Middle Schools Track and Field Meet

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

Operating smoothly and efficiently, the Thirteenth Annual Baltimore City Public School Middle Schools Track and Field Championships provide school officials and fans with many unexpected thrills.

Where the emphasis is not based on team competition, but on individual participation, Baltimore high school track coaches are excited about the source of talent that middle schools are producing.

"It was superb," said Joni Scholwin, education specialist for Baltimore City Public School when asked about the meet. "The meet was a good situation and a good experience for the kids. We do not recognize team winners, as such, because we try to broaden a student's perspective by having them participate in various activities outside the classroom."

Even so, schools like Pimlico, Mt. Royal and Calverton did very well as a team in the relay events and the championship meet saw several standouts, including Lombard's Danyelle Carroll, winner of the 800 meter dash, in the 13/14 age category in 2:25.02; Anthony Stuckey (W. Baltimore Middle School), winner of the 100 meter dash in 11:31, in the 13/14 division; Sabrina Brooks (Lemmel), winner of the 400 meter dash in 1:09.07, in the 12 and Under category and Pimlico's Tracey Hopkins and Kevin Robinson, winners of the girls and boys 200 meter dash in 27:35 and 25:68 respectively, in the 15 year old age group.

"We try very hard to emphasize the need to have fun," said meet coordinator Harry Bruce. "We tell them (students) that it doesn't mean anything, if you are not first, but with the competitive nature of life, kids will try as hard as they can and obviously, we're looking at some very fine athletes.

Some results:

15 years old & up — 100 meter dash - Girls: 1. Tara Robinson, Herring Run Middle School, 2. Lisa Watford, Lakeland, 13:74; 3. Donna Alexander, Lakeland, 13:84.

15 years old & up — 100 meter dash - Boys: 1. Jeffery Fisher, Calverton, 11:24, 2. Stanley Ross, Lombard, 11:96, 3. Walker Carson, Pimlico, 12:50.

13/14 years old — 200 meter dash - Girls: 1. Nicole Carter, Lombard, 29:02, 2. Latarsia Wilson, Garrison, 29:09, 3. Tiffany Leggette, Herring Run, 30:40.

13/14 years old — 200 meter dash - Boys: 1. William Allen, Garrison, 26:06, 2. Brady Brown, Mt. Royal Elem., 25:31, 3. Sherman Johnson, Herring Run, 26:75.

15 years old & up — 400 meter run - Girls: 1. Latisha Burner, Lombard, 1:16.41, 2. Natearra Crockett, W. Baltimore Middle, 1:27.41, 3. Carolyn Thorton, Lombard, 1:38.61.

15 years old & up — 400 meter run - Boys: 1. Jerico Benjamin, Canton, 1:01.14, 2. Ray Wagstaff, W. Baltimore Middle, 1:08.37, 3. Donte Green, Lombard, 1:01.14.

15 years old & up — 800 meter run - Girls: 1. Caprice Tobias, Lombard, 3:26.14, 2. Tia Branch, Lombard, 4:16.92, 3. Kecia Hamilton, Lemmel, 3:30.29.

12 years old & under — Shot put - Girls: 1. April Allen, Chinquapin, 23'9", 2. Shenito Cherry, Lombard, 21'7", 3. Tiffany Cammon, Lakeland, 21'6".

12 years old & under — Shot put - Boys: 1. Ronald Herb, Ben Franklin, 34'10", 2. Dejaune Johnson, Lemmel, 31'7", 3. Michael Morris, Northeast, 29'1".

Donte Moore (Garrison Middle School) wins the 400 meters in the 13/14 age category.

Maganet Jackson (William Lemmel Middle School) is victorious in the 100 meter dash, in the 13/14 age group.

Kevin Robinson (Pimlico) won the 200 meter dash in the 15 years and up.

Bocek basketball

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

Although the season is only two weeks old, Bocek basketball is "red hot."

On Sunday, in one of the better games played last weekend, the Knicks with former University of Maryland star Derric Lewis had to go to overtime to beat the Lakers 78-71.

While Lewis only contributed 12 points, he was a big factor on the boards. The surprise of the game was Mel Mathis, the "Big Fella" after gaining his composure, scored 20 points and a crucial three-point jumper to put the Knicks ahead at 69-68, with ten seconds to play in regulation. On the Lakers possession, Ronald Boyd was fouled and he made one of two free throws to force the overtime.

In the extra three minutes, it was the Knicks outscoring their opponents 9-2 to win the game.

CCB's Larry Cooke also played a quality game for the Knicks, scoring 20 points and playing a fine floor game. Bryan Williams added 14 points to the victor's score.

For the Lakers, Handy Phyall led his team in scoring with 17 points. Boyd and Keith Blackwell each had 14 and Allen Carr contributed 11 points in the losing effort.

Going into the third week, the Saturday League is led by Touch of Class and the Westsiders with a 2-0 record. On Sunday, the league is led by the Running Rebels, LA Big Time and McDonalds. Each team is perfect at 2-0.

Pecolia Taylor, Director of the Cherry Hill Recreation Center was honored by the Recreation Pioneers of Baltimore City on Wednesday, May 10, 1989. Ms. Taylor was installed as a member of the Recreation Pioneer Hall of Fame along with 15 other honorees. The Recreation Hall of Fame Luncheon was held at the Baltimore Rowing and Water Resource Center.

Inner City Lacrosse Championship

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

In the first Baltimore City Middle School Inner City Lacrosse Championship East Division winner Lombard defeated its West counterpart Pimlico 4-1 last week at Johns Hopkins University's Homewood Field.

Described as "an exciting match," Lombard's Christopher Walker was named the game's MVP after scoring three of his team's goals.

The championship game brought to a close the inaugural season of the six team Baltimore City Middle Lacrosse League, established by the Lacrosse Foundation for three years, and from all indications, the highlight of the championship game was succeeded only by the impact the league made on its participants.

"Having talked with the principals of the schools involved in the league, our lacrosse connection has made a tremendous difference in the lives of many of the kids who are playing," said Lacrosse Foundation publicity director, Steve Stenersen. "Because of lacrosse, kids are now coming to school who might have otherwise stayed at home, and we think that is a significant achievement."

Lombard, coached by Joe Fowlkes, a former lacrosse All-American at Morgan State, took advantage of a tired Pimlico team after they played Harlem Park the day before.

"Because we had so many rainout, Pimlico had to make-up a game against a tough Harlem Park club," Stenersen said, "and that may have taken some of the wind out of their sails."

Ronald Foster scored the only goal for Pimlico.

One of the basic rules of the league is for each student to adhere to specific academic, attendance and behavior criteria to be eligible to play and though students have fallen along the way, the Baltimore City Middle School Lacrosse League is considered an unqualified success.

"We have had what would be considered a moderate attrition rate," Stenersen said, "but the overall impact has been a positive one for the Lacrosse Foundation, the schools and the children who saw the program through. We are looking to the future."

BBA Begins

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

The BBA (Baltimore Basketball Association) begins its ninth year this weekend with five leagues, including an Unlimited, 16 and Under, a Women's League, a 30 and Over and the Cloverdale Masters.

The community supported associated is continuing its tradition of high-quality, summer basketball in West Baltimore that is said to challenge the leagues in such outstanding basketball cities, such as New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and Detroit, Michigan.

"We are proud of our basketball in Baltimore City," said BBA director Mike Plater, "because it is the showcase for Baltimore basketball talent in the summer."

Because the BBA is sole support of its five leagues, the Cloverdale Masters has taken on the added responsibility of sponsoring, monitoring and sustaining the 16 and Under league.

"We don't depend on corporations for financial support," Plater said. "We take the initiative of caring for our own. These young people generally don't have much money, so it is up to the old folks to help them. It's all about black people helping other black people.

This summer will be the first that the BBA will have its acquaintance with women in the league, but the Association has steadily grown, from its 16 teams of nearly a decade ago to its current status of 42 teams.

One of the BBA's mainstays has been Fred Shelton. An original member of the Association, Shelton coached the Walbrook All-Stars to an Unlimited championship last year and has seen the BBA develop and become more competitive every year.

"The BBA is the best basketball in the city," Shelton said, "and I would like to think that I helped make that possible because of caliber of teams that I have won with."

"I know it's not nice to blow your own horn," continued Shelton, "but I have won more championships in this league than any other coach and that's because I keep good players and I take the game of basketball seriously and that's what the BBA is all about."

The Cloverdale Masters will begin play Sunday, June 4, followed on Monday by the Unlimited competition. The other leagues will begin when the BNBL has completed its play.

Alumni Monthly Meeting

The officers and members of the Howard L. Cornish Metropolitan Baltimore Alumni Chapter of the Morgan State University National Alumni Association will hold their monthly meeting, Saturday, June 3 at 10 a.m. in the lower auditorium of the Heritage United Church of Christ, 3106 Liberty Heights Ave. Call 466-1625.

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Win Tickets To The "Leonard/Hearns Showdown"

Successfully complete the five trivia pursuit questions listed below to attend the showdown between Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns on Monday, June 12, 1989 at the Baltimore Arena. Ballot entries must be clipped from the AFRO and brought to 628 N. Eutaw St. no later than June 12 at noon or until all tickets have been given away.

Limited tickets available. Will be given away on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Leonard/Hearns Promotions
Trivia Pursuit

1. In what year did Charles (Sonny) Liston capture the Chicago Golden Glove heavyweight championship?
2. What was the name of Muhammad Ali's trainer who coined the phrase "Float like a butterfly and sting like a bee?"
3. What kind of car did Sugar Ray Robinson drive that heightened his visibility during his heyday?
4. What was the first fight between Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns called?
5. What two nicknames are associated with Thomas Hearns?

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Sam Lacy

Not enough

I suppose it is about time to write something about the athletes who have not been touched by the drug scandal . . . . As is the case with our young people, much more attention has been paid to the negatives than to the positives.

It is safe to say that less than five percent of the world's youth is delinquent . . . . Yet, that distinct minority receives an estimated 85-90 percent of public notice . . . . This is especially true of our athletes.

It can be admitted that far too many baseball, basketball, football and track participants are involved with so-called "controlled substances" and steroid buildups, but why not give occasional thought to those who are not . . . . And to those who have been in the past, but no longer are addicted.

Is not emphasis on these lives a more forceful weapon in the war against drugs than the simple, word-of-mouth application of "Just say no"?

Some positives

Shouldn't it be time to focus on the countless numbers of athletes who have achieved success without artifice? . . . . Frank Robinson, Henry Aaron, Eddie Murray, Elrod Hendricks, Michael Jordan, Julius Erving, Oscar Robertson, John Thompson, Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses, Evelyn Ashford, Bo Jackson, Doug Williams, "Bighouse" Gaines, Wes Unseld, etc., to name a few?

Shouldn't it be even more appropriate to use as role models, those topline stars who have admitted falling from grace, and have made brilliant comebacks? . . . . Are they not deserving of public attention that matches the public abuse they suffered during earlier transgressions?

Such comebacks are spread throughout sports, notably in professional football, baseball, basketball and thoroughbred racing.

Repentance

The name of "Hollywood" Henderson was notorious when he was admitting to a $1,000-a-day "habit" . . . . But today, he is rarely heard from as he travels about the country warning various boys' clubs members of the dangers of following in his earlier footsteps.

Eugene "Mercury" Morris has assumed the role of a minister of advice to college audiences that he hopes to impress with his knowledge of life in the fantasy world, a life that led to imprisonment.

Similar recoveries and displays of repentance have been performed by Carl Eller, famed as a member of the "Purple People Eaters" of the Minnesota Vikings of the sixties, and by Lem Barney and Elmo Wright of the NFL's early seventies.

Prime case: Dwight Gooden, ace of the New York Mets pitching staff, who has regained that stature after a period of degradation three years ago.

Not enough

Drug abuse hit jockeys Robbie Davis and Pat Valenzuela at their career peaks . . . . But, after 18 months of personal rehabilitation, Davis is back as leading rider on the west coast . . . . and who rode Sunday Silence to victories in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness? . . . . Pat Valenzuela, back in triumph after a two-year hiatus in his personal dream world.

They're back, all of them . . . . Clean, successful and happy.

This by no means is intended to knock the "Just Say No" advocates, but slogans, I'm afraid, are not enough.

Examples may be . . . . I hope they are.

Notable Quotable

Former Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach John McKay, following a third straight loss, was asked what he thought of his team's execution:

"I think it's a good idea."

Stanford goes to the net

Stanford University which gave Debi Thomas visibility in figure skating and took on Dennis Green as head football coach, is not playing the net in tennis.

Martin Blackman scored a victory in singles then took on Georgia with partner Jeff Cathrall to capture the doubles in last week's finals of the national collegiate championships on the Bulldogs' own courts in Athens, Ga.

The two points acquired in the doubles decision accounted for the 5-3 Stanford win.

The match was tied 3-3 after the six singles matches, as Blackman, Alex O'Brien and Barry Richards earned victories for Stanford. Georgia countered with triumphs by Al Parker, Francisco Montana and Jim Childs.

The No. 1 doubles team of O'Brien and Jeff Tarango posted a 6-1, 6-2 triumph before Blackman and Cathrall clinched the title.

Pop! (soda) goes for magic

Magic Johnson is suiting up for Pepsi and hopefully his commercial won't be as controversial as Madonna's.

The Los Angeles Lakers star signed a three-year contract to appear in television, radio and print ads and make personal appearances for the soft-drink company. Madonna's Pepsi commercial, based on her song "Like a Prayer," was yanked off the air this year because many considered it sacrilegious.

A Pepsi representative denied using Johnson to push Pepsi was an effort to employ less controversial celebrities.

"Magic Johnson's contract was well in place before the Madonna commercial," said Tod MacKenzie.

"Whether it's sports, acting or music, entertainment is really the name of the game." Johnson's first commercial will be hitting the air this summer.

Belmont: bettor better beware

Racing fans who are anticipating with no degree of uncertainty, another head-to-head duel for the Belmont Stakes next Saturday (10th) had best pause.

Sunday Silence is no sure-thing to add the New York event to his Kentucky Derby and Preakness triumphs, thus becoming the 12th Triple Crown winner in the thoroughbred history.

Nor is it guaranteed that Easy Goer, his arch rival in the series, will be the one to stop the elegant son of Halo.

Over the years, the Belmont has been the graveyard for Triple Crown aspirants.

Remember Spectacular Bid? Like some 32 equine stars before and after him, the 1979 Derby-Preakness winner was halted by a New York racer that had lain in wait for the mile-and-a-half clash.

Among the more recent TC aspirants (in addition to Spectacular Bid), Pleasant Colony was tripped by Summing in 1981.

Not since 1978 when Affirmed went all the way in the "triple" has the Belmont shaped up as expected.

Other surprise winners of the third jewel were Conquistador Cielo, Caveat, Creme Fraiche and Danzig Connection, none of which ran in the earlier events . . . LACY.

M&M may meet in NBA showdown

PHOENIX (UPI) — It may be premature, but there's tantalizing talk about a Magic Johnson-Michael Jordan showdown in the NBA finals.

Minutes after the Los Angeles Lakers swept the Phoenix Suns 122-117 Sunday to advance to the championship round for the eighth time in the 1980s, Johnson spoke about going against Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls entered Monday's game against Detroit with a 2-1 edge in the best-of-seven semi-final series.

"If it does happen, it would be incredible," said Johnson, the NBA's Most Valuable Player. "It's a thing fans and people dream about."

Johnson watched on television Saturday when Jordan gave the Bulls a last-second victory over the Pistons.

"I was just going crazy," Johnson said. "I was jumping up and down. As a basketball player, I was just sitting back with my mouth open. I think if I faced him it would be scary."

Teammate Mychal Thompson joined Johnson in hoping for a Los Angeles-Chicago series.

"I want to see Michael Jordan play as long as possible," he said. "He makes the game fun to watch. He's definitely from another solar system."

The Lakers advance to the finals with 16 straight victories — five regular-season games and three playoff series sweeps. They are also bidding for a third straight title, last accomplished in the 1965-66 season when the Boston Celtics won their eighth straight crown.

"It will be tough for anybody," Lakers Coach Pat Riley said of another title. "I don't care who we play."

The Lakers Sunday received 35 points from Byron Scott. He scored 7 points in the opening minutes when the Lakers ran to an 11-0 lead and hit four free throws in the final minute. Johnson collected 21 points and 20 assists.

Riley said his reserves have been "somewhat maligned" and lauded them for playing "extremely well" in the four games against Phoenix.

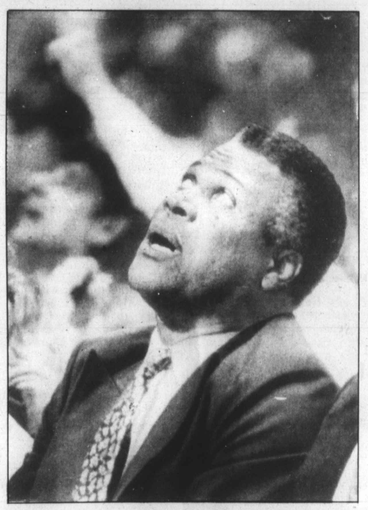
"Coop (Michael Cooper), Orlando (Woolridge) and Mychal Thompson, three veteran players were the difference," he said.

Said Thompson: "Being a veteran, you don't get frazzled, you just have to keep your poise and execute."

Phoenix, on the other hand, has the NBA's youngest team, a fact not lost on Tom Chambers, one of the few Suns with extensive playoff experience.

"Experience is just the way they execute," said Chambers, who set a club playoff record with 41 points Sunday. "They don't take bad shots, they don't make mistakes and whenever they need something to be done, they do it. They know each other in and out."

SPORTS



ANXIETY — Former coach K.C. Jones,, shown watching the time clock with concern as his Celtics were being eliminated from playoffs, has had enough. Jones may surrender his front office job and return to the sidelines as coach. Under K.C., Boston won 308 games, lost 102, and captured two NBA titles.

CONSISTENCY — Martin Blackman won his singles match then paired with Jeff Cathrall in doubles to lead Stanford in a 5-3 win over Georgia in the finals of the NCAA Tennis Championships last weekend. Blackman thus personally accounted for two of the Cardinals' five-point victory total.

K.C. may be coming back

BOSTON (UPI) — Former Boston Celtics coach K.C. Jones may want to return to the coaching ranks. In fact, it's possible he never wanted to leave coaching in the first place, The Boston Herald reported Wednesday.

Jones, who stepped down as Celtics head coach at the end of the 1987-88 season, is now a front office executive for the Celtics. Earlier this month, he was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Jones led the Celtics to two championships as a coach and sources said the bottom line for his departure a year ago was to make room for current Celtics coach Jimmy Rodgers, a Jones assistant.

"K.C. wants back in," said one mid-western coach, the newspaper reported.

"I think it is fair to say. The word is out there," said Detroit general manager Jack McCloskey.

Jones coached the Celtics to a 308-102 regular season mark over five years and his playoff record with Boston was 65-37. The Celtics won championships in 1984 and 1986 under Jones, a former Celtics star.

6 receive 'Survival' awards

Six young Baltimore high school products—four girls and two boys — were presented scholarship awards at the annual Project Survival youth program dinner, Wednesday night.

Major honorees in the "Evening With . . . " ceremonies at Martin's West were City Council Vice President Jacqueline McLean and florist-humanitarian "Crip" Smith. An estimated 1500 admirers were on hand for the event.

Scholastic awardees of $1,000 each were:

Pamela Deneen Jackson of Western High School, headed for Lincoln University;

Sherita Yollette Marrow of Dunbar High, committed to Morgan State;

Leland Mejia of Southwestern High, accepted by Syracuse University;

And James Wright of Dunbar, enroute to Morgan State.

Bernice Twum-Baranah of Southwestern was presented $500 to aid her matriculation at Notre Dame Academy.

The Sam Lacy Scholarship Trophy was won by LaTonya Marquis Nixon, already recipient of a $19,000 full scholarship to George Washington University.

Ray hits weights as Hearns waits

NEW YORK (UPI) — Sugar Ray Leonard is playing a "weighting" game with Thomas Hearns leading up to their June 12 super middleweight bout.

Although the super middleweight limit is 168 pounds, Hearns had to agree to weigh no more than 164 for the bout at Las Vegas, Nev. Hearns has weighed over 170 for a fight and was 168 in his last bout — a 12-round decision over James Kinchen Nov. 4. Leonard's heaviest fighting weight was 163, and that was when he stuffed his pockets with gold dollars before his Nov. 7 bout against Donny Lalonde.

After stopping Lalonde, Leonard said he wanted no more opponents as big as 168 pounds.

Leonard's World Boxing Council title will be at stake but even challengers are usually able to weigh the division limit. If he weighs over 164, Hearns must forfeit money from his guaranteed $11 million purse — reportedly as much as $500,000 per pound.

"It doesn't bother me," said Hearns, who says he will have no trouble making 164. "He always looks for an edge. The only thing I can do is make sure I'm in perfect condition."

Hearns, training in Detroit, says he weights about 166 or 167 more than two weeks before the fight.

Hearns is the only person involved with the fight who will admit to the weight clause. Promoter Bob Arum and Leonard's attorney Mike Trainer, who negotiated Leonard's $13 million contract, only say Hearns can weigh up to 168.

"He can weigh 168 but I'm not saying there's no agreed weight limit," Arum said. "Let Trainer lie to you."

"I'm telling the truth," Trainer said from Leonard's West Palm Beach, Fla. camp. "Tommy can weigh up to 168. As far as giving up money, we've agreed not to talk about the contract so I can't discuss it.

"I think all this talk is foolish. Tommy's not a 168-pounder and he knows it. A year ago he was 160-pound champion. But if he weighs 168, you'll see the fight."

HOLYFIELD ALSO PLAYS WAITING GAME: A lot of people in the position of Evander Holyfield and his manager Ken Sanders might be sore at the heavyweight contender's promoter and trainer for trying to set up a Tony Mandarich-Mike Tyson fight. As No. 1 heavyweight contender, Holyfield should come first in the minds of promoters Shelly Finkel and Dan Duva and trainer Lou Duva.

But Holyfield and Sanders don't take Mandarich's chances against Tyson seriously enough to get upset.