SPORTS

SAM LACY

Symbol

Until he reads this, a certain young man probably doesn't realize he is a symbol . . . . A symbol, actually, in more ways than one.

And even when he reads this, he may wonder why such a meaningful label should be placed on one so unimportant as he and holding a job as undistinguished as his . . . . All the fellow does is drive cars from one place to another some 20-30 times a day when he's at work . . . . sometimes it may be a little more, sometimes it may be a lot less . . . . This depends on the number of cars to be handled, and on the mood of the fellows with whom he works . . . . these latter are all white.

You see, he is a valet car parker at Laurel Race Course . . . . Thus, he is a first in Maryland racing as was Jackie Robinson in major league baseball and Debi Thomas in world class figure skating.

Unfortunately, he did not stay around long enough for me to learn his name . . . . He was at Laurel last Tuesday . . . . hundreds of racegoers saw him . . . . I was among them . . . . After the track's usual dark day on Wednesday, he disappeared, and was not to be found on Thursday or Friday.

Racing's fabric

Now, what is this poppycock that Sam Lacy is thrusting on AFRO readers? . . . . How can he find the nerve to select an unidentified, unavailable, unknowing young man and introduce him to you as some sort of symbol?

Easily . . . . You see, friends, the AFRO for 18 years has been calling attention to the many facets of racism to be found in the thoroughbred industry in Maryland.

It was a fabric of the game that persisted from the twenties when the state was virtually covered with racing . . . . from Marlboro to Bowie to Laurel to Havre de Grace to Belair to Timonium to Cumberland and back to Pimlico . . . . Except for the unsavory jobs of mucking out stables, the work force everywhere was solid white.

Racing's personality

In all that time, black patrons represented an estimated 38 percent of the turnstiles revenue, but less than 5 percent of the job force.

Those estimates appear to have closed somewhat since Frank DeFrancis took over ownership of the two major tracks, replacing the Cohen brothers at Pimlico and John Shapiro at Laurel.

No longer are the patrol judges, the jockey room supervisors, the track policemen, the mutuels clerks, etc., all white.

True, Robert Flournoy and Calvin Meyers, patrol judge and jockey room man respectively, are pre-DeFrancis . . . . But those appointments came about only after the AFRO began calling attention to the disparity in hiring in 1970 when, ironically, Pimlico's Preakness was won by an animal named Personality.

Thus, the underlying personality of racing in the state was exposed.

Union buster?

When questions were asked, the answers were invariably that the various jobs were covered by unions, and black members were nonexistent . . . . Quietly, under the DeFrancis regime the number of blacks among mutuels clerks has increased, the track police force has been desegregated and a black has been placed in charge of the stable area where women (99 percent white) have taken over the chores of caring for the thoroughbreds.

This may explain in part why Frank DeFrancis is unpopular with many of his (white) employees and why several have branded him a "union buster."

The citadel crashed

It should be noted, too, that Gov. Schaefer has dropped a hand on the industry . . . . a heavy hand . . . . Today, a black, Dr. Ernest Colvin, is chairman of the Maryland Racing Commission.

One group that had held out until last Tuesday is that of the car-parkers . . . . Our unknown youngster crashed the citadel and thus became a symbol.

Of things to come, maybe?

Notable quotable

Former football great Gale Sayers on why he favors expulsion of student athletes over rehabilitation:

"Drugs didn't walk into our lives at 11 o'clock this morning. We have a history of athletes who've died. Drugs are illegal. If they weren't athletes, they'd be in jail. They know about drugs now, they just feel like they can get away with it."

Beaten Donny Lalonde: 'I wasn't busy enough'

By Jeff Hasen
(UPI Sports Writer)

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Donny Lalonde conceded Ray Leonard was the superior fighter Monday night, but was unwilling to say the 32-year-old champion had mastered aging in the process.

"Was he the old Sugar?" Lalonde said after he was knocked out by Leonard in the ninth round of the bout for Lalonde's World Boxing Council light heavyweight crown and the super middleweight title. "I don't know about that.

"He won because he was the better man tonight. He's crafty. The guy was hard to catch. I had him hurt many times, but I let him lead and obviously waited too long."

Lalonde, who could barely talk because of the right to the throat that ended the bout, said he was not overwhelmed.

"I felt all along I could handle him," the beaten champion said. "I just wasn't busy enough."

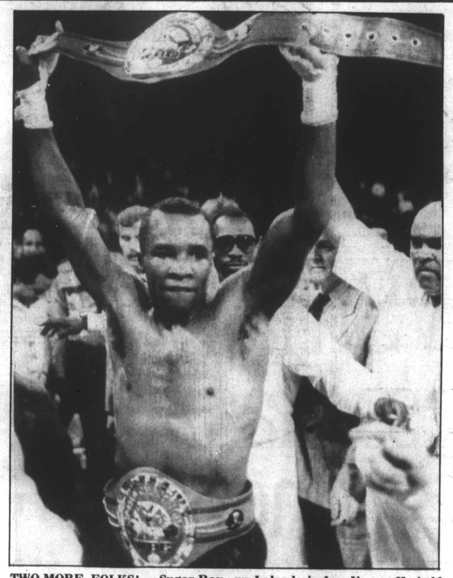
Leonard was knocked down in the fourth round when Lalonde connected with a short right. Lalonde said he believed he would put Leonard away then.

"When I knocked him down, I thought it was only a matter of time," Lalonde said. "But he's very good when he's hurt. He gave himself time to recover.

"I should've stuck to the game plan. I started waiting on him instead of punching. But no matter what you do and how you prepare, when a guy lands a punch (like Leonard did in the ninth), it's over."

Leonard said Lalonde proved to be a worthy champion.

"The fight itself indicated that this guy was for real," he said. "Lalonde was criticized in many corners, by many different people. But he didn't fool me. I knew he could fight. He is a credit to boxing."



TWO MORE, FOLKS! — Sugar Ray Leonard shows off the two championship belts he acquired Monday night when he knocked out Canadian Donny Lalonde in Las Vegas. He holds aloft the super welterweight belt while wearing the light-heavyweight adornment.

Zina, Lori win Wightman

The headline is misleading. It should read Zina and Lori clinched — instead of won — the Wightman Cup for the United States.

Zina Garrison and Lori McNeil captured the final two matches over the British women's team in London over the weekend. The victories completed a 7-0 USA sweep.

Earlier, Lori teamed with Betsy Nagelsen to defeat Britain's Sara Gomer and Julie Salmon in the doubles.

Football

COLLEGE SCHEDULE
Saturday
Morgan State at Howard U.
Bowie State at Univ. of DC
W. Illinois at Delaware State
Morris Brown at Bethune (H)
Grambling at S. Carolina State
Southern at Tenn. State (N)
N.W. Louisiana at Jackson St. (N)
Ala. State at Miss. Valley
Alcorn at Prairie View

COLLEGE RESULTS
Va. Union 29, S. Carolina St. 6
Va. State 38, Norfolk State 27
Winston-Salem 16, Bowie State 14
Hampton 37, W. Va. Tech 9
Fla. A&M 34, Howard Univ. 17
Delaware State 37, A and T 7
Livingstone 19, Fayetteville 13
Morgan St. 21, Elizabeth City 0
Northern Mich. 23, Central St. 7
Ky. State 14, Glenville State 8
Morehouse 19, Miles College 6
Albany State 27, Morris Brown 24
Austin Peay 16, Tenn. State 12

NFL SCHEDULE
Sunday
Chicago Bears at Washington
Cincinnati at Kansas City
Cleveland at Denver
Houston at Seattle
Indianapolis at Green Bay
New England at New York Jets
New Orleans at Los Angeles Rams
New York Giants at Phoenix
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
San Diego at Atlanta
Tampa Bay at Detroit
L.A. Raiders at San Francisco
Sunday Night
Minnesota at Dallas Cowboys
Monday Night
Buffalo Bills at Miami

Shadoe Stevens for United Press

His thanks are for an unexpected rescue

There are really two important holidays in my life. One is the anniversary marking when I went in and got treatment for drug and alcohol abuse. And the other is Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is always Thanksgiving. It's a time to think and reflect on the real underlying circumstances of your life. Most of the time you are busy in day-to-day-activity.

But on Thanksgiving, you stop for a moment, even if just for a moment, and think about things like, "Where did I come from, and what do I have to be thankful for?"

When you think about it, the list can be rather awesome.

— —

My life has continually gotten better in quantum leaps in the last four years. Every year actually gets better than the one that preceded it. Four and a half years ago, I made the decision to get off drugs and alcohol. The combination just about killed me. And miraculously, I lived.

Thanks to a 12-step program, my life completely transformed. I subsequently stopped smoking, lost 50 pounds, tried sky-diving, studied kung-fu, met the girl of my dreams, got married a year later and eventually had the daughter of my dreams.

Basically, I knew five years ago what every day was going to be like. It was a nightmare of anxiety, a relentless pursuit of finding more drugs and balancing them off with large amounts of alcohol. And nearly every day I would use both until I convulsed on the floor, unconscious.

Shadoe Stevens is not black. But he has such a powerful personal message for the moment that it deserves being printed in the hope it will touch someone. After a rocky start in drugs and drink, he has become one of the most popular figures on television, as panelist and announcer on the syndicated game show "Hollywood Squares," and host of the popular "American Top 40" radio program, broadcast in the United States and overseas.

Today, I am squeaky clean, full of life and full of optimism. I laugh a lot more these days. Everything about me has changed. I am not even the same person. I have somewhat the same cellular makeup, but I am sure even that has changed.

My philosophy, even in my darkest moments, has been never to give up hope and never to stop trying. Even when I was the biggest mess, I still tried, and believed that when things are darkest, you can't lose hope that the basic reality of life is that things can and do change.

— —

For example, my wife, Beverly, came into my life about nine months after I went into the hospital, in the spring of 1985. The universe exploded when I first saw her.

A guy from my music studio was at the bank, standing in line, talking to her. And he said, "You know, we're doing music here, and if you have nothing to do, come over."

She came over and sat in the studio, and sat in the room and when I walked into the room, there was this intensity.

So I went to the music producer and said, "God, what was that? Does she sing?" and when he said yes, I said, "Let's get her back here!"

We did this song called "Oh, You Perspire" for my Shadoevision television program, and we have hardly been apart since that day.

— —

So obviously I have a lot to be thankful for. The American people have so enthusiastically embraced me. And this is the father in me talking, but I always knew that I would have a daughter, and her name would be Amber. I didn't know why, I just knew.

Even when the doctors did an untrasound test, and said the baby was a boy, I said, "Well, that's not true." I absolutely knew it would be a girl, and we even bought clothes for a girl, because we knew.

There isn't a thing about Amber that isn't beautiful. She is stunning, charming and full of life. Really special.

She's 2 years old now. And if I were to point to Amber alone, I would have plenty to give thanks for. Like I said, when you think about it, the list can be pretty awesome.

Mrs. Santa Request Form

Mrs. Santa wants to help you have a Merry Christmas by providing you with food and toys. If you'd like us to help, use the form below and give us your name, address, telephone number, zip code, number and ages of children, and tell us why the family needs help. If you live in an apartment building, please be sure to state the name of the apartment or housing complex as well as the number of the apartment.

Please do not call our office and ask to be placed on the list of recipients. You must fill out this form and send it to us.

Request Form

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Apartment _____ or

Housing Complex: _____

No. of Children: _____

Ages: _____

Mail To:

Mrs. Santa Campaign

c/o AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS
628 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Coppin State aims for MEAC title

By Fred Lindsey
AFRO Sports Writer

Sophomores Derreck Orr, a 6-4 guard, and Larry McCollum, a 6-7 center will be a part of the starting line-up. Both were placed on the MEAC All-Rookie Team last year.

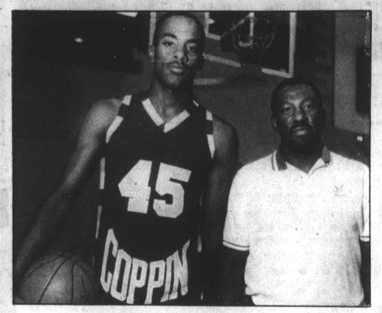
Orr maintained a 17-point scoring average and was 17th in the nation among three-point shooters. McCollum is described as a hard worker who averaged nearly seven rebounds a contest.

Filling the fifth spot for Coppin will probably be 6-0 sophomore point guard Otto Barbour. Barbour, a sixth man last year, led the conference in free throw percentage at 86 percent and had several big scoring games.

"Our primary concern is to be competitive in every game," Mitchell said, "and to mature enough to be ready by tournament time."

Among the several reserves that include 6-5 senior Oram Fields, Marcus and Joe Hammond who brings experience to the club are sophomores Larry Stewart, a 6-6 forward from Philadelphia;

Duane Reed, a 6-4 swing man from Camden, New Jersey who claims to have a vertical leap of 40 inches.



Coppin State coach Ron Mitchell and Dunbar's Rodney Allen.

6-3 guard Reggie Isaac, who once scored 84 points in a Philadelphia high school game, and Rodney Allen (Dunbar) the lone Baltimore City product.

"Rodney, with a B scholastic average is our resident scholar," Mitchell said. "He has room for basketball growth and we are bringing him around slowly, but he is expected to help us."

The only freshman on the team is Larry Yarbray, a 5'10" guard from Chester, PA. Yarbray led Chester High School to the semi-finals of the Pennsylvania State Championship averaging 17 points with 7 assists per game.

With the new 1988-89 college basketball season upon us, Coppin State men's basketball has high hopes for the collegiate season.

After a 13-14 overall and a 8-7 conference record in the MidEastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), head coach Ron Mitchell is expected the Eagles to compete for the conference crown in Greensboro, NC, in March.

Led by Philadelphian Phil Booth, the MEAC scoring leaders (20 ppg) and first team all-conference player, Coppin feels quite comfortable with the 6'5 junior forward heading into a new basketball campaign.

Booth is referred to as "the cornerstone" of the Eagles offense and Mitchell had high praise for his third year player.

"Phil was the most complete player we had last year," Mitchell said. "He was our do-everything man. He made a lot of big baskets for us last season. He not only led us in points per game, but he was also our rebounding leader."

Senior starter Dwayne Nelson (Milford Mill) will join Booth in the front court. The 6-6 forward was second in rebounding but gives the team more than what is seen on the basketball court.

"Nelson will provide leadership," Mitchell said.

ORIGINALITY:

it's rewarding

At the turn of the century, Madame C. J. Walker's straightening comb turned Black hair care into a red-hot industry, made a millionaire of Madame Walker, and created scores of Black businesses.

Today, that tradition is continued by entrepreneurs like Bernice Calvin, President and CEO of Big Show Expo, the nation's oldest and largest ethnic beauty and information show.

Sponsored in part by Coors, Big Show Expo attracts more than 50,000 visitors to a touring show of new products, educational demonstrations and selling strategies.

Ms. Calvin also founded the National Black Beauty Heritage Association, whose turn-of-the-century artifacts will visit the Big Show Expo.

The Adolph Coors Company, brewer of Coors, Coors Light and Extra Gold Draft,® is proud to take part in keeping a beautiful tradition in business.

Coors®

Other fine Coors brands: Herman Joseph's, Herman Joseph's Light, Killian Red Ale

© 1988 Adolph Coors Company, Golden, Colorado b0401 · Brewer of Fine Quality Beers Since 1873