

Behind The Play In Sports

BY DON DE LEIGHUR

JOE LOUIS FOR SPINGARN MEDAL

NEW YORK — Edwin B. Henderson, director of the Department of Health and Education, Public Schools of the District of Columbia, has awarded the official Negro sports award to Joe Louis. The Negro Sports award, which I think, all sports fans and sports writers are familiar with, is a medal of honor, which is clearly and straight to the point, wrote me the following letter. I am hoping for a continuance and good payment that your column in favor of Joe Louis...

for the Spingarn Medal for the coming year. He has shown such leadership and good judgment throughout his career that to honor him would stimulate hope in the part of our citizens who have, by reason of circumstances beyond their control, been unable to acquire a literary education.

"In his overseas travels, he has added to the morale of millions of our fighting men. He has inspired the pride of white people everywhere. One broadcaster from England when he arrived there announced to America that Joe Louis had done more for better Anglo-American relations than any the thrills of sporting events could afford.

"The average Negro educator, politician, or social worker does not seem to recognize what an influence upon the masses is brought about through our heroes in the world of sport. The virtues of human qualities often melt when the thrills of sporting events send adrenalin coursing through the veins of those who witness athletic events. The masses feel, they seldom think. They rationalize their prejudices. With 100,000 people seeing Buddy Young on the gridiron, or Joe Louis or Jesse Owens in action, they recognize the human nature of the race. Give this thought your consideration. Thank you, E. B. Henderson."

"I have often wondered just why our top Negroes, who in leadership brackets, have persisted in a hands-off snooty attitude toward Joe Louis, the No. 1 figure among Negroes today. Every time that the white man could conceive of his being revered as a hero, he has been shown Louis by top Negroes excepting, of course, A. C. Spaulding, and the long list of prominent Negroes who have been given the medal.

Since achievement, not social prestige and position, is the object of concern here, even the denial of Louis' achievements in breaking down race prejudices and being an outstanding example of what is called the "new Negro" does not match that of other winners of the award. In fact, Joe Louis is the biggest name we have today. While the fact that Louis earns his living in the prize ring might offend the delicate social sensibilities of our HEAVY BOOK SET, it is not one wit diminished by the snubbing of those who are frankly envious of what he does and what his capabilities portend.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which founded the award and gives it out annually, should have long ago taken the position that recognition of achievements of Negroes in all walks of life is a requisite for inclusion. To narrow down the field of selections to a restricted few of those who sing songs, write books, or play make speeches, preach sermons, and so on, is highly unwise and takes a bit away from the...

"When these things cease to be, newspapers will not have to report them."

"Getting back to the 're-writers' and the squawkers, it might be noted here that the most vivid simile that I can recall is that of a well-known leader of a powerful organization who calls up the Negro newspaper office, if he is in the town of that particular paper, and says, 'I understand that you had something in there about me last week. Will you please send a marked copy of the paper to my office. Thank you very much.' Then he hangs up. There is no mention of a purchase in his entire conversation. In fact, the editor is expected to be so elated that the 'gentleman' condescended to call him to ask him to send a copy of the paper to his office that the matter of payment for the same never entered the question.

Multiply this pompous gentleman by five thousand or ten thousand and a newspaper would go bankrupt and down every other day. Any number of Negroes of this ilk who estimate a paper for honestly portraying the happenings of its community, whether those happenings be murder, robbery, scandal, or whatnot. The same Negro newspaper or even a Negro newspaper or even a Negro newspaper with a complete change-over of news policy from the sensational to a more conservative presentation of news, both in subject matter and in presentation, that such a paper can win a larger and more responsive reading public.

Our newspapers exist mainly on circulation and advertising. Until the so-called better element wakes up and supports Negro papers right down the line, as does the so-called middle-class masses, I fear that the complaints will have to continue in the form of letter writing and talks because most papers are going to stick to that which keeps them alive and they cannot be blamed for doing the same.

Why take chances on burning up a lifetime's effort in a single terrifying hour when it's so simple and inexpensive to protect yourself against any possible mishap? Your home and family can be absolutely protected from ANY disaster at but a few pennies a day. We'll show you how. SEE YOUR LOCAL AGENT BANKERS FIRE INS. CO. DURHAM, N. C.

U. S. Negro League Is Launched With Brown Dodgers In Brooklyn

6-CLUB CIRCUIT ANNOUNCED AT EBETS FIELD OFFICE OF RIKEY — HOPE EXPRESSED FOR RECOGNITION BY ORGANIZED BALL.

BROOKLYN, N. Y. — The formation of the United States Negro Baseball League was announced at a conference at Branch Rickey's Brooklyn club office, Rickey, except for his position as operator of Ebets Field, where games will be played, and for his interest in the welfare of Negro baseball, will not be connected with the organization.

Six teams form the new league, with Brooklyn represented by the Brown Dodgers. Other members are Hilldale, Pa., Detroit, Chicago, Toledo and the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Major league parks contracted for are Ebets Field, Wigley Field, Chicago, and Forbes Field, Pittsburgh. Five home dates have been arranged for the Brooklyn nine, the first being set for May 23 against Hilldale.

At the beginning of the conference, attended by club-owners and writers, Rickey made it clear that it is not his purpose to discuss to-day Negro players becoming members of clubs in our present organization of a baseball league or of white players becoming members of the proposed Negro baseball league.

Rickey said he hoped the league would become a model for all circuits to follow, that a sound structure would come out of it and that the Negro player would be accepted by the National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs. Such acceptance would make league players eligible to be drafted by the majors.

When this point was stressed, Rickey declined to enter into a discussion concerning the possibilities of Negro players eventually playing in the big league. He said he had made that clear in his opening remarks.

Because of the greater need for fats and oils, the weight of hogs on which price supports will apply has been raised to 300 pounds as against the previous limit of 270 pounds.

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Washington High Wins Trinangular Meet

DURHAM — The Little Blues of Raleigh's Washington High School team won honors in a senior meet among three high school track teams here Tuesday, May 8. Washington High scored 42 points, Hillside, 32, and Millgrove, 15.

Whitted School of Durham, with 22 points, won the junior meet. Washington was second with 12, and Hillside, third with 6. Paul Evans made eight of Washington's 12 points.

In the senior meet, Weston Butler of Washington was high scorer, with 12. Bridle of Washington, with 10, was runner-up. Butler won the 880 and the high jump, and Haywood of Washington won the discus. Hunter of Hillside shotput; Johnson of Millgrove, the 440; Monroe of Washington, the mile. Hillside's team took the 440 relay.

Another meet will be held at Washington High on Friday, May 11th.

All-Star Game Set For Aug. 5 In Greensboro

GREENSBORO — The original South's Sixth Annual All Star Baseball Game will be held in Greensboro on August 5th. Stars from all parts of the south according to a statement by A. J. Hammonds, promoter of the diamond attraction, will be on hand to greet the many fans.

The bids from seven other states in Dixie were very high and inviting to the committee for the fray, but all were turned down and scrapped in the waste basket.

The game will be played in the city of Greensboro," said Hammonds.

We expect to have a big attraction this year, and the 6,000 fans who saw it last year are looking forward to coming back this year and will see the biggest attraction in the history of the All Stars affair.

Two big grass bands have been secured to furnish music for this occasion, where friends will meet at the big game August 5th at the Memorial Stadium.

Winston Teachers Announce '45 Football Schedule

Winston-Salem — Official announcement of Winston-Salem Teachers College's 1945 football schedule includes nine games. Competition for the teachers include some of the best aggregation in college football.

James Brown will lead the Ram for the forthcoming season. "Big Red" Eaton is expected to fill the spot of assistant coach.

The schedule follows: September 29, A. and T. College in Winston-Salem; Oct. 4, Kentucky State, in Frankfort, Kentucky; Oct. 13, N. C. State College, Durham; Oct. 20, Bluefield State at Winston-Salem; Oct. 27, Va. State College, at Winston-Salem (Homecoming); Nov. 3, J. C. Smith at Charlotte; Nov. 10, W. Va. State, at Institute; Nov. 17, Dover State, at Winston-Salem; Nov. 24, Knoxville College at Knoxville, Tenn.

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