SPORTS

It was a yo-yo year in Black history

Sam Lacy

Black History 1989 identifies with some significant advances in sports.

As often happens, however, the year is marked also by moments of travail.

Baseball, of course, held center stage.

The year saw Bill White installed as president of the National League, and two Black managers — Frank Robinson in Baltimore and Cito Gaston in Toronto — vying for the American League East Division title into the closing hours of the summer.

Also worthy of note: Blacks won batting championships in both leagues, and a Black player captured homerun honors and the MVP award in the National League.

Minnesota's Kirby Puckett won the American League batting crown, Tony Gwynn of San Diego, the NL honor.

San Francisco's Kevin Mitchell was the NL homerun champion and the league MVP.

Oakland's Dave Stewart wrapped up the baseball year by claiming the World Series MVP award.

— —

Football was a similar story. The National Football League got its first Black head coach in Art Shell, hired by the Oakland Raiders.

Black quarterbacks increased an amazing number in the college ranks, with two of them Notre Dame's Tony Rice and West Virginia's Major Harris leading their respective teams in what was accepted as a showdown for the national championship at the beginning of the year.

The unique situation very nearly had a repeat as Rice led Notre Dame and Darian Hagan steered Colorado through fall schedules that produced only one defeat for each.

College football's most coveted honor — the Heisman Trophy — also was garnered by Andre Ware of the University of Houston.

Ware, Rice, Hagan and Harris were joined on the quarterback roster by Black youngsters at Virginia, Auburn, Georgia and Michigan.

— —

1989 basketball attention focussed mainly on two performers — Michael "Air" Jordan and Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

The year on the professional hardwood struck a glorious and nostalgic note.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar went home.

— —

Tennis was a small contributor when it is considered that Zina Garrison of Houston, captured three semi-major tournaments, listed victories over world class fixtures Martina Navratilova (once in 14 tries), and Chris Evert (twice in six), and accumulated over $300,000 in prize money.

Also Katrina Adams of Chicago, Stacey Martin of Largo, Md., and Jeri Ingram of Silver Spring, Md., joined the women's pro tour as rookies.

The disappointments came in the form of misbehavior by a coach in college basketball, in revelations of drug abuse by popular, record-setting track athletes, and in allegations of a widespread applicaion of the double standard in punishing pro football players.

Bob Wade miscarried on the opportunity to establish a Black presence in Atlantic Coast Conference basketball. He admitted to violations of NCAA guidelines in the handling of basketball players, was forced to resign his University of Maryland post and left the school facing sanctions for his misdeeds.

In track, record-setting sprinter Ben Johnson of Canada was stripped of his gold medal and records after testing positive — and later admitting — in the use of steroids to improve his performance.

Florence Griffith Joyner, two months after being hailed as the "darling of world track," suddenly retired when informed that she might be tested for steroid enhancement.

All in all, though, 1989 was an outstanding contribution to Black history, with the positives in baseball, football, basketball and tennis for outweighing the aforementioned negatives.

Especially, baseball.

IMPERTINENT QUESTION: How many guzzles soothed the Bronco breast?

Another challenge

Clarence 'Bighouse' Gaines last week moved into the regal air of an 800-game winner in college basketball when his Winston-Salem State Rams defeated Livingstone, 79-70, in a CIAA contest.

'Bighouse' Gaines
800 basketball wins

The victory placed the Morgan State product 75 wins short of all-time leader Adolph Rupp of Kentucky. With no immediate thought of retirement, Gaines has an outside chance of catching the late Wildcat mentor.

— —

Three years ago, Grambling's Eddie Robinson surpassed the 317-win record of football legend 'Bear' Bryant of Alabama.

Robinson also continues to coach his Louisiana Tigers. As a consequence, the 350-plus victories he now records, may grow even more in the coming fall campaign.

DOUBLE-HEADER — Undaunted by the presence of world champion Jackie Joyner-Kersee in the field, Lavonna Martin (left) of the Reebok Track Club twice ran off to win hurdles event over last weekend. After trouncing Joyner-Kersee in the Millrose Games at New York, Martin made it a double at the Mobile championships at George Mason (Va.) University.

Japanese talk back

The common belief among Americans is that the Japanese people will buy anything.

That, of course, stems from a bit of envy when United States corporate folks watch Japanese entrepreneurs purchase huge American holdings (Empire State Building, etc.).

So, now the laugh is that Tokyo sports fans are being taken in — that they "buy anything" — by the "world championship fight" Sunday between Mike Tyson and Buster Douglas.

They paid $35 to see Tyson spar two rounds last Saturday.

So, say the Japanese, Americans who can see the champion fight 2-3 times a year go for $500 to $700 to watch so-called title fights between Tyson and Michael S nks — for 91 seconds.

NBA nixes Barkley bypass

Michael Jordan, Larry Bird and Patrick Ewing can breathe a sigh of relief — even as Charles Barkley grunts in pain.

Barkley, hobbled by a pulled thigh muscle, will put in his command appearance at the All-Star Game Sunday in Miami but only under threat of suspension from the league.

One day after the Philadelphia 76ers forward announced plans to skip the showcase in order to rest the left thigh, the NBA intervened Monday. At issue with the league was Barkley's plans to struggle through his team's games this week as the 76ers close in on the team record for consecutive victories.

"They told me that if I'm able to play for the Sixers in our three games this week, I can play in the All-Star Game," Barkley said after hobbling through his team's 12th straight triumph Monday night, 114-89 over the Utah Jazz. "And that if I skip the All-Star Game, I'm suspended for the games next week.

"That Eastern Conference team doesn't have much talent. They need me."

Barkley's counting on Jordan and the eastern contingent to let him off about as easy as Philadelphia did Monday night, when Barkley sat out the last 16 minutes

Preakness May 19

The 115th running of the $500,000 Preakness Stakes, middle jewel of the $5 million Chrysler Triple Crown Challenge, and the 25th and richest running of the $1 million Pimlico Special, head a stakes schedule with purses in excess of $4 million set at Pimlico.

The nation's second oldest thoroughbred track conducts its traditional spring meeting from Mar. 15-June 13.

The Preakness will be contested the following Saturday.

Blow-ups: One wind and two Jims

The wind blew, and blew hard, over the Cypress Point Gold Course Saturday in the annual Pro-Am tournament of the PGA tour.

It didn't blow nearly as hard on Sunday at the Senior Classic at Key Biscayne (Fla.).

But in each case Black golfers had blow-ups of their own.

Jim Thorpe was tied for second after 36 holes of the pro-am in California, Thursday and Friday. On Saturday, the wind came up and Jim blew up — to a round of 83 — and out of the chase.

Jim Dent had only his own wind to control in Florida. He couldn't.

The big Georgian, leading by five strokes at the end of 14 holes of the final 18, blew five strokes in four holes to lose to Lee Trevino by one stroke.

OVERVIEW

WAKE-UP CALL FOR DOUG — Granted there won't be many spare moments for Gov. L. Douglas Wilder in Richmond, but he would do well to find one.

The new baseball stadium being built in Baltimore's Camden Yards means a 25-minute ride for Washington fans and 12½ minutes from Columbia; a virtual death knell for D.C. chances of getting a baseball expansion team, and an even greater lure for Washington support of the Orioles.

As a new governor boasting an aggressive nature, Doug might well tell his constituents in northern Virginia that this is M-O-N-E-Y.

Build a stadium in an area with over 2 million population — Fairfax, Louden, Prince William, Arlington and Alexandria counties and watch baseball come begging.

* * *

OLD MEN RIVERS — Only one of the guys on the West Palm Beach team in the Senior Pro Baseball League is named Rivers-Mickey, that is — but he and his teammates as the song goes just keep rolling along, 15 games in front of the nearest pursuer.

The ex-Yankee centerfielder has with him breezing along under ex-Oriole Dick Williams, former Birds Lee Lacy, Ron Washington and Tito Landrum.

The other (Southern Division) is led by St. Petersburg under ex-Pirate pitcher Dock Ellis, five games ahead of Orlando under Gates Brown.

* * *

Incidentally, former Bird star Paul Blair is anxiously awaiting the opening of the Orioles spring training where he will join the team as outfield coach. There's more than one reason for Paul's impatience: he's saddled with Earl Weaver and Gold Coast, 19½ games behind West Palm.

* * *

FOR HISTORY BUFFS — The National Basketball Association in 1967 employed its first Black official. Ironically, his name was Jackie White.

* * *

WILT BY SIXTY-ONE — In the March 2, 1962 NBA game in which Wilt Chamberlain established his fantastic record of 100 points in a single contest, the second highest individual scorer was Richie Guerin with 39. Wilt and Philadelphia defeated Guerin and the Knicks, 169-147.

* * *

METAMORPHOSIS — Although the Washington Redskins today are loaded with the likes of Art Monk, Gary Clark, Charles Mann, etc., the Skins were the last established big league organization to desegregate. On Dec. 9, 1961, fullback Ron Hatcher of Michigan State was the first Black to be signed to a Redskin contract.

Notable quotable

Professional golfer Lee Trevino explaining why he hopes playing the Senior Tour will expand his cash flow:

"I know the other end of the stick. My family was so poor they couldn't afford kids. The lady next door had me."

AREA SPORTS

SPORTSCENE

By Fred Lindsey

MEAC action

The closest competitor for the men's basketball team at Coppin State is Florida A & M who visits the Eagles this Saturday.

With a 10-1 record in conference play, the Rattlers have a score to settle which should make it an interesting game.

MEAC Men's and Women's Basketball Standings, as of February 4th.

MEAC MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS (1989-90)

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL				
	W	L	PCT.	W	L	PCT.	PTS	OPP
Coppin State	9	0	1.00	16	5	.762	1670	1456
Florida A&M	9	1	.900	12	7	.632	1474	1452
S. Carolina State	5	5	.500	9	11	.450	1603	1625
Bethune-Cokman	5	5	.500	7	12	.368	1433	1590
Delaware State	4	5	.444	8	10	.444	1426	1475
Howard Univ.	4	6	.400	7	14	.333	1466	1609
N. Carolina A&T	3	7	.300	6	12	.333	1343	1415
Md E. Shore	2	7	.222	8	11	.421	1395	1494
Morgan State	2	7	.222	6	14	.300	1495	1605

MEAC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS (1989-90)

N. Carolina A&T	8	0	1.000	11	6	.647	976	100
Howard U.	6	3	.667	10	11	.476	1438	153
Morgan State	5	3	.625	9	9	.500	1040	104
Delaware St.	4	4	.500	10	9	.526	1255	119
Md. E. Shore	4	4	.500	8	12	.400	1228	133
S. Carolina St.	3	5	.375	7	13	.350	1265	138
Coppin State	2	6	.250	5	12	.294	975	107
Bethune-Cookman	1	8	.111	3	13	.188	808	109

MEAC 1990 indoor track championship

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference will hold its Tenth Annual Men's and Women's Track and field Championships, this weekend, February 9th and 10th in Chapel Hill, N.C. at "The Tin Can" on the campus of the University of North Carolina. The event is being held there for the sixth consecutive year.

Howard University won the women's division crown last year, ending Delaware State College's five-year winning streak. Florida A & M defeated South Carolina State for the men's division title.

Other MEAC members taking part in the championships are Bethune-College, Coppin State College, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Morgan State and North Carolina A & T State University (serving as the host institution).

MSU track

At the Melrose Games in New York's Madison Square Garden, MSU men's mile relay team finished fourth with a time of 3:30:00. The team consists of Chris Durant, Jock Blackwell, Damone Coleman and Sean Huster.

The women's team was disqualified because Viola Harris dropped the stick on the first leg of the race.

Former Morgan quarter-miler Rochelle Stevens has been ranked by TRACK AND FIELD NEWS as the nations No. 1 quartermiler. Ms. Stevens currently living in her hometown of Memphis, TN. is running for the Nike International Track Club. Stevens also holds the No. 4 ranking in the world in her event.

Elrod Hendricks's baseball camp

McDonogh School will host the Elrod Hendricks Baseball Camp for two three week sessions beginning June 18 until July 27.

The camp will feature major league instruction from Hendricks, guest Orioles and visiting American League players.

McDonogh School has some of the best baseball facilities in the area and in additional to quality baseball instruction, the camp will also have recreational swimming, pitching machines batting range, video replay and transportation.

For more information, contact Mike McMillan, director at 581-5751 or after 4:30 p.m. at 363-1631.

African-Americans and horse racing

On Thursday, February 15th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Sports Palace at Pimlico Race Course, the African-American Heritage Society and the Reading Improvement Association will host a reception to unveil the contributions of African-Americans to Maryland's horse racing industry.

Governor William Donald Schaefer, Mayor Kurt Schmoke and approximately 400 invited guests are expected to pay tribute to the living and past African-American legends who helped make Maryland's horse racing industry what it is today.

Oral history will be presented and pictures and scrapbooks will be on display.

For more information contact, Thomas Saunders at (301) 728-3837.

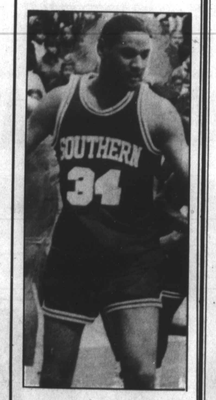
PEOPLE IN SPORTS

With spring training hopefully just around the corner, Oriole first baseman Randy Milligan was on hand to take the "first" pitch this week on the site of the new baseball park in Camden Yards. Milligan, who replaced the legendary Eddie Murray will be out to improve his .268 average, 12 home runs and 45 rbi's of 1989.

Thomas Henderson, coach of the Ed Waters Track Club, ran the 400 meters and various relays (Master Division) at both the Millrose Games and the Vitalis International Track Meet.

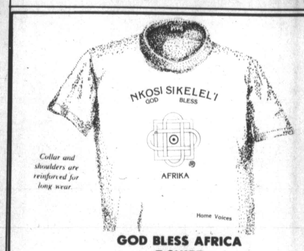
Rookie Ed Horton has moved from the end of the bench to a starting position for the Washington Bullets. Horton has help the Bullets win three straight games.

Coach "Nate" Taylor has yet to win his first baseball game since taking over the Morgan State program on January 26, but in spite of its current eight game losing streak, the Bears are motivated. This Saturday, Morgan will play Bethune-Cookman at the Hill Field House.



Southern High, who is currently ranked No. 1 in the Metro area and No. 25 in the nation by USA Today, has Adam Johnson as one-half of its "twin tower tandum" that is pursuing the MSA basketball title.

★ Your Opportunity to be Counted
Census '90★



GOD BLESS AFRICA
T-SHIRT
Beseech, Celebrate, Rejoice
In Xhosa and English . . .
Special Black History Month Only
Introductory Price
White with full color print
100% Cotton. Made in USA
S, M, L, XL $10.50

Please rush T-shirts in sizes and numbers indicated:
_____ for $10.50 each plus $1.50 shipping and handling, total $12.00 per shirt.
____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL. XXL add $2.50 per shirt. Allow 4-6 weeks delivery.
Print name_____
Address_____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Send check or money order:
CBF INTERNATIONAL, LTD.
POST OFFICE BOX 12063
SILVER SPRING, MD 20908

Social Delight and Basketball Might
The
1990 MEAC Basketball Tournament
March 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Greensboro Coliseum
Greensboro, N.C.

Tournament Events
Tip-Off Banquet
Coaches Breakfast
Alumni Dance
Alumni Cabaret
Championship Disco
Parties, Parties, Parties!

'90 MEAC

Tournament Schedule
Session No. 1 Thursday 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. (Men)
Session No. 2 Thursday 6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. (Men)
Session No. 3 Friday 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. (Women)
6 p.m. & 8 p.m. (Men)
Championship Saturday 4:30 p.m. (Women)
7:00 p.m. (Men)

Get Your Tickets Now!
Adult Books..$30 Student Books..$20
Tickets Good For All Sessions
Available At:
Greensboro Coliseum (919)373-7400
MEAC Office (919)275-9961

B. Cookman(904) 255-1401 Ext. 6015
Coppin State (301)333-5488
Delaware State (302)736-4928
Florida A&M (904)599-3868
Howard University (202)636-7140
Maryland E.S. (301)651-2200, Ext. 266
Morgan State Univ. (301)444-3050
N.C. A&T State (919)334-7686
S.C. State (803)536-7242

Greensboro Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 220 S. Eugene St, Greensboro, N.C. 27401 1-800-344-2282