



MOST VALUABLE — Ralph Johns, left, Greensboro businessman and sportsman, awards trophies, given by him, to athletes voted most valuable players during the past year. They are from left to right: Walter Parker, Suffolk, Va., football; Joe Howell, Philadelphia, basketball; Keith Rustin, Richmond, Va., baseball and Samuel Tucker, Winston-Salem, track. The awards were made at the recent All-Sports Banquet held at the College.

BEATING THE GUN

BY BILL BROWER For ANP

It's a long time between the end of May and the end of the major league baseball season. The kind of performance a player is delivering now might be quite different from the way things will be after 154 games have been concluded.

A lot can happen, to be sure, but it's our hunch that the outstanding player in the majors this season is going to be the player who heads the alphabetical roster of big league performers. That would be none other than Hank Aaron, 23-year-old National League batting champion.

Aaron is an outfielder for the Milwaukee Braves. Quietly, almost unobtrusively, he has reached an eminence that puts him in the class with the game's greatest. And this is only his fourth season in the majors.

Perhaps more would have been heard of Aaron had he the flamboyance of Willie Mays. Aaron does not. There's no claim here that he is as outstanding all-around performer as Mays. But there is this contention: Aaron is a superb ball player and is likely to outdo anybody else in the majors this year. Someday, he is going to be regarded as one of the greatest hitters of this generation, maybe of all time.

Time will tell about that. But for the moment, Aaron is concerned about this year. And how concerned he has been. As of the moment, he is batting .356, best in the National League at the time. His 11 home runs has him ahead of the pack in that department. He also was setting the pace in hits (45), runs (31) and runs batted in (29).

Milwaukee fans have been anticipating Aaron since his freshman season. After advancing to the majors from Jacksonville (Fla.) in the Class A South Atlantic League, Aaron was voted the Braves' outstanding rookie. He batted .260 and might have done better had he not been sidelined in September with an ankle fracture.

Then, in 1954, his sophomore year, he raised his average to .314, had 106 RBIs, and led the league with 37 doubles. He was named the Braves' most valuable player.

Last season saw him gain the NL batting title with a .328 mark and become the only major leaguer to reach the 200 milestone in base hits. He belted 26 home runs, one less than he hit in 1955, and again was the pacesetter in doubles with 34.

For most of the 400 or so major league players that kind of a year would have been all right, indeed. But for Aaron it was something of a disappointment.

Watching Aaron spray line drives to all fields during spring training, the Milwaukee manager, Fred Haney, declared: "Henry hasn't reached his potential. Not even close to his potential. He's liable to hit .360 this year. I've never seen a pair of wrists like his. And he's only 23. You can't tell, he might win that championship for five or six years."

One thing about Aaron, he hits right-handed just as easily as he hits left-handed, perhaps better than he hits left-handed. Of the first nine home runs he belted this year, none came off a south-paw delivery. What's more, only a couple were pulled into left field. He has tremendous wrist action and can drive a ball to right field just as hard as he hits to left.

BILL BELL RETIRES AFTER 12 YEARS AS A&T COACH; BERT PIGGOT NAMED



STRETCHER CASE — Fresno State's Mike Agostini (right) puts his shoulder to the tape to win the 100-yard dash at the California Relays, May 25. A close second is stretching Orlando Hazels of Oklahoma A&M, while Ken Dennis (behind Hazels) of the Los Angeles Striders was third. (UPI PRESS PHOTO.)

Made Enviably Record

GREENSBORO—A coaching era ended at A&T College here last Tuesday.

Bill Bell, head football coach at A&T College since 1945, is retiring from active coaching and will be succeeded by his top assistant, Bert Piggot.

Dr. Warrmoth T. Gibbs, president of the institution, made the official announcement on Tuesday a week ago following a meeting of the college's board of trustees.

Bell, who retires with a coaching record of 129 wins, 49 losses and 15 ties, will continue as athletic director and chairman of the college's department of physical education.

Piggot, who has served as backfield coach since 1949, will have complete charge of football, according to the announcement. A 1947 graduate of the University of Illinois, where he performed as an outstanding halfback, Piggot played with the professional Los Angeles Rams for two seasons. He also holds an M.S. degree in Physical Education from the same institution.

No other changes in the athletic set-up were made. Bell was an outstanding tackle at Ohio State University, from which he graduated in 1932. He received his M.S. Degree there and has done substantial work toward a Ph.D. degree. Prior to coming to A&T, he had successfully coached stunts at Clarin University, Orangeburg, S. C., Florida A&M College, Tallahassee, and at the Tuskegee Army Air Base in Alabama, during World War II.

Hear Archie Moore May Fight A German Instead Of Anthony

CHICAGO (ANP) — Light-heavyweight champion Archie Moore, who as a challenger several months ago, complained bitterly against the evasion tactics of some of the champions, last week indicated he may engage in some of that business himself.

Slated to fight top-ranked Tony Anthony of New York in Detroit next month, Archie has been reported willing to meet German light-heavyweight Hans Stretz, of Milwaukee in September for a \$100,000 guarantee.

That announcement was made here by boxing promoter Irving Schoenwald, who said he would promote the Moore-Stretz along with Phil Valley of Milwaukee. The fight would be held in the County Stadium, where the Milwaukee Braves play their baseball games.

However, there is some question whether Moore could successfully evade the June bout with Anthony without losing his title. The National Boxing Association has threatened to vacate his title unless he defends by July. No extension beyond that date would be granted, the NBA has warned.

Anthony, a star brawler with a lethal punch and plenty of speed and stamina earned the right to meet Moore for the title by knocking out Chuck Spieser, then the No. 3 contender. He now heads the lists of contenders, with Spieser second, Trinidad's Yolande Pompey, third, and Stretz, fourth.

Akins Eyes Basilio After Win Over Jimmy Beacham

WASHINGTON (ANP) — After stopping Jimmy Beacham, of Miami in the third round of a scheduled 10-rounder here, Virgil Akins, hard-punching St. Louis welterweight, announced that he was anxious to meet any of the top welterweights, preferably Carmen Basilio, the champion.

Akins, who has had somewhat of a checkered career, bounced into the championship picture with the win over the rickety Beacham. He had previously won over Frank Suzsianski, German middleweight.

However, his win over Beacham was not too impressive and stirred up a mild controversy. Prior to scoring with the looping right which put Jimmy on the canvas at 2:23 of the third round, Akins had not landed effectively. The punch was not a paralyzing one but it rendered Beacham helpless in the view of Referee Marty Gallagher.

Afterwards, Angelo Dundo, Beacham's manager, criticized Gallagher for stopping the fight. He said the referee had as much right to stop that fight as the man in the moon. Gallagher countered that Beacham did not seem to be able to defend himself. Meanwhile, Akins will have to wait a long time if he ever gets to fight Basilio. The welterweight champion is gunning for a middleweight title fight with newly re-named Sugar Ray Robinson.

Champ Joe Brown, Zulueta Will Clash In Title Bout

DENVER, Colo. (ANP) — Light-weight champion Joe Brown, the Larry New Orleansian who combines biceps punch with clever boxing, next month will put his world title on the line against Orlando Zulueta of Cuba in the Denver Auditorium here. The 15-round scrap is slated for June 19, and will be telecast nationally by ABC-TV.

It will be Brown's second title defense. After winning the title from Wallace (Bud) Smith in New Orleans last August, he successfully defended it against Smith last Feb. 13 in Miami Beach, Fla. Brown stopped Smith in the 10th round of the rematch. In their first title match, the lanky Brown broke his hand early in the fight but went on to win a split decision.

In Zulueta he will face a clever brawler who has never been knocked out in 101 fights. Among his victims are Larry Boardman, Jimmy Carter, Glen Flanagan, Carlos Chavez, and Ludwig Lightborn, with whom he shared 10-round decisions. However, the Cuban lacks a punch and thus will be at a disadvantage against Brown, who likes to press the attack.

Brown, 31, has had 87 professional fights. However, since his last title fight he has engaged in but one bout. He defeated Armand Savoie in 10 rounds, March 12. Brown is favored to beat Zulueta.

Say "Minnie" Minoso Tired Of Being Hit By Stray Baseballs

NEW YORK (ANP) — The man who holds the American League record for the most times hit by a pitched ball in one season is not proud of the record and is anxious to pass it on to some else.

He is, of course, Orestes Minnie Minoso, the Latin Amigo who roams the outfield for the Chicago White Sox. Minnie, who has been plunked a record 23 times in a single season and some 100 times in his major league career, is anxious to pick up some other record. "That record no good," he remarked in difficult English. "Give me some other kind of record. Somebody else can have this one."

Minoso was quizzed on the subject during the White Sox-New York Yankees series here recently. Asked for an explanation as to why he gets hit so frequently, the 33-year-old Cuban comet stated: "Some people pick up ball quick. Me, I pick up ball four-five feet away." He also claims the pitchers pitch him close.

In an explanation of his fine start, this season, Minoso said he is more relaxed than heretofore. "Now I take the game like I am supposed to do," he stated. He added: "I'm more confident, more relaxed. Before I used to fight myself. I wanted to do everything right away."

Minnie said he is laying off the home run ball and attempting to hit more to right field. A natural pull hitter, pumping the ball to right field aids his offensive potential.

Meanwhile, Minnie scoffed at rumors that he allows himself to be hit in order to get on base. Some pitchers and their managers have claimed that Minoso intentionally uses himself as a bait to get on base when the White Sox are in dire need of a base hit.

Home Demonstration clubs plan this as an annual affair with the "Mother of the Year" being chosen through judging letters submitted by the virtues and accomplishment of their candidates. Cotton acreage allotment for North Carolina in 1957 is 402,877 acres.

Lopez Gives White Sox A Good Formula

NEW YORK (ANP) — According to Al Lopez, manager of the Chicago White Sox, the Pale Hose aren't playing over their heads. They are just outdazzling the opposition.

That is the formula Lopez gave here last week as being responsible for his team's success this season. He has a running team, he tells you. One that can outpace the opposition and take advantage of the breaks.

Lopez made his appraisal after the White Sox whitewashed the mighty New York Yankees, two straight, in Yankee Stadium, much to the discomfort of Casey Stengel, Lopez's rival throughout the years.

Says Lopez, "We are real quick. . . . Minoso in left. . . . Doby in center. . . . Fox at second. . . . Aparicio at short. . . . Phillips at third. The only slow guy on the ball club is our catcher. . . . Sherman Lollar."

He then went into an elaborate explanation of what makes his ball club click.

"I haven't had what you would call any real disappointments. Coming into New York, Pierce was just fat. Donovan and Herzog, man haven't been pitching like they should. (Three days later Donovan pitched a one-hitter to shut out Cleveland). But Jim Wilson has really been great."

"We take extra base. . . . Stolen bases have helped us in some ball games. On opening day in Cleveland (Gresler) Minoso tried to steal home. The umpire called him out. Some guys thought he was safe. Those things are so close, how do you know?"

To illustrate his point, he drew a comparison between the White Sox and Cleveland. "The difference between her (Chicago) and Cleveland is I'm in the ball game more."

Aggies Beat Alumni Oldtimers, 10 To 7

GREENSBORO — The A&T College Aggies defeated the Alumni Oldtimers, 10-7, in a baseball game played here last Saturday.

In spite of growing temples the Oldtimers showed some of the brilliance of the past, and surprisingly in the later innings.

After the youngsters had shelled Harold Green, alumni they should. (Three days later Donovan pitched a one-hitter to shut out Cleveland). But Jim Wilson has really been great.

"We take extra base. . . . Stolen bases have helped us in some ball games. On opening day in Cleveland (Gresler) Minoso tried to steal home. The umpire called him out. Some guys thought he was safe. Those things are so close, how do you know?"

To illustrate his point, he drew a comparison between the White Sox and Cleveland. "The difference between her (Chicago) and Cleveland is I'm in the ball game more."

Does he think the Pale Hose could do all the way. Yes, he said, adding: "this kind of ball club it's made for a manager."

DE-CAPITATED — Milwaukee Braves' outfielder, Hank Aaron, loses his cap in an all-out effort for Daryl Spencer's pop fly in the second inning of a recent game with the Giants in Milwaukee. It was a great try, but the ball dropped for a single, and the Braves dropped the decision to the Giants. (Newspress Photo.)

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