

Gerald Penstil First Black Commissioner of Central Little League

By Bob Rodgers

Gerald Penstil moved to the United States 12 years ago from his homeland of Ghana, West Africa.

He attended Bradley University and graduated with a B.S. degree in Geology.

Presently, he is teaching science at Eldorado High School, where he is trying to show students that science is not as boring as they may have believed.

Penstil got involved with the Central Little League in 1984, was elected to the board of directors in 1986, and became Commissioner of the Minor Division in 1989.

"I try to encourage the



Gerald Penstil

kids to get involved with the Little League so it will keep them off the streets," he says.

Also, as the Head Soccer Coach at Eldorado, Penstil led the Sundevils to the divisional championship this year.

Ali Predicts Foreman Will Defeat Tyson

Greenwich, Conn. — Muhammad Ali has spoken.

George Foreman will defeat Mike Tyson if the two meet in the ring.

The former three-time heavyweight champion of the world made the prediction recently while dining with friends in Greenwich.

"George Foreman will knock out Mike Tyson," Ali said. "He will annihilate him. Foreman will knock out Tyson in four or five rounds."

Ali said he has not been paying much attention to the comeback of Foreman, whom he knocked out in eight rounds 16 years ago in Kinshasa, Zaire, to win the heavyweight title for the second time. He is, however, one of only two boxers to defeat Foreman (Jimmy Young is the other) and knows Foreman's style as well as anyone.

Foreman retired in 1976, but after a 10-year layoff began fighting again. At 42, Foreman as a 66-2 record and has won all 21 of his comeback fights, 20 by knockout.

Foreman and Tyson have not formally signed to fight. They are, however, appearing on the same June 16 card in Las Vegas. Tyson, who lost the heavyweight title to James "Buster" Douglas Feb. 10, will fight Henry Tillman. Tillman defeated Tyson as an amateur in the 1984 U.S. Olympic Trials. Foreman will take on top-10 contender



Mike Tyson

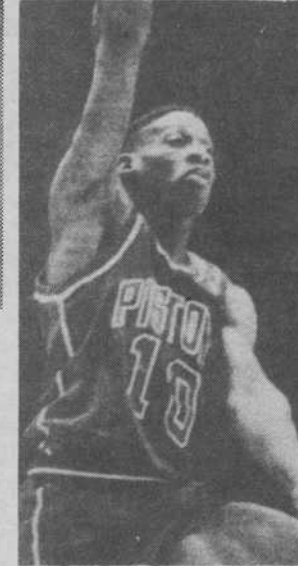
Adilson Rodrigues of Brazil, the first ranked opponent Foreman will have faced in his comeback. If Tyson and Foreman win - both are heavily favored - they could meet in the fall.

Ali said a Foreman victory over Tyson could be explained in simple terms - Foreman's size and punching power is too much for the 22-year-old former champion to handle. Foreman is 6-foot-3, 260 pounds, while Tyson is 5-foot-10 and fights at about 218. Ali said Tyson's relentless style could prove to be his downfall.

"Foreman is taller, has more reach and Tyson comes right in," Ali said. "Foreman will use his reach and wait for Tyson to come right in. Then Foreman will tag him."

Rodman Named NBA Defensive Player of the Year

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Dennis Rodman, who has flustered many of the NBA's best shooters, shed tears of joy after being named the league's defensive player of the year.



Dennis Rodman

NBA Can Sue To Stop Lottery

PORTLAND, Ore. — A federal judge has ruled that the National Basketball Association can sue to stop the nation's only lottery-based sports betting game but he threw out the league's two main claims.

U.S. District Judge Malcolm Marsh rejected the NBA's state and federal constitutional challenges to the Oregon Lottery Sports Action game and the claim that it violates state and federal anti-racketeering laws.

Rodman, whose intense defense helped the Detroit Pistons allow the fewest points in the NBA this season, edged Houston's Akeem Olajuwon for the honor in voting by writers and broadcasters.

"It's a dream come true for me," Rodman said Monday.

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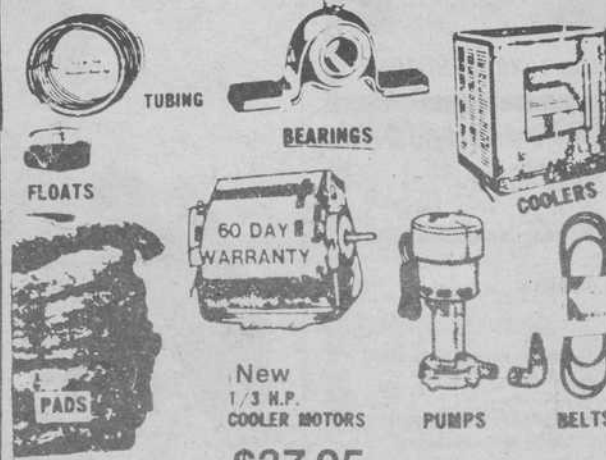
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AARON AT BAT



The Old Pros

It may appear that baseball has discovered the fountain of youth with some old pros playing well past their 40th birthdays. Perhaps we are seeing more graying veterans making team rosters, but I don't believe it's because they've found the secret of eternal youth.

What has really brought it about is the jump in salaries. Even in the twilight of a career, a star player can command a salary of several hundred thousand dollars a year. Where is he going to make that kind of money in the real world outside of baseball? Twenty or 30 years ago the salary might not have been enough to tempt a player into squeezing another season of play out of a tired body. But if a half million dollars is there for the taking, why not?

In some cases, it turns out to be a bargain for the team. Look at Tommy John with the New York Yankees. He certainly knows how to win, and he's paid dividends to his club.

Aging varies so much from player to player. It's not so much losing a step in speed as it is slowing reflexes. Your brain tells your body what to do. An older player at the plate may still spot the pitch to hit but can't "pull the trigger" fast enough to get the bat around. You only need to lose a split second and you're behind on a ball that a year ago you could pull down the line and out of the ballpark.

If an old-timer at the plate was fed a steady diet of fastballs, he'd hit just as well as always. But put a little spin on a ball and he can't react in time to the movement.

In my own career, I had some pretty good years after I was supposed to be washed up. One reason is that I made some adjustments in my swing. It's something older players need to do but sometimes won't do. When I was younger, I held my bat up quite high. In later years, I brought the bat in closer to my body so I could get to the ball a lot quicker.

I broke Babe Ruth's career home run record when I was 40. In fact, it was 15 years ago this season that I did it. After I broke the record, I had accomplished everything I wanted to do as a player. Playing afterwards was kind of a letdown. Everything after that was just gravy. I've sometimes wondered if I had been geared up to play those last two years—I'm talking about really going out and looking for something, some new goal—whether I might have had two more great years. In the end there has to be more to it than just a paycheck. lil

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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