HACKERS' CORNER
by Don Haskins

The past two visits to the corner dealt with the importance of putting to the golfer's game, whether he or she be pro or duffer.

Here are some further points:

When walking toward the hole, inspect the green for preliminary undulation.

The line of a putt may be more precisely determined by sighting from the rear of the ball, along and behind the hole to correctly assess the movement of the putt, if any. To acquire a feel for the speed of a putt it is sound judgement to practice stroking a couples of times looking at the line, hole and ball alternately.

On first inspection a putt may appear straight. But, looking closer, the grain may affect the line and speed of a putt. The "with the grain putt"—the grain moving in the direction in which the ball will travel- will be indicated by a lighter color and the putt will break more and be faster.

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The "against the grain putt" will be evidenced by a darker color to the grass and the putt will break less and be slower.

Bermuda grass, a hardy and resilient strain of grass native to the more tropical climate of the southern United States, is very grainy, and will move-quite severely- at the hole, as the ball loses speed.

Bent grass a smoother, faster and greater breaking putting surface, is less grainy and more likely found in the cooler more temperate climate of the Northern Hemisphere.

Pencross is similar to Bermuda and suffice it to say that a comparison of the two would reveal very little difference.

You should be aware, though, that other factors may determine the break of a putt. The ball will break toward the ocean or pond as the green receives its nourishment therefrom.

The ball will move toward the mountains giving credence to the green's gravitational pull of the earth. The inevitable question is bound to be asked, "what happens when you are simultaneously confronted with water and mountains on opposite sides in such golfing Meccas' as the Mediterranean, Hawaii and Caribbean?"

Unless the demands of sight and gut instinct urge otherwise, hit the ball from and straight to the back of the hole.

To putt confidently, there must exist an absence of indecision. Uncertainty whether a putt will break is akin to saying" a pinch of perhaps is worth a pound of probably," and this wavering in conviction will result in a missed scoring opportunity.

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When you encounter rain or dewy type conditions, greens are not likely to break or be as quick as they might be otherwise because of the counteracting influence of the wet conditions. Again, strike the ball firm and straighter.

Putting in a cross wind may cause an ever so slight movement of the ball. Align the ball in the hole and hit it firm.

A few closing thoughts about putting. Make certain you get the ball past the hole on the fist putt because if it never gets to the hole . . . it will never go in. The return putt is made easier after you have had the benefit of observing the ball react during the first putt.

Pettway to fight Baker; Mack Lewis to be cited

Vincent Pettway, rated one of the top prospects in the country at any weight, goes for his 19th consecutive victory when he boxes Tom Baker in a scheduled 10-round welterweight main event, Tuesday evening April 15 at the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore.

Pettway, 20, of Baltimore has scored 16 knockouts on his 18-0 record. In his last fight, March 22 in Atlantic City, he knocked out Papo Figueroa in the first round.

He is rated No. 13 in the world by the Ring Magazine and No. 13 in the country by the United States Boxing Association.

Tom Baker, 26, of Washington, D.C., is 19-9-1. He fought Lonnie Smith, World Boxing Council junior welterweight champion to a split decision.

Baker has boxed Tyrone Crawley, Robbin Blake, Joe Manly, George Burton, Gary Hinton, drew with Terrance Ali, and won a decision over D. J. Turner.

Baltimore's Best Professional Boxing, the sponsoring outfit, will also pay tribute to Mack Lewis April 15 at the 5th Regiment Armory, for his more than 35 years of teaching and caring.

Ticket Information is available from Mike Jenson, 922-6145; Sherman Davis, 302-8466; Billy Brown, 624-4259; Joseph W. Peebles, 945-3892; Pamela R. Croxton, 448-5018 and Stuart Zolotorow, 356-9539.

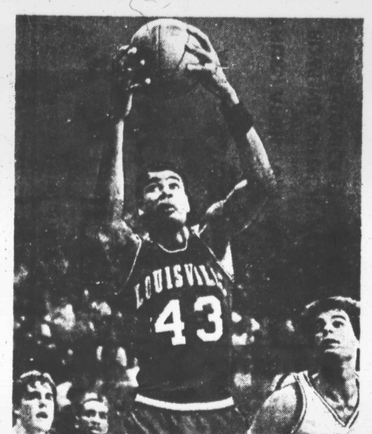
63 left for dribble, shoot finals

Sixty-three youngsters, 8 of them from Baltimore and a like number from Washington, are all that remain from a field of more than 49,700 boys and girls competing in the 18th Annual Dribble and Shoot Contest. It is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling Company in association with The Washington Bullets and these eight recreation departments: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Harford County, Norfolk, Alexandria and Richmond, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg YMCA.

The finalists, ranging in age from 8 to 16 in four age divisions, both boys and girls, will represent their areas in the Mid-Atlantic Finals on Sunday, April 6 prior to the Bullets-Dallas game at the Capital Centre in Largo, Md.

Baltimore City finalists are (girls listed first): 8-9, Danyelle Dorsey and A. Steve Greene; 10-11, Kelly Evans and Kevin Norris; 12-13, Melanie Fenwick and Irvin Montgomery; and 14-16, Shavella Watkins and Milton Johnson.

Washington, D.C. finalists (girls first) are: 8-9, Shauntay Brisbon and Alphonso Walker; 10-11, Stacy Dawkins and David Lawrence; 12-13, Angela Whiting and Almandeus Thornton; and 14-16, NeeNee Brown and Demitrius Jackson.



UPI Photo

WINNING STYLE — Louisville forward Pervis Ellison grabs a rebound in the last minute of the NCAA Final Four championship game demonstrating the talent that won him the most valuable player award as his team squeezed past the Duke Blue Devils, 72-69, in the Reunion Arena. Watching the high-flying Ellison are (L to R) Mark Alarie of Duke, Billy Thompson of Louisville and Jay Bilas of Duke. Louisville was a slight underdog in the championship game.

NFL strikes down talk of merger

The National Football League, gearing up for what is expected to be an extensive and bitter court battle with the United States Football League, announced that it has rejected a merger proposal by the USFL.

New of the possible merger leaked out of Rancho Mirage, Calif., where the NFL owners and executives gathered for a seris of annual meetings. Under the plan, four USFL teams would immediately be absored into the USFL and in return, the USFL would drop its $1.3 billion antitrust suit against the NFL.

However, the NFL, in unanimous vote of its owners, declined the offer. Had the offer been accepted, the New Jersey General, Memphis Showboats, Baltimore Stars and Arizona Outlaws likely would have been absorbed into the NFL.

While the anit-merger vote was the biggest news to come out of the meetings, the NFL also dropped two other bombshells. The league announced that:

- Instant replays, taken from television, would be used to aid officiating, starting this season.

- Half of he 28 NFL teams could lose money this year, and the number could escalate if the league does not receive more money from television networks after next season.

The instant replay issue had been hot for years, but the NFL waited until this year to act on it. The replays will be used for a limited number of calls, such as those concerning whether a player has stepped out of bounds, crossed the plane of the goal line and whether a pass was incomplete or was caught and then fumbled.

One official will be placed in the press box, where he will monitor two television sets. On a controversial call, the official in the pressbox, after viewing replays, will have the option of changing or agreeing with the call that was made on the field.

San Francisco 49ers Coach Bill Walsh welcomed the new technique. "I think the public will be gratified that we're responding to new technology," he said."

Others weren't so positive.

"I don't think it answers all questions," said Pittsburgh Steelers Coach Chuck Noll. "I think it can create as many questions as it solves."

The NFL, possibly spreading propaganda because of its pending trial with the USFL, said that the league would need a five-year.

All-Star prep rosters set for Classic prelim

COLLEGE PARK — Rosters for the D.C. All-Stars and Suburban All-Stars, two teams playing in the preliminary game, the Metro Classic, prior to the McDonald's Capital Classic, April 5, have been solidified.

Twenty-four players were selected by the Capital Classic Coaches Committee to compete in the contest set to begin at 6 p.m. at Cole Field House on the University of Maryland, College Park Campus.

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The 13th annual McDoanld's Capital Classic is scheduled for 8 p.m. Good seats remain for this entertaining affair. Tickets, priced at $8 and $10, are available at all 55 TicketCenters, including all area Hecht's stores. For the TicketCenter nearest you, or to charge by phone, call (202) 432-0200.

The McDonald's Capital Classic benefits the Washington-area Ronald McDonald House.

The District All-Stars are: Rod Holmes, guard, Gonzaga; Ray Johnson, guard, McNamara; Sean Smith, forward; Bishop Ireton; Davon Kelly, forward, Flint Hill; Derek Campbell, forward, McNamara;

Howard Tinker, guard, Spingarn; Carlos Thomas, guard, McKinley; Ricky Lewis, guard; Spingar; Everett Robinson, forward, Coolidge; Danny Ford, forward, Ballou; and Maurice Brighthaupt, center, Eastern.

The coach is Frank Williams of Coolidge High School.

The Suburban All-Stars are: Kerwin Dennis forward, Jefferson; Harold Westbrook, guard, Park View; Sean Andrews, guard, Mt. Vernon; Keith Warren, guard, W. Springfield; Mike Saale, forward, Lake Braddock; Terry Woodson, forward, Lee; Eric Sanders, center, Parkdale; Darryl Farmer, forward, Surrattsville; Mike White, guard, Crossland; Bryan Hutchens, forward, Walter Johnson; Thomas Lynch, guard, Northwestern; and Adrian Basey, forward; Seneca Valley.

The Coach is Earl Hawkins of Crossland High School.

Weaver on his hurlers: ready to go

MIAMI — Baltimore manager Earl Weaver believes a lot of hard work and a little more control will revive his Orioles' pitching staff after a season-long slumber last year. So far the formula is working.

The pitchers appear to be ready for next week's opening of the season.

Weaver says he has settled on a starting rotation of Mike Flanagan, Mike Boddicker, Ken Dixon, Storm Davis and Scott McGregor.

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"I'm planning on starting them the first two times around when we get up north," he said. "Dennis Martinez has looked good down here, and if somebody goes sour his first two starts up there, Dennis is ready to start."

Weaver will use Brad Havens and Rich Bordi as long relievers with Don Aase and Tippy Martinez as his short men.

"Right now, numbers-wise, we're in great shape. Physically, too, legs, we're in great shape with our pitching. Now they just have to go out and do the job," Weaver said.

After a great deal of soul searching about last year's performance, Weaver concluded control trouble was the problem.

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"We studied and we studied and we studied," Weaver said. "You can see by our stat sheet, that our control was off and we walked far too many men, way more than any other Orioles' staff has ever walked."

"We've been conscious of that down here this spring, and if there's one thing that stands out, it's the low amount of base on balls that we give up. I haven't had a pitcher that really was wild," he said.

"Last year, we had trouble getting it in the strike zone, let alone where we wanted to get it in the strike zone."

Mateen plans his transfer

AKRON, Ohio — Seven-foot center Grady Mateen, who quit the Georgetown basketball team because he wasn't getting enough playing time, says he'll soon announce to which school he'll transfer.

"I just didn't see any future for myself at Georgetown," Mateen told the Akron Beacon Journal. "I had met twice with Coach (John) Thompson about how I felt, and he told me that my time was coming. But I didn't want to wait until my senior year."

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Mateen, a native of Akron, will have to sit out the 1986-87 season, then have two years of eligibility left.

Mateen has indicated his choices are Ohio State, the University of Akron, Michigan State, Duke, Kentucky, North Carolina and Clemson.

Will more black role models step forward, please?

By Barry Cooper

As we speed towards the year 2,000, black youngsters in America are finding more opportunity available to them than ever before. There are chances to be doctors, lawyers, even high-ranking executives of Fortune 500 companies. Sadly, only a minute percentage of black youth aspire to such dreams. The media explosion that is with us now has done too good a job of glamorizing other professions, namely professional sports, acting and singing.

Want to get rich kid? Then shoot that basketball every day and make like Dr. J.

Want to drive a Mercedes like Magic Johnson?

Better forget about those books and get that slam dunk in order.

Want to be cool like Michael Jackson? Better practice that moonwalk.

All too often youngsters are caught up in the wrong kind of role models. And that's no knock against people like Dr. J., Magic and Michael Jackson. Trouble is, how many people have the god-given athletic or creative talent that those men have? How many poor, inner-city youths will one day grow up to duplicate the same kind of athletic feats as Magic?

Not many.

The task for black adults today may be one of trying to emphasize role models who are more than just athletes. Men like Willie Davis, the former Green Bay Packers great. Sure, Davis gained his first fame and fortune on the gridiron. But look where he is now. He's a multimillionaire, involved in radio station ownership, real estate, beer distributorships and other ventures.

Yet, he gained more publicity as a ball player than he does now. And who's the better role model — a guy out there making a million bucks in the real world or a guy carrying a football, playing only as long as the team wants him?

Let's take the case of Napoleon McCallum, the former star running back for the Naval Academy, Make that Ensign McCallum. It was only a year ago that he was a Heisman Trophy candidate, only three years ago that he had to decide between the Navy and transferring to another college where he could have a shot at pro football.

McCallum chose the Navy, a very gutty choice. Sure, he turned his back on what might have been a pretty good NFL salary. But McCallum chose brain over brawn, the Navy over the NFL. He'll be running his own company one day. Watch and see. Trouble is, we don't hear anything about McCallum now that he isn't playing football anymore, and he is a better role model now than ever.

While our newspapers are full of stories about professional players undergoing drug rehabilitation, assaulting their wives, being locked up for this or that, we seldom read anything about the young high school kid who isn't much of an athlete, but boy, check out his grades. They're awesome!

No wonder all our youngsters have their priorities mixed up.

Small Business

The IRS conducts workshops to help small business owners understand their tax rights and responsibilities. Contact the IRS for information.

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Bob Martinez ...AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Biggest announcement on the jazz scene this week is the opening of the Baltimore Jazz Festival to take place August 29 — September 1. The festival, which is scheduled August 30 at the Pier Six Concert Pavilion, includes Eubie Blake, Aug. 27, in the Stanford, Conn. area; Eubie Blake, Aug. 28, with the Symphony Pops; Eubie Blake, Aug. 29, simply awesome; Dizzy Gillespie and his United Nation Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Aug. 30; Ella Fitzgerald, Aug. 31; Count Basie Orchestra with Joe Williams, Aug. 31; Sarah Vaughan, Sept. 1; Dizzy Gillespie and his United Nation Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Sept. 1; Ramsey Lewis, Sept. 1; Stanley Turrentine, Sept. 1; Ahmad Jamal, Sept. 1; Dave Brubeck, Sept. 1; Gerry Mulligan, Sept. 1; Dizzy Gillespie, Sept. 1; Count Basie Orchestra with Joe Williams, Sept. 1; Sarah Vaughan