Sam Lacy

By George!

New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner was interviewed Saturday afternoon on the "Inside Baseball" segment preceding the NBC-TV baseball game of the week.

I watched and listened as the controversial top gunner of the Yankees answered a variety of questions dealing with baseball and baseball people .... And suddenly it occurred to me: By George, I like this guy!

Well, maybe "like" is not the right word .... to "like" someone suggests a personal relationship .... You "like" your friends; acquaintances and others, you admire.

Anyway, figuring out why I feel admiration for a man who throughout his career has been subjected to ridicule, repugnance and second-guessing, led to the conclusion that on many subjects he thinks as I do .... or, conversely, I think as he does.

His attitude toward managers of his team, for example .... He is criticized for his heavy hand in the blue-slip department .... He fires them when they don't produce for him, so I take a look at that, and ask myself, so what?

Purely business

For him, baseball is not a hobby or an outside investment as it is for two-thirds of the people owning major league teams .... For George Steinbrenner, baseball is business.

Owners of other business operations place certain expectations on those who hold managerial jobs (at exhorbitant salaries) .... They hire and fire and merge and partition at will .... But, unless one is a close observer of the financial pages, their behavior goes unnoticed — and is rarely questioned .... George Steinbrenner's actions are deplored because baseball is a public love.

If you or I owned an operation into which we poured millions of dollars annually, there'd be high expectations from those we entrusted with the power to make or break us.

Notable quotable

Baseball Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti:

"Winning has a joy and discrete purity to it that cannot be replaced by anything else. Winning is important to any man's or woman's sense of satisfaction and well-being. Winning is not everything; but it is something powerful, indeed beautiful, in itself, something as necessary to the strong spirit as striving is necessary to the healthy character."

Peter on Pate

On other subjects, we agreed (I'm sure George loves that from me) .... Peter Ueberroth should have handled the Pete Rose mess before he ran (from the commissioner's office).

Pete Rose *must* be dealt severe punishment if it is proved he wagered on baseball .... The game most assuredly cannot tolerate a problem such as this — one that could possibly be exposed as a mere "tip of an iceberg."

Peter Rose already has smeared the game that *made him* in challenging the much-needed sovereignty of the commissioner's office by carrying it into a court of law .... Pete Rose is a gambling addict and deserves to be helped as one who is addicted to narcotics or alcohol .... Within that statement is a mixture of scorn and empathy by George.

In my judgment, Pete Rose deserves no more nor less.

Jekyll-Hyde

I may be questioned for admiring someone who has been an unrelenting holdout against black managers .... None has been considered during a 5-year period when the Yankees made nine managerial changes.

But, if that is important to some of us, others might be relieved by the Jekyll-and-Hyde personality that for 15 years made Yankee Stadium (fully staffed) available *free* for the annual Whitney Young Football Classic.

And who contributes $125,000 each to four ghetto youth centers in Harlem and East Harlem, 95 percent of the users black and Hispanic.

DUNDEE'S DANDY — The card from veteran fight trainer Angelo Dundee said: "Dear Sam, this fellow I now have, Adilson Rodrigues (left in picture) is a real banger. Evander Holyfield (right) had better be careful when they meet Saturday at Caesars Tahoe." Jay Larkin of Showtime Network (center) will carry the fight).

Quickies & quirks

Kevin Mitchell whose homerun production (31) at All-Star break, leads both major leagues by a healthy margin, uses an unique off-season drill to help him handle breaking pitches. He swings at whiffle balls.

* * *

When Juan Samuel was traded from the Phillies to the Mets for Lenny Dykstra and Roger McDowell last month, it was supposed to be a rebirth for all three players. Well, four days after the deal was made, Samuel's wife gave birth to a girl shortly before Dykstra's wife delivered. And yes, McDowell's wife is pregnant (reprinted from Sports Illustrated).

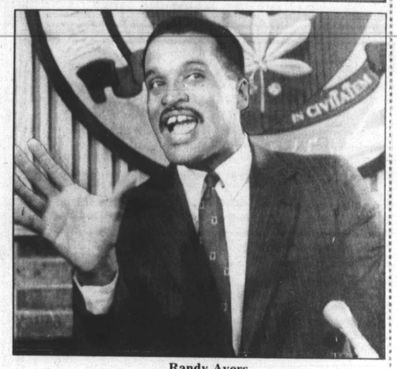
* * *

Did you know that Orioles manager Frank Robinson is the only player in history to MVP in both leagues? Okay, then did you know that he is the only player in history to homer for both leagues in the All-Star game? For the NL in 1959 and for the American 12 years later.

Here's the classic "chip-off-the old block(s)" scenario: Moises Alou hit two homeruns Friday night in leading the Class-A Salem (Va.) Bucs to a 4-1 win over Prince William in Salem. Moises is the son of Felipe Alou, the 1966 runner-up for the National League batting championship. The champion that year? Uncle Matty Alou.

* * *

Surprise? While an undergraduate at Yale, George Bush headed the Connecticut drive for the United Negro College Fund.



Randy Ayers
new Ohio State basketball coach

3 in Ohio State coaching picture

It may not be a fair assessment, but to some it is felt that Ohio State athletic officials were caught between the axiomatic "rock and a hard place" last week.

Searching for a replacement for Gary Williams, the departed head basketball coach, the Buckeye brass found themselves surrounded by blacks as the most qualified candidates.

It is highly probable, however, that the school's first choice was the man who got the job, Randy Ayers.

Ayers had served as Williams's top assistant for the last three years.

Williams resigned last month to take over at Maryland after Bob Wade was fired.

Before completing the Ayers signing, Buckeye officials apparently decided to explore the chances of getting an established head coach.

Among these were Nolan Richardson, already ensconced at Arkansas; Frankie Allen, equally successful at Virginia Tech, and Cy Alexander of South Carolina State of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC).

Winfield hit hard in common-law case

HOUSTON (UPI) — New York Yankees' outfielder Dave Winfield Monday was ordered to pay $13,500 a month to a former flight attendant with whom he was involved in a common-law marriage.

A jury ruled June 28 that Winfield and Sandra Renfro, 34, were common-law husband and wife. The two are parents of a 6-year-old girl, Lauren Shanel.

Divorce proceedings began Monday and Familiy District Court Judge Allen Daggett, following a three-hour hearing, ordered Winfield to pay $10,000 a month in alimony to Renfro and $3,500 a month in child support until the divorce proceedings are complete.

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Winfield must also pay $21,000 to repair a $130,000 home Winfield bought for Renfro in 1982, and $210,000 in attorney fees to Earle Lilly, who represented Renfro.

Winfield must also prepare a "thorough and complete inventory" of all his property and assets and turn it over to the court within 45 days to determine the division of property.

Lilly said he expects the next step in the divorce proceedings will not begin until early next year.

"We are ecstatic," Lilly said. "We believe it was a courageous and appropriate ruling by the court."

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Tom Alexander, Winfield's attorney, said the decision "was outrageous. We're going to appeal it.

Will Dunham for United Press

Orioles provide vindication for Robinson

BALTIMORE — According to Baltimore Orioles Manager Frank Robinson, the world is learning what he already knew.

"People say, 'Well, geez, now you're proving to people that you can manage,'" said Robinson, who at the midway point of the 1989 season has the Orioles poised to make one of the greatest one-year turnarounds in the history of major league baseball.

"And I say, 'No way.' I've always felt like I could manage. But what is happening here now is I have the personnel and the material and they're going out to win."

Both the Orioles collectively and Robinson personally have been big winners during this magical 1989 season.

One year removed from the worst season in franchise history (54-107) and the worst start of a season in baseball history (0-21), the Orioles stand in first place in the American League East, hoping to soothe the pain of a last-place finish in 1988 with a pennant in 1989.

And Robinson is going a long way toward making fools of those who doubted that he has what it takes to be a top-notch major league manager.

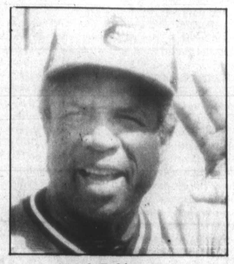
— —

Perhaps sweetest of all to Robinson is the fact that, after disappointing managerial stints in Cleveland and San Francisco, he never really expected to manage again in the major leagues, instead plotting a career as a front-office executive.

But Robinson was thrust back into the role of manager after Cal Ripken, Sr. was fired six games into last season's 21-game slide. It may have been Robinson's last chance to prove himself as a manager.

"I felt like the front office was where I wanted to be and that's the direction I was going in," Robinson said. "I didn't think I would get this opportunity again — I wasn't looking for it and I didn't think it would come about."

Robinson was nearly peerless in his 21 seasons as a player. His 586 homeruns are fourth all-time behind only Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth and Willie Mays. He is the only player ever to have been named Most Valuable Player in both leagues. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1982, entering Cooperstown the same year as Aaron.



Frank Robinson
mellowed, adjusted

— —

But the very same characteristics that made him such a great player — his impatience, arrogance, abrasiveness and unending personal drive — appeared certain to prevent him from ever becoming a successful manager.

In 1975, the Cleveland Indians made Robinson the first black manager in major league history, but cut him loose midway through the 1977 season. Robinson became manager of the San Francisco Giants in 1981, but was shown the door late in the 1984 season. In his eight seasons as a major league manager, Robinson posted just two winning seasons, but that can be attributed as much to the lack of talent on those teams as to Robinson's managing abilities.

— —

Robinson's lack of success with Cleveland and San Francisco can in part be attributed to a lack of support from the front office with both teams. But, after working in the front office, Robinson has received unyielding support from Orioles management and ownership, with close and respectful relationships with the team president, Larry Lucchino, and its general manager, Roland Hemond.

"If you have a good working relationship, you're thinking on the same lines, you're pulling in the same direction and working for the same cause," said Robinson. "You get better production and better results and that's what it's all about."

One common theory about his new-found managerial success is that Robinson has mellowed. Long known as intense, stubborn and moody, Robinson is now showing a previously little-seen side of his personality, nurturing his young players with good humor, patience and flexibility.

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Robinson concedes he, in fact, may have mellowed since his stints with the Indians and Giants. But he says some of his apparent mood change must be attributed to a conscious change in managing style to accommodate the youngest team in the majors. He says he has decided that instead of a kick in the pants, these players need a pat on the shoulder.

"What it is is an adjustment," Robinson said. "Looking at this ballclub, I knew that the approaches that I took with the other ballclubs would not work and I knew what I had to do, so I made that adjustment. That's what you do as a player, that's what you do in life and that's what I've done here."

AREA SPORTS

SPORTSCENE

By Fred Lindsey

Short Shots

Senior Olympics

Fifty-five Maryland seniors won medals and ribbons for their efforts in the 2nd United States National Senior Olympics (USNSO), held June 19-24 in St. Louis, MO.

One hundred and twenty Maryland senior athletes competed in the National Senior Olympics having qualified by their performance in the 1988 Maryland Senior Olympics.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland, sponsor of the Maryland Senior Olympics, is currently preparing for the 1989 Maryland Senior Olympic games, scheduled for Oct. 12-14 at Towson State University.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of this annual competition. Special recognition will be given to Senior Olympians who have participated since 1980.

"We are extremely proud of the efforts of the Maryland senior athletes. Many bettered their times and scores from the 1987 National games," said Robert Zeigler, chairman of the Maryland Senior Olympics Commission. Ziegler was a spectator at the National Senior Olympics, keeping record of the daily results.

"There was a lot of heat and humidity during the games (held on the campus of Washington University), but the athletes handled it exceptionally well. It was a tribute to their conditioning," Zeigler said.

Approximately 3,600 senior athletes from across the country participated in more than 50 different events ranging from volleyball to horseshoes. Qualifying age for both the Maryland and National Senior Olympics is 55 and over.

The National Senior Olympics is a biannual event and is scheduled next for June 28-July 3, 1991, in Syracuse, New York.

Football Officials

The Maryland Board of Football Officials is accepting new applicants for the 1989 season. The board trains and provides officials for Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore County Public Schools, Anne Arundel County Schools and private and parochial schools.

Games are played on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. Training classes will begin Monday, July 31st and continue until the first week of November.

If interested in becoming a high school football official, contact Rick Lopez, membership chairman at 744-7890.

Arena Football

University of Maryland's Gregory Harrell has made the roster of the 1989 Maryland Commandoes of the Arena Football League.

You can see the 6'-4", 245 pound offensive and defensive lineman this Saturday when the Commandoes meet the Detroit Drive at the Baltimore Arena at 8:00 p.m.

DOES IT ALL — Bo Jackson who does his winter toil for the Los Angeles Raiders, capped his performance with the Kansas City Royals by taking the MVP Award in Tuesday night's Major League All-Star Game. Jackson homered, knocked in a second run, and stole two bases in leading the American League's 5-3 win over the National at Anaheim.

United States Youth Games

Photo by Ricardo Gray

Members of Baltimore City's Youth Games basketball team. In the back row, from left to right are Charles Lee, Shamar Bass, Keith Booth, Kevin Washington, ass't coach William Purnell, coach William Wells, United States Youth Games Coordinator, Thayer Robinson, Mike Smith, Eric Carroll and Eric Bass. In the front row, from left to right are Darnell Dantzler, Richard Harrison, Paul Banks, Cyrus Jones, Phillip Dixon, Michael Phillips and Michael Wise, Jr.

Members of Baltimore City's Youth Games track team. From left to right are Benjamin Braswell, Ray Brown, ass't track coach, Angela Chambers, Crystal Johnson and Micah Ramsevr, in the back row.

Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

With less than a month away, Baltimore City is preparing to make this year's National United States Youth Games the best in its history.

As host of the 1989 championships, national coordinator, Dorothy Wiltshire is putting the finishing touches on what is expected to be a grand athletic event.

"Everything is just about ready," Wiltshire said. "We are preparing to be the best host of the games that any city has had."

The United States Youth Games is a comprehensive youth program which showcases athletic talent while offering several enrichment opportunities and addressing the topics of drug-abuse, teenage pregnancy and a stay-in-school campaign.

The program also offers to youth between the ages of 9-15 competition in the six sports of basketball, tennis, track and field, swimming, bowling and volleyball.

"It's going to be a grand week," Wiltshire said. "We are going to have an opening ceremony in the evening of Monday, August 7th at the Inner Harbor with the major competition beginning the next week at Towson State University."

Over a million young people across the country have participated in the United States Youth Games and it appears to be growing in its 23rd year.

This summer, there will be 14 cities competing, including New York, Boston and Detroit and Wiltshire is eager to have Baltimore's attendance at capacity.

"We hope that the city will come out to support our youth," Wiltshire said. "There will be 76 kids involved in the Games from Baltimore City and we need to be there to wish them well."

Craig Cromwell Basketball

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

At the half-way point, the Craig Cromwell Summer High School Basektball League has Walbrook, Dunbar and Lake Clifton tied for first place in the league standings and it also has a major debate brewing.

Because key games have to be played, the league is likely to see a new leader after Friday. Yet, coaches are contending that the impetus is not on winning or losing, but how to improve their teams enough to make an impact when the season starts in October.

"Coaches say that winning isn't everything and that kids are in the league to improve," said league commissioner William Wells, "but when it gets down to the nitty-gritty, winning is what everyone wants. It doesn't matter if its Summer or Fall, winning is what it is about."

With four regular season games remaining, Devin Gray (St. Frances) is the league's leading scorer with a 23 point average (92 points/4 games) Ron Lucas (Lake Clifton) is second with a 16 point per game average (83 points/5 games). While Gray plays for a losing team and Lucas always seems to be a winner, the question is asked, how do you develop a winning attitude, if you don't win?

"From a coaching perspective, I would have to say that is a difficult question," Wells said. "Our league gives coaches the opportunity to experiment with players and coaching strategies, while there hasn't been many blowouts, a coach wouldn't be worth-a-darn if he accepts defeat."

CRAIG CROMWELL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

	W	L
Walbrook	4	1
Dunbar	4	1
Lake Clifton	4	1
Southern	3	2
Southwestern	3	2
Calvert Hall	2	2
St. Frances	1	4
Towson Catholic	1	4
Cardinal Gibbons	1	4
Northwestern	0	5

Charm City NBA Pro-Am

Former University of Maryland players David Gregg and Derrick Lewis scored 21 and 15 points, respectively, to lead Demensions Unlimited to a 90-89 victory over Murry's Fuel in a Charm City NBA Pro-Am game at Lake Clifton Tuesday night.

Reggie Lewis (Boston Celtics) scored 37 points to lead Murray and Tyrone "Muggsy" Bogues (Charlotte Hornets) and Derrick Lewis (Northeastern) added 22 points for the losers.

Tom Jones (Towson State University) hit the 12 foot jumper with one second on the game clock to clinch th victory for Demensions Unlimited.

Summer Basketball League Standings

Through July 2, 1989
WOODLAWN FRIENDS BASKETBALL LEAGUES

	W	L	Total Points	Team Average
Blue	4	0	239	59.8
Gray	3	1	224	56.0
Red	3	1	198	49.5
Black	1	3	216	54.0
Gold	1	3	186	46.5
Green	0	4	186	46.5

LEADING SCORERS

Player	Team	Average
Ray Street	Green	20.0
Greg Vaughn	Black	18.7
James "Murk" Pugh	Red	18.0
LeRoy Jones	Red	14.5
Mike Dabney	Gray	12.5
Joe Caldwell	Green	12.5
Kevin Speaks	Black	12.0
Anthony McDaniels	Red	11.7
Omar Rhoades	Black	11.0
Lloyd Jones	Gray	10.7
Mel Lamb	Black	10.7
Pierre Smith	Gold	10.5
Leon Love	Gray	9.3

BNBL Women's League Standings

	W	L
Waves AAU	4	0
Ellicott City	3	1
U.S. Youth Games	2	2
Arbutus 1	1	3
Cougars	1	3
Arbutus 11	1	3

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