Lacrosse is moving up in popularity

AREA SPORTS
By Will Marshall

It's a fast-paced action packed game that requires the strength and power of a football player, the speed of a sprinter, the endurance of a long distance runner, and the agility of a gymnast.

The sport is lacrosse, and although it was invented by native Americans (Indians), it was one in which Blacks did not participate to any great degree. With certain exceptions, such as Jim Brown, who is mostly known for football, but was also inducted into the lacrosse Hall Of Fame.

Over the past ten years however, lacrosse has been growing in popularity among young Black men, and even young Black women, in the Baltimore City Schools.

In fact, the sport is so popular in the State of Maryland that "there is a strong lobby to make lacrosse a State Team Sport," said Bill Gamper, from the Boys Latin School of Maryland.

Boys Latin played host to lacrosse student-athletes from the Baltimore metropolitan area, May 16, at the "46th Annual C. Markland Kelly Banquet."

The "Kelly Lacrosse Award" is presented annually to the best lacrosse player in the M.S.A. Companion awards are also given to the best players in each division of the M.S.A., and are selected by the referees and officials of the Southern Lacrosse Officials Association.

Twenty years ago Obie Barnes, Sr., who became the first Black lacrosse coach in the Maryland Athletic Association (M.S.A.), now coaches the sport at Forest Park High School where his son Obie Barnes, Jr., 24 goals and 9 assists, and Brian Bailey, 28 goals and 1 assist are the team's leading scorers with 57 points each.

This year Forest Park is the number one team in the M.S.A. "C" Conference Division. With the outstanding performances from players like Obie Barnes, Jr. (Junior), Brian Bailey (Junior), and Dwyon Jones (Junior) 13 goals and 16 assists, they were able to maintain an unblemished record of 9 wins and 0 losses.

One of Forest Park's lacrosse unsung heroes is defenseman Darren Hicks (Senior). In addition to being an outstanding athlete, Hicks is a member of the National Honor Society and is expected to graduate as one of the top five students in his class.

According to coach Barnes, "Darren is a well rounded student who achieved both academically and athletically." "Hicks displayed superior defensive abilities which earned him the task of covering the opposing teams leading scorer."

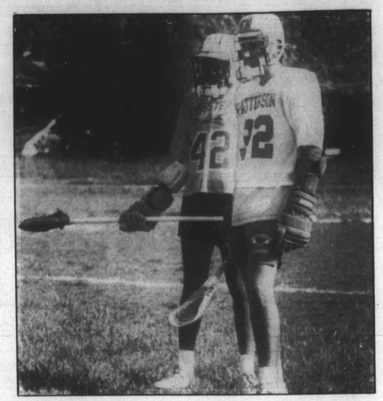
In 9 games only 2 players were able to score against Hicks, Matt Steeple (Northern High) and Bryan Oleszczuk (Patterson High). These two players were nominated for the "C. Markland Kelly Lacrosse Award," which was presented Wednesday, May 16. Obie Barnes, Jr., was also nominated for that award.

According to Coach Barnes, "Many (Predominately Black schools) still don't have lacrosse, and those that do have it are in the "C" Conference."

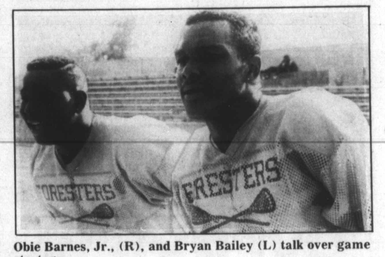
He explained that the reason most Black schools are in Conference "C" is "Because the players have not been exposed to the game at earlier ages so they lack the experience."

Coach Barnes added, "With the addition of middle school lacrosse programs (Blacks) will be able to make a better showing."

"Also, by having players who are exposed to lacrosse at an earlier age, more predominately Black schools will be able to move into the "B" and "A" Conference Divisions."



Darren Hicks (#42) only allowed two players to score against him all season.



Obie Barnes, Jr., (R), and Bryan Bailey (L) talk over game strategy.

Coach Obie Barnes, Sr., gives his team a fiery pep talk before a game

Little League season begins

By Will Marshall
AFRO Staff Writer

All around Baltimore City and County the call to "Play Ball" is ringing out loud and clear.

Recreation little league baseball started at the beginning of May, and is now in full swing at local public parks and recreation centers.

Some of the places you can go to watch the games and cheer on the youngsters are: School #144 (James Mosher League), Leakin Park (Forest Park League), and Memorial Park (Woodlawn League).

The AFRO went to the Forest Park and Northwood Little League games on Saturday, and the level of excitement and enthusiasm was contagious.

There were moms, dads and other family members frantically cheering for their son, nephew or little brother, and of course there were plenty of hot dogs, chips and soda for all.

We've included a pictorial display of some of the highlights, and hardball hitters, courtesy of photographer Ray Gilbert.

When space permits, a special "Games To Watch" column will be added to the "Sports Shorts" section of the Area Sports page, giving the times and locations of that week's pick games.

(Photos by Ray Gilbert)

Donnel Wiseman, of the Forest Park League, gets brushed back from the plate.

A look inside the Northwood Twins dugout, as one young player appeals to the coach "put me in coach, I'm ready to play."

THE FOREST PARK CARDINALS — Front: Irving Griffin. 2nd row (L-R): Rodney Nelson, Keith Ball, Keon Ball. 3rd row (L-R): Donte Carrington, Demond Jones, Donnel Wiseman.

Maurice Frazier of the Northwood Twins is in full swing.

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SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

What does the future hold for our students?

The AFRO went to area high schools to find out what students are planning for the future during this time of graduation. What will the cards hold for them? Check it out!

Sabrina Darden — attending either West Virginia State, Central State, or Ohio. Major: Pre-Law and Communications, con-centrating in law or prosecuting attorney.

Sophia White — attending University of MD at College Park. Major: Business administration, with concentration in Marketing and International business.

(From L to R) Jacqueline Jones — attending Tuskegee Institute. Majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Rowan Job — attending Exeter College in England for one year and University of MD. Major-Architecture. Mishawn Jones — attending Morgan State Universtiy. Majoring in Electrical Engineering.

Andelgia Boston — attending Bowie State University. Major: Business, with a concentration in Accounting.

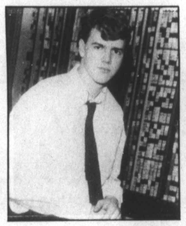
Joy Campbell — attending University of MD Baltimore. Major: Computer Science and Math.

Melinda Clendaiel (L) attending Moughton College (NY). Major: Child Psychology.

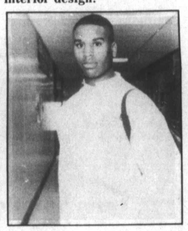
Michelle Clendaiel (R) attending Towson State University. Major: Music and Communications.

Karen Carter — will attend American University. Major: Political Science with future in law school or politics.

James Godsey — Attending Essex Community College one year andDrexel University (PA) for Architecture and interior design.



Michael Bell — attending University of Rochester (NY) on a $60,000 Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering.



Bryan Thomas — attending Moorehouse. Major: Prosecuting Lawyer.

Head Start turns 25!

The Head Start Program celebrates 25 years of service to families of the Baltimore community. Students, parents and staffers are joined by Congressman Kweisi Mfume, City Council President Mary Pat Clarke, Councilman Lawrence Bell and other officials in a parade around City Hall and rally at the War Memorial Building.

Head Start turned 25 this week, and over 11 million preschool children of low-income families nationwide have prospered under its outstanding success.

A host of festivities and educational activities kicked-off the week-long celebration of the program, including an opening day parade and rally with over 1,000 children, accompanied by 300 parents and officials marched at City Hall.

Since 1965, Head Start has provided health, education, nutrition, parent involvement, and social services to pre-school children which has resulted in parents becoming more involved in the education of their children.

The program has served 450,000 children in 1989, is administered by the Administration for children, Youth and families, Office of Human Development Services, within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Head Start has over a dozen operating centers throughout Baltimore which offers a diverse and quality education. Young students learn skills in the areas of reading, math, art, and may even learn foreign languages such as French and Spanish.

Baltimore has placed itself in the forefront of pre-school learning. Walk into any of its centers and an array of activities can be seen and heard. Open one door and you will find a group of tiny tots learning to tape dance, and quite well thank you!

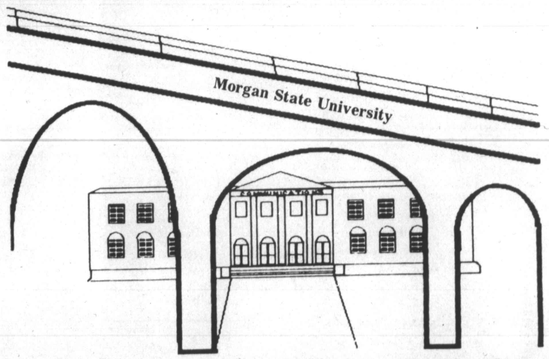
Pre-schoolers are not the only ones to benefit from the program; parent initiation has led to the operation of Head Start centers with many parents going on to become paid classroom aids and to attain college degrees.

Nearly 35 percent of the staff across the nation are parents of current or former Head Start children.

National Head Start Director, Clennie H. Murphy, Jr. expounded on the program's achievements, "Project Head Start has had a dramatic impact on services for children in America and on the entire child development field."

"It has pioneered such new concepts as parent involvement in educational programs . . . and it is the largest child care program for economically disadvantaged young children in the country," said Murphy.

To cap the anniversary celebration, the Bureau held a special citywide Luncheon on Friday to give special acknowledgements to staff members for their services to the Head Start Program.



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