Sam Lacy
The star?

Is this the one?

Is this the future star Hank Allen has been waiting for so long? . . . . A large part of the answer may be upcoming Saturday at Laurel Race Course.

Hank Allen has become one of the leading black trainers of thoroughbreds over the past decade . . . . His successes have been many, but he still dreams of having a star in his stable.

Not necessarily a Derby winner like Genuine Risk or an Eclipse Award captor like Landaluce; just a topliner that can go for the big ones like the Kentucky Oaks or Black-eyed Susan at Pimlico.

Selima bound?

Saturday, She's a Champ which Allen trains for businessman John C. Heil, is entered in the $50,000 Smart Angle Stake . . . . A win here would send her in against some of the finest fillies in the nation in the "Maryland Million," Sept. 10.

Carrying the dream (Hank's and mine) a few steps further, why not the historic Selima and its value of $300,000 in November at Pimlico?

Agreed, it is an ambitious road we're taking with a spindly filly (girl horse) whose main attributes are blazing speed and a willing heart . . . . She's a Champ proved this when she stepped out of her barn and ran away from a classy field last month.

Been close, but...

But Hank Allen has been knocking at the door for sometime now . . . . He is thoroughly familiar with the "close but no cigar" axiom . . . . He saddled Sparrowvon to win the Tesio Stakes in 1986, and thought enough of that one to run him in that year's Preakness (finished 8th) . . . . Earlier (1984), his Island Champ captured the $150,000 John B. Campbell at Bowie.

Last year, his Northern Wolf led the Kentucky Derby field for a mile-and-an-eighth of the Churchill Downs race before finishing fourth behind Sunday Silence, Easy Goer, etc.

Also, he has shown a good hand with fillies, so She's a Champ doesn't come strange to him . . . . Allen-trained Tulindas racked up several stakes events in 1987, the most noteworthy being the Conniver, one of Maryland's Grade II classics . . . . Sheltered Princess was another distaff success of recent vintage.

An omen, maybe

Incidentally, Hank may be excused if he is hoping that this time his stable might be touched with a little luck.

We have heard of the good fortune that attended the "Seventh Son of the Seventh Son" . . . . She's a Champ is the first daughter of a first son . . . . Her sire was Island Champ . . . . his dam was Island Search . . . . Both were first-borns of their respective parents.

A no-no, but...

Of course, I am rooting like mad for She's a Champ to live up to her name . . . . Mainly, though, I'm rooting for Hank Allen.

Oh sure, you can remind me that I call myself a sportswriter, and that sportswriters are duty-bound to be objective; that rooting in the pressbox and on the sideline is an absolute no-no.

But Hank Allen is black . . . . and I've been black a lot longer than I have called myself a sportswriter.

Notable quotable

Former Boston Red Sox now San Diego Padres star pitcher Bruce Hurst doesn't use profanity. When an abusive fan finally got to him:

"Aw, go wash your car!"

Duran: $1.5 million to IRS

MIAMI (UPI) — Roberto Duran will give $1.5 million of the purse he will get for fighting Sugar Ray Leonard to the Internal Revenue Service under a deal his attorney made with the government.

Duran is expected to be paid $8 million for the Dec. 7 fight. The settlement, approved Monday by U.S. District Judge Sanley Marcus, will give the World Boxing Council's middleweight champion three days after the fight to turn the money over to the IRS.

"It's really an insignificant amount in relation to what Roberto expects to make in December," said Jan Neiman, Duran's attorney. "I just hope (Dec. 7) turns out to be Pearl Harbor Day for Mr. Leonard."

The debt began with a mistake by the IRS. Duran was supposed to receive a $60,000 refund from his 1983-84 income tax return, but instead received two checks totaling $1.6 million.

When the IRS asked for the money back, Duran said it was nearly all gone. Court records show he spent $1.5 million in four months by paying off the mortgage on his $1 million home in Panama City, spent $23,000 in a Miami jewelry store and supported his wife, six children and seven brothers in Panama.

Other provisions of the settlement prevent the Panamanian fighter from leaving the United States without notice, prohibit him from selling assets or transferring funds and require him to pay the IRS half of whatever money he makes before the fight. Duran has a home in Miami.

"Roberto is pleased to have put this matter behind him and he is looking forward to the fight," Neiman said.

Leonard will receive more than $13 million from the bout.

'Nunn hits like a flower'?

RENO, Nev. (UPI) — One fight after retaining his title with a knockout in 88 seconds, International Boxing Federation middleweight champion Michael Nunn found there are many who still question his punching power.

"I felt I entertained the crowd," Nunn said Monday night after he was booed while retaining his title with a 12-round majority decision over Iran Barkley. "Everyone is opinionated. Booing doesn't mean nothing — they've been booing me my whole career.

Barkley tossed angry words at Nunn during a post-fight news conference.

"You never hit me," Barkley said. "You hit like a flower."

Police probe cager's suicide

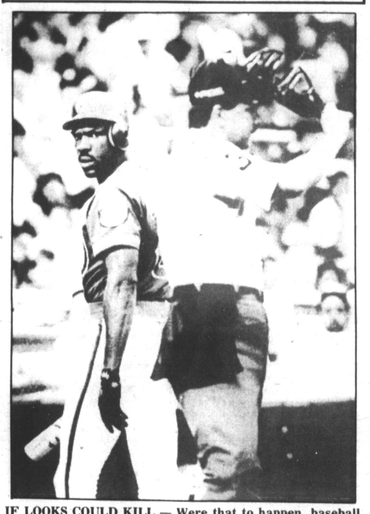
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UPI) — Ricky Berry, a rising basketball star and the Sacramento Kings' top draft pick in 1988, shot and killed himself after an argument with his wife, sheriff's investigators said Monday.

Berry, 24, was found lying dead on the floor of the family room in his suburban Sacramento home shortly after 9:30 a.m. with a gunshot wound to the head. A suicide note was found nearby, but its contents were not revealed.

Sharon Telles, a Sacramento County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman, said Berry and his wife of 15 months, Valerie, had quarreled Sunday and she spent the night elsewhere, returning in the morning to find his body.

Berry's wound appeared to be self-inflicted, but the Sacramento County Coroner's Office said his death would not be ruled a suicide until after an autopsy.

SPORTS



IF LOOKS COULD KILL — Were that to happen, baseball would be holding a wake, for umpire Greg Bonin. The look the Chicago Cubs' Andre Dawson gave him after Bonin had called him out on strikes was enough to slay the entire staff of National League arbiters.

'89 post season baseball wrap

The baseball commissioner's office early this week announced the schedule for post-season play in the major leagues.

Competition will commence in the American League West on Oct. 3, and will continue with four potential off (travel) days through the Oct. 14 beginning of the World Series in the park of the American League champion.

American League

October 3, 4 at AL West
October 5 OFF DAY
October 6, 7 and 8 (if necessary) at AL East
October 9 OFF DAY
October 10, 11 (if necessary) at AL West

National League

October 4, 5 at NL East
October 6 OFF DAY
October 7, 8 and 9 (if necessary) at NL West
October 10 OFF DAY
October 11, 12 (if necessary) at NL East

World Series

October 14, 15 at AL
October 16 OFF DAY
October 17, 18 and 19 (if necessary) at NL
October 20 OFF DAY
October 21, 22 (if necessary) at AL

Lee Elder Golf set Aug. 25

The 19th annual Lee Elder Invitational Golf and Tennis Tournament will convene at the Nemacolin Woodlands Resort in Farmington, Pa. Aug. 25.

Black Entertainment Television will be at Nemacolin all weekend conducting interviews and collecting action footage of the tennis and golf, as well as visiting with the friends and families of the players.

The 23 million viewers of the cable television network will then be treated to a one-hour special on Sept. 2.

This annual get-together is the primary source of revenue for the Lee Elder Scholarship Fund.

Pimlico lists 'Million' date

BALTIMORE — The fourth running of the Maryland Million, a unique series of 9 races with purses totaling $1 million designed to showcase the state's thoroughbred breeding industry, is the main attraction, Sept. 10, for Pimlico's upcoming fall meeting.

The 27-day session begins on Thursday, Sept. 7 and runs through Tues., Oct. 9.

A total of 18 stakes races with prize money in excess of $1,675,000 are on the agenda.

— —

Heading the Maryland Million card will be the $200,000 Budweiser Maryland Classic at a mile and one-quarter and $150,000 First National Bank of Maryland Ladies, a turf event for fillies and mares at a mile and one-sixteenth.

Augmenting the rich Maryland Million day program will be the $100,000 USF&G Maryland Lassie for 2-year-old fillies, $100,000 Maryland Nursery for juveniles, $100,000 Maryland Turf for 3-year-olds at a mile and one-sixteenth on grass, $100,000 Kennard Warfield, Jr. Group Maryland Oaks for 3-year-old fillies at a mile and one-eighth, $100,000 Maryland Sprint Handicap at six furlongs, $100,000 State of Maryland Distaff Handicap at six furlongs and $50,000 Crown Central Petroleum Maryland Handicap, a starter handicap at a mile and one-eighth.

Trouble brews in O's future

As with all teams in a late August pennant race, the Orioles' future — aside from the possibility of injuries — translates into the schedule.

And the August-September schedule for the O's contains a continuing road of pitfalls.

For the Birds and their fans, from now on it will not be a matter of watching the scoreboard to see what the competition is doing.

The competition will be sitting on their chests.

— —

Toronto, considered by many the Orioles' main threat, opens (this weekend) and closes the stretch.

Unless one or both fall from their present perches, the Orioles and Blue Jays will finish the season (at Toronto) head to head.

Sandwiched between are six with surging Milwaukee, seven with the Yankees, six with the Indians, six with the White Sox and a like number with Detroit.

The breakdown: half at home, half away . . . LACY.

If the Birds fall, blame it on the air

By Sam Lacy

Certainly, that caption isn't exactly fitting. Virtually anyone knows that the word "birds" in Baltimore refers to the Orioles and these Orioles are not the flying kind.

If they were, though, it might be said without much contradiction that they would have a hard time making their way through the glut of hyperbole, nonsense and small talk that accompanies their broadcasts.

This time, however, reference is not to the ever-present talk shows, although they continue to exist as a haven for second-guessers.

This time, it is the television and radio people who make you wish for life in the air of the past; for freedom from the pollutance.

The team of Jim Palmer and Brooks Robinson is the least offensive, except that Jim often forgets the score and the count on the batter. And Brooks occasionally invades Palmer's territory by expERting on pitching.

These are trivial compared to the annoying performances of their on-air compatriots.

— —

Mel Proctor does outstanding work on the Home Team Sports telecasts.

After him, period.

His TV color man, John Lowenstein, aside from repeating the obvious (this game is important to the Orioles, the pitcher must have command of the strike zone, etc.) over and over, does his commentary loaded with the redundancy of a kid reading an 8th Grade composition.

— —

Oriole Radio could be better, much better. Jon Miller is excellent. Joe Angel (his friend) is passable.

The mesh is more than adequate, until . . . .

Until they seem to think they're comedians.

The inane by-play that goes on during the late innings is tiresome, nonsensical and boring.

Without the latter, radio coverage is adequate, entertaining and informative; with it comes exasperation for the listener.

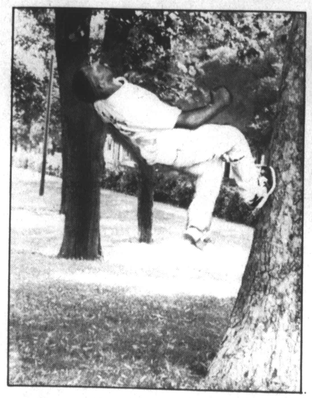
— —

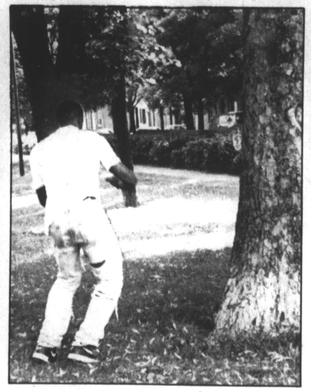
Finally, the HTS alternate: Tom Davis and his dental work.

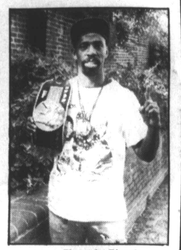
If grinning gets one to Heaven, Tom has it made.

A larger smile than the one pasted on the Davis countenance can only be found on the face of someone wearing angel's wings.

It's up and over for the contact champion







Photos by Ricardo Gray

Eddie Butcher proudly displays his championship belt as he makes the No. One sign. At left, he displays his form which is executing a running flip off of a nearby tree. A simple maneuver for this agile champion who is moving up the line in the rankings.

In the sport of continuous contact, a combined variation of kick boxing and karate, there has emerged a world's champion from Baltimore City.

Eddie Butcher, 27, an Edmondson High School alumnus, who captured his title in March at the Maryland Open Adult/Junior Nationals Karate Tournament has vowed to be the best champion that the sport has known and to work for more recognition of a sport that is relatively new to the average sport enthusiast.

"I really think that it is important for more people to know about the sport," Butcher said, "and at the same time I hope that I can promote the sport enough to gain a measure of fame and fortune.

"After all, I consider my sport to be a business just like professional boxing."

Although Butcher has been in the business of karate for nearly twenty years and a professional for ten, he has expressed concern that few in Baltimore know about him or other martial artists located in the area.

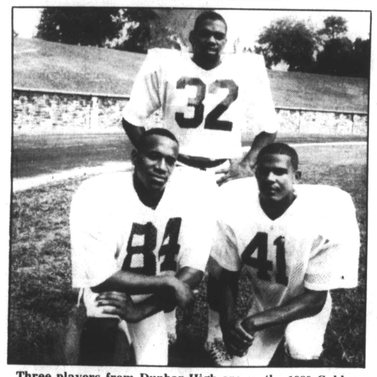
"One of the reasons I'm so adament about the sport," Butcher said, "is because I want people to see that my professional is not a game and that we deserve more attention than we are getting."

"I'm a professional, just like Sugar Ray (Leonard)," Butcher continued, "and if I can promote my sport, it can only help."

Butcher, with a professional record of 33-2, is scheduled to have a non-title bout on ESPN, on September 16 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

He says that he wants to stay active until March, 1990, when he will defend his championship for $50,000.

"If boxers can make millions, I don't think its unreasonable that a martial artist make $50,000 to defend his professional championship," Butcher said, "with the right management, it can be done."



Three players from Dunbar High are on the 1989 Golden Bears football team. They are from (left to right) wide receiver Darryl Williams and cornerback William Harris. Standing is Nathan Ayers, last year's leading rusher.

Morgan St. begins football season

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

This week, the Morgan State Golden Bears football team began practicing for their eleven game season.

With high hopes and a "changed attitude," the expectations to improve on a 1-10 season remains optimistic.

"I could see a change in the players' attitude during the middle of last season," said head coach Ed Wyche. "They had the desire to win and they didn't consider themselves losers, in spite of our record. It was then I knew that Morgan had a good football team."

"I'm just hopeful," continues Wyche, "that their desire and renewed attitude is still here, if so, winning will take care of itself."

Entering his second year at the helm of a program that has a glorious past, but little success in the last six years, Wyche views his team as strong competitors.

"Our main goal last year was to be competitive in our conference," Wyche said. "This year, we are much stronger and we feel that it is going to be a much better season."

With the change of their opening game, the Bears would appear to have a favorable schedule. They play six home games and four Division Two schools.

"Because we play four Division Two schools doesn't mean its going to be easy," Wyche cautioned. "Norfolk State and Virginia Union are traditional winners in their respective conferences and Bowie State was nationally ranked last year, so we don't think our schedule is soft, but we want everybody to know that when they play Morgan this year, they'll know that they have been in a football game."

Baltimore Women's League

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

Concluding their initial season with two all-star games, the Greater Baltimore Women's Basketball - Indoor Summer Basketball League was considered a major success.

With games for the 15 and Under and the 17 and Under teams against their rival opposition from Philadelphia, Baltimore won both games in convincing style and raised the question about the improving nature of girls basketball in Baltimore City.

"I think girls basketball in this city is becoming a lot better," said league commissioner Breezy Bishop. "We have been an afterthought for a long time and now I think we are finally emerging."

Whether the improvement of women's basketball has jumped upward a notch or two remains to be seen, but certainly the vehicle to showcase area talent was evident in the GBWL.

"We have a careful blend of city, county, catholic and private school players in the league," Bishop said "and the all-star selectees were chosen on their athletic ability and their commitment to the league."

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