

Behind The Play In Sports

BY DON DE LIZIENBUR

There is a fellow named Joe Cumiskey who writes sports for a New York daily newspaper and often he does a piece on the "Col- or Line" in major league baseball. In these frequent essays Joe fires straight from the hip. He doesn't ask the major league owners to hire a Negro just to add a little "color" to their teams, but he does insist that no top ranking Negro player of true major league calibre should be rejected solely because he is a Negro.

Cumiskey concurs in the view of many others who are interested in eliminating the barriers of discrimination in baseball that, while the Negro should not be barred from the big leagues, the major leagues are within their rights in taking the stand that they don't have to hire a player simply because he is a Negro.

Says Mr. Cumiskey, "I insist the player should be judged on ability — not on the color of his skin or the where or whyfore he worships."

Well, if Mr. Cumiskey really believes that when a Negro player makes the grade in competition he should be looked upon by the white club owners just as they'd view any prospect of merit and possible advancement to the major leagues, then I have a suggestion for him.

The next time the Philadelphia All-Stars are in New York, I recommend that Joe get a good seat and watch the team play. Then if he thinks that shortsop, Crank Austin, is not stuff, let him become specific and "go to bat" for this regular player to get a little "color" in the big time. This will take the crusade out of the realm of generalities.

Experts who have seen Austin play argue that there isn't a shortsop in baseball today who is worse than to carry his gloves, with Lou Boudreau, of the Cleveland Indians, the one possible exception.

You correspondent is willing to discount about 25 percent for the enthusiasm of Austin fans, but having watched the sparkling play on the field and the superb performance at bat, he is forced to agree that Austin is a mighty sweet baseball player.

Here seems a test case for Branch Rickey or any of the other major league owners if they are sincere when they say they are interested in good baseball players and that race is not an issue.

Of course, a great deal could be done to spur the sports writers along if the sports writers favored the change. Sports writers are a powerful group. As long as they opposed the participation of a Negro in heavyweight championship boxing bouts, and participated. With the sports writers in his corner, the world has grown to love and admire Joe Louis.

If the sports writers ever decide it is fair for a competent Negro to play major league baseball, it is within their power to condition the minds of the baseball public for the event. This fact, it seems, has been overlooked.

Old timers say Austin is ready. Bill Holland, one of the great right-hand pitchers of all time, said of the Philadelphia shortsop: "He reminds me of the great Willie Wells in his prime. I like his aggressiveness and will to win. He is a good hitter and gets the jump on the ball."

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Said Redding: "That boy can go back for flies and he can come in fast for slow rollers. He shifts to the left with fine agility and he is always dangerous at the bat. He is the sort of fellow a pitcher always likes to have behind him. And he is in his favor."

Several weeks ago when Rickey looked over Showboat Thomas and Terris McDuffie, the Brooklyn mongrel is credited with the statement that he would hardly be interested in any 34-year-old player without major league experience. Well, Frank Austin is only 22 and is as fast as greased lightning.

Born February 13, 1924 in Panama City, Frank has played baseball south of the border for a number of years, but came to the United States only last year. He attended the English and Spanish school in his home town, and also attended private schools in Escuela, El Salvador and the Canal Zone. He quit school in 1937 to work with the U. S. District Engineer in the capacity of a driver.

Austin began his baseball career in 1940 with the Liga Amateur, and participated in the amateur world series at Havana in 1941 as a member of the Panama All-Stars. When Venezuela won, his team finished in third place. He was out of the game in 1942, but the next year he played for Tropical in the Liga Nacional. His team won the championship and he reaped off with batting honors.

By this time Austin had become a sensation and in 1944 he joined the Urraca in the Liga Nacional, but soon left the team and came to the United States May 11, 1944.

Austin gives Bill Vanece credit for helping him along since he has been in the States. In his first year with the Philadelphia Stars Austin won the batting championship with an average of .302.

The plucky young player likes America and he likes American baseball, particularly he likes the club he plays with, and only recently turned down a tempting offer to play in Mexico.

Austin is five feet seven inches tall and weighs 165 pounds. He is unmarried, and can't get his mind on girls because of his great interest in baseball which he hopes to continue playing. In the winter he plans to play ball in Mexico and Cuba.

The fact that Austin turned down an offer to go to Mexico doesn't mean he would turn down an offer to play with the Yankees, the Giants or the Dodgers. Joe Cumiskey can really get to the bottom of the Jim Crow fight if he can get the sports writers to issue a declaration on this matter. For, if Negroes were put in the league, and unsympathetic group of sports writers could easily twist an incident which normally would be nothing more than that which occurs on diamonds in sixteen ball parks every day in a race issue.

The sports writers hold at least one of the keys to the situation. They can put the heat on either side, depending on where their sympathies are. At any rate, some ought to give Frank Austin the once-over. The boy is great.

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The inter-city tennis clubs of North and South Carolina are reviving tennis in this section of the country.

Photos above were made in where Doctors Furlong and Eaton were hosts in their respective cities to players from Goldsboro, Durham, Lumberton, North Carolina and Orangeburg, South Carolina.

The top photo shows Miss Minnie Dannelly, Wilmington; Miss Roseline Daniels, J. D. Mc-

Ghee, umpire; Miss F. Daniels, and Miss Hallie Everett, Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Second panel, left, J. W. Wheeler, cashier of Mechanics and Farmers Bank, Durham, and in the background, Miss Roseline Daniels, Center, "Bill Cook," district manager (Durham) N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Co. Right, "Nat" Jackson, Wilmington, former singles national champion and six year co-holder, doubles national championship.

Third panel, left to right, Dr. and Mrs. Hubert Eaton, Wilmington; Miss Hazel Polk, Lumberton; Miss Juanita Moore, Roanoke, Va.

Fourth panel, Dr. Jackson, Lumberton; Dr. M. L. Perry, Lumberton; J. W. Wheeler, Sr., Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. McCauley, Raleigh; Father Dillon, Raleigh; Mark Nixon and friend.

Fifth panel, Dr. Dubissette, Goldsboro, and Dr. Furlong, Smithfield, with an unidentified player in background.

Recently, Dr. Eaton and Jackson played Lieut. Barney Welch, 13th ranking player in U. S. and his partner, Mr. James, assistant tennis coach at University of N. C., both white.

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Entertained Servicemen

By Pfc. R. C. Carmical

JACKSONVILLE—The Newberry Street USO Club here, put up a record performance for two successive days this week in making things attractive for visiting Marines and Naval Personnel from Montford Point Camp. Under the supervision of Mr. J. W. Joyner, the club was instrumental in having as special guests on Thursday evening, the crack Montford Point baseball team.

This team, a part of Camp Lejeune, won the camp championship last year, in the Camp Lejeune Baseball League, and for the first half of the season this year, it is ahead of all the other teams in the league.

Interesting things which were enjoyed by these men consisted of Bingo, wherein each winner was given a cash prize, whist, checkers, pinocle, according to their varied tastes; a quiz program consisting of twenty interesting questions, three prizes being given to the high scorers. Yummy hot beverages in the meantime supplying the occasion. And the evening was rounded out with the serving of refreshments to all.

On Friday night, the program was highlighted with religious emphasis in the USO Club. A religious motion picture was shown, entitled, "The Power of God." This was a very interesting move of a modern setting, of present-day people and of current things, one of which anyone could go and enjoy an interesting and dynamic portrayal of the Power of God, in all walks of life.

In addition to the influx of servicemen, many of the local citizens visited in order to enjoy this occasion. Reverend William E. Hoxan, Religious Consultant, Army and Navy USO of Richmond, Va., was present and made the main speech of the evening supporting the picture. He said that the Power of God was the power of love, and that this love consists of an altruistic feeling not only for family or race or nation, but for the whole of the human race. Other invited ministers were Rev. S. D. Stanford, Rev. H. M. Reed, and Rev. S. T. Hawkins.

The entire program was crowned again with refreshments.

Ladies' Day To Be Celebrated At Wilmington

WILMINGTON—Something new for local fans will be observed in August when Ladies' Day will be celebrated at the ball park at Eleventh and Ann Streets.

Any lady accompanied by one male admission will be admitted to the park free of charge. In addition, prizes will be given to the ladies holding lucky numbers.

In announcing this event, Joe Powell, local hall manager, said that he believed ladies should become more interested in baseball, and that he is putting aside a day for them to get them thinking and taking baseball.

Ladies' Day is Thursday, August 2nd, when the North and South Carolina All-Stars cross bats. August 1, Columbia All-Stars will play the Red Sox. Everyone has been waiting for this game. Mr. Powell said. He predicts that the Red Sox will emerge victorious.

Manager Joe Powell says that this is the first time that Laurinburg has played here, and he predicts a good game. The Red Sox are expected to take the Greyhounds.

The Red Sox have worked hard daily drills since their game with the Marines, when Uncle Sam's boys won by a small margin.

An Army officer at Camp Mackall has approximately 25 acres planted in vegetables and has just completed harvesting one acre of roasting-eat corn, according to County Agent N. L. Hendrix.

(All photos by Dr. "Whirlwind" Johnson)

Laurinburg Plays In Wilmington Sunday

WILMINGTON—The Laurinburg Greyhounds of Laurinburg, N. C. will play the Wilmington Red Sox Sunday afternoon, July 22. The game will be called at 4:30 o'clock. The place is the high school park, at 11th and Ann

Streets.

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DROWN

BY CARROLL L. BRYANT, Director Water Safety Service American Red Cross

Very few good swimmers drown, an often usually because of unconsciousness, stomach cramp, poor judgement, or exhaustion. Among non-swimmers, drowning is most often caused by venturing beyond their depth or stepping into a hole. Frequently in surf bathing it is a case of inability to regain the footing after being swept off balance by a current or wave. Fatal accidents also occur from diving into shallow water and striking the head, or driving from a height and landing flat on the back or front.

Showing off is one of the most frequent cause of drowning among novices in the water. This tendency to exhibitionism is most evident



in young males. In fact, it is a matter of record that approximately 10 males drown for every female who is a water casualty. Eleven hundred boys and young men between 15 and 19 years of age drown annually in trying to demonstrate their superiority to the rules of common sense.

Drowning is death by suffocation. Water may or may not enter the breathing apparatus or be taken into the stomach. In either event, it is only indirectly the cause of death.

Drowning may be either passive or active. When a person drowns passively, he slips beneath the surface without warning. His mental and physical paralysis may be the result of a heart attack, a blow, fainting, stomach cramp, or fear. In active drowning, the exhausted or panicky bather usually remains on the surface for a while and by his frantic and convulsive movements advertises the fact that he has lost control.

There is little evidence to support the popular belief that a drowning person comes up twice before going down for the third and last time. If he loses his tidal air on

turned in for a war bond, start another.

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