

Enlarged NAL To Open '57 Baseball Season May 19



HEAP BIG BRAVE — Milwaukee Brave outfielder, Hank Aaron, selects his favorite way club from the bat rack before the home-opener. Aaron, who burned up the Citrus Great with a 400-plus hitting average, is expected to be a front runner in the race for 1957 batting honors in the National League. (Newspress Photo.)

Francis Roberts, Baxter Hollman Co-Captain For '57 NCC Eagles

DURHAM — Francis Roberts, junior center, and Baxter Hollman, junior tackle, have been elected co-captains of the North Carolina College Eagles football team for 1957.

Roberts, 20 year old Raleigh honor student, and Hollman, 21 year old Winston-Salem standout on the 1956 CIAA three-way championship club, succeed Al Montgomery and Paul Woodard.

Roberts and Hollman were stars on the championship 1956 and 1954 clubs. Hollman was voted the Eagles best defensive lineman for 1956 play. He received the Dr. J. M. Hubbard trophy for the distinction.

Roberts won the A. T. Spaulding Sportsmanship trophy in 1956.

The Eagles' star center, Roberts, was captain of the J. W. Ligon, Lyle Rhyer and team in Raleigh during 1955. Vice president of Ligon's senior class, Roberts was voted by his classmates as "most versatile" in the senior class. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney W. Roberts, 613 S. East Street, Raleigh.

April 26-27 At Franklin Field:

Morgan Track Team Working To Prepare For Penn Relays

BALTIMORE, Md. — The Queens Iona meet proven to us that we've got to really work hard to get in shape for the Penn Relays and that's what we'll be doing for the next two weeks.

Morgan State College track coach Eddie P. Hurl was speaking here at mid-week as he surveyed the results of the Bears performance in the Queens-Iona Eastern Championships, held Saturday, April 13 in New York.

Competing outdoors for the first time this year, the Bears won our first place, tied for another and placed in three other events.

Winning handsly was the freshman mile relay team composed of Vernon (St) Keller, Plainfield, N. J., Roland Merrittweather, Philadelphia, Pa., Hosea Smith, Jersey City N. J., and Nick Ellis, New Brunswick N. J.

Bob Barksdale jumped 6' 1 1/2" to tie for first place with Phil Reavis while coming in third was Morgan's George Dennis with a

6' 4 1/2" jump.

By and large, however, Coach Hurl said, the meet showed the Bears, who've been hampered in outdoor practice by inclement weather, were not in shape.

Golden Bulls Netters Entertain NCC May 3

DURHAM — Coach Jim Younce's North Carolina College netters, fresh from a clean sweep in matches with St. Augustine's and St. Paul's invade the lair of the Johnson C. Smith University Golden Bulls on May 3, in Charlotte.

The Eagles turned back racquetballers from the two Episcopal colleges 6-0, 6-0, in Durham on April 17.

After their clash with the Bulls, the NCC team travels to Richmond, Va. for the CIAA tournament on May 10 and 11.

6 Teams To Compete As Tan League Opens

MEMPHIS (ANP) — The Negro American League will open its 1957 baseball split season here May 19 with six teams competing. The new entrants are the Mobile Cuban Giants, a team made up of players from Cuba, and the New Orleans Bears, owned by LeRoy Robinson.

The opening date will find the Memphis Red Sox facing the Birmingham Black Barons, but the other teams in the league will have open dates. The first half of the split season will end July 4.

Besides Mobile and New Orleans, the other regulars in the league are Memphis, the barons, the Kansas City Monarchs and the Detroit Stars. The Mobile club is owned by Willie Davis, wealthy businessman.

The new teams were accepted in the league at its last meeting here recently, presided over by

April 30:

Barons And KC Monarchs To Play In Montgomery

MONTGOMERY — (ANP) — The Birmingham Black Barons and the Kansas City Monarchs stalwarts of the Negro American Baseball League, will clash here in Honets Stadium, April 30, it has been announced.

While the game will be the first on the NAL schedule here, it is expected to introduce a number of newcomers to the league, according to Arthur J. Williams, general manager of the Barons. He said an intensive search was conducted during the winter months for good young players. Many of these players will be in action in the game with the Monarchs, he added.

The Monarchs also boast a good crop of rookies and a star-studded roster. Last year's Monarch team sent two players to major league farm clubs. One former Monarch, shortstop John Kennedy, is now with the Philadelphia Phillies. If he crashes the parent lineup, he will be the first Negro ever to play the club.

Giants' Hank Thompson May Bow Out Of Sport

MIAMI, Fla. — (ANP) — It may be a little premature, but rumors are afloat that the New York Giants, Hank Thompson is planning to quit baseball completely and settle down as a poultry farmer.

Thompson himself set the basis for the prediction last week as he prepared to plane for New York from Daytona Beach following his outright release to Minneapolis.

He was expected to make a final decision momentarily as to whether he would quit baseball outright or go along with Giants' President Horace Stoneham's request to give it a try with the Millers.

Thompson, a nine-year veteran with the Polo Grounders, has been reportedly at odds with Giants field manager Bill Rigney, whom he felt hadn't given him a fair shake. But what brought matters to a head for Thompson, according to observers, was the blow to his pride which he suffered when every team in the Nat'l League waived on him. Said Thompson: "This is like a punch below the belt. I just can't believe nobody wanted me."

That was some weeks ago. Now Hank is seriously considering retiring. He had said: "I'll go out to California and go to work on my mother's poultry farm near Fresno. She's been after me to do it for a long time. I'd have done it before if I didn't think I could still help Horace Stoneham. I owe my loyalty to him."

He said money is not a factor. "I've got enough and we can make more on the farm. But as long as Horace wants me around, I'll be here."

Nine Games Remain On A & T Roster

GREENSBORO — With a first game against Howard University washed out, the A & T College Aggies now have nine games remaining on its baseball card.

The remaining home games, all to be played in the afternoon at Memorial Stadium, include: Delaware State, April 17; Winston-Salem Teachers College, April 23; Maryland State College, April 25 and Bluefield State College, April 28.

The away games include: Winston-Salem Teachers College, May 6; Shaw University, May 3; Maryland State, May 11; Delaware State, May 13 and Howard University (double header), May 14.

Mel Groomes is head baseball coach and he is being assisted by Paul McGuire, student, now pro-player with the St. Louis Cardinal chain.

Aggie Wingmen

Upon these farms rest the hopes of the A & T College Aggies in the current CIAA baseball race. They are members of the team's pitching staff, included in the group from left to right:



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Beating The Jackie Wants Remedy To Stop Owners From Trading Players

WASHINGTON (ANP) — Jackie Robinson, first Negro baseball player in the major leagues, said something should be done to improve baseball's reserve clause, but he hoped it could be done by baseball itself and not have to be settled by the courts.

This observation was made Sunday on "Meet the Press" TV program. When reporters kept probing the former baseball idol about the reserve clause which they described as permitting owners to trade men off like chattels, Robinson said: "I don't know why I'm defending it, I really don't. But I will have to go along with it until something better comes along."

He said he was always expecting to be traded off, although he didn't like it. He knew of other players who didn't like it either, but they were always looking for it because this had been a baseball

Beating The Gun

BY BILL BROWER FOR ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS

The major league baseball season is already underway. This is a somewhat belated report (due to illness) of our crystal-gazing with all the dope on what's going to happen this year.

(NOTE: Don't mortgage your house on the tips here — with a rival!)

Strange as it might seem, we are against the mighty Yankees. We don't believe that the New York American Leaguers, with patiently the best collection of talent extant, can win their league's pennant, much less the World Series.

There must be some mystic reason for this. There is. We're anti-'em. (We haven't had the Yankees since Larry Doby came into the league.)

For reasons best known to ourselves, which we prefer to keep secret, and will not divulge, our choice for the American League flag is the Chicago White Sox.

If you think we are nuts about the outcome of the American League race, consider our judgment on the National League. Of all clubs, we think the New York Giants are going to win. (It must be the fact that we've picked up a few bets on the 100-to-1 odds.

Not a bad investment — if the rent is paid.)

Well, the way we figure, New York has got to be re-nominated in the World Series. The Dodgers won't make it, we hope the Yankees won't either. So it's got to be the Giants — by the process of elimination. But we are not so batty after all. We've got some surefire information on individual achievements. We're listing so many that at least ONE is bound to click. Have we got it?

HANK AARON, the National League batting champ, will repeat. The Milwaukee Braves' outfielder will hit about .350.

The outstanding all-around performer will be WILLIE MAYS. The New York Giants' outfielder will lead the majors in stolen bases; he'll hit 40 home runs, drive in 112 runs and hit a sizzling .400.

DON NEWCOMBE won't win 30 games; the Brooklyn Dodger right-hander might win 25, though.

LARRY DOBY, the Chicago White Sox outfielder, in a reunion with Al Lopez, his manager, will have his best season since 1952 when he led the American League in home runs and RBIs.

Barring injuries, Vic Power will be one of the challengers for the AL's batting crown.

FRANK ROBINSON, the young Cincinnati outfielder, will prove that his brilliant freshman season was no fluke. He'll bat .300 and hit 40 home runs.

SAD SAM JONES, the wild right-hander, will not be quite so wild. Hurling for the St. Louis Cardinals, he'll lead the NL in strikeouts, but will walk fewer batters this season.

A stirring comeback for Roy Campanella, but not strong enough to carry the Dodgers to another NL flag. Look for the round man to hit in the neighborhood of .270, hit 24 home runs, drive in 35 runs.

Rookies of the year: Andre Rodgers, New York Giants' shortstop, in the NL, and Charlie Beamon, Baltimore pitcher, and Earl Battey, Chicago White Sox catcher, in AL.

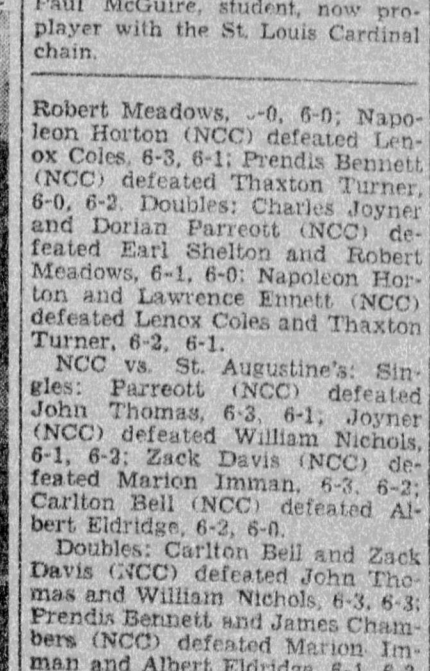
P. S. Not responsible for the vicissitudes which make perfectly sound forecasts go awry.

North Carolina Wool Producers

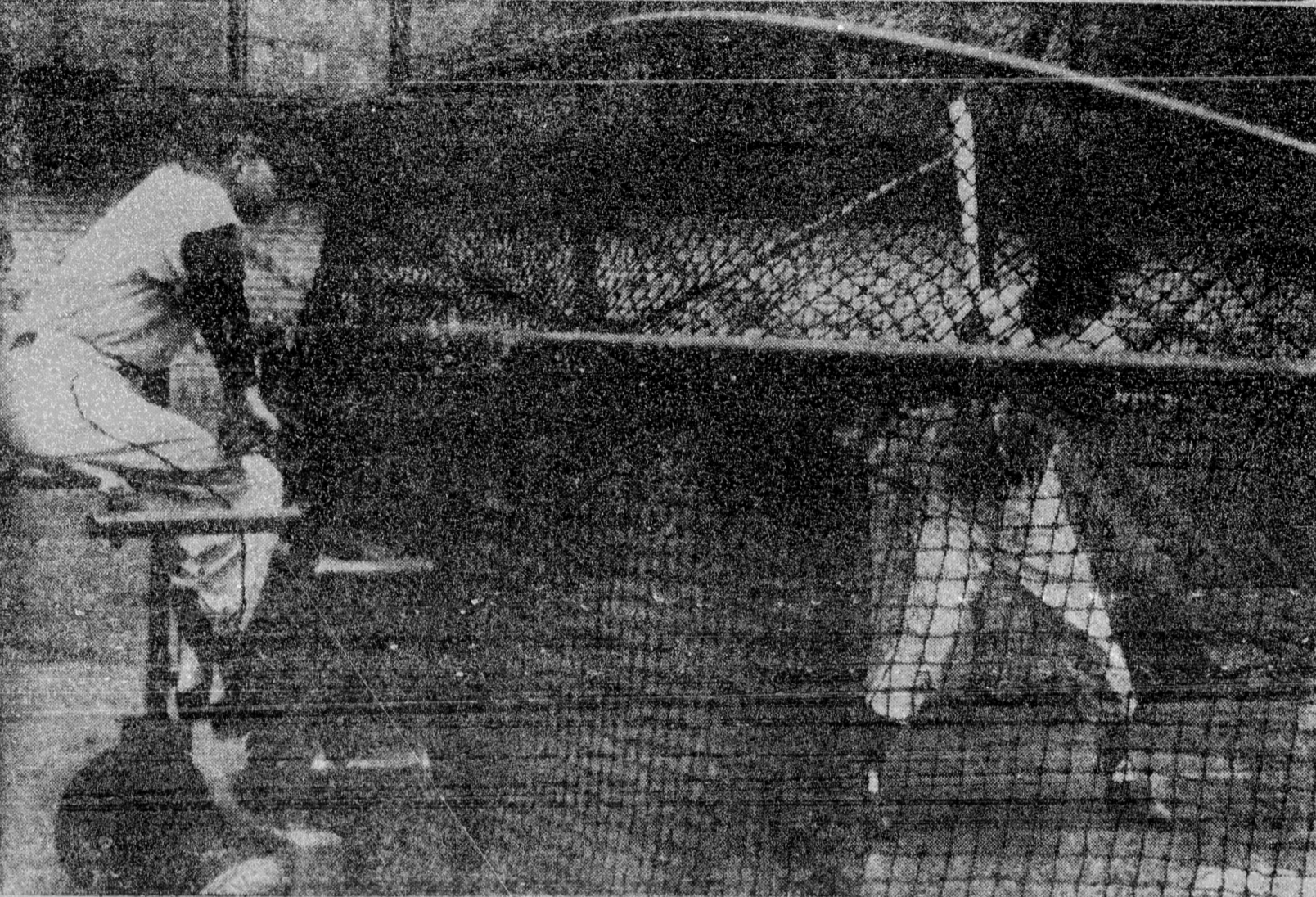
North Carolina wool producers are likely to get a little better price for their product this year than in 1956.

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LEAVE US GO ROOT FOR RODGERS — Peering through the bars of the batting cage, Giant coach Tommy Henrich, formerly a star with the New York Yankees, watches intently as rookie Giant shortstop Andre Rodgers takes batting practice during a workout at the Polo Grounds, April 19th. Rodgers, of whom the Giants expect great things this season, was an ace cricket player in his native Nassau and is the first Bahamian ever to play major league ball. Giant fans are already envisioning headlines reading, "Rodgers beats Dodgers." (UNITED PRESS PHOTO.)

Jackie Wants Remedy To Stop Owners From Trading Players

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