Edmondson High JVs — Division A champions

L-R First Row: Michael Wynn, Duane Johnson, Carlos Croslin, Ed Goins, Damon Larkins, Lamont Sutton.
Second Row: Mark Matthews, William Jeffries, Sean Robinson, Wayne Johnson, William Mattox, Melvin Hopkins, Carlos Casiano.
Third Row: Tai Thompson (Coach), Mike Johnson, Michael Gaskins, Clarence Blunt, Clarence Holiday.
Kneeling in front: Bat Boys Tai, Jr. and Brandon Thompson.

By Will Marshall
AFRO Staff Writer

The Edmondson High School Junior Varsity (JV) baseball team won the Maryland Scholastic Association (MSA) Inter-Conference Championship, Friday, May 25.

Displaying superior character and tenacity, they defeated Gilman, the A Conference Champions, two games to one, thus earning the right to be called champions.

The team had a phenomenal season, ringing up 154 runs for the season, and finishing with an overall record of 14-3.

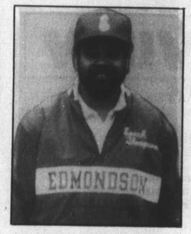
Three players in particular had superior batting averages. Michael Gaskins (Jun) .603, William Mattox (Soph) .492 and Sean Robinson (Soph) .409.

In order to make it to the championship game the Edmondson JV team (B Conference Champions) had to defeat Southern High School (A Conference Runner Up), which they did, by a score of 15-5.

In the best of three Championship games, Edmondson took a 1-0 lead after defeating Gilman (A Conference Champions) by a score of 9-8. However, Gilman came back strong and totally demolished Edmondson in the second game 20-7.

"I believe that the kids' spirits were low after our Awards Ceremony because only two players on the team received an award, and really everyone on the team is a Most Valuable Player (MVP)," said coach Thompson.

He continued, "After that we had a team meeting and I told them not to worry because they would all be recognized for their playing."



Junior Varisty Coach Tai Thompson

In the third and final game "The kids held their heads up and went strong, and we won the game 14-4."

Some of the highlights of the Championship Series against Gilman, include: Michael Gaskins (Jun), batting 5-5, William Matttox (Soph) who hit two homers in the third game, and was named the Series MVP; Clarence Holiday (Soph), batting 4-5; Sean Robinson batting 3-5

Damond Larkins, pitched the two winning games in the Gilman series. In the first game Larkins came in on a relief effort in the third inning.

Faced with bases loaded and a 2-2 ball game, Larkins pitched his way out of the inning allowing only one run to score. He finished the game with four strike outs.

In the third, and deciding game, Larkins pitched a complete game throwing eight strike outs, while allowing six hits, and giving up four walks, four runs and no home runs.

According to their coach Tia Thompson. "They displayed a great deal of pride to play that way with our lack of resources and all.

"He added, "Beating a private school with all of the resources available to them, such as good playing and practice fields, uniforms that are in good repair, and top equipment was a true blessing."

Tai described a team of tough scrappy young men who "are very good students, never missed practice" and who were willing to dig deep down inside themselves to do what it took to be winners.

"We had no one to drop out of school or drop off the team during the year, which is not the picture some people would paint for young Black males today. They were all exceptional students and athletes."

This is his first year as a coach in the Baltimore City School system, and he's already coached a team to an MSA Championship.

This year the Edmondson JV team had a regular season record of 10-2, which included a 9-game winning streak before their first two losses to Gilman and Mervo.

Tai is a full time probation officer who began coaching as a way to "help keep 15 to 18 kids off the streets, and as a way to help him overcome the sense of loss he felt over his mother's death.

"There were other pressures in my life at the time and then when my mother died I really felt like I needed a positive way to keep myself busy."

Tai originally sought a position at Douglass High School, where he graduated, however, there were no openings available. That is when he turned to the Edmondson Athletic Director, who was his former baseball coach at Douglass, Joseph Cassidy, Sr.

Mr. Cassidy immediately recommended Tai for the position in the newly established "Emergency Coaching Program (ECP)," and he was subsequently hired by the principal, Mr. Stanley Holmes.

The ECP allows qualified people who wish to contribute their time to the development of our youth, to participate as coaches and assistant coaches.

Tai Thompson is a graduate of Hampton University, is certified to instruct Physical Education, and coached in the James Mosher Little League Baseball league.

William Mattox, hit two homers in the Championship series against Gilman, and is the series Most Valuable Player.

Assistant Junior Varsity Coach James James

SPORTS SHORTS

By Will Marshall

Alpha Phi Alpha Celebrity Tennis Match

The Alpha Phi Alpha, Celebrity Tennis Match takes place at Sunday, June 3 at 1pm, on the main tennis courts at Druid Hill Park.

The main courts are located between the swimming pool and the reservoir.

Participating celebrities will range from TV and radio personalities, to public and political figures, and the event promises to be fun-filled, action-packed and full of surprises.

According to one of the Alpha organizers, Joe Yates "It never rains when you're playing golf or tennis."

Lacrosse Classic

The Lacrosse Foundation, Inc., is sponsoring its "Eighth Annual Hall of Fame Lacrosse Classic," to be held on June 7, 8, and 9 at The Johns Hopkins University Homewood Field.

The Lacrosse Classic will be Maryland's premier showcase of its "Home Grown Sport," according to Kevin Heffner of the Lacrosse Foundation.

Of particular interest to Baltimoreans is the Baltimore City Middle School Championship Game to be held Friday, June 8 at 3pm. This will be a chance to get a close look at many inner-city school players who normally do not get much exposure in this area.

The three days of activities begin Thursday, June 7 with a "Face-Off Reception," followed by an "Old Timers Game." All events will be held on the campus of The Johns Hopkins University.

For more information contact the Lacrosse Foundation Inc., at (301) 235-6882.

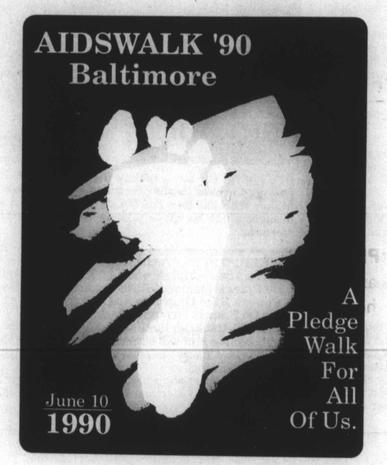
Pro Boxing at Pikesville Armory

There will be a seven fight boxing card Thursday, June 7, at the Pikesville Armory, located at 610 Reisterstown Road.

The main event will feature Maryland State Jr. Welterweight Champion, Eddie Van Kirk (20-6, 10 KO's) against Nebraskan, Felix Dubray (22-8, 12 KO's) in a 10 round match.

There will also be an eight round co-feature match between undefeated Laurel middleweight Percy, "Hit Man" Haris (9-0, 8 KO's) against Michael Dale (8-2-1, 4 KO's) from New York.

The doors open at 7pm, and the first fight is at 8pm.



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SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

Furman L. Templeton Elementary

A Place To Be Somebody

By Joy M. Tyler
AFRO Staff Reporter

Located in one of the rougher parts of the city on Pennsylvania Avenue, Furman L. Templeton Elementary has managed to keep a sense of family and nurture growth in its students.

Templeton is unusual in its curriculum base as it houses the normal curriculum and that of the "special child."

Walking into one of the classrooms at the school, one would be hard pressed to tell the difference in the attitudes and personality between the teacher and their students.

For the students who need special attention during their educational career, small intimate groups are the focus of learning.

The typical ratio between teacher and student is six to one, far exceeding the normal capacity in most city schools.

Ranging in age from four to twelve, students must learn how to adjust to the classroom setting, and most manage to do well.

The environment is friendly, warm and of genuine caring and a deep willingness to help the special student succeed.

In talking with the teachers in special education, the subject of patience and achievement plays a significant role.

One teacher pointed out a student who had just entered the school this year who was artistic and he wouldn't sit with his fellow students, talk or participate in any of the learning activities.

Principal
Carolyn D. Blackwell

It took practically the entire school year to break the youngster out of his imaginary shell, but once the teacher and her aid had taken the love and patience to help the student overcome his fears and anxieties, he was playfully participating in class activities before the end of the school year.

Some may feel that this is an extremely long period for a child to become acclimated to the class setting; he was overwhelmed at the things that were available for him to learn.

The normal range of subjects are taught to the students, such as math, reading and more specialized skills such as music, speech therapy, and coordination are taught.

One of the more unusual projects taught to special students encompasses field trips to learn survival skills to the supermarket, bank and library.

Students are shown the importance of learning to deal with the outside world and how to cope with daily chores that must be learned.

Not only do they shop for the food, but simple recipes such as peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are a luxury for a break in their intense learning.

Parents play a significant role in helping these autistic and special students excel and achieve in an academic environment.

Parents act as reinforcers to what was taught in school and give that little extra push and support.

Furman L. Templeton also houses its primary elementary school for the regular curriculum, and encourages those students to mix with the special ones in school projects for plays, music, and other projects.

The primary school, like others, has a computer lab for first grade students, called Writing to Read. Templeton has pre-kindergarten classes for mainstream students and "special" students.

Make no mistake about it, Furman L. Templeton Elementary is no ordinary school. Walk into any classroom and you will see all around you that the school motto is in full effect; its a place TO BE SOMEBODY!!!

First grader Keona Flanagan practices her spelling at the school's learning center.

Teacher's aid Anne Wilson helps tutor Larry Molock, an autistic student at Furman Templeton.

Classrooms for autistic and slow learners are small in number and these students learn how to develop memory and coordination skills.

City Springs Elementary
Toasts its Mentoring Program

City Springs Elementary school held a banquet for "The Young Male Development's Program," this past Thursday, May 24, at the Johns Hopkins Inn.

The Young Male Development Program is a group of twenty-five boys ranging from six to eleven in age, grades one to five who are shown how to communicate, interact, with other students positively, and to develop peer relationships and coping skills.

The program also is designed to help the male student to understand himself and build self-confidence.

In addition it stresses the importance of careers and positive interaction with male role models and mentors.

Some of the guests in attendance included: Vincent Pettway, Dr. Richard Hunter, Mack Lewis, Rev. C. Carter, Hollis Posey, States' Attorney Stuart Simms, Delegate Cummings, The Honorable Judge Hargrove, (Richard Rowe, and Stan Brown- Director of Bowie State University.)

(Photo by Ray Gilbert)

City Springs Students: Travis Street, Averille Bellinger, Damon Tiller, Robert Gray, Raheem Moore, Marquis Butler, James Fields, Diondre Lee, John Parks, Rhebin Lawson, Bruce Johnson, Aaron McCready, Hakim Moore, Marco Bell, Reginald Marable, and Dr. Richard Hunter.

(Photo by Ray Gilbert)

Program Mentors (l to R): Vincent Pettway, Mack Lewis, Jim Johnson, Arthur Snowdin, Sidney Sheppard. Seated: John Broaddus, Rev. C. Carter, Larry Jones, and Hollis Posey.

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