

Behind The Play In Sports

BY DON OF LEIGHBUR

BEING AN ACCOUNT OF FRED IRVIN AT FATHER DIVINE'S BANQUET TABLE

NEW YORK — The sports world knows Fred Irvin who, for several years, reigned supreme as the top Negro promoter. Irvin's ventures have included many things, first among them being the John Henry Lawless-Marick World Light Heavyweight Championship Fight at Comiskey Park, Chicago, several years ago, Harlem's first and only big-time blue ribbon horse show, and the managerial stunt put in currently on behalf of one, St. Thomas, the Divine.

Being an operative of distinction, Fred never does anything that will fail to attract the proper publicity due him for his effort and, in instances, Fred moves out in front of the effort, thereby, gaining the publicity himself.

Later on the record of the astute, brave, and resourceful Fred Irvin is the sensational speech he made on February 20th, 1945 A. D. F. D. at the Holy Communion Table of the Circle Mission Church at Philadelphia, 764-772 Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at 5:43 P. M. on the subject of his reply to the question, "Where Does Father Divine Get So Much Money From?"

'I WAS NO LONGER A STRANGER'

Brother Irvin preface his remarks to the gathering at the banquet table in Philly as follows: "Peace, Father, Peace everyone: I did not come this afternoon to do any talking or make any speech whatever, but I am proud and I can't find words adequate enough to express the remark that Father Divine made, that I was no longer a stranger. I had to appreciate that, Father, and I thank you.

"Of course, those that don't know me, I will introduce myself. I happen to be the manager of St. Thomas, and I am the only person of my complexion that is a licensed boxing promoter, recognized throughout the country.

"It was a pleasure that I had this afternoon. I was due here at one o'clock — an appointment. Father Divine said he wanted to know how the boys came out last night. The reason I was delayed, the newspapers will corroborate and will verify why I was delayed. They gave me a decision last night against one of my fighters and they gave the decision to the other boy, and in the investigation this afternoon we found out that the manager of the other fighter, Dorsey Lay, that boxer Gene Burton, who they called the 'works' had been put on — the 'works' as if they had one referee and one judge in their favor. The Bulletin (Philadelphia Bulletin) says that the referee gave an 'unpopular decision' against Gene Bur-

rence at this remark.)

"And so speaking on where he gets the money, someone spoke up and said, 'Well, he don't need to worry because they are passing the kitty' every night. I said, 'No, you are wrong there.' I said, 'I have been about fifteen of his unguets and I am wondering where does he get the money because I don't see no money passed across the table and I have never seen no money anywhere.' And I said, 'If you want to get insulted, you just go in there and try to contribute something in the way of donating any kind of money and I guess Father Divine would readily have you know that this is not the place for you.' I said, 'You will find that out.' I said, 'He don't pass any hat. He don't receive any contributions.' So they wanted to know where does he get the money. Now that is the boxing commission.

FATHER DOESN'T PASS THE HAT
Then I took a cab from the Chesapeake Hotel on North Broad and, in the cab, talking to the driver, I told him where I wanted to go, and the cab driver knew where he was bringing me when I told him the address, and he said, 'How does that cab driver get his money?' Now that is the cab driver. How does Father Divine get his money? Where does he get his money from? I said, 'Well, I just go through trying to explain to some people some time ago down at the boxing commission, that is the mystery. I don't know where he gets it from and I don't think nobody else knows. The cab driver said, 'You mean, he doesn't take up collections or pass the hat?' I said, 'No.'

So, as I told Father Divine last night, there are millions and millions of people want to have the opportunity of what you good people have every day, that are looking upon the face of the most magnetic man in all the world and with the greatest mystery in all the world. And you all have the blessing of looking at him every day until it has gotten to be a common occurrence. I said to Father last night, I said, 'Father, if I could rent the Bankers Stadium and just tell the public that you will be there — without anything else — and just have you to walk through — I said, 'I would sell out.' I said, 'I WOULD SELL OUT.'

Now that is what you are indulging in every day, and I must say this: I don't belong to any denomination and I have been questioned as what denomination am I, many times, and I made up my mind quite a few years ago that I would join, well, I have found out what I would join whenever the time comes. I have told this, Father, to my partner and several people in my gymnasium. They get after me and have said, 'Father Divine is going to have you before long.' I said, 'Well, if I ever make up my mind,' I said, 'He has got the cleanest policy of all I have seen.'

"I said, 'I have seen the Baptist Conference in different places.' I remember one year in Chicago I had a lease on the Coliseum where I promoted fights and it seats fifteen thousand. So I rented the Coliseum out for the Baptist Convention. The four days that they had the convention, there was about fifteen patrol wagons had to come up there and take them to the station. I tried to get in, and one minute the crowd would sway toward me and the next minutes the crowd was swaying the other way — and back and forth — and so I found out what that was. That was one side fighting against the other for supremacy to gain the patronage to send this Bishop and that Bishop where he could make the most money. That does not exist in Father Divine. That does not exist among you people, does it? (No sir, verified the large audience in one voice.)

"So when the time comes and I want an honest way of life, there isn't but one that I see, and that is Father Divine."



Three of the four 372nd Infantry, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, stalwarts who were finalists in the Ninth Service Command boxing tournament in Camp Lockett, California, recently, are from left to right, Sgt. Jackie Smallwood, lightweight; Pfc. Robert Small, lightweight; and Pvt. Jimmie Eilers, bantam weight. Small was the only man of the trio to win a crown, but the teams showing against competition from eight states was very good. Not shown in the picture is Pvt. James Meeks, heavyweight who also survived trials until the final bout.



At Fort Huachuca, Arizona, during the football season, opposing teams, 372nd Infantry Regiment, and Post SCU 1922, saw the above players in action. They are (left) Lt. Carpenter, 372nd, who weighs 275 pounds and Capt. "Hunk" Irwin, who scales 235 pounds.

Lincoln Has Fairly Good Basketball Season

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, Pa. — The following is the completed season record of the Lincoln University Basketball Team: The games starred are conference games:

WE	THEY
37	New Castle
37	Aberdeen Proving
21	Indiantown Gap
82	Kennett Square
41	Delaware State
35	Wharton Barons
50	Howard University
41	Kennett Square
58	New Castle
44	Virginia Union
30	Indiantown Gap
46	Delaware State
31	Aberdeen Proving
42	Virginia State
32	Hampton Institute
44	Morgan State
49	Howard University
29	Virginia Union
41	Morgan State
48	Orange Triangles
50	Virginia State
51	Hampton Institute
73	Portsmouth USO
27	Morgan State

The Lions played a 24 game schedule. 12 were conference games. Lincoln lost 3, won 9. Of the 12 extra-conference games, Lincoln won 6 and lost 6. Lincoln scored 1,945 points in 24 games and had 977 points scored against it. 508 were conference points and Lincoln lost 482 points to opponents. Season high scorer was Bill Hill with 343 points. Following was "Piggy" Armstead with 180, and in third place Jim Law with 122.

Honorable mention is due Jim Cannady, Charles Cabloess, and

Morgan Bears Block N. C. Eagles' Chance For Crown

DURHAM — Morgan College's the all-American grid ace playing opposite North Carolina cold here Thursday night 52-40 in a contest that eliminated North Carolina from the CIAA 1945 basketball championship race. It was the second defeat Morgan handed the Eagles this season. The Eagles have won 16 out of 18 tilts.

Henry "Big Dog" Thomas, the CIAA's leading scorer, failed to click for the Eagles and his mates, frequently replaced by waves of green reserves, were unable to stave off the defeat that Cal Irvin, Dick Burke and Day seemed bent on inflicting.

Harold Hunter, the Eagles' un-sung frosh guard from Kansas City, was the only Tar Heel to play full time against the Bears. North Carolina's stalwarts in the play, however, were two native sons, Aubrey Stanley of Beaufort and Frank Galbreath of Fayetteville. Gus Gilbreath,

WOMEN ARE NIGHT BASEBALL FANS

Women, says R. J. Swackhamer, General Electric sports lighting expert, are one good reason why major league night games consistently average 8 to 1 in attendance over week day games and minor league from 4 to 5 to one.



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Parmele Girls Win Inter-Sectional Clash Arcadia

FAYETTEVILLE — A fast stepping sextette from the W. C. Chance High School of Parmele, won an inter-sectional game over the girls of East Arcadia High of Acme, S. C. in the Fayetteville State Teachers College Gym here Thursday night. Parmele came into the contest with a record of 19 wins and no losses, while East Arcadia had dropped 2 out of 15 starts. Nevertheless in the game was there any doubt as to the final victor as Briley, brilliant Parmele center, found the hoop repeatedly from various angles. She scored twenty-five of her team's thirty-one points and a scoring honors. Keaton, East Arcadia center, was best for her team with 9 points.

The Parmele team is coached by Milton Armstead, while W. R. Davis commands the East Arcadia six.

Hugh Johnson who boast 114, 112, and 106 points respectively.

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"works" as if they had one referee and one judge in their favor. The Bulletin (Philadelphia Bulletin) says that the referee gave an "unpopular decision" against Gene Burton which is my fighter. So that is why I was delayed.

EAT AROUND 7 OR 8.00 FOLK

In waiting for some proceedings to be completed, Father Divine's name came up, and the subject came up this afternoon as Miss Charity read something about it not long ago. "Where does Father get his money?" That was the discussion in the Boxing Commission and in the promoters' office this afternoon. "Where does he get his money?" I spoke up and said, "From just a careless observation I think Father Divine's set-up seats around six or seven or eight thousand people a day in various places of his missions free of charge. They sit down and eat at his famous banquets."

"I said this, Father Divine, last night up to the YWCA — I mean, where it was the former YMCA, your mission up at Fort-first Street; I was looking at all of your beautiful silver, and I said, 'Father, of all the places I have been at yours, men who can just own the silver, don't need to worry any longer.' I said, 'would just like to be the owner of the silver and then I would not have to worry any longer.' (A merry laugh rang through the aud-

Well, I have found out what I would join whenever the time comes. I have told this, Father, to my partner and several people in my gymnasium. They get after me and have said, 'Father Divine is going to have you before long.' I said, 'Well, if I ever make up my mind,' I said, 'He has got the cleanest policy of all I have seen.'

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Smith, N. C. State Down Fayetteville Staters

FAYETTEVILLE — The Smith Bulls took a fast and thrilling basketball game from the Fayetteville Broncos 47-35 on the local court here Thursday night. Smith got off with a bang by ringing 11 points before the Broncos knew what happened. They went on to maintain a half-time lead 27-14.

The Broncos came back the second half with a tricky defense that completely froze the Smith attack. Meanwhile "Wild Man" Boone and "Duck" Debnam, Fayetteville center and guard, began to romp — and before the crowd knew what had happened they had scored 10 points to bring the count to 27-24 in favor of Smith. A Smith time-out took the steam off the rally, however, and the locals were never able to tie the score. Ragin and Nealy of Smith finally snapped out of their lethargy to salt the game away for Smith with only four minutes left to play. They scored all but six of the Smith last half points to run the count to the final 47-34.

EAGLES OUTCLASS BRONCOS

On Friday night the fast stepping

players in action. They are (left) Lt. Carpenter, 372nd, who weighs 275 pounds and Capt. "Hunk" Irwin, who scales 235 pounds.

Eagles of N. C. State downed the hapless Fayettevillians 73-29. The Eagles had the better of the contest all the way with Stanley and Mac Galbreath leading the way with 29 and 23 points respectively. The ing.

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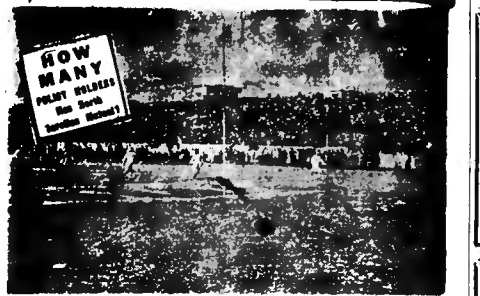


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