

Behind The Play In Sports

BY DON DE LEIGHBUR

A STAR GIVES ADVICE TO THE KIDS COMING ALONG IN BASKETBALL: TED STRONG IS HIS NAME

NEW YORK — In my book one of today's greatest all round stars is big Theodore (Ted) Strong, now of the U. S. Navy Seabees, but formerly of the Kansas City Monarchs and member of Abe Saperstein's nation-roaming Harlem Globe Trotters basketball team. Many critics swear that if big league baseball lowered the color bar, Ted Strong would be one of the first Negroes to be taken in. He has every attribute of the outstanding star athlete, in baseball he can field his position like Turkey Stearns or the late Rapp Dixon; can hit on a par with Buck Leonard; would rival Josh Gibson in home run hitting if he were in the Negro National League, and plays basketball in the style that makes managers and owners like Bob Douglas of the Renaissance Big Five perk up and eye and nod the ambitions they entertain. Here's Ted's letter in full:

"Hello, Dan, Just a few lines to let you know that I'm well and sincerely hope that my letter finds the same there.

"For quite some time I had contemplated on dropping you a line but, after being away for so long from civilization (as we know it) even getting back this far takes a little time to get your bearings.

"While I was down in the Marshall Islands, papers from home were far and few between, and even if they were two or three months old we still thought they were a Godsend, and they were.

"One of the reasons I'm writing is that I've hear from friends back home, pro and con, that baseball is rapidly drawing to a close and from what I could gather on a whole it was a success.

"My whole life was devoted to baseball and basketball, and speaking for myself, I enjoyed every moment giving my best for the fans. It's true they gave me hell, if I had a bad day, but the moment I did something outstanding I was roundly cheered for my efforts. I have a tough skin and yet when they cheered me the feeling, well words cannot express how I really felt. A good feeling, I must say.

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the roof? Do they? I know, and the answer is 'no' (period).

"The only thing I can see is that the people, as a whole, either are an uninformed lot, or unappreciative. This war has really taught me a lot, and it has made me realize that somewhere there's someone who is worse off than yourself. And, the sooner they understand that, the better off things will be in the future. In the meantime, I say, lay off the kids and they won't let you down. Some day we'll be back, maybe to play more ball, but you must admit new blood will be needed, and this is the chance probably needed to give COLORED baseball a new meaning to the younger generation. It's expanding, over here I've seen a lot of good prospects.

"As I'm the only real professional ball player here, I'm in an enviable position, and I enjoy the chance to be of service to our boys. Plus the good season I had didn't hurt. You may not believe it, but in 35 games I finished with an official 515. Pitching was far inferior to what I had been used to, but going to bat better than a hundred times a guy still must be either a pretty fair hitter or lucky, I'll say the latter (smiles).

"Before I close, I see where my old team, 'Monarchs', is having tough sledding, but I think they were the hardest hit of all the teams, yet they bear watching from what I read in your article on Aug. 26th. Now I must close before I bore you.

"But one of these days we will get together, and I want you to show me around the City. I've been away so long I'll need help, but even if it were like the last time (remember?) the old original Glove Trotters, I'll bargain over for that (smiles). Give my best regards to all, to you, old boy, the best of everything. If you have time, drop me a line, TED."

8,000 Fans Witness Grays Win Over Newark Eagles

WASHINGTON — The rampaging Washington Homestead Grays widened the gap separating them from the rest of the Negro National League contenders here, at Griffith Stadium, Sunday, by annexing both ends of a twin-bill with the Newark Eagles by scores of 7 to 2, and 3 to 2. A crowd of 8,367 fans saw Buck Leonard's towering clout over the 32 foot wall in right field, 328 feet away; Jar Lefty Hill loose from his magic which, until that moment had been sufficient to retire 12 Grays in a row in the first four frames.

Leonard's rousing clout seemed to awaken his mates, for Josh Gibson lashed to right for a base hit and Bankhead's high fly fell in center for another hit. Battle sigled both pieces in on a poke to right and

seventh as Pitcher Johnny Leftwell singled behind a walk to Battle and single by Jolly Johnson. Leftwell kept the Eagles at bay the rest of the day.

LEM HOOKER ON MOUND

Lem Hooker, starting his first pitching assignment for the Eagles since returning from Mexico, was the victim of a three-run uprising by the Grays in the third inning of the nightcap. Singles by Leonard and Gibson, a double by Bankhead and Hopkins error on Jackson's drive to deep left, turned the trick. Garnet Blair checked the losers with two runs on six hits.

Leonard's rousing clout seemed to awaken his mates, for Josh Gibson lashed to right for a base hit and Bankhead's high fly fell in center for another hit. Battle sigled both men home on a poke to right and when Hill delivered two balls to Jackson, next hitter, Manager Wells evicted him and called in Hal Newcombe, but himself was responsible for another run when Benjamin's smash found him shallow at short and got away from him to let Battle home.

Until this uprising, the Eagles enjoyed a 2-0 margin which was gained in their half of the same frame. Bizz Mackey's drag placed himself safely at first, and Hubert hit down the left field foul line allowed the 48-year-old Bizz to stride leisurely home with the first run of the game. Hubert scored himself on Lefty Hill's single to left.

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Tennis Nationals Set For New York

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Dates for two major events of the 1945 tennis program of the American Tennis Association were announced this week by Beiram L. Baker, executive secretary.

Cockburn Trophy matches are scheduled for June 23 and 24, at Shady Rest Country Club, Scotch Plains, N. J. National Championships will be held in New York August 13-15, inclusive.

New York and Pennsylvania teams for the Cockburn matches will play on Saturday, June 23, and the winners will meet the New Jersey teams on Sunday, June 24.

Joe Louis 'Lays 'em In Aisle' On Canadian Tour

U. S. ARMY FORCES, Central Canada — The first stop for Technical Sergeant Joe Louis Barrow on his recent flying tour through the vast U. S. Army Forces, Central Canada, was the U. S. Army Air Field at The Pas, Manitoba. Here on a point consensus GI asked the heavy-weight boxing champion for the number of points he had toward getting out of the Army.

Drewled Louis: "Me, why I dont have enough points to buy a pound of butter." Confronted with every camera at the post, he spent a busy half hour posing with dozens of GI's and local urchins, two of whom had ridden a freight train to the post to see their hero.

Hopping in a Jeep, which quickly filled to overflowing with GI's, Louis who has toured the European and Mediterranean Theaters — Operations, was off to the mess hall where he added to his present 225 pounds by downing three good portions of halibut.

Following a hasty lunch, Louis was off again in a C-47 transport for the long hop to the air base a Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. On arrival, he was whisked off to the post recreation hall to observe 130-pound Private First Class Anthony Raia, of Wilsnville, Alabama, box his first strike. The Brown Bomber drewled: "If you beat me, you gotta fight me," but Louis, who averages 175 with the ten pins, easily topped his opponent, saving the latter from an unofficial contest for the heavy-weight championship of the world.

After a lengthy sports confab, during which he answered every question from "Who hit you the hardest?" which turned out to be Al Delany in 1934, to "What do you think of the north country?" which was about 70 degrees too cold for him, he boarded the plane and headed over frozen Hudson Bay to the isolated, wind-swept U. S. Army Air Field at Southampton Island, District of Kewatin, N. W. T.

This was all new to the Champ and he had a great time with the

Eskimo children who had come to the post by dog sled from their igloos seven miles away. Following a chilly ride which ended in a wet snowbank and a tussel with a pet polar bear cub, Louis and his CO at Camp Shanks, Lieutenant Lou Krem, gathered the men in a ball session at the post recreation hall. After a lengthy and almost futile search for gloves that would fit his huge fists, the Brown Bomber gave an exhibition on the punching bag.

Louis drew many laughs from his GI boxing fans in answering questions at this session, volunteering some interesting fight facts. Among them the fact that he hit Max Baer 273 times before he KO-ed him in the fourth round in September, 1935. He also said that he had tried to train down too fine in the Billy Conn battle in June, 1941, going in at 190 3/4, instead of his usual fighting weight of 205. It required 13 rounds for him to score a KO. "That won't happen next time," grinned the Champ.

"This fight I got him lonely, rean, mad at the world," chuckled McCarthy. And at me too. All we got to do is 'steak him up' Friday afternoon and —

"I mean he is going to be like he was in Mexico with Zurita," he added. "Don't be surprised if he flattens Joyce in a couple of rounds."

Ike, who is training at Old Bey's Camp in Summit, New Jersey is 11-13 "favorite" for the moment.

Requirements for textile bags are 20 per cent from 1944 and allocations of textiles for bags are down 5 per cent.

Ike Williams' Coach Means For Him To Win Against Willie Joyce

NEW YORK (CNS) — Connie McCarthy, Ike Williams' manager, has no intention of his boy repeating this Friday at the Garden the exhibition he made the last time he met Willie Joyce. For McCarthy has so isolated Williams that not even the comely Mrs. Williams can get to him.

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Atlanta Takes Over Lead In Southern Loop Teams

ATLANTA, Ga. — The Atlanta Black Crackers moved to the front in last week's play to top the Southern league by a full game over the Knoxville Grays, who lost a four-game series with New Orleans.

Melvin (Slick) Coleman of Atlanta, unbeaten in the league this season, is now leading the league with five wins.

New Orleans slipped to sixth place, farther than they have been at anytime during the season with 16 more games to play before the first-half ends. Atlanta practically one out of four while the Black Crackers swept a four-game series with New Orleans.

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SOME OBSERVATIONS

(Continued from page four)

They are saving some of their money for a rainy day.

In addition to the cash crops sold last year, seventy-three Negro farmers on four of their own curb markets, sold \$16,044.54 worth of fruits, vegetables, handicraft, meats, home-bakery products, dairy, poultry and canned goods products to their city neighbors. On one of these curb markets alone, in two months and twelve selling hours, nine farm families sold \$1,397.32 worth of produce, or an average of \$1.16 per minute during the operation of the market.

One just must said something about what these Negro agents are doing to help produce more milk for our city folk. So here one quotes again from Mr. Jones' report:

"Negro farmers are not only applying the vegetables for a larger number of their neighbors, but last year, in two counties alone, where we have Negro agents—Orange and Alamance counties—thirty Negro farmers sold on the milk route to a local dairy, 32,172 gallons of milk and realized a return of \$9,300.40. In six other counties in Upper Piedmont North Carolina, including Guilford County, forty-two Negro farmers sold on the milk route an estimated 48,300 gallons of milk with a return of approximately \$11,592.00."

Quite informative we hope.

back to take one game out of the four played. This game sent Knoxville from the top.

Mobile made a substantial gain Choos when they sunk them deeper than took four straight.

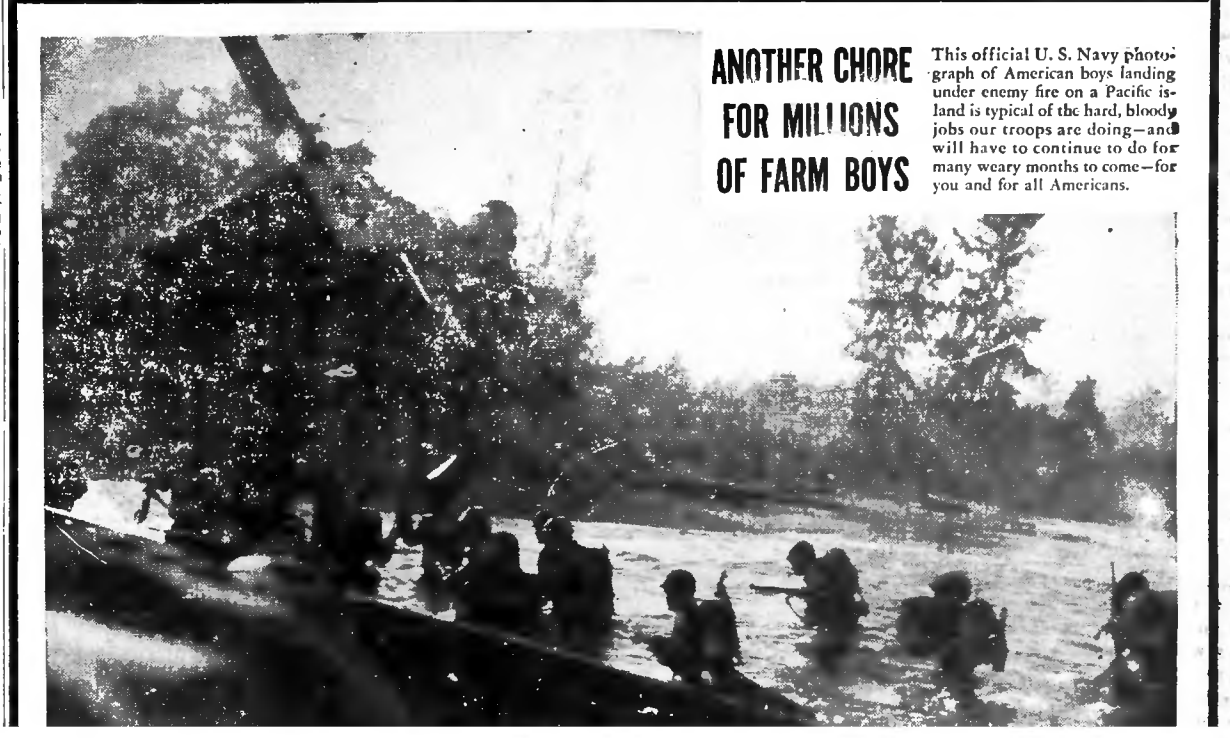
Nashville, in handing Asheville two defeats out of three played, gained a little ground. Asheville lost two while winning one with one game being called because of cold weather.

NEW YORK (CNS) — Ray Robinson is going ahead with his training to meet Jimmy McDaniel's June 15th despite the gloomy fact that Selective Service may call him by minute. "Sugar" is in training at Greenwood Lakes for the "Garden" match.

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ANOTHER CHORE FOR MILLIONS OF FARM BOYS

This official U. S. Navy photograph of American boys landing under enemy fire on a Pacific island is typical of the hard, bloody jobs our troops are doing—and will have to continue to do for many weary months to come—for you and for all Americans.



Give them a hand—

BUY TWICE AS MANY BONDS IN THE MIGHTY 7th WAR LOAN!

The time is ripe.

It's now—now when America can't afford to falter... NOW is the time for you to back up our fighting men by buying twice as many War Bonds in this mighty 7th War Loan as you ever did before!

Does that seem like too much of a chore? Would you rather wait until crops are in and you have more cash?

You wouldn't, if you could see how urgent it is to act now.

Up to this time last year there had been two war loans. This year, the 7th War Loan must raise almost as much as two loans last year. That's why you are asked: Buy twice as many Bonds in this mighty 7th War Loan!

Regardless of what has happened in Germany, we must still send our millions of men in Europe tons and more tons of supplies daily.

In the Pacific we still haven't gone all-out against Japan. We must build new, deadlier, more costly planes... harder-hitting tanks... new warships... and more of everything than ever before, if we are not to let our boys down just when they need our help the most.

And we, all of us, have a new responsibility... to the thousands of our wounded. We must see to it that they get the best of care, the best of medicines, the best of everything through the long, pain-filled months of their recovery.

All this takes money. That is why your country is again asking you to lend your dollars by buying twice as many Bonds as you ever did before!

WAR BONDS pay off in these 7 ways...

- 1 The same Government security backs your War Bonds as backs the actual dollars you put into them.
- 2 You get \$100 at maturity for every \$75 loaned now.
- 3 You can get your money back, 60 days after issue date, any time you need it... in the meantime you get safety and steady growth.
- 4 You have a backing to renew farm buildings and equipment after the war.
- 5 Bonds will insure your children's schooling, or provide for your own security, travel, retirement.
- 6 Bonds go into a national nest egg that will help to assure post-war prosperity.
- 7 Bonds transform your love of home and country into action... you join personally in the biggest, most urgent War Loan of all—the Seventh!

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