SPORTS

Sam Lacy

Into the 90's

It happens often that the task of coming up with a sports column that satisfies the author is as difficult to perform as trying to write a letter with a rope, nailing jello to a wall, or stirring that holiday highball with toilet paper.

Especially when writing at home with no access to records for a year-end review piece.

Especially also, when it not only is the end of a year, but the end of a decade.

At such a time as this, I am reminded of some of the irritations that occurred in my world in the '80s, and some flaws that I hope will be corrected in the '90s.

— —

Fresh in memory, for example, is the smart-aleck quip of a track athlete who competed in an unsanctioned meet in South Africa . . . . "Blacklist?" he said, "that's okay, it matches my complexion."

It immediately brought to mind the admonition that "no one is more insensitive than the idiot who puts his foot in his mouth."

Then there was the tennis player who told me I should stop "glorifying" Zina Garrison and Lori McNeil . . . . because, like all women, they should be home "barefoot and in the kitchen" . . . . To which I replied — in obvious annoyance — "For those who understand, no explanation is necessary; for those who don't understand, no explanation is possible."

— —

Now in the '90s, is it too much to ask:

(1) that basketball's official rules committee do something to amend the ridiculous late-game, intentional fouling (which rarely alters the result of the game)? . . . . The early December game between North Carolina and Alabama took 24 minutes and 12 seconds to play the last two-and-a-half minutes.

(2) that basketball referees — despite the fact they'll draw jeers from the stands — put a stop to Michael Jordan (and others) taking 6-7 steps with ball held high for the sake of a dunk?

(3) that baseball people put a halt to the ridiculous practice of certain batters' consumption of 30-40 seconds looking for signals from the third-base coach, when the count on the hitter is 3 balls and 2 strikes and no one on base?

And then a similar delay if the ensuing pitch is fouled off?

(4) that booth announcers put stopwatches on their tongues . . . . disdain long spiels on what the various athletes were doing 10-12 years earlier, etc.?

(5) that TV networks implore their camermen to stop isolating pretty football cheerleaders and having them go through their routines for the sake of color?

Particularly when the rest of the cheerleading corps is visible in the background sitting on megaphones and lamenting the fact their team is 20-30 points behind, thus showing how ludicrous is the performance of the exploited pom-pom beauty?

(6) that someone remind me to say: HAPPY NEW YEAR?

Notable quotable

Candy Davis, wife of pitcher Mark Davis, when asked to explain the mouth-open gasp she held for several minutes when told her husband had signed a $13 million contract with the K.C. Royals.: What'd he do, find a cure for cancer?

OVERVIEW

RACKET MONEY — It was a good year for tennis player Zina Garrison in 1989. Aside from getting married to a successful Houston (Texas) businessman, Zina collected well over a half-million dollars for the union ($590,000) on the professional tour.

Lori McNeil, also of Houston, won $192,800, and rookie Katrina Adams of Chicago, checked out of '89 with $145,630.

* * *

CHRISTMAS TIDE-INGS — Baltimore Orioles pitching coach Al Jackson, 54; major league baseball's exciting Rickey Henderson, 32, and NFL All-Pro defensive back Hanford Dixon, 31, celebrated birthdays on Christmas Day.

* * *

NBA BREADLINE? — According to Rick Telander, a Denver sportswriter who also triples as a panelist on the TV show "Reporters" and does frequent feature pieces for Sports Illustrated: "Following a straight-line progression of NBA revenue sharing . . . the *average pay* per player in the league will be $10 million in 1999.

* * *

PRECOCIOUS FROSH — These freshmen learn quickly. Tennessee runningback Chuck Webb rushed for 250 yards on 26 carries and scored two touchdowns, including a 78-yard run in Monday's 31-27 triumph over Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl.

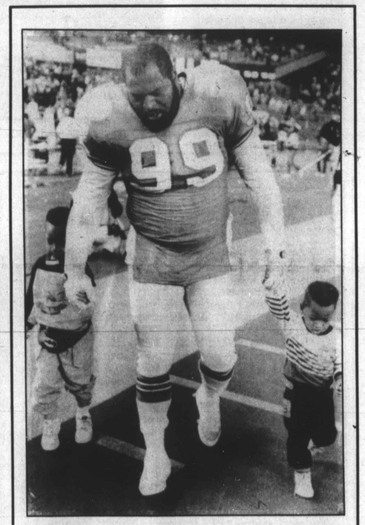
Tennessee defensive back Carl Pickens had eight tackles and a pass interception in the end zone.

The two red-shirt freshmen shared Most Valuable Player honors.

* * *

BOWL BUSTS — The New Year's Day college bowl games provided a bonanza not only for football fans but also for the proprietors of illegal gambling operations.

And police acting on tips played the odds and won, making a series of raids throughout the northern suburbs Monday that netted four arrests and more than $270,000 in cash and wagers.



TRIPLE DEJECTION — Houston nose tackle Doug Smith and his two children leave the field a 3-tiered picture of dejection after the Oilers were defeated, 26-23, in overtime by the Pittsburgh Steelers. The loss in the AFC wild card contest eliminated any further shot at the Super Bowl.

Quarterbacking in the bowls

Football fans who get their thrills from the performances of Black quarterbacks in major play, enjoyed and suffered over the New Year's weekend.

The joy came from victories, the dejection followed losses.

Of course, a Black quarterback had to come out of the Orange Bowl with a victory, since both Colorado and Notre Dame were playing behind Darian Hagan and Tony Rice, respectively.

Rice and the Fighting Irish prevailed, 21-6.

— —

The football avalanche of the weekend began with the newly born Copper Bowl, put on for the first time at Tucson (Ariz.), and the Gator Bowl's 17th show at Jacksonville.

In Tucson, ***Ronald Veal*** led Arizona to a 17-10 come-from-behind victory over North Carolina State.

But at Jacksonville, Heisman candidate ***Major Harris*** was thwarted completely as he and West Virginia were pounded, 27-7, by Clemson.

— —

Virginia quarterback ***Shawn Moore*** picked up the game's offensive honor in the Citrus Bowl at Orlando, but it was not enough to save the Cavaliers from a 31-21 loss to Illinois.

But, ***Reggie Slack*** went Moore one better by winning MVP honors in showing the way to Auburn for its rallying, 31-14 triumph over Ohio State.

Meanwhile, ***Quinn Voegl's*** efforts went for naught as his Arkansas Razorbacks dropped a 31-27 decision to Tennessee in the Cotton Bowl at Dallas.

— —

For fans of Black quarterbacks in the NFL, it was a grim weekend.

Randall Cunningham and the Philadelphia Eagles were trounced, 21-7, by the Los Angeles Rams.

And ***Warren Moon*** and his Houston Oilers were edged, 26-23, by the Pittsburgh Steelers on the winges of a 50-yard overtime placekick.

In the NBA

FRI 5 JAN		
L.A. Clippers @ Boston	7:30	
Washington @ Cleveland	7:30	
Indiana @ Detroit	8:00	
Orlando @ Chicago	7:30	
Philadelphia @ Dallas	7:00	TNT
Utah @ Portland	7:30	
Miami @ Seattle	7:00	
SAT 6 JAN		
Boston @ Washington	7:30	
Indiana @ Charlotte	7:30	
Cleveland @ Orlando	7:30	
New Jersey @ Atlanta	7:30	
New York @ Detroit	7:30	
Chicago @ Milwaukee	8:00	
Philadelphia @ Houston	7:30	
Minnesota @ San Antonio	7:30	
Utah @ Denver	7:30	
L.A. Lakers @ Golden State	7:30	
Portland @ Sacramento	7:30	
Phoenix @ Seattle	7:00	
SUN 7 JAN		
L.A. Clippers @ New York	7:30	
Atlanta @ New Jersey	7:00	
Miami @ L.A. Lakers	7:30	
MON 8 JAN		
Indiana @ Philadelphia	7:30	
San Antonio @ Orlando	7:30	
Charlotte @ Milwaukee	7:30	
Seattle @ Dallas	7:30	
Denver @ Golden State	7:30	
Sacramento @ Portland	7:30	
TUE 9 JAN		
Washington @ New York	7:30	
Boston @ New Jersey	7:30	
L.A. Clippers @ Charlotte	7:30	
San Antonio @ Miami	7:30	
Chicago @ Detroit	7:30	
Seattle @ Houston	7:30	
L.A. Lakers @ Phoenix	6:00	TNT

Cheeky freshman inscribes his name in Cotton Bowl

DALLAS (UPI) — Outspoken freshman runningback Chuck Webb may be making headlines in newspapers and in opponents' locker rooms for years to come.

Webb, the most valuable player in Monday's Cotton Bowl, rushed for 250 yards to give Tennessee a 31-27 victory over Arkansas. He had little praise for the Razorbacks defense, which gave up 470 yards, 98 yards fewer than Arkansas gained.

"Arkansas doesn't have a good defense to me," said Webb, a redshirt freshman from Toledo, Ohip. "They gave us little respect.

"Arkansas took us lightly. They only practiced four days for us, and we wanted it more. They would be an 8-3 team in the Southeastern Conference. I think Alabama and Auburn also would beat them."

Webb criticized Arkansas during an after-game news conference and then held court, speaking on such topics as a playoff in college football and Tennessee's chances for the national championship.

"I think there should be a playoff for the national championship," Webb said. "You go home after you play a bowl game and see teams that are not as good as you win the national championship."

South Africans may hurt Australian Olympic bid

SYDNEY, Australia (UPI) — Australia's chances of staging the 1996 Summer Olympics in Melbourne may be jeopardized because five South Africans will play in the Australian Open tennis championships.

Eighteen members of the International Olympic Committee, including four Black Africans, will be in Melbourne to inspect the proposed venues in January. The Australian Open begins Jan. 15.

The Melbourne organizers of the visit failed to go through the entry list for the Open and did not realize there were South Africans in the field.

Australian tennis administrators have rejected suggestions the South Africans should be banned from the first of the 1990 Grand Slam titles.

Colorado football: exploitation of death

By Sam Lacy

In Boulder, Colo. and among the gullible media, it was looked upon as classic motivation.

At this desk, it was considered a brutal exploitation of death.

The New Year's Night Orange Bowl football game between the University of Colorado and Notre Dame was enveloped in what was hailed as a Colorado memorial to the team's late quarterback Sal Aunese.

For weeks before the Buffaloes departed their campus, the story was widely circulated of how Aunese inspired his former teammates with messages assuring them that he was comfortable with his fate.

— —

He was reputed to have urged them not to mourn his loss, and to do their best to reward his memory with an Orange Bowl victory.

Countless revelations attesting to the courage of Aunese continued through late December, and a letter produced by the Colorado

Commentary

Sports Information Director's office was read repeatedly by on-air announcers and national media folk.

Maybe that was sufficient; maybe it was excessive.

— —

But, for Colorado football folk, it was neither.

Players took the field with "Sal inscribed on headbands, sweatbands, wristbands and in some cases on the heels of cleats.

A peak was reached, however, when one Colorado defensive lineman showed "Sal" shaved into the hair on his head.

If the Buffaloes needed theatre of this nature to motivate them, it is small wonder they lost by 15 points to Notre Dame.

— —

The old "Win one for the Gipper" appeal was in the eyes of some, going much too far this time.

As one observer pointed out: "Exploitation is not respect," especially when death is the ultimate

AREA SPORTS

SPORTSCENE

By Fred Lindsey

Bullets serving the community

The Washington Bullets, in an effort to promote education and literacy in the community, will sponsor a college fair with representatives from more than 60 universities and colleges in attendance prior to their game with the Seattle SuperSonics on February 3, 1990. All interested high school juniors and seniors, and their parents are encouraged to attend.

Each college in attendance will have an information booth to answer questions pertaining to the college experience. Among the universities represented will be Clemson, Temple, Maryland, Virginia and Old Dominion. The fair will begin at 5:30 p.m. and run through half-time of the game.

The Bullets will offer a 50 percent discount on their $17.50 and $12.50 tickets to all who attend the college fair, including family and friends. Tickets must be purchased in advance to obtain the discount.

For more information on the college fair, contact Ron Schneider at (301) NBA-DUNK.

In addition to the college fair, the Bullets, in conjunction with the NBA, will award two high school seniors with a $1,000 scholarship to be used toward a college education. All students residing within a 75-mile radius of the Capital Centre are eligible, those outside the 75-mile limit should apply to the NBA.

To enter, a student must fill out the official NBA Scholarship application, available in their high school guidance office or by writing the Bullets Scholarship committee at Capital Centre, Landover, Md. 20785.

Entries will be judged by a committee on the following criteria: academic criteria (SAT, ACT), extracurricular activities and an essay on the "Importance of a College Education." Entries must be postmarked no later than March 2, 1990. Winners will be announced by April 6, 1990.

For more information, contact Rick Moreland at (301) 773-2255.

Ravens host benefit

On Saturday, January 6th, the Baltimore Ravens will take on the Baltimore Wheelchair Athletic Club in a Capital Conference Wheelchair Basketball game. The game will be held at Towson State University's Burdick Hall with the proceeds going to the University of Maryland Medical System. Montebello Rehabilitation Hospital to benefit the Therapeutic Recreation Department. Tickets are $2.00 and game time is at 7:00 p.m.

For ticket information, call 554-5396 or 554-5409.

Fair Lanes Set Duckpin open

Duckpin bowlers will have a chance to roll in the new year by competing for the $1,000 top prize in the Fair Lanes Tommy Forsythe Memorial Recreation Duckpin Open. This mixed doubles event will take place at Fair Lanes Middlesex in Baltimore this Saturday and Sunday, January 6 and 7.

Besides the $800 1st place prize, guaranteed prizes are $500 for 2nd place and $300 for 3rd place. Additional prizes will be awarded on the basis of at least one for every ten entries.

Contestants bowl five games each, with total scratch pinfall determining the winners. Squad times are Saturday at 3, 6 and 9:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m., 12, 3, 6, and 9:30 p.m. Entry fee is $23 per person. Defending champions of the tournament are Cheryl and Joe Holden of Baltimore who bowled a world record 1645 for five-games mixed doubles.

For more information regarding the tournament, contact Fair Lanes Middlesex at (301) 686-2121.

Dinner Boxing Show postponed

The Dinner boxing Show at La Fontaine Bleu, Glen Burnie, Md., scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 1990, is being rescheduled for February 21.

The line up which is to include Baltimore's Percy Harris and Wade Duncan was pushed back for operational reasons. However, the Calvalcade of Champions at the Omni Hotel Ballroom, Wednesday, January 31 is still on tape.

The Cavalcade of Champions will feature Larry Middleton vs. Lou Benson in a four round heavyweight exhibition and the South Atlantic Amateur Boxing championship Bouts.

For more information, call 783-2929.

MSU Has All-American In Football

With an improved football team, the Morgan State Bears placed four players on the All-MEAC team. (WR) Glenny Moore and (De) James Doxier were selected to the first team All-Conference and (QB) Daryl Jackson and (S) Robert Johnson made the second team.

Dozier was also selected to the Sheridan Black College All-American first team. Dozier had 82 tackles and 12½ quarterback sacks for the 4-7 Bears.

Jackson and (RB) Marco Kornegay were selected to play in the Freedom Bowl in Houston's Astro-Dome on January 15th. The Freedom Bowl pits the MEAC and CIAA All-stars against the SWAC and SIAC All-Stars. The game gives players from predominately Black colleges a chance to be ranked by NFL scouts.

Tobias named to All-Tournament team.

Cheryl Williams "concentrates" as opponent "relaxes."

Detroit's Highland Park Wins Xmas Tournament.

CCB Women lose their tournament

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

Despite the flurry of a partisan Baltimore crowd, Detroit's Highland Park Community College defeated a young, but game Community College of Baltimore team 70-46 to win the Second Annual CCB Christmas Tournament.

Highland Park, generally considered a power in the community college ranks in Michigan, advanced an early lead with strong rebounding and good, inside play to increase a 10 point advantage to 20.

Using a combination of veterans and talented freshmen, Highland Park shook off their sluggishness to beat the Red Devils by a comfortable margin.

"It was a good experience for us," said CCB's head coach John Rhames. "We have to maintain consistency and play at maximum effort for forty minutes to be a good team and that didn't happen.

Not satisfied at being crowned championsk Highland Park's Coach Virgil Merchant thought his team should have played a lot better.

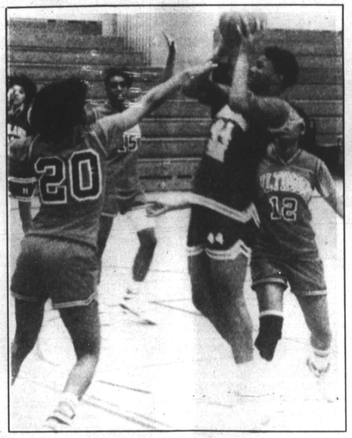
"We didn't play as well as I would have liked," Merchant said. "It wasn't until late in the game that we played the way we are capable. I'm glad that we won the tournament and it was exciting being in Baltimore, but we will have to play better if we are to contend for our conference title."

CCB's freshman Kim Tobias (Walbrook) was a pleasant surprise for coach Rhames as she played hard-nose basketball, and scored 17 points and had an overall quality game.

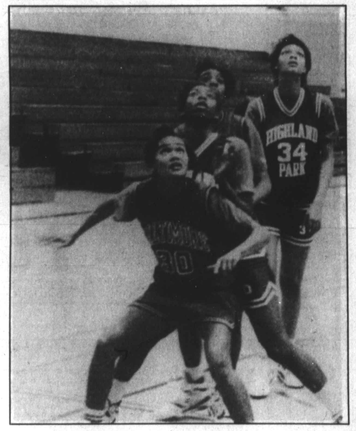
"Kim is improving with each contest," Rhames said. "She is doing a lot of things well. I hope it continues throughout the season."

Tobias and teammate Cheryl Williams (Lake Clifton) were selected to the All-Tournament team.

Hoping to improve on their 2-3 record, the Lady (Red) Devils will travel to Dundalk on Friday.



Tobias going after the shooter.



Renna Harvey gets position under the basket.

All photos by Ray Gilbert

Western Dove named MAAC rookie

Freshman Kiah Stokes has made her presence known in the early going of her collegiate career. In the third week of competition in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, the 5'9" guard was voted the MAAC Rookie of the Week for her outstanding play for the week of December 10-16.

Kiah Stokes as she appeared at Western.

Stokes has started the last three games for the Lady Greyhounds and has climbed into second place in the scoring column with a 9.1 average.

Stokes has also increased her playing time to 26 minutes a game, which is the second most on the squad.

Against the Big East's Georgetown, Stokes tallied a career-high 19 points, including two three - pointers and a 5-of-6 showing from the free throw line. In addition, Stokes collected six rebounds with an assist, a block shot and a steal.

In the loss to UMES, Stokes contributed 12 points, grabbed seven rebounds and stole the ball twice.

Winless in their first nine games, the Lady Greyhounds are hoping that Stokes and teammates will change their record soon.

Soccer season concludes.

St. Mary's 'wrap up' soccer season

Coaches Arto Wood , Rich Badmington, and Paul Webb provide last minute suggestions to the "Under-12" team from St. Mary's (York Road) youth soccer program which finished it's Catholic Youth Organization season recently in a chilly contest on the field at Northern High School. The U-12 group was part of church - sponsored fall program involving over 75 children.