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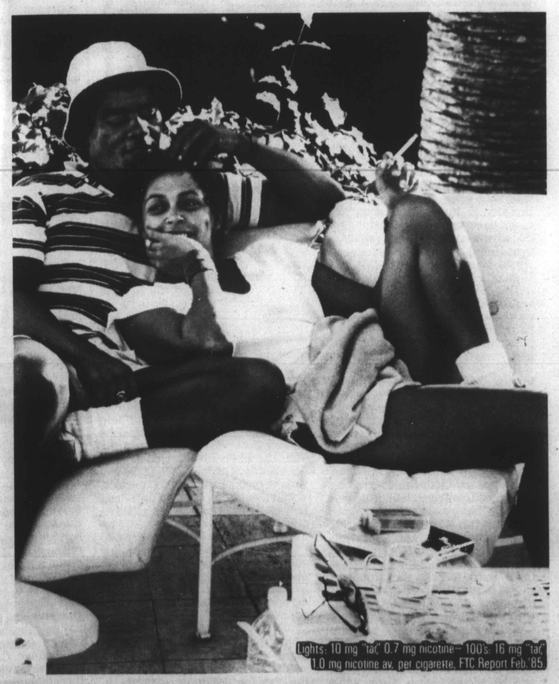

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The Afro-American

SPORTS

Section B

Strictly Personal 5B
International News 3B

SAM LACY

Smorgasbord

Welcome to the salad bar held in this space on occasions when timely topics are hard to come by . . . . like when the home team is in disarray, when you're premature to a major event like Tyson-Spinks, and when new news is old news in New York.

So, with apologies for mixed metaphor, diversions, editorializing, etc., I invite you to grab a plate and savor what you prefer . . . . whether it be tennis, baseball, basketball, golf, horse racing or what-have-you.

For instance, with tennis heading back into the Olympics beginning at Seoul in September, the question of the sport's links with South Africa is coming under closer scrutiny . . . . Recently IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said the relationship between tennis and the apartheid regime in Pretoria could pose a problem.

Already, groups opposed to racial segregation have circulated petitions seeking the blacklisting of players who have appeared in matches or exhibitions in the country . . . . Last week, while the debate raged, a South African doubles pair, Neil Broad and Stefan Kruger won through the first round in men's doubles, 6-4, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1 at Wimbledon.

Their victims: black Americans Chip Hooper and Todd Nelson.

* * *

On the same diamond that fans were watching the 1983 World Series in overcoats, gloves and earmuffs, the Phillies entertained the Chicago Cubs last Monday night in 130-degrees temperature.

Players, coaches and umpires left the field for the dugouts during a fourth-inning pitching change, leaving only the pitcher and catcher on the field during the reliever's warm-up tosses.

When Branch Rickey was guiding the Dodgers through a 6-year domination of the National League, he never attended a game played on Sunday.

After winning the National League batting championship in 1944, then hitting a rousing .300 in 1945, Dixie Walker held out for 1946 a raise to $20,000 . . . . He didn't get it and signed . . . . The following year when he reinforced his appeal by arguing that he would be unhappy playing with Jackie Robinson, he was traded.

* * *

Attention, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Michael Jordan: When 6-9, three-time All-American from DePaul, George Mikan became the first high-priced player in pro basketball, his salary was $60,000 . . . . for five years . . . . or $12,000 a year!

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Ben Hogan's $36,812 led all the money winners on the pro golf tour in 1948 . . . . When David Strange captured the U.S. Open last week he picked up $188,000 for the one tournament.

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Black jockey Oliver Lewis rode Aristides to victory in the first Kentucky Derby, it meant a $28,500 purse to the owner . . . . When Eddie Delahoussie piloted Desert Star home in the last Preakness, the owners pocketed almost 100 times that much.

* * *

When Bill Poland and Eddie Blunt contracted for an Aug. 27, 1941 bout, the winner was promised $2,500 for the sheduled 25-round event . . . . Mike Tyson and Michael Spinks split a purse of $30 million dollars after participating in a match on Monday that was scheduled for less than half the 25-round distance.

Notable quotable

George Raveling, assistant U.S. Olympic basketball coach, revealing how he first became involved in the game:

"When I went to a Catholic high school in Philadelphia, we had just one coach for football and basketball. He took all of us who turned out and had us run through a forest. The ones who ran into the trees went on the football team."

SPORTS on deck

WHISTLING IN THE DARK? Orioles general manager Roland Hemon and manager Frank Robinson say they see good things ahead for Baltimore Baseball (1st sports).

BATTERS UP: Two former major league stars — Chuck Hinton and "Boog" Powell — lead amateur teams to one-two finishes in Save-a-Heart charity golf to benefit one of nation's largest cardiac programs (1st Sports).

EUROPE, HERE THEY COME! National Football League scheduling puts a pre-season game in Sweden for first time ever (2nd Sports).

A NEW LIFE: Tyrone "Mugsy' Bogues, one of the three first-round draft picks from Baltimore last year, gets, reprieve from career oblivion (2nd Sports).

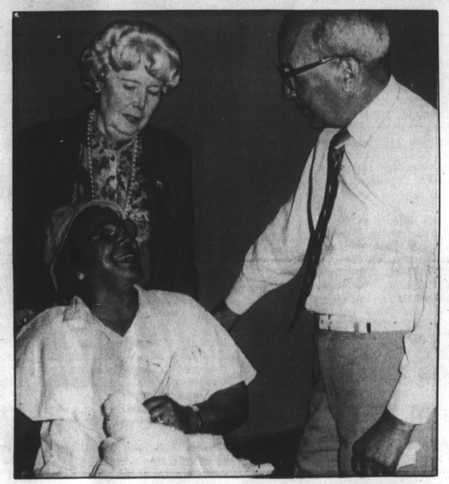
New face at Wimbledon

With their male counterparts — Yannick Noah, Chip Hooper, Nduka Odizor, etc. — on a tennis treadmill, women steadies were watching, surviving and welcoming new talent to the scene at Wimbledon last week.

The most impressive of these was Katrina Adams, a 19-year-old Chicagoan who dropped an unexpected bombshell on veteran Sylvia Hanika on Saturday.

Her 6-3, 6-3 victory over the No. 15 seed from West Germany catapulted Katrina into the precious round of 16 of the All-England Championships at historic Wimbledon.

Previously, Adams downed Briton Valda Lake and French Natalie Tauziat to gain the match with Hanika.



AND STILL AT IT — Evelyn Hackett no longer competes but 47 years in a wheelchair haven't daunted her enthusiasm for the Perky Hornets' (Multiple Sclerosis) program. She was on hand for the annual June awards luncheon of the Perky Hornets' bowling outing, greeted by Ethel Bird of the Red Cross and Sam Lacy of the AFRO.

Baseball tops Save-a-Heart golf charity

Two former American League baseball stars led their teams in a battle for first place in the 12th annual Save-a-Heart golf tournament at the Turf Valley Country Club.

Chuck Hinton's fivesome edged the fivesome headed by Boog Powell by a half-point to gain the top honor.

Hinton, a one-time Washington Senator, set the pace in a 24-under-par victory. Powell, former first baseman of the champion Baltimore Orioles, was key man on a team that reported in a 22-under.

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The handicapping system used in scoring enabled the Powell group to close within one-half of a point.

On the Hinton team were Charles Bryant, Mike Pangalis, Earl Stevenson and Joel Snyder.

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In third place at 21-under was the team led by Bob Maisel, retired sports editor and baseball writer for the Baltimore Sun.

The AFRO-led group was well back at 15-under.

Will Dunham for United Press

Rollie, Robbie see Orioles in turnabout

The snickering has subsided about these poor Birds, their magnificent misfortune now merely an old joke.

These days, the Baltimore Orioles want nothing more — and nothing less — than a return to respectability while they try to chart a long-range course back from oblivion.

The Orioles, just five years removed from a World Series title, suffered the worst season-opening crash in baseball history, losing their first 21 games of the 1988 season in full view of an amused baseball public. But once Baltimore won its first game of the year on April 29 against the Chicago White Sox, the real work began for Manager Frank Robinson, General Manager Roland Hemond and owner Edward Bennett Williams.

The Orioles' braintrust is doing its best to turn what became known as the streak into something beneficial for the team, almost like a child learning from a whipping.

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"I think it was a blessing in disguise," Robinson said during a recent interview. "I think it worked to be a positive thing, if you away the false sense of security that, hey, we might be all right. If we had gotten off to a good start, everybody would have said everything's great.

"Maybe it was for the best. At the time I didn't think it was, but maybe it was. I think we have learned a lot from that and we have gone to work. But it's not going to be an overnight thing."

The season-opening collapse exposed the Orioles' need for a complete and systemwide overhaul, starting at the lowest reaches of the farm system right up to the big league starting lineup. With the season lost before the end of April, Robinson said the remainder of this campaign will be used to lay a foundation for the future.

"That's one of the most important things — setting a foundation for the future," Robinson said. "We need to rebuild and shape the farm system, getting good young talent into the system. But, also, shaping the attitude of the players is important — a positive type of attitude, even under very adverse conditions."

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Hemond said one positive sign for the Baltimore reconstruction project was the positive frame of mind for the team through the streak.

Frank Robinson tough job but 'no regrets'

"No one in the organization was blaming anyone," said Hemond, a two-time major league executive of the year in 15 years with the White Sox. "Now everyone is going out to do their best to restore the respectability. I think the organization as a whole showed a great deal of character and recuperative powers to come back to where we are."

Where they are is playing reasonably competitive ball. Since the end of April, the Orioles are playing nearly .400 ball. That's not going to win any division, but it certainly is heading in a positive direction.

The Orioles don't want to commit themselves to a definitive timetable for their return to contention.

"When I came here, I indicated I did not like long-range type goals," Hemond said. "I'd like to be back in contention as quickly as possible. If you set the goals too far down the line, you may hinder the process because you may unconsciously think you have plenty of time."

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Robinson agrees.

"You can make a trade, a wise trade, here and there to make yourself a better ball club, then you sign a free agent or a kid comes up from the minor leagues, and all of a sudden you have a pretty good ball club," the manager said. "It could happen next year, it could happen two years from now, it could happen three years from now."

When Robinson was promoted from his position as a special assistant to Williams to manager, it marked his third opportunity as a major league head coach. Robinson knew he was inheriting quite a renovation project when he took the job.

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"It's tough. It's almost any impossible job," Robinson said.

"The players deserve the credit when they win. The manager takes the credit, which you should do, when you lose. That hasn't changed since I managed last (San Francisco in 1984)."

"But, no, I don't have any second thoughts. I knew what I was getting into. We'd all like to walk into an ideal-type situation, but that's not always possible. I'll do what I can do and hope the players will respond," Robinson added.

Hemond said he thinks the worst is behind the Orioles.

"I'm an optimist and I always have been," Hemond said. "It's fine being an optimist, but if you don't see positive results, there's no reason for enthusiasm. But I'm getting excited about what I'm seeing from our entire organization."