funeral services Thursday morning, (March 11), for Talmadge L. (Marse) Hill.

Chairs were arranged in rows in the sports facility so that it resembled a chapel, with the casket bearing the remains of the beloved athletic coach on display in the circle of the basketball court.

Coach Hill was buried in a white suit. Dozens of floral pieces surrounded the bronze casket. Coach Hill died March 8, at the age of 79.

Speakers were seated on a raised platform above the remains.

The 50-voice university choir was also seated in spectators' seats to the right of the makeshift altar.

Present were relatives, friends, students and former students who came from all sections of the country to eulogize the man who has been credited with leading Morgan athletic teams to un-

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Irvin Turner dies

See Showtime

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

SWEARING IN OF A STATE SENATOR — Pictured is Mrs. Louise G. Murphy as she is sworn into her 44th District senate seat by that august body's president James Clark. The ceremony occurred in the Senate chambers in Annapolis recently. Sen. Murphy's new duties has her attending numerous committee meetings and voting on important bills on issues concerning the drinking age, a proposed gasoline tax and workmen's compensation.

'Jamaican switch' suspect named

Police have identified a second man, who is accused of working a flim flam called the "Jamaican Switch" on unsuspecting Baltimoreans since November.

Mike Bass, a police spokesman, told the AFRO the man, identified as Keith Donnell Smith, 34, is just one of several partners known to work with Napoleon Jackson, 51, who was pictured in the AFRO last week.

Both Smith and Jackson are wanted on larceny flim flam charges, police said.

Smith, whose last known address was the 5500 block of Pembridge Ave., is described as being 5-feet, 8-inches tall and weighs about 150 pounds, Bass said.

Presently out on bond for previous flim flam charges, Smith is wanted by the police on five outstanding warrants, Bass said.

Police said both Jackson and Smith are accused of stopping people on the street and asking for the location of a ficticious hotel.

When the victim tells the first suspect, who usually poses as a foreigner - this year a Haitian is most popular, but in past years Jamaican and Nigerian flim flam ruses have been used - he or she never has heard of the hotel, the suspect signals his partner.

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Keith Donnell Smith

Joe Black will keynote HUB annual banquet

The 2nd annual HUB "Buy In, Buy Us" banquet, scheduled for 7 p.m., April 10, at the Baltimore Hilton, will feature guest baseball great Joe Black, vice-president of the Greyhound Corp., as keynote speaker.

For further details, call Terry Addison, chairman of HUB's economic development committee at 296-9700.

Defendant contradicts himself in bus driver slaying

2 pals plead 5th in Phillips murder trial

Two witnesses the defense had planned to call in the Phillips murder trial informed the court they would not testify for fear of incriminating themselves, Thursday.

Both witnesses, Dean Wright, 16, of the 1800 block of N. Payson St., and Walter Vaughn, 18, of the 1700 block of N. Pulaski St. face charges in the shooting death of Dr. George F. Phillips.

The witnesses were expected to help establish an alibi for Donald Braxton, 17, who allegedly shot Dr. Phillips Sept. 21 in an apparent robbery attempt.

If so, the absence of thier testimony could be a damaging blow to Braxton's defense.

Three others, Kevin Smith, 17, of the 1900 block of Wheeler Ave.; Gregory Brittingham, 15, of the 1600 block of Bentalou St.; and Eric Brown, 14, of the 2000 block of Bentaiou St., allegedly were involved in the robbery and face similar charges.

The state rested its case Thursday morning after calling to the stand a ballistics expert, who identified the pearl handled, 22 caliber pistol as the murder weapon, and a man who testified he purchased the gun from Kevin Smith for $40 some time after Phillips death.

Alvin Spell, said Smith was accompanied by Braxton and a third party when Smith first approached Spell to make the sale.

To this point in the trial Braxton has suffered the heaviest damage from the testimony of friends, or from witnesses claiming to have overheard conversations involving Braxton's friends.

Eric Brown, who said he was with Braxton at the time of the shooting, claims Braxton shot Dr. Phillips.

Lindsay Blackwell, 18, testified he overheard a conversation between Braxton and several friends in which one youth asked Braxton "I heard you shot the doctor," and to which Braxton replied "Who told you?". Blackwell later informed the police, and his lead broke the case.

And Braxton's own cousin, Gregory Brittingham was a fountain of information Monday as he testified for the states attorney.

The prosecution has acknowledged it would have had a much harder time in preparing its case without the testimony of Braxton's friends and accomplices, adding there would probably have been no arrests made had no one stepped forward with information.

"There might never have been any arrests in the case if no one had gone to the police," Assistant States Attorney Keith Matthews said Wednesday during the noon recess.

MTA bus driver trial

Robert C. Perry, the man accused of murdering another Metropolitan Transit Authority bus driver-Amalgamated Transit Union official and wounding the union president, contradicted himself on the witness stand Thursday.

The States Attorney asked the defendant if he was living with a woman at the time of his arrest, April 13, 1981, when James Keys was murdered and Charles L. Pettus was wounded in the union office at 112 25th Street. The defendant said "no."

However, in the course of further questioning, he contradicted himself, was read the question and answers he had just given by the Court Reporter, and forced to concede he had in fact been living with his girl friend 3700 block of at Franklin, where he had been arrested.

His credibility was again in question when after explaining he maintained his own residence in addition to that of his girlfriend's, the prosecution asked why he gave still another address at the time of his arrest.

The defense attorneys presented a ballistics expert from

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SCHOLARSHIP FUND — Glenn Harrod, a bandsman and music major at Morgan State University, was brutally murdered while working as assistant manager at MacDonald's restaurant on York Rd. The operators of MacDonald's in Baltimore, in cooperation with the Music Department of MSU, are establishing a scholarship fund bearing Glenn's name. A $500 per year, 4-year scholarship will be awarded to a deserving student chosen by a committee set up by the Department of Music. A check for $2,000 recently was presented to Dr. Andrew Billingsley by Ms. Annita Merriweather. (Left to right) are Harlow Fulwood Jr., Ms. Merriweather, Dr. Billingsley and Stewart Brooks.

Conaway says he took weight for his staff

UPI - Del. Frank Conaway, D-40th, Wednesday said he was trying to protect his employees when he agreed to a formal order last year concerning the mishandling of insurance funds.

"I've always insisted on standing up for and protecting mistakes made by those who work with me," Conaway told a news conference in one of his two insurance offices.

"That is basically the reason ... that I and my associates jointly agreed to accept the charges," he said.

Conaway, who is under investigation on charges he and three associates kept nearly $228,000 in premiums that should have been sent to insurance companies, was fined $800 last May for the 1980 violations.

Two of his associates were fined $800 each and another was fined $500, Byron Roberts, a spokesman for the State Insurance Division, said.

He said investigators "could not account for" about $26,000 when they reviewed the books of Conaway's companies in 1980.

Conaway said the most recent allegations were "a lie" and he

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ESCAPE REAGANOMICS!

AFRO vacation 'you'll never forget' prizes include Disneyworld, Caribbean

Getting away from the high cost of living, the cutting to the bone policies of President Reagan, for even a few days would be treat enough for harried Baltimoreans.

But the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, in one of its most exciting contests to date, is not only going to see that some lucky readers escape Reaganomics for a bit, but also that they get away in style.

First prize is an all-expense paid trip to the Bahamas, six days and five nights in exotic Freeport.

The winner and one guest will stay at the luxurious Hotel Princess Tower Bahama Princess.

The AFRO will pick up the tab for payment of hotel, taxes, tips to hotel employees, not to mention round trip jet air fare to Freeport.

The winner will receive a bonanza of amenities including limousine service to Baltimore-Washington International Airport upon departure, a champagne send-off, cash for food and other expenses.

Second and third AFRO vacation prize winners have equally attractive trips in store.

Four days and three nights at Disneyworld in Florida for two round-trip jet air fare, first class hotel accomodations and many other paid expenses is the second prize.

Third place winner gets a romantic interlude in Niagra Falls, Canada for three days and two nights.

Drawings for these fantastic vacations are but weeks away.

Read the AFRO each week for more information, photos and travel notes on these vacation wonderlands.

A full-page advertisement giving details of the contest is on page 14 of this edition of your AFRO. Study the rules, enter the contest. There is every chance that you could be basking in the sunny climes of the Carribean or Florida without spending a dime.

Johnston Square townhouse mortgages 6&¾ percent

March 31 is deadline for last federally subsidized homes in city

Fighting to meet the deadline for what could be the last of the federally subsidized home mortgages for middle income families, an east Baltimore developer has announced the start of sales of 64 new townhouses at Johnston Square Manor with interest rates as low as 6 and three fourths percent.

John F. Settles, executive director of Apostolic Housing Corp.'s Johnston Squar Manor development, said the subsidized loans for 25 families under the federal FHA-235 program and 10 additional loans under a Baltimore City loan program must be processed within the next several days to meet the March 31 deadline for the federal program.

Families with incomes between $17,650 for a single parent and $28,800 for a family of five will be able to qualify for the low interest loans for the $47,500 townhouses to be built in the square block area between homewood Ave. and Valley St. north of Biddle St.

Buyers qualifying for the subsidized mortgages will have approximate monthly payments of $330. A down payment of $500 is needed.

Settles said sales will be contingent upon receiving waivers from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and the city Department of Housing and Community Development.

He said accepting sales contracts while seeking the waivers is the only way to make the low interest loans available.

(Continued on Page 3)