Leslie Allen to compete in Avon championships

Leslie Allen never let a little thing like inexperience deter her rise toward the top of the tennis world.

So what if she didn't even pick up a racquet until age 12? So what if she was barely a weekend duffer during high school (and yet made the boys team)? So what if she didn't even become serious about tennis until her junior year in college (about 10 years after most professional aspirants have begun in earnest)?

Lack of experience certainly hasn't stopped the immensely talented Allen, 24, who is now one of the brightest rising stars in women's pro tennis.

And she has announced she will compete in the $200,000 Avon Championships of Washington, Jan. 4-11.

Allen's talent runs deep-deep. She has taken a scant few years to accomplish what many players spend their whole professional lives trying to achieve. Now ranked 19th in the world by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) computer, she merely dabbled in tennis during her childhood and teen years. Raised in a middleclass neighborhood in Cleveland, Allen flung her vast ability in many directions — track, fashion design, studies, and yes, even a smidgeon of tennis.

Allen briefly attended Texas Southern University on a track scholarship before moving onto the Fashion Institute of Technology (New York) and then to academically demanding Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Her restless talent finally focused at the University of Southern California her junior year, when she decided to pursue tennis seriously.

Not that USC minded, either. For Allen propelled the women's tennis team to the 1977 national championship her senior year.

After graduating magna cum laude, Allen plunged into pro tennis ranked just 170 in the world, and still a virtual beginner. Even so, she dominated the Avon Futures Tour, which is the satellite circuit for developing players.

Improving in great gobs, Allen rode her streaky but imposing volley game into the third round of both the 1979 French and U.S. Opens. Then in 1980, she again reached the third round of the French Open, plus the semifinal of the French Open mixed doubles. Eyebrows arched even higher when Allen also upset Czech superstar Hana Mandlikova to reach the semifinal of a major-circuit tournament in Japan.

Space-shuttling to 54th in the world by the end of 1980, Allen had become a major celebrity. Her talent was obvious. And she was also the most promising black woman player since Althea Gibson stormed women's tennis in the 1950s.

One of the most articulate, well-dressed and striking women on the Avon Championship Tour, the statuesque 5'10" Allen embraced her newfound fame with patience and graciousness.

"I want to make a name for myself as a person, as a woman and as a black," she said. "I'm aware enough to realize that I represent all woman tennis players, and all black players, too. Whether I want them or not, I have responsibilities to the general public and to the black public."

Allen made even more resounding improvements in her game this year, 1981. She opened with a loud "Bang" in February

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2 days left for O's sale

Two days — today (Friday) and Saturday — remain in the 4th annual Orioles Holiday Discount Sale.

A large assortment of items, including autographed balls, caps, bats, pictures, and other Bird memorabilia are available for nominal prices in the Hit 'n Run Club at Memorial Stadium.

Hours of the sale are noon to 6 p.m., with a number of Oriole players on hand.

Proceeds will be presented to Santa Claus Anonymous.

More finger-pointing as Colts reach finale

By Sam Lacy

Curtis Dickey and Bert Jones move over. Make room for Derrick Hatchett and Chuck Weber.

Last month Dickey and Jones had a falling - out after the latter criticized the running back in an open - field confrontation. Dickey, insisting that head coach Mike McCormack pulled him out of that day's game in a gesture of siding with the quarterback, said he would like to be traded.

Last Sunday, cornerback Hatchett expressed resentment of what he called Weber's intention of making him the scapegoat in Baltimore's porous defense. Again the player was benched and there was an exchange of barbs culminating in Hatchett's wish to go elsewhere.

Derrick Hatchett calls self 'scapegoat'

"The Colts have mishandled me by trying to break my confidence and my spirit," Hatchett said.

"They've made me the scapegoat for losing all the games. I want to get out of Baltimore."

Hatchett said the Colts earlier tried trading him to San Deigo, but the deal fell through. He said he has no preference on where he is traded now, so long as he leaves Baltimore.

Hatchett, 23, from the University of Texas, was the Colts first round pick in the 1980, he was benched briefly after the fourth game of the current season in a shakeup by McCormack.

Hatchett said the Colt coaching staff has blamed him in recent weeks for Baltimore's 1-14 record when in fact the defensive line should be discredited.

"The problem is the lack of a pass rush," he said. "There's no way you can blame all of this on me."

Weber denied singling out Hatchett for criticism.

He said that Derrick, like most of today's young players, objects to constructive suggestions.

The obvious conclusion by a sideline observer is that a disastrous season such as the Colts have endured, feeds frustration and produces anger for everyone towards everyone else.

Colts will win Sunday

It isn't likely that there will be many fans on hand to see it happen, but Baltimore will break the long losing streak that has brought frustration to the home folk when the Colts play New England on Sunday.

This means beleaguered coach Mike McCormack will conclude his second year with a 2 - 14 record — ironically, having won the first game and the last of the 16 - game NFL schedule and losing all in between.

The victory, meanwhile, will establish Baltimore as the champion of New England, since it was the Patriots they beat in the opener for its only win to date.

Should the AFRO prediction hold, New England will get the first pick in the upcoming college draft. The Colts played a "stronger" schedule than the Patriots, hence the "distinction" of beating out somebody in the NFL — SAM LACY.

BASKETBALL

FRIDAY
Men
VA State at VA Union
Germantown at Anne Arundel
Women
SC State at VA Commonwealth
SATURDAY
Men
Howard at Towson St.
UDC at Eliz. City
Rider at DE State
Women
Rutgers - Camden at VA State
MONDAY
Men
Morgan at Morris Brown
UMES at St. Bonaventure
FAMU at Jackson St.
W. Salem at Shaw
Anne Arundel at Allegany
Bethune at FL Union
Women
Rutgers - Camden at VA State
MONDAY
Men
Morgan at Morris Brown
UMES at St. Bonaventure
FAMU at Jackson St.

Baseball cagers busy

The Orioles winter basketball squad, undefeated in its first three outings, has a full schedule of 19 games in January and early February.

Among the O's playing this winter are Al Bumbry, Terry Crowley, Rich Dauer, Mike Flanagan, Dan Graham, Scott McGregor, Jim Palmer, and Tim Stoddard.

The Bird cagers begin Jan. 6 at Joppatown High School.

The following day they journey to York (PA) to take on the York Osteopathic Hospital five. On Jan. 9, the winter O's meet Gettysburg College at Gettysburg.

Two games follow against high school teams in Columbia (MD), Hammond High, Jan. 11, and Howard High, Jan. 12.

After a Jan. 15 contest against South Carroll High at Mt. Airy, then a second game in the Baltimore Area — at Woodlawn High — will complete the first - half of January.

in the NBA

Friday
Chicago at New York
Boston at Washington
Cleveland at Indiana
New Jersey at Milwaukee
Houston at Dallas
Phoenix at San Antonio
Utah at Kansas City
Saturday
Boston at Philadelphia
New Jersey at Cleveland
New York at Detroit
Portland at Dallas
Chicago at Houston
San Antonio at Denver
Seattle at Utah
Kansas City at Phoenix
Los Angeles at San Diego
Atlanta at Golden State
Sunday
Atlanta at Los Angeles

Scholastic Sports Schedule

FRIDAY
Varsity Basketball

Lake Clifton at N. Western
Northern at Thomas Johnson
Dunbar at Poly
Edmondson at Forest Park
S. Western at Mervo
Carver at Walbrook

JV Basketball

Douglass at Southern
Lake Clifton at N. Western
Northern at Thomas Johnson
Dunbar at Poly
Edmondson at Forest Park
S. Western at Mervo
Carver at Walbrook

Wrestling

Poly at McDonogh
Southern at Friends

Swimming

S. Western at Lake Clifton
Edmondson at Mt. St. Joe
City at Northern
Forest Park at Mervo
Douglass at Dunbar
Southern at Carver
Walbrook JV at N. Western JV

Girls Basketball

Douglass at Lake Clifton
Carver at Edmondson
Dunbar at Northern
Western at Eastern
Patterson at City

Girls JV Basketball

Douglass at Lake Clifton
Carver at Edmondson
Dunbar at Northern
Walbrook at Poly
Western at Eastern
Patterson at City

MONDAY

Basketball

T. Catholic at Dunbar
T. Catholic JV at Dunbar JV

Bits o' Briefs

Did he, didn't he?

PROVIDENCE, RI. (UPI) — The agent for Boston Red Sox slugger Jim Rice Tuesday denied published reports the seven-year veteran outfielder wants to be traded.

"I have no information on any desire of Jimmy's to be traded," said lawyer Tony Pennacchia.

The Lowell (MA) Sun Tuesday reported Rice was unhappy with the team's mediocre performance last season and wanted to go elsewhere.

"Rumors are rumors," Pennacchia said. "In this world anything can happen. As of right now, there is no validity to that statement."

Larry and Gerry

Undefeated Larry Holmes will defend his World Boxing Council heavyweight championship against top-ranked contender Gerry Cooney on March 15, 1982, at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Each fighter will receive an estimated $10 million for the bout, which will be broadcast in the United States and Canada on closed circuit TV in theatres, arenas and ball parks as well as paid television to homes in certain areas and by satellite throughout the rest of the world.

'World' not free

NEW YORK — Dwight Jones of the Chicago Bulls has been fined $1,250 by Joe Axelson, NBA vice president for operations, for striking World Free of the Golden State Warriors with a forearm during a game at Oakland, CA, on Dec. 2.

The fine, which included the $250 fine that automatically accompanies ejection from a game, followed an investigation of the incident by league officials that included review of videotapes of the incident as well as interviews with the game referees.

Free, formerly named Lloyd and nicknamed "All-World," has legally changed his name to World B. Free — but he wasn't free with Jones around.

Midweek scores

BASKETBALL
Bowie St. 81, Morgan 80
UDC 89, California St. 68
VA Union 89, Coppin St. 68
Fayetteville 62, Shaw 59
TE-Martin 96, Lane 81
TE State 84, Mississippi Val. 73
AL State 85, Livingston 76
Xavier 73, AL-Huntsville 57
Xavier 64, Athens St. 62

Skins favored, Colts are not

The old story holds true on weekend odds for area NFL teams.

Washington is favored to win, Baltimore is picked to lose.

The Redskins are quoted as narrow 1-point favorites over the Rams at Los Angeles. The Colts are underdogs by six points to the visiting New England Patriots, the only team Baltimore beat this season.

NFL schedule

Saturday
Dallas at NY Giants
Buffalo at Miami
Sunday
N. England at Baltimore
Washington at Los Angeles
Cincinnati at Atlanta
Cleveland at Seattle
Denver at Chicago
Green Bay at NY Jets
Kansas City at Minnesota
Pittsburgh at Houston
St. Louis at Philadelphia
San Francisco at New Orleans
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Monday Night
Oakland at San Diego

MAYBE IT'S OVER — But no one can be sure, not even the man himself, that the second straight farcical showing by Muhammad Ali will be his last comeback try. Chased by Canadian champion Trevor Berbick from opening bell to final gong, the former great champion lost the unanimous decision at Nassau, Bahamas, Friday night.

Aguirre lost to Dallas 5

DALLAS — Mark Aguirre, the NBA's No. 1 draft choice and leading scorer for the Dallas Mavericks, underwent surgery on his right foot late Tuesday, and is expected to miss at least eight weeks of the season.

Aguirre was operated on by team physician Dr. Pat Evans. The operation was to implant a screw in the broken fifth metatarsal in his right foot.

The operation was performed at Baylor University Medical Center.

Aguirre, the seventh-leading scorer in the NBA, was injured Dec. 9 while attempting a layup at Kansas City. At the time of his injury, he was the Mavericks' leading scorer with 23.6 points per game.

Mark Aguirre out two months

He will not be able to play in the All-Star Game on Jan. 31.

Birds set experiments for '82 home schedule

The Orioles will open the 1982 season at Memorial Stadium against the Kansas City Royals on Monday afternoon, April 5, the 12th time in the last 16 years that the club has started the campaign at home.

The 1982 opener will match the O's earliest start ever. Baltimore began the '74 season on April 5 when it hosted the Detroit Tigers at Memorial Stadium. It is also the second straight opener with Kansas City as well as the third consecutive home start with the Royals.

Baltimore will play 16 day games and 65 times under the lights. The day schedule includes Saturday afternoon contests with Boston on April 10 and Oakland on July 24. In addition, the club has scheduled a special 6:05 p.m. start with the A's on April 28.

"The 6:05 p.m. game is designed for families with school - age children," explained Orioles general manager Hank Peters. "The earlier start will allow the families to attend a weeknight game, yet be home at a reasonable hour. We're going to experiment with this idea and see how it works."

BRING ON BRAXTON — World Boxing Council light heavyweight champion Matthew Saad Muhammad wraps up his training in preparation for a Saturday defense against challenger Dwight Braxton at Atlantic City.

Larry Holmes, Don King, Gerry Cooney waiting is over for the long - awaited.

Larry Holmes: 'Money secondary' in March defense with Cooney

NEW YORK (UPI) — Larry Holmes and Gerry Cooney each will receive a record $10 million for their World Boxing Council heavyweight title fight at Caesar's Palace on March 15, but the champion wants to make it clear that he's not in this one for the money.

"The amount of money isn't important," Holmes said Wednesday at a news conference called to officially name the date and site of the bout. "I have plenty of money. I'm fighting this one for the people. The people need me right now. I give all fighters the opportunity to try and win a world championship. If Gerry becomes champion, that's not going to happen."

Holmes, 32, certainly has been a fighting champion. The bout with Cooney will be his 12th defense of the title he won from Ken Norton on June 9, 1978. Holmes has a perfect 39 - 0 record as a professional and has won 29 of his fights by knockout.

Holmes last fought on Nov. 6, successfully defending his crown with an 11th - round knockout of Renaldo Snipes after being knocked down by the challenger in the seventh round.

Most champions do not give challengers an equal share of the purse. But, Holmes knows he could not command such a purse against any other ranking heavyweight, so he was willing to give equal billing.

Ringside tickets for the fight, which will be shown in the United States and Canada on closed - circuit television in theaters, arenas and ballparks as well as pay TV in certain areas, are priced at $600. The cheapest seats in the arena, which will seat 30,000 will go for $50.

Cooney, 25, has posted a 25 - 0 mark with 21 KOS but has not fought since stopping Norton in the first round last May 11. Cooney was supposed to have had a tuneup bout with Joe Bugner in December but pulled out after supposedly injuring his back in training.

Monthly fights for D.C.

The Omnibus House, along with Anheuser Busch Inc., will hold a major fight next year featuring Roger Leonard, Sugar Ray's brother. The promoter Nate Williams hopes to stage the bout in the Washington Hilton. Sugar Ray Leonard will be honored, with celebrities coming from around the country, at that time.

Also the promoter will hold monthly fight cards featuring local pros and amateurs from 44 boxing clubs. Matthew Saad-Muhammad will defend his light-heavyweight crown against a tough fighter named Dwight Braxton. Saad-Muhammad defeated Jerry Martin in his last defense. Braxton defeated inmate James Scott.

Singleton Honored

Howard University's split end Tracy Singleton was selected the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Offensive player of the year by a poll of coaches.

Singleton, a native of Washington, DC, caught 44 passes for 1,087 yards and three touchdowns this season. He averaged 24.7 yards a catch this season. This was the second straight year a Howard player was chosen the MEAC Offensive player of the Year, formes quarterback Ron Wilson won the 1980 honors.

Arizona cage coach denies mishandling athletic fund

TUCSON (UPI) — Arizona head basketball coach Fred Snowden said he could not recall in detail how he spent more than $9,000 he allegedly received from a $35,000 athletic recruiting slush fund.

However, Snowden said in a Pima County Superior Court deposition that he spent the money to build and promote the school's basketball program. The money was not used to pay any expenses for athletes that would have violated NCAA rules, he said.

The deposition was taken last Friday in connection with a special action filed by the Arizona Daily Wildcat, a student - run campus newspaper.

The Wildcat seeks release of documents resulting from the school's internal investigation of the slush fund, allegedly administered by former Sports Booster Club director Glenn R. "Bud" Daniel from 1972 to 1977.

Fred Snowden denies wrongdoing

A hearing on the requested documents originally was set for Monday at the request of attorneys Robert Lesher and Max Jarrett, representing the University of Arizona. Even if the request were granted, the Wildcat would be out of luck because it published its last edition Wednesday to take a holiday break.

In the deposition, Snowden said he never was asked to account for use of slush fund money and kept no records. He said questions posed to him by the investigating committee no longer were clear in his mind because he underwent oral surgery just before he met with the panel.

"I did a lot of entertaining and meeting people, and that's precisely what I used it for, in terms of promoting and building my basketball program at the university," Snowden said.

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Former jockey, clocker die in the same week

Two popular men well-known in Maryland racing circles, former jockey William Graham and former clocker Frank Robinson, died early this week.

Graham, 42, a longtime jockey who rode with nominal success, will be buried Monday morning following Sunday night (7:30) funeral services at the William C. Brown Funeral Home, 1206 W. North Ave.

Family and friends will meet at the funeral parlor Sunday afternoon.

Once an exercise rider for Grover "Bud" Delp, Graham had been breaking yearlings for Dr. Ernest Colvin on the latter's Howard County farm.

Robinson, 70, worked for many years as a clocker prior to his death at his home in Mobile, AL, last Sunday.

He joined the staff of the Daily Racing Form in 1946 after serving in the Merchant Marine. He retired last July.

Robinson was involved in the controversial timing of Secretariat's Preakness in which he and Daily Racing Form's chief clocker, Gene Schwartz, caught that champion in a record 1:53 and two-fifths, while the automatic timer recorded 1:55.

The official time was eventually changed to 1:54 and two-fifths on the basis of the clocking recorded by the track's official timer.

The final time was later unsuccessfully appealed to the Maryland Racing Commission.

Robinson is survived by his wife, Gloria; brother, James, and sister, Bessie M. R. Davidson.

Burial rites were held Friday morning at the St. Louis Street Baptist Church in Mobile.

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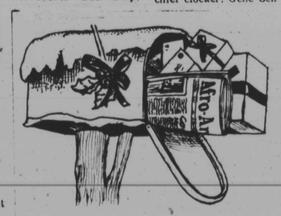

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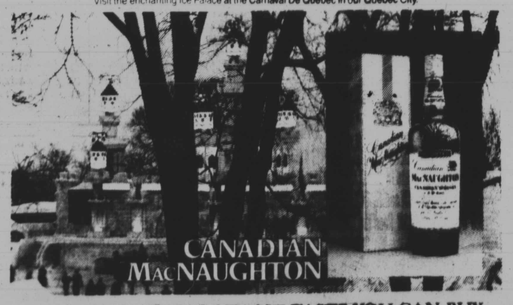

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