

SPORT talk

Long Winter Of Henry Aaron'

Clowning Days Are Part Of Hank's Past

NEW YORK—With \$2 in his pocket, carrying a battered suitcase and clutching two sandwiches his mother had made for him, 17-year-old Hank Aaron boarded a train in Mobile, Ala., in 1951. He was about to join a barnstorming ball club, the Indianapolis Clowns. Thus was launched one of the most fabulous careers in baseball history.

AS AARON pursued the ghostly figure of Babe Ruth and the very real figures Ruth left in the baseball record book—714 career home runs—executive producer Robert Northshield and an NBC crew moved along with him. The result, a one-hour special titled "The Long Winter of Henry Aaron," will be broadcast on the NBC Television Network Sunday, Oct. 21.

"We sought the answers to the question, 'Who is Hank Aaron?'" explained Mr. Northshield, "and we'll have a documentary that supplies them. We talked to Hank's parents and boyhood friends in Mobile; to his children; to his teammates and to the big leaguers who play against him."

"As every baseball fan must realize, the pressure on Aaron has been tremendous and we have tried to bring into sharp focus his reactions to the attitudes of the spectators, and to the heavy volume of mail, some of it expressing bitter resentment over the fact that Hank was about to surpass Ruth's home run total, a record which was regarded as inviolate."

Contrary to the hateful segment of the correspondence, a survey taken by the polling organization, Oliver Quayle and Co., showed strong sentiment in favor of Aaron's climb toward the Ruthian plateau. On the question of whether they would like to see Aaron break the record, 58 percent said they would, a scant eight percent preferred to see Ruth retain the record, and 34 per cent were indifferent.

FULLY 95 percent disagreed with the attitude that "I'd just as soon not have a black person break Ruth's record."

As his 20th season as a major leaguer ends, Aaron will be facing what for him could be a "long winter." He has announced his intention to play for one more season, regardless of whether he reaches the Ruthian plateau.

IF HE doesn't make it during the remaining weeks of the 1973 campaign, Aaron will be sweating out those last few vital swings of his bat next spring. If he attains his goal by Sept. 30, the 1974 season will be somewhat anti-climactic, but his future will be very much on his mind. What will he do after he jogs into the dugout for the last time as a player?

In another sense, Aaron has

had his "long winter," that period during which he never quite received the recognition to which his spectacular talents entitled him.

HANK has enjoyed his share of honors. He was the National League's "most valuable player" in 1957, led the league at various times in assorted batting categories, and has been chosen for the All-Star team for 19 consecutive seasons. But he lacked the flamboyance of a Willie Mays, and the attention merited by the statistics he piled up for the Braves was concentrated largely in his home ball parks, first in Milwaukee, then in Atlanta.

Aaron never has been what the ball players call a "show boat," but equipped with consummate natural skills, he, in a sense, has made it look easy. The third of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Aaron, the inherent baseball talent in the slender frame of Henry Louis Aaron simply sprouted, without some of the normal preliminaries.

THE NBC crew that delved

into his Mobile background learned that neither of his secondary schools, Central High and Josephine Allen Institute, had a baseball team. As a halfback and end on the football teams at both schools, he was good enough to warrant a scholarship offer from a Florida college.

By that time he had been playing softball during the warm Alabama spring and summer evenings. From there he moved to the infield of the Mobile Black Bears, a semi-pro outfit, and on the last Sunday of the season during Hank's junior year in school, the visiting team was the Indianapolis Clowns.

THEY saw enough during that single ball game to offer him a contract. Aaron waited until he graduated the following year before he accepted the \$200 per month. During the two decades since the Braves paid the Indianapolis management \$10,000 for his contract, that modest salary has grown to \$200,000 a year.

Twice Defeated Eagles Move to Second Place in MEAC Grid Race

When the football coaches in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference met in Greensboro in August they all agreed on one thing: that the football race in the MEAC would be a very close one.

After four weeks of the young season all indications pointed to their predictions as being true. Morgan State was picked by the coaches to win the title with A & T being second and North Carolina Central third.

Six of the seven teams in the league have played at least one league game thus far and two of three teams picked to be at the top are right up there near the top.

Howard has shown that the Washington eleven plans to be one of the teams to be around the top when the Pelican Bowl bid is announced in November. The Bison are at the top of the conference with a 2-0 league mark and a 4-0 overall slate. The Eagles of North Carolina are one half game behind in the league race having stopped Morgan State, 11-8 Saturday.

The Aggies of A & T did not loose any ground in the conference but the Gate City

charges were upset by arch-rival Johnson C. Smith, 15-11 Saturday night. The defeat was the first of the year for A & T which has a 2-1-1 overall mark.

South Carolina State got a strong defensive effort in winning its first game of the season. In winning their first game of the year, the Bulldogs also knocked one of the CIAA teams from the unbeaten ranks with a 2-0 victory over Virginia Union.

Howard cranked up its offense Saturday and romped to a 41-20 decision over Virginia State in Washington. Maryland-Eastern Shore was idle last week.

Opportunist North Carolina Central took advantage of two fumble recoveries and a blocked punt for 11 first half points and then continued to play stout defensive in the second half and hung on an 11-8 verdict over Morgan.

Delaware State showed a little more offensive thrust but it was not enough as the Hornets suffered their fourth straight setback of the season dropping a 34-14 non-conference game to Clarion State.



THE 1973-74 EDITION OF THE ST. AUG. FALCON SOCCER TEAM—These are the members of the 1973-74 edition of the Saint Augustine's College Falcon Soccer Team. Kneeling left to right: Joseph Kazadi, Zair; Horace Parkinson, Sierra Leone; Robert Fergusson, Sierra Leone; Kuldeh Kamara, Sierra Leone; Micheal Frazier, Sierra Leone; Robert Ghotson, New Jersey; Raymond A. Parish, Sierra Leone; and Arthur Gilpen, Sierra Leone. Standing, left to right: Zack McNeil, Laurinburg; Carlton-Carew, Sierra Leone; Dockery Ashwood, Sierra Leone; Benjamin Sackey, Ghana; Valentine Gibson, Sierra Leone; S. Hunter, Sierra Leone; Raymond Richards, Sierra Leone; Melville Richards, Sierra Leone; Bennett Holloman, Ghana; V. Thomas, Sierra Leone; Sidney Richards, Sierra Leone; David Cleveland, Sierra Leone; Jean P. Mwambi, Zaire, Germain Kalongi, Zair; Solomon Hilliary, Sierra Leone, (trainer).

Howard Bisons Roll On With Win Over Delaware

As the 1973 football season heads into the mid-season the Howard Bison have established themselves as the team to beat in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC).

Howard ran its 1973 unbeaten streak to five games, three in the conference, as the Bison handily defeated winless Delaware State, 29-6 Saturday afternoon in Dover, Delaware.

In other action involving MEAC teams Morgan State got very much back in the league race with a hard-earned 24-21 league win over Maryland-Eastern Shore at Baltimore while North Carolina A & T and North Carolina Central divided a pair of games against CIAA foes. South Carolina State was idle Saturday.

The Aggies bounced back from a 15-11 defeat to Johnson C. Smith with a 26-12 decision over Norfolk State in the victim's backyard. North Carolina Central dropped its second game of the year losing to Virginia State by the score of 23-2 in Petersburg.

Howard rushed for 225

yards, passed for 148 more and held Delaware State to 140 yards total offense increasing its conference lead to one full game over North Carolina Central. The Bison scored at least once in every quarter against Delaware State which dropped its first conference test and its fifth straight of the campaign.

Morgan State, picked by the league coaches to win the MEAC title this season, had to fight for its life in its first home game of the year against Maryland-Eastern Shore. The Bears had to pull out all stops in evening, their league record at 1-1 and their overall mark at 2-2. The defeat was the second in family competition for Maryland-Eastern Shore and third in fourth outings.

A & T, not primarily known as a passing team, unleashed a devastating passing attack featuring quarterback Paul McKibbins in its victory over

Norfolk State. Behind the passing of McKibbins and the stellar defense play of Darrell Glover, the Aggies broke a 6-6 deadlock with 20 points in the fourth stanza.

McKibbins, who ran for one touchdown, completed 12 of 21 passes for 225 yards and one touchdown while Glover, playing his first game of the season after suffering injuries, intercepted a pass and returned it 42 yards for a TD.

North Carolina Central was never able to get its offense and defense going as the Eagles suffered a setback to Virginia State. Virginia State carried a 13-0 lead to the dressing room at intermission and added 10 more points in the third stanza before the Eagles finally got on the scoreboard with a safety in the third period.

The MEAC schedule for this week will be highlighted with conference games, and homecomings.

Virginia State Trojans Smother N. C. Central Eagles by 23 to 2

PETERSBURG, Va. — Virginia State set a bear-trap defense against N. C. Central in Rogers Stadium Saturday and the Trojans walked off with a 23-2 nonconference football victory.

The Trojans opened the scoring in the first quarter with 5:49 left as Chris Arnold intercepted a Kenny Wells pass and went 35 yards for a score. Virginia's defense continued to control the Eagle offense in the second quarter as it wiped out a possible NCCU threat by holding on a fourth down play at the Trojans' 47.

Two plays following the defensive stand, Russell Seaton, lofted a high pass down field that was batted by several Central players only to land in the hands of Virginia's James Duggar. Only a desperate effort by Maurice Spencer saved a touchdown on the 66-yard play to the Eagles' three.

But the Trojans were not to be denied a score and with the distance of the goal to the one, Gene Brewer plunged over for the score. Duggar added the PAT for a 13-0 Virginia State lead.

Following the touchdown by the Trojans, Central's Nathaniel Glenn fumbled on the first play and State's Linwood Robbins recovered at the NCCU 21. Central's defense prevented a touchdown, but Duggar's 23-yard field goal gave the Trojans a 16-0 cushion.

Central's only bright spot in the first half was a 72-yard kickoff return by Gary Scales.

Virginia State wasted no time in the third quarter as it took the opening kickoff and marched 86 yards in nine plays. The drive was aided by 55 yards in penalties against the Eagles.

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Remember when tennis was a "sisy game" that rich kids played in the summer? No more! Today it's not only very "in" but everybody is playing the year round, thanks to such factors as the fantastic growth of indoor courts, some in use 24 hours a day! And the clientele ranges in age from 8 to 80, now that the medical profession has okayed tennis for the over-40's crowd.

A long-time participant in tennis's growth is Dr. John Hendrix, veteran coach and an associate professor at Ohio State University. During the past 30 years he's helped to develop some of the best young players in the game. Now he happily heads up a group of partners who've started the Racquet Club of Columbus, an 8-court facility that is already fully subscribed after only a year.

The Racquet Club is designed for the whole family. "Tennis is an ideal family game," says Coach Hendrix,

"but tennis should also be fun and part of the fun is in competition. To compete well you have to play well, so I try to teach my students not only the fundamentals, but the importance of thinking and acting for themselves, instead of following a rote pattern. You can train dogs," he adds, "but you teach human beings."

Although Coach Hendrix is responsible for much of the club's success, credit also goes to the facilities: solves, especially the ing. The partners in the country to dete the best surface availab their choice was Bor "Elastatur," a resilient thetic based on Du neoprene that can be pounded for a "fast" "slow" game, depending the club's needs. Their services families, so ti surface is semi-slow and outstanding for its good pi natural "feel" and resilien which helps to cushion tumbles, and smooth, seamless appearance. Not only do the players love it, but the partners find it also offers easy maintenance and long wear—both important when you're paying the bills!

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