CHRISTIAN BASKETBALL LEAGUE

By Fred Lindsey
AFRO Sports Writer

At a time when athletics seems out of control and without a real sense of purpose, Howard Parker has renewed the concept of the Baltimore City Men's Christian Basketball League.

Operational for the "endangered ages," between 16-25, the League comes complete with prayer before games and religious music during halftime.

"Although the idea is not new," Parker said, "I think the concept is stimulating enough to help change young people's lives."

The intent of the league is get more young men to fellowship through basketball, in the name of Christ and Parker is hopeful that the combination of athletics and the Spirit of God will be enough to create and develop the attitude of love and respect for their fellow man.

"We are in our third year," Parker said, "and the word in the community is that christian fellowship can make a difference in your life."

Housed at Madison Square Recreation Center, the Baltimore Men's Christian Basketball League, which plays every Wednesday from 7-10 p.m., includes teams from the following churches: Living Word Baptist, Shiloh Christian Community, Mt. Olive Baptist, Greater Faith Baptist, Bethel Temple/Highway of Christ, Bethel AME (African Methodist Episcopal) and the religious radio station WBGR.

Howard, a member of Bethel AME and the league commissioner, says that by next year the league will grow and provide more than just the activities of basketball.

Howard Parker, a plant supervisor for the Baltimore School Board, donates time to develop christian athletes.

"We are planning the type of expansion that will make our community proud," Parker said. "We hope to have many activities for kids who are 16 and under."

As each church contributes $75, for entry fees, awards, certificates, Parker says that a season ending banquet will highlight the basketball year, but more community participation will be needed, if he is to realize the ultimate objectives.

"Councilman Carl Stokes (2nd District), in his first year of involvement, donated our league's uniforms and the Baltimore Ravens will have a benefit game for us on February 4th at Towson State," Parker said, "but we certainly hope that we can solicit more support."

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 8
7 P.M. — Mt. Calvary vs. B.A.M.E.
8 P.M. — Bethel Temple vs. Mt. Olive
9 P.M. — Jammers vs. Shiloh

FEBRUARY 15
7 P.M. — B.A.M.E. vs. Mt. Olive
8 P.M. — Mt. Calvary vs. Shiloh
9 P.M. — Bethel Temple vs. W.B.G.R.

FEBRUARY 22
7 P.M. — Mt. Olive vs. Shiloh
8 P.M. — B.A.M.E. vs. W.B.G.R.
9 P.M. — Mt. Calvary vs. Jammers

MARCH 1
7 P.M. — W.B.G.R. vs. Jammers
8 P.M. — Shiloh vs. Bethel Temple
9 P.M. — Mt. Olive vs. Mt. Calvary

MARCH 8
7 P.M. — Jammers vs. Bethel Temple
8 P.M. — W.B.G.R. vs. Mt. Calvary
9 P.M. — Shiloh vs. B.A.M.E.

MARCH 15
7 P.M. — Bethel Temple vs. Mt. Calvary
8 P.M. — Jammers vs. B.A.M.E.
9 P.M. — W.B.G.R. vs. Mt. Olive

MARCH 22
7 P.M. — Mt. Calvary vs. B.A.M.E.
8 P.M. — Bethel Temple vs. Mt. Olive
9 P.M. — Jammers vs. Shiloh

MARCH 29
7 P.M. — B.A.M.E. vs. Mt. Olive
8 P.M. — Mt. Calvary vs. Shiloh
9 P.M. — Bethel Temple vs. W.B.G.R.

APRIL 5
7 P.M. — Mt. Olive vs. Shiloh
8 P.M. — B.A.M.E. vs. W.B.G.R.
9 P.M. — Mt. Calvary vs. Jammers

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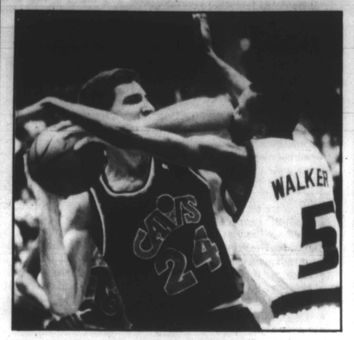


Bullets Darrell Walker tries to get ball but gets elbow by Chris Dudley, in a recent Bullet victory.

Short Shots

City Schools Wrestling Tournament

Ironically, the Baltimore City Public School Wrestling Tournament will be held this week at Southwestern High, where earlier in the year, the highly successful Southwestern program was suspended for a year, when coach Fred Bullock resigned unexpectedly.

The Sabers were the Maryland State Wrestling Association's number 1 ranked team at the beginning of the season, largely on the athletic skills of MSA champions Calswell Veale and Walter Reed.

The tournament, which is to include all public schools, will start at 2:30 p.m. on Friday and conclude Saturday with the finals beginning at 1:00 p.m.

As far as the Southwestern wrestlers are concerned, according to reliable sources, most of them "aren't doing anything."

Free Ride on the Bullets

On January 31 and for the remainder of the season, the Washington Bullets began free bus service from the Baltimore Arena for all home games at the Capital Centre.

The bus will leave the Arena at 6:00 p.m. and will return from the Centre 15 minutes after the final buzzer.

With the Bullets (16-24) beating league leading Cleveland Caviliers and the Boston Celtics and Bernard King shooting at least 30 a game, they may be worth watching.

Bull Roast for Forest Park Little League

Forest Park Little League will hold its Oyster and Bull Roast on Friday, February 17, 1989 from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at the Forum, at 4210 Primrose Avenue. Donation is $25 per person with an open bar.

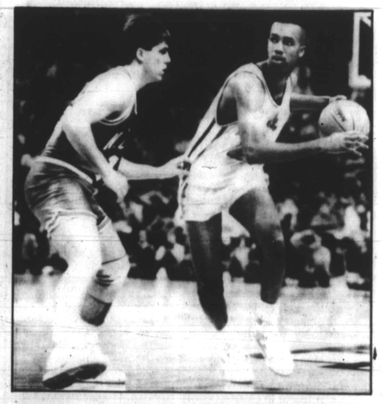
For ticket information, call Mr. Blackwell at 448-5113 or Ms. Ward at 947-2997.

Budweiser Charm City Pro/Am League
Coaches Place 67
Quillens Amoco 43

Sparky Cleaners 68
Rent-a-Center 51

Broadway Payne 15
Sportsmen's Lounge 0 (Forfeit)

St. Edwards
Bye



MARYLAND UNIVERSITY TERPS fall 90-67 to the pressure defense and a fast break running attack from the North Carolina State Wolf Pack. It was the Terps ninth straight loss. Greg Nared, senior guard, brings the ball up-court against defending Wolf Pack's Chris Corchiani, who was instrumental in causing several Terps turnovers in the first half. Maryland's next game is Maryland-Baltimore County, a sister school of the state system. Nared said after the loss to State, "It's a pride thing now. We just want to win a game." Photo by CR Tuckson.

SPORTS

Sam Lacy

Q and A

Considering the closeness of the game (20-16) without him, is it unrealistic to assume that Stanley Wilson's presence would have produced dancing in the streets of Cincinnati instead of in San Francisco following the Super Bowl?

Or that the 1985 San Diego Padres and the 1986-87 Baltimore Orioles would have experienced kinder years with a drug-free Alan Wiggins at second base?

Their bouts with cocaine at critical times in their lives wreaked havoc on the hopes of their fans, their teams, their towns and their employers . . . . but mostly on their families and themselves.

You have heard it; I've heard it . . . . You've asked it and most assuredly, I have asked it: why such fine athletes making so much money and finding life so good, become slaves to narcotics?

Two answers

The caption here (Q & A) implies that the column is designed to ask questions and seek answers . . . . We all know the questions . . . . For answers, I went to sources I felt could give me, if not answers, explanations.

I asked the opinion of my son who (thank God) is not a user but whose mind is younger than mine . . . . then sought the response of a young friend who had the habit but who (thank God) was able to control it — a rare case.

My son believes many young athletes become victims because of "peer pressure" . . . . They spend much of their time at parties where admirers and teammates urge them to "just try this stuff once" . . . . They do and then they discover that "once" is not enough.

Brief euphoria

On the other hand, my friend says that pressure from associates is just part of the answer . . . . He sees addiction as the product of "measured insecurity" . . . . He is convinced that the average user becomes an abuser because of a fierce desire to be better than he is.

Life becomes a constant challenge and he finds, or thinks he finds, that cocaine (or whatever) is the vehicle which promises him attainment of his goals — even if only for a moment.

During the period in earlier life when he was "trying it," says my friend, he was looking for something new to accomplish . . . . He had become satisfied with the mundane and he discovered personal euphoria in this new plastic world.

Like others, he strove to reach higher levels . . . . It is human nature, he supposed . . . . Donald Trump always wants more . . . . Howard Hughes was never content . . . . In cases like theirs, power is the antidote for drugs.

Black monopoly?

"Just trying it once," took away the lives of some of the sports world's finest black athletes . . . . Some like John Lucas, Quintin Dailey and Lonnie Smith may have turned around their careers, but it must be admitted that they'll always remain under intense scrutiny.

Finally, I have another question, which causes considerable concern: Since there is rarely any disclosure of a drug presence among white athletes, is it a case where only blacks are the culprits?

The answer, I suppose, is in the inference.

Notable Quotable

One-time leading woman jockey Mary Bacon, recalling a 1969 race that was run six days before she became a mother:

"My mount that day was a mare in foal. I couldn't help thinking about those fans betting on a pregnant horse ridden by a pregnant jockey. The four of us finished last."

Basketball

COLLEGE SCHEDULE

Tuesday
St. Paul's at Va. Union
Cabrini at Lincoln (women)
Cabrini at Lincoln Univ.

Wednesday
Va. Union at Va. State
UDC at W. Salem (women)

Thursday
Coppin State at Howard (women)
Bowie State at St. Paul's
The Citadel at S.C. State
Benedict at S.C. State (women)
Lincoln at Rutgers-Camden
Lincoln at Rutgers (women)
Ala. State at Tuskegee (women)

Friday
Morgan State at Bethune (women)
Morgan at Bethune-Cookman

Saturday
Va. Union at Bowie State
UDC at N.Y. Tech (women)
Md., Eastern Shore at S.C. State
S.C. State at Md. E. Shore (women)
Lincoln at Bryn Mawr (women)

Sunday
Shaw at St. Augustine's (women)

Monday
Morgan at Fla. A&M
Univ. of DC at Va. Union (men & women)
Va. State at Bowie State
Delaware St. at S.C. State (women)
Delaware State at S.C. State
Lincoln at Salisbury State
Lincoln at Salisbury St. (women)
Howard at Fla. State (women)
Ala. State at Auburn-Montgomery
Ala. St. at Auburn (women)
LSU at Alcorn (women)

ALL-STAR COACH — Cleveland Cavaliers Coach Lenny Wilkens has been named to lead the East team in the NBA All-Star Game at Houston, Feb. 12. Pat Riley whose Los Angeles Lakers boast the best record in the Western Division despite poor recent play, will control the bench opposite Wilkens and his star picks.

Bill White said in line for NL presidency

NEW YORK — Bill White, the well-respected veteran broadcaster of the New York Yankees, is rumored to be on the verge of being offered the job of National League President, a New York newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Daily News, citing the determination of NL owners to name a high-profile black as their new president, reported the interest in the 55-year-old ex-major leaguer.

The position is being vacated by baseball Commissioner-elect A. Bartlett Giamatti. The Daily News reported White had no comment on the subject when reached at his home Monday night.

No black man ever has headed a professional sports league.

Debi Thomas: sizzling professional debut

Displaying remarkable poise after the leg problems and Olympic Games disappointment of a year ago, Debi Thomas flashed to new heights as she won the U.S. Figure Skating championship at Capital Centre last month.

In a TV showing of the taped competitions, Thomas danced, spun and twirled while delighting the audience with costume changes at the peak of her performance.

Early baseball great Willie Wells buried

A funeral service was held Friday in Austin, Texas, for Willie Wells, a standout shortstop for 24 years in the early black baseball leagues.

Wells died at age 82, after a lengthy illness. Burial was from the First Baptist Church of Austin.

Often described as "the greatest shortstop not in the Hall of Fame," Wells combined a lifetime .358 batting average with spectacular fielding for 10 different teams during a career that spanned 1925 to 1949.

(Ed note: frequent moves of that era resulted from teams bidding for his services).

Entering the league in 1925 when he was 17 years old, Wells — nicknamed "Devil" — hit 27 home runs the following year as a sophomore.

The diminutive star gained most of his attention as a member of the Newark Eagles, when he played with the likes of Hall of Famers Monte Irvin and Oscar Charleston.

Wells also played with the St. Louis Stars, Detroit Wolves, Kansas City Monarchs, Chicago American Giants, Cole's American Giants, Memphis Red Sox, New York Black Yankees, Indianapolis Clowns and Baltimore Elite Giants.

Three years after major league baseball was desegregated (1949) and 42 years of age, Wells quit baseball to return home to care for his ailing mother.

Willie Wells
sensation of black leagues

MEAC standings

S.C. State	7	1	.875
Morgan St.	6	1	.857
Florida A&M	5	2	.714
Coppin St.	4	4	.500
Delaware St.	3	4	.429
Bethune-Cook.	3	4	.429
N.C. A&T	3	5	.375
Howard	2	6	.250
Md.-E. Shore	1	7	.125

No big moments for Mel Blount

Hall of famer recalls only 'Steeler love'

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — His bone-jarring hits on receivers are credited with forcing a change in NFL rules and his 57 career interceptions helped the Pittsburgh Steelers win an unprecedented four Super Bowl championships in the 1970s.

But ask Mel Blount to name his most vivid football memory, and the retired cornerback who was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame Tuesday comes up empty.

"I know I played a long time and there should be some special memories, but all I remember is the people I played with and the camaraderie we had and the love and affection we had for one another," Blount, 40, said shortly after he learned of his election.

"There were a lot of games and a lot of practices, but it just never sunk into my memory bank. I remember the people, though."

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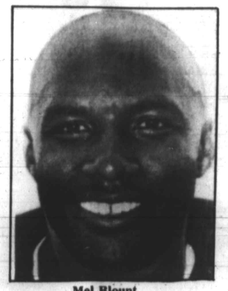
Blount, currently NFL director of player relations with homes in Pittsburgh and Vidalia, Ga., said some of his sharpest memories are of quarterback Terry Bradshaw, who also was elected to the Hall of Fame Tuesday, along with Art Shell of the Raiders and Willie Wood of the Green Bay Packers.

Blount and Bradshaw, who could not immediately be reached for comment, were the third and fourth members of the Steelers' Super Bowl championship teams to be elected to the Hall over the past three years. Defensive tackle Joe Greene was elected in 1987 and linebacker Jack Ham last year.



Mel Blount
love affair with teammates

"I remember how Terry endured all the ridicule of being dumb, that he couldn't read defenses during his early years and how he went on to lead us to the Super Bowls," Blount said. "And I remember John Stallworth, a guy who came from a small black college and how people weren't sure he could make the team, and he went on to set all sort of receiving records.

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"I remember Donnie Shell, who wasn't drafted and came up as a free agent and set a record in the NFL for interceptions by a strong safety. And I remember (defensive end) L.C. Greenwood with his gold shoes and (defensive end) Dwight White with is comic humor. It's just the people. I remember."

There are plenty of old opponents, teammates and fans to remember the blazing speed, hard hits and dazzling interceptions Blount brought to the NFL out of Southern University in 1970.

His style of play is largely credited for a change in the "bump-and-run" rules that eliminated bumping downfield and limited it, to within five yards of the line of scrimmage.

"Mel Blount was a very important guy, the ideal prototype for defensive backs," said Steelers President Dan Rooney. "He was tall, tough and strong and he could play the bump-and-run. He could really play the position. Mel had it all and was what you like to see in all of your cornerbacks."