

Question Puzzles Team, Foes

ORIOLES TO MISS VET. ROBINSON

MIAMI — There is no question the Baltimore Orioles will miss Frank Robinson. The question is how much?

The question tickles Robinson's ego when he's asked. "I hope I will be missed," says Robinson. "Something like that has to make you feel good. But there's no reason they shouldn't win it again this year without me."

The question brings a smile to Ralph Houk's face when he's asked.

"I think they're really going to miss Frank," says the manager of the New York Yankees.

"He was the man in the eighth and ninth innings who was the tough out. I think we could have a real good race this year."

The question brings puzzling answers from the Orioles when they're asked.

"I don't think it's going to be that big a minus," says General Manager Frank Cashen.

"I'll say this—we'd miss easier with Frank here than without him," says Manager Earl Weaver.

"I don't think it's going to hurt the club that much," says shortstop Mark Belanger.

"We have to wait to find out—maybe now we don't need a guy to jump out and lead us," says catcher Andy Etchebarren.

"I don't think we're going to miss him very much," says pitcher Pat Dobson.

"I think we'll miss him—you always felt he was going to do it, and majority of the time he did it," says pitcher Dave McNally.

And when you add it all up, it adds up to a mixture of feelings—confidence, on one hand, that those who remain can achieve without Robinson what they did with Robinson, and, on the other hand, a lingering doubt that is a product of their reliance on him the last six years.

That is the state the Orioles appear to be in as they prepare for the start of the 1972 season, minus Robinson, his bat and his leadership.

The bat produced a .281 average with 28 homers and 99 runs batted in last season before it was traded to the Los Angeles

Dodgers for pitchers Doyle Alexander and Bob O'Brien, catcher Sergio Robles and outfielder Royle Stillman.



FRANK ROBINSON

There is no way to measure the leadership—and it appears that is the question-mark dangling above the Orioles' heads.

There is little question that the three remaining holdover outfielders—Paul Blair, Don Buford and Merv Rettenmund—plus the new Robinson, rookie Don Baylor, can pick up the slack.

"If you're talking about talent," Weaver points out, "we have no one player who's going to replace Frank by himself. The others have to be themselves. But if Buford is Buford, Rettenmund is Rettenmund and Blair is Blair, we made a hell of a trade."

"I know now to play better than when Frank got here because of his attitude, his teaching skills, how he showed us how to play the game hard. He taught us even if you don't get a hit maybe you can help win a game another way—break up the double play, take the extra base. With him, there was always another way to get a run across."

"He showed us if you had nine guys playing like that you can win—that it doesn't matter if you don't hit one night; there are other things you can do to score a run, and it might be the winning run."

Now, however, Robinson is gone—and in his place is that little question-mark.

"I don't think we have anyone who can stand out personally-wise to take charge like he did," Etchebarren said. "And that's what we have to wait to find out—what affect it will have on us."

But Weaver also acknowledges what he gave up, pointing

out it was calculated.

"Frank can still play 150 games for the next two years and play 'em well," Weaver said. "He's not old. But we'd be wasting talent on the bench. No one is going to say we made a good trade no matter what. But if we don't get in—that's it, they'll say 'bad trade.'"

"But it was calculated. Our job is to wind up on top and we feel we're still going to win. But this trade keeps us operating until 1980. Football trades draft choices and we think we got ourselves four first and second round draft choices for Frank."

What about Robinson's leadership qualities?

"You ain't going to replace that," Weaver said without hesitation.

The hope is that the qualities Robinson brought to the Orioles have been transmitted to all who are left.

"Those qualities he's instilled in us," said Dobson. "We're not going to forget in one year."

"I would think that after Frank has taught us so much about playing the game of baseball maybe now we don't need a guy to jump out and lead us," Etchebarren said.

"We're older now than when Robinson came. We know how to play baseball much better."

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ROOKIE OF THE YEAR John Brockington of the Green Bay Packers picks up a new Dodge Charger as a result of his being awarded the National Football League Conference "rookie" title in a poll. R. D. Loomis, Los Angeles Regional Sales Manger, makes the presentation to the former Ohio State running back from Brooklyn, N. Y.

Coach Melvin Groomes Aggeland Baseball Legend

GREENSBORO — Men can accomplish a lot in life just by picking up the pieces and putting them together. For 16 years North Carolina A&T State University's Head Baseball Coach Melvin H. Groomes has put up with pieces of glass while others played on diamonds.

And some say Black higher educational institutions are dying out and with them Black coaches, but Groomes' 1/5 century as coach at A&T and his nine conference championships make him college baseball's grand slam personage deserving recognition for his uphill sports battle.

After breaking the Detroit professional football club's color bar in 1948 and putting in two years as a first string defensive back, Groomes did a stretch in service and later coached football at Bollings Air Force Base in Washington, D. C.

Then he journeyed to A&T in 1955.

"Baseball was very good here when I arrived," Groomes noted. "The Aggies had won five championships under Felix Harris and at the time they were recruiting 18 scholarship players."

Today the scholarships have been chopped and total two as football drains the budgets of most Black college athletic monies. But even though the financial means for successful teams decreased, the winning went on as A&T, under Groomes, won five Central Intercollegiate Association Championships (CIAA) in as many seasons (1958-62) and A&T became known as "The Home Of The Conference Champions."

Behind the sterling mound performances of James Baten, probably the best pitcher in CIAA history, the Aggies won 42 consecutive contests. In the course of these events Baten never lost a CIAA endeavor and posted a collegiate earn run average of 0.57.

The roughest competition during that run of victories came from Maryland State College and Shaw University, two consistently strong baseball colleges. And some of Groomes' worst experiences occurred at many of the conference's schools.

In one road game Groomes participated in an argument with an umpire while the point of a 32 calibre revolver silhouetted the official's inside coat pocket.

"I had to take up for my boys who were playing their hearts out," Groomes said.

SPORTS

Squires To Sue In Excess Of \$1 Million

PHOENIX SIGNS CHARLIE SCOTT

Charlie Scott became the latest member of pro basketball's growing list of "jumpers" Tuesday, signing with the Phoenix Suns of the National Basketball Association.

The 6-foot-6 forward, who began the season with Virginia of the rival American Basketball Association, quit the Squires late last week, accusing the team of breach of contract.

Squires owner Earl Foreman, a corporation lawyer who has been involved in this kind of thing before, says he will sue Scott for damages in excess of \$1 million and seek an injunction barring him from "any other act or deed in breach of contract."

Scott contends Foreman failed to live up to an agreement to pay off a \$28,000 bank loan, causing him to be listed as delinquent and a poor risk.

The jumping act began back in June 1969 with Connie Hawkins, who quit the ABA's Minnesota Pipers and joined the Suns. Oddly enough, it was the NBA which, eight years earlier, had barred Hawkins after he allegedly introduced a gambler to a college teammate at Iowa.

After Hawkins opened the door with his switch, the traffic both ways began in earnest with Zelmo Beaty, Rick Barry, Joe Caldwell, Spencer Haywood and Jim McDaniels following his route.

Beaty made the move the opposite way, jumping from the NBA's Atlanta Hawks to the



CHARLIE SCOTT

ABA's Los Angeles Stars, who since have moved to Utah.

Barry followed suit by quitting the NBA's San Francisco Warriors to sign with the ABA's Oakland Oaks. Then the entire team jumped, first to Washington, D.C., then to Virginia and, when Barry became disenchanted with the South, the Squires traded him to New York.

The NBA's Hawks lost another star in Caldwell who went to the Carolina Cougars. But the older league returned to the plus side of the ledger with the acquisition by the Seattle Su-

perSonics of Haywood, who jumped from Denver, and McDaniels, who a few weeks ago quit Carolina.

In all cases, each shift has been followed immediately by damage suits, injunctions, public outcry by owners, players and their representatives and congressmen.

And, in a related move prompted by the two leagues' bitter battle to get the jump on each other, they have begun signing players with college eligibility still remaining, an action legalized when a federal judge struck down the NBA's rule prohibiting a team from signing a player until four years after his high school graduation, whether or not he was attending college.

Among the players to go this route were Haywood, who began it by quitting the University of Detroit to sign with Denver of the ABA, Julius Erving of Virginia, Ralph Simpson of Denver, Johnny Neumann of Memphis, McDaniels, Howard Porter of the NBA's Chicago Bulls, and, most recently, Jim Chones of the Nets.

Prep Net Results

Hillsdale 4, Pinecrest 2 (at Pinecrest)
SINGLES—Lucas (H) d. Dean, 6-1, 6-1; Umstead (P) d. McKinzie, 6-1, 6-1; Gadd (P) d. O'Foghluha, 6-4, 6-3; C. Page (H) d. Kuzminski, 7-5, 6-3; Barnes (H) d. Dickerson, 6-3, 6-3.
DOUBLES—Lucas-McKinzie (H) d. Dean-Umstead, 6-3, 6-3; O'Foghluha (H) d. Johnson-Cadell, 6-3; Holder-Larabee (H) d. Gadd-Kuminski, called because of darkness.

DeeVile, Va. 9, Durham High 8
SINGLES—Williams d. Muse, 4-3, 6-2; Browning d. Corckitt, 6-1, 6-4; Newman d. Richter, 4-4, 6-3; Turner d. Arnold, 6-2, 6-0; Baker d. Evans, 6-4, 6-1; Bendall d. Fischer, 4-6, 6-1, 6-0.
DOUBLES—Williams-Newman d. Muse-Richter, 6-2; Browning-Morai d. Corckitt-Arnold, 6-2; Baker-Turner d. Davis-Underwood, 6-2.

Wrestling Results

RALEIGH—Tuesday night's wrestling results from Dorton Arena: David Finley d. Nick Russo; Rudy Kaye d. Bobby Paul; Vicki Williams d. Toni Rose; Art Nelson d. Johnny Heidman; main event, Paul Jones, Nelson Royal and Big Boy Brown vs. Playboy Gary Hart, Rip Hawk and Swede Hanson, no contest, referee disqualifying both teams.

North Carolina Central Eagles Prep First Baseball Team

Faced with the task of building a baseball team at North Carolina Central University which traditionally has not participated in the sport has posed problems for Coach Paul Swann. Dispite the absence of scholarships and student body enthusiasm there have been some pleasant surprises. An initial turnout of between 55-60 players for tryouts is one reason that the upcoming season is looked upon with optimism.

After practicing about a month, the squad has been trimmed to 25 potential players. At this time no cuts have been made with the present squad simply outlasting others who voluntarily dropped because of talent superior to theirs. Of the present hopefuls about 22 will be selected for a 18 man traveling squad. With the spirit and determination of Simpson who also doubled

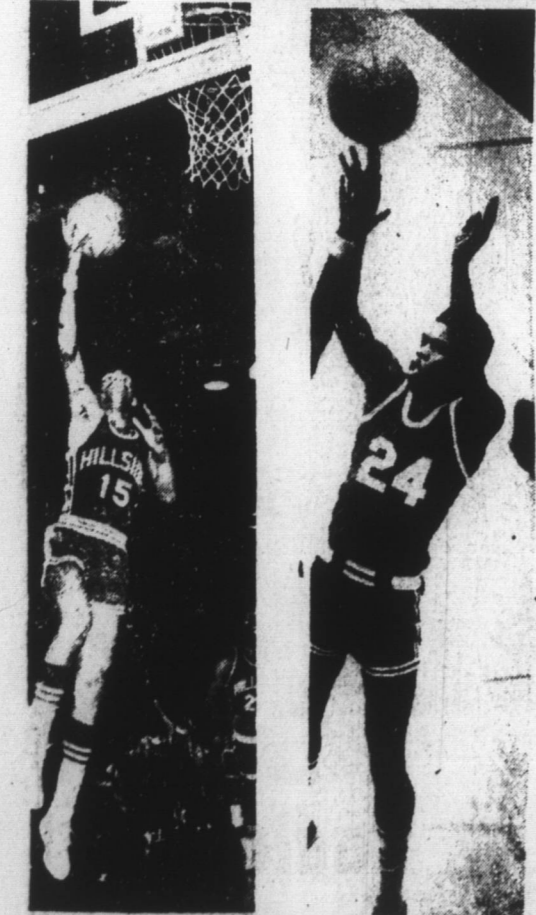
tion of those left before a final cut, it will be hard to decide who will be left out.

At this stage of the season practice sessions are becoming more intensified with emphasis on offensive aspects of the game. Working without any assistants has made it extremely difficult for the Central Coach to drill all the fundamentals he's like to. This week scrimmages will concentrate on establishing a defensive game. Several preseason practice games are tentatively scheduled with Shaw University during the first week of March. Conference opponent Delaware State which has usually fielded fine teams will furnish the opposition in the March 17th opener.

Personnel for most positions have been secured although none guaranteed. Leading the string of pitchers is Daryl as a quarterback during foot-

ball season. Fred White, William Witherspoon, and Ron McClain are the other right-handers vying for positions behind Simpson. Southpaws Charles Ellis and Donald Cradle may find relief on the pitchers mound if Mahlon Williams can play while participating in spring football practice.

Having its first team has presented problems for Central but Coach Swann says he will have everyone next year in terms of eligibility. Catcher Allen Edwards is the only non-freshman on the squad. In the hitting department Louis Rosenboro has stood out as having the most potential along with Alexander Jones. But the Eagle mentor cautioned that the pitchers haven't had a chance to bear down yet. Their throwing arms are becoming stronger everyday in getting



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When the temperature goes down, your electric bill goes up.

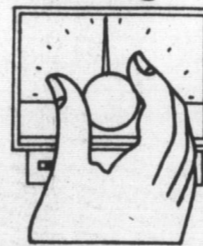


Here's how you can save.

Your electric bill is higher at this time of year. This is partly because of the recent rate increases—but mainly because you use more electricity during the winter months.

Here are some helpful suggestions on how to use electricity more efficiently in your home—and reduce your electric bill.

Heating



Set your thermostat at the lowest comfortable temperature. Each degree you reduce the temperature can reduce your heating cost by 5%.

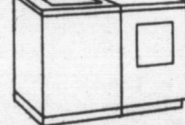
Check for air leaks, and caulk or weatherstrip as needed. Open draperies in the daytime to let in the sun's heat; close them at night to keep out cold. Clean re-usable filters or replace others often in furnaces. (Remember—it takes quite a bit of electricity to operate oil and gas furnaces, too.)

Water Heater

Don't set the water heater thermostat higher than necessary. Repair leaking faucets. Even a small dripping wastes water and can make your water heater work overtime, particularly when the water supply is much colder in the winter.



Washer and Dryer



Use only enough hot water for the size and type of load. It costs less to wash and dry one full load than two small ones, and saves you time, too.

Clean lint filter after each load. Don't overdry clothes; overdrying wastes electricity and damages fabrics.

Range and Oven



Use flat-bottomed utensils that match the size of your surface units. Cover utensils when possible.

For small meals, toaster ovens, fry pans and similar small appliances are more economical to use than the range oven.

When boiling water is used, set the element on high to come to a quick boil. Then, use the lowest setting that will continue the boil. Boiling harder does not make the water any hotter; it just wastes electricity.

Plan meals to use the oven for several foods at the same time. Never use your oven to heat your kitchen.

Lighting and Appliances



Turn off lights and TV when not actually needed. Turn off small appliances as soon as you're through with them. Much electricity is wasted by carelessness.

These hints can help you get the most from electricity and reduce your electric bill.

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