

# sports round-up



MANY SACHEL PAIGE, Jackie Robinson and Willie Mays (among others) fans were startled last week following the death of John Henry Lloyd when the relatively obscure Atlantic City, N. J., man was described in wire story reports, as "the greatest Negro ball player in history."

Many latter-day followers of the so-called national pastime had never even heard of Lloyd, who passed away at the ripe old age of 79. But oldtimers who go back to the days when John Henry flashed around the infield for half a dozen different "Giants" teams from Chicago to Brooklyn and Philadelphia can vouch for Lloyd's right to be called "the greatest."

John Henry never made the big leagues, of course. He retired from baseball in 1921, long before Jackie Robinson crashed the color barrier in the majors. But more than one manager in the big leagues would have loved to have had him play for them.

John McGraw, almost legendary pilot of the New York Giants, tried to get the National League to let Lloyd play for him away back in 1912. Mugsy was the first to pin the "greatest" label on John Henry after Lloyd, then cavorting for the Lincoln Giants beat the NL champions almost single-handed in several exhibition games.

Hughie Jennings, who steered the Detroit Tigers to three consecutive American League pennants in the early 1900s, also cast an envious eye on Lloyd. Little wonder. In a 12-game series at Havana between the Tigers and Cuba's Almandares club, John Henry batted at a .500 clip, out hitting the likes of Ty Cobb, Sam Crawford and Matty McIntyre.

Born in Jacksonville, Fla., April 25, 1884, Lloyd played every position in the infield for such teams as the Chicago American Giants, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Bacharach Giants, Philadelphia Giants, Hillsdale and Lincoln.

John Henry was a beloved figure during his later days in Atlantic City, where he served as a janitor in the post office and school system. In 1949, the city named a baseball park "Pop Lloyd Stadium" in his honor.

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IT'S HARD TO ARGUE with success. And it must be admitted that Muhammed Ali- the former Cassius Clay- has been successful by certain mundane standards. But it is conjectural just how history will regard this brash, 22-year-old lad who now claims the heavyweight boxing championship of the world.

The word "claims" is used because there is some likelihood that Muhammed-Cassius may soon be deprived of his crown by the World Boxing Association, but there is considerable doubt whether the WBA can make it stick.

Secret sale of the champion's services



**RICHARD GOSHA  
AAU STARS  
FIGHT HERE**

LOCAL BOXING fans who plan to take in the 1964 National AAU boxing championships at Las Vegas Convention Center, April 8-10, will see some of the greatest amateurs of recent years in action.

Among them will be a 21-year-old Chicago youth named Richard Gosha who has won numerous national and sectional titles during the past four years. Richard has won 92 of his 102 bouts, 38 of them by knockout.

After winning the 160-lb. open division crown in the 1960 Golden Gloves, Richard moved up to the 175-lb. class in 1961 and won titles in the Golden Gloves, CYO and AAU tournaments

to the Sonny Liston bunch before the Feb. 25 title fight is being used as an excuse to vacate the championship. But Muhammed-Cassius' fanatical devotion to the "Black Muslim" cult probably had a lot to do with the action instituted against him by Southern officials of the WBA.

This sort of thing has overtones of racial bias. But we must admit that Muhammed-Cassius has gone out of his way to fan the flames of discord not only between the races but within his own race. NO ONE can rightfully deny Muhammed-Cassius his God-given right to espouse any religious philosophy he sees fit to embrace. But there is a place for everything. And the heavyweight throne hardly seems a fit pulpit from which to preach a controversial doctrine. Especially in the circus atmosphere in which Muhammed-Cassius has enveloped himself.

Fanaticism, in itself, is not an undesirable trait. Many of the world's greatest leaders were fanatics to some degree. But intemperate disregard for the beliefs and aspirations of others is, indeed, undesirable.



through the next three years.

More than 150 of the nation's best amateurs will take part in the 1964 event here. Tickets priced from \$1 to \$3 are on sale at the Thunderbird Hotel, Silver Palace, Foxy's, Henderson Boys Club, Elks Club and Holland Realty.

TOURNEY WINNERS- Madison Rams (above) won 6th Grade title and Madison Devines (below) captured 5th Grade crown in All-City basketball tournaments at Dula Center. Rams are (rear from left) coach William Evans, Willie Jones, Robert Crosby, Michael Cooper; (front from left) Donald Pittman, Marshall Marks, Felix Glasco. Devines are (rear from left) coach Evans, Andre Nester, Robert Harris, Percy Devine, Ronnie Docket, Frank Jefferson, David Simons; coach Macil Cooper; (front from left) Greg Porter, Roy Lee Graves, Lonnie Bolden, Prates Jenson, Leland Branch.



Muhammed-Cassius would do well to heed the advice of Dr. Martin Luther King that he "spend more time improving his boxing skill and do less talking." His tainted victory over Sonny Liston certainly gives Muhammed-Cassius less than a conclusive claim to being "the greatest." The Louisville Lip looked anything but "great" in his two previous fights with Doug Jones and Henry Cooper. It would seem that Muhammed-Cassius has a lot to learn before he can be accepted as either a great champion in either boxing or the field of Negro rights.

JOE LOUIS, whom many feel has a far greater claim to true greatness in boxing and human relations--although never making such claims for himself--was recently asked if he thought Muhammed-Cassius' induction into the armed services would interfere with his boxing career. "It doesn't look like he's smart enough to get in the army," was Joe's prophetic reply.

It is to be hoped that Muhammed-Cassius "smartens up" soon. And the sooner, the better.