

# Spinoff 1977

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**NASA**

National Aeronautics and  
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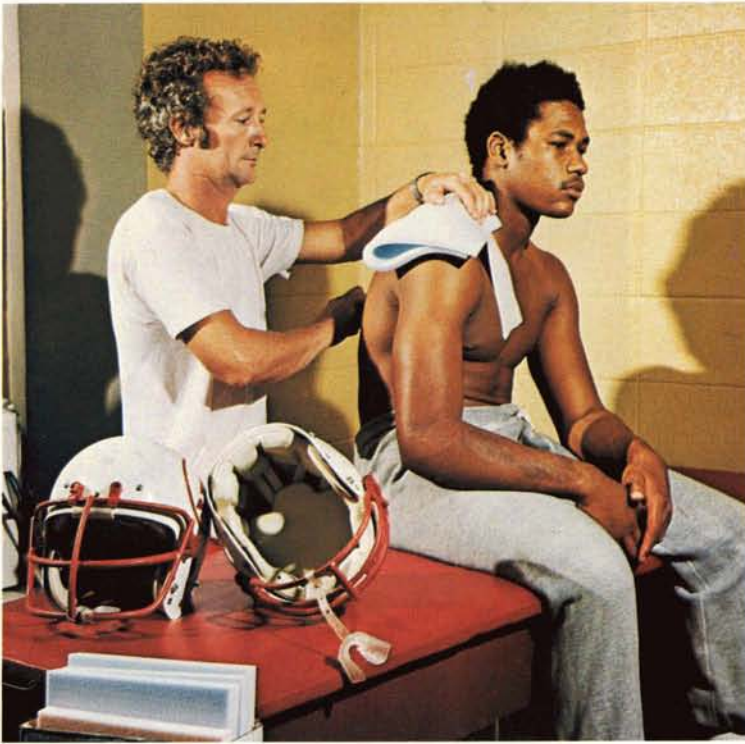
*This swimming pool on the James River near Williamsburg, Virginia, is solar heated by the array of 10 flat plate collectors in the foreground. A smaller suburban pool in Florida requires four collectors. The solar array is built by Solarmatic Division, OEM Products Inc., Brandon, Florida. Solarmatic was formed to produce the collectors after OEM spent \$100 on a NASA search of solar energy literature. The NASA Industrial Applications Center at the Research Triangle Park, N.C., provided OEM the technical information sufficient to enable that company to launch the Solarmatic venture.*

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*Helmets used by these Little Leaguers offer a new level of protection for football players because they have three times the shock-absorbing capacity of earlier types. The key to shock reduction is an interior padding of Temper Foam, an elastomeric, open-celled material first used by NASA's Ames Research Center in the design of aircraft passenger seats. Little League players and professionals such as the Dallas Cowboys wear the helmets that are manufactured by Protective Products, Grand Prairie, Texas.*



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*Temper Foam has a number of applications in sports because of its shock absorbing capacity and other special properties such as variable density. Here a trainer applies lightweight form-fitting Temper Foam to a high school football player for body protection. The energy-absorbing material is also used in baseball chest protectors and as added protection in soccer shin guards.*

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