Support Bob Wade petition at AFRO

This is the final push to get signatures on petitions supporting Coach Bob Wade. Just one week remains. Permission has been received from the Department of Transit and Traffic to put hoods over two parking meters in front of the AFRO building.

This means that those wishing to sign the petitions, which are available at the AFRO offices, 628 N. Eutaw St., at the corner of Druid Hill Ave., will be able to legally park free at a meter for the few minutes it takes to sign the petition.

Efforts are underway to collect at least 100,000 signatures on petitions supporting Coach Wade, and the project is well on its way to reaching that goal.

At the end of next week, April 29, the petitions will be turned over to President Kirwan at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Clip out petition and attach, if necessary, to extra sheets. Return to the AFRO at 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201

This petition is being presented on behalf of Coach Bob Wade and his position as Head Coach for the University of Maryland. It is our concern that he remain in the position with full honors.

THE ALUMNI OF DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL along with a host of businesses, schools and churches in Baltimore City and the Baltimore Metropolitan area demand that Coach Bob Wade remain in his present position.

We further feel that there should be a thorough and unbiased due - process format used in terms of judging Coach Wade's position as head coach. We are determined not to let the University Administration use inappropriate methods.

The newly elected president of the University we feel, has been more than fair and has exercised objectivity toward correcting the injustices that have already occurred.

Prior to any decisions being made on the fate of Coach Wade, we will demand a link to the decision-making process, before it becomes official.

Name **Address**

Short Shots

BOXING

The next dinner/boxing show at the La Fontaine Bleu in Glen Burnie is Wednesday, April 26th. The show will feature Chuck Sturm (14-0) in his first 10 round main event against Forrest Winchester (18-6-2) of Columbus, Ohio.

In addition to the main event, the Maryland Showcase is scheduled to have Tracy Muse of Baltimore vs. Carl Griffith of Shefield Lake, Ohio in a rematch.

Also heavyweights Alex Stanley (7-3) of Baltimore will fight against Phil Gilberti (8-1) from Rockville, Maryland.

George Pindell (7-1) of Annapolis will fight Edwin Ruiz (7-3) of Elizabeth, New Jersey plus three other exciting bouts.

For more information 789-4422.

BOWLING

Baltimore County Public School students who receive at least one "A" on their report card will be able to bowl free.

In cooperation with the Baltimore County Public Schools, Fair Lanes is sponsoring the very popular "A" Day for the third consecutive marking period.

During the period of Monday, April 24 through Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, students who have received at least one "A" on their report card will be entitled to bowl three free games at any of the 19 Fair Lanes Baltimore metropolimetropolitan area locations.

Students simply need to show their report cards to enjoy the free bowling.



Correy Wedlock

Special Olympians win 12 medals

By Fred Lindsey

In the Winter International Special Olympic Games, recently held at Reno, NV and Lake Tahoe, CA, Baltimoreans Tisha Carter Patrice Curling, Gary Scott and Correy Wedlock performed well in their competitive events.

Carter received a gold medal in speed skating where the other participants received a variety of silver and bronze medals.

The results of the Baltimore City participants were:

Tisha Carter - Speed Skating — Gold, 100 meters; Bronze, 500 meters.

Patrice Curling - Nordic Skiing — Silver, 100 meters; Silver, 500 meters; Bronze, 1 km; Bronze, 3 by 1 km Relay.

Gary Scott - Alpine Skiing — Silver, Downhill; Bronze, Giant Slalom; Bronze, Slalom.

Correy Wedlock - Alpine Skiing — Silver, Downhill; Silver, Giant Slalom; Bronze, Slalom.



BASKETBALLERS — It is customary these days for outstanding athletes to sign letters of intent to the colleges of their choice during their senior year in high school. Western High School girls did so last week. L to R: Kelly Logan, Col. State; LaTonya Nixon, Geo. Wash. U.; Erica Herbert, Mt. St. Marys, and Kiah Stokes, Loyola College. Standing is Eva Scott, athletic director and Sandra Wighton, principal.

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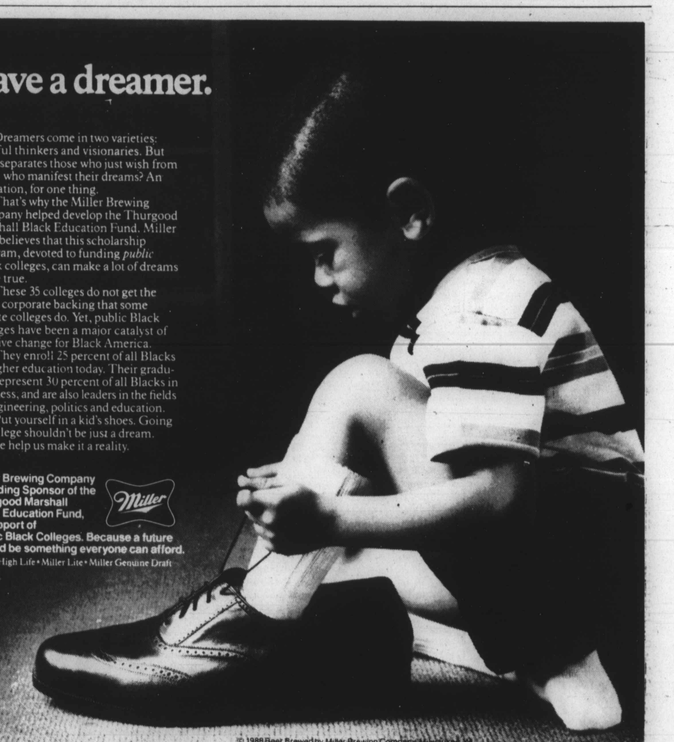
4620 HARFORD ROAD (corner of Cold Spring Lane) 254-0880

8601 LOCH RAVEN BLVD. (just below Joppa Rd.) 661-7867

P.O.S. A.A.N.

Offer expires May 2, 1989

Save a dreamer.



Dreamers come in two varieties: wishful thinkers and visionaries. But what separates those who just wish from those who manifest their dreams? An education, for one thing.

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They enroll 25 percent of all Blacks in higher education today. Their graduates represent 30 percent of all Blacks in business, and are also leaders in the fields of engineering, politics and education.

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Miller Brewing Company Founding Sponsor of the Thurgood Marshall Black Education Fund, in Support of Public Black Colleges. Because a future should be something everyone can afford.

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Please send check or money order (do not send cash) to: Thurgood Marshall Black Education Fund, One Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 710ML, Washington, D.C.

Sam Lacy

Vulgar!

There's not much that hasn't been said of the man they buried in Los Angeles the other day.

But, it is unthinkable that the AFRO would fail to add its own touch to the life and death of Walker Smith, known to the sports world as Sugar Ray Robinson.

Sugar Ray died April 12, at age 67, victim of heart disease brought on by weakening and hardening of the arteries.

I saw him whip Marty Servo for the welterweight title in 1946, and when he took the middleweight crown from Jake LaMotta in 1951. I was also in New York in June, 1952, when he sought to dethrone Joey Maxim as light-heavyweight champion.

As testimony to his superb boxing ability, the records will show that Sugar Ray Robinson trounced every ranking fighter within the scale of lightweight to middleweight during his prime years of the forties and early fifties.

And it is an undeniable fact that he was well out in front on points, of a man 17 pounds heavier and 2 inches taller (with a 3-inch reach advantage) when he wilted in the 14th round under the searing heat of 101 degrees (under ring lights) against Joey Maxim.

The greatest?

Sugar Ray Robinson and Joe Louis were contemporaries, each holding a degree of respect unmatched until the arrival 20 years later of the charismatic Muhammad Ali.

However, long before Ali, the title "greatest" was being debated by supporters of Ray on one side and Joe on the other. To escape their own dilemma, boxing writers came up with the phrase "pound-for-pound," which took away from neither man and paid tribute to both.

More than fights

Their appearances at Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium and the old Polo Grounds were more than fights.

They were *events*.

Thousands came from all over the country — from California, Texas, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan and D.C. — to converge on New York's unofficial welcome fount, the Theresa Hotel.

So magic were the names of "Sugar Ray" and "The Brown Bomber" (Robinson and Louis) that fans began arriving on Wednesday for the (customary) Saturday fights, and then hanging around until the small hours of Monday morning.

The fight promoters, aware of what they had struck upon, even set up ticket agencies in the hotel lobby.

Fair exchange

It may well be that Robinson and Louis unknowingly were responsible for the emergence of the Apollo Theatre as an international entertainment capital.

Less than half-block away, the Apollo was playing the likes of Duke Ellington, Jimmy Lunceford, Coleman Hawkins, Lionel Hampton, Lucky Millinder, Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Lena Horne, Billy Eckstine, Erskine Hawkins, Ethel Waters, Ella Fitzgerald, Dorothy Dandridge, Sissle & Blake, etc.

Weekend shows were sold out constantly. And the Apollo and Cotton Club immediately became entrees for the downtown theatres and nightclubs.

The artists became fight fans and fight fans became disciples of the entertainers.

Sugar Ray also capitalized to some degree on this area popularity. He bought property and opened a tavern and supper club less than half-block away on the other side of the Theresa, thus sandwiching the hotel between it and the theatre.

'Awesome calm' pt.

To close on the matter of Robinson's fistic genius, I'll repeat what the late Dick Young said to me at ringside of one of his early fights.

"This guy," observed the New York Daily News boxing expert, "is awesome calm."

I say if there is any man today who adopts the pseudonym and aspires to be compared to the original "Sugar Ray," that man is vulgar.

Notable quotable

Former fight manager George Gainford, haggling with a small-town promoter over the share of the gate due his boxer Sugar Ray Robinson.

"It ain't the number of seats you got, it's the number of fannies that are in 'em."

Afro vs. IOC/NBA

By Sam Lacy

Be prepared, friends, here comes Sam Lacy screaming in the woods again.

Nobody will hear him, of course. And if they do, they won't do anything about it.

At issue, though, is the decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) last week to permit professional players to compete in basketball in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona: Open door to National Basketball Association (NBA) players.

Obviously, the IOC has wilted under pressure from the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), which is — again obviously — ready to abscond from principle for the purpose of avenging the USA loss to the Soviets in Seoul last summer.

I cry foul. Our college coaches should join me.

For if they have a genuine interest in the welfare of our young college athletes, they must see what this move does to our kids.

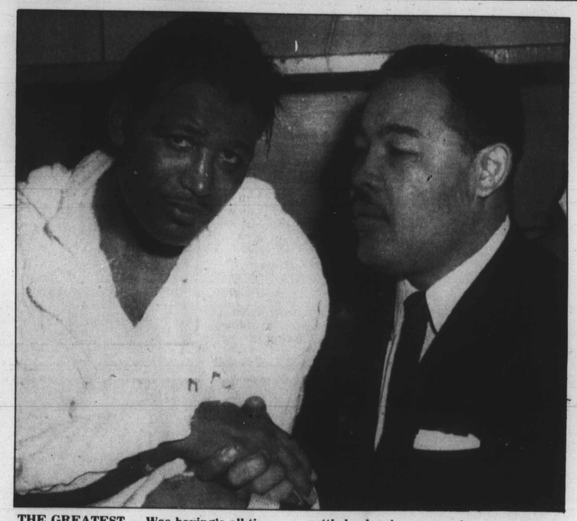
The average young basketball players know that only a few of them will make the NBA; many have no such dream. They want to obtain their degrees and, maybe, represent their country in the Olympics.

Their quest is gold of a different kind. They deserve the opportunity; even though the competition from Russia, Italy, Yugoslavia, et al is professional.

After battling Propositions 42 and 48 at the beginning of their college experience, should they be compelled to step aside for an assortment of dropouts to take care of their country's face-saving device?

Especially, when the Olympics were founded on the principle of individual amateur competition. No flag waving, no national anthems.

Not on the terms of one country being greater than all the rest. That, friends, is cold war.



THE GREATEST — Was boxing's all-time greatest Sugar Ray Robinson (left) or Joe Louis? The debate raged during their contemporary presence in the forties, and was settled only when a new phrase was coined. See AFRO sports column. Robinson joined Louis in death last week.

NFL eyes N.C. Central QB

Scouting departments at all 28 National Football League teams are in the final stages of evaluating the top college seniors in preparation for the fifty-fourth annual NFL selection meeting.

The 1989 draft begins at noon on Sunday at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York. No round will begin after 9 p.m. (ET) on Sunday, and the draft will resume at 10 a.m. on Monday.

For the first time since Doug Williams was an All-American at Grambling . a quarterback from a predominately black school is being considered as a quarterback draft prospect.

He is James Earl Harvey of North Carolina Central.

NFL scouts place him ninth on a favored list of 20 QB prospects. More often than not, black quarterbacks are relegated to other positions when they are drafted. This is especially true when they are from black schools.

Clippers suspend ex-Hoya Williams

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Coach Don Casey of the Los Angeles Clippers suspended Reggie Williams for the rest of the season after the swingman refused to enter Monday's night game with the Utah Jazz.

Williams was a star at Georgetown University but has struggled in his two NBA seasons, battling injuries much of the time. He averaged 10.2 points in 63 games this year.

"We could have used him tonight because (Quintin) Dajley was out," Casey said after the 108-102 loss, "but he refused twice to enter."

Casey said he asked Williams to enter the game near the end of the first quarter. Assistant Coach Joe Roberts was also refused when he approached Williams in the middle of the third period.

Casey, the Clippers' interim coach, said Williams was unaware of the suspension. "He bolted out of here after the game," Casey said.

Sports Shorts

Reviewing the life of Sugar Ray Robinson and his boxing relationship with Joe Louis served to recall another similarity in their careers.

Both men (like Muhammad Ali later) were given the shaft by the government. The Army became irked by Robinson's flamboyance and issued a dishonorable discharge. And the IRS punished Louis for a manager's foul-up, despite the fact Joe gave his share of gates from two fights to relief funds of the Army and Navy.

• • •

The National Football League's American Bowl international series will expand to the Far East in 1989 when the Los Angeles Rams and San Francisco 49ers meet in the new 50,000-seat Korakuen Tokyo Dome on the weekend of August 5-6 when other NFL preseason games are planned for Canton, Ohio, and London, England.

Week in boxing

April 22 at undetermined site — c-Darrin Van Horn vs. Gianfranco Rosi, 12, IBF junior middleweight title.

April 25 at Inglewood, Calif. — c-Daniel Zaragoza vs. Paul Banke, 12, WBC superbantamweight title.

April 28 at West Berlin — c-Graciano Rocchigiani vs. Frank Winterstein, 12, IBF super middleweight title.

June 12 at Las Vegas, Nev. — c-Sugar Ray Leonard vs. Thomas Hearns, 12, WBC super middleweight title.

August 5 big day for DC's Willie Wood

CANTON, Ohio — Willie Wood thought pro football had passed him by when, following the completion of his three-year tenure at the University of Southern California in 1960, he was overlooked in the annual draft by every team in the National Football League and the emerging American Football League.

Wood finally signed as a free agent with the Green Bay Packers. There he developed into a premier free safety during a 12-year career that saw him excel on the most dominant pro football powerhouse of the 1960s. As one after another of his illustrious teammates from the Packers' dynasty years were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Wood once again feared he had been left out.

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As was the case almost three decades earlier, Wood was needlessly concerned for, in January 1989, he was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the 11th Packer of the 1960s to be so honored.

On August 5, Wood and three other members of the 1989 class — Mel Blount, Terry Bradshaw and Art Shell — will be formally inducted in impressive ceremonies on the front steps of the Hall. The enshrinement will begin at 11 a.m.

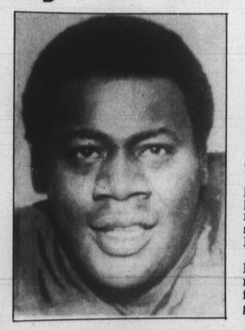
While some suggest that the fact no black quarterback had excelled in the NFL up to that time played a major role in the snubbing of Wood in the college draft, there were other extenuating circumstances. Willie weighed only 160 pounds at USC and he struggled through the last two seasons playing "hurt" with a severe collar bone injury.

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When NFL scouts assumed that Willie was too small and injury prone, his Boys Club coach was back to help.

Butler wrote to the Packers, New York Giants, Cleveland Browns and Los Angeles Rams to seek a tryout for his friend. Only Green Bay responded. Vince Lombardi, starting his second year as the Packers coach, offered Willie a $6,500 contract with the understanding he would be trying out as a defensive back.

"We had 24 defensive backs in camp that first year," Wood remembers. "We knew the Packers would keep only six. There was a lot of anxiety, a lot of sleepless nights. I didn't know much about playing defense but I do know that my experience as a quarterback eventually helped me as a safety because I could understand what the quarterback was thinking."



Willie Wood
he fooled all the scouts

Wood made the 1960 squad but, since the Packers were set in their defensive backfield with four tested veterans, he had to settle for special team duty on the punt-return squad. When regular Jess Whittenton was injured in November, Wood got his first chance to start against Baltimore. It was a bad experience. The Colts' passing ace, Johnny Unitas, picked on Wood right away and rifled two touchdown passes to the superstar receiver, Raymond Berry.

"I was scared just guarding Berry," Wood admitted. "I thought my pro career was at an end. I figured my mistakes cost us the game."

— —

But both Norb Hecker, the Packers' defensive backfield coach, and Whittenton gave Willie a vote of confidence. "Those things happen," Hecker said. "Forget it."

— —

Throughout his career, Wood had the knack of making the big plays at the most crucial times. In Green Bay's 16-7 win over the New York Giants in the 1962 NFL championship game, he made a touchdown-saving tackle on a kickoff return. In 1964, when Green Bay defeated the Chicago Bears, 17-3, Wood set up every Packer point on an interception return and punt returns of 64 and 42 yards. His most famous play came in Super Bowl I, when his third-quarter interception and 50-yard return turned a close 14-109 game into a 35-10 rout of the Kansas City Chiefs.

Still, no one play or a single game, in Wood's mind, ranks as his most thrilling experience in pro football. Just earning a pro football job with the Packers in 1960 was in itself his biggest thrill. "My first NFL experience came in a preseason game against Bobby Layne and the Pittsburgh Steelers," he recalls. "I was able to intercept one of Layne's passes and that gave me a little confidence and the realization I might have a chance to stick around."

Once he made the team, Willie adopted a simple credo: "The harder they come, the harder they fall."