

# Joe Brown Escapes Kidnap Try; KO's Cuban Champ



**BROWN DEFEATS CUBAN CHAMP** — World lightweight champion Joe Brown (right) of New Orleans, drives champion Orlando Echevarria, early in the first round of their non-title bout last week. Brown won by a technical knockout in the first round of the scheduled ten-rounder. (UNITED PRESS TELEPHOTO)

## Lightweight Champ Knocks Out Cuban; Rescued By Cops

HAVANA, Cuba — (ANP) — World lightweight boxing champion Joe Brown of New Orleans last Wednesday night used two crushing rights to knock out Cuban champion Orlando Echevarria in a non-title bout that marked a milestone in telecasting.

The cool, calculating 32-year-old counterpuncher, who weighed in at 135½ pounds to Echevarria's 136½, flattened his opponent in two minutes and fifty seconds of the first round of the scheduled 10-round bout that was piped into America by the American Broadcasting Co. via a newly developed over-the-horizon scatter system. A near capacity crowd viewed the contest from ringside in Cuba's new two million dollar Sports City Auditorium.

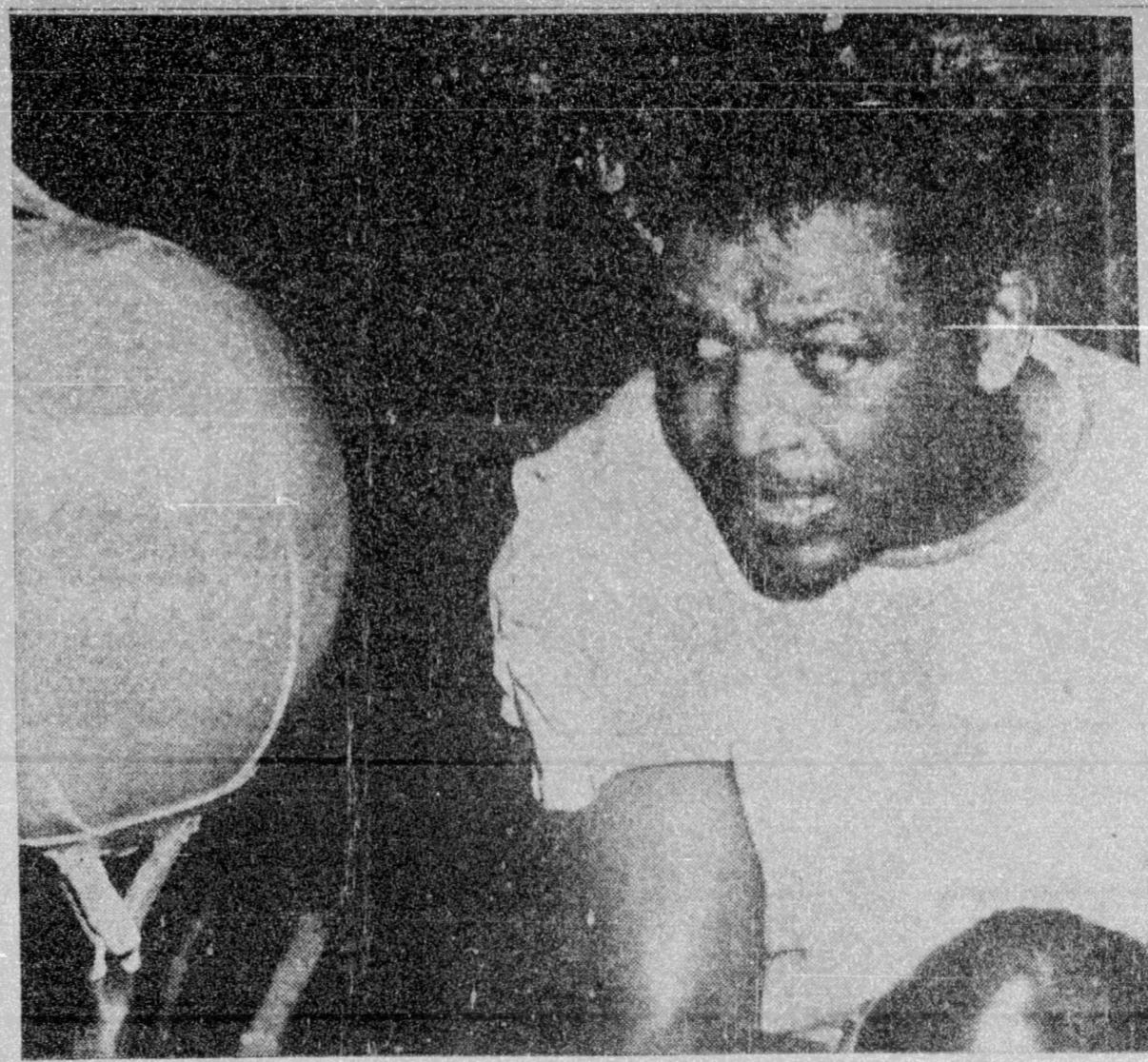
Afterwards, police reported they

foiled an attempt by Cuban rebels to kidnap Brown as he and his wife and trainer prepared to leave the Lincoln hotel for the airport to emplane for Florida. Police said they arrested three men acting in a "suspicious" manner outside the hotel.

It was in the same hotel from which world's driving champion Juan Manuel Fangio of Argentina was kidnaped the previous Sunday. Rumors were also widespread here that the rebels, opposed to the rule of President Batista, would try to cut the cables and prevent the telecast.

However, Cuban police kept up a constant vigilance and also guarded Brown and Echevarria closely before and after the fight.

It was the first time in history that a live telecast was carried from overseas to the United States.



**BY THE SWEAT OF HIS BROW** — Working up a good sweat, ex-middleweight champion Sugar Ray Robinson wears a look of grim determination as he pounds the bag in a workout at his camp, Feb. 27th. Robinson, who lost his title to Carmen Basilio, will meet the latter for the title again in Chicago on March 25th. (UNITED PRESS PHOTO)

## BEATING THE GUN

BY BILL BROWER  
(For Associated Negro Press)

After the 1952-53 college basketball season, one of the most touted performers was Walter Dukes, the tall athlete (nearly seven feet) from Seton Hall University. The draft rights to Dukes were claimed by the New York Knickerbockers on the basis of territorial jurisdiction.

Dukes decided to cast his lot with the Harlem Globe Trotters. He played with Abe Saperstein's gay trouper for a couple of years, neither distinguishing himself as an artistic player nor comedian. He simply didn't fit into the basketball merrymakers' script.

Duke's contract was purchased eventually by the Knicks. Once in National Basketball Association competition, Walter (he then a bona-fide 7-footer) did not quite live up to his college reputation. He was accused of not hustling and blamed for the failure of the Knicks to go places in the NBA. Finally, he was traded to the Minneapolis Lakers.

With the incentive of playing for a different club and without the hostile atmosphere that surrounded him on the Knicks, Dukes began to show some of the promise that produced individual scoring marks at Seton Hall. But he never quite reached the zenith of court skill that experts once predicted for him. In the off-season he was a pawn in another trade, this time from the Lakers to the Detroit Pistons.

It was another season and another team for Dukes. In a way, it was something of a last chance for the Youngstown, Ohio, native. But Walter and the Pistons, bad ups and downs. Although a tall player, Dukes, proportionately, does not pack too much weight on his frame. He frequently got the business (elbows and fists delivered furiously by heavier players) in the heat of competition.

He not only retaliated, but often voiced his protests to officials. In a game in St. Louis, a decision went against Dukes. Unappreciative of the call, he vent his disgust to the officials. In the close ball game, the Piston Coach Red Rocha, fearful of a technical foul being called against his team, ordered Dukes to stop talking and play.

Dukes stalked off the court. That incident might have been the turning point in the player's pro career. Since that game Walter has been one of the best performers in the league.

His rebounding has been superb. His general floor performance has greatly improved. His shooting has picked up. In an important game against the NBA western division leaders, the St. Louis Hawks, Dukes tipped in the winning basket in the last six seconds. The award consists of a latex mount, he scored six points in an extra period to lead the Pistons to victory.



"The only men who need liquor to do their best work are bartenders!"

## Al Smith Predicts '58 Pennant For White Sox

TAMPA, Fla. — (ANP) — Al Smith, recently acquired White Sox outfielder, predicted last week that the Pale Hose will win the American League pennant in 1958.

Smith, who came to the Sox in the trade that sent Orestes (Olinde) Mino and Freddy Hatfield to the Cleveland Indians in exchange for Al and pitcher Early Wynn, made the prediction while discussing his own relationship with White Sox manager in the world. "If a ballplayer can't play for Lopez, he said, he can't play for anyone."

Asked why he thinks so highly of Lopez, the tan-jack-of-all-trades player, said the manager knows men and treats his players like men.

Smith also said he was certain he will boost his batting average to .300 under Lopez this season. He made his predictions during spring training here.

## Southern U. In Baseball Tryouts Soon

BATON ROUGE, La. — (ANP) — With seven lettermen returning from last year's Southwestern Conference Championship team, the ballers are set to launch the 1958 Southern University Jaguar Baseball season, playing the first of an 18 game slate, March 7-8. They will host the Alcorn College Braves in an inter-sectional game, on the SU Diamond.

The Jaguars loom as repeaters in the conference this season in the nucleus of the title performers returning plus what coach Robert H. Lee described as a "good crop" of first year hopefuls.

One win graduation is "Beck" Huntley, mound ace of the past season, who posted a 5-0 record. The Jaguars will, however, leave the services of four pitchers who posted a total of 9 wins and one loss between them.



**'BUMS' GET NEW LIDS** — Early bird Dodgers at the spring training camp in Vero Beach, Fla., are getting ready to try on their new Los Angeles caps for the first time. From left are catcher John Roseboro (who replaces the badly injured Ray Campanella), pitchers Don Newcombe and Johnny Podres, catcher Rube Walker, and pitchers Clem Labine and Don Bessent. Newcombe injured his leg in exercising his first time out. (Newspress Photo)

## Wendell Smith To Be First Negro To Broadcast Boxing

NEW YORK (ANP) — Wendell Smith, boxing expert for the Chicago American daily newspaper, and Dr. Joyce Brothers, 28-year-old psychologist from Brooklyn, have been commissioned to do the between rounds commentary during the Carmen Basilio-Sugar Ray Robinson middleweight championship fight on FIRST NEGRO BROADCAST.

CBS Radio, Tuesday March 25 at 10:00 P.M., EST, the network announced. The fight will be held in Chicago.

Smith, a leading sports writer for the American and one of the few Negroes on its staff, will become the first member of his race ever to broadcast a major boxing event in the United States. Himself a former athlete, Smith also writes a weekly column in the Pittsburgh Courier newspaper. His "Wendell Smith's Beat" has been a regular feature of the Courier for several years.

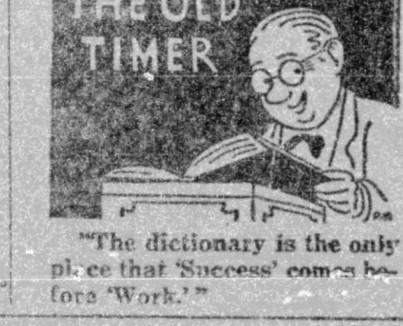
## L. A. Dodgers Disclose Plans To Push Newcombe & Others

VERO BEACH, Fla. — (ANP) — Big Don Newcombe and others on the Los Angeles Dodgers pitching staff will have to work harder and hold up better under pressure or they will find their starting assignments frequently relegated to men normally assigned to bullpen duty.

That is the setup under a plan announced last week by Dodgers manager, Walt Alton. Alton said he will use a relief scheme under which he will call upon such bullpen gems as Clem Labine, Ed Roebuck or Don Bessent when men like Newcombe, Carl Erskine and other regular starts falter. "If any of them falter, I wouldn't hesitate to pull Roebuck, Clem Labine or Don Bessent from the bullpen and send him in," Alton said at the Dodgers' training camp here.

He did not say, however, how he will rotate his catching assignments. With Roy Campanella lost to the Dodgers because of his injury in January, the "Bum's" first-string man is Rube Walker, the former Cub. However, Rube is a weak hitter and there is every indication the Dodgers will recall John Roseboro, Negro backstop, who was Camp's understudy last spring.

Meanwhile, the Dodgers are said to be depending on Newcombe, a 27-year winner in 1956, to come through with another banner year. Newk dropped way off the pace last year.



"The dictionary is the only place that 'Success' comes before 'Work'."

## Fans, Experts Call Rodgers "Classiest"

PHILADELPHIA — (ANP) — The hot three-cornered scoring battle involving Wilt Chamberlain, Elgin Baylor and Oscar Robertson has drawn the attention and captured the fancy of basketball experts and fans across the nation.

But here in Philadelphia they insist one of the classic performers in the collegiate ranks is Guy Rodgers, the marvelous playmaker for Temple Owls. The Owls own the longest college winning streak of the season and Rodgers is the man who has paced them to (as of this writing) 17 straight victories.

Rodgers, a 6-1 senior, had been a valuable member of the Owls for three seasons. In the two previous campaigns, he helped the team into post-season tournaments.

Rodgers is not the deftest of college shooters. But this season is averaging about 20 points a game. He recently threw in 25 one night against Duquesne and 26 on another occasion against St. John's of Brooklyn.

Rodgers is a slick operator and versatile in his shooting. He is adept at using his teammates, both to his and their advantages. It's nothing in a game for him to come up with six to eight assists. That makes him all the more dangerous.

In leading Temple to the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Holiday tournament in New York City this season (the Owls' first major tournament title since 1938),

Rodgers dispelled all doubts about being considered bona fide All-American timber.

He won the most valuable player award unanimously and showed that he could do just about everything with a basketball—shoot, dribble, handle the ball, defend, rebound and quarterback his team.

The 160-pound Rodgers and Hal Lear, the great Temple performer of two seasons ago, gave the Owls one of the most terrific fast-break duos in history.

## Mrs. Brucker Given Award For Exhibit

HAMPTON, Va. — Mrs. Claire Brucker, wife of Howard Brucker, assistant professor of music at Hampton Institute, recently won a purchase prize at the Irene Leache Memorial Art Exhibit which was held at the Norfolk Museum. The painting will be included in the Museum's permanent collection.

A native of New York City and the mother of one child, Mrs. Brucker and her composer husband have resided at the college for five years.

She has studied at the Cooper Union Art School and Hans Hofmann Art School, both in New York City. Having spent a number of years painting in Europe, her works have been exhibited internationally.

Last year Mrs. Brucker received a merit of distinction award from the Virginia Museum of Art, Richmond. She also received a scholarship to paint in Spain.

## Dillard Tops Rams Twice; Tie For Title

NEW ORLEANS — (ANP) — Dillard University's Blue Devils ended regular season play here last week by defeating the Huston-Tillotson Rams 86-59 and 59-51 on successive nights. By notching these two important wins Dillard gained a tie with Tougaloo College for the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference basketball crown. Dillard is also football champion of the conference.

Dillard will not lose a man next season from this year's squad which posted an 18-6 over-all record and a 7-3 conference record. Four Chicago boys—Frank and Bernard Hancock, Robert Williamson and Bill Sherron and Ralph Laster, freshmen sensation from Dothan, Ala., will lead next year's Blue Devil eagles.

## Eddie Machen May Topple Patterson In 1958, Annual Boxing Preview Says

California's Eddie Machen may be the man to beat Floyd Patterson in the heavyweight class this year. This is what Playboy Magazine's March issue predicts in its fifth annual boxing preview. Undeclared in 25 professional bouts, Machen, at 25, is the outstanding contender in a field of five.

Lining up the men to watch in the ring in 1958, is Ed Pazdur, syndicated newspaper columnist and author of the book "TV Boxing Guide."

Any Patterson-Machen match will hinge on Patterson's manager Gus D'Amato whose personal feud with the IBC, Pazdur says, during the past has produced such matchmaking

facades as the Pete Rademacher bout. . . . Second contender for the heavyweight crown may be Zora Foley, 26 of Chandler, Arizona, who is a harder puncher than Machen, Pazdur notes, but lacks the latter's stamina.

No. 3 man on the heavyweight totem pole is a 23-year old Roy Harris of Cut and Shoot, Texas, whom Pazdur calls "the most promising rookie" in his last three bouts. Harris has whipped Bob Baker, Will Pacheco and Willie Besmanoff. But says Pazdur, "Roy requires more experience and will not be ready for a title try for at

least another year." . . . Combining the field in some of the other classes, Pazdur finds these possible matches: . . . Light-Heavyweight: Champion Archie Moore vs. Harold Johnson . . . Middleweight: Champion Carmen Basilio vs. Sugar Ray Robinson . . . Welterweight: Cuba's Isaac Lopez may emerge as successor to the title relinquished by Carmen Basilio in an elimination tournament to determine the new champion.

Lightweight Champ Joe Brown vs. Kenny Lane. Featherweight Champion Hogan "Kid" Bascy of Nigeria vs. France's Cherif Hamia.

## Subscription TV Could Boost Boxing Money: Archie Moore

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Boxing which has taken a tremendous drop at the boxoffice, could be rejuvenated if subscription television is allowed to become a reality, declared light-heavyweight champion Archie Moore at his San Diego, Calif., ranch.

With the current battle being waged between opponents and proponents of this newest electronic wonder, the ageless leather-pusher predicted that fighters could wind up with a million dollar pot to split between them if millions of fans could sit in their homes and watch them battle for the sum of a half-dollar or one buck, whichever fee is charged.

"As it stands right now, boxers fight for the promoters, not the public," said the 175-pound title holder. "If we were to go on for the public then there would be better fights and the entire boxing sport would improve. A promising young fighter would get the breaks he needs for seasoning and eating at the same time. For more years than I like to remember I was denied this chance and sometimes I wonder whether all the heartaches I put into getting the crown was worth it."

Pointing out that the low income family can't afford to support the fight game, which has seen million dollar gates pass out of existence when Joe Louis hurt

up his gloves, Moore, often called the egypt of the ring because of his travels to foreign shores to get bouts added:

"All the good fights are not on TV any more. You have to go to a theatre and pay \$1.49 or more to watch them. Just imagine the audience if millions of people could buy a good fight for a buck and stay home watching it. There'd be more fights, more boxers and a rejuvenation of the sport itself." . . . At present the major TV networks and movie theatre owners are opposing even a test of subscription TV by which the people themselves would decide whether or not they want it.

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