Sports shorts

Washington baseball, Baltimore football?

WASHINGTON—The city's newly formed baseball commission will head off to Philadelphia next week to lobby for a major league team for the nation's capital.

"We are a major league city where the fans are anxious, the city is ready to cooperate and the league could benefit from a team in this location," panel chairman Frank Smith said. Smith is a member of the district City Council.

District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry swore in members of the D.C. Baseball Commission, which is designed to attract the national pastime back to the nation's capital.

Barry described the nine-member panel as "an advocacy group to do all we can to convince investors, to convince the leagues to bring a team to the District of Columbia."

"I have always felt Washington was a sports town. We're ready for a professional team in Washington," the mayor said at the ceremony at RFK Stadium, where the Senators played before leaving for Texas 14 years ago.

Prince George's County Councilwoman Sue Mills and other area business and government leaders are on the commission, which travels to Philadelphia August 16 for the summer meeting of the Major League Baseball owners.

Football has not been gone from Baltimore a good year yet, but it seems it may be making a comeback sooner than many expected. On a local sports talk radio program, Mayor William Donald Schaefer said professional football will return to Baltimore—possibly as early as the fall of 1985.

Speculation has it that the team will be one of the USFL's—either the Philadelphia Stars or the Washington Federals. The mayor was a little vague about details but l e surely lifted the hopes and hearts of many a diehard Baltimorean football fan.

PITTSBURGH—Former Pirates first baseman Willie Stargell, who was hospitalized because of an abnormal reaction to an inset sting, was discharged, according to a hospital spokeswoman.

Stargell, 43, was admitted Tuesday morning to Forbes Metro Hospital and was discharged a day later round 11 a.m.

"I spoke with Stargell and he said he was being observed because of his reaction to the sting," spokeswoman Diane Anthony said.

Stargell had some abnormal swellings so doctors decided to keep him in the hospital overnight to run some tests, she said.

ANAHEIM—U.S. Olympic wrestling Coach Dan Gable said earlier this week he does not plan to step down, "now or after the Olympics," despite requests for his resignation.

Gable said he was "surprised at the nastiness" of a letter he received Monday from Steve Combs, executive director of USA Wrestling, the governing body for international wrestling in the United States, asking for his resignation.

"I'm certainly not going to resign," Gable said, "and not after the Games. When the Olympics are over, we'll discuss it. I'll have a chance then to defend myself."

Gable has been criticized for backing Olympic 136.5 pounder Randy Louis, who wrestled for Gable at Iowa, in an arbitration hearing with Lee Roy Smith following the Olympic trails.

Smith seemingly had won a spot on the Olympic team, but one of his victories at the trials came in a match where Louis injured his knee. Gable testified in Louis' behalf at the arbitration hearing, which Louis won.

When Louis and Smith re-wrestled, Louis knocked Smith off the Olympic team.

"I did not make for team harmony," Gable said.

Louis won his first three matches of the Games on superior decisions.

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Clippers matched the offer made by the Denver Nuggets for free-agent guard Derek Smith, retaining the two-year NBA veteran, a team spokesman announced earlier this week.

Smith, 23, was a starter last year alongside Norm Nixon. He started 19 consecutive games for the Clippers from late February to early April and averaged 17.4 points per game before pulling a rib cage muscle that sidelined him for the rest of the season.



A SMILE OF THANKS—An elated Valerie Brisco-Hooks waves her hand and smiles moments after coasting home a winner in her qualifying heat in the 200m dash in a time of 23.30 seconds Wednesday afternoon. Earlier in the week, Mrs. Hooks won a gold medal in the 400m run. That win upset Chandra Cheeseborough, also of the U.S., who had been favored to win.



A ROCKET'S DREAM — The NBA's number one draft pick Akeem Olajuwon, left, holds up his Houston Rockets jersey during a news conference announcing that the 7-foot center has signed with the team. Rockets head coach Bill Fitch, right, stands alongside his new player that hopefully will combine with 1983 first round pick, Ralph Sampson, to give the Rockets the talent needed for a winning team.

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Akeem:

The latest millionaire

HOUSTON—Akeem Olajuwon, the NBA's top draft pick, earlier this week signed a 6-year contract with the Houston Rocket's that makes him one of the richest rookies in basketball history.

Terms of the contract were not released, but Rockets general manager Ray Patterson said the 6-year pact is the longest contract ever offered an NBA rookie.

Olajuwon, a 7-foot center from Lagos, Nigeria, led the University of Houston to three straight appearances in the NCAA's Final Four. He was the nation's leading rebounder and had the highest field-goal percentage last season.

"I am very proud to be a Rocket," Olajuwon said at a news conference. "It came so quick. Yesterday I thought it (negotiations) would take two more weeks at least. Then it was decided today. It makes me happy."

The negotiations did not seem quick to home-town fans who feared Olajuwon would sit out the season.

Negotiations between his agents and Rocket officials had been reported as very tough. The reports led to speculation that Olajuwon might play the season in Europe or sit out the year in hopes of obtaining a better deal with a different club next season.

But Patterson said that while the negotiations spread over several weeks since the June draft, no thought was given to trading Olajuwon.

Olajuwon told reporters he looks forward to playing with Ralph Sampson, the NBA rookie of the year this past season. Sampson was the No. 1 draft pick in 1983 and served as Houston's center. With Olajuwon in the lineup, Sampson likely will be moved to a power forward position to take advantage of his better outside shot.

Olajuwon, 20, was the Southwest Conference Player of the Year this past season and an All-American selection. He gave up his last year of eligibility with the University of Houston to play professionally.

Although he played soccer as a youth in Nigeria and did not start playing basketball until 1979, he is projected to become one of the NBA's dominating centers.



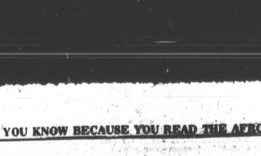
By the way...

By Joe Black

The Good Book tells us: "a child shall lead them," and in the complex and changing society of today, our young people represent the future leadership of the Black Community and some aspects of our national government. However, they need some guidance, and we Black adults have a responsibility to encourage and assist these leaders of tomorrow. We must remember that a college graduate of 1984 was probably born in 1962, thus he or she was born when Mrs. Rosa Parks was too tired to move to the back of the bus; 6 years of age during the outrage of snarling dogs and forceful fire hoses in the park in Birmingham and the memorable "March On Washington," and 8 when thousands marched from Selma to Montgomery. As a result, too many of our young don't know, or understand, the thrust of the Civil Rights Movement. Too many of them have chosen to be guided by emotion and want to believe that it was to prove that Black can beat White or mistakenly thinking that we were to receive something just because we're Black. It's time for Black adults to forget popularity and have the intestinal fortitude to tell youthful Blacks that they are spending too much time worrying about the word — "racism." When we were young, we called it "prejudice," "segregation" and "jim crow," but we did not spend our time worrying about it. And we made some socio-economic gains despite that roadblock. Yet today, despite the fact that we have more college-educated Blacks than ever before, we also have higher unemployment. Racism is not, I repeat — is not the only reason. Too often Black college students select "sop" courses rather than those studies that will make them competitive in today's labor market. In other words, it will be a combination of a college diploma and the quality of their preparation that will enable them to take advantage of the doors opened by the Civil Rights Movement. If we get this message across to our youths, then we can all echo Dr. King and say: "This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, 'my country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my father died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.'"

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

BACARDI® Rum Run
10K Run
for Sickle Cell



Baltimore/Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3, 1984

Come for the run or just for the fun! That's the theme of the Bacardi Rum Run. Entry fees benefit the Central Maryland Committee on Sickle Cell Anemia and the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease, Inc. All entrants receive multi-colored commemorative T-shirts and are eligible for the special prize drawing.

SPECIAL PRIZE: Dream trip for two to Puerto Rico. Includes airfare and seven nights lodging at one of Puerto Rico's finest hotels plus a VIP tour of the Bacardi rum distillery. All entrants are eligible but must be present at post-race ceremony to win.

RACE INFORMATION:

DATE: Monday, September 3, 1984
TIME: 8:00 a.m.
DISTANCE: 10K (6.2 miles)
LOCATION: St. Mary's Seminary—Roland Avenue & Northern Parkway
COURSE: Starts at Northern Parkway entrance to St. Mary's Seminary, East to Charles St., South to finish behind the Hyatt Regency on Charles St. Fast downhill course.
RACE DIRECTOR: Les Kinion (301/882-5455)
SANCTIONED BY: Baltimore Road Runners Club
ENTRY FEE: $5.00 before August 19th
$7.00 after August 19th
(Late Registration—race weekend registration on Saturday, September 1, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at St. Mary's Seminary and race day September 3, 6:30 a.m.-7:30 a.m.) All entry fees are non-refundable.
REGISTRATION: Mail your completed entry form along with check or money order payable to: Central Maryland Committee on Sickle Cell Anemia (no cash please) to:
Bacardi Rum Run
Race Director
P.O. Box 11394
Baltimore, MD 21239

PARKING: Special race buses will pick up runners starting at 6:00 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. behind the Hyatt Regency on Charles St. There will be no bus service back to St. Mary's Seminary after the race. There is plenty of parking downtown at this early hour.
AWARDS: Plaques awarded to first overall male and female and to first three finishers in the 16 and under, 17-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and over divisions.
PRIZES: In addition to plaques, all entrants are eligible for a variety of merchandise prizes to be announced on race day. Prizes will be awarded through a random drawing of all participants.
AWARDS CEREMONY: All awards will be presented at the Convention Center immediately after the last finisher crosses the finish line.
TIMES: All runners are advised to watch for their times on the large, digital display clock at the finish line.
T-SHIRT: Multi-colored shirts may be picked up at late registration with numbers.
AID: Fluids and first aid at 2 mile and 4 mile marks and gatorade at finish.



100% of all entry fees go to Central Maryland Committee on Sickle Cell Anemia and to the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease, Inc.

REGISTRATION FORM

Mail completed registration form and entry fee of $5.00 no later than August 19th to: Bacardi Rum Run, P.O. Box 11394, Baltimore, MD 21239. Make checks payable to Central Maryland Committee on Sickle Cell Anemia. Your cancelled check is your receipt for tax deduction purposes.

Name (Last) (First) M F
Address (Street) (Apt. No.) (City) (State) (Zip) 16 & under 17-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60 & over
Home Phone Work Phone
Best 10K Time Age T-shirt size S M L XL

RELEASE FORM

In consideration of accepting this entry, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators waive and release any and all rights and claims for losses and damages I may have or acquire against Bacardi Imports, Inc., Baltimore Road Runners Club, race directors, their officers, directors, members and volunteers and all sponsors and all other parties and their representatives, successors and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest and verify that I am physically fit and have sufficiently trained for the completion of this athletic event and competition which I am voluntarily entering at my own risk. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all foregoing to use photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose whatsoever.
NO ONE MAY ENTER THIS EVENT WITHOUT SIGNING OFFICIAL WAIVER
Signature _____ Date _____
(Parent or Guardian if under 18)
Official use only: Number assigned
WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED BY EVERYONE

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UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL:

Baltimore Police Commissioner Bishop L. Robinson



THE WOMAN BEHIND THE MAN—Mrs. Robinson pins a rose on the Police Commissioner's lapel as the ceremony moved to the luncheon held in the same cafeteria where the new Commissioner dined while a student at Douglass.

By Tyrone Vines
AFRO Staff Writer

Police Commissioner Bishop Robinson is perhaps one of the best black role models in the city. Nurtured in the 2200 block Druid Hill Ave., his family moved one block over to McCullough St., one block down to the 2200 McCullough St., and after a short time down one more block to the 2300 block.

"I guess we were trying to stay ahead of the landlord," Robinson remarked. "Finally, my family decided to move into the McCullough Homes, where I remained until I entered the military service."

Passing through his adolescent years in the McCullough Homes, Robinson Studied and graduated from Douglass High School. From there he ventured to Morgan State College; which it was called during his tenure.

When he returned from military service, he gathered with some of his Douglass High School buddies and plotted a future. With minds still young and impressionable, Robinson, Archie Robinson, George Russell and Uthman Ray conspired to attain individual successes.

"We all wanted to be somebody. Unlike others who use to hang out on the corner and went to jail, we went to school. We were able to side step the inner city webb.

That just goes to show that you can grow up in the inner city but you don't have to get caught up in the webb which leads others into destruction or take that path that leads one to unlawful activities," the Commissioner advised.

The years passed. Along came the civil rights movement and new opportunities for blacks. Positions became available that were once closed to any minority. Baltimore moved forward with the changing tides and Robinson found himself making the police force.

"When I first came on the force, I was assigned to Harlem Park. This was in 1952. At that time there were not many black police officers on the force. We were relegated to uniform foot patrol, and other duties," Robinson remembered.

After being assigned to various departments within the department, Robinson was transferred from narcotics unit to foot patrol, where he served for a brief period of time. Then as fate would have it, he was reassigned back to the narcotics unit.

"It was then that I noticed there were not many black officers coming into the police department. I thought that there was a need for more blacks to come into the agency for more to stay.

"There was a struggle that had to be overcome and I thought that change was necessary so blacks would have the opportunity for promotions and assignments." Robinson said.

Thus the movement started. Robinson moved through the ranks of the police with heavenly inspired determination. "I thought the only way to achieve change to that degree was to do it from within the organization. And to do it by leadership example, strong commitment, and personal sacrifice.

"It became a challenge to me to achieve in a system that I thought was designed for non-minority accomplishments. With that, I decided that I would stay and hopefully attract others to join as well," Baltimore's first black police commissioner said.

He accepted the challenge and in 1964, was promoted to Sergeant, five years later he was promoted to Lieutenant. Robinson's forward movement did not slow or waver from his objective.

In 1971, Robinson accepted the captain's badge, which he held until 1973 when he was promoted to Major. A year later, he was promoted to Lt. Colonel, serving for one year when he pinned on the badge of Colonel. Three years later he received the Deputy Commissioner's badge, in 1978.

Now as commissioner of 2,900 armed law enforcement officials, the safety of Baltimore and its citizens has been placed squarely in the hands of Bishop Robinson. Since his swearing-in ceremony at Douglass High School auditorium. Robinson has kept his promises. Most recently, his directive to improve the narcotics force.

Under the department's new Narcotics Enforcement Team Program; a brain child of Robinson's, as many as 272 plainclothes and uniformed officers will be assigned to narcotics duties. This is an increase of 185 more than the 87 the department now has.

"I recognize tie full dimensions of the drug problem from a national and work perspective. You're looking at a problem, where this country probably has the highest demand for illegal drugs than any other country in the world," Robinson said.

Robinson compaired the drug trade to a regular business operation. "It is a billion dollar a year business. We all contribute to it in one way or another. Drug dealers derive their profits from the victims of our street crimes. Their dollars are taken by the persons who abuse drugs, become addicted to them, then pass that money on to the drug traffickers."

The Commissioner realizing that the solution to the drug problem is not a simple one, has some ideas of his own, "We need to address the drug problem from a multi-faceted approach.

Through education, treatment, alliances with source drug producing nations. We need to look at all other sources of control to try to resolve this issue," the head of the police department said.

Placing the drug problem more in terms of crimes in the city. "Drugs are responsible for most of the crimes committed in society. By enforcing the drug laws, we at the same time are reducing the crime rate."

Another issue which Robinson places high on his priority is the community. Often he is heard to say, the police department and the community have a good working relationship. There exists a mutual respect on both sides, he said.

However, he strongly opposes the creation of a Civilian Review Board for the Police Department. The issue has been voiced by several community members, although no concrete movements have been launched.

"I have not seen sufficient evidence presented by anyone to warrant the imposition of a civilian review of this agency. I have seen a continued decline in the number of excessive force and discourted complaints," he responded.

Perhaps with this combination of enforcement officer, local roots, and dedication, the woes of the city will be put to rest. The police commissioner has certainly given his word that his office will uphold its responsibility, now all we have to do is work at it.

"The opportunity is there but one must be able to struggle, to have perseverance, morality and prudence and the other characteristics that lead to success," Robinson added as he looked through his tenth floor office window, out over the Baltimore City skyline.





KNOWING WHAT WORKS FOR THE CITY — Robinson probably knows the city of Baltimore better than any officer on the force. Having grown up in the inner city, he is well equipped to direct police action from a control room.



CONSTANT CONTACT — The job of a policeman has become more complex in the past ten years and a police commissioner must be prepared to re-issue orders in a moment's notice when needed.