Cloverdale Masters Basketball Assists Youth

By Fred Lindsey

A few Sundays ago, the Cloverdale Masters and Flaghouse Recreation 16 and Under Basketball Leagues ended their winter seasons.

In the Masters League, the Tan Team won the league championship and the Grey Team won the tournament championship. The Clippers were victorious in winning the 16 and Under League, with the Flaghouse Cougars, an all girls team, placing second.

Significant to both basketball leagues was the contributions made by the "oldtimers" to the youth at Flaghouse. Given that their best basketball days are far behind them, most of the master players paid to play so that the community at Flaghouse could benefit by a variety of programs.

"It was a successful experience," said Leroy Johnson, commissioner and coordinator of both leagues. "Many of the master players had duel roles. They were coaches and sponsors for the 16 and Under League."

Because it was sometimes difficult to raise funds to support the leagues, the older players had to "donate" out-of-pocket expenses and service to finance and operate the younger league.

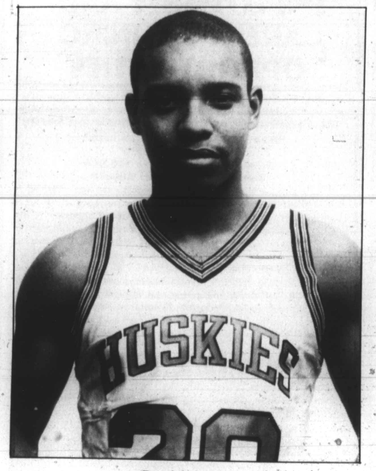
"Getting money out of some of the master players was like pulling teeth," Johnson said, "but once they knew where it was going they gave willingly and they made the entire venture worthwhile."

Not only was money primarily raised to support the youthful basketball league, finances were also used to visit the Capital Centre twice for Washington Bullets basketball and to take the kids to other cultural activities.

"Many of the kids had never seen a professional basketball game - live," Johnson said, "not that it is that important, but basketball was their interest and we wanted to use that to get to other things for them."

In view of their assistance to both basketball leagues, major competition grew between the Tan and Grey teams. As evidenced by their split in championship trophies, the spirit was to play as hard as one could and to give to the young people, so they could be "oldtimers" one day.

Derrick Lewis Ponders Future



Derrick Lewis
Northeastern Basketball

By Fred Lindsey

Ending his collegiate hoop career at Northeastern University, three weeks ago, with 23 points against crosstown rival Boston University, in the semi-finals of the ECAC North Atlantic Conference Tournament, Baltimore native Derrick Lewis became the eighth all-time Husky scorer in the school's history, and he begins to look to the future.

Lewis, a transfer from the University of South Carolina, scored 1,394 points in three years. This year he averaged 19 points a game with a career high of 32 against the University of Hartford in January.

Lewis was named second team all-conference and to the all-tournament teams.

"Derrick had a very good year for us," said Northeastern coach Karl Fogel. "He carried us through some big games."

It was during his sophomore season, his first at NU, that Lewis made a name for himself. With Reggie Lewis (now of the Boston Celtics) and Andre LaFleur (draft choice of the Houston Rockets), Derrick had to come off the bench. He impressed early with major contributions in wins over defending national champion Louisville and Utah State in the semi-finals of the Great Alaskian Shootout.

Lewis scored 18 points coming off the bench in a loss to Iowa University in the finals of that tournament and his star kept on rising.

Lewis moved into the starting lineup two years ago, when Reggie Lewis went down with an injury and he stayed a starter throughout the remainder of his career and has been a stellar performer every since.

Lewis, another in the long line of fable Dunbar Poets, is a criminal justice major and will graduate in June. He is hoping to get looked at by the NBA, if not he is planning to attend graduate school.

One-on-one

National Football League paid attendance for 224 regular season games in 1988 was 13,539,848 and the average of 60,446 marked only the third time in the league's 69-year history that it exceeded 60,000, according to official NFL figures.

The 1988 figures represent increases of 2,133,682 over the total of 11,406,166 and 6,131 over the average of 54,315 compiled in 1987, when the 24-day players' strike reduced the 224-game schedule to 210 games, including 42 conducted with replacement players.

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Short Shots

Former Oriole Pitcher Speaks Against Drug Abuse

Scott McGregor, former pitcher for the Baltimore Orioles and now church and community leader, will speak on "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Among College and Professional Athletes" at Essex Community College.

McGregor's free lecture will take place on Tuesday, April 4, from 12:15 to 1:15 in Room 220 of the college's Business and Management Building. Everyone is invited. For further information, contact Woodrow Powell, assistant professor of physical education, at 522-1364.

High Hopes For Coppin State Basketball

By Fred Lindsey

The Coppin State College Basketball Program ended the season with a great deal of optimism.

While the men completed their year with an overall 18-11 record and 12-6 in the MEAC (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference), this year was the first season that the Eagles had finished above .500 in Division 1 basketball.

The Lady Eagles closed their season with a 10-18 mark which is considered an improvement for a team that won just eight games in the three previous years.

As the teams prepare for next year, men's Coach Ron Mitchell will have a strong nucleus to build around in hopes of a possible NCAA Tournament slot. Returning will be ALL-MEAC Larry Stewart and Reggie Isaac, All-MEAC rookie Larry Yarbray and honorable mention All-MEAC, who was their leading scorer last year, Phil Booth.

Because the women have lost Pam Pratt, a thousand point career scorer, who averaged 18 points and 8 rebounds and Thelma Lyles, who averaged 22 ppg., 3 rpg., 3 assists and 2 steals this season, the Lady Eagles may be at a slight disadvantage next year, if Coach Doug Robertson can't beat the bushes to find players to replace him. However, their 6-8 conference record proved that they are no longer pushovers.

Maryland Special Olympians Head For International Competition

By Fred Lindsey

Maryland Special Olympics will send 29 Special Athletes to represent the state at the Fourth International Winter Special Olympics Games April 1-8 in Reno, Nevada and Lake Tahoe, California.

Included in the group are Cornell Herndon and Gary Scott from Baltimore City, who are alpine skiers. Herndon 18, attends Carroll Park High School. Scott 19, attends Claremont Senior High. The alternate is Cory Wedlock.

The 29 competitors were chosen from among 10,000 children and adults with mental retardation who train and compete in the Maryland Special Olympics year around program.

They will join 1400 Special Athletes from more than 20 countries, the 50 states and the District of Columbia to compete in the following sports - alpine skiing, nordic skiing, figure staking, speed skating and floor hockey.

Physique Championship at Patterson High

By Fred Lindsey

The Maryland Association of the AAU of the USA has sanctioned the 1989 Mr. & Ms. Maryland Physique Championships to be held on April 2nd at Patterson High School, beginning at noon.

Champions will be selected in both male and female competition in senior divisions (not age limit), teen-age (13 thru 19) and Masters Division 35 and over (men & women); 40 & over, 50 & over - male contestants only.

There will also be a novice division competition for men, women and teens for new bodybuilders that have never won a first place in physique contests.

For further information, contact Bill Stevens, AAU chairman, at 285-4118.

Is Wade getting a fair shake?

Bob Wade

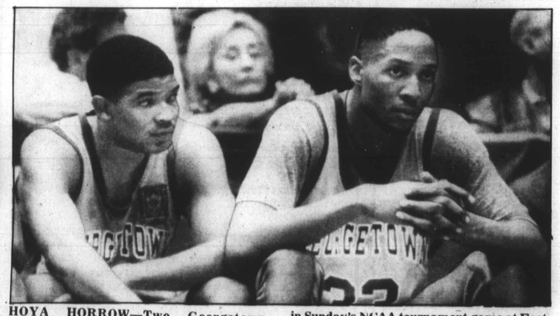
TO THE PUBLIC:
Although the response has been great, please keep the Bob Wade Questionnaire coming. Clip and send them to Fred Lindsey at the AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, 21201
THANK YOU.

Clip-Out Questionnaire

Do you think Bob Wade is being treated fairly?

☐ Yes
☐ No

(optional)
Name_____
Address _____
City _____
Respond by April 7, 1989



HOYA HORROW—Two Georgetown mainstays, senior Bobby Winston (L) and freshman Alonzo Mourning watch dejected as Duke runs out an 85-77 defeat of the Hoyas in Sunday's NCAA tournament game at East Rutherford, N.J. Georgetown entered the 64-team tourney field favored to win.

Sam Lacy

Oh, U O's

Perk up, Baltimore . . . . Your Orioles are on the way up.

Okay, do your smirking . . . . Take aim with your darts . . . . Come on with your snide, "after last year, the only way they can go is up."

Actually, the question isn't necessary. . . . They would have to be better than they were in 1988 . . . . But how much better?

Naturally, foremost in the minds of Baltimore fans as the season begins, is whether the Orioles have been improved by the many deals swung over the winter by GM Roland Hemond.

3 and a prayer

With the exception of Eddie Murray, there was little the Orioles gave up in the assorted exchanges . . . . Of course, the truth here is that they didn't have much of value that they could offer other clubs . . . . And any deal they could make involving Murray had to be one in which they would come away short-changed.

Best of all, they cleared the dugout of free-agents.

This club offers a blend of experience anxious to prove it still has something and young men determined to make truth of the axiom: "youth must be served."

The infield is solid in the important middle . . . . Third base, the perennial problem, may have the solution in Craig Worthington . . . . However, at first base the O's have three gloves and a prayer.

Young mound ready

This desk is convinced that young arms such as belong to J. J. Bautista, Pete Harnisch, Gregg Olson and Bob Milacki are ready to be tested . . . . And encouraging also is the fact that most of them — Olson especially — appear to have the knack of holding runners at first.

Oh, for some of that in the recent past!

And not to be overlooked is the fact that the new outfield — whether or not it is Steve Finley or Grady Anderson manning center — will be greatly improved . . . . Opposing baserunners will be thinking twice before challenging throwing arms as they did last year.

Plus 16

In conclusion, it can only be said that the Orioles will have a new look in personnel as well as in haberdashery . . . . The new uniforms will be pleasant to look at, and the new players will offer hope for the future.

But will these latter be fresh talent or just different bodies? . . . . I think it will be both.

Would you settle for plus-16?

That is what the column visions . . . . 16 more wins than last year . . . . 100 percentage points than 1988 . . . . 70-91 over 54-107, and .435 at the finish instead of .335.

Modest enough?

Notable quotable

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp:

"Pro football gave me a good sense of perspective to enter politics. I'd already been booed, cheered, cut, sold, traded and hanged in effigy."

Baseball's albatross

By Sam Lacy

Perhaps some will say this ought not be written. Some will feel that it should be written.

Some will look upon one who has these thoughts as paranoic. Others will regard him as clairvoyant. Still others may declare him a troublemaker.

No matter those debates, one thing is certain: Frank Robinson is a man of incredible courage.

Consider that he shows no apparent qualms about the presence of two men he must know are literally breathing on his neck, in anticipation of sooner or later, getting his job.

Will Frank Robinson be able to maintain the concentration a manager must have to run his team on the field? Or will he be tempted to watch what may be going on at both ends of his dugout?

Will he be able to survive a pro-Ripken clique at one end of the bench and a pro-Oates faction at the other end?

It is remembered that one local writer interviewed a number of athletes (seven of whom he quoted) seeking their views on the managerial qualifications of Johnny Oates when they played for him at the Orioles' farm club in Rochester.

While no direct comparisons were reported between Oates and Robinson, it was not difficult to detect the underlying motives of both writer and players.

Again, we come to the question of whether to or not to. All of what has been discussed here, all the thought that went into this piece is caught up in the age-old cauldron of white versus black, and vice-versa.

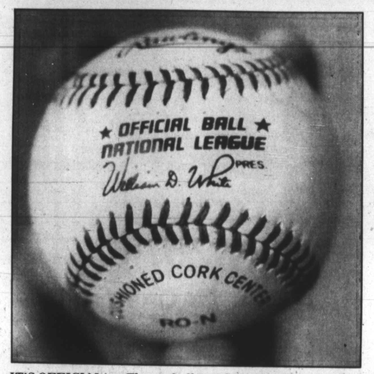
The tone implies that racism may very well threaten to affect the performance of the Orioles in their search for renewed respectability. Such a statement renews the debate over the wisdom, or lack of wisdom, in writing this.

The final decision here is that it accurately reflects the fact of life among Orioles fans. This viewpoint will not introduce polarization in an area that already is polarized.

Did not one element cringe at the firing of an unproductive manager? Did not that same element rejoice over the trade-off of the team's most productive first basemen?

In Baltimore, complexion is the albatross.

SPORTS



IT'S OFFICIAL! — The unchallenged proof that the National League has accepted baseball's first-ever black president is offered here in the form of the official ball bearing the signature of William D. "Bill" White.

'Freeze' whistles for NFL

The National Football League owners opened their spring meeting Monday by examining a new electronic whistle that is supposed to save instant replay.

The whistle, used on an experimental basis last year, makes a mark on the instant replay tape when it is blown. That way, the instant replay official can determine exactly when a play was blown dead.

A demonstration of the new whistle used a wrong call in the Houston-Cleveland playoff game.

Clay Matthews of the Browns recovered a botched lateral by Houston quarterback Warren Moon before the whistle was blown. Houston retained the ball because the official incorrectly ruled he blew the whistle before Matthews recovered the ball.

If the whistle had been used in the game, Cleveland would have been awarded possession because the replay official would have known exactly when the play was blown dead.

S.C. State to salute returning coach

ORANGEBURG, SC — Willie Jeffries, who returned to South Carolina State College as head football coach in January after a ten-year absence, will be honored Apr. 28 at a "Welcome Home Coach Jeffries" reception at Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center on the campus.

Terps in women's Final Four

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (UPI) — Because it's Final Four time, it's also back-to-school time before Tennessee's Lady Vols take on Maryland Friday in Tacoma, Wash.

Bridgette Gordon scored a game-high 33 points, leading Tennessee to 94-80 win over Long Beach State in the NCAA Women's East Regional title game Saturday to move the Lady Vols into their fourth consecutive Final Four appearance.

The Lady Vols have not played Maryland since the final regular-season game of 1981-82 season, and head coach Pat Summitt says her charges will have their hands full.

"They were extremely impressive in their (79-71) win over Texas in the West Regional final," Summitt said. "They had all the parts. They're strong down the middle from point guard to center and the supporting cast is impressive as well."

In the East final, Tennessee broke an 8-8 tie early in the game and led the rest of the contest. The Forty Niners stayed closed, however, going on an 11-1 run to cut the Tennessee lead to 39-35 at the half.

The Lady Terps feature 6-foot-3 post player Vicky Bullett, who played on last year's Olympic team with Gordon, and a pair of 5-foot-8 guards, Deanna Tate and Carla Holmes, who are extremely quick. Collectively, Maryland has four players averaging in double figures, and the shoot 54.1 percent from the floor.

"I don't know if I've seen that kind of balance on a team this year," Summitt said.

Black chair target?

ANNAPOLIS, MD. — A Senate money committee approved a package of changes to Maryland's Racing Commission Monday, providing more legislative oversight for the commission's activities and finetuning eligibility requirements for the board members.

The heavily amended bill, which cleared the Senate Finance Committee on a unanimous vote, would require the commission to submit any plans to transfer racing licenses or racing dates to the Legislative Policy Committee for review before making a decision.

The bill also increases the board from seven to nine members and suddenly restricts the chairman—who is black Dr. Ernest Colvin—to two consecutive one-year terms. Previous board chairmen have served an unlimited number of two-year terms.

Membership for new appointees would be off-limits to anyone with a financial stake in horse racing under the bill.

In the discussion on the bill, some Finance Committee members talked about taking away the racing commission's primary responsibility—awarding racing dates.

NC Central national champ

North Carolina Central captured the Division II basketball championship Saturday night at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament at Springfield, Mass.

The Eagles, titular holders of the CIAA, defeated Southeast Missouri State with relative ease in the final. The score: 73-46.

To reach the title round, the Durham (NC) youngsters eliminated Sacred Heart, 58-57 on Thursday, and Jacksonville State (Fla.) on Friday, 90-50.

Nation's top keglers here next week

The greatest bowlers in the world will gather at Fair Lanes Woodlawn (Balto.) next week (April 2 through 8) to compete in the Fair Lanes $150,000 PBA Open. This marks Fair Lanes' 20th anniversary hosting a PBA tournament in the Baltimore/Washington area.

Leading the fight for the $27,000 1st prize will be Mark Williams, of Beaumont, Texas, the defending champion of the Fair Lanes Open. Williams also won the 1988 Firestone Tournament of Champions, to become a two-time winner of that event.

Other PBA members scheduled for the Fair Lanes Open include Mike Aulby of Indianapolis, the winner of the last two events on this winter's tour; Marshall Holman, Medford, Oregon, who in December won the $100,000 Bowling Shootout; ABC-TV commentator Nelson Burton, Jr., of St. Louis; and many past Fair Lanes champions including Gary Dickinson (Edmond, Ok.), Dale Eagle (Evansville, In.), Randy Pedersen (Santa Maria, Cal.), John Petraglia (Manalapan, N.J.), Wayne Webb (Beaumont, Tx.), and Walter Ray Williams, Jr. (Stockton, Cal.).

"It will be a tremendous field," said Jim Self, Fair Lanes Open Tournament Chairman. "Our 20th PBA event will be our best yet."

Newcomer fires up figure skating

Last week, we reported on the exciting newcomer to figure skating, 15-year-old Surya Bonaly of French Africa.

This week, attention is called to the first black female Alpine (downhill racing) ski contestant. Fifteen-year-old Seba Johnson of the Virgin Islands currently is ranked 28th among the world's giant slalom stars.

But some youth ignore opportunity

Project Survival: 'more than basketball'

By Sam Lacy

The elders among us live in constant fear that our young people will fail to respond when opportunities are laid before them.

Such is the case in Baltimore at the moment as conductors of the Project Survival youth program prepare for their annual tutorial sessions.

These sessions which commence Saturday are designed to offer academic aid to young program participants who wish to attend college but who feel a need to strengthen their performance in certain subjects.

It is a double-tiered effort.

On the one hand, it helps 10th, 11th and 12th grade athletes who plan to continue their athletic careers in college.

Each student is individually coached in language usage, math, reading, social and physical sciences and SAT test skills. The program works to instill self-confidence and to improve college entrance exam scores.

On the other hand, it provides an opportunity for high school students to secure scholarships and/or financial aid offered by colleges and universities.

Representatives from educational institutions are invited to meet with prospective candidates. Thanks to this service, many Project Survival graduates go on to college who might not otherwise do so.

— —

This tutorial phase of the program is the reason directors are able to proclaim: "Project Survival is more than just basketball."

But, as stated earlier, there are times when youth fails to capitalize on given opportunities.

Unfortunately, the free classroom help lately is being ignored by boys and young men of the inner city.

Project Survival Director Vernon Wolst reports that female participants in the program have been responsive to the offer.

But the number of males attending the Saturday morning clinics has gradually diminished.

— —

Obviously, some of the recalcitrants have the misguided impression that they don't need Saturday morning classroom help.

These are the youngsters who will suffer under the soon-to-be-imposed stricter requirements for college entrance.

These are the kids who should understand that help in education must never be disdained.

— —

They might, as examples, consider the way the program affected the lives of two former program participants:

Kenneth Jackson, 34, climbed the educational ladder.

A '75 Patterson graduate, he attended Palomar Community College and received his bachelor's from California State University. Now, Kenneth is a social worker and lives in Elkton, Maryland.

"The Project Survival basketball program kept me and a lot of young guys motivated. To stay on the team you had to stay in shape. It was an escape from the hardships of life. It gave us hope."

— —

And Coretta Patricia Blake, 20, graduated third in her class at Mergenthaler High School in 1986. She ran track, cross country and played basketball. A Sam Lacy Scholarship winner in 1986, Coretta is a sophomore at Coppin State College.

"I had hard times when I was a teenager, and I pulled out of it. Where I come from, money wasn't around and Project Survival gave me an opportunity to get on my feet and encouraged me to move forward. I'm working towards a doctorate in adolescent psychology. I have important things to do in life.

With God as my best friend, I will succeed."