

September 17 Set For Start Of CIAA Season In N.C.



ASHFORD IN ACTION — Emmett Ashford goes all out when he officiates a baseball game, one of the reasons he's a popular umpire in the Pacific Coast League. Ashford, the first Negro to umpire profes-

sional baseball, is in his second season with the PCL. He hopes someday to receive an assignment in the major leagues. (Photo by Allan de Lay, Portland, Oregon).

First Negro Professional Umpire Winning New Laurels For Race

Emmett Ashford, the first Negro to umpire professional baseball, is winning new laurels for himself and his race with his officiating in the Pacific Coast League.

It's Ashford's ambition to umpire in the major leagues some day and his rapid rise indicates he might well achieve that goal. He began calling plays and pitches in organized baseball late in the 1951 season in the Class C Southwest International League. It took him less than three years to work up to the Open Class Pacific Coast circuit, where he's rounding out his second season.

If Ashford can become the Jackie Robinson of major league umpires, it will signal an outstanding personal triumph.

"Many of my own friends ridiculed me for wanting to be a professional baseball umpire," he declares.

"Anyone who does something first runs up against this kind of barrier, but I've always been one to try something new and I've never turned down a challenge. If I can do a good umpiring job, I can do much for my people. Much of the ill feeling between white persons and Negroes is being erased in the sports world and that is a grand thing."

Ashford is proud that his professional umpiring career has not been marred by any incident of prejudice. "Getting along on the field is the big thing," he said. "I just want people to accept me as I am, and so far they've done just that."

He's becoming a popular baseball arbiter because of his emphatic and "on top of the play" style of calling them. The fans in Dixie town once gave him an ovation for merely dusting off the plate.

Ashford, a resident of Los Angeles, gave up 15 years of security and seniority in the post office there to take up a seasonal career as an umpire. But he has no cause for regret. Not only is he a success on the diamond, but in the off-season he's a full time public relations representative for the Western Sales Division of the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company. During the baseball season, he devotes what time he can to his Schlitz work.

His public relations duties take him up and down the West Coast.

Ashford began umpiring softball games as a hobby in 1940. "Softball began to boom in California after World War II and I began to get jobs which took me from San Diego (100 miles south of his home) to Santa Barbara (some 90 miles to the north).

"Pretty soon I branched into high school and college baseball, working Pacific Coast Con-

ference games for the University of Southern California and the University of California at Los Angeles and for smaller colleges in the Los Angeles area. That was about 1948."

He also umpired major league exhibition games at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles during four spring training seasons and was umpire for the Memphis Red Sox of the Negro American League while serving with the U. S. Navy during the war.

That was Ashford's umpiring background when he got a chance in 1951 to join the Southwest International League for the last two months of the season. The league operated in Southern California, Arizona, Nevada and Mexico.

Ashford obtained a leave of absence from his post office job and accepted the opportunity. When the season ended, he was among those selected to umpire the league playoffs.

"It made me feel pretty good when that happened," he admits.

When the 1952 season began, Ashford quit his post office job and became a professional umpire. From the Southwest International League he moved on to the Arizona-Texas loop and the Western International circuit and last year was signed by the Pacific Coast League, where he became an immediate hit.

When Ashford calls a play or a pitch, there's no room for doubt in understanding his verdict. His whole body and even his facial expression reflect his decision. On a strike, for instance, he'll whip out his right arm, bring it back and pump it out again for emphasis.

But he believes that umpiring "calling balls and strikes correctly comes first, then if a fellow can develop a style it helps."

-Letter-

(Continued from Page Two) of human beings. Therefore, teaching appeals only to the missionary minded Negro in the North. The great majority of Negroes in the North seek jobs which pay more money and which require less professional preparation just as the Whites are doing in North Carolina today. Can you blame them?

It seems to me, under the Governor's philosophy, mother time will be the deciding factor and not our devotion and prayers to false gods. From where I stand, North Carolina's greatest need today, at the head of its government, is not a good politician but a good STATESMAN.

G. E. Cheek

Hundreds Attend Water Pageant At Hillside Park

The Hillside Life Saving Corp presented its 1955 Water Pageant, August 15, at 8 p. m. The Pageant had a Tropical setting and the title was "A Night of Fantasy In Kahoolawe." The place was alive with excitement. Beautiful scenery and soft lights helped to cast an exotic spell on the occasion. Hundreds of people witnessed this gala affair. The pageant took place in water and on land.

The participants formed a big "HELLO" across the pool that was met with a loud applause. Synchronized swimming, the water wheel, precision diving, by the Life Saving Corp, stunt diving by the Clown all met with approval. There were hula dancers, Indian dancers, "Apple Jack," Tapp and many other intricate dances. "Apple Jack" Moore and his assistant sent the audience into peals of laughter with their comedy act. A highlight of the occasion was music furnished by the Progressive Six Swing Band, featuring Joseph McLaurin and George Washington as vocalist.

A night of fun and merriment came to an end with the audience reluctant to leave.

Scout Swim Classic Set For Hillside Swimming Pool Saturday, Aug 27.

The Fourth Annual Scout Swim Classic is being staged by the City Recreation Department and the Durham Divisional Committee of the Boy Scouts. Clarke Egerton, pool director, will be in charge. The event will take place at the Hillside Swimming Pool on Saturday, Aug. 27. All Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorer Scouts of Durham and adjoining counties are invited to participate, according to R. Kelly Bryant, Jr., chairman of the Durham Divisional Committee.

The pool will open at ten o'clock and Scouts may complete requirements for first class swimming or merit badges on life saving and swimming during the morning. The afternoon program will get underway at 1:15 P. M. The Classic will be filled with a series of competitive elimination events in swimming races, relays and diving. Units may participate in any or all of the events. The events will include races in free style swimming (any stroke the Scout wishes to use), breaststroke, sidestroke, backstroke, etc. Fancy diving will be the attraction of the afternoon. There will be events for Scout leaders.

HANK THOMPSON OK; INJURY ONLY MINOR

NEW YORK
Hank Thompson—the Giants' third baseman, escaped serious injury when he was hit on the forearm by Dodger pitcher, Karl Spooner. Had the hit come three inches higher on the elbow, it would have fractured the elbow, explained the Giants' trainer. The New Yorkers were greatly worried about Hank what with so many of their infielders out of commission.

WILLIE PACING GIANTS FOR SECOND PLACE

NEW YORK
Despite all the moaning of Giants fans — with a great deal of it directed at Willie Mays for not being superhuman — the Giants seemed headed for second place in the National League. That's if they hustle the rest of the way and go all out for the next best to being pennant winners.

Pacing the Giants is Willie, no less, who seems stronger in August than he was earlier in the year. Although Willie's batting 35 points less than last year—he's still hitting at .301 and his RBI pace is faster than last year's. Since July 1, the Giants have won 28 of 44 games played.



On his own as a halfback performer this year is North Carolina College halfback George Alexander, Salisbury, N. C. junior. A standout performer last season when he played in the shadows of Amos Thornton and Jerome Evans, Alexander may well become one of the Eagles' all-time averages. He is a better than average bet to enter NCC's home opener on October 15 in Durham against Virginia State College. The Eagles' other home opponents are Shaw University (Homecoming) on Oct. 29 and South Carolina State, November 5.

DUKE SNIDER COMES TO DEFENSE OF WILLIE MAYS

BROOKLYN
Call it an odd turnabout if you will—but when the Giant fans booed Willie Mays so vociferously this week for failing to pick up the ball after Duke Snider's single had gotten through his legs and two runs scored—it was Duke Snider who came to the rescue of Willie.

A centerfielder himself of no mean ability, the Dodgers' Duke can't understand all the fuss both newspapers and fans are making over Willie—even to the extent of berating the Wonder Boy for being a Prima Donna. Said Snider: "What are they getting on Willie for? Sometimes it doesn't pay to be able to do all the things he can do. They expect you to perform miracles every day. Willie does a lot of great things over there. And what about his explanation? He said he saw Mueller going after the ball and Mueller was closer to it. Isn't that enough?"



Big Labor Day Show And Dance To Co-Star Erskine Hawkins, Others

RALEIGH
The big Rhythm and Blues Show co-starring Erskine Hawkins and his great orchestra; The Orioles, that sensational singing group; Earl King plus Roy Brown and his great orchestra will play a big labor day show and dance date at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium on Monday night Sept. 5.

New Orleans has given to America a great number of musical stars and three members of this very exclusive set are the Louis boys (that's Armstrong and Prima, in case you didn't already know) and Roy Brown. Known throughout the land as the most exciting blues stylist, the foremost exponent of rockin' rhythm Brown brings a distinctive type of blues and rhythm of the New Orleans flavor.

The famous Twentieth Century Garbel, Erskine Hawkins, claims allegiance to the solid-sending, solid swinging

type of rhythm and blues that has established his aggregation as The American Rhythm Champion. As both leader and composer, Hawkins is probably best known for his "Tuxedo Junction" which he wrote in 1939. Since that time he has written many other melodies which attained hit proportions. Among them are "Tippin' In", "After Hours", "Norfolk Ferry", "Brooklyn Bounce" and "Hawk's Boogie". Rounding out the show will be those show-stopping boys The Orioles. They are one of the major reasons for the currently amazing popularity of...

(Please turn to Page Eight)

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The ORIOLES

Grid Campaign Begins With Clash Between Broncos And Pirates

Fayetteville State Teachers College's clash with the Hampton Pirates on the Broncos' home field at Fayetteville marks the first CIAA game of the new football season in North Carolina on September 17.

CIAA Kingpin NCC, defending champion for the second straight year, doesn't play until Sept. 24 when Herman H. Riddick's Eagles clash with the St. Augustine's College Falcons at Chavis Park in Raleigh.

For the Sept. 17 game at Fayetteville, Coach William Gus Gaines' Broncos take only the memories of last season's 1-5-0 CIAA record. Word from the Broncos' camp has it that Gaines has been readying his 1955 club with a terrific "morale boosting" campaign that carried over from spring training.

The Broncos scored 55 points against 143 for their CIAA opponents in 1954, but present indications point to a stronger and more daring club that may well prove to be one of the big surprises of the new season.

Fayetteville's conference opener on its home grounds brings to Tarheelia one of the most astute of all CIAA mentors, the Pirates' distinguished Harry "Big Jeff" Jefferson. Jeff's record with Fayetteville for the past three years is three wins, no losses, and no ties. There's no reason to feel Jeff and his Pirates expect to give up either willingly or easily their present skin of three straight wins. Hampton should have a stronger club than in 1954. The Pirates last season ended their conference season with a 4-5-1 record. They tallied 79 points against 174 for their opponents.

While the Hampton-Fayetteville game occupies the center of the CIAA stage in North Carolina, Princess Anne, Md., will be the scene of what promises to be the CIAA game of the day. In that game, Vernon McCall's Maryland's Hawks play host to

Tom Harris' Union Panthers. McCall and Harris are smart and colorful coaches whose charges usually feature some smart ball handling and an aerial attack that keeps the fans on edge throughout a contest.

Maryland's 1954 CIAA record was spoiled only by a tie with the powerful NCC Eagles. The Hawks racked up 153 points against only 33 for their opponents. They finished in the CIAA record second only to first place NCC with a 5-0-1 record. They were beaten 67 to 19 in the Orange Blossom Bowl by the Florida A. and M. juggernaut of Jake Gaither.

Union's club ended up with a 5-3-0 CIAA record for 1954. In the scoring department, Tom Harris' crew tallied 150 against 112 for the opposition. "Score and let score, but get there fustes with the moses" seems to be the theme of the September 17 clash between Maryland and Virginia Union at Princess Anne.

Another CIAA club will play a non-conference title on Sept. 17 when Mark Cardwell's West Virginia State Yellowjackets engage Taylor University of Up-land, Ind., on a neutral site.

Other games outside the CIAA for Sept. 17 include these: Grambling vs. Paul Quinn at Grambling; Lincoln, (Mo.) vs. Tennessee State at Memphis, Tenn.; Prairie View vs. Morris Brown at Prairie View; Tougaloo vs. Philander Smith at Tougaloo, Miss., and Tuskegee vs. Alabama A. and M. at Tuskegee.



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