At 35, Arthur Ashe still ranks as top pro

By Paulette V. Hammond

Arthur Ashe's performance in last week's $125,000 Volvo Tennis Tournament proved that at 35 years of age, which is pretty old for a profession tennis player, mind over matter can prevail everytime.

Skillfully executing a mixture of delicate dinks, chips and drop shot volleys, soft angles, lobs and not - so - fast - paced balls, Ashe, who was ranked No. 8 in the tournament, reached the semifinals, as expected, where he was defeated by 27 - year - old Brian Gottfried, who was ranked No. 2.

The born - again athlete, who hopes to win Wimbledon again is heading full force back onto the professional tennis circuit following a year - long layoff in 1977 from a heel surgery.

The heel has nagged Ashe off and on throughout his career and at 35 doubted that he would be able to make a respectable return to the top pro circuit. But the indefatigable champion within the last year, has been playing some of the best tennis in his entire life.

Since his heel surgery, Ashe captured his third Colgate Prix tournament title at the $175,000 Arco Pacific Southwest Championships, defeating Brian Gottfried in the final. He also won the singles titles at San Jose and Columbus in 1978, defeating Roscoe Tanner and Bob Lutz, respectively.

Ashe knows that the pressure of time, however, is upon him, and he readily admits this. He's going to have some ups and downs at his age because it will be hard to be consistent with the caliber of younger players today who have more stamina and physical capability.

Ashe realizes that he has about 10 more good years of playing before the younger and faster generation completely takes over. But for now, Ashe is in topnotch condition, and his quickness has not diminished. He has been playing well this year, steadily regaining his championship form.

Arthur Ashe is one of the most respected and recognizable names in the history of professional tennis, and he is one of the few black players who have reached this prominence. He has constantly been involved in other areas outside of tennis, as well, throughout his career, such as his participation in politics, exhibitions, ATA tournaments, seminars, etc.

One of his off - court achievements of which he founded and is most proud, is the National Junior Tennis League (NJTL), which brings tennis to underprivileged children in America's inner cities, with over 60 chapters nationwide.

Born in Richmond, Va., Ashe has won well over $1 million in prize money in his tennis career. In addition to winning the U.S. Open in 1968, he captured the Wimbledon title in 1975, the Australian Open in 1970, and the World Championship Tennis title in 1975. In both 1968 and 1975, he was the number one ranked player in the world.

ARTHUR ASHE

Holmes, Ocasio beat fight drums with snarls

Maybe Muhammad Ali, whose last trek as champ was the only one willing to go into a snarling, bedwelling act to pump excitement in the once - dull pre - fight activity.

World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Larry Holmes and challenger Ossie "Jaws" Ocasio of Puerto Rico exchanged insults at a news conference Monday which culminated with Holmes pouring a glass of water over Ocasio's head.

The 5 - foot - 11 Ocasio showed remarkable restraint after the unbeaten 6 - 3 champion from Easton, Pa., pulled his water trick.

Ocasio, who does not speak English, drew Holmes' ire when he stood up and yelled, "Puerto Rico," and waved his right fist. Holmes retorted, "Puerto Rico won't help you here, 'Jaws.'"

After some more verbal banter, Ocasio handed Holmes a glass of water as if to say the champion needed cooling off. But Holmes did the cooling off himself.

Holmes, 29, is 29 - 0 with 20 knockouts. He will make his second WBC title defense tonight (Friday) at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel.

He stopped Spain's Alfredo Evangelista in seven rounds at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas Nov. 10 in his first championship defense after capturing the crown from Ken Norton on a decision last June 9, also at Caesars.

Ocasio, 22, also is undefeated. He is 12 - 0 with 9 KOs and holds two wins over former top contender Jimmy Young.

Also on Friday night's card will be a fight billed as a 12 - round WBC heavyweight title elimination between Norton of Los Angeles, the WBC's No. 1 heavyweight contender, and No. 2 contender Earnie Shavers of Warren, Ohio.

Shavers said, "I'll predict three rounds, maybe earlier. I'm confident. I'm not talking just to be talking, either. An 18 - foot ring? Wow. There'll be a lot of sparks in that one."

Norton responded, "I'm not going to make any predictions like Earnie. I'm in good shape to go 12 rounds. But if I see an opening I'm going to take advantage of it. Condition? Earnie says we'll only go three rounds. So why do I have to worry about what shape I'm in?"

Track program for handicapped

A comprehensive track and field program, designed specifically for the physically disabled, began last Wednesday at the League for the Handicapped, 111 E. Cold Spring Lane. It will meet every Wednesday hereafter at 6 p.m., throughout the spring.

Open to handicapped men and women of all ages, the program includes all regular track and field events such as the 100 yard dash, mile run, javelin throw and shotput. It also includes table tennis.

No previous track and field experience is required of entrants. For more information, contact Dick Doran at 235-5050, ext. 38.

Free tix and dogs mark CT weekend

CHARLES TOWN — The Charles Town Races will stage an entertainment - packed weekend with a College Night Friday and free hot dogs on Saturday.

Post time for the 10 - race weekend programs will be 7:15.

Students from seven colleges and universities in the Washington area will get free admission and a free $2 bet Friday night by clipping coupons from their campus newspapers.

The coupons, when presented at Charles Town with college ID, will entitle students to the introductory offer.

Hot dogs will be given away to both clubhouse and grandstand fans Saturday night on an "as long as they last" basis.

"Seconds?" If the customer wants to go around a second time, that's okay, too, a spokesman said.

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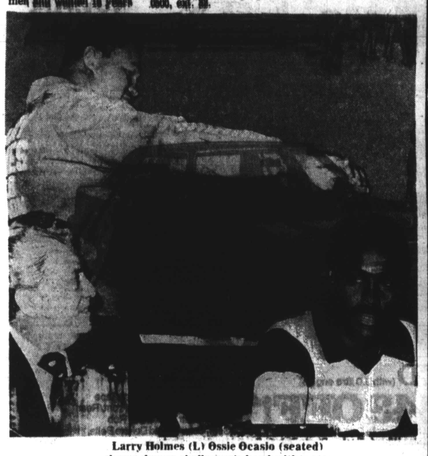

Larry Holmes (L) Ossie Ocasio (seated) champ douses challenger's head with water

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Morgan spring drills slated March 24-Apr. 27

Morgan State University has set March 27 as the opening date for the Golden Bears' spring football drills, head coach Clarence Thomas announced. The drills will end April 24 after the (April 12-18) Easter break.

The Golden Bears will practice Monday through Saturday, with weekday p.m. and double practices on Saturday (10:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.).

Thomas, who is in his second year as head coach at Morgan State, said between 85 - 100 returning players and walk - ons are expected to come out for the drills.

Last season Morgan State's pass defense ranked second in the NCAA Division II ratings and fifth in a total defense. They finished with a 4-8-1 record and was 3-3 in the MEAC.

Bear stickers play in 3 days

Morgan State University's lacrosse team takes on two opponents over three days of the weekend.

Coach Sheldon Freed leads his Bear stickers against Geneseo State University tomorrow (Saturday) and Union (N.Y.) College on Monday afternoon.

Both games are scheduled for the Morgan home field.

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Miller

There's a reason, podner

By Sam Lacy

Lawrence Laurent, veteran television writer for the weekly "TV Channels" magazine, did a piece recently lamenting the small viewing audience enjoyed by the CBS "White Shadow" series.

Explaining his concern, Laurent writes:

"The series is notable for its unrelenting honesty. The familiar stereotypes were avoided. Ken Howard was introduced in this series on November 27 and he played Ken Reeves, a professional basketball player whose bum knee forced him into retirement.

"He wasn't presented as the greatest basketball player since Naismith invented the game. He was, at best, a journeyman with a 6 point average and, as one student told him later: 'Rick Barry lived off of you.'

"An old friend, a black high school principal (Jason Bernard) made him an offer: A tough job at low pay with little hope for gratitude. Ken Reeves accepted and became a high school basketball coach in a racially mixed high school.

"He makes mistakes. He lets himself get caught hassling a youngster. He bels with a young man for a game of basketball and loses. The youngster comes to school, but it turns out that he's run to Southern California from the San Francisco area after forgetting to turn in money to a gambling syndicate.

"In one of the best episodes, the salty, feisty high school coach is chosen as the ideal TV color commentator. A lovely woman offers not only herself, but a career paying over $100,000 a year. At a party high in the hills above Beverly Hills, the coach makes a decision to stay out of television commentary.

"It is a gritty, honest series that makes few compromises and, as a result, offers a fascinating picture of a coach in today's high school. It is too good a series to lose. All it really needs is a few million more viewers." Pre-emptions would also help.

What partner Laurent overlooks is the fact that the Ken Reeves character is made out to be more "White Father" than "White Shadow."

Blacks who may be inclined to watch the show are turned off by the constant derelictions among his students, and the impression that only he can solve their problems. That's the "unrelenting honesty"?

The one or two white youngsters who put in an occasional appearance never get into trouble, while their black counterparts are thieves, dope-pushers, pocketbook snatchers, assaulters, housebreakers and what - have - you.

Always, the "white father" to the rescue.

If the story line is so great, why not a black coach?

3 reach top 100 on pro cash list

Jim Dent brought his season's winnings to $6,606 following the high finish in the Doral Open last weekend.

It moved the long hitting Georgian into 92nd place on the list of PGA to money winners.

Jim Thorpe is in 38th place at $23,959, and Lee Elder is two slots back in 40th with $99,954.

Poets taking tourney in stride

By Samuel Davis

For Dunbar, Saturday's game in the Washington D.C. Invitational Tournament is just another game. "The guys are taking it as they would any other," said coach Bob Wade Thursday.

The Poets received a bye in the first round of play and will take on the winner of the Bishop O'Connell vs. Gonzaga, game Saturday at 7 p.m. at Bishop O'Connell High.

Despite two close wins over Southwestern and Lake Clifton, the Poets do not feel any lesser than they did when they were blowing teams off the court. "In tournament play the competition is good", said Wade.

"The teams we've played performed very well. They were prepared for us and they knew our strengths and weaknesses. But it gets back to the same thing again, everyone expects us to blow teams out and that is not what we care about. Our objective is to win!"

And to that end, Dunbar will be sticking with the same game plan that has carried them so far. Work the ball in to the big men. The men to do that job will be guards Kevin Bush and Duane Wood.

Wood is the fast one, the thief, the pesterer, the man who makes the offense go and the opposition sputter. Wood averages 14 points while dishing out 6 assists picking up 6 steals per contest. Bush, overshadowed by his partner, has been steady and unselfish. "Kevin sacrifices a lot, everyone forgets him," explained Wade.

The big men are Barry Scott, Bryan Carver, and Marvin Raymond all very reliable.

The three average in height at 6 - 5, with combined averages of 45 points, 35 rebounds, 7 assists, and 8 blocked shots per game.

Those figures make them the most awesome front line in Baltimore high schools.

On defense, Carter and Scott, both at 6 - 6, protect the inside while the smaller Raymond (6 - 3) patrols the top of the 1 - 2 - 2 zone.

Even with the "plain old everyday" attitude of Dunbar the team must feel some pressure after winning the Public Schools Tournament, the M.S.A. divisional championship, going unbeaten all season and in post - season play, and putting a perfect record of 21 - 0 on the line.

But the Poets are well stocked with players, dependable, and determined, so if they return with another victory not many people would be surprised, and maybe they shouldn't be.

Hawk coach Anderson buried in Cape May

PRINCESS ANNE — Faculty members, students, athletes and people of this Eastern Shore community are mourning the loss of popular UMES coach Clifton "Cliff" Anderson.

The acting athletic director of Hawk varsity program was eulogized Tuesday in noon services at the Metropolitan United Methodist Church.

Death occurred last Friday at Peninsula General Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Anderson, a well - liked tactition, was brought to the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in 1960, by then athletic director Vernon "Skip" McCain.

He was summoned from a job he held at Shaw University to succeed Earl Banks who was leaving the local campus to accept the position of head football coach at Morgan State.

Called "Cappy" by his friends, students, and colleagues, Anderson came to UMES as a track and field specialist. He was destined to develop many outstanding athletes, including 1968 Olympic track stars Charlie Mays and Benedict Cayenne and current defensive back Bill Thompson of the Denver Broncos.

A native of Cape May, N.J., Anderson earned B.S. and M.S. degrees at the Bloomington campus of Indiana University. He played professional football with the then Chicago Cardinals and the New York Giants.

He is survived by his widow Myrtle and seven children, Clifton, Jr., Linda, Patty, Joey, Jr., Penny and Kyle.

Cliff Anderson mourned at Ume

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Handicap champ enters Bowie's Saturday race

BOWIE, Md. — The top handicap horse in the East, Top the Marc Stable's Sensitive Prince, is scheduled to make his next start at Bowie Race Course, Saturday in the 25th running of the $75,000 - added John B. Campbell Handicap at one mile and one - quarter.

The son of 1969 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Majestic Prince was transferred to trainer Allen Jerkens' New York stable earlier this week after completing an undefeated winter campaign in Florida.

Under Jerkens' care and jockey Jacinto Vasquez's saddle talent, Sensitive Prince has yet to be headed in three races in Florida this year. After winning his seasonal debut by seven and one - half lengths he went on to establish a track record of 1:59 1-5 for a mile and one quarter in the Gulfstream Park Handicap.

Last Saturday in Hialeah's Seminole Handicap, Sensitive Prince spotted rivals from eight to 15 pounds and romped to a two and three - quarter lengths tally.

In all, his career record shows 11 wins from 15 starts good for $365,317 which ranks him 18th on the all - time Maryland - bred money winner's list. A victory in the Campbell would elevate him into the top dozen.

Anderson, Staley to clash Wednesday for state title

The Maryland State Athletic Commission early this week sanctioned a 10 - round Civic Center fight as a battle for the state junior middleweight championship.

Alvin Anderson will meet Dale Staley in the featured event Wednesday night at the Civic Center.

Anderson, rated a good combination boxer - puncher, has 29-6-3 record after meeting some of the better men in the division. He holds a No. 2 world ranking and No. 2 in the U.S.A.

Challenger Staley is placed by boxing authorities among the finest raw fighters in the nation. An aggressive, two - fisted puncher, he counts 11 knockouts among his 12 wins.

A 10 - round heavyweight supporting bout pits George Chaplin against Bill Sharkey.

Chaplin won two bouts the recent USA - USSR boxing duel, and enters the Civic Center event with a 12-1 record.

Sharkey's latest outing resulted in a KO at the hands of controversial Kallie Knoetze of South Africa.

Wilson Bell of Washington and Tyrone Phelps of Philadelphia are matched in an 8 - round junior middleweight bout to wind up the card.

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Miss Black Universe pageant scheduled

Maryland will be participating in the Miss Black Universe Pageant, the world's first international pageant for blacks and Third World countries.

In order to select Maryland's Miss Black Universe the state finals will be held at Morgan State University, Coldspring Lane and Hillen Road, on Sunday, June 10, 1979. The pageant is sponsored by the Student Government Association.

The winner will receive up to $500 in cash and prizes and will compete in the national finals Aug. 25 in White Plains, N.Y.

Girls wishing to enter should be single, age between 17 and 26, a high school graduate (June graduates are eligible), and possess a performing talent.

Applications are available by writing: Miss Black Universe, P. O. Box 4633, Baltimore, Md. 21212, or phone 435 - 8608

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