

CIAA BASKETBALL CHAMPS TOP AGGIES 67-60

Beating The Gun

BY ALVIN MOSES

NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL MUST SURVIVE

NEW YORK—(AP)—We receive in an average month not less than 20 letters to our "Questions and Answers" box. Since Mrs. Ella Manley, wife of Abram Manley of the strong Newark Eagles of the NNL after her views on baseball in the column of Dan Parker, N. Y. Daily Mirror writes, most of our mail has touched on her article and my answering piece read in the east coast in the PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE, a weekly New Yorkers are keenly interested in.

WHAT ABOUT NEGRO YOUTHS?

Scanning quickly thru one from J. Lewis, Durham, N. C. we find this bit of logic: "Don't our boys have a stake in the national pastime and it not, why not? My father, now a man of 57, has told me about stars he knew of as a tee, age lad like Sol White, Green River Buckner, Matty Matthews, L. R. Ward's university's greatest shortstop, Jackie Robinson's predecessor (forget his name now) in the International League, a 33 game winning pitcher with Newark (I think) back in the '30s, the 'Black John McGraw', Andrew (Rube) Foster, and many more who paved the way for the Campenells, Bankheads, Dotys and Robinson of 1946-47."

"Please don't stop ever in your efforts to make Negro League baseball put its own framework in order and to make the loyal fans who did not disappear entirely when Rickey snatched Robinson away do their part by increased patronage."

Most of the letters were well written and carried similar punch lines like did this appreciated note from Mr. Lewis.

HARLEM GRILL OWNER HAS PLAN

The one we decided to give most of our column to comes right from our own backyard in New York City. The writer is a property owner, happily married and one intensely interested in Negro Owned and operated enterprises. He writes: "I sent copies of the PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE, in which the article appeared to many friends locally and out to my home town, Chicago, I feel that it is asking entirely too much to expect you, outstanding writer that you are, to bat 300 as we baseball fans say—for each and every New Yorker in support of brilliant Dr. John H. Johnson re-elected league president and all of his 1943 plans for the NEGRO NATIONAL LEAGUE. Such, in my humble opinion, would be to overload you."

"Of course I like big league baseball and have followed my favorite teams year in and year out. But as an American Negro, devoted to the climb of all Negro enterprises, I am all for Dr. Johnson's ideas of tightening up the loose-ends making for a finer brand of diamond display on the part of our young as well as older league stars."

OUR SUPPORT VITAL

I am not suggesting that we patronize Negro ball games just because the principles on the field happen to be of our color and racial origin. That would be a step in the wrong direction as well you know for I have read articles peyed by you touching on just this thing which I recall you termed "chauvinism". What am I saying this? Negro baseball has performed miracles unbelievable to remain on its feet since the turn of the present century and before that, I feel this was achieved almost entirely upon mass Negro attendance and the support of white fans who came out to cheer on their sandlot heroes in clashes with ranking colored lines—all over this country. So, I would say that when we fail to include the once-a-week Negro baseball games played in N. Y. (Polo Grounds and Yankee Stadium), Rupert Stadium, Newark, etc.—we shouldn't marvel when we read an article like yours, and the one Mrs. Manley gave out in her Dan Parker interview.

START COMMUNITY DRIVE

On reliable authority I understand that Harlem has more than 500 social clubs. Assuming there are but half that number, if 2,000 fans would come out each Sunday from this source alone, it would represent no mean box-office appeal to the magnates who took it on the chin during 1947. Such a turnout of youthful, intelligent and race-conscious baseball patrons will tend to fire the players to greater deeds and acquaint white patrons with a side of our race that too many Sunday bewhivers have reduced to a social pattern as it were.

From this second on this is my pledge to the NEGRO NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE: (1) from my place of business where from 150 to 300 persons come and go daily, I will try to form a ticket-buying group who will attend all home games of the Cubans, New York Black Yankees and Mr. and Mrs. Manley's Newark Eagles. I will report to you by a letter as usual my progress in this connection. (2) I would like to meet with you at your or my office and plan an appointment for me with President Johnson to discuss a matter which I know, if acceptable to him and his colleagues, would place NEGRO BASEBALL as well as other Negro arteries such as education, hospitalization, slum clearance, etc.—in the forefront and not the rear, of America's affairs.

"I hope I have not consumed too much of your valuable space now time for I am prepared to bring forth a concrete plan for everything I have stated. May you continue to champion racial causes like you have since first me met, and with best personal regards, I remain,

Years for Clean Sports,

THAD STEVENS, New York.

MELTING POT

In Harlem, near the corner of 132nd St. on 7th Ave., "small fry" betting commissioners are laying these odds (sidewalk talk, of course) on the BRANDY-RICKY-ROBINSON contract. The consensus of opinion lies up like this: for Ricky to pass \$100, Robby a bundle of ettuces amounting to \$20,000, it would serve to make Robinson's sophomore year a honey... This school of thought does it out like this: "Jockie" is at the crossroads where age is concerned. The fact that he lives a good life and is so much in the quick-thinking side of things sort of evens up the close to 30 years, not young, in a major-league baseball sense... Also say these kids: "Rob" has big football shoulder and recurrent charley horses since in his first year at Montreal, he was kept out of 27 games because of the latter ailment."

The other side of the picture feels that a \$15,000 pay check should be the lowest the Dodger first sacker should receive which would be TEN GRAND, and five century notes above his 47 salary. I feel that Robinson is worth every cent of \$20,000 with a bonus in box-office drawing just as KINER, TED WILLIAMS, BOB FELLER and Joey DiMaggio get—While Robinson is a long way from being major baseball's greatest player, he is fast becoming the favorite of America's "Teen Age Guidance" and when those kids of all races and color go for you, Brother, the club magnates had better watch their checkbooks.

SUNDAY NITE at spacious GOLDEN GATE ARENA, local fans saw a football favorite in action when massive MARION MOTLEY, famous Cleveland Browns star, played on the basketball court with the CANTON CUSHINGS of Ohio—a teammate of Motley's and ex-Renaissance Big Five player, "Wee" Willie Smith skyline-giant, played against THE NATIONALS.

MOTLEY and mates were guests of SAM TAUB Sunday by virtue of Harden's Buster Miller getting them a "guest spot" with the general brother of tailor Billy Taub whose Sunday "hour of champions" is heard weekly over the air—BEAU JACK proved conclusively to me that BILLY GRAHAM had better be at his best when Graham faces the Beaus on Feb. 20 at Madison Square Garden.

Despite the fact that a glaring White protector told one and all Friday nite in a Chicago ring that his injury just sustained 13 months ago still bothered him, Jack punched hard enough to break "showoff" Johnny Branton's jaw to score an eighth rd. TKO. The 13,066 fans who paid \$57,499 to see Beau Jack, most courageous fighter I ever knew come from behind to whip a real classy 20-year old kid who would be "tops" in myistic book were he... Branton's social reading consumption) the prizing is no place not a foolish, vain exhibitionist—As we have often written (for to clown in the circus tankard is reserved for clowns etc.

The fractured jaw punch that occurred in the seventh round was a Kid Gaylan-like hole punch which Beau shot across with lightning speed while foolish Branton was "imaging" Branton will be out for two months according to Dr. John Dramis, Illinois Athletic Commission. With Wad and Chick Wengels still cutting in on the Beau Jack moneybags, I hope Jack gets most of his money from here on in for beautiful Mrs. Beau Jack has publicly stated her hubby was quick-changed in the past.

W. Va. Hands Hampton

Third Court Setback

HAMPTON, Va. — West Virginia State's 1-3, last Yellowjackets were in hot water more than once here Saturday but did true to form in the last lap to beat Hampton Institute's scrappy Pirates, 49-42.

Paced by the 19-point shooting of Robert Wilson, the Jokies jumped ahead, 10-4, at 6:25 of the first quarter and were never headed afterward. Hampton pulled up on three points behind at the half, 24-

LOUIS IN BOUT WITH FOXWORTH

Aggies Drop Hot Contest To Eagles In Overtime Tilt

GREENSBORO — In a closely contested match, decided by an overtime period, the North Carolina Eagles bottled out a heated 63-60 victory over a fighting A. and T. basketball club here last Saturday night.

At the half Coach Johnny McDonald's Eagles enjoyed a scant over-point edge with the score being 35-33 in their favor but during the second period A. and T. evened things up, scoring 27 points while limiting North Carolina College to 20.

Next best thing to a knockdown came in the third round when Louis landed a right to the ear, and a right to the body. Though riddled by the blows, Foxworth managed to keep on his feet, partly because Louis allowed him time to recover from the attack.

W. Charlotte Lions In 23-19 Win Over Rams

CHARLOTTE — The West Charlotte Lions trounced the Highland Rams in a 19-23 victory in a Piedmont Conference Basketball battle.

The Lions built up an 8-1 lead in the first eight minutes of play, but the Rams retaliated and closed the gap to 16-15 at halftime.

It was the uncanny dribbling and shooting of Massey and Cozman which spelled defeat for the Rams, for although they matched the Lions goal for goal in the first quarter the Lions could the range after that and quickly forged ahead never to be overtaken.

WEST CHARLOTTE

Players	G	F	FGS	T
Massey	12	1	9	1
Serguson	2	0	0	0
McDowell	2	0	0	0
Cozman	6	0	3	1
Maxwell	2	0	0	0
Hinton	2	0	0	0
Grigsby	0	0	0	0
	26	1	12	1

HIGHLAND RAMS

Players	G	F	FGS	T
Stackton	6	3	3	1
Coleman	0	0	0	0
Hishom	4	0	1	1
Sunderburke	0	0	0	0
Minter	6	0	0	0
Thompson	0	0	0	0
Miller	0	0	0	0
Nixon	0	0	0	0
	16	3	7	1

Half-time score, West Charlotte 5, Outstanding players were for West Charlotte: Coleman, Maxwell, Grigsby, Ferguson, Hinton, McDowell, Stackton, Hishom, Minter, Sunderburke, and Coleman.

Tarheel On Dillard's New Basketball Team

NEW ORLEANS — Richard Brown of Wilmington is one of eight out of state members of the Dillard University Blue Devil basketball team which is currently playing its first season on the hardwood.

The 16-man Dillard squad is evenly divided between residents of Louisiana and those in 8 other states. States represented in addition to North Carolina and Louisiana are Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Florida.

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