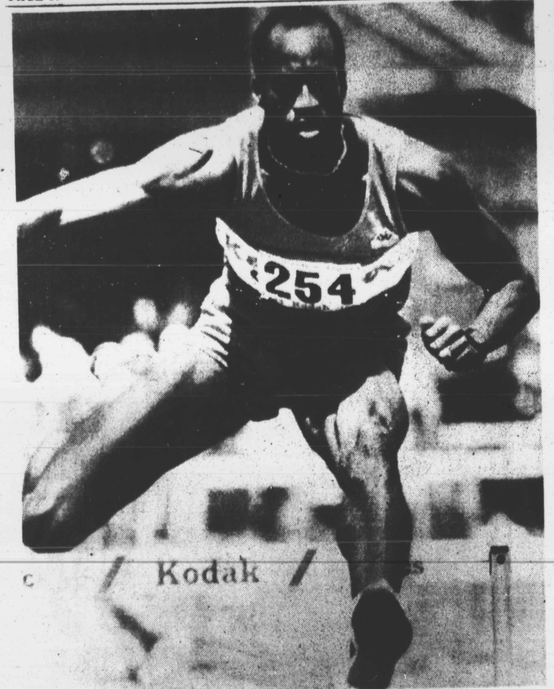
AFRO SPORTS



HIS LATEST HIS BEST — Like Ole Man River, Edwin Moses keeps rolling along, and like old wine the incomparable 400-meters hurdles champion gets better with age. On Wednesday, the spindly 2-time Olympic gold medalist won his 109th consecutive race at Koblentz, West Germany — and he won in 47.32 seconds, the fastest he has run this year.

College gridders in weekend games

The arrival of September tomorrow (Saturday) signals the inauguration of the 1984 collegiate football season.

Games are scheduled in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association and in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, as well as among independent schools.

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CIAA contests list perennial contenders Virginia Union, North Carolina Central, Johnson C. Smith and Winston - Salem (NC) State in action.

Union hosts Smith on Saturday night, Winston entertains Virginia State also at night, and N.C. Central visits Livingstone for an afternoon clash.

In other games involving CIAA teams Bowie State goes to St. Paul's and Hampton has an afternoon date at home with Tennessee State.

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Three games are scheduled to open the year for MEAC elevens.

Howard University travels to Rhode Island University, South Carolina State plays Furman at Greenville, S.C., and Bethune-Cookeman is on the road to Central Florida.

Laurel track hopes to stem decline with Sunday racing

LAUREL, Md. — Determined to turn around a persistent downward trend at the Maryland tracks, Laurel launches a 76-day meeting on Sept. 12 by venturing into Sunday racing and presenting a series of promotions designed to increase attendance and wagering totals.

Free admission to the grandstand will kickoff Sunday racing at Laurel on Sept. 16. The first of 13 planned Sunday racing programs will be livened by a concert by the Baltimore Colts Band, an appearance of the Baltimore Bird and the distribution of gifts by the St. Pauley girl.

With a number of large stables, which had shipped to New Jersey and other points for the summer returning to Laurel for the long autumn meeting, racing secretary Lou Raffetto, Jr. anticipates full fields to contest for the approximate $7 million in purses.

A total of $1,020,000 has been allotted from the amount for 16 stakes races. Topping stakes list are Laurel's three Grade I events - the $250,000 Washington, D.C. International (Oct. 20); the Laurel Futurity for 2 year olds (Oct. 6) and the Selima Stakes for 2 year old fillies (Oct. 27). The Futurity and Selima are expected to gross in excess of $225,000.

Horse owners have kept 192 two-year-olds eligible for the Laurel Futurity and 170 fillies for the Selima.

Other innovations at Laurel this fall are:

Two days each week of reduced admission prices for senior citizens. On each Tuesday and Thursday during the meeting, senior citizens (65 years and over) will be admitted to the grandstand for half price at $1.50.

Meet the jockeys and trainers sessions each Saturday and Sunday during the meeting in Laurel's grandstand theatre area.

Due to Sunday racing, all Wednesdays during the Laurel meeting, with the exception of opening day, will be dark. Post time daily will be 1 p.m. until darkness forces an earlier starting time.

Skipjacks slate charity efforts

The Baltimore Skipjacks Hockey Club will join the fight against Muscular Dystrophy on two fund-raising fronts on Labor Day weekend, September 1-3, through participation in area golf and softball outings.

On Sunday, Skipjacks coach Gene Ubriaco and Executive Vice President Bud Freeman will participate in the Rocky Point Men:s Golf Association's Charity Golf Tournament with all proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Maryland. A shot-gun tee-off is scheduled for 8 a.m.

MSA elevens begin season

High school football swings into its first weekend of action today (Friday) with the beginning of a 2-day, 5-game schedule.

The Patterson varsity visits Eastern this afternoon with kickoff set for 3:30 o'clock.

Four games are on top for Saturday, all programmed for 10 o'clock starts.

Curley meets Southwestern on the latter's field, Dunbar hosts Forest Park, McDonogh entertains Carver, and City College takes on visiting Mervo.

Jordan weighs Bulls offer of $3.5 million

CHICAGO (UPI) — The Chicago Bulls reportedly have offered No. 1 draft pick Michael Jordan a five-year, $3.5 million contract that would make the North Carolina All-America the highest-paid rookie guard in NBA history.

The guaranteed pact would be worth $575,000 the first year, $625,000 the second, $675,000 the third, $750,000 the fourth and $850,000 the fifth, the Chicago Sun-Times reported today. Only Houston Rockets centers Ralph Sampson and Akeem Olajuwon received more money when they came out of college.

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Jordan's attorney, Donald Dell of the Pro-Serv management company, also is seeking incentive clauses that could boost the value of the contract by as much as $10,000 a year, the Sun-Times said.

"We're in a position right now where all we have to do is iron out a few problems and the deal will be complet," Pro-Serve attorney David Falk said. "It shouldn't be difficult. We're just trying to get all the pieces to fit together."

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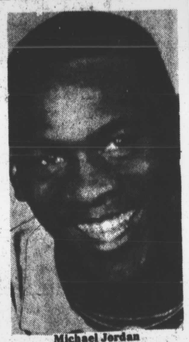
If he signs the pact, Jordan, the third pick overall in the NBA draft would become one of the league's 20 best - paid players. Among guards, only Magic Johnson, Isiah Thomas, Sidney Moncrief, George Gervin, Otis Birdsong and Gus Williams would earn more.

"When you look at Michael Jordan, you're looking at a very unique talent," Falk said. "Along with the ability to play the same the way you saw him do it at the Olympics, at North Carolina and in the Pan American Games, Michael is the kind of guy who's going to put people in the seats."

Falk said Dell and Jonathan Kovler, Bulls vice president of operations, have been meeting on a regular basis to discuss the deal. The major issue remaining to be decided is the length of the contract, Falk said.



Michael Jordan could be highest-paid rookie

Right-to-live fight bill set

An all-star boxing card designed to help in the raising of funds for Mark Mitchell, is scheduled Thursday (6th) at the Civic Center.

Mitchell is the young Baltimorean who is battling for his life in the wake of an expensive kidney transplant operation performed recently in Pittsburgh.

The card's main event of 10 rounds will pit Maryland State heavyweight champion George Chaplin against Tom Fisher of Dayton, Ohio, a winner of 50 of 57 bouts. —

An accompanying 10-rounder matches state light-heavyweight champion Mike Lee and D.C. contender Jack Johnson.

Reggie Gross, stepping up from the 175-pound ranks to heavyweight, opposes James Reed in a third 10-rounder.

Two six-round events will send Vince Pettway, Baltimore, against Philadelphian Cookie James, and Marvin McDowell of Baltimore, against Lonnie Rogers, Hyattsville.

Schaefer prefers Stars to fall on Baltimore

Romantically inclined songwriters may have their moons over Miami and other ethereal experiences, but the more practical lyricist William Donald Schaefer would rather have stars falling on Baltimore — Stars from Philadelphia, that is.

Mayor Schaefer says he prefers to bring the USFL champion Philadelphia Stars to Baltimore in hopes of a future merger that would leave the city with an NFL team — rather than settle for the Washington Federals, a local investor has been quoted as saying.

It was reported Tuesday that Richard Sammis, a car dealer and one of 10 local investors trying to buy the lowly Federals, said that Schaefer's okay would provide the impetus to close the deal.

"Our opinion is the mayor wants the Stars here because he feels they're one of the top teams and if there's a merger (between the USFL and NFL), then he'd be back in the NFL. But that's not necessarily true," he said.

Stars' owner Myles Tanenbaum has said the USFL's switch to a fall season in 1986 makes it likely the championship team will move to Baltimore then.

Schaefer is currently out of the country and not available for comment.

A deal to sell the Federals and move the team to Miami fell through recently following the league's decision to move its season from spring and summer to the fall. Team owners also have met with a Florida group about moving the team to Orlando, according to Carl Hirsch, a general partner with the Federals.

Hirsch acknowledged he and his partner, Milton Maltz, are in favor of moving or selling the team to Baltimore, where they have franchise rights. But in published comments he did not indicate that a deal to bring the Federals to Baltimore was close.

O's last chance for Detroit

If by any chance there are some who cling to the hope that the Orioles can miraculously catch Detroit, they and the Birds will have to face up to reality in the next six days.

After a weekend in Seattle, the O's move into the lair of the Tigers Monday for their final shot at the team with the best record in baseball.

Even should they win all three games there, however, the Birds cannot put much of a dent in the Detroit lead.

So overwhelming is the Tiger margin that they could play just .333 baseball — winning one and losing two — the rest of the way and still rout the Eastern Division contenders...LACY.

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Time to start horsing around.
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Showtime

Busy days for Miss America

Suzette Charles, the reigning Miss America, will share stage with host Gary Collins on The Miss America Pageant, Saturday, Sept. 15., 10

Suzette Charles, Miss America 1984, is a petite young woman (she weighs less than 100 pounds and is 5' 3" tall) — but she is carrying a big responsibility on her shoulders.

She is the second black woman to wear the Miss America crown in the course of one year, having assumed that title in July on very short notice. She has taken on all of the Miss America duties, including visits to various parts of the nation, and she will appear on camera during the live NBC telecast of The Miss America Pageant, Saturday, Sept. 15, to perform and crown her successor in the exciting finale.

During the two months of her reign she is also fulfilling her commitments as professional singer — bookings that were made after she was designated first runner-up at last September's Miss America Pageant but before she answered the call to assume the title and duties of Miss America 1984. Her entertainment career, in high gear since last September, has seen her headline at casinos in Atlantic City and Las Vegas, perform in Europe and Canada and share the stage in this country with such personalities as NBC-TV's Bill Cosby, Alan King, Lou Rawls plus Gladys Knight and the Pips. Right now, Charles is also working on plans for a new record album.

She says: "I've never been so busy in my life — or so happy. I wanted to be Miss America since I was Miss Little New Jersey at age 7, and I've always wanted to be an entertainer. Now I'm both!"

How have people treated her since she began traveling the country as Miss America? The native of Mays Landing, N.J. says: "I've been greeted warmly in all of my travels. The people have given me a chance to be myself — and that's just great".

Being herself is a natural for Charles. "There's no reason to put on airs if you feel confident about yourself", she says. Her father, Charles DeGaetano (she adopted his first name as her surname for professional reasons), and her mother, also Suzette, "have both been very supportive in this sometimes hectic time of my life"

Celebrities

Production has resumed on Colgem Productions Ltd.'s "The Bride" starring Sting and JENNIFER BEALS, following a two week hiatus. The fortnight-long interruption on the Franc Roddam directed film produced by Victor Drai and based on the classic Mary Shelly novel, came after Clancy Brown, the American actor who plays Viktor, Baron Frankenstein's creation, developed a facial irritation which precluded his wearing the intricate make-up created by Academy Award-winner Sarah Monzani.

The company returned to Carcassone, France this week to complete the remaining three weeks of exterior location work. Principal photography continues in the French cities and towns of Clermont Ferrand, Old Perogues and Orcival before moving to London and interior sets at Shepparton Studios. Production, which is now scheduled to be completed by the end of September, began on June 11 in Sarlat, the old capital of the Perigord Noir, in the West Central France.

Director Franc Roddam describes Lloyd Fonvielle's screenplay of "The Bride" as a fable; a period story with contemporary themes. String, best known as the lead singer and bass player for the rock band "The Police", stars as Dr. Frankenstein and Jennifer Beals, who last year rose to international stardom in the hit film "Flashdance", stars as Eva, Frankenstein's latest and loveliest creation.

Production is under way on NBC-TV's HILL STREET BLUES" as television's most-honored series of the 1980's prepares for its fifth season with two new cast regulars.

Recently announced Robert Prosky portrays roll-call Sgt. Stan Jablonski and Ken Olin returns as Detective Harry Garibaldi, a role he played in five segments last season.

The first episode before the cameras, "Maya, Hold the Pickle", involves the introduction of Jablonski; Officer Renko's (Charles Haid) new baby girl; the possible execution of a murderer on death row; and and attractive female detective's interest in Captain Furillo (Daniel J. Travanti), who's still separated from his wife, Joyce Davenport (Veronica Hamel).

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Are we ready for this? Is this going to be another whitewash or just another film distorting the facts?

Principal photography has been completed on "The Atlanta Child Murders", a five-hour mini-series scheduled for future broadcast on the CBS Television Network.

Jason Robards, Martin Sheen, James Earl Jones, Rip Torn, Morgan Freeman, Ruby Dee, Paul Benjamin, Gloria Foster and Calvin Levels (a 1984 Tony nominee for "Open Admission") star in the drama based on events leading to the 1982 conviction of Wayne Williams for two of the murders that had been among the most baffling in the history of crime in the United States.

Robards portrays the head of the defense team, Jones plays the police captain in charge of the case, and Torn is the district attorney. Freeman, as a police officer closely associated with the case, will also narrate the film, and Levels will portray Williams.

Sheen portrays a policeman who resigns from the force and aids the victims' families. Miss Dee plays the mother, and Benjamin the father, of Wayne Williams. Miss Foster plays the mother of one of the murdered children.

Pratt Happenings

Free Events for Children

Friday, Aug. 31

Brooklyn Branch, 300 E. Patapsco Ave.: Films, "Storm Boy", "The Witch Who Was Afraid of Witches" and "The Island of the Skog", 2 p.m.

Patterson Park Branch, 158 N. Linwood Ave.: Films, "County Hospital" and "Come, Clean", 3:15 p.m.

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Wednesday, Sept. 5

Keyworth Avenue Center, 2610 Keyworth Ave.: Film, "The Sweater", 2:30 p.m.

Gardenville Branch, 5427 Belair Rd.: Film, "The Kite Story", 3:30 p.m.

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Special Events

The Library's 1984 Mencken Day celebration is scheduled Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Central Library, 400 Cathedral St. The festivities will include films, home movies, exhibits, talks and the annual opening of the H.L. Mencken Room to the public, all in honor of the Sage of Baltimore. Free admission.

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"Banned Films", a series of programs featuring films once withheld from the public by the censors, open at the Pratt Central Library on Sept. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Call 396-5494 for details.

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Films

"Scarface", based loosely on the life of Al Capone with Paul Muni in the title role, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 5, at the Central Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral St. Free admission.

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"Banned Films" is the focus of a new series of screenings scheduled at the Central Pratt Library during the month of September. Programs will begin at 7:30 p.m. on four successive Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 5.

Violence and vocabulary were just two of the reasons the censors kept the public from seeing these films when they were first released. In two cases, the exhibitors' appeals went all the way to the Supreme Court. The film titles are "Scarface" (1932), "The Moon Is Blue" (1953), "L'Amore" (1948), and "Pinky" (1949) and the stars include Paul Muni, William Holden, Ethel Waters, and Anna Magnani.

Admission to the series is free, with seating in the Wheeler auditorium on a first-come basis.

Bob Matthews NIGHT SCENE SEEN

Have been making the rounds to check on the local music scene, and am happy to report that things are still cooking — and doing well.

Dropped into Tyson Place last Saturday night, since our good friend Lady Rebecca is the featured attraction there on that night.

Was favorably impressed with the place — 'twas our first visit there — and was especially elated to see that they played jazz tapes during the periods with the live group was not on.

Seems like a great place to check out, and Becky and her group are adding more and more polish to their presentation. Incidentally, Becky tells me that she will be going into the studio soon to cut another album.

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Had to check out the Woodstock Friday happy hour where Mickey Fields, Johnny Polite and Chico Johnson are the mainstays. Got there a bit early — the set goes on at 6 p.m. — and happily discovered that the 2-for-1 policy was in effect.

Was pleased to note that several of the local musicians were in the audience to check out the action. And, a goodly crowd was there too before the session ended around 9 p.m.

Don't have to tell you about the music, for the talents of the group are well known in this area. Discovered one interesting sidelight, when things are on the quiet side, you can always commune with the tropical fish which are prominently displayed behind the bar.

Then, there was Monday night at the Sportsmen's Lounge where the Customer Appreciation night is going great guns. On the bandstand was Andy Ennis, Mickey Fields, Thomas Hurley and Ralph Fisher.

These are always exquisite musical sets, for Andy and Mickey complement each other, and it makes for a swinging sound when these two pros get together.

It's always interesting to hear one musician comping for the other, and with these two, they sometimes play little games, like starting a musical pyrase, and the other player finishes it. A strictly delightful musical experience.

Incidently, Andy was telling me that he got a call from his old boss Ray Charles who will be in town at Pier 6 on Sunday. They'll have a reunion.

'Tis a pity that Andy won't get a chance to play with Ray, which is why we mention it — just in case.

All eyes will be on Pier 6 this weekend for the Kool Jazz Festival dedicated to Eubie Blake, is on tap. Just in case you are feeling the "shorts" a best bet is to get one of the unreserved lawn seating tickets.

What a lot of people don't realize is that these seats go on sale on the day of the event, and the box office opens around 1 p.m. So, if you get there fairly early, you are assured of getting in.

Predict that the Art Blakey set tonight will be a sold - out affair and if it isn't — it should be, for he is undoubtedly in the very forefront of keeping the music fresh, alive and vibrant.

Couldn't get a clue as to the personnel of the current Messengers. Do know that trumpeter Terence Blanchard is branching out and doing his own — somewhat similar to the way Wynton Marsalis did.

In fact, there is a possibility that Terence will bring a group in for the Left Bank Jazz Society during the coming concert season of the group.

No matter — Blakey always surrounds himself with the swinging best and we expect no less.

Also on tap tonight is Stanley Turrentine, and rumors are rampant that he may have his wife (ex-wife?) Shirley Scott with him. That would be a delightful hookup, for they have not made a public appearance in Baltimore in quite some time.

Now that we have given all the unsubstantiated rumors floating around the jazz scene — we'll check things out and report to you next week.

See you at the fest.

An ABC "Close Up" program features "To Save Our Schools, To Save Our Children" Tuesday, September 4.

Irene Cara at Kings Dominion

Irene Cara of "Flashdance" fame will be at Kings Dominion Sunday, September 2 for two shows at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Also featured will be recording artist "Mtume."

Cara has performed for a number of theatre and stage productions, was featured in the film "D.C. Cab," and gained national recognition for her performance of the music to "Fame."

"Flashdance" became the number one single in 1983, and soared to platinum status with album sales surpassing four million world-wide. Cara's most recent hits include "Why Me" and "Breakdancing."

Irene Cara will perform in Kings Dominion's 7,500 seat amphitheatre, "The Showplace."

Reserve seat tickets can be purchased in the park on the day of the concert for $3.00. Advance tickets are also available in the Washington - Baltimore area at all TicketCenter locations.

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