

Behind The Play In Sports

BY DON DE LEIGHERS

WHY RAY ROBINSON ISN'T WELTERWEIGHT CHAMP

NEW YORK — The reason "Sugar" Robinson, No. 1 contender for the Welterweight Championship of the World, is not champion is that Freddie "Red" Cochrane, title holder, and his manager, Willie Gilzenberg, will have no part of Ray unless the Robinson front office, which means his trainer, George Gamsford, and Ray sign over 10 per cent of the Harlem fighter to Cochrane and Gilzenberg. Ray, thus far, has absolutely refused to be a party to such a deal and, consequently, Cochrane and Gilzenberg have avoided him like the seven-year plague.

It is a known fact, or almost a certainty, that Robinson will knock out Cochrane if they come together. Cochrane and Gilzenberg, knowing this, are loathe to risk meeting certain destruction, both physically and financially.

Abe J. Greene, President of the National Boxing Association, in his official bulletin and ratings as of July first, listed the results to the fight of Cochrane as the first of a series of comebacks of war-bound champions. The National Boxing Association "anticipates" title defenses in three classes, listing as potential defenders, Sal Bartolo, featherweight; Ike Williams, light weight; and Manuel Ortiz, bantam "Cochrane," he said. "It is virtually signed for a contest with Sugar Ray Robinson."

Successfully ever since he has held the championship because he has consistently refused to fight any of the good boys who are not white. There was much talk that Cochrane joined the Navy to get away from the persistent challenge of Robinson whose hot breath was blowing on his neck and making him feel too uncomfortable to be called as a top-notch fighter and champion. I would not be so rash as to say that Cochrane cannot fight that would increase the redhead's capable of putting up a pretty good battle. However, his unreasonable fear of meeting his colored challenger is doing Cochrane no good and neither is it doing boxing any good.

A champion should act like a champion and accept the cards as dealt to him, whether they be in the form of clubs as represented by Robinson's smacking fists or the mounds as represented by the numerous set-ups by his manager, Gilzenberg, to lining up for him. We would all like to see Red make some money, but he is going at it the wrong way trying to put the squeeze on his challenger as a price for participation in a title defense.

Mike Jacobs has been long set to promote the fight if the two principals, Robinson and Cochrane, can come to terms. The boxing commission should take a hand and spur Cochrane into action. He has been out of the Navy long enough now to make a decision one way or another. If he is not going to fight Ray without being guaranteed 10 per cent of the challenger as long as he holds the title which he is almost sure to win, then Cochrane's title should be declared vacant and Robinson elevated to the spot which he has already won by defeating every fighter known on the horizon.

Robinson is eating his heart out by walking up to a door through which he cannot enter. He has gone just so far and can go no further unless the boxing commissions and associations step in and see that justice is done.

Former Mid-Western Boxing Champion Now In The Navy

ABOARD A BATTLESHIP IN THE PACIFIC, Hutchinson, Kan., is known as a "hot light town." Every January this mid-western city has its own Golden Gloves tournament. Many of its champions have gone to the National in Chicago.

This year, one of its champions was missing heavyweight Leonard Bernard. He is in the Navy. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Bernard of 525 West 7th Street, he is one of four sons in the service. The only one in the Navy, Bernard holds a number of heavyweight boxing titles: the 1941 National "Golden Gloves," Tri-State Tournament and the Diamond Belt.

Now a steward, third class, Bernard entered the Navy in April, 1944, and attended school for cooks and bakers at Bainbridge, Md. Within three months after coming

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INTER-CITY TENNIS PLAYERS PREP FOR NATIONALS

Members of the Inter-City tennis association are busy preparing for the nationals which got underway in New York last week.

Top left: Dr. R. W. Johnson and Bill Luffer, white, South Carolina, pose following a match. Mr. Luffer has been given Dr. Johnson and his friends, much valuable assistance and advice. He is a wonderful player. This picture was made on Dr. Johnson's private courts in Lynchburg, Va. while the other photos were made in Wilmington where the Inter-city players were guests of Dr. Hubert A. Eaton.

Top right: Mr. Luffer and Mrs. Catherine Ervis of Pittsburgh, Penn., who will team up with Dr. Johnson in mixed doubles at the nationals. Mrs. Ervis is visiting in Wilmington where daily she and Dr. Johnson work out on the city courts on Teak Street. Those two players have just completed several sets of singles.

Middle left: George N. Norman, back to camera, at post, is umpiring this game participated in by Luffer, "Bill" Cook, Durham, and Dr. Eaton and "Nat" Jackson, of Wilmington. Luffer and Cook were winners.

Middle right: The team of Dr. Johnson and Mrs. Ervis, who has been women's singles runner-up in the nationals for the past two years, pose for a picture. Williston primary school is in background.

Bottom left: Players gather to the net. Luffer, Dr. Johnson, Mrs. Ervis, Dr. DuBissette, Goldsboro; "Nat" Jackson, Wilmington; "Bill" Cook, Durham; Bailey S. Co., Dr. Eaton, Wilmington; Minger, S. C.

Bottom right: "Nat" Jackson commences service. He is former national singles champ and co-holder of doubles championship. Note ball in air. Williston high school is in the background. Eaton and Jackson will enter nationals as doubles partners.

Tuskegee Warhawk Win Three; Trice Rained Out In Florida Baseball Tour

TUSKEGEE ARMY AIR FIELD, Ala. — Although inclement weather caused a last minute cancellation of three of the six scheduled baseball games for the Tuskegee Warhawks in the state of Florida, the TAAF nine handed three defeats to their Florida opponents which boosted their record to 19 wins out of 20 starts.

The Warhawks practically shut out their first opponent when they turned in a 6-1 win over a GI team from Dale Mayberry field, Tallahassee, Fla. Pic Harry Kirksey of Birmingham, Ala. had the pitching assignment for the Warhawks and allowed the Dale Mayberry club only one run during the nine inning clash and that was in the last half of the third.

Next in line to suffer the might

Pvt. Louis Pinnus of Natchez, Miss., veteran pitcher for the Warhawks, was in top form on the mound against the All Stars and shattered his own record for strikeouts in a single game when he struck out eight All Star men in the timening hit Lt. Joseph Curry for two runs. Lt. Curry outdid this performance, however, in the third inning and thilled 1400 fans in the stadium when he drove a hard fly ball over the left field fence to record the only home run of the game.

In the final tilt which concluded the Florida tour, the Warhawks

of Atlanta, Ga., had a minor Warhawk left fielder, strode into the spotlight when he got a triple with two men on in the first inning which distanced better than 390 feet deep into left field and accounted for two runs. Lt. Curry outdid this performance, however, in the third inning and thilled 1400 fans in the stadium when he drove a hard fly ball over the left field fence to record the only home run of the game.

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NONWIMMERS AS LIFE SAVERS

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

One who cannot swim at all is sometimes able to save a life if he uses his head and remembers his training.

Rescues made from shore are common, but there is a technique from them that should be learned. To assist the victim of an accident happening within arm's length of the shore, the rescuer should drop to a prone position, the upper body extended over the water, and reach out with his hand. A coat or shirt, or any floating object may be held out to the victim to grasp.

If the victim is beyond arm's reach, the position may be reversed with the rescuer securing a good hand-hold himself and extending his body and legs for the other person to hold.

Sometimes a length of line or a ring buoy is at hand. Properly handled, they can be used for aiding victims who are some distance from shore. Both are thrown underhand with a pendulum like motion. Free-floating objects, or those which may be dragged, thrown or pushed to a drowning person, although they cannot be controlled by the rescuer once they are launched, are also frequently effective. Obstructions are helpful only in keeping the victim afloat, and other means must be used to bring him ashore.

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Foundation Seeks To Raise Moral Level Among Teen-Agers

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Seeking to raise the moral level among teenage Negro boys and girls, and to make certain there will be no let down in the Negroes' interest in sports activity during the post-war period, National Sports Foundation Inc., Washington, D. C., is sponsoring National Negro Sports Week, August 5-11.

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