

# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSE RACING

July 20, 1989



## Magic Johnson And Friends Bring The Ball Up The Court For UNCF

Earvin Johnson, MVP of the National Basketball Association and point guard star of the Los Angeles Lakers, is set to host the Fourth Annual Magic Johnson All-Star Classic and Banquet which will benefit the United Negro College Fund.

"A Midsummer Night's Magic" will begin with a pre-game black tie dinner which will take place on Saturday, August 5, 1989 at the Century Plaza Hotel beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a special silent auction in the California Showroom. Dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tip off time for the All-Star basketball game will be 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 6, 1989 at the Great Western Forum in Inglewood.

According to the National Basketball Association the Magic Johnson All-Star Classic has become the most successful NBA sanctioned post-season game. Some of the most talented and dynamic players in the NBA have already committed to participating in this in this special event. Players who



Magic Johnson

will be on hand include: Michael Jordan, Isiah Thomas, Dominique Wilkins, Mark Jackson, Mark Aguirre, Ron Harper, Spud Webb, John Salley, Kurt Rambis, Herb Williams, Reggie Miller, Karl Malone and Kevin Johnson.

The Magic Johnson All-Star Classic has raised over \$1 million dollars for the historically Black private colleges and universities that

## World Wrestling Action Returns To The Thomas & Mack Center

The World Wrestling Federation presents wrestling stars galore at the Thomas & Mack Center on Friday, July 28, at 8 p.m. Wrestling favorites scheduled to appear include: The Ultimate Warrior, Andre the Giant with manager "Bobby The Brain Heenan," "Honky Tonk Man with manager "Jimmy Hart," Jimmy "The Superfly" Snuka, Koko B. Ware, Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart, Tito Santana and many more of your favorite stars.

Seven matches have been

announced for the July 28 event. Reserve your seats early and cheer on your favorite wrestlers as they battle for victory in the ring.

Tickets are now on sale for this night of action-packed wrestling. Tickets are \$15, \$12 and \$9. Tickets are available at the Thomas & Mack Center Box Office, all Ticketron outlets and Sun Teleguide terminals throughout southern Nevada. For more information, call 739-3900. To charge tickets by phone, call 1-800-992-2128.

fall under the aegis of UNCF. Magic Johnson explained the purpose to the All-Star Classic, "Quality education is the means to achieve equal opportunity, success and stability. UNCF benefits those students I wish to help -- students who can't make it without financial aid. I cannot think of anything more rewarding than using my talent and those of my friends to help deserving young people fulfill their dreams."

"Midsummer Night's Magic" is expected to draw a capacity crowd and the public is urged to reserve

seats as early as possible.

The Magic Johnson All-Star Classic is made possible with the generous support of UNCF major sponsors: American Airlines, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., California State Lottery, Carnation Company, Converse, Inc., Federal Express Corporation, Pepsi Cola and Polaroid. Golden Bird, inc. once again is a patron for this event.

For more information on the banquet and the game please contact the Event Coordinator, Alescia Buford and Associates at (818) 995-6545 or UNCF at (213) 382-7357.

## Swim And Tennis Camps Scheduled

Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation and Nevada Tennis Association will sponsor two sessions of Swim & Tennis Camps. Session II is July 24-28

Registration is now being taken at Sunset Park for both sessions and cost is \$25.00

per child, per session.

Call 455-8200 for more information.

This program is made possible by a grant from the United States Tennis Association.



## AARON AT BAT

### Getting a Jump on the Ball

Becoming a good fielder requires a player to develop dozens of little abilities until their use becomes automatic. At that point sportswriters will say, "he has good baseball instincts," as if it didn't take years of practice to develop those skills.

For example, sometime when you are at a baseball game, keep your eye on the outfielders. Don't be surprised if you see them moving before you hear the crack of the bat hitting the ball.

How do players "get a jump on the ball"? One way is to watch to see what part of the plate the pitch is going to. If the player sees the ball going inside or outside, his body will begin to lean in a certain direction even before the batter swings. He knows where this particular batter is likely to hit an outside pitch, for example.

Next, the outfielder watches the swing. As an outfielder myself, I could watch a swing and tell you whether the ball would go to left or right field. I still do that now in the stands. I know where the ball is going before it leaves the bat. Finally, you can tell a lot by the sound the bat makes hitting the ball.

All of this comes naturally to a player. Or it should.

Another factor in fielding is knowing the hitter at the plate. Before every series, the manager will hold a meeting to go over the opposing hitters and discuss how they should be played.

I was one of the few batters to face "the shift." This was when the other team would move their infielders to the left side of the diamond, the third base side. The shift also was used against Ted Williams. We were "pull" hitters, who tried to get around on a ball and hit it through or over the third base side of the field.

Managers who used the shift felt they were playing the percentages. Of course, there was no defense if I pulled the ball down the line for a home run. But if I hit a ground ball, the extra infielders increased the chances that I would be thrown out at first.

To be honest, the shift didn't bother me. Whatever they gained from stacking one side of the field was offset by what it told me about their strategy. It said: "Hey, we're not going to give you anything inside to pull. We're going to throw you everything outside."

So I eliminated the inside pitch from my mind and looked for the outside pitch. If they accidentally threw me a ball inside, I let it go by.

But that was late in my career when I was known as a "dead pull" hitter. It was absolute. I never hit balls to right field in those years. In my younger days, I hit to all parts of the field, and there really isn't a good defense for someone who can do that. **ll**

Hank Aaron is the top home run hitter of all time with 755 homers. A member of baseball's Hall of Fame, Hank is vice president of the Atlanta Braves.

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