Mervo 'softies' hard on City girls

The Maryland Scholastic Association's spring sports schedule includes softball competition for girls, which the AFRO and photographer Mark Gail think was long overdue. At Mervo on Tuesday, the host team outlasted City, 22-18, in a non-league contest. City's Angela Duke (7) and Sherae Boller (3) fail to nail Mervo theft of second (left). City pitcher Eugenia Keene (C) sizes up enemy, and Mervo batter Marcia Richardson (R) is thwarted by foul ball.

Ward expects threat to N.W. title, trackmen disagree

By Samuel Davis

For some strange reason, successful coaches are rarely optimistic.

One who seems to fit that mold is Northwestern track and field mentor Jim Ward. The 12-year coach has been quoted on many occasions as downplaying his team's outlook, and this season is no different.

"I'm afraid of everybody this year," Ward said. "Last season I couldn't see anybody beating us, but we've lost some key people."

Of last season's 10-0 team, which won the "A" conference title and the Maryland Scholastic Association championships, the MSA pole-vault champ, Michael Bolden was lost, along with 400-meter standout David Gross. He also anchored the record-setting mile relay foursome.

Another relay specialist Gary Hedgepeth is gone, as is triple-jump threat William Fisher, who finished second in the MSA championships.

Despite the loss of those key athletes, one member of the team does not exactly agree with his coach.

"I can't see any other team competing with us, "said John Tuggle, a shotputter and discus thrower.

If one were to look at the team's performance in the recent Fairmont Heights invitational meet in Largo, where it finished first with 82 points, winning four events, there could be an inclination to believe Tuggle.

But a look at some of the competitors, like Mervo, which finished first in the Carver Relays, Mount St. Joe, always a strong o and Poly, runnerup in the MSA championships last year, suggests that Ward may be justified.

"We have a pretty good nucleus with the JV guys coming, but the kids returning will make the difference," Ward explained.

Desmond Taylor is one of the top letternen. A member of the mile relay team, he also was the 880 runner.

Another 880 standout, Clifford Morton, returns. He, too, was on the mile relay squad. Along with Morton and Taylor, the mile tandem will be made up of Gilbert Kiah and the MSA's triple jump and high hurdles champ Adrian Ward.

Top returnees in the field events, along with Tuggle, who won the discus throw in the Fairmont Invitational, are: Kurt Norris and Malcolm Massey (shotput, discus); Kevin Smith and Ed Jolley, who are MSA co-pole vault champs at 12 feet. That position will be strengthened by the addition of the JV champ Gary Williams, who has cleared 10 feet.

Other positions that will be strengthened by JV additions are the mile and two mile runs, with Antonio Carter and Scott Davis, sprints and relays, Antoinane Anderson, Marcus Battle, Leonard Bruce and Wendell Johnson; and high jump, Leonard Bruce.

Scholastic Sports Schedules

FRIDAY
Baseball
Patterson at Walbrook
Walbrook JV at Patterson JV

Varsity Track
Southern at Curley
Northwestern at Edmondson
Patterson at Northern
Forest Park at Gilman
Poly at Walbrook
Carver at Southwestern
Douglass at Dunbar

JV Track
Southern at Curley
Northwestern at Edmondson
Patterson at Northern
Mervo at Mt. St. Joe
Poly at Walbrook
Carver at Southwestern
Douglass at Dunbar
City College at McDonogh

Varsity Lacrosse
Poly at Gibbons
S. Western at Patterson

Varsity Tennis
S. Western at Spaulding

SATURDAY
Baseball
Carver at Anacostia

Girls' Softball
Carver at Anacostia

MONDAY
Girls' Softball
Northern at Eastern
Southwestern at Patterson
Forest Park at Western
Walbrook at Mervo
Southern at Harford Hts.
Lake Clifton at Carver
Northwestern at City

Colts get fullback

The Baltimore Colts acquired fullback Mark Bailey from the Kansas City Chiefs Wednesday for a fifth-round pick in the NFL's upcoming college draft.

Bailey, a product of Cal. State-Long Beach was a fourth-round pick of the Chiefs in 1977. He played two seasons for Kansas City, gaining 364 yards on 149 carries.

Bailey retired last year because he had been traded to the Philadelphia Eagles and did not want to move from Kansas City, said Colts spokesman Jim Husbands.

"Apparently he has had a change of heart and wants to come back and play football," Husbands said.

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TIME FOR RED

JOHNNIE WALKER RED

HONOR COMING — Poly athletic director Bob Lumsden will be honored at a testimonial dinner Thursday (17th) at Martin's Northpoint Gardens. Hundreds of former athletes of the veteran coach — including scores of black proteges — are expected to attend.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION FROM GENERAL MOTORS

HOW GM "PROJECT CENTERS" CREATE CARS

FROM CONCEPT TO CUSTOMER IN THREE YEARS AND THREE BILLION DOLLARS

Throughout the history of the automobile industry, product change was almost always evolutionary. But in 1973, GM determined that the times require revolutionary changes. It started its first Project Center — which by itself heralded a revolution in the use of science and technology to meet the changing demands of the market place. A few months later, the Arab countries launched the oil embargo. Fortunately, machinery was already in motion in GM to create and develop new cars and components in a new way and faster than ever before.

GM's first Project Center brought out totally new full-size cars: smaller, yet roomier, and far more efficient than their predecessors. The advertisements said they were "designed and engineered for a changing world"—and they were. Another Project Center, begun in 1975, developed the immensely popular GM X-cars.

Led by the five car divisions, Project Centers gather people, ideas, and knowledge from all 30 divisions and staffs of General Motors. In the first stage, which we call "concepting," experimental engineers, environmental scientists, forward planners, and marketing experts pool their thinking. Their objective: what the market place will require. This is the most important stage. Here we must determine not only what kind of car, but how many we might be able to build and sell years later. Economics, customer tastes, availability of various kinds of fuels must be compared with state-of-the-art technology—and what steps must be taken to advance that technology quickly yet surely.

In the "concepting" stage, one car is conceived. If the car is to be sold to customers three years later, construction of new plants must begin and basic tooling must be ordered.

The second phase of the Project Center takes 24 to 30 months. It encompasses development, design, structural analysis, handling analysis, emissions, noise and vibration, safety, reliability, serviceability and repairability, manufacturing, assembly, marketing, financing.

Advanced product engineers and research scientists work with the one hundred fifty to two hundred people at the Project Center and thousands more in the staffs and divisions to transfer new science and technology to the new car. Components are hand-built and "cobbled" into existing models for road testing.

Prototype cars are hand-built at a cost of more than $250,000 each. These enable the Project Center team to determine how newly developed, protected components operate as a unit. Then, pilot models will be built from production tooling and tested some more. New technology, such as structural analysis by computer, saves time. Lead time has been reduced by 2½ from ten years ago, when cars were far less complex.

After almost four million miles, nearly three billion dollars, and nearly three years of work, the new cars—quite unlike anything before them—start coming off the production line at a rate of better than one a minute.

There are now eight Project Centers in General Motors. Four are developing new cars using hydrocarbon fuels, one is creating an electric car, and others are working on computerized engines and emission controls, a new kind of automatic transmission, and the inflatable restraint system.

New and revolutionary cars can't be mass produced for the road overnight. But by putting all the parts of General Motors to work together, we found a way to speed up the process. We have integrated the creativity of thousands of human minds to make invention into reality when it's needed.

This advertisement is part of our continuing effort to give customers useful information about their cars and trucks and the company that builds them.

General Motors
People building transportation to serve people

'Dear Ralph: take money and run like a rabbit'

By Sam Lacy

Six years ago, the AFRO urged a young high school standout to forget about college basketball in the face of a $3 million offer to join a professional team.

It may not have been because of our suggestion, of course, but Moses Malone did it. Apparently, he has not regretted his decision to forsake the uncertain future of school for the reality of athletic wealth.

Today, the same advice is being offered Ralph Sampson.

Like Malone before him, Sampson was a sensation at high school in Virginia, Malone in Petersburg and Sampson in Harrisonburg. But, unlike Malone, Sampson has a year of college behind him, having just finished a brilliant freshman season at the University of Virginia.

Moses went directly to the pros, bypassing some highly attractive offers from 40-odd colleges — including the University of Maryland.

Admittedly, one takes on tremendous criticism when he recommends disruption of a young athlete's education. But, in such circumstances as these facing young blacks, it should be understandable.

There shall be no implication that either Malone, Sampson, Earvin Johnson, Adrian Dantley, Julius Erving and several others who left the college degree behind, may return to complete school later. It is readily conceded that this rarely happens.

In Sampson's case, it is reported that Boston Celtics officials visited Harrisonburg on Tuesday, and made a strong pitch to sign the 7-foot-4 center.

Celtics owner Marry Mangurian said after meeting with Sampson's parents and his high school and college coaches, "We had a very nice meeting and it is up to Ralph now."

The athlete was not present. He was in Charlottesville preparing for a test at the university.

He has until April 25 to decide whether to turn pro. He has said he'd play two years for Virginia — unless the right offer came along. Sampson, a 19-year-old freshman, has said he might be wooed to the NBA for a lucrative, long-term contract.

But Mangurian and Boston general manager Red Auerbach said they expected some word on Sampson's plans in the next "several days."

The Celtics, this season's winningest NBA team (61-21), currently pay rookie Larry Bird $600,000 a year for five years. Figures for Sampson have started at that level and gone higher.

Incidentally, a Boston news source late last week quoted Bird as saying Sampson should finish his education and not turn pro until after he has done so.

But there is a lot of difference between Larry and Ralph, as the AFRO sees it.

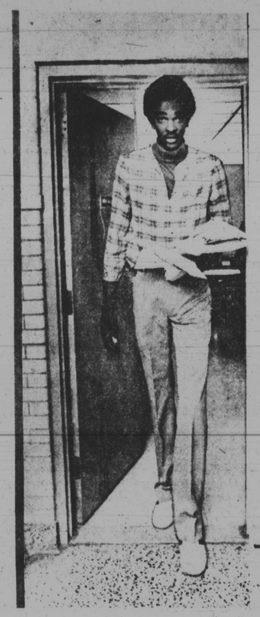
Bird already has his degree. Tomorrow's world is not as uncertain for him as it is for Sampson. In large degree, he enjoys a measure of security under the very real threat of a collapse of the American economy.

Next year, or the year after, money and jobs may be virtually nonexistent. Next year, in the current economic retrogression, there may be no NBA.

Moreover, Bird is white.

Now, the reader shouldn't flinch when that point is made. Only the most altruistic observer fails to recognize that race has to be considered.

In the post-sports world, a college degree in Larry Bird's hands means much more than one held by Ralph Sampson.



Ralph Sampson
Leaving U of VA Dorm

Cal Peete's first look may see good Masters

By the time this AFRO reaches the home subscriber's den, Calvin Peete's fate in his first Masters may be determined already.

But writing this as he is about to tee off in the opening round at Augusta National (Thursday), the reporter feels that Peete may turn in a creditable performance in this initial venture in golf's most prestigious tournament.

The newcomer from Belle Glade, Fla., joined Lee Elder of Washington, D.C., to become the first black twosome in the event.

The optimism in connection with Peete stems from his ability to keep the ball in play.

Augusta National is a tricky course that places a premium on accuracy. The players who are consistently straight often have the most success in the Masters.

In the PGA statistics, Calvin is second only to Mike Reid among tour players qualifying for ranking in the "percentage-in-fairway" category.

He has an average of 290, with only Reid's 808 higher. Behind him in this regard are the likes of veterans Hubert Green, Miller Barber, Gene Littler and Larry Nelson among others.

Peete earned his first invitation to the tourney by winning the Greater Milwaukee open last summer.

For Elder, it will mark the fourth time in five years since he first qualified in 1975. He played in all the succeeding events except in 1977.

This year, he won qualification on two points, by finishing in the top 24 of the 1979 event (he finished 19th), and as a member of the U.S. Ryder Cup team (also a first for blacks). SAM LACY.

Calvin Peete
he hits 'em straight

U.S. Government Report:
Box or menthol:
18 Carlton have less tar than 1 Kent.
Carlton Box less than 0.5 mg. "tar" and 0.05 mg. nicotine. Kent Menthol 18 as much tar as Carlton Box. Source: FTC Report Jan. '79.
Carlton is lowest.
Less than 1 mg. tar. 0.1 mg. nicotine.
Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.
Box less than 0.5 mg. "tar", 0.05 mg. nicotine. Soft Pack and Menthol 1 mg. "tar", 0.1 mg. nicotine by per cigarette FTC Report Jan. '79.

Bits o' briefs

Bears coming out

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference football champion, Morgan State University, will open spring practice Monday, in Hughes Stadium at 3:30 p.m.

MEAC coach of the year Clarence Thomas expects close to 80 prospects in camp. Practice will end on May 17, with the annual spring football game at 1 p.m. in Hughes Stadium.

Jimmy jilted?

No matter what the outcome may be of President Carter's anti-Olympic posture, he figures to lose even in winning.

Whether or not they do so openly, the Soviets already are in a position to chide the president for having to work so hard at trying to gain the support of his athletes — even resorting to threatening them and their sports leaders in a frantic effort to have his way.

Pimlico to turf

Turf racing at Pimlico is scheduled for the first time this season tomorrow (Saturday) with the $75,000-added Gallorette Handicap and $25,000 pep for the Riggs Handicap carded for the green in racing secretary Larry Abbundi's third condition book released this week.

The first 2-year-old race of 1980 in Maryland is listed for Tuesday. The five-furlong dash is for juvenile fillies.

Word from Bird

CRANSTON, R.I. (UPI) — Boston Celtics star Larry Bird says 7-4 University of Virginia freshman Ralph Sampson should finish school before he turns pro.

Bird finished his career at Indiana State even though he had a chance to join the Celtics after his junior year. Bird told a junior high basketball clinic he thinks Sampson should get a good education to plan for the years after his sports career ends.

Charles Town up

The Charles Town Turf Club successfully finished its 1980 Winter meet with percentage increases above any other race track in North America this year.

The 23-day stint showed an increase of 42 percent in pari-mutual handle and a 27-percent increase in attendance.

Mary Ellen Longan led the jockeys with six winners in the final week of racing.

"I hope we get him someday, but I hope he's smart enough to stay in school," Bird said.

Gal keglers on TV

Avon Products, Inc., will sponsor the 1980 Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC) Queen's Tournament May 13-17 at Kenmore Lanes in Seattle, Wash., it was announced this week. It also was disclosed that the finals will be televised.

King meet set May 18

PHILADELPHIA — The international Freedom Games in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. will take place at Franklin Field May 18 at 1:30 p.m.

The meet will include Henry Rond, world-record holder in the 5,000 meters, and Edwin Moses, World-record holder for the 400-meter hurdles.

THEY OFFER HELP — Towson Catholic coach Frank Luca and four of his players conducted opening clinic for Project Survival college prep program at Douglass. (L to R) with Lucas are Dan Sharpe, Tim Dawson, Howard Henson and Ellis Dawson.

Project Survival prep clinic draws 118 youths

In what officials interpret as an indication this will be its biggest ever, the Project Survival College prep program enrolled a record 118 youngsters for the initial clinics March 29 at Douglass High School.

The college prep venture is one of the priorities at the Urban Services Agency where the idea of combining off-season athletics (mainly basketball) with academic awareness originated.

Funding for the project will be enhanced by a Wes Unseld testimonial at Martin's West in June.

This year the program is designed around "Team Concept" in the classroom and in the gym. The same teams that play in the basketball league will compete in the classroom in the skills of reading, vocabulary development, writing and history. In the gym the students attend basketball clinics in addition to playing on a team.

Coach Frank Luca of Towson Catholic High and members of his team conducted a clinic in the basic skills of basketball, which was applauded enthusiastically.

A student can not play in the league unless he or she attends the classes on a regular basis.

The format of the program which began on March 29 and ends May 31 is tutoring, playing in the league, tournaments, basketball clinics conducted by the coaches, college and pro stars.

Each girl and boy will be a member of a team that will compete for trophies in the classroom and on the basketball court. There will be awards and trophies for individual performances. Each team will study one hour or more and play ball for one or more hours.

The Project Survival; College Prep Program is an Urban Services Agency's program that is operated by the Office of Youth Affairs. Alvin Steele is the youth director in charge of special progams and fund raising, with Ms. Sharon Snyder serving as assistant youth director.

Vernon Wolst is the director of Project Survival and the Urban Services Agency's Office of Youth Affairs.

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