Morgan and Coppin State Left Out of Tourney

By Fred Lindsey
AFRO Sports Writer

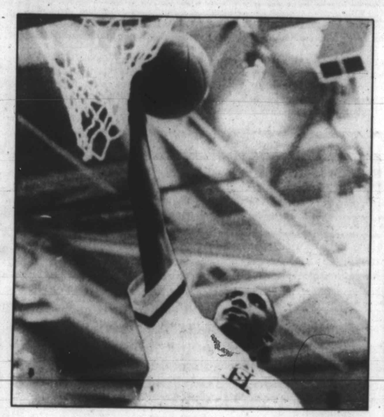
In the first year of the Baltimore Beltway Basketball Tournament, UMBC (University of Maryland at Baltimore County) emerged victorious to win the championship and lay claim to the bragging rights for Division 1 teams, in the metropolitan area.

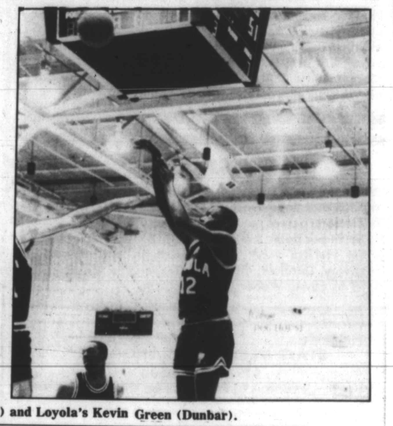
Amid the continued criticism that questioned why Morgan State or Coppin State was not included, many observers felt the Tournament, successful as it was, had a missing ingredient.

While it is duly noted, the Baltimore Beltway Basketball Tournament was an invitational tournament and as such, one can invite whomever they please. On the surface, it looked as if both schools were slighted.

The Tournament, which included Towson State University, Mount Saint Mary and Loyola College, attracted nearly 5,000 fans for the two nights and all the participants appeared to be equal or near equal in talent, but for the basketball purist, the tournament lacked the one element to make it more harmonious and that was the inclusion of the "other institution" which happens to be black, "just to see how they would stack up."

"We would have loved to have been a part of it," said Joe McIver, sport information director at Morgan State, "but we were not invited. To be a participant would pay great dividends to our school because I understood it to be a good tournament. In fact, we would like to play all the schools in the area because it would help us financially and with our scheduling. Being a part of the Beltway Classic is something that Morgan would like to pursue."





Towson State's Devin Boyd (Walbrook) and Loyola's Kevin Green (Dunbar).

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Funeral Procession: by Elizabeth Catlett, The Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, Louisiana

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SPORTS

Sam Lacy
Sorry

You think it happens only in Richmond where football Hall-of-Fame's Willie Lanier was turned down for membership at a country club?

Or in Tennessee where Wilma Rudolph was barred from a restaurant on the same day that the governor and state officials had sponsored a ticker-tape parade honoring her 3-gold Olympic performance in Rome?

Or in Boston where former Red Sox outfielder Carl Yastrzemski and another white player could purchase Suffolk Downs but not if Jim Rice was a member of the partnership?

Or at Baltimore's Turf Valley Country Club where an open phone line while talking to an NAACP officer revealed the blatant racist thinking of the assistant manager?

Art's legacy

You think so, eh? .... Well, you are dead wrong.

Mrs. Callie Carter had been married to the late Art Carter for so long that it seemed only natural to her that this story should be explored and rushed to Art's beloved AFRO as quickly as possible.

Callie spent the holidays visiting friends in Palm Springs, Cal. .... While there she learned of the incident that had occurred a short time earlier in Ocala, Fla..... the word having been brought back by eyewitnesses who still were seething over it.

According to their story, Charlie Vinson had served as best-man at the wedding of his best friend, Don Delprete, who is white.... Prior to the wedding, it had been agreed that Don, Charlie and three other guys in the party would play golf — as an alternative to the customary bachelor party.

Sure, Pop

And they would play at the Golden Hills Country Club where Delprete's father, Danny, was a 20-year member .... The elder Delprete made reservations for his son and his friends two weeks ahead of time, and received assurances from the club's PGA pro, Rick Schumacher, that all would go well.

But, when young Delprete and his party arrived and the red-faced Schumacher saw Charlie Vinson, he scrambled over to Danny and whispered: "Is the black guy going to play; I can't let Negroes play."

After phone calls to several senior members and board directors, Schumacher returned to say he was sorry but "the black guy can't play."

Charlie who?

Somewhere along the line — as Vinson was apologizing for having spoiled his friend's happy moment — Palm Desert PGA pro Tom Marcuzzo dropped the hint that it was unfortunate Golden Hills would practice racism against a young man of Vinson's stature.

Charlie, you see, is the Emmy Award winning director of the Cosby Show and five-time award winner for producing and directing "The Tony Awards Live," "Christmas in Washington Kennedy Center Awards," "Living the Dream — Martin Luther King Live," "Motown Returns to the Apollo," and "Benson."

Rick Schumacher: "Oops, sorry."

The group left with Charlie when he rejected the apology saying, "I'd feel very uncomfortable playing here now, fellows .... I'm sorry."

Notable quotable

Former Yankee catcher Yogi Berra when asked if he wanted to buy his kids an encyclopedia:
"No, let them walk to school like I did" (Parade Magazine).

Basketball

COLLEGE SCHEDULE

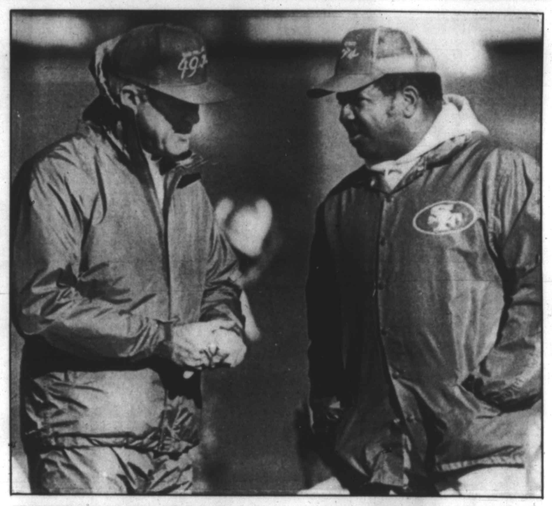
Tuesday
St. Augustine's at W. Salem
St. Aug at W. Salem (women)

Wednesday
Maryland at Howard (women)
S.C. State at Fla. A&M (women)
Ala. State at So. Alabama
Nicholls St. at Alcorn (women)
McNeese at Grambling
Tougaloo at Miss. Valley (women)
Belhaven at Jackson State
Pr. View at S.W. Louisiana (women)
Texas Southern at S.F. Austin

Thursday
Coppin State at Morgan (women)
Coppin State at Morgan State
UDC at Virginia St. (women)
Lincoln at Spring Garden
Lincoln at Sp. Garden (women)
Livingstone at St. Augustine's
Southern at TCU (women)
Xavier at Nicholls State
Xavier at Nicholls St. (women)

Saturday
Md. E. Shore at Morgan (women)
Md. E. Shore at Morgan State
Fla. A&M at S.C. State
W. Salem at UDC (women)
Lincoln at Millersville
J.C. Smith at St. Augustine's
Spring Hill at Xavier
Spring Hill at Xavier (women)

Monday
St. Paul's at Bowie State
Bethune at S.C. State (women)
Bethune-Cookman at S.C. State
UDC at Eliz. City (women)
Maywood at Lincoln (women)



PIONEERING AGAIN — Planning strategy in advance of the San Francisco 49ers' Super Bowl game against Cincinnati are head coach Bill Walsh and his top assistant Dennis Green. Green (right) will bid farewell to the NFL after the Miami assignment to take on the head coaching job at Stanford. This will make him the first black head coach in the PAC-10, as he was the first in the Big 10 when he went to Northwestern four years ago to tutor the Wildcat eleven.

One-on-One

With world-class athletes like Darryl Strawberry, Matt Biondi and Diane Dixos helping out, Sports Illustrated For Kids was introduced Tuesday to inner city children who will use the magazine as a reading aid. The January debut issue was given to 420 students at P.S. 125 in Harlem, one of 1,200 schools nationwide that will receive free subscriptions to the magazine, targeted for children 8-years-old and up.

* * *

The $50,000-added Harrison E. Johnson Memorial Handicap at Laurel Race Course Monday (16th) will mark the birthdate of Dr. Martin Luther King, and will honor the memory of the astute trainer who died in a plane crash in late 1985.

Laurel stake honors trainer

The annual Harrison Johnson Memorial Handicap, a $50,000-added event, will be held Monday at Laurel Race Course.

The stake, a brainchild of Baltimore racing writer Dale Austin, honors the popular black trainer who died in a plane crash in late 1985.

Johnson was flying his own plane on a return trip from New York. With him were thoroughbred owner C.C. Griffith and fellow-trainer Larry Horning. Only Hornung survived.

There was an ironic twist to the first running of the race. In 1986, Sparrowvon, ridden by jockey Wayne Barnett and trained by Hank Allen captured the Johnson memorial which is a fixture for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday observance.

Tutu critic: no to apartheid

Controversial South African distance champion Zola Budd Tuesday denied that she supports her country's policies of legalized racism.

Her statement was prompted by a television interview broadcast in London on New Year's Eve, in which she refused to condemn white minority rule.

Budd said she was "distressed" that comments she made in a documentary about anti-apartheid campaigner Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Sam Ramsamy of the London-based South African Non Racial Olympic Committee had been misconstrued as an endorsement of apartheid.

"My argument with the two gentlemen in question is not over apartheid, but over the way they have attacked me in my personal capacity," Budd said. "As an athlete who still hopes to pursue an international career, I am not interested in joining the political circus, and I have always resisted attempts to force me into taking a particular political stance. I object to being used as a political pawn."

Bruno: Tyson act as sign

LONDON — Frank Bruno believes Mike Tyson's decision to fire trainer Kevin Rooney will boost his chances to defeat the world heavyweight boxing champion in Las Vegas next month.

"It takes a long time for a trainer and fighter to understand each other," Bruno said. "I want to take away his title and he wants to keep it. I think I can stop him."

Bruno's manager Terry Lawless said: "What's been going on with Tyson must affect him," he said. "The relationship between trainer and fighter must be one of respect and you should not sack him. It's going to be very interesting for anybody to train Tyson now."

Golden era? Has it forgotten the 'Tank'?

By Collie J. Nicholson

GRAMBLING, LA (SPECIAL) — Unquestionably, it was a big surprise, happening as it did during what old timers like to describe as pro football's Golden Era, when Paul "Tank" Younger, a little-known black athlete, was named a starter for the 1949 Los Angeles Rams.

Los Angeles fans, some of the most knowledgeable in pro sports, took a double take and asked, "Paul who?"

Younger, they learned, was a rookie free-agent from Grambling, an obscure Louisiana college too remote to attract pro scouts.

Further investigation revealed that he scored 60 touchdowns in a brilliant four-year career at Grambling where he was appropriately dubbed "Tank' because he ran over people he couldn't run around.

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They discovered that Younger was a 21-year-old small-college All-American who topped the nation in rushing in 1947 by galloping two-thirds of a mile for 1,207 yards.

Tank was big and fast, a 230-pound jack-of-all trades running back and linebacker. He had a stock of confidence and a burning desire to excel. His country-boy virtues stood out in the Rams' sophisticated environment.

Despite an intense sense of purpose, Younger was given little or no chance to make the team when he reported to camp in July. Nay-sayers rated his chances as zip . . . a fanciful dream. In fact, odds against him were as high as 500 to 1.

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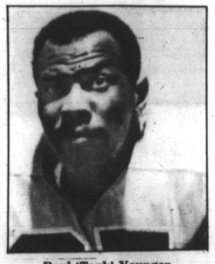
Such odds were overwhelming. For Younger to excel, he would have to achieve at a level virtually without precedent.

If he could make the team, he would become one of six or seven blacks playing in the Natinal Football League — and the first ever from a black school.



Paul 'Tank' Younger
Hall of Fame dodging him?

Tank understood the rigorous task that he faced. Tough mentally and physically, he would ask no quarters and give no quarters. But, he hadn't counted on contributing a historic footnote to that period as a pioneer in the black movement.

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That's one of the reasons why his old coach, Eddie Robinson, has launched a campaign to get him into the College and Pro Football Halls-of-Fame. "Younger earned wide admiration from fans, sports writers, teammates and opponents alike for his great ability as an early star," Robinson said.

"His record is there for all to see . . . He belongs in the Hall-of-Fame."

— —

When Rams' coach, Clark Shaughnessy, announced that Tank had earned the starting berth as a running back, the late Maxwell Stiles, sports editor of the Los Angeles Mirror, declared in bold headline, "A Star is Born."

Tank was awed. "It felt good," he recalled.

"I'd read about big name Los Angeles stars like Bob Waterfield, Dick Huffman, Tom Fears, Elroy Hirsch, Tom Harmon, Glen Davis, Dick Horner and Don Paul, all major college All-Americans."

"It was gratifying to learn that I had comparable talent and similar athletic ability," he noted.

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However, a list of finalists now under consideration, does not include Younger's name. That list, announced last weekend has on it:

Cornerback Mel Blount, defensive tackles Buck Buchanan and the late Henry Jordan, Los Angeles Raiders owner Al Davis, defensive end Carl Eller, former Minnesota coach Bud Grant, quarterback Bob Griese, linebacker Ted Hendricks, running back Leroy Kelly, guard Tom Mack, tight end Jonn Mackey, tackle Art Shell, wide receiver Lynn Swann and safety Willie Wood.