

## The Aaron Story

# Babe Ruth Record to Be Broken

ATLANTA (AP) — That skinny kid who was swatting pop bottle caps with a mop handle some three decades ago has become the biggest name in sports today, soon to eclipse a record once thought secure forever.

Hank Aaron begins his 21st major league season this week, needing only two home runs to break the all-time record of 714 held by the legendary Babe Ruth.

Aaron, one of eight children, spent his childhood in Mobile, Ala., developing a love for baseball that has evolved into fame and fortune.

"He was always crazy about playing baseball, but I'd never thought about him becoming a player until the Brooklyn Dodgers came to Mobile for an exhibition game when Henry was about 11," recalls his father,

Herbert, a retired boat dock worker.

"I took him to see the game and he told me that night at the ball park, 'I'm going to be in the big leagues myself, Daddy, before Jackie Robinson is through playing.'"

Robinson, who broke the color barrier in major league baseball, was Aaron's boyhood idol, much as Aaron has become the idol of millions of young blacks today.

"I saw Babe Ruth play myself when I was a kid in Mobile," the elder Aaron said, "but until a couple of years ago I never dreamed I'd have a son who might break Ruth's record."

Hammerin' Hank says he doesn't recall when he first heard of Ruth, the legendary figure with flamboyant life style, totally unlike that of the quiet 40-year-old Atlanta

Braves' superstar.

"He used to hit pop tops with a mop handle for hours," said Henry's father. "You know the other kids would do the pitching."

Many of Aaron's pop top games took place outside Mitchell Field in Mobile, where he actually launched his career as a teen-ager with the Mobile Black Bears, a semi-pro outfit.

"We used to soak old rags in kerosene and use them for lights when we played at night," Aaron said.

Aaron's father played a little amateur baseball and managed the neighborhood team that eventually became the Black Bears.

It was natural that the Aaron sons would play the game, but only two, Hank and Tommie, chose it as a career. Tommie, a younger brother, spent several seasons with the Braves. He now manages Atlanta's Class AA farm team at Savannah.

Herbert, an older brother, played baseball before entering military service but didn't continue later. Another younger brother, James, played in high school. A fifth Aaron son died of pneumonia at an early age.

Hank also has three sisters, Sarah Jones, Gloria Robinson

and Alfredia Scott.

Hank, not an ideal pupil, attended Mobile's Central High School through his junior year when he desired to begin a baseball career. However, his parents insisted he first get a high school diploma and Hammerin' Hank graduated from the Josephine Allen Institute in 1951.

Aaron began playing for the Black Bears during his junior year in high school. In the final game, he was impressive in a battle against the Indianapolis Clowns, who offered him a contract the following spring for \$200 a month.

Several years before that, Aaron had drifted onto the field during a Brooklyn Dodger tryout camp at Mobile. Dodger personnel took one look at the skinny youngster and told him to go back home.

Ed Scott, a scout, signed Aaron to a contract with the Clowns on Nov. 20, 1951. The slugger's mother had sent him on his way with a battered suitcase, \$2 in his pocket and two sandwiches to eat along the way.

Aaron soon drew the attention of Braves' scout Dewey Griggs, who eventually signed Hank for \$350 a month plus a

\$10,000 payoff to Clowns' owner Syd Pollack.

Aaron was assigned to Eau Claire, Wis., in June 1952. He hit .336 and was voted the Northern League's outstanding rookie.

The Braves dispatched Billy Southworth to Eau Claire to scout Aaron and the former big league manager filed a glowing report—"for a baby face kid of 18 years, his playing ability is outstanding."

Aaron moved up to the Class A South Atlantic League in 1953, playing for the Jacksonville Stars where he led the team to the league title and was named its most valuable player.

He credits to this day his Jacksonville manager, Ben Geraghty, with having one of the greatest influences on his baseball career. He played second base with the Stars and was converted to the outfield the following off-season.

Aaron reported to the Braves' training camp next spring, ready to play for the club's Class AA team in Atlanta. But a fractured ankle to Bobby Thomson changed those plans and launched the Hammer on a two-decade era of consistency in the majors.



**NEW MEMBERS OF PHI THETA KAPPA** — Julie Ann Applegarth, Lula A. Blizzare, Melinda D. Bolton, Benita L. Bridgers, Philip L. Bryant, Rickey Glenn Butler, Wanda Kay Butler, Dwight G. Collier, Jeffrey Joseph Dance, Walter Raleigh Garris, Jr., Keiko Hanasto, Catherine Lynn Hemmla, Chester B. Hill, Jr., Donna M. Jenkins, Hugh Banks Lewis,

Marvin George McCanna, III, Phil Adam Matthews, Jorge Luis Nassar, Carla Grace Riley, Bobbie Jean Rothenberg, Jeffrey Alan Saul, Michael A. Salvaggio, Sheree Diane Smith, Gary Lyn Swing, Bernard F. Taylor, Thomas Wilson Vinson, Ellen Ruth Walston, Benjamin Franklin Warren, Deborah L. White, David Martin Woods.

## Hugh Downs Plans Movie

NEW YORK (AP) — Hugh Downs has become a producer in a flying scarf. A broadcaster by vocation and pilot by avocation, he recently roared off into the movie and barnstorming business — simultaneously.

It's resulted in a documentary film called "Nothing by Chance," based on a wonderful 1969 book of the same name that pilot-author Richard Bach wrote before his best-selling "Jonathan Livingston Seagull."

The movie, which Downs says will be released for theaters but not television late this spring, is sort of a pilot's answer to "The Endless Summer," a popular surfing documentary of a few years ago.

Bach, who co-produced the film, "assembled all the pilots and got a marvelous crew," Downs said. The aviators ranged from a genuine old-time barnstormer to a jetliner captain from California.

The movie was filmed last summer with a fleet of five biplanes built in the 1920s when barnstorming — taking adventurous citizens for a quick hop around the pea patch — was in full and glorious bloom.

The jet-age barnstormers did the same thing, starting in Weeping Water, Neb., and ending a month later in Rio, Wis. They were surprised to find then they'd even turned a small profit.

## Briefs

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) — Mountain Grove Cemetery officials have recovered the head of a statue of Tom Thumb. It had been missing since last week when vandals damaged the 100-pound figurine erected in 1857 as a memorial to the 40-inch circus midgit. The head was found perched in a tree near the gravesite.

DOVER TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — Mayor Ethel Zaun has set aside certain times of the year for streaking — running public in nude: Feb. 29, except in leap years, and the sixth week of March.

The proclamation issued Wednesday says: "Any citizen caught streaking at any other than on the officially sanctioned period may be subject to a penalty of up to \$1 for each pound of flesh exposed in such activity."

"The great thing about it was that we could avoid airports altogether if we wanted to," said Downs, who didn't take cash customers aloft and concentrated on producing and subsequent narrating chores.

"If you can find a level field that a farmer will let you land in — if it's not too far from a little town — then you fly the fleet over," he said of the modern recreation of flying's good old days.

Publicizing the flights was done as in the early days, he said. Parachutists tumbled from planes, mock dogfights raged and aerobatics ran rampant as curious crowds trooped to the landing field.

Those who would be among the eagles and had \$3 in cash were taken aloft for a short ride, Downs said, "and the funny thing is that we were claiming to be the only anti-inflationary force in America."

"When Glenn Curtiss started barnstorming after World War I, he charged \$15 and Charles Lindbergh, in the 1920s, charged \$6."

## Two Streakers Get Jail Terms

ROME (AP) — A Rome court today convicted two American youths of committing acts against public decency by streaking across St. Peter's Square. They were sentenced to five days in jail.

The pair, Raymond Johnson, 20, Portsmouth, N.H., and Robert Mesnard, 20, Dvon, Pa., were arrested last Saturday night and had already served the five days in Rome's Rebibbia prison.

They were expected to be released from custody later. The court also sentenced Johnson to an additional 15 days for originally giving police a false name, but the sentence was suspended.

The youths originally were charged with committing obscene acts and with resisting arrest. David Dibagno of Greensburg, Pa., arrested fully clothed near St. Peter's Square shortly after the two streakers were apprehended, also was charged with resisting arrest. The prosecutor asked that this charge against all three be dismissed and the court agreed.

The barnstormers, Bach among them, weren't on salary. "Bach felt that would have destroyed the spirit of it, so they all took one per cent of the movie," Downs said, referring to a percentage of the film's potential earnings.

"Then they had to live off of what they made. The theory was that if you didn't get people up in the air, paying for rides, you couldn't buy your hamburgers. You went to bed hungry under your wing."

That didn't happen, he said, "so Bach really proved that he was right — that barnstorming, which died in the 1930s when the banks closed, could be revived."

Downs thinks the movie will make money. But he isn't putting all his eggs in one cockpit. He's hosting a one-hour ABC special Sunday that's based on "Variety," the show-biz bible, and hopes it'll become a regular weekly series next season.

He's also serving as executive producer on a new television talk-variety show, starring Lena Horne, that will be syndicated soon.

## Thompson Gets Votes

RALEIGH (AP) — Although he wasn't even running, North Carolina State basketball superstar David Thompson got 169 votes for student body president.

In fact, Thompson received one of every six votes cast Wednesday. Thompson led the Wolfpack to its first national championship Monday night as State defeated Marquette 76-64 in the NCAA finals at Greensboro.

Only 1,013 of State's 14,000 students voted for student body president, the lowest turnout since 1952.

Ronnie Lee Jessup of Pilot Mountain won the presidency with 511 votes. He defeated Joe M. Conely of Raleigh who received 302 votes.

Johnson and Mesnard are students at Trinity College, Conn. Dibagno is a Temple University student.

Upon conviction on the original charges Johnson and Mesnard could have been given sentences up to eight years, Dibagno up to five.

The following proposed policy on academic cheating, after having been approved by the Chowan College faculty, will be presented to Student Legislature Tuesday night, March 26, 1974. If the proposed policy is approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Legislature after being tabled for one week, members of the student body will vote on the proposed policy change in the regular SGA election scheduled for April 19, 1974.

According to the amendment procedure of the SGA Constitution, the proposed policy change must be published in the student newspaper at least one week prior to the election.

Revised Proposed Policy On Academic Cheating

Because Chowan College is an academic community, the faculty and administration view academic cheating as a very serious matter. Thus, though the punishment may vary, depending on the case at hand, it is understood that the penalty will be severe, up to and including expulsion from the college.

Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of aid on any assignment designed to examine the student's skill and/or achievement based on personal performance with the understanding that plagiarism and perjury are always considered cheating.

If a faculty member and his

## Open Forum

I wish to relate an experience which I unwittingly foundered upon over the springbreak. I spent the week at a college in St. Paul, Minnesota, a four year coeducational school. I found the school's policy on cheating to be quite horrifying as I'm sure all concerned Chowan Students will. It seems the school and city officials have an unwritten agreement where the students keep all dope and sale of dope on campus and city officials (i.e. cops) do not interfere. Needless to say, being the virtuous Chowan student that I am, I was traumatically shocked. I was deeply dismayed to walk down the hall of the dorm in which I did reside only to discover the halls reeking of what I suspect was pot. This prompted me to further investigate the matter. In the school library in St. Paul, I came across an interesting article in my research that I wish to pass along to both students faculty and the administration of Chowan. It seems a study was done in 1884 of 20 regular pot smokers and the results showed no distinguishable effects upon them. Of course, I did a follow up on the report and I think it should be pointer out that not one of the 20 is alive today—so put that in your pipe and take it!

In conclusion, I would like to express any deep gratification of returning to the sterile environment of Chowan College in which none of this nonsense is allowed.

I am gratefully,  
Michael Thrower  
401 Parker

## 2,000 Year Old Indians Found

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Archeologists probing the banks of the Miami River at the site of a demolished hotel have unearthed evidence of a 2,000-year-old Indian tribe with a taste for conch and snails.

"We're dealing with something like 2,000 years of Miami history," state archeologist Ross Morrell said after two weeks of digging where the old Granada Hotel once stood.

Morrell says he and another archeologist, along with volunteer workers, have discovered artifacts, animal bones and shellfish remains dating back to before the birth of Christ.

Morrell says the discoveries are being divided into two distinct categories — those dating to the time the Spanish came up the Miami River and gave the Indian tribe they found the

name Tequestas and those dating back to an unknown tribe which flourished here 2,000 years ago.

"Most of the material is aboriginal and as we move closer to the river it's more historical," Morrell said.

Morrell's discoveries include a musketball, pipe stems and buttons left by U.S. soldiers during the Seminole wars of the 1820s; a piece of ceramic from a Spanish mission of the 1600s; a carved-bone pin probably used as a hair decoration around the time of Christ; and Indian pottery dating from a few hundred years B.C. to the early 1800s.

The main purpose of the research, Morrell says, is to compare the artifacts of the Tequestas with those of the earlier tribes.

## Making Profitable Venture

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Director Stanley Kramer once told film students, "If you want to break into the movie business, don't start at the bottom and work your way up. Go out and raise money and make your own film."

Today an astonishing number of young film makers are doing just that. Some of them have come to grief, spending \$200,000 or more on movies that will never be seen by the public. A few, like Terence Malick, make it.

Malick, 30, wrote, directed and produced "Badlands," which won rave reviews at last year's New York Film Festival and is being released by Warner Brothers. Five years ago he was teaching philosophy at M.I.T.

"I was teaching while I was doing my doctoral work for Oxford, where I had spent a couple of years," recalled the round-faced, balding Malick, a Harvard graduate. "I wasn't a very good teacher, so I dropped it all to come out here. Why? I'm not sure. Except that I wanted to make a living from something I was enthusiastic for."

He had never been a movie buff, but he thought he might like to try his hand at film making. Happily, the American Film Institute in 1969 was beginning its program of fellowships for budding film makers. Malick was accepted.

"It was like going to a vocational school," he said. "We learned a little theory, especially when directors came to visit, but mostly it was a matter of learning how to run machines — cameras, movielas, sound, etc. The training was great. I would have been lost without it."

Malick made a 15-minute film there and moonlighted as a script doctor on such movies as "Drive, He Said" and "Dirty Harry." He earned enough to send his wife Jill through law school and set aside seed money for his first feature film. He began writing a script based on the murderous rampage of Charles Starkweather in the Midwest.

Normally a young film maker would submit his script to the major film companies, hoping they would have the vision to back him. Malick chose another route.

"I didn't try to get studio backing and I didn't try to get stars," he remarked. "I would have lost control if I had."

He financed "Badlands" like a Broadway play, selling bits and pieces to investors. His father, an Oklahoma oil company official, contributed \$7,000, his mother-in-law \$13,000. A Boston lawyer put up \$39,000 and Los Angeles financier Max Pavley \$50,000. In 1972 Malick had enough money to start filming in Colorado with Martin Sheen as star and Warren Oates playing a brief role as a favor.

"Badlands" nearly floun-

dered several times. Malick hired a Hollywood special effects man to stage a house fire. The "safe" fire burned the house and two cameras and scorched the special effects man.

A non-union crew of film students and skin-flick makers didn't work out. Malick fired most of them and shot with a crew of four. It was down to two when he finished the 14-week schedule.

"My wife Jill held the picture together," Malick said. "She was tremendous, taking care of all the details that I didn't have time for. When we could no longer afford a caterer, she got up at 5 a.m. and made fantastic lunches. Not just sandwiches, but beef stroganoff."

His tribute to his wife, now an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, is in the film credits: "A Jill Jakes Production."

Malick's venture turned out happily with the ovation for "Badlands" at the New York Film Festival and the pick-up by Warner Brothers, which paid off the production cost of "under \$500,000" (it was quite a bit under.) He shares in the film's revenues.

Malick is now preparing a western even though he finds that the studios now believe westerns aren't box office.

"If I can't get the terms I want, I'll go the independent route again," he said. "It's chancy, like betting on a single number at roulette. But if you win, you can be rewarded handsomely."

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