

Floyd Patterson Kept Pre-Fight Injuries Secret



JUST LIKE DADDY — Going to the "office" with dad is an even bigger treat for this youngster than it is for most. He's Elston Howard, Jr., 4, son of the Yankee catcher, and he's shown during a visit to Yankee Stadium. (UPI PHOTO).

Two Serious Hurts Are Revealed By Champ

NEW YORK (AP)—Floyd Patterson revealed for the first time here last week the inside story of how he kept two serious pre-fight injuries secret in order to avoid postponement of his rematch with Ingemar Johansson last June 20.

According to a syndicated newspaper report, Floyd, who regained the title with a sensational three-round knockout of Johansson, injured both his right and left hands in training, but only his trainer, manager and those closest to him knew about it.

The report was based on an interview with Patterson at his Rockville Centre, Long Island home. It quoted Floyd as saying that at worst, he feared the injuries might postpone the rematch for which he had waited a full year.

PUNCHES TOO HARD

One of the injuries, according to an orthopedic specialist, stemmed from the power behind Floyd's right hand punches. The other was the result of an accident while working with the speed bag. Both were very painful and kept his handlers worried.

Patterson said he was sparing one day with Julio Mederos when he felt a stabbing pain

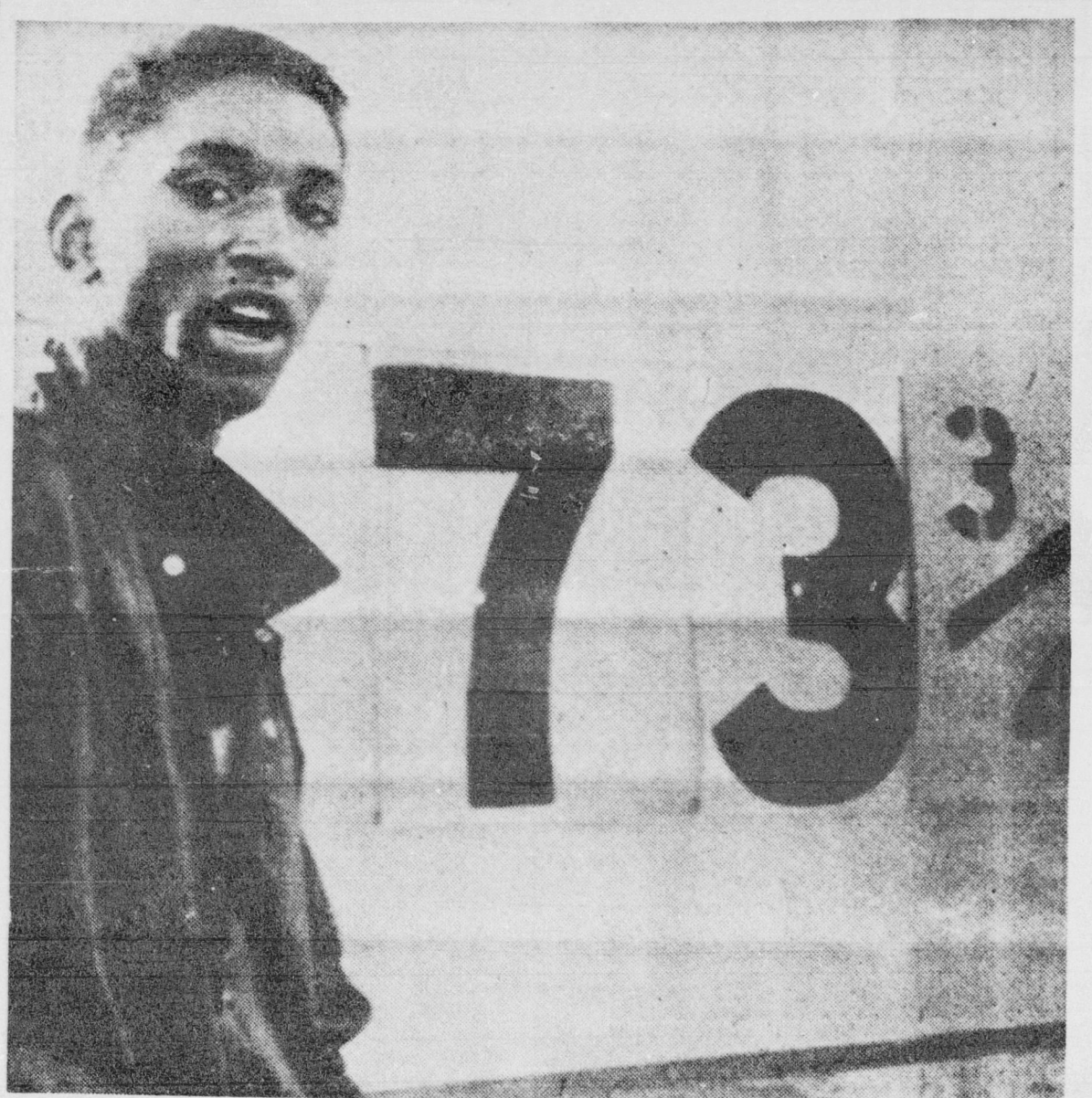
in his right elbow immediately after he had delivered a punch. The pain became more severe each time he used the hand and his handlers finally decided to take him to the orthopedic specialist.

The orthopedic diagnosed that Patterson punched so hard that certain bones were displaced in his forearm and upper arm. Thus each time Floyd threw a long right with force, the bones rubbed against each other, causing the pain.

As a remedy, the arm received whirlpool treatments but it was finally decided that this was sweating all the strength out of the arm. Thereafter, the arm was closely guarded.

LEFT HIT STEEL FRAME

The second injury—to the murderous left hand that nailed Johansson—occurred on June 15. Punching the speed bag, one of Floyd's lefts went off the mark and his fist struck the steel swivel to which the bag was attached. He thought at first he had broken the hand. It wasn't, but he suffered severe bone bruises and swelling in the third joints of the index and middle fingers of his left hand. It was swollen up until the time he entered the ring.



RECORD AND RECORD-SETTER—A smiling John Thomas, of Boston University, stands beside the sign showing his new world record mark of 7-feet, 3 3/4-inches. Thomas was recently competing in the Olympic men's track and field finals. Thomas, with the aid of his new record, has made a berth for himself on the 1960 Olympic team. (UPI TELEPHOTO).

NBA Honors Patterson, Late Rudell Stitch As Best

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (AP)—Stitch of Louisville, was honored posthumously for his unsuccessful attempt to rescue a friend from drowning. It cost him his life.

Rudell at the time was rated highly among the contending welterweights and in line for a title fight.

In other changes announced by the NBA, Sonny Liston of Philadelphia was moved up to the No.

2 heavyweight spot, while Sugar Ray Robinson was moved down to No. 6 among the middleweight contenders. It was the first time since he became headliner that Robinson has been rated so low.

The NBA, who suspended Robinson some months ago for inactivity, recognizes Gene Fullmer of Salt Lake City as middleweight champion.

Despite Records, Mays And Banks Nosed Out For Honors

CINCINNATI (AP)—Despite the fact that centerfielder Willie Mays and shortstop Ernie Banks were leading the league in batting and home runs, respectively, both were nosed out in the balloting for player-of-the-month award as the National League June award went to pitcher Lindy McDaniel of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Mays, of the San Francisco Giants, finished the month with a .361 batting average, to top all NL hitters. The "Say Hey" kid was also turning in his usual sparkling performance at field.

Banks, the big gun in the Chicago Cubs lineup, was leading all other hitters in home runs, with 22, as the month drew to a close.

However, despite their records, the selections committee cast nine votes for McDaniel, to only eight each for Mays and Banks. McDaniel did pitch good ball during the month. He appeared in 13 games and had an earned run average of 0.75 for 24 1/3 innings.

Pancho Herrera, a rookie with the Philadelphia Phillies, finished third with five votes.

returned in the second game and collected a single, which figured in a fourth-inning Sox tally.

Nugget is a new sweet potato released by the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station.

Banks Ahead Of Previous Homer Record At All-Star Break Mon.

CHICAGO (AP)—Ernie Banks, a slugging shortstop of the Chicago Cubs, not only led all National League homerun sluggers before the All-Star break July 11, but for four full days before the game he was topping his own record for that period in the season.

The scourge of NL pitchers, Ernie got one of the longest homers off Phillies hurler

Curt Simmons Tuesday (July 5) to eclipse his previous high homer total of 23 at all star time. Despite his effort, however, the Cubs, in the midst of a batting slump save for Ernie's timely hitting, lost the game to the Phillies, 3-2.

The following day, Ernie improved on his record again. He walked another homer off Bob Gib-

son, the former Harlem Globetrotter basketball star, to lead the Cubs to a 10-1 victory. He drove in a George Altman struck the heaviest blow of the day. He drove in a total of six runs to celebrate his first starting outfield assignment in 10 games.

Bank's homer, like each of Altman's came with three men on the bases.

Fast-Rising Cuban Outscores Virgil Akins, Remains Tops

LOUISVILLE (AP)—Luis Rodriguez, a boxing cutie with a fast pair of hands, weathered two early blasts by veteran Virgil Akins then came on fast in the late rounds to outbox the former welterweight champion and score a unanimous 10-round decision in a bout here last Wednesday night that benefited the family of the late boxer, Rudell Stitch.

In a sense, Rodriguez, a ranking welterweight contender from Cuba with an unbeaten record, kept a promise to Stitch, Luis was to have fought Stitch, a local favorite, before the boxer here lost his life trying to rescue a friend from drowning in the swirling waters of the Ohio River near here.

However, all the participants, including boxers, promoters and trainers contributed to the cause. All paid their way into

the arena, as did the 1,000 ring-side fans. Thirty five per cent of the proceeds from the bout was donated to Stitch's widow and six children.

Stitch once won the Carnegie Foundation's hero medal for rescuing a man from the same Ohio River on a previous occasion.

In last week's bout, Akins, who won the welterweight title in the final bout of an elimination tournament from Vince Martinez but lost it shortly afterwards to Don Jordan, stunned Rodriguez in the second and third rounds, but the fastmoving Cuban avoided further damage.

Rodriguez then set up Akins with swift left-right combinations in the seventh and eighth rounds but couldn't put over the coupe de grace.

Sports Writer's Son Promising As A 'Crooner'

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Choosing a different career from that of his well-known father, Wendell Smith Jr., a 20-year-old rhythm-and-blues singer, was reported here to be not only making it on his own but showing promise of becoming an outstanding artist.

The son of sports writer and boxing analyst Wendell Smith Sr., of the Chicago Daily American, the youngster is being guided by his mother, Miss Sarah Wright.

The ex-wife of Wendell Smith Sr., Miss Wright, who holds a Broadcast Music Inc. composer's license, has offices located on Broadway and currently handles some 30 acts, including a number of promising youngsters from the Norfolk-Portsmouth-Suffolk area. A former music minor at West Virginia State College, from which Wendell Sr. graduated before he started writing sports, Miss Wright has already helped her son to record his first song, "A lively R. and B. beat, it was titled "Puddin' Pie."

Some critics, while commenting on the liveliness of the record, also praised young Smith as showing talent as a singer. Said Billboard weekly of the record: "Fins shout by Smith in a driving rocket. Talented artist. It should score in R. and B. market."

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Minoso Is Hit By A Pitcher; Fights Him

DETROIT (AP)—Orestes Minoso, who for the past few seasons held the dubious distinction of being the player most frequently hit by opposing pitchers, got tired of being made a target and fought back at a Detroit hurler in the first game of a 4th of July doubleheader here.

Minoso, the Chicago White Sox leading hitter, was struck on the shoulder by pitcher Jim Bunning in the first game and presently lost his temper. Evidently feeling that Bunning deliberately threw at him, Minoso tossed his bat at Jim as he started toward first base and made an arch in the direction of the mound, before being restrained.

But as the two exchanged hot words, Sox Manager Al Lopez hustled in and restrained the Cuban senior. Players from both benches also raced onto the field, but there were no further incidents.

Bunning also hit Minoso's re-game, although he protested that game.

Minnie was ejected from the game, although he protested that he was acting in self defense. He

News Service To Select All-CIAA Football Team

DURHAM — The 48th annual meeting of the CIAA authorized the CIAA news service to select an all conference football team for 1960.

Approval for the news service's action came by unanimous agreement of the conference at its 48th

session. Plans are for the News Service to circulate ballots to all CIAA football coaches who will be asked to nominate candidates for all conference berths.

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RAY NORTON WINS — Ray Norton, left breaks the tape to win the final of the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.4 Frank Budd, second from right, placed second and Dave Sims, right, tied with Paul Winder, not shown, for third place. Willie White,

second from left, finished 6th. They were all trying for a berth on the Olympic squad via the Stanford, Calif. Olympic trials. (UPI TELEPHOTO).

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