AFRO SPORTS

Morgan seeks form reversal

Returning home from a Virginia trip that resulted in three successive losses, coach Billy Newton and his Morgan State University cagers are hoping to change their fortune over the coming weekend.

The Bears bowed to the Norfolk State Spartans prior to dropping a 79 - 65 decision at Hampton Institute and a 74 - 69 verdict at Virginia Union.

Tomorrow (Saturday) leading scorer Yarharborough Roberts and his struggling teammates travel to University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Then next Tuesday, they come home to Hill Field House to host an improving Coppin State five.

The Lady Bears also have some returning to do.

They get back into action Tuesday after a 5 - week layoff since Dec. 11.

Three games next week will engage coach LaRue Fields and her gals, all at home, however.

Bowie State visits Tuesday, Howard University comes in Thursday, and Mt. St. Mary's is the Saturday guest.

Laurel racing sets record

Laurel, Md.-Racing more days in one year during 1982 than in its 72 year old history, Laurel Race Course attracted a record 8 0,437 fans through its turnstiles.

Figures compiled at 110 racing days (the total includes one day in 1983, Jan. 1) show that betting amounted to $110,297,351.

Laurel's longest summer meeting (49 days) conducted from May 24 through July 19 last year, drew 319,365 customers and wagering of $40,999,337.

The 1982 fall meeting (61 days) finished with 511,072 fans attending the races and betting totaling $69,298,014. The daily average wagering during the autumn session of $1,136,033 was an all - time record for a meeting of 60 days or more.

McCovey joins Aaron, others at 'Top' dinner

Former San Francisco Giants first baseman Willie McCovey will be on hand tonight (Friday) along with an impressive number of sports figures at the 30th annual Tops In Sports Banquet at the Convention Center.

McCovey and Milwaukee Brewers centerfielder Gorman Thomas will receive the affair's coveted "Sultan of Swat" awards.

Willie joins Hall of Famers Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Frank Robinson, and three other black athletes on the roster of head table guests.

Hank Aaron
one of 13 'Famers'

Willie McCovey
'Sultan of Swat'

The others are former Pittsbugh Pirate captain Willie Stargell, Boston Red Sox slugger Jim Rice and Baltimore Oriole standout Eddie Murray.

Counting Brooks Robinson, there will be 13 members of baseball's Hall of Fame present. These are Joe DiMaggio, Bill Dickey, Charlie Gehringer, Al Kaline, Ralph Kiner, Johnny Mize, Stan Musial, Duke Snider and Bill Terry.

McCovey is tied with Ted Williams for eighth on the all - time home run list with 521. He played 22 seasons for the (1959 - 73; 1977 - 80), San Diego Padres (1974 - 76), and Oakland A's (1976), compiling a lifetime batting average of .270 with 1555 career RBI.

McCovey was the National League's "most valuable player" in 1969 when he led the circuit with 45 homers and 126 RBI. He will receive the retro - active Babe Ruth Crown, which goes annually to a former star.

In addition, longtime Baltimore Orioles club executive Jack Dunn III will be presented the Edwin A. Rommel Award for long and distinguished service to baseball. Other honored guests announced were Orioles Chairman of the Board Edward Bennett Williams; Baltimore General Manager Hank Peters; Harry Dalton, general manager of the 1982 A.L. champion Milwaukee Brewers; nationally syndicated columnist George Will; and Good Morning America's Steve Bell. Former National League umpire Tom Gorman will be the after - dinner speaker, and longtime Pittsburgh Pirates' announcer Bob Prince will serve as master of ceremonies.

Foreign athletes 'a first' at Howard

By Shaun Powell

When Howard University basketball coach A.B. Williamson fielded his basketball team for the 1982-83season, he found 11 new faces on the squad. Standing out among the first-year transfer and freshman players was a big six-eight, 230-pound athlete from the African nation of Senegal.

Center Ousmane-Ba (pronounced OOSE-mahn BAA) is Howard's first international player on its men's basketball team. He is also only one of a few African athletes playing NCAA Division 1 basketball in this country.

Born in Ethiopia and educated under the French educational system in Dakar, Senegal, the walk-on freshman joined the Howard Bison with only 1 ½ years of basketball experience. Nonetheless, he palms basketballs as if they were cantaloupes.

The electrical engineering major compensates for his lack of basketball experience by being an excellent student and an inspiration to the team. Says Coach Williamson, "He's a good example of an athlete who is academically sound."

Ousmane-Ba, who speaks several languages, did not play organized basketball until his senior year at Lycee Van Vollenhoven High School in Dakar. Before that, his ball-playing came from playground pick-up games.

"Basketball is popular in Senegal, but there's no professional team to go to; it's pure amateurism. It's not on the same level as it is here," says Ousmane-Ba.

OUSMANE-BA of Senegal, who palms basketballs as if they were cantaloupes, is the first international student to play basketball for Howard University's Bison. He is the only one of a few African athletes playing NCAA Division 1 basketball in this country.

Skins among favorites but not for Super Bowl

RENO, Nev. (UPI) — Harrah's Reno - Tahoe Sports Book Monday installed the Washington Redskins, Los Angeles Raiders, San Diego Chargers and Dallas Cowboys the favorites in this weekend's NFL playoffs.

The Redskins were picked by 6 ½ points over the Minnesota Vikings and the Cowboys were picked by 7 over the Green Bay Packers in NFC games.

The Raiders were picked by 6½ points over York Jets and the Chargers were picked by 2 over the Miami Dolphins in AFC games.

The book also revised its Super Bowl odds, making the Raiders and Cowboys 8-5 picks and the Chargers 2-1. The Redskins were 10-3, the Jets and Packers 7-2 and the Dolphins and Vikings 5-1.

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Georgia Goslee fundraiser hosted at Masonic Temple

STATE SENATOR Clarence M. Mitchell III, holding young one, raps with Atty. Georgia Goslee during the fundraiser hosted for her by the Committee for Equal Justice at the Masonic Temple Saturday, Jan. 8. The fundraiser, which began at 5 and ended at 9 p.m. was to defray the debts incurred by Ms. Goslee during her bid for a judgeship during the recent election.

EXPRESSING THANKS to her guests and supporters following the program segment is the grateful and gracious honoree.

GIVING A RADIANT SMILE is Deborah Ricks, who waits to be served a cocktail during the festivities.

APPLAUDING THE PERFORMANCE during the entertainment segment are these enthused members of the audience.

On Saturday, Jan. 8 a fundraiser to pay campaign debts Equal Justice for Georgia Goslee, who ran for a judgeship in the recent election.

Held at the Masonic Temple's Banquet Hall, Eutaw St., from 5 until 9 p.m., the affair was marked by a sumptuous buffet dinner prepared by Dolly Walker and Leslie Davis, cocktails of every variety, the liquor for which had been donated by friends of Atty. Goslee, music for listening and dancing by the band, "360 Degrees of Truth, and hilarious entertainment by that combination magician-ventriloquist The Amazing Josini.

A lovely heartshaped pink and white cake inscribed "Good Luck, Georgia" stood in the center of the buffet table.

Emcee for the occasion, Elijah Cummings, immediate past president of the Monumental Bar Association and member of the House of Delegates. welcomed all and said the grace.

During the program, remarks of praise for Atty. Goslee were forthcoming from City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clark, City Councilman Kweisi Mfume, Atty. Bernadine Miles, new Monumental Bar Association prexy, House of Delegates member Curt Anderson and state Senator Clarence M. Mitchell III.

During his remarks Senator Mitchell urged all present to write letters to the governor appealing to him to appoint Georgia Goslee to the next vacancy on the Circuit Court, (formerly the Supreme Bench of Baltimore) and asked everyone to get a friend to do the same.

Ms. Goslee thanked the assemblage for their presence, assistance in making the affair a success and their continued belief in and support of her.

Chairperson for the affair was Barbara Green, Co-chairperson was Sylvia Williams.

Entertainment chairpersons were Sam Daniels and Rosita Walters, with 20 others assisting.

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