City Public School Wrestling Tournament

By Fred Lindsey
AFRO Sports Writer

As Poly Tech rolled to rolled to repetitive easy victory while capturing the Baltimore City Public School Wrestling Tournament at Southwestern High, the mood of the tourney was one of spirited competition, praise for their fellow combatant and athletic joy.

Last year, Poly finished second to Southwestern in the Tournament. This year, Southwestern doesn't have a team, but they are hopeful that their wrestling pursuits will turn around next season.

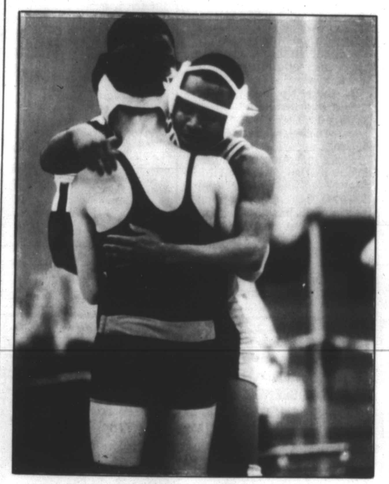
"We are making preparations to pick up where we left off last year," said athletic director Arlene Scott. "If all goes well for us, we will regain our stature in the sport."

Winning coach Bill Hastings said that he was looking forward to the Maryland Scholastic Tournament next week in a true test of how far this team has come this year.

"It has been a very satisfying year," Hastings said, "but its going to be tough. I just hope that we can duplicate our sixth place finish of a year ago."

The preliminary round of the MSA Wrestling Tournament begins Thursday, February 16th at 3:00 p.m., at the Boys' Latin School of Maryland.

The Baltimore Public Schools championship lineup.



Opposing team members congratulate each other.

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Short Shots

Viewing the Hoops

Former Lake Clifton star, Thomas Jordan, was a major contributor in last week's Oklahoma State upset victory over college basketball's then number one team Oklahoma.

In a 77-73 victory, Jordan scored 15 points, gathered ten rebounds and had seven block shots.

Dunbar, Baltimore's 3rd rank team, travelled to Oakton, Va., last week to play noted Flint Hill Academy and was soundly beaten 87-64.

Two of the top 25 high school players in the country, Aaron Bain and George Lynch combined for 44 points and 28 rebounds to improve their record to 17-2, while playing the best high schools in the land. Seniors Spencer Ringgold and Hensley Parks, scored respectively 12 and 16 points but didn't show well.

Morgan State's senior point guard Debbie Grey broke the 1,000 point barrier in a recent win over the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

The 5'3" four year starter became the fourth Lady Bear to reach the 1,000 point plateau, since 1974.

In 94 games, Grey had scored 1,017 points, with 277 assists and 370 rebounds, while averaging 15.6 points this season. This year, she has earned both ECAC and MEAC Player of the Week honors.

Downhill Skiing

Bring your friends, your family and your neighbors. This Saturday, the Carrie Murray Outdoor Education Campus is sponsoring a Downhill Skiing trip for all persons between the ages of seven to adult (Children must be accompanied by an adult).

The group will travel to Roundtop Mountain for a full day of skiing from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The $65 cost will include transportation, lift ticket, ski rental and insurance. Participants can also sign up for lessons ($13-$15) and should bring a lunch or be prepared to buy lunch at the ski area.

For more information, call 396-0809.

Gymnastic Competition

The Gymnastics Plus Boys Team Organization announced that it will sponsor the Columbia Invitational Gymnastic Competition for Boys on February 11th and 12th at the University of Maryland, Baltimore field house.

In its 11th Annual Columbia Invitational, Gymnastics Plus will present a field of over three hundred gymnasts from across the United States including Puerto Rico. International Teams from Sweden, Guatemala and Mexico are also expected to attend.

Of special note, Jair Lynch and Kimp Grant, area gymnasts, who recently were selected for the United States Junior Olympic Team, will also be competing.

For more information, contact Mr. Andy Bulleri at 465-3944.

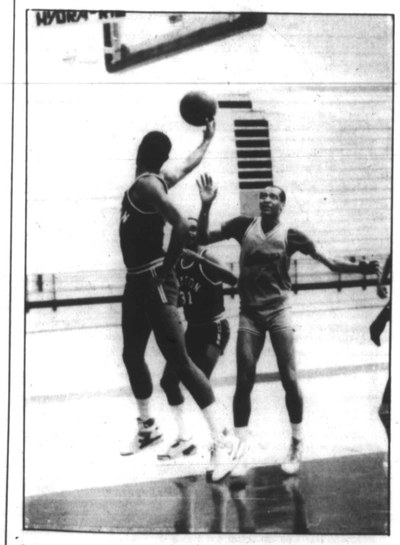
Baltimore Oldtimers Basketball

While losing their last game to Dayton, Saturday, the Baltimore Oldtimers are still in the playoff hunt.

On February 25, the team travels to Akron, Ohio, to play Pittsburgh in hopes of improving their 4-4 record.

"We'll do better in the playoffs," said assistant coach and vice president of the Baltimore Oldtimers, Inc. Paul Edwards. Some times old folks don't play well.

The playoffs will begin on April 1st and the championships will be held at Coppin State April 28-29. So, the Oldtimers will have ample time to rest.



Leon Love, Baltimore Urban Services employee, watches opposition rebound.

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SPORTS

Sam Lacy
Right?

Lefty Driesell was in the area last week with his James Madison University basketball team to play Navy . . . . And the major media was ecstatic . . . . They flocked around the deposed Maryland basketball coach as though they were welcoming the return of a prodigal son . . . . It was as though, if given latitude they would have staged a ticker-tape parade through College Park.

To them, Lefty was right.

To some, it was a momentous occasion . . . . To others, it was sickening.

Motives?

Like myself, the latter must have wondered whether this glorification of Driesell was a message saying "he didn't do wrong," and if he did, they were things so innocuous that they should be ignored three years later.

Not one of the media folk — black or white — has put in words the underlying motive here, but it is obvious that their praise of Driesell at the same time they were lamenting the plight of Maryland basketball under Bob Wade, was meant to draw comparisons.

..gets cleaner?

One did, however, have the guts to skim the (real) issue when he wrote that "each time Maryland retreats under Bob Wade, Driesell's tarnished image gets cleaner."

I must ask, then, if this is the same Lefty Driesell whose last team at Maryland was a 12-man squad which had four players who were not even in school, and a total of eight that were academically ineligible?

The same coach who chastised, then threatened a coed who had the disgusting gall to report a dormitory attack on her by one of his players?

Who looked sideways at the all-night carousing by his athletes, on campus and off, until death by one of them, brought public attention to a drug commissary that was operating under his nose?

Teacher first

Call my hand if you will for assuming this cavalier attitude . . . . You have every right to do so if you endorse this sort of behavior by a teacher who is entrusted with the future of our children.

One who agrees with this AFRO stand is Peter O'Malley, the chairman of the University of Maryland Board of Regents . . . . Said O'Malley at the peak of the haranguing: "I have talked with (athletic director) Lew Perkins on several occasions and with other officials — about my view that a coach at the university should be perceived and evaluated as teachers . . . . and that won-lost records are not to be the determining factor."

Give'em time

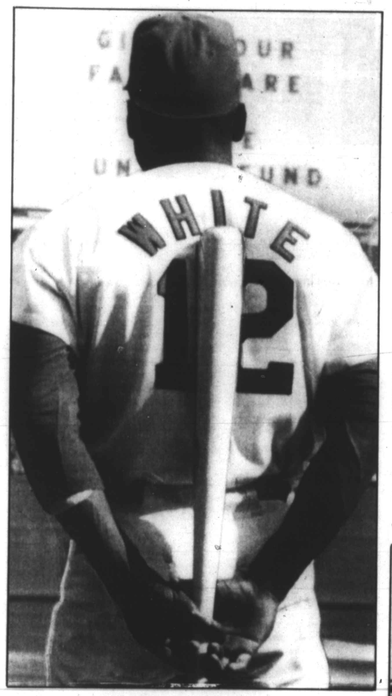
With me, this is not a black-white thing . . . . Whether it is with others, I have no way of knowing, but I can assure you that in my view wrong has no complexion . . . . If Bob Wade abdicated his responsibility as a teacher and Lefty Driesell remained committed to the moral obligations of the job, my wholehearted support would go to the latter, regardless of the performance of his teams.

At the end I say: give them time; Bob Wade ample opportunity to do his thing, and Lefty Driesell time to do his.

Notable Quotable

Dave Gaines, one of the first black coaches at a major college (San Diego State):

"My family was so poor, every time my mother tossed our dog a bone, he had to signal for a fair catch, else all of us kids would beat him to it."



Bill White at '64 World Series

White: I knew him when...

The AFRO and I, along with the late Wendell Smith and the Pittsburgh Courier, jointly rejoiced in 1947 when our efforts were rewarded with the breakdown of racial barriers in major league baseball.

But little did we think that Jackie Robinson's signing by the (then) Brooklyn Dodgers would lead to desegregation of the office president of one of those leagues.

And little did I think when I sat next to him at churches in Phoenix, Ariz. and St. Petersburg, Fla., that Bill White eventually would become that man in the president's chair.

A young man of strong religious principals at the time, Bill attended church every Sunday of the spring training season.

At Phoenix in the early fifties, Bill White became the first of a succession of three outstanding black first basemen discovered by the Giants.

Bill was followed by Orlando Cepeda and later by Willie McCovey.

Last week, after 18 years as broadcaster for the New York Yankees, White was named to succeed A. Bart Giamatti as president of the National League.

— —

The NL will lose nothing in the transitiion from Giamatti to White.

The former showed shocking courage when he fined Pete Rose, one of the game's most popular players, $10,000, and issued an unprecedented, 30-day suspension last year for bumping an umpire.

White also is a non-nonsense guy who can be just as firm in a quiet, dignified manner.

— —

There is this little irony that stands out in reviewing the past of Bill White.

Twenty-four years ago, he was bracketed with Bob Uecker in a trade the Cardinals made with the Phillies.

The latter became a clown, the other became a league president . . . . SAM LACY.

WORLD COACH — Former Cheyney State women's basketball coach, now tutoring the University of Iowa's Lady Hawkeyes, Vivian Stringer has been named coach of the U.S. women's five in the world championship qualifying tournament. July 6-16, in Brazil.

Basketball turnaround at Morgan

The return of Nat Frazier to the sidelines and an amazing display of patience appear to have worked magic in the basketball program at Morgan State University.

A Bears team that was in the doldrums and saddled with repeated losing records under three other coaches since Frazier was fired eight years ago, today is thriving.

When Morgan defeated Bethune-Cookman in Daytona Beach Friday night, the Bears moved to 7-2 in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and 12-8 overall.

Bits'n banter on baseball beat

A study of the medical records of some 2,300 deceased major-league players found that left-handed players had more serious accidents and died earlier than right-handed players, according to Omni magazine. Psychologist Stanley Coren of the University of British Columbia, who conducted the study with Dian Halperin of the University of California, said that after the age of 35, "left-handed people were about 2 percent more likely to die than right-handed people of the same age."

* * *

Newly acquired outfielder Phil Bradley told the Orioles and a responsive Baltimore press corps Monday, that he was "extremely pleased" over joining the club.

He said, however, that while he expects the club to be greatly improved over last year, he has no illusions about winning a pennant "yet."

* * *

Two-time National League MVP Joe Morgan (1975-76) when informed that he was being considered as a nominee to fill the vacant NL presidency, asked to have his name withdrawn. Reason: the $150,000 salary could not match what he is making as a baseball broadcaster and in private business.

Leonard and Hearns: taste of 'corn'

Tyson:'I can be a bad boy at times'

Heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, moving into the final weekend of his preparation for a Saturday (25th) defense against European champ Frank Bruno, said he still loves his estranged actress-wife Robin Givens.

"But I could never go back."

Tyson, who has dated former Miss America Suzette Charles since he and Givens split, said he would like to be married again eventually.

The 22-year-old champion has not fought since his June 27 91-second knockout of Michael Spinks. Since then, he has twice sued his manager Bill Cayton for fraud, fractured his right hand in a street fight with fellow boxer Mitch Green, smashed his car into a tree and was accused by Givens of hitting her.

"I have my moments," Tyson said. "I can be a bad boy at times."

Lori steals show from Zina

Although she lost, 6-7, 6-3, 7-6, in the finals to the redoubtable Martina Navratilova, Lori McNeil continued her pestering presence in the tennis life of Zina Garrison over the weekend.

Lori and Zina at one time were the best of friends. They were playing under the banner of the same Houston (Texas) tennis club and were being tutored by the same coach.

They traveled together to tournaments and partnered in doubles.

Then something happened. They split and went individual ways, entering and playing separate tournaments and rarely encountering one another on the road.

Maybe there was a bit of jealousy. Zina was picked for the U.S. Olympic team where she partnered Pam Shriver, and for the prestigious Federation Cup squad. Lori made neither.

Zina repeatedly held higher Virginia Slims computer ratings and enjoyed an average 9th rating to Lori's 11th.

Yet McNeil seems to hold a hex over her one-time friend, who is playing the Slims tournament at the Patriot Center in Fairfax (Va.) this weekend.

Last Friday, in the Pan-Pacific tourney in Tokyo, Lori upended Zina, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, for the fourth time in five meetings over the past two years . . . LACY.