Beating The Gun

BY BILL BROWER FOR

ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS The other day the news came through that Monte Irvin had retired from baseball. Although you thing, it was the kind of item you hated to read. Guys don't come any nicer that Monte.

Irvin was 38 years old. He didn't get his chance in organized baseball until he was 28 or 29. His fling at glory was all

Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby, Satch Paige, Roy Campanella and Dan Bankhead, all preceded Irvin in the majors. But somehow the impression lingers that had Irvin been given the chance, even a couple of years earlier, he would have ranked with the best of them. Irvin was a teammate of Doby's

on the old Newark Eagles. At the time, Bill Veeck was angling for Larry as the first tan player in the American League, he wrote off Irvin for a couple of reasons.

"We know about him," Veeck said at the time "Abe Saperstein told as he would make somebody a fine ball player. But so would Satchel Paige. Trouble now is that we don't want to bring more than one colored player into the league at this time. Besides, Irvin's

Irvin did reach the big league of course. Along with Hank Thom pson and Ford Smith, he was signed by the New York Giants for the Jersey City International League club in 1949. Ford, a pitcher, didn't have much success and soon drafted into obscurity. Thompson, a setrial with the old St. Louis Browns, came up to the Giants in 1949.

Monte got a late-season chance with the National League team that year. After spring training in 1950 he was again consigned to the minor league team. But not for long. In 18 games with Jersey City, he was batting a smoking .510, and was hurriedly recalled by the par-

playing third base, the outfield and finally first base - - Irvin batted 299, hit 15 home runs and drove in

It was in 1951 that he rose to his beat them in the playoff for the

In the World Series against the New York Yankees that year. Irvin was one of the heroes for the Giants, who were beat in a six-game set. He had 11 hits in the six games and four of them came in the first game, two of them tving Series records. He heaped insult upon injury to the Yankees by stealing home, the first time that had been done in a Series game since 1921.

Baltimore Orioles, said:

him- Stan Musial." Nobody guessed then, but mis- gain price. fortune was to overtake the quiet Irvin. Playing in Denver during an exhibition game with Cleveland, Monte broke his right ankle sliding Into third base. He didn't even make a pinch hitting appearance until July 27, finally appearing in

By Popular

Demand!

-)Hiller

QUARTS

Now! Enjoy genuine

refreshment

pleasure!



BASEBALL BALLET - Again running out from under his hat Willie Mays of the New York Giants collides with Gil Hodges. as the Dodger first baseman tries to snag an errant throw during last week's opener at Ebbets Field. Mays was sale on the play, and continues to burn up the base paths, as he has done since his benching. (Newspress Photo).

Say Al Smith, Indians' "Jack-Of-All-Trades," Paid To Play Infield

batted 312, had 24 homers and who has played every position on drove in 121 runs. Without his the club except first base, pitcher season-long performance, the and catcher, got a bonus of about Giants never would have caught \$3,000 to switch from the outthe Brooklyn Dodgers and then field to a permanent third base published here last week by Milton Gross, New York Post co!

> According to Gross, the extra money came after Smith let it be known that playing the unfamiliar "hot spot" meant more money to him. Thus the arrangement, mutually beneficial to Smith and the Indians, was worked out. It filled the need of both par-

ties concerned. . ians brass came out on the long Paul Richards, manager of the end of the deal. Smith, who this team is now on the move. season reportedly signed for a The whole story points up to minantly white annual Diocesan "I think Monte Irvin is the great- round \$17,000, improved his fi- one thing. Smith is a conspicuest ball player in America. There nancial standings by some \$3,000, ously underpaid player, Last year, this month at Daytona Beach, with is only one man I'd compare with but the Indians got themselves a for instance, he got somewhere headquarters at the Princess Esworkable third basement at a bar- from \$10,000 to \$15,000, although sona Hotel

this year would have gotten abut he remained somewhat of a round \$27,000, had he not chosen one-man team. "A Jack-of-all

According to Gross' story. Smith did not want to play third base and actually intended to stay away from it. satile man the Indians had and during spring training Indians manager, Kerby Farrell, put him on third and told But after making three errors in one game, he got disthat he preferred the outfield. However, he left one reserva-

go back there, (third) they're goey. It's worth \$4,000 more to me to make the shift." The Indians brass were quick to eatch on, ac-But, Gross indicated, the In- cording to the story. They gave

ain price. the previous season he hit 306. Dr Culmer holds the distinction tice Stokes, professional basketball Al Rosen, retired and lamented batted in 77 runs, hit 22 home of being the only Negro priest of star and Skipper Patrick, sports Indians third baseman, got \$32, runs and was sensational afield. 000 to play third last season, and His bat mark dipped last season Trades", they call him.

Aggie Nine Wins Final CIAA Game Bluefield

College Aggies whipped Bluefield State College of Bluefield. W. Va., 13-8, in a basebali game

Ball Club

Defeated

commitments the Stadium, concluded follow seven-innings of

cher, Garland Norwood for fourand blasted reliefer Preston Harrison for six in third for all of their scoring, but enough to win. Harrison settled down after that and held the Aggies in check for

Frank Hamilton, winning pitther for the Aggies, gave up one-

It was the final conference engagement for the Aggies and left

Tan Episcopal **Priest Elected** For 4th Time

tive of the progress being made in Christian race relations by the Diocese of South Florida which is tion of the Episcopal Church. The | too rapidly. Miami Beach, in the Fall of 1958

General Convention is the highet legislative body of the Episcopal Church and elec-Lincoln's All-Sports Banquet tion as a deputy to that body is an honor coveted by every clergyman of the Episcopal

Honors Forty-Five Athletes cial and letter awards to 45 ath- Sports banquet at Lincoln University in 1954. He was later

Dr Culmer holds the distinction | tice Stokes, professional basketball | sity (Mo.) last week. the Episcopal Church who has been four times elected a deputy of the Geneal Convention. The Rt. Rev. Henry I. Louttit is bishop of



Tom Alston's Rapid Weight Shedding Alarms Cards; Star Sent To Hospital

mer, Rector of St Agnes' Episco- Louis Cardinals la ; week placed pal church and Archdeacon for reserve first basem n Tom Alston Negro work in the Diocese of South | on the disabled list , nd sent him to Florida, was elected one of four a local hospital after it was noted; deputies at the General Conven- that he had been shedding weight

tri-annually, will convene here at | pital for rest, a special diet, tests |

letes and a program including Mau-

. . .

. . .

5 0 0

time-consuming frequent stops

for bottle-heating service.

a mileage record.

the tan star had lost 15 pounds since the end of spring training. He came to camp weighing only 178 pounds, but responded to supervised diet to move

Rochester Royals, now Detroit

Royals, presented the Harry

Stokes Memorial award to the

outstanding lineman of the Lin-

coln Tiger football crew, Rob-

David Heinzelkin (right), accorded third place for the Lancaster, second. Bond was heat. - (United Press Tele-

talls at the finish line of his heat in the 440-yard dash

May 18th. Bend, yeading the

field in a close race to the

wire, fell short of the tape

out across the line (circle).

Stembers of the Lancaster Chapter of Officials ruled

most improved football player of the year award; Reginald Davis who was named the most improved basketball player of the year, and Larnell Wells who was given a special track award for gaining the most points for the Tiger crew.

Enceeing the program was Geoge Elliot, head track coach at Haris Teacher's College in St Louis. has covered four Sugar Bowl game powerhouse. Under his tutelage, es, and the Orange, Cotton and Oil the Inkster thin clads have cap-Bowl classics since witnessing his jured the Michigan State High School track title three consecu-

tunate enough to receive in my cred 409 or 416 NAIA case battles life, this opportunity to come here and make this award is the finest spassins, numerous NCAA Tournes. Charmetics will be a social hour

Geo. Gainsford, Ray Robinson's Manager, Eyeing Joey Giardello

Gainsford made the statement shortly after Joey Giardeilo, a top contender for middleweight title honors, won a split decision over rugged Rory Calhound of White Plains, N. Y. Giardelle, who hails from Philadelphia where he acquired the title of

46 games. He had a 310 batting average for that short season, The next year, he hit like his old self again, rapping out a 329 average, with 97 RBIs and 21 homers. But the effects of the injury began to tell on his techni-

cal proficiency. He was only a part-time player in 1954, when the Glants again won the pennant. But we guess that Monte got a big thrill when his two hits broke up the final game of the World Series at Cleveland as the Giants swept four straight.

league performance was a fine one, trol ruled that Potgieter is suffering average, 14 home ing "shotgun vision." The bout runs, 21 doubles and 52 RBIs in 75 had been scheduled for the Fair too high a temperature are hard to dispet

The Chicago Cubs reclaimed him in the major league draft. He gave it the old college try last season, but saw only part-time service. He batted ,271, banged out 15 home runs and had 50 RBIs. Some players would have been pleased with such a performance. But the Cubs, rebuilding, were on the outlook for younger talent, Irvin was sent outright to the Los Angeles Club of the Pacific Coast

Miller High Life quality in popular King Size Half certainly deserved a chance. some adversities. His title chances were jolt-

ed when Randy Sandy of New York held him to a razor-close decision in Chicago and Willie Vaughn, a mauler out of California, upset him in 10 rounds, only to see the decision reversed later by the Missouri Athletic Commission. There was no elaboration on

Gainsford's speculation. However, the foxy manager is known to would pay off at the box office. several weeks ago.

Gainsford, one of Sugar Ray Rob- Negro gas station attendant, has had to stave off a rally by Calinsons' three managers, said here last week that he would "like to been gunning for a title shot for houn to win. In the seventh, Rory see Giardello in the ring with Su- some time, but has experienced almost doubled him up with a left hook. But Joey used his better boxing to evade most of Rory's bombs the remainder of the bout.

Both fighters received slight cuts around the eyes. The loss by Calhoun was only his second in more than 40 professional fights. He bad won 14 of 27 previous fights via the knockout route.

Besides Giardello, the only other fighter to defeat Calhoun was Ellsworth (Spider) Webb, the No. have a sharp eye for a buck and 2 middleweight contender, who he no doubt figures such a bout decisioned him in a Chicago bout

Rules Massive African Ineligible For Boxing

LOUISVILLE, KY. - (ANP) - A | 10-round decision. scheduled 10-round bout between Sid Peaks, veteran heavyweight, The next season after a dismal and Ewart Potgieter, massive start, he was shipped by the Giants | South African fighter, was side- for grain in 1958 will be eligible to the Minneapolis team in the A- tracked last week after the Ken- to vote in the marketing quota merican Association. His minor tucky State Board of Athletic Con- referendum on June 20.

> Grounds here this Saturday. Potgleter, who at 325 pounds is the heaviest man in the history of boxing, was already under suspension by the Massachusetts commission for failing to report for an examination after an operation for a giadular condition late last Year.

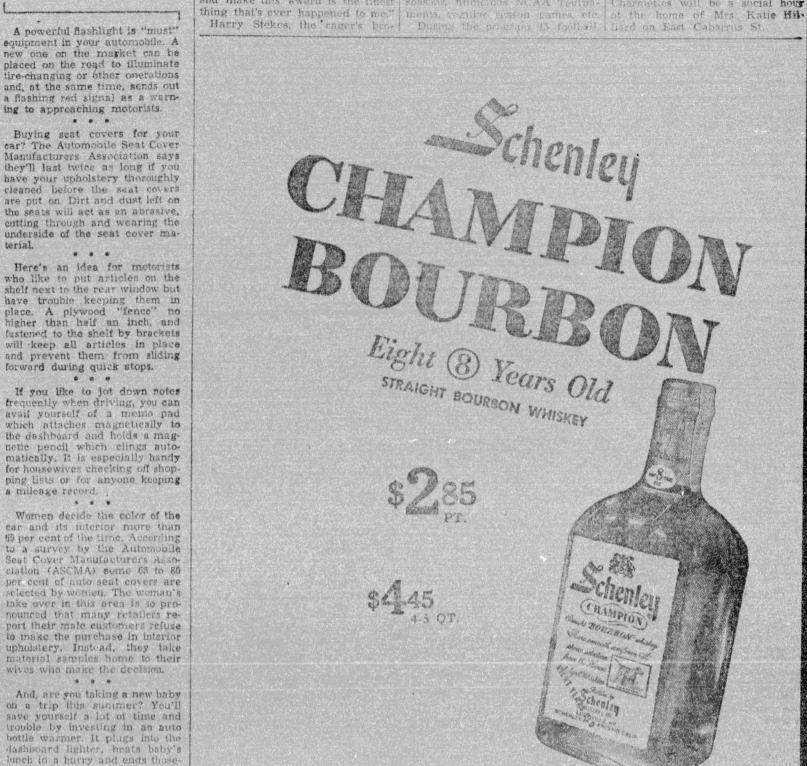
Petgieter's "shotgun Vision" was decribed as inability to detect punches coming at him from the side." He tried again this season. But It probably means the end of the Monte knew he was through. Why South African's ring career. Unlike Primo Carnera, another

There is only this bitter after- giant who went on to win the taste: Irvin would make a good neavyweight title, Potgieter never teacher. He was an upstanding ath- was able to make much of an inilete in any respect. It's too bad pression on the fight game. Resome major or high minor league cently, Johnny Holman, no speedclub didn't hire him as a coach. He | ter himself, used him for a punchling bag in winning an unanimous

Only those wheat growers who have 15 or more acres of wheat



"Will you please stop talking about taxes! You're driv-



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