SPORTS

Sam Lacy

EPITAPH

There's something very wrong with that caption . . . . It could turn out to be quite embarrassing for me, since there may be an inordinate amount of rejoicing from the peons.

An epitaph for Sam Lacy's pen from this space? . . . . Oh, wow wee!

But that isn't the case at all . . . . Rather, I haven't been informed of it yet, anyway.

For sometime, the debate went on as to whether the head should read as it does or whether it be titled "R and R."

Writing this in the last week of vacation from the desk, the thought occurred that maybe vacation from the serious sports beat might be apropos — a sort of sportsworld rest and relaxation.

Friends are aware that I am not one for long reads . . . . The nature of my work cuts down on my attention span which means that short stories, poems, quips and spicy comments, thankfully, get in the way of lengthy novels.

Oldtime epitaphs written for the most part by and for light-hearted gentry, enliven a cheery little collection titled "The Joy of Lex," by one Gyles Brandreth . . . . Inasmuch as it fits this momentary dilemma, I'll borrow from it . . . . For example this on a Tombstone, Ariz. gravesite:

"Here lies Lester Moore, four slugs from a 44; No Les, no Moore."

Widows' lament?

"Sacred to the memory of Jared Bates who died Aug. 6th in 1800 . . . . His widow, aged 24, lives at 7 Elm Street (Lincoln, Me), has every qualification for a good wife . . . . and yearns to be comforted."

"To the four husbands of Miss Ivy Saunders, 1790-94, 1808-18 . . . . Here lie husbands one, two and three; dumb as men could ever be:

"As for the fourth, well, praise be God, he bides for nonce above the sod . . . Alex, Ben, Sandy were the first three names . . . And to make things tidy, I'll add his — James."

Royal raking

The 1751 death of Frederick, the Prince of Wales, evoked:

"Here lies Fred, who was alive and now is dead . . . . Had it been his father, I had much rather; had it been his brother, still better than the other . . . . Had it been his sister, no one would have missed her:

"Had it been the whole generation, all the better for the nation . . . . But since it is only Fred, that was alive and now is dead, why, there ain't no more to be said."

Self-Imposed

"I'm Smith of Stoke, aged sixty-odd; I've lived without a dame from youth-time on; and would to God my dad had done the same."

George Bernard Shaw: "I knew if I stayed around long enough, something like this would happen."

And no Insurance

"Here lies the body of our Anna, done to death by a banana; it wasn't the fruit that laid her low, but the skin of the thing that made her go," Emosburg, Vt.

* * *

And finally from Burlington (N.J.): "Here lies the body of Susan Lowder, who burst while drinking a Seidlitz powder . . . . Called from the world to her Heavenly Rest, she should have waited till it effervesced."

Notable quotable

Dave Gaines, first black coach in major college (San Diego State) basketball, giving a tongue-in-cheek description of how far he had come:

"We were so poor, every time my mother tossed the dog a bone, he had to signal for a fair catch, else all us kids would beat him to it."

Former Morgan running back

George Nock art in Philly exhibit

Unlike recently, Morgan State football was a formidable force 20 years ago.

And one of the high spots of those halcyon days of the then Golden Bears, was the running of a backfield star named George Nock.

Nock, a Philadelphia schoolboy football star who later went on to play as a running back for the New York Jets during the Joe Namath era is returning to Philadelphia this weekend to exhibit his paintings and sculpture for two weeks at Germantown's Lucien Crump Art Gallery.

Nock, 43, who ended his professional football career as a member of the Washington Redskins in 1973, grew up in North Philadelphia and graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School, here, in 1964. He has exhibited across the country and on national television. His work has been favorably reviewed by several prestigious daily papers and national magazines.

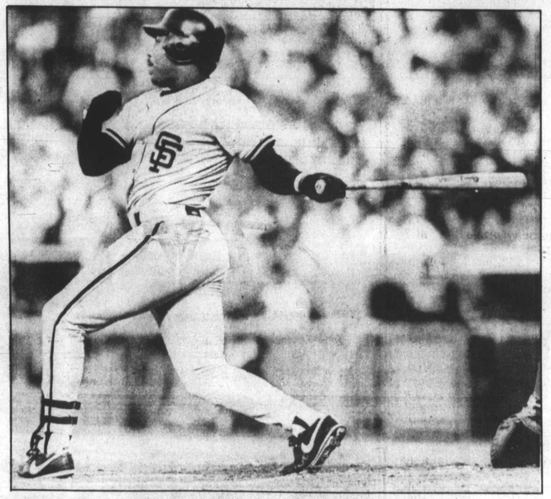
During his two-week show at the Crump Gallery, Nock will present 60 various pieces of art, including his pen and ink drawings, acrylics, watercolors and sculpture. According to Nock, his work has been inspired by a love of nature, by American black heritage and by his life-long interest in fantasy and things mythological.

Despite his successful career as an athlete, Nock has always considered himself an artist, first. He discoverd his artistic talent early. "I actually began to draw at age five and began to do clay modeling at age seven," he said.

"For some reason," added Nock, "I always had a strong fascination for the animal kingdom. While the other kids made cigars and stick-men with their modeling clay, I found myself turning mine into miniature lions and tigers. I guess it was then that I knew I was an artist. I discovered football much later."

The exhibit is titled "Coming Full Circle: The Paintings and Sculpture of George Nock," and can be seen at the Lucien Crump Gallery, 6380 Germantown Avenue, August 12 through August 25. The gallery's hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

George Nock
Golden Bear star of 60's



GIANT BLAST — Few power hitters in baseball history have matched the feats of Kevin Mitchell of the San Francisco Giants. The big swinger at week's end, had blasted 34 homers and knocked in 94 runs to lead both leagues. He still has 2 months in which to add to those prodigious figures.

History is for the Birds, but...

Duck when you mention this around Frank Robinson.

The Baltimore Orioles manager "ruffles his feathers" when someone is unwary enough to speak of championship prospects in connection with his flock.

Just the same, history is on the side of the Birds, the California Angels, Montreal Expos and San Francisco Giants.

Those four teams entered August as the leaders in their divisions. Since divisional play started in 1969 (excluding the 1981 strike season), 68% of the teams in first place on August 1 went on to division championships.

Last year, the Athletics, Mets and Dodgers all held divisional leads entering August and all three finished in first. The fourth divisional winner, the Boston Red Sox, trailed the Detroit Tigers by 1½ games in the AL East. Boston finished one game ahead of the Tigers.

The biggest comeback in the final two months of the season was made by the 1973 New York Mets, who started play on August 1 in sixth place, 10½ games behind the Cardinals. The Mets won 38 of 60 games the rest of the way to win the division by 1½ games over St. Louis.

Catching up

By Sam Lacy

While I was away, Jim Dent captured his fourth PGA Senior event in Buffalo, and a $40,000 purse, raising his summer take to $117,000. Oh, bless the old boys!

* * *

And Zina Garrison romped over veteran Pam Shriver in a Virginia Slims tennis tourney, 6-2, 6-1, picking up the $30,000 first prize.

* * *

Back at the desk, however, just in time to have to report Zina's 6-4, 7-5 loss to West Germany's Steffi Graf in the Great American Classic at San Diego.

$500G jump

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Offering a half-million dollars to anyone bettering Bob Beamon's long-jump mark fueled interest in Sunday's Jack In the Box Invitational. But in the end, it did nothing to erase the oldest record in track and field.

Larry Myricks and Mike Powell both failed to top Beamon's record of 29 feet 2½ inches set in the 1968 Olympics, but were pleased about the attention their event received despite the absence of superstar Carl Lewis.

"The talk of money didn't change my training or jumping, but people were interested — and they usually are not when Carl is not competing," said Myricks, who won Sunday with a leap of 27-11½ at UCLA's Drake Stadium.

None of the six competitors came close to Beamon's mark. Lewis, considered the top threat to erase the long-jump standard set in the high altitude of Mexico City, elected not to participate.

Prizefight game remains 3-ring circus

By Sam Lacy

For years, many of us have been scoffing at professional wrestling as a colossal exercise in fakery.

Even those of us who have been jamming arenas from coast to coast to witness the various "matches," admit that their hysteria is produced by the acrobatics of the big guys.

The participants laugh at their own antics and confess that their feigned anger is the main ingredient of the show. And the rare injuries they occasionally sustain are more than compensated for by the huge paychecks they collect.

Unlike their counterparts in professional boxing, wrestlers don't try to pretend that (alphabet) titles are taken seriously.

Not so with prizefights, prizefighters and prizefight promoters.

"Wrestlemania' is like a monk's innocence compared to the brazenness of fight promotions.

— —

Take my case for example.

I went on vacation with the stench of Sugar Ray Leonard's patronizing attitude toward Thomas Hearns, after Hearns had whipped him.

And while I was away, some super-slick promoter threw a guy who should have been named Androcles (instead of "Truth") into the lion's den with Mike Tyson.

"The Truth" didn't exactly lie when he argued that the referee should not have stopped it in the first round.

For, in truth, they should never have *started* it.

— —

The smell of that one was still hanging over Ring No. 1 of the padded-mat circus when the acts were announced for Rings No. 2 and 3.

First came the promise by Leonard that his next appearance will be against another relic of his past: Roberto "Hands of Stone" Duran.

When last seen in the ring with Sugar Ray, Duran was trying to find a door through which he could escape, and mumbling the Spanish equivalent to "No more, no more."

Now Roberto wants some more.

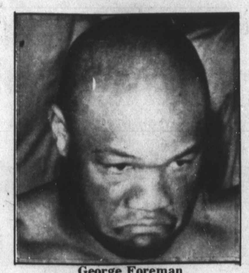
— —

If Don King and Bob Arum can get away with putting on brittle bouts, Mike Duva evidently figures he has a right to do the same.

So, Mike has staked out Ring 3, and is parading George Foreman through an unbeaten series of bums, intent on "cornering" Tyson for a title match.

Fat, foolish and forty, George Foreman today is as graceful in the boxing ring as a WWII Sherman Tank.

An insult to the public purse.



George Foreman
'. . fat, foolish and forty . . '

Short Shots

Woodlawn Friends

On August 12, the Woodlawn Friends Basketball League All-Stars will travel to Truxton Park Recreation Center in Annapolis to play in their annual all-star game.

Selected to participate in that game and the teams that they represent are Dink Banks (Gray); Tarrence Chrism (Blue); Rodney Coffield (Blue); Mike Dabney (Blue); Nate Eades (Black); Leroy Jones (Red); Anthony McDaniels (Red); Fred Moore (Blue); James "Murk" Pugh (Red); Lenny Russell (Blue); and Pierre Smith (Blue).

In addition to the all-star game, there will be 9-12 year old game and a girls' game. All contests will be a part of the Annapolis Basketball Festival.

The schedule and times of the games are as follows:

9-12 - 5:30 Baltimore Project Survival vs Annapolis Girls

6:30 - Cloverdale vs Annapolis All-Stars

8:00 - Woodlawn Friends vs Annapolis

For more information, contact Gregory Watkins at (301) 597-9740.

Teach All The Children

THIS SATURDAY AT THE CLOVERDALE PLAYFIELD, THE ANNUAL "Teach Every Man's Son and Daughter Day" will be held from 12 noon to 10:00 p.m.

During the all-day affair, there will be five free basekt ball games as a part of the festivities.

Beginning with the 2nd Annual Clarence Marble Tournament, which includes games for the 16 and Under, women and the 30 and Over age groups. Games times are respectively at 1, 3 and 5 p.m.

"Teach Every Man's Son and Daughter Day" will also feature, the Cloverdale Masters All-Stars in their Sixth Annual Walter Leslie Memorial Game at 7:00 and the BBA League Championship Games at 9:00 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided between games. For more information contact Mike Plater at 225-3300.

Maryland Bays

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks is continuing its agreement with the Maryland Bays Soccer Team to hold soccer clinics for the youths of Baltimore City.

With clinics already held at Towanda, Harlem Park, John Booth, Brooklyn and Locust Point Recreation Centers, the Bays announced that there will be a clinic in the area behind the Utz Twardowicz Field in Patterson Park (396-9305) on Tuesday, August 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

In addition, there will be a clinic in the Myers Pavilion, 4300 W. Bay Avenue (396-5782) on Thursday, August 17, at 7 p.m.

For additional information, contact the above centers.

Summer volleyball camp

For the third consecutive year, more than 100 participants are expected to improve their volleyball playing skills at the Essex Community College Volleyball Camp, beginning August 14 through Friday, August 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A staff of outstanding college and high school volleyball coaches will assist camp participants in improving their skills and appreciation of the game.

Camp participants will be grouped according to age and ability and assigned to a coach. Individual attention and encouragement is promised to each participant within the groups. A tournament among the teams will culminate the camp instruction.

Space is still available for interested local residents who are currently in middle school, high school)excluding graduating seniors), or college. The camp costs $50 per person or $45 per person for families.

For further information about the summer volleyball camp, contact Barbara Miller at 522-1262.

Morgan's football opener

The Morgan State University opening football game against Norfolk State University has been moved to Morgan's Hughes Stadium. The game scheduled for September 2, 1989, was originally to be played in Gary, Indiana as the first annual Pre-Labor Day Classic.

The change in schedule gives the Bears six home contests for the 1989 season. The Bears' entire schedule is as follows.

9- 2 Norfolk State
9- 9 At Bethune Cookman Jacksonville, Fla.)
9-16 At Bowie State
9-23 North Carolina A&T
9-30 at Youngstown State
10- 7 South Carolina State
10-14 Virginia Union (homecoming)
10-21 At Delaware State
10-28 At Florida A & M (Orange Blossom Bowl-Miami, Fl.)
11- 4 Howard University
11-11 Cheyney State

The Morgan State football team is scheduled to report to preseason camp on August 9th.

Former Dunbar star

As of this writing, former Dunbar High and Northeastern University star Derrick Lewis is performing well at the Philadelphia 76ers Camp.

Commuting every practice day from Baltimore, the 6¼' Lewis is trying to make the Sixers team as a guard.

Lewis, who averaged 19.1 points a game in 1988-89, said he had received several free-agent offers from other professional basketball teams including the Boston Celtics and if he doesn't make it as a Sixer, he would pursue the other offers.

Youth Games Begin

Former NBA super star Julius "Dr. J." Erving ignites the crowd as the grand marshall of the U.S. Youth Games.

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

Former NBA great Julius "Dr. J" Erving was on hand to begin the opening ceremony of the United States Youth Games 1989 National Championships, at the Inner Harbor this week.

Erving serving as the grand marshall of the parade ignited the Youth Games participants, staff and onlookers with his presence as Baltimore plays host to 16 major cities contending for national titles in six sports.

With competition beginning Tuesday, the National Championships will conclude Sunday, morning at 10:30 with its closing ritual.

The finals for all sports will take place Saturday at various locations around the Towson State University campus.

Athletes To Russia

By Fred Lnidsey
Local Sports Editor

Late in August, ten young athletes from Project Survival will be traveling to the Soviet Union to play basketball, as part of a goodwill exchange tour.

The City of Baltimore's Sister City, Odessa, Russia, has invited the Urban Services Agency component to spend ten days observing and getting to know the Russian people and to a part of the friendly competition on the hardwood.

Last week, the vice-mayor of Odessa came to Baltimore to discuss the trip and to view Project Survival and its academic features firsthand.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience," said Vernon Wolst, executive director of Project Survival, who is coordinating the tour."

Visiting Project Survival's Academic Camp was vice-mayor Galina Izuzita of Odessa, Russia. Others are, from left to right, Doris Cornick, Project Survival's academic advisor; Olya Samilenko, interpreter; Izuzita; and John Murdock, coordinator of McDonald's Mini-Market Academic Camp.

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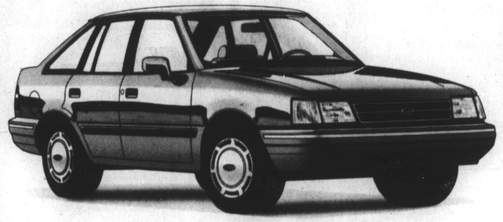

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