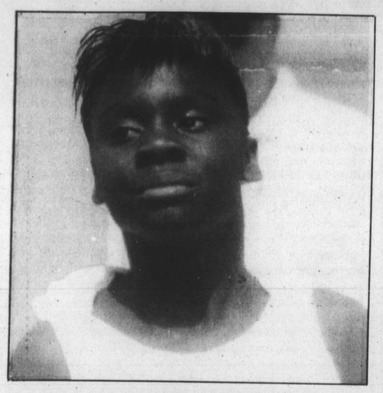
AREA SPORTS



St. Frances' Jasmine Benjamin won the 100 and 200 meter dashes, and appears to be a rising star.

Girls track and field championships

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

In the Girls's Track and Field Championship Meet, recently, several are still lauding the feats of freshman Jasmine Benjamin (St. Frances Charles Hall), who "won" both the 100 and 200 meter dashes.

The feat was more remarkable because Benjamin won so easily and because St. Frances has no track coach, track team nor track facility.

Benjamin, who has been running for the Ed Waters Track Club for at least three years, beat the city's best in her events on sheer talent and appears destined to have a very bright track future.

However, other performers like Dunbar's Joy Parker, Western's Shawnie Martin and Julie Jones and Poly's Donna Williams were equally outstanding, as well as the entire Dunbar team.

Because the City didn't have enough money to obtain track awards for the girls, Baltimore City Public Schools had to solicit sponsors for athletic gifts.

Following is a list of those individuals and organizations who gave willingly for girls track.

Baltimore City Public Schools Girls' Track and Field Championship Meet 1989

Events and Sponsors

400 Meter Relay — Southwestern Senior High No. 412, Roy Cragway, Wilhelmina Cragway, Pekeno Club, Shelly Rambeau, Jr.;
1500 Meter Run — Patterson Senior High No. 405;
100 Meter Hurdles — Harry Bruce;
800 Meter Relay — Baltimore Women's Bar;
3,200 Meter Relay — Office of Interscholastic Athletics, Baltimore Trophy House;
400 Meter Dash — AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper;
100 Meter Dash — Western Doves Basketball;
800 Meter Run — Helen Shaw;
300 Meter Hurdles — Optimist Club;
200 Meter Dash — AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper;
3,000 Meter Run — John Crooms
1,600 Meter Relay — Office of Interscholastic Athletics, - Arthur Milburn;
Shot Put — Optimist Club;
Discus Throw — June M. Danaher, Joni E. Scholwin;
Running Long Jump — First — Edward Bush;
Running Long Jump — Second & Third — Cornelius Johnson;
Running High Jump — First, Mergenthaler No. 410;
Running High Jump — Second & Third — Cornelius Johnson.

SPORTSCENE
By Fred Lindsey

Poly's Donna Williams won the 100 and 300 meter hurdles. Williams plans to attend Howard University in September.

Conyers hosts forum on Proposition 42

Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-Michigan) will host a sports issue forum to explore the controversy surrounding Proposition 42 and the proposed elimination of two automatic bids to the NCAA's annual championship basketball tournament.

The forum will be held June 13 from 1 to 4:30 p.m., in Room 2154 of the Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C.

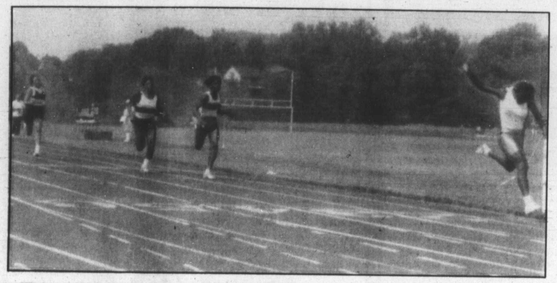
According to Cong. Conyers the recent decisions taken by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in these two areas could have devastating impact on the future of African American athletes and African American colleges and universities.

Proposition 42, seeks to prohibit financial aid to student athletes who do not score 700 or higher on their SAT. Under the present rules, an athlete with a low score could receive aid but would not be eligible to compete during their freshman year, Conyers continued.

Without the benefit of aid, many financially disadvantaged athletes will never have the opportunity to attend college and demonstrate that they do have the ability to perform well academically.

The decision by the NCAA Basketball Committee to eliminate two automatic bids to the annual tournament places both the Southwest Athletic Conference and the Mid - East Atlantic Conference — the two conferences to which all African American colleges and universities in Division 1 belong— at risk of losing $300,000 in revenues.

The rationale given was that these two conferences are not competitive in tournament play. If they were to lose these important funds, however, it could seriously damage their member school's athletic programs, making it more difficult for them to compete in the future.



Benjamin beat the field by 20 yards in the 200 meter dash.

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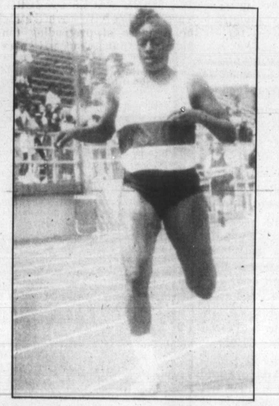

Western's Shawnie White won the 400 meter dash, placed 3rd in the 200 meter dash and ran the relays.

The other half of Western's dynamic duo, Julie Jones, won the 1,500, placed 2nd in the 3,000 yard run and 2nd in the 800 meter run.

—CAREER CORNER—

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We are seeking individuals with exp. in the Underwriting field with Worker's Compensation Ins. who have worked with the NCCI basic manual and the classification process. We need Underwriters with exp. in dealing with clients by telephone and in person regarding Worker's Compensation Ins. This pos. req. 6 yrs. of exp. in the application of Worker's Compensation Law in the calculation of ins. premiums, claim payments and/or credits and refunds. At least 2 yrs. of this exp. must have incl. responsibilities for supervising, guiding and/or leading other technicians performing underwriting activities. College course work in business administration, mathematics, law or other job related areas can be substituted for up to 2 yrs. of the non-supervisory exp. at the rate of 30 credits for 1 yr. of exp. Send resume' of educ. and job exp. to: The Personnel Office, State Accident Fund, 8722 Loch Raven Blvd., Towson, Md. 21204.
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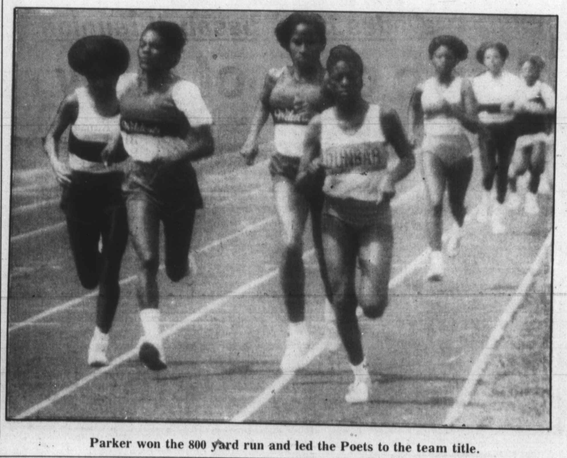


Parker won the 800 yard run and led the Poets to the team title.

Sam Lacy

Love in

It was the first Monday in June, and my desk calendar showed the notation: "Perky Hornets — I H P."

Translated, that meant I had a date with the Perky Hornets Bowling League and that I was to pick up I. Henry Phillips, a free-lance photographer who in years past had lent his expertise to the AFRO as a co-worker.

It was Henry's second visit to the Perky Hornets' annual awards ceremony and luncheon . . . . and he was welcomed with the same open-arms affection the group has spent on me since 1979, and on my son Tim on the two occasions he was able to arrange his work schedule so as to accompany me.

The entire Perky Hornets family awaited our arrival — supervisors, coordinators, volunteers and patients.

Perseverance

Oops! . . . . Patients? . . . . To write this long without identifying the "perky hornets," is truly embarrassing . . . . An experienced newspaperman should never commit such a faux pas . . . . Perhaps, I feel that most readers know, or know of, this gallant fraternity of multiple sclerosis victims.

These, friends, are men and women who suffer in the various stages of the crippling illness . . . . Some are in wheelchairs, some are wedded to crutches, or walkers, or canes . . . . They live in constant pain and physical confinement . . . . Yet, each of them has the unique capacity to treat with humor a condition which is by no means humorous . . . .

That essays courage . . . . and perseverance . . . . and faith.

And that is why I look forward with keen anticipation to these annual visits . . . . They afford a valuable lesson in assessment of the human spirit.

Celebrity

At this point, my so-called "celebrity" status should be explained . . . . The only explanation I can offer is that my hosts look upon me as a source of sheer enjoyment . . . . They find my efforts to bowl from a wheelchair hilarious, not yet convinced that I am just as inept standing up.

Everyone in the building — wheelchair, crutches, canes, walkers — beats my score.

And I suppose I would be remiss if I failed to mention that the Perry Hall Lanes management has been a major contributor to the success of this program conducted by the Maryland Red Cross chapter and the National Bowling Association . . . . Use of the lanes has been free of charge.

Intimidation

As Henry Phillips and I left, we agreed that we both came away feeling intimidated . . . . We reviewed the many times we had felt sorry for ourselves while under attacks of the sniffles, or suffering headaches or annoying hangnails . . . . all of them temporary.

Now, back here at the desk following the Perry Hall visit, I reflected on this and my nine previous junkets . . . . And it occurred to me that this kind of experience is a bonus for an old geezer deep into his personal twilight.

The AFRO job has sent me to many corners of the earth, and has provided opportunities for me to engage in countless prestigious and history making events . . . . But none, believe me, has been more fulfilling, rewarding or inspiring than the shoulder-rubbing exhilaration that occurs every year at this June love-in.

Notable quotable

Kansas City Royals centerfielder Willie Wilson, on why he refused to sign autographs:

"I can't forget that when I was little, teachers used to punish me by making me write my name 100 times."

Terps: No Wade, no Tate

A recent AFRO sports column urged recruitable black basketball prospects to look elsewhere for scholarships in the wake of the University of Maryland's firing of Bob Wade as head coach.

The column, titled "Penance," suggested that the Terps be looked upon as anti-black, and that since College Park held such an abhorrence for a black coach it might be left trying to field an all-white team.

While it isn't likely that the column had anything to do with his action, at least one blue-chip star recruited by Wade, last week said nix to Maryland.

Michael Tate, a 6-7, 210-pound forward unanimous high school All-American from Oxon Hill, averaged 30.5 points and 16 rebounds a game, last week withdrew the letter of intent he signed for Wade.

Instead, he is going to Georgetown.

Gridder's mom: 'I just pray a lot'

HOOVER, Ala. (UPI) — No. 46, a linebacker-flanker for Simmons Junior High School in Hoover, is almost like most of the other 13-year-old football players on the team — athletic, tough and pretty much respected.

"One time I got in a fight with another girl and she pulled out a knife," said No. 46. "I kicked the knife out of her hand and that was that."

That's right, No. 46 is Brigid Meadow, the only girl on the Hoover team. She played in three games last year and this year her chances of starting are good, her coach said.

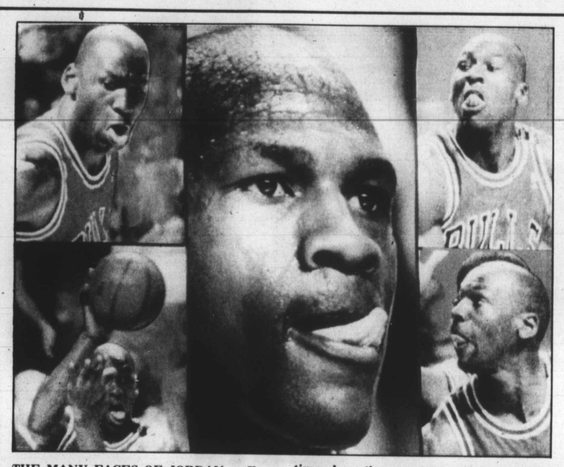
"She can knock some of these guys flat on their backs," Coach Bruce Breland told the Birmingham News Tuesday. "Her potential is excellent, but if she wants to play a lot she needs to prepare the pay the same price as the rest of the team."

"My dad promised me in the sixth grade that if I wanted to play football he'd let me," Brigid said. "I think he thought that I'd forget or that I wasn't serious about playing."

Convincing her mother was harder.

"I must have said no 25,000 times," said Emily Meadow. "I won't even watch her play. I couldn't stand the fact that 11 boys were all on top of one of my children, much less my daughter. I just pray a lot."

HE'S BACK! — Two years on the shelf recovering from wrist operation behind him, Jim Thorpe rebounded last weekend to pick up $67,200 of Kemper Open golf money for finishing tied for second at Avenel.



THE MANY FACES OF JORDAN — For years, coaches have warned athletes against the dangers of protruding tongues. But Michael Jordan apparently spends so much time above the opposition in his heroics for the NBA Bulls he doesn't need to fear biting off his own appendage.

METAMORPHOSIS — At this time last year, Frank Robinson sat a lonely figure as he awaited his team's 33rd victory, which didn't come until Aug. 2nd. Enough said?

What 'war'?

For those who care — aside from the promoters and fighters — Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns stage their long-delayed rematch Monday night at Las Vegas.

Widely touted as "The War," the two men described by young contender Michael Dunn as members of boxing's "Senior Tour," will take on one another at Caesars Palace.

On Nov. 4, Hearns made boxing history twice when he decisioned James Kinchen to win the World Boxing Organization super middleweight title.

While Hearns (46-3, 38 KOs), the first man to win four world titles, has compiled one of the highest winning percentages in boxing history, he experienced two bitter defeats that continue to torment him. The first one came at the hands of Sugar Ray Leonard in their Sept. 16, 1981 battle to unify the world welterweight division;

No parlez we in gay Paree

Zina Garrison, scheduled for an August wedding, led a group of five black women to Paris last week to take part in the French Open tennis tournament.

But, it became quickly apparent that only Zina is conversant in French — on the courts. The others? They don't parlez.

Rookie Stacey Martin survived the first round by defeating fellow rookie Katrina Adams, 7-5, 7-6.

Stacey (of Largo, Md.) then lost to Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, 6-0, 6-2.

Camille Benjamin went out in the opening match, bouring to Manon Bollegrat of the Netherlands. Bollegrat then dispatched Lori McNeil, 6-2, 6-1.

Even Zina lasted only to the third round.

After she defeated Cathy Caverzasio of Italy, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, in the second round, Garrison was drubbed by Yugoslavian teenager Monica Seles, 6-3, 6-2.

To quiet 'Silence'?

Sunday Silence, seeking to win racing's Triple Crown Saturday, should beware of Imbibe in the Belmont.

Thoroughbred followers are familiar with the history of the Belmont in its irreverant treatment of Triple Crown hopefuls.

Scores of double winners (Derby and Preakness) have been thwarted at the home of the mile-and-a-half showdown. The most recent of these being Spectacular Bid (by Coastal), Cannonade (by Pass Catcher) and Genuine Risk (by Temperence Hill).

By a strange quirk, Imbibe is a son of Temperence Hill . . . LACY.

Nostalgia prevades black baseball reunion

Two days of glory recall for oldtimers

ATLANTA — A gathering of players from early baseball's black leagues, shared a nostalgic reunion here last weekend in a moving tribute to Negro National and American league activities of the twenties and thirties.

Hosting the two-day party were Southern Bell (telephone) and the Atlanta Braves.

In addition to a kickoff luncheon and the award ceremonies, the event featured a formal reception for players and other participants, and baseball clinics for high school and college players, conducted by the legends themselves.

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Among the former players participating in the tribute were Don Newcombe, who played with the Brooklyn Dodgers and Newark (New Jersey) Eagles; Ernie Banks, a Hall of Fame member formerly with the Chicago Cubs and Kansas City Monarchs; Joe Black, formerly with the Baltimore Elite Giants and the first black major league pitcher to win a World Series game;

Also Larry Doby, the first black player in the American League; and John "Buck" O'Neill, who also played with the Kansas City Monarchs and was the first black coach in the majors.

In one of the more sentimental events of the two-day tribute, these former players and others took part in a nostalgic Memphis-Birmingham-Atlanta bus trip. The trek was designed to be a fun-filled commemoration of the many days, nights and weeks each of the old athletes spent traveling from game to game in far-flung cities and towns.

The much-bedecked bus rolled into Atlanta to a welcome of music, fanfare, celebrities and baseball and government officials.

— —

In addition to about 100 former Negro National and American league players, including homerun king and current Atlanta Braves official Hank Aaron, and Willie Mays, dozens of other celebrities and notables were on hand to attend and take part in the ceremonies.

These invitees included Rachel Robinson, wife of Jackie Robinson, the first black major leaguer; a representative from the major league baseball commissioner's office; and Los Angeles Dodgers Manager Tommy Lasorda.

The tribute was the brainchild of Chico Renfroe, sports editor for the Atlanta Daily World and sports director for radio station WIGO in Atlanta — and, himself, a former player.

Rachel Robinson
Jackie's widow on hand

Bill White
remembers his roots