AFRO SPORTS

Early fears dispelled

Lynn acquisition eases the pain

By Sam Lacy

Friends, you may not be interested, but I have a confession to make.

I was sorely disappointed when the Orioles appeared to have made such a half - hearted attempt to obtain Ricky Henderson in the recent free - agent negotiations.

So disappointed, in fact, that I had just about written off the Baltimore club as a potential contender.

Henderson, I felt, was the leadoff man the Birds desperately needed. And when they let Ricky get away, I was tempted to write that the Yankees had just been given not only the East Division title but the American League pennant as well.

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On Tuesday, the pain was eased. The O's signed Fred Lynn.

If he is sound and can escape the injury jinx that has plagued him in recent years, the Orioles can come as close as any team to matching the on - paper strength of the Yankees' Henderson - Willie Randolph - Dave Winfield - Don Mattingly - Don Baylor killer-crew.

Moreover, Fred may well solve the multi - player platoon problem (of Al Bumbry, John Shelby and sometimes Gary Roenicke) which failed the Birds last year.

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It goes without saying the Sam Lacy's views will not and should not influence Joe Altobelli. But, like all sports fans, I see nothing wrong in fantasizing a batting order that figures to be — if all parties are sound — a winner.

Suppose Mike Young switch - hits at leadoff, to be followed by .321 hitter Lee Lacy? Cal Ripken Jr., third; Eddie Murray fourth and comfortable in the knowledge that he can no longer be "pitched around," what with Lynne in the on - deck circle.

That certainly is a tasty thought.

Wave goodbye to Jim Dwyer, Todd Cruz, Dan Ford and Lenn Sakata, and place the designated hitter assignment up for grabs among Shelby, Lowenstein, Roenicke and lefty swing Larry Sheets, up from Rochester.

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As the saying goes, of course there's good news and there's bad. You've read what I consider the good news, now for the not - so - good.

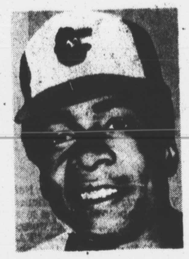
All the foregoing is based on the view through the spectacles of a supreme optimist, who is willing to overlook these glaring facts:

Lynn appears to be more injury prone in the latter years of his 10 - season stay in the majors, and I had a gut feeling in 1984 that he was past his peak.

And Lacy who will be 35 days into the 1984 season (April 10), has never had a day against American League pitching.

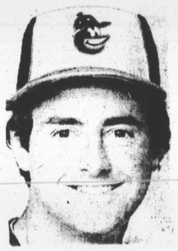
Mike Young leadoff maybe?

Cal Ripken Jr. to bat third, of course?



Lee Lacy likely for No. 2?

Eddie Murray happy cleanup



Fred Lynn promising backup

'Tops in Sports' to cite Ripken, Murray, Young

The 32nd "Tops in Sports" Baseball Banquet will be held Friday, January 11, 1985, at the Towson Center, it has been announced by Banquet Chairman Francis Sliwka.

This year's banquet, which is sponsored by the Maryland Professional Baseball Players Association, Inc., will salute the "greatest feats in baseball." A number of Hall of Fame members as well as past and present Orioles are expected to attend.

Several of the head table guests were announced by Sliwka. They will include Orioles' shortstop Cal Ripken, Jr., first baseman Eddie Murray, and outfielder Mike Young.

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Ripken will receive an award for major league shortstop of the year, and Young will be given an awards for major league rookie of the year.

Orioles infielder Jim Traber and Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Mike Bielecki will be honored as the Maryland stars of the future. The award is given to outstanding young prospects who were born in Maryland. Traber is from Columbia, Bielecki from Baltimore. Further guests and award winners will be announced in the uncoming weeks.

The banquet begins with a reception at 6:15 p.m., followed by dinner and the program. Tickets and further information can be obtained by calling (301) 242-3553. The "Tops in Sports" Banquet has been a complete sellout for the past 12 years.

NFL this week

FRIDAY
Los Angeles Rams at San Francisco

SATURDAY
Denver at Seattle
New Orleans at New York Giants

SUNDAY
Buffalo at Cincinnati
Chicago at Detroit
Cleveland at Houston
Colts at New England
Green Bay at Minnesota
Kansas City at San Diego
New York Jets at Tampa Bay
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Pittsburgh at LA Raiders
St. Louis at Washington

Redskins picked to capture East

The winner of Sunday's game between St. Louis and Washington at RFK, will be the Redskins, and with victory Washington will take the East Division of the NFL race.

Oddsmakers see it that way as they give the Skins a 5-point edge.

Not so the Indianapolis Colts, underdogs by 101-2 points to New England.

WBC ousts Page for S. Africa fight

SAN JUAN, P.R. — U.S. boxer Greg Page, who won the World Boxing Association's heavyweight title last week, has been eliminated from the World Boxing Council's ranking for fighting in apartheid South Africa.

WBC President Jose Sulaiman said Saturday that Page, who was ranked fifth by the WBC, had been removed for "betraying his race when he went to fight in South Africa."

"How is it possible that he would go fight in a country where racism is practiced for five cents?" he asked. "Page is out of the WBC world ranking."

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Page won the WBA heavyweight title last Saturday by knocking out Gerry Coetzee of South Africa.

"The world's black people have written boxing with words of gold," Sulaiman, a native of Mexico, said. "How are we going to segregate them with that racial practice?" he asked, referring to apartheid.

"No one in sports accepts South Africa. The WBC is no exception," he added.

Basketball

COLLEGE GAMES

Friday
Ala. State at Marshall

Saturday
Elizabeth City at U. of D.C.
Elizabeth City at UDC (women)
Shaw at Bowie State
Virginia Union at Livingstone
Austin Peay at Tenn. State
Alcorn at Toledo Univ.
Texas College at Tex. Southern
Miss. Valley at Southern Ill.
Nicholls State at Grambling

Sunday
Elizabeth City at Bowie State

Monday
Alcorn at U. of Michigan

NBA SCHEDULE

Thursday
Utah at New York
Atlanta at Houston
Washington at Phoenix
Portland at L.A. Clippers
L.A. Lakers at Seattle

Friday
Utah at Boston
Chicago at New Jersey
Indiana at Detroit
Philadelphia at Milwaukee
San Antonio at Dallas
Kansas City at Denver
Portland at Golden State

Saturday
Boston at Atlanta
New York at Cleveland
New Jersey at Indiana
Philadelphia at Chicago
Dallas at Houston
Phoenix at San Antonio
Seattle at Kansas City
Washington at L.A. Clippers

Sunday
Utah at Milwaukee
Seattle at Denver
Golden State at L.A. Clippers
Washington at L.A. Lakers

College scores

BASKETBALL

Mt. St. Mary's 107, Univ. of DC 83
Providence 70, Howard 53
Md., E. Shore 89, Bowie State 75
Md., E. Shore 62, Bowie St. 46 (women)
St. Paul's 80, NC Central 67
Va. State 57, Liberty Baptist 49
Morehead St. 87, Tenn. State 85
Ashland 86, Central State 65
Baptist 79, Bethune 62
Alcorn 112, Fla. A and M 78
Southern 98, Northeast La. 81

Bowie relieves new cage coach

Bowie State Athletic Director John Organ has made no comment concerning reasons for the move, but Don Nelson has been relieved of his basketball head coaching responsibilities before completing his first season at the job.

You're in Touch with...

JOE ALTOBELLI
LEFTY DRIESELL
TOM LASORDA
RON SHAPIRO
FRANK KUSH
TERRY CROWLEY
BOBBY ROSS
PAM SHRIVER
MYLES TANNENBAUM
SPARKY ANDERSON

These are just some of the guests Baltimore is in touch with on WBAL Radio's Sportsline

3-WAY SPORTSTALK WITH JEFF RIMER. WEEKDAYS 6PM-8PM.

radio 11 WBAL

Mrs. Santa has $17,257.85 — needs $7,747.42

Mrs. Santa Needs You:

HELP! The AFRO's Mrs. Santa needs you again this year to make sure needy families have a Christmas dinner. You won't believe there are so many families in this community who are not able to make their food stamps last through the month.

The AFRO Mrs. Santa Fund, AFRO Charities, is a non-profit organization sponsored by the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers to raise funds to make sure that no family goes hungry. Names are supplied by our readers, AFRO Clean Block Captains, City Agencies, Urban Services and the Police Department.

In 1983, Mrs. Santa's baskets went by the hundreds to housing projects and upper Park Heights. We were able to give a Christmas party for children of inmates in City Jail. In addition we were able to run a store at the AFRO stocked with warm clothes and nearly new toys where families in need could come and select items for their families without charge.

Here's how you can help. Please make a generous cash donation so that food baskets may be purchased wholesale. Every little bit helps to make our goal of $25,000. We will be glad to arrange a picture with Mrs. Santa for all contributions over $100. When it is published in the AFRO it will encourage others to give and we desperately need all the help we can get.

Will you start a drive for good, clean used clothes and toys at your business, club, organization, fraternity, sorority? It is better to bring the clothes and toys to our store. We will contact the families and they will be able to fit the clothes and toys to their needs.

Please make checks or money orders payable to Mrs. Santa, AFRO Charities, 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Md. 21201. All contributions are tax deductible.

Ida Murphy Peters
AFRO Mrs. Santa Director

No shoes.. no underwear... no wigs... please

Mrs. Santa wants to thank all you wonderful people collecting clothes for Mrs. Santa's Store at 623 N. Eutaw St.

We need warm coats for men, women, children and babies. We need good used bikes, skates and any good usable baby clothes.

Please! We can't use designer hats and designer shoes. We can use boots and rubbers.

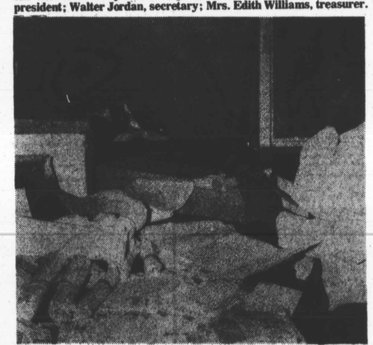
ADOPT A Family

728-8205

Mon-Fri.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Special Aid Club has been collecting clothes and toys for the past six years for Mrs. Santa. Above making presentation of $100 to Mrs. Santa Ida Peters are (L) Mrs. Helen Croxton and Mrs. Emma Sutton (R). Mrs. Mary Roane is president; Mrs. Helen Porter, vice-president; Walter Jordan, secretary; Mrs. Edith Williams, treasurer.



Miss Rhonda Frazier, AFRO employee and member of the Wayland Knights, Wayland Baptist Church selects 100 children from Mrs. Santa's list for a Christmas party at the church Dec. 22 at 3200 Garrison Blvd. Children will be served dinner and get new toys.

PROJECT SURVIVAL held a reception at City Hall to boost Miss Nite Life Cabaret Dance. Presentation of $2,000 was made to Project Survival by Mark Moyer, treasurer of General Electric Employee Fund in name of Ms. Laverne Page, a GE employee. Above, Lester Buster, Clarence Du Burns, Vernon Woslt, director, Project Survival; Miss Page, Dotson's Lounge; and Mark Moyer, GE.

Mrs. Santa's cases

Case 122: I am in need for myself and four children this year. I am unable to work because of my sickle cell anemia. The little I do receive doesn't last very long, it all goes to bills.

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Case 123: I have six in my family. I had an operation and don't get around to good. There are four children and two adults. We need a basket for Christmas.

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Case 124: I have had two heart attackes in less than a month's time. I live alone and will be pleased for anything you can provide for me. My food is just about to run out. I am a diabetic on insulin and I had four operations on the spine. I do have a nurse come in every Monday from Mercy Hospital. They don't want me to be alone but I have no choice for I can't pay anyone for day or night.

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Case 125: I am a mother of four children. I am on Social Services. My sister died recently in a car accident, she had three boys. My father died last year and no one to care for them. I don't want them to go in a home. I am very much in need, with my check I can just make it. Please help me with food and clothes.

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Looking for work

Case 126: I am not working but I am looking because I am trying to provide for my family. I would like to provide for my family, two girls and one boy with a dinner. Please help me with this problem.

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Case 127: Please help a friend whose family needs help and support from some organization. Her children are very young and she is really unable to give her children anything but the bare necessities. There are a lot of poor people in this city but she is a nice lady and trys to help everybody.

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Case 128: My mother doesn't work and she says we won't have any Christmas because she has to pay bills. I have two brothers and one sister. I need a pair of boots for the winter.

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Case 129: I need food, clothes and toys or anything. I am pregnant in my 8th month and have four other children. My children are 10, 9, 6 and 4. It is hard trying to be mother and father and running the household. My monthly check doesn't cover all the bills and my children look forward to Christmas.

Gas & Electric Out

Case 130: I feel bad asking for help this year but we have had bad luck. It seems I have been everywhere trying to get help with my Gas and Electric. They won't cut it back on unless I have $110. I had two grand kids but they put them somewhere else instead of trying to help me. They sent people out to take my children and they are all I have. I am on welfare but my check is as much as my house payment. They want to take my house. I send my children to Grandma's at night and bring them home in the morning to keep them in school. I have 11 children from one month to 19 years old.

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Case 131: I am writing for a Christmas basket or whatever we might get. My children need hats, gloves and scarves and socks. I have girls ages 9, 13, 14, 17 and boys 13 and 14. My boy's jacket was taken at school. He wears a size 12. He also needs warm sweaters. We will be glad to get anything you have to offer.

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Case 132: I have 8 children, 6 girls and 2 boys. Boys sizes are newborn to 3T and girls sizes 5 months to 5T. If you can help us it will greatly appreciated.

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Case 133: I am in need of help for my five children. I am on welfare but could use some help in food, clothes and toys. The boys are 16, 14, and 10 and wear sizes 18, 16 and 12. The girls are 9 and 3 years old and wear sizes 10 and 4.

Praying for help

Case 134: We are a family of three, my daughter, my grandson and I. My daughter can't work and my 9 year old grandson suffers with asthma very badly. She receives fuhds from social services. I receive $126 a month which isn't much. After paying rent, gas and electric and water bill there isn't much left. Things seem to be getting worse and we are always running out of food. I am hoping and praying that you will give us a Christmas basket, a pair of boots, size 10 for me with flat heels, a bedroom chair so I can sit in comfort. All I have for my feet is a pair of worn out tennis. Our Thanksgiving was sad. Please help us have a nice Christmas dinner.

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Case 135: I am a single mother of 4 children. I am in need of food, clothing, shoes and toys for my kids. I have one boy and 3 girls. They are 16 months, 13 years, 14 years and the boy is 8 years. Please help us have very merry Christmas.

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Case 136: My family is is dire need of help. We are a family of nine and the holiday time is so hard for us. We hope you can help us with a Christmas basket. I am sick and unemployed. Please help us because we really need it.

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Case 137: I have two grandchildren living with me. The boy is size 3 and the girl is size 4. Help them with something this year please.

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Case 138: I am working part-time and on a low income. My blind mother lives with me and I have children, girls 12, 10 and a 3 year old boy. My children need clothes, shoes and coats. I would appreciate anything you can do for my family and me.

Large Lady

Case 139: I am an obese woman with degenerated joint disease and severe back problems. I moved in a new project but my mattress that I have had for years has given out completely on me. My doctor says I should have a firm mattress. I sit up most of the time. My disablitiy check doesn't allow me to do very much. Will you please help me.

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Case 140: Please send my family and me a Christmas basket. I get a social services check. I am taking radium treatments for cancer and my husband has recently had back surgery. Please help us.

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Case 141: I have lupus and heart trouble. I have been in Montebello and Johns Hopkins and have been told that I am going blind. I really need a Christmas basket for my five grandchildren ages 8, 7, 4, 3 and 18 months.

Had Fire

Case 142: This family is in need of help because they were living with some people and their house caught on fire and the Red Cross has helped them to get into a house. They are trying to get themselves straightened out and in need of food and clothing. A few nice toys would brighten their Christmas a lot. The mother is 33, and children ages are 16, 15, 11, 12, and 10.

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Case 143: I am unable to provide Christmas for my two children this year. There are so many problems I am facing but not having anything for the kids will be a big disappointment to them. Please help.

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Case 144: I am concerned more so for my 11 year old grandson because his mother is in Springfield House. She has been going back and forth now for a year and three months. The judge gave me custody of him for a short time. His father is incarcerated. I have nothing left after paying bills.

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Case 145: My time has been real rough. I am temporarily staying with friends. I was evicted from my house because my income is so low. I have my daughter and 10 month old grandson staying with me. We stay in one bedroom until we can do better.

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Case 146: I am divorced and have a daughter age 5. I live with my mother, she works part-time and has arthritis very bad. I am out of work right now. My six year old nephew also lives with us. He is a sickly child, he was born with only part of one kidney. I pray that you will be able to help us to have a nice Christmas.

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Case 147: I am a widow, trying to live on my husband's social security, which is not easy the way the cost of living has gone up. I am not in good health and find it hard to get around.

Sister an alcoholic

Case 148: I am the legal guardian of my sister's child due to alcoholism. My niece is a toddler and this is her first year at school. I receive aid from Social Services and I am able to pay rent, get the special shoe prescribed for my niece, buy household needs, grooming needs, allow my niece to participate in fun activities and able to purchase learning supplies. Unfortunately toys are needed for her and clothes for both of us. Due to my sister's problem, my niece was unable to have a nice Easter, birthday or last Christmas. I want this year to be the best and most memorable of our lives. Please help us.

Counseling Services

Sometimes the Holidays can be very difficult because of financial stress, drug and alcohol abuse, and family or other problems.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention and Peer Counseling Center is open twenty - four (24) hours every day for free, confidential counseling, information, referrals and emergency shelter. To talk with a counselor please call 531 - 6677 or TTY 531 - 6080.

Goal $25,000

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Softball Marathon

$2,000.00
General Electric Employees Fund
Franklin Laundromat

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Maceo T. Howard

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Continental Societies, Inc.
The Balto. Cossocks

$300.00
Myra Grand Chapter, O.E.S.
C Avalon Social Club

$200.00
Sophisticated Few Charity Club
Prince Hall Masons Grand Lodge
Meritocrats, Inc.

$150.00
S.A.T. Foods
Balto. Chapter National Assoc. of Fashion & Accessory Designers
Mr. & Mrs. Dallin E. Wicks
High Bidders Pinochle Club

$140.00
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Curtis

$125.00
John & Beatrice Myers
Dr. Mellasenah Y. Morris

$110.00
The Stork Club

$100.00
Ernest Nash
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The Finos
Sen. Troy Brailey

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Mrs. Kathryn T. Frisby
The Community Neighborhood Assoc. of 600 N. Payson Street
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Ms. Claudice Harden

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Ms. Vivian M. Bailey
Mrs. Mary K. Pool
Hazel & Mildred West
Mrs. Evelyn M. Williams
Ms. Beatrice Johnson
Mrs. Lillian T. Jordan
Edward Woodward

$2.00
James Fleming

$1.00
Ms. Carol Harper

Mrs. Santa needs you

DEC