second SPORTS

Arthur Ashe clashes with McEnroe view

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND (UPI) — Officials and players Friday rejected John McEnroe's dire forecast for tennis, saying he overreacted in predicting the sport could lose its popularity in the United States.

Former star Arthur Ashe, international tennis officials and current Wimbledon 10th seed Tim Mayotte all said tennis is healthy and in no risk of losing support among Americans or U.S.-based sponsors.

McEnroe had warned Thursday that "tennis is losing a lot of interest rapidly in America" and said "it's a really critical time in tennis."

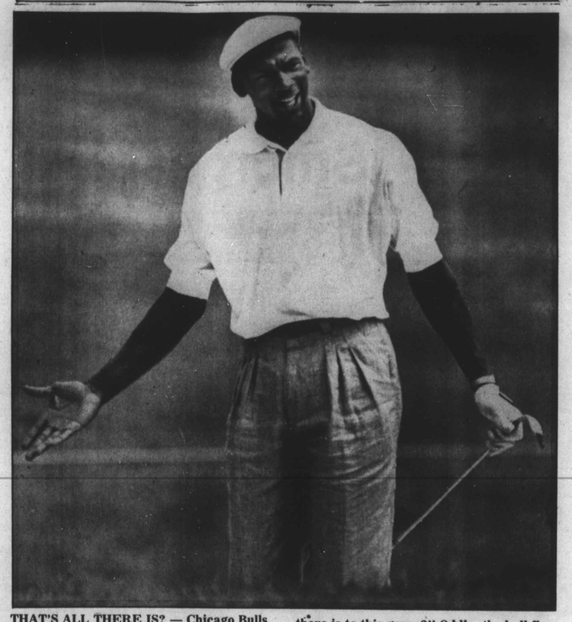
"It looks to me like it has the potential to turn into something like soccer, just where it's popular in europe and no one gives a damn in America," McEnroe said after being eliminated in the second round of Wimbledon by Australia's Wally Masur.

"Maybe a guy like (18-year-old American Andre) Agassi could change that if he became No. 1 in the world, but I don't really see that happening and, even if he did, I'm not sure if that would save it at this point.

Ashe, who won the men's singles title at Wimbledon in 1975 and has remained a leading figure in U.S. Tennis since his retirement, said participation in the sport is dropping in the United States but attendance is up.

"Tennis has very deep roots in America," He said, "just about every junior and high school in the country has at least four courts. The roots are too deep for it to wither away and die."

Ashe also pointed to U.S. tennis association programs to develop players, such as Agassi and 16-year-old Michael Chang and to the strength of college programs.



THAT'S ALL THERE IS? — Chicago Bulls basketball star Michael Jordan blasts from a trap at the 15th hole into the cup, then puts on a quizzical pose as if to ask: "Is that all there is to this game?" Oddly, the ball flew high in the air and dropped directly into the cup — like a Jordan dunk.

Athletic injuries don't discriminate

The risk of injury to female basketball players is nearly identical to that of males in the nearly 20,000 high schools nationwide, the National Athletic Trainers' Association said Monday.

Citing a recent study of 3,500 student-athletes across the country, the NATA said 23 percent of the 379,000 male and 318,000 female basketball players were sidelined at least once during the 1987-88 season.

Based on those projections, the association said some 163,000 high school basketball players were sidelined by injury during the year.

Preliminary results of a separate NATA study show that 30 percent of 273,000 high school wrestlers in the United States also sustained injuries. Of those, 15 percent were major injuries that required three weeks or more to heal, the NATA said.

By comparison, an NATA study conducted last fall revealed that 11 percent of high school football injuries were classified as major.

The injury studies are part of a nationwide public education effort to show why nearly 6 million interscholastic athletes need better health care than they are receiving, said NATA President Jerry Rhea.

"We're establishing a benchmark with these studies," said Rhea, the head athletic trainer for the National Football League's Atlanta Falcons. "We have now developed a basis by which to compare injury trends at the high school level."

Expansion prolongs careers of several blacks in NBA

When the NBA teams leave players exposed to an open draft, it is considered a not-too-subtle indication that those players are not long for league play.

Several blacks, having discovered what their team thinks of them, were rewarded Thursday with an opportunity to continue making their living with two expansion teams — the Charlotte Hornets and Miami Heat.

Here is the way these players went, and the teams from which they were selected:

MIAMI

1, **Arvid Kramer** (Dallas); 3, **Billy Thompson** (LA Lakers); 5, **Fred Roberts** (Boston); 7, Scott Hastings (Atlanta); 9, Jon Sundvold (San Antonio); 11, **Kevin Williams** (Seattle); 13, Hansi Gnad (Philadelphia); 15, **Darnell Valentine** (LA Clippers); 17, **Dwayne Washington** (New Jersey); 19, **Andre Turner** (Houston); 21, Conner Henry (Sacramento); 23, John Stroeder (Milwaukee).

CHARLOTTE

2, **Dell Curry** (Cleveland); 4, Dave Hoppen (Golden State); 6, **Tyrone Bogues** (Washington); 8, **Mike Brown** (Chicago); 10, **Rickey Green** (Utah); 12, Michael Holton (Portland); 14, **Michael Brooks** (Denver); 16, **Bernard Thompson** (Phoenix); 18, **Ralph Lewis** (Detroit); 20, **Clinton Wheeler** (Indiana); 22, **Sedric Toney**, New York.

Fire away, fellahs?

Welterweight champions Marlon Starling and Lloyd Honeyghan say they don't like each other.

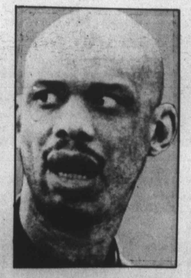
"I'll fight him for free, if the dollars are right," Starling said, confounding everybody.

"I'm willing to put my entire purse up, winner take all," Honey said. "We'll see who's the baddest."

Starling will defend his world boxing association crown against Thomas Molinares and Honeyghan will put his world boxing council title at stake against Yungkil Chung on the July 29 double-header in Atlantic City.

At a news conference Friday, Starling and Honeyghan nearly forgot they have opponents in July.

"We'll fight today," Starling said. "No," Honeyghan answered, "I want to get paid." . . .



HE'LL BE BACK — Maybe Kareem Abdul-Jabbar doesn't agree that you should quit while you're ahead. Or maybe it is he feels certain the L.A. Lakers will win again. The big center said last week that he will be back for an unprecedented 20th year in the NBA next year at age 42.

Wrestling is All-American

Reprinted from the Elk Valley Times & Observer (NC).

Professional wrestling is cartoons for adults.

There are mythical creatures loud and bragging; there are good guys and bad guys and the good guys win often enough to keep the moral world in its proper place.

Wrestlers are stereotypes: there is a giant, a he-man, a macho man complete with a princess to protect, an animal man, black heroes and black villains, hillbillies and rednecks.

Whether or not wrestling is a real sport is an argument that's been going on a long time.

I remember watching wrestling in Memphis when I was a boy.

We lived in Huntsville but most of my mother's relatives from north Mississippi lived in Memphis — a lot of young people from north Missisippi went to Memphis as soon as they were old enough to get a driver's license and get married, events that usually came, it seemed, at about the same age for my Mississippi cousins.

I loved visiting my cousins in Memphis: Memphis was much more classically sinful than Huntsville.

There was good philosophizing, too: my cousin Danny worked at a service station behind his apartment and we could smoke and spit and listen to guys talk about things like whether or not they should support Floyd Patterson in his heavyweight match against the Swede Ingemar Johannson because he was an American or, on the other hand, maybe they should pull for Ingemar because he was white. It was a heated debate way back then.

Way back then, too, Memphis had local wrestling every Saturday night and sometimes my brother and I would watch with my cousin Danny and my Uncle Jewel on the little square black and white screen that were TVs back in the 50's.

The wrestling matches were sponsored by Jax beer and one announcer loved the product so well that he got progressively more partisan and loud as the matches progressed — in professional wrestling, announcers, even sometimes the referees, are not expected to be objective.

My brother and I liked to show off our sophistication and intellect by arguing with my uncle, and any other fan that was near the TV, that pro wrestling was fake. They, of course, didn't believe a word of it and looking back it is a sign of their resistant that we two little smart-alecks were not thrown out a window and were even welcomed back the next time we came.

Wrestling is big time business now, filling up stadiums full of people and having celebrity fans — people who would have laughed at such a low-class sport a few years back.

Wrestling has come a long way from the days of Gorgeous George.

My brother is an executive now and he watches wrestling; my son likes to watch the big guys throw each other around.

Wrestling is an American morality play with no one getting killed, with the good guys always ready to make one last stand no matter how battered and bruised they are, no matter how big a dragon they got to slay.

"Is professional wrestling fake" is a question that is still pondered by some, but not by me — it doesn't matter anymore.

NFL pre-season schedules games in England, Scandinavia, Canada

The National Football League's 1988 preseason schedule, which opens the weekend of July 30-31, includes three games in three different foreign countries — England, Sweden and Canadda — for the first time in the league's 69-year history.

The 58-game preseason schedule kicks off on Saturday, July 30, when the Cincinnati Bengals meet the Los Angeles Rams in the 25th annual Pro Football Hall of Fame game at Canton, Ohio. The game will be televised from sold-out Fawcett Stadium (22,735) at 2:30 p.m. (ET) by ABC-TV which will also highlight the enshrinement ceremonies at halftime.

The following day, Sunday, July 31, the Miami Dolphins face the San Francisco 49ers in American Bowl '88 at Wembley Stadium, London, England. For the third straight year, NBC-TV will carry the game live in the United States at 1 P.M., ET (6 P.M., London Time).

Two weeks later, Sunday, Aug. 14, the NFC Central Division-rival Chicago Bears and Minnesota Vikings will introduce American football to Scandanavia at Ullevi Stadium in Goteborg, Sweden. The Bears-Vikings game will be the first NFL appearance ever on continental Europe. It will be televised by CBS at 2 P.M., ET (7 P.M., Sweden Time).

On Thursday, Aug. 18, the Cleveland Browns will face the New York Jets at Olympic Stadium in Montreal, Canada. It will be the 11th time NFL teams have played in Canada.

One-on-One

The two-time defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers will be featured on one million boxes of wheaties distributed in Southern California beginning next week, only the third team to be so honored. The world series champion Minnesota Twins and NFL champion Washington Redskins are the others.

Also left center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar unprotected for Thursday's expansion draft but guaranteed he would not be selected by sending a second-round draft pick to the Miami Heat.

Abdul-Jabbar, who will turn 42 April, has indicated he will return for an unprecedented 20th season next year, when he will earn $3 million.

Ben Johnson of Canada, world record holder in the 100-meter dash, is reported recovering from a leg injury in St. Kitts, West Indies, training lightly in preparation for the Seoul Olympics. He has been advised to resume competition no sooner than the Canadian athletic championships, scheduled for Aug. 5.

Four American track stars have signed to appear at the Jerez Grand Prix meet this week in Spain. Roger Kingdom, Evelyn Ashford, Calvin Smith and Danny Harris join compatriots Nat Thomas Jefferson in the June 28 outdoor event.

The New England Patriots have signed two free agent running backs, including the son of former Patriots standout running back Ron Burton, Sr., who played from 1960 to 1965.

Burton, 5-11 and 260 pounds, ran for 102 yards on 34 carries at Northwestern last year as a senior.

New York isolates beer

ALBANY, NY (UPI) — The state Senate, embarrassed by rowdy sports fans who have sullied New York's reputation, gave its approval Monday to a bill that would create ballpark sanctuary for non-drinkers.

The anti-drinking measure, which passed 32-22, is a compromise from earlier attempts that would have banned beer from 25 percent of stadium seats.

The successful bill, which may be voted on this week in the Assembly, would require 6 percent of all seats at any New York sporting event be absolutely alcohol-free.

In addition, 15 percent of the seats would be earmarked as non-vending sections where beer could not be sold, but could still be consumed. The plan would be phased in over three years and would be enforced by the State Liquor Authority.

BUT THEY'RE OK — Although hubby Isiah endured an injury prone and disappointing loss to the Lakers in the NBA title series, Lynn Thomas and little Joshua Isiah, born two days before Father's Day are doing well and enjoying life.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IN MIAMI — Deposed Haitian President Leslie Manigat and his wife Myrlande wave to the crowd of reporters and media who greeted them on arrival in Miami. He will fly to Rome to begin a European tour in search of support against Lt. Gen. Henry Namphy.

Caribbean nations condemn coup; no summit

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — In the first sign of opposition to Haiti's new military regime, workers at a state-run flour mill went on strike to protest the government's reinstatment of a manager fired two months ago by deposed president Leslie Manigat.

Radio inter station reported that workers at the Minoteri D'Haiti went on strike to protest the return of director James Cartwright, who was escorted back to the mill by an unnamed high-ranking military officer.

"We won't eat what we have thrown up," one worker told the radio station in reference to the return of Cartwright, who was fired by Manigat April 20.

Manigat, who is now in the neighboring Dominican Republic, was ousted Sunday in a coup led by Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, who declared himself president June 20.

The strike at the state-run flour mill is the first sign of organized protest against Namphy, who has received no public outpouring of support as he enjoyed in February, 1986 when his military junta succeeded the deposed 30-year-old Duvalier family dictatorship.

Haiti inter also reported protests at a state-run cement plant by union leaders angry over the return of manager Pierre Leger, who was fired by Manigat.

The two plants are about 20 miles north of Port-Au-Prince, near the town of Lafiteau, and have about 300 employees each, both were hit by strikes for higher pay in April.

Several former Manigat aides were reported being held by the government Tuesday as Namphy carried out sweeping changes in the military hierarchy, including 44 promotions and 29 transfers.

Minister of informal Col. Acedius Saint Louis said Lyonel Desgranges, an organizer for Manigat's National Progressive democratic Assembly Party, was being held at an undisclosed location. Former Information Minister Roger Savain was seized June 20.

Radio Soleil, a catholic church-run station, reported Tuesday that Manigat aides Marcellus Rodney and Narcaisse Lescotfeur had been arrested by military authorities. The report could not be immediately confirmed.

Among Namphy's changes Tuesday was the reinstatement to active military service Maj. Gen. Williams Regala. Regala was Interior and Defense Minister under Manigat and was named to the same post under Namphy.

Regala also was defense and interior minister under Namphy's Interim Junta, installed after collapse of the Duvalier family dictatorship in February 1986. He had gone on reserve status in order to serve in Manigat's government.

Brig. Gen. Carl Michel Nicolas was named commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Namphy's coup effectively erased the limited progress toward democratization that Manigat had achieved since his February inauguration and underscored the power-broker role of the Haitian military.

In the Dominican Republic, Manigat charged Tuesday that Namphy, 55, was mentally ill and urged other governments to condemn the general.

Several Caribbean nations, including the Dominican Republic have condemned Namphy's coup. The list includes Trinidad-Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados and St. Lucia.

However, Shahadeo Basdeo, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Caricom - an organization of Caribbean nations — said the Haitian situation will not merit a Caribbean summit.

Manigat, staying in the luxury Dominican Concorde Hotel amid strict security, said at a press conference that he was ousted in a "premeditated coup prepared against the democratization process that my government was implementing and speeding up in the last few days."

He called his short-lived civilian government Haiti's "last chance" at achieving democracy."

HAITIAN EXILE LEADER Rev. Jean-Juste scans the front page of the Miami News which had the latest story of the military seizure of power in Haiti. Many of Miami's Haitian exiles expressed dismay, confusion and anger over developments in their homeland.

Everyone wins with African debt plan

TORONTO — The seven richest industrialized nations have agreed to take a major step toward helping alleviate the debt of the poorest African countries with measures that exceed those of any previous summit.

Treasury Secretary James Baker told reporters that leaders were putting the final touches on the package of debt relief options which include concessional interest rate reductions, refinancing outstanding debt over a longer time frame or writing off some old development assistance loans.

The final communique of the 14th Economic Summit that ended June 21 "went farther on Third World debt than perhaps any summit communique that's ever been written," Baker said, adding the debt relief plan was engineered by Canada.

Baker said the administration would have to seek congressional approval before deciding to offer concessional interest rates or writing off some loans.

Baker said the measures reflected a dramatic departure in the American position that was initiated in a recent speech to an African development council in the Ivory Coast and carried forward during the economic summit.

In that speech, the United States agreed to acquiesce to new debt-relief efforts by some members of the Paris Club, an informal group of government lenders.

Summit countries like Canada and Britain have already written off hundreds of millions of dollars in development assistance loans, officials said, adding that summit leaders are being encouraged to continue that process. Canada estimates total African debt is about $85 billion.

On the opening day of the three-day summit Sunday, British officials said they hoped to steer the leading industrialized democracies to a compromise solution that would set easier terms for the repayment of loans.

But the British proposal, put forward about a year ago, has not been widely accepted by any summit countries.

Instead, summit partners preferred Canada's "menu" solution, which gives creditor governments greater flexibility.

Baker said delegations still had to work out the language of the final communique on debt relief and determine which of the poorest African nations would be eligible.

The package would not be available to middle-income countries in Latin America, whose debt is owed mainly to private banks.

The African nations, on the other hand, have borrowed money from government-supported export development credit agencies. — (UPI)

IN GEFETTA, ETHIOPIA — Children of this southern Ethiopian village show off containers of clean water from a well drilled by the international humanitarian agency World Vision. When a pond serving as the village water supply stagnated from drought and 30 people died in one month, the agency rushed a drilling rig to the area and fatalities ceased.

Was Kenyan 'Messiah' staged?

NAIROBI, Kenya — Swooning attendees of a prayer meeting at a Nairobi slum said they witnessed the second coming of Christ when a white-robed "Messiah" appeared before them, then vanished at the no. 56 bus stop down the road, the official Kenya Times newspaper reported Wednesday.

In a center-page spread that included a picture of the visitor — a bearded, intense-looking man with Swarthy looks and white robe — the paper asked "Did Jesus Christ come to Nairobi?" and carried an eyewitness account of what happened by a staff reporter who was present.

The newspaper also happens to be conducting a big circulation drive under the tutelage of a team of British tabloid experts.

According to reporter Job Mutungi, residents of the Kawangware slum in West Nairobi say a bright star — brighter than all the others — appeared in the sky at 1 p.m. June 4 over the poor, shanty township.

Then, a week later, it happened at the prayer meeting held by a local self-styled evangelist preacher, Mary Akatsa. Akatsa has been electrifying big crowds in the slum for several months with mass healings and "miracle meetings," when she announced the appearance of "a very important guest."

The crowd chanted "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus of Nazareth," and dozens collapsed as the robed man strolled through the throng with Akatsa.

"Everyone was murmuring something," Mutungi wrote. "Others were flat on the ground weeping uncontrollably, strange sporadic light wafted on top of his turbaned head, his feet and his entire body."

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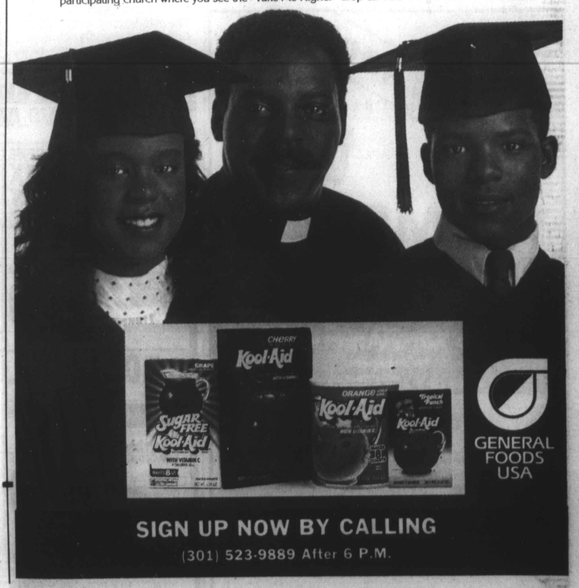
SAMPLE



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