

DELAWARE TOPS NCC; LOSE TO SHAW NINE

Beating The Gun

BY AL MOSES

"TAKE ME TO THE BALL GAME"
Scores of questions are asked: What about unpredictable Satchel Paige, Prince of a Star Athlete?

NEW YORK (AP) — Before the 1949 baseball season, we used up two scratch pads in putting down sport-queries. "Harlem shot at us at the Dodger Yankee and Indians-N. Y. Giant exhibitions at the Polo grounds and Yankee stadium. We give our answers now.

Q. Dear Al: Watching Jackie Robinson shine out here today and noting his seemingly fine physical condition, would you say he will hit as much as .316 this year? — Artie Weeks, 1301A St., Stickball Boys.

A. Yes.

Q. I've heard so much about Brooklyn catcher Bruce Edwards' "bounce throw" to the midway box that it was conspicuous by its absence here this week. I feel that bad or orthopedic him unless Roy Campanella adds 15 points to his sick batting average. Shenton will rely on Bruce. Do you agree with me? — Tom Gordon.

A. I had a question like this come to me several weeks ago and I said then as I do now: "But Shenton announced in a press interview that Edwards, if physically sound, would be his first-string catcher this year."

Q. I heard so much about Edwards and colored ballplayers who hope for a future in the league's basement tier. Leroy Smith, Pugs, and the constantly faulty St. Louis and other players. Do you think I am being naive to "catch" or not what are the odds of a writer of some known fairness and authority — Oscar Thomas, Willrose Musical Club.

A. How Paige can continue to fly-in-the-face of men like Bill Veeck, Hank Greenberg and manager Lou Boudreau is much more than I can understand. I agree with you entirely.

Q. Read your splendid story on Ray Robinson as a "business executive" setting him up as a model for boxers of this and other countries to come. Do you think so much of Robinson as the fighter-white sport writers like Dan Parker, Curran and Frank Graham accuse of having little or no wold with respect to contract obligations? — Lester Richardson, Hotel Theresa "Lobby" guy.

A. Do you know anyone who should regard such actions in a complimentary sense regarding the allegations set forth?

Q. I am a George Mikita champion Laker baseball fan. Will you name a college player of recent years (1940-49) who rates with him? — Morris Johnson.

A. Andy Phillips of the Illinois University (1942) "Whiz Kid."

Q. How heavy can a bat weigh in the majors and is this weight the same as back in baseball's early days? Do you think the rule that states to make the catcher get further back from the batter was set up because of Campion's "saddle seat" on the batter's back? — Caswell Roberts, Hi-Hat Club, Brooklyn.

A. Not sure about the weight but I do know that a bat today cannot measure over 42 inches. Years ago bats could be as long and have as much weight as the player desired. Say Isha, that could be about "Campy" or it could be Casio.

Q. Watching Cleveland's "color-ed" army of ballhawks here at Yankee stadium today, let me ask you something. Al: Being older than I am, could you pick four ballplayers at random and at the position who you figure will make the grade like Doby, Paige, Minnie and Robinson? — Paul Skeets, Hills "Sugar Hill" home.

A. This is my order: Johnny Beckwith (greater hitting than Doby); Joe "Cyclone" Williams; Oliver Marcelle or Ray Dandridge; "Bingo" DeMoss; Williams, pitcher; Marcelle and DeMoss. 20 INDESTRUCTIBLE BOOK

NEW YORK is now nor was it ever rated a "hotshot" sort of village. But such could never be said of Frank G. Menke's new "Encyclopedia of Sports," a volume that rightfully belongs in every library.

BENEDICT BEATS CLAFLIN NINE IN FOURTH WIN

COLUMBIA, S. C. (AP) — The Benedict College baseball team trounced one of its ancient rivals, Claflin University, 9 to 3 in an Allstate bowl last week to rack up its fourth straight win against no losses.

Relief Pitcher Hartman was outstanding on the mound for the winners and led the batting column with four hits out of five times at bat. Outfielder Cathey was the big gun for Claflin with three hits in five trips to the plate.

CUM POSEY — SPORTS IMMORTAL.

For years we have contrived our "widow's mite" to the passing show of celebrities in both the theatrical and sports field. Our soubriquets "Profiles" and "Salutations" and "Hall-Of-Fame Portraits" have been distributed throughout the nation since 1928. Today, we want to talk about a truly friend who lives eternally in your imagination.

We just met Cumberland W. Possey, Pennsylvania State and Duquesne University all-round star athlete in 1917.

Too young to be drafted into World War I, even then I had definite sport heroes and the 26-year-old Possey was one spelled in capital letters.

Trainer Letty Weissman said the extent of Possey's injury was not known, but he may be sidelined for several days, because "older men" such as Possey don't heal as quickly as young men.

The "old man" reference may spur Satch to try to make it out sooner but the Cleveland front office and managerial staff will not take a chance on such a valuable man. The Indians are short of relief pitchers and the loss of Satch won't help the situation.

The team is already beset by the loss of starting pitcher Buddy Feuer, and early season comment by Bourne indicated that Paige would be used in starting rotation with no quarter asked and most certainly none given.

Playing the outfield, this light-faced 120-lb. man click rounds to look after the club's marking during the next few years.

Under his fine business acumen, the team rises to dizzy heights in independent football finally joining the old Andrew "Rube" Foster's National League around 1922.

One looks about great basketball stars of the nation ink. Maxie, Buck, Duke, Hattie, Clifton, Tatum, Kevin O'Shea, Nat Holman, George Kaufman, Ed (Bulldog) McNamee, Alex Griza, Ralph Beard, Andy Phillips, "Fats" Jenkins, "Billy" Yancey, "Tampa" Hicks and hundreds more of the past and present still I have never seen a greater counter in my lifetime than brilliant "Cum" Possey, a human dynamo in all three of the sport fields he loved and played hard at. His basketball playing days were finished in '28, a year that saw the bottom drop out of our economic life.

Vic Harris, a great outfielder, became the Gray's team manager with Possey carrying on from the bench. When financial reverses came, Possey raised up friends like co-owner Rufus (Sunnyman) Jackson. His club thrived again romping off with eight Negro National League championships up to '37 and three Negro World Baseball championships. The sport world that did much to create, was shocked on March 23, 1946, when "Cum" died at Mercy hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa.

He served as executive secretary of the NNL and in his own Homestead Pa. community, was a member of the Homestead School board.

Easter's new stance followed advice from Manager "Nucky" Harris, last year's pilot of the New York Yankees, who figures that a few more days practice doing it the new way, and Easter will break the league's homerun record, providing he isn't playing with the Cleveland Indians at the close of the season.

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Last week, Luke put on one exhibition that seemed impossible for a 6 foot 4-2 inch man, who carries 245 pounds. Easter hit what appeared at first to be a good hard single, but his fleet feet made it a home run. Old-timer Jim Handley, Padre third baseman, said that in spite of Luke's weight, he's the fastest man in the club, if not the entire league.

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The win gave Coach Lytle's lads a 7-5 percentage standing on the basis of three wins and a single loss to date.

Del. State ... 6 0 0 2 4 0 0 x x x

Shaw ... 2 3 3 0 2 1 x x x

Houston, Holmes (4), Deluz (4), Crawley (5), Ryder (5), Mincey, Williams (6) and Armour, Galandier (7).

BLACK YANKEE TRAVELERS WILL TOUR CAROLINAS

BOSTON (AP) — When the 33rd annual Boston Athletic Association's Marathon run got under way last week, nobody expected Grady Lee White of Brooklyn to be among the first 10 to finish.

In the first place he was too short, some thought, to match the long-legged men who usually run the 26-mile, 365-yard course from suburban Hopkinton to Exeter Street in Boston's Back Bay section. White is only five feet tall but is not short on muscles.

White didn't win the marathon in fact, for the past four years no American has won the coveted race. Last week Karl Gustaf Leandersson, 39-year-old Swede, came in three minutes ahead of his closest opponent. But short-legged White put on a finish that netted him third-place, comfortably ahead of America's big name entries. In fourth place was Johnny Kelly, National AAU champion and three-time Olympian, the last American to win the run.

The team has a mixture of youth and seasoned veterans. However, the accent is on the young ones. Including Barker there are only four veterans: John Stanley, who will not pitch, especially against clubs like the Bushwicks, and help coach the younger players; Johns Smith, one time leading hitter of the Negro American League and Thaddeus Christopher, fast year a sensation in the Canadian League.

Two star performers from the Kansas City Monarchs have been optioned to the Yankee Travelers. They are John Boulton, sensational 20-year-old shortstop and Eddie Lock, hard hitting lad of 22, who is a centerfielder.

All of the other players ages range from 19 to 23. The team is currently barnstorming in West Virginia. Will return to New York to debut against the Bushwicks on May 1. After that they embark on a southern tour in the Carolinas.

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