SPORTS

Douglas — Tyson: destruction of a bully

By Sam Lacy

James Douglas played a huge trick on the world last Sunday morning in Tokyo . . . In fact, his was a 3-ply hoax.

In the first place, he calls himself "Buster," a name that conjures up the image of a cute little fellow wearing Buster Brown knickers, a paisley jacket, starched white collar and Eton headpiece . . . . one who'd run from violence.

Secondly, in a pre-fight statement he modestly thought he could surprise Mike Tyson, the world heavyweight champion.

And then, in the third place, he pulled the biggest "con job" of all, declaring publicly that he guessed he would have to find a job after the $1.3 million he got from the fight ran out.

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"Buster" on Sunday morning (Saturday night on home soil) was no typical innocent, wary of violence that would mess up his stiff collar and Eton hat . . . . Instead, he was a man bent on demolishing a bully . . . . And that he did, scoring one of the prize-ring's biggest upsets.

The post-fight claim that he did not actually win the fight, that the 8th round knockdown received a long count, is pure hogwash — the bleat of a poor loser, two in fact: Mike Tyson and Don King.

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Douglas gave Tyson the most thorough licking Mike has received since a doctor smacked his butt 23 years ago.

He did it by proving his early claim that, unlike Mike Tyson's previous opponents, he was not afraid . . . . Douglas completely dominated the defending champion, hitting him with righthand leads that crashed Tyson's jaw and chin repeatedly.

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Mike, on the other hand, was not only surprised as Douglas had predicted; he was stunned . . . . As were all who witnessed what became early on a one-sided fight.

It was, on second thought, a squared-circle depiction of real life . . . . where the neighborhood bully finally runs into his come-uppance.

Each of us at one time or another has either been victim or witness to the antics of the mean fellow who enjoyed intimidating others.

So, certainly the application of "bully" in describing Mike Tyson is not to be debated.

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The vision of him stalking about, pounding his chest and boasting that he is "the best fighter in the world, nobody on this earth can beat me."

Harmless braggadocio, you might forgive . . . . words only, you might say, spewing from the mouth of a confident man . . . . Muhammad Ali was equally brash, you might venture.

But the Ali arrogance was spoken with tongue in cheek and invariably accompanied by a boyish grin.

Also, Ali had no parking-lot altercations and no street fights outside bars . . . . And if there was domestic violence in which Ali had to prove he could whip any one of his several wives, you never heard of it.

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But Douglas on this day in Tokyo assumed the role of avenger . . . . He completely demolished the myth of invincibility, time and again beating the champion to the punch with speed and power.

In his corner, a thoroughly confused — and whipped — Tyson was often on the verge of tears . . . . So much so that his seconds spent much of the rest period trying to console him and rid him of his obvious frustration.

He was the picture of a desolate man watching his world crumble around him and unable to do anything about it.

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Finally, it was the lot of Douglas to erase yet another myth.

It has been ventured on numerous occasions that "the fighter who is going to beat Mike Tyson has not yet been born" . . . . You've heard it; I've heard it.

James "Buster" Douglas was six years old when the man who was destined to become "the invincible champion" saw the light of day.

Nor does he have to find a job.

Notable quotable

Bobby Bragan, former major league manager and Texas League president:

"Say you're standing with one foot in an ice bucket and the other in an oven. According to people figuring baseball percentages, you should be perfectly comfortable."

OVERVIEW

HAYES, UNSELD AND HAYES — Sounds like a law firm? Well, it isn't.

When Elvin Hayes, Earl "The Pearl" Monroe and Dave Bing — all former Bullets — were elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame along with the late Neil Johnston last week, the announcement gave off a nostalgic aroma.

Hayes and Unseld came out of Houston and Louisville, respectively, in the same year. Both NBA Houston and the Bullets wanted Hayes. The Rockets won a coin toss and got him. The Bullets then "settled" for Unseld, a most enjoyable "settlement."

Later the Bullets got both and won the NBA title.

Wes was elected to Spingfield last year, Elvin goes a year later — history repeating.

* * *

WIN ONE, LOSE ONE — Hank Allen thought for a moment last Sunday that he might have his third shot in five years at a Triple Crown thoroughbred entry. But it was not to be.

His enthusiasm was due to an electrifying performance of a 3-year-old colt under his care. The youngster, named Citidancer, had just demolished a 6-furlong field at Laurel in 1:10.4, a faster clocking than that of a stake horse in an earlier race. Moreover, Citidancer won by 12 lengths, suggesting that he might have run faster if pushed.

A week later, though, the colt's owner, Bob Quinichett, also Black, accepted an offer of over $500,000 by a California stable to sell.

Hank had Sparrowvon in 1985, and Northern Wolf last year.

* * *

OH, BROTHER; YEAH, SIS — Kenyon College junior Matt Alcorn and his sister Jeannie, a sophomore at Allegheny, accomplished an unique dual honor last week. Both were named Sunday as the Player of the Week in North Coast Athletic Conference basketball.

Matt scored 22 points, including eight in a 31-second span, to lead Kenyon to a 66-65 upset of his sister's school. Not to be outdone by her older sibling, Jeannie tallied 32 points and led Allegheny over Kenyon in the women's contest of the same evening.

* * *

VIVIAN STILL AT IT — Vivian Stringer who lifted the Cheyney State women's team to NCAA basketball ranking, continues her coaching magic at Iowa. Stringer's Lady Hawkeyes knocked off Big Ten leading Purdue, 70-67, Sunday to take over first place in the conference standings.

* * *

BIRDS OF 90'S FLY FAST — It is clearly evident that the euphoria of 1989 in Baltimore will not soon diminish. Despite the very definite threat that the baseball season may be delayed by a spring labor dispute, Oriole fans last week, two months early, bought out every seat in Memorial Stadium for the April 2 opener.

* * *

RACES SALUTE RACE — There are no Isaac Murphys or Jimmy Winkfields around the jockey quarters today in Maryland racing. But Laurel Race Course is paying tribute to Black horsemen throughout Black History Month.

A week after running the Harrison Johnson handicap in recognition of the popular trainer who died in a 1986 air crash, Laurel on Tuesday honored John "Johnny" Cothorn who has spent 63 of his 79 years at thoroughbred tracks — from hot-walker to clocker to consultant.

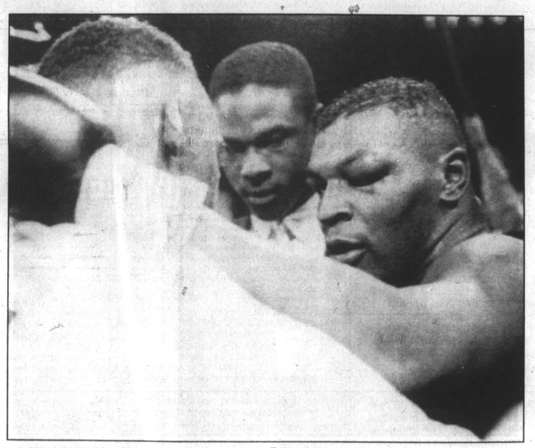
He's a Douglass High School and Morgan State alumnus.

* * *

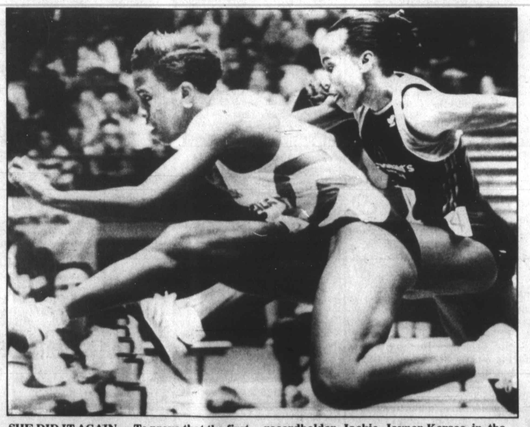
VITAL STATISTICS — Death claimed Cassius Clay, Sr. and Thelma Cowans in the past week.

Cassius, Sr., the father of former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, died at age 76 of a heart attack in his Louisville (Ky.) home.

Cowans, widow of the late Russell Cowans, a one-time sportswriter and Joe Louis's secretary, was the first Black woman professional golfer. She suffered a stroke in her Detroit home. She was 77.



A SEARCH FOR SOLACE — Battered and bewildered, Mike Tyson seeks the compassion of one of his seconds after being knocked out in the tenth round of his title fight with James "Buster" Douglas at Tokyo. The deposed champion was completely dominated by the underdog for nine of the 10 rounds of boxing.



SHE DID IT AGAIN — To prove that the first two times (at Millrose and Mobil 1) were not "flukes," Lavonna Martin pinned a third straight loss of triple-gold medalist and recordholder Jackie Joyner-Kersee in the 55-yard hurdles at the Meadowlands Invitational track meet last weekend. Martin thus made it three wins in 10 days over Jackie.

In the NBA

THU 15 FEB		
Seattle @ New Jersey	7:30	
Orlando @ Atlanta	7:30	
New York @ Houston	7:30	
Washington @ Golden State	7:30	
L.A. Lakers @ Sacramento	7:30	
FRI 16 FEB		
Seattle @ Philadelphia	7:30	
Denver @ Charlotte	7:30	
Atlanta @ Cleveland	8:00	TNT
Miami @ Chicago	7:30	
Indiana @ Minnesota	7:00	
Utah @ San Antonio	7:30	
Golden State @ Phoenix	7:30	
Washington @ L.A. Clippers	7:30	
Boston @ Portland	7:30	TNT
SAT 17 FEB		
Cleveland @ New York	7:30	
Denver @ New Jersey	7:30	
Detroit @ Miami	7:30	
San Antonio @ Houston	7:30	
Orlando @ Dallas	7:30	
Sacramento @ Utah	7:30	
SUN 18 FEB		
Indiana @ Washington	1:00	(B)
Seattle @ Charlotte	1:00	
Chicago @ Milwaukee	1:30	
Atlanta @ Minnesota	7:00	
Boston @ L.A. Lakers	12:30	
Phoenix @ Golden State	3:00	
Philadelphia @ Portland	5:00	
(B) Game played at Baltimore		
MON 19 FEB PRESIDENT'S DAY		
Dallas @ Cleveland	1:30	
Miami @ Detroit	7:30	
Houston @ Chicago	12:30	
Golden State @ Denver	7:30	
Philadelphia @ Utah	7:30	
Sacramento @ L.A. Clippers	3:00	
TUE 20 FEB		
Portland @ Charlotte	7:30	
Seattle @ Orlando	7:30	
Washington @ Atlanta	7:30	
New Jersey @ Milwaukee	7:30	
Houston @ Minnesota	7:00	
L.A. Lakers @ San Antonio	7:00	TNT

Heisman to NFL?

University of Houston athletic officials are holding their collective breath until Tuesday.

On that day, it is surmised they will lose their star-crested quarterback, Andre Ware, to professional football.

Ware, Heisman Trophy winner, was honored at a Fort Worth (Tex.) banquet last Monday, at which time he disclosed that he is contemplating entering the NFL draft.

AREA SPORTS

SPORTSCENE

By Fred Lindsey

Baseball league

The Baltimore - Harford Unlimited Baseball League will have a new home for 1990. The league will be known as the Maryland Semi - Pro Baseball League.

After a merger of the Baltimore County and Harford County Unlimited Baseball League, the league grew to sixteen teams. It now includes teams from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Cecil and Harford Counties.

Some of the best high school, and college players will participate in the league as well as former professional players.

Divided into two divisions, the Northern Division will consist of Bel Air Athletic Club, Churchville Pirates, Edgewood, Havre de Grace, Jarrettsville, Johnies of North East, Middle River and Moates Home Improvements.

The Southern Division will include Essex Brewers, the 1989 league champions, Baltimore Original Sports Bar, Liberty Knights, Parkville Colts, Parkville Royals, Rebel - Warriors Towson Athletics and W & W Sportswear.

In addition to changing the name of the league, the teams will also be members of the AABC (Amateur Athletic Baseball Congress). The league will begin their 42-game schedule in mid-May.

For more information, contact Chuck Scott at 575-7455.

Basketball tournament

Today starts the Baltimore City (Boys) Public Schools' Basketball Tournament with two preliminary games at Morgan State University.

At 6:00 p.m. - Southern (18-2) will play Walbrook (12-6)

At 8:00 p.m. - Dunbar (18.3) will play Lake Clifton (11-5)

The tournament, which began Thursday with the girls, will have the girls and boys championship on Sunday at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. also at Morgan.

All tickets are $3. and no MSA passes will be honored.

'Buddy' track meet

The Baltimore Track and Field Development Program would like to invite runners to participate in the Open/Masters "Run With Your Buddy" Indoor Championship Track Meet on Tuesday, February 27, 1990 at 5:30 p.m.

The track meet is for everyone between the ages of 19-60 and over. It will be held at the Fifth Regiment Armory at Howard and Preston Streets at a cost of $2.00 per athlete.

For more information, contact Ralph Durant at 396-2936/37.

Off and running

This is the week-end that the Ed Waters Track Club will run in the first State Indoor Championship Meet at the University of Delaware, in Newark.

Developed through the following community centers, Easterwood, Hollander Ridge, Rosemont, Walter P. Carter, Northwood, Cherry Hill, Greater Model, Oliver, Flag House, Gardenville and the SUMS and Pikesville Track Clubs, the Edwards Track Club will strive to continue their winning excellence.

"Running and doing what we enjoy makes each meet a special experience," said Baltimore Development Track and Field coach Ralph Durant. "It's (running) is one of those things that holds these kids' lives together."

Mildreana Robbins
Fallstaff Middle School

Anthony Stuckey
West Baltimore Middle School

Danee Williams
Beechfield Elementary School

High School Wrestling

The Maryland High School Wrestling Classic will be held on Tuesday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Johns Hopkins University Athletic Center.

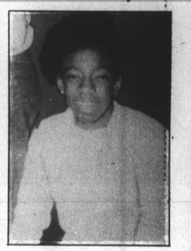
The Classic will be a Senior All-Star Triangular Meet bet-All-Star Triangular Meet between teams representing tion and Independent Schools, Maryland Public Secondary Schools - Athletic Association Division 4A/3A and Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association Division 2A/1A.

Gold, silver or bronze medals will be awarded to participants plus outstanding lightweight and heavyweight trophies.

Tickets for adults are priced at $4. Student tickets are $2. For more information, call Haswell Franklin at 539-2320.

Micah Ramseur
Pimlico Middle School

Steeley Spencer
Roland Park Middle School



Stacey Thomas
McDonogh High School

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Alumni Cabaret
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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)

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