Sportsman Lounge League

The Sportsman's Lounge Basketball League ended the first half of its season with Henry Bia's Green team in first place with a 9-6 record, despite losing to the Gold team in last week's action.

Paced by Greer McMillen's 26 points and Punch Edward's 18, the Green team was defeated 60-59.

In other games, the Gray team, led by Donald Johnson's 27 points, defeated the Purple team 64-54. And the Blue team defeated the Red team 56-53 with Donnie Evans leading the victors with 18 points.

Standings:

SPORTSMAN'S LOUNGE BASKETBALL LEAGUE 1988-1989

Players	Games	Total Points	Average
Don Johnson (GRAY)	15	205	13.7
Chucky Neuman (RED)	14	192	13.7
Mel Lamb (PURPLE)	15	202	13.5
Les "Tar" Dennis (PURPLE)	14	188	13.4
Greer McMillen (GOLD)	9	118	13.1
Punch Edwards (GOLD)	15	167	12.5
Matt Brown (GOLD)	14	157	11.2
Les Walker (GREEN)	15	161	10.7
Leon Love (PURPLE)	10	106	10.6
Chas. Fowlkes (BLUE)	15	151	10.1
Donald Watkins (GRAY)	14	139	9.9
Tony Witherspoon (GRAY)	12	117	9.8
Greg Moody (RED)	14	119	8.5
Barry Scroggins (GREEN)	15	121	8.0
Vance Young (RED)	15	118	7.9
Herb White (BLUE)	15	117	7.8

TEAM STANDINGS Week 15

Team	Wins	Losses
GREEN	9	6
RED	8	7
GRAY	7	8
PURPLE	7	8
BLUE	7	8
GOLD	7	8

Lake Clifton keeping cool

By Fred Lindsey
AFRO Sports Writer

After Lake Clifton's recent stomping of Calvert Hall, Coach Charley Moore is trying to maintain a very low profile with his number one Laker basketball team.

With three of the top 100 high school basketball players in the country and a number eight ranking by USA Today, the expectations are high for Lake Clifton to run roughshod over the MSA this year, but Moore is insisting his team keep their heads on straight because there are still plenty of games to play.

"We expect to show up for each game," Moore modestly said, "and we expect to play our best at every opportunity, but I am making sure the team take everything in stride and not think that they are God's gift to high school basketball."

At 4-0, the road to fame becomes more difficult when Lake Clifton goes to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for the Cambria Invitational Tournament, where the competition is expected to be stiff.

Selected as pre-season All-Americas 6-7 Ron Lucas, 6-6 Joe Curry and 6-3 Benjamin Harlee are living up to their all-star notoriety, but doing what is necessary to win. Adding 6-5 Alfonso Barney and 6-2 Lenny Pindell to the starting line-up gives Moore a formidable first five.

As 5-9 Brian Randolph, a transfer from Douglass, provides spark off the bench, Moore has gotten more comfortable with his team's position every game.

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SPORTS

This, my friends, is Christmas week, a time for love, faith, forgiveness and tolerance . . . . A time to show love for all, to have faith in the symbol, to forgive frailty in the human spirit, and to be tolerant of those who do not wish to conform.

It is, before anything else, a time to wish each of them a warm and hearty Merry Christmas.

That done, my holiday wish list begins —

For all of us: *a vision of L.A. Laker Kareem Abdul-Jabbar paring his 7-4 frame to fit that motorcycle presented to him by Milwaukee fans the other night.*

For Jabbar: *an elevator-like seat and pole-vault handlebars.*

For Redskins quarterback Doug Williams: *a standing ovation for the courage shown in talking candidly in tough post-game interviews after frustrating losses.*

For Redskins coach Joe Gibbs: *the same.*

For Syracuse basketball coach Jim Boeheim: *a portfolio of assorted degrees to give to players on his team who won't be graduating.*

For James Madison basketball coach Lefty Driesell: *ditto.*

For Chicago Bulls' high-flying Michael Jordan: *a pair of spare wings.*

Gift list

For Los Angeles Laker Magic Johnson: *Murine for a third eye.*

For Washington Bullets coach Wes Unseld: *a couple of un-Bol-like big men.*

For NBA player "Mugsy" Bogues: *legalization of a 5-foot basket for easier dunking.*

For heavyweight champion Mike Tyson: *a wake-up call.*

For actress Robin Givens, estranged wife of Mike Tyson: *a fair shake.*

For new young tennis player Katrina Adams of Chicago: *a scale.*

For golfer Jim Thorpe: *a pass to enter those municipal courses, lavatories, recreation parks and sports facilities the Johannesburg governing council closed to blacks two days after he played a tournament in South Africa.*

For golfer Calvin Peete: *physical rehabilitation and renewed desire.*

For senior golfer Charley Sifford: *a happy 64th birthday and a year's supply of unlit cigars to chew on while he keeps swinging.*

For golfer Lee Elder: *freedom from a need for the cigarets that brought on the scary heart attack.*

For the homeless: *your prayers to join ours.*

For George "Read My Lips" Bush: *a road map.*

For Manager Frank Robinson of the Orioles: *a half-dozen guys to replace Eddie Murray; if more can be spared that may do it.*

For Eddie Murray: *quick realization of how beautiful life can be for him 3,000 miles away from Baltimore's night media.*

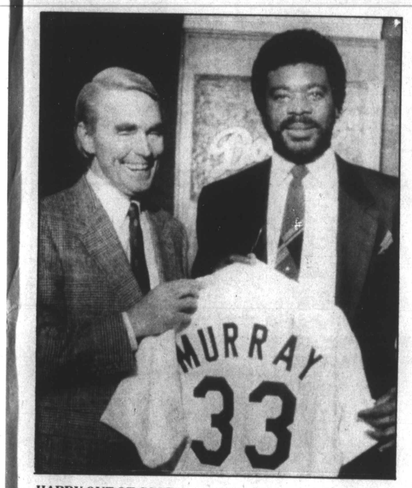
For my doctor: *a warm stethoscope and thinner middle finger.*

And for Baltimore talk-show abusers: *arsenic in their egg-nog.*

Notable quotable

Hank Aaron when advised by Yogi Berra as he stepped to the plate in the 1957 World Series, that his bat label wasn't facing up:

"I get paid for hitting, not for reading."



HAPPY OUT OF COOP — Former Orioles first baseman and slugging star Eddie Murray is welcomed to Los Angeles by Dodgers general manager Fred Claire. Eddie expects to find peace and new image after having escaped a life of misery in Baltimore.

'Palimony' suit hits NBA star

HOUSTON (UPI) — A judge ordered Houston Rockets center Akeem Olajuwon to pay $1,500 a month and $10,000 up front in child support payments to his former fiancee.

State District Judge Norman R. Lee made the order Friday. Lita Spencer, who now lives in Port Angeles, Wash., was asking Olajuwon for $4,500 a month and a $100,000 lump sum to take care of the couple's 5-month-old daughter.

— —

Spencer met the Nigerian native in 1982 when she was in high school in Houston and he was a student at the University of Houston. They dated for almost six years.

Spencer, 24, testified at a hearing that her life has changed dramatically since she and the NBA All-Star parted ways and she moved to Washington.

"I've gone from Mercedes limousines to blankets over the windows," she told the judge.

The Hoya 'Rejection Section'

There is no question that Charles Smith, the spectacular guard-playmaker, is the darling of Georgetown's basketball fans.

With one mesmerizing move, the senior captain of the Hoyas can rattle the rafters of any basketball arena. And he does just that in game after game.

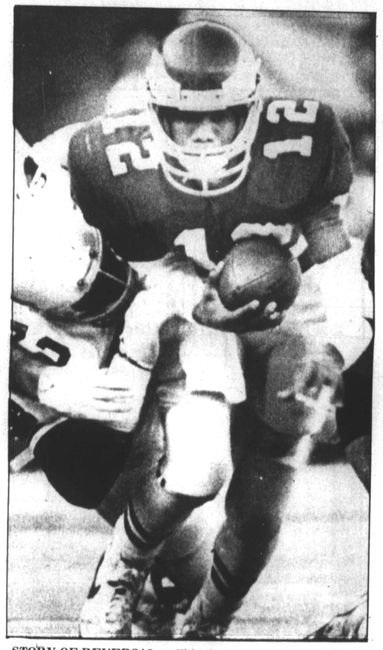
But, while Alonzo Mourning is no serious threat at the moment to the popularity of his older (and wiser) teammate, the freshman center from Chesapeake, Va., is fast grabbing a share of the attention.

One segment of the Hoya "net set" has established what it calls "The Rejection Section," a raucous tribute to Mourning's uncanny ability to block opponents' shots.

Occupants of the "Rejection Section" are so thrilled by the sight of their hero leaping high to swat away an enemy scoring attempt, that they have begun hanging drawings of huge hands from the railing each time Mourning gets a block.

The practice obviously is patterned from the scenario at Shea Stadium when admirers of Dwight Gooden strung up a "K" every time the New York Mets' righthander registered a strikeout.

Saturday during the Georgetown-DePaul game at Capital Centre, 11 hands were hung by the "Rejection Section" . . . LACY.



STORY OF REVERSAL — This time it was a case of eagles soaring on man's wings. Randall Cunningham's arms and legs carried the Philadelphia eagles to the top of the NFC East title Sunday, pacing a 23-7 victory over Dallas while defending champion Giants were losing to the Jets. Hours earlier, the Philadelphia quarterback was selected to lead the NFC against the AFC in the Pro Bowl in January.

Tokyo kudos for 'Flojo'

Olympic gold medalist Florence Griffith-Joyner has signed a one-year contract with Mitsubishi Electric Corp. to appear in television commercials and newspaper advertisements in Japan next year.

"Flojo" also has been voted "Female International Athlete of the Year" by a committee of French journalists and athletic coaches.

Should she win the prestigious Sullivan Award next spring, she will match the accomplishments of Wilma Rudolph in 1960. "Flojo" is one of nine finalists being voted upon for that honor.

Patricia McCormack for United Press

For Christmas, don't forget the family pet

NEW YORK — Does your family pet race down with the gang on Christmas morning only to be disappointed year after year? Don't be a Scrooge this time around — there are plenty of treats this season to delight any pet.

For dog owners, consider a T-shirt for the family pooch bearing such phrases as "I Brake for Trees," "No Tailgating," "Here Comes Trouble" or the real truth — "I'm the Boss."

Cats, those aloof, independent creatures, don't favor wearing apparel but a good choice would be a house filled with treats — catnip and toys.

"The Kitty's Mystery Mansion," which sells for $39.95, rates the "Good Mousekeeping Seal of Approval," says the description in The Pet Catalog, which also markets the doggie T-shirts.

The Pet Catalog, issued by Bob and Jackie Sperandio of Spencerport, N.Y., offers gift items for nearly every domestic animal from dogs to cats to birds.

For $149.95, you can house your exotic bird in an equally exotic brass plated bird cage, with stand.

For $29.95, there's a bird playpen made of wood that tastes bitter to discourage chewing. It is recommended for parakeets, conures, cockatiels, lovebirds or doves.

— —

Jackie Sperandio said the 44-page Christmas pet catalog is one of six she and her husband publish annually as part of their company, Pedigrees. They began the catalogs in 1983 as an extension of their mail-order pet supply business.

"This started small, a typical mail-order business and now we have 200 people working with us," she said.

The Sperandio's pet, by the way, is a black Labrador retriever named Tigger.

"We always get him a stocking filled with new and wonderful toys and treats," she said. "They include all natural cookies baked in barnyard shapes. We wrap everything because he has fun unwrapping the things."

— —

A sampling of other pet gifts in the catalog:

— Personalized dog collars made of tough nylon webbing and with your pet's name and telephone number embroidered on, for $14.95. A lead, similarly embroidered, is the same price.

— A Pet Safety Belt ($18.95) that is suitable for dogs and cats. A nylon belt fastens around your pet, and straps secure it to the car seat belt. For added safety, none of the harness is near your pet's throat.

From the Orvis Catalog, Roanoke, Va., a festive holiday "twinkler collar" with little red lights that blink is available for small, large and extra-large dogs.

"Dogs of distinc[illegible] preciate our party collar for special occasions, festive attire for the holiday scene," the catalog states.

— —

For older pets that may suffer from arthritis, Orvis offers a waterproof, shockproof heating pad with sealed fittings. Depending on the size, prices range from $57.50 to $92.

And for a nice stocking stuffer, consider a "Barker's Dozen" of gourmet dog biscuits from the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, dipped in white chocolate and retailing for about $3.95.

If they look good enough to eat, don't despair. The specialty candy franchise also sells "human treats," including caramel and chocolate covered apples, fresh and dried chocolate-covered fruits, Ent[illegible] toffee, truffles, fudge and