

# sports round-up

By MARK QUEEN

## "THE BEST LAID PLANS . . ."

Yes, no matter how well you plan, things don't always work out the way you figure. Florida A&M track coach Dick Hill found that out last Friday night at the Coliseum Relays in Los Angeles when his prize pupil, Bob Hayes—latest claimant to the "world's fastest human" designation—was forced to take a back seat to Arizona State's Henry Carr in the 200 meters.

These two great Negro speedsters waged a thrilling duel on the Coliseum "cinders" for the second straight year, with Carr avenging his 1963 defeat at the hands of Hayes by covering the distance in 20.6 seconds to 20.8 for his unorthodox rival.

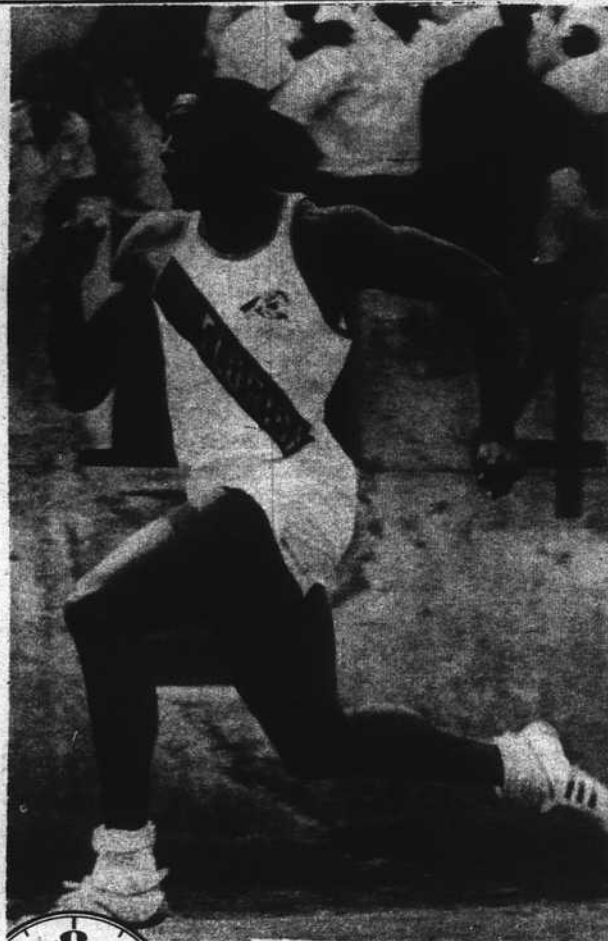
Hayes, of course, derives his "fastest human" title from five 9.1 timings in the 100-yard dash, the accepted world record. No one knows exactly why the record-holder in the "century" automatically becomes the "fastest human", but that's the way it's been ever since the days of Charley Paddock, at least, back in the early 'twenties. It just seems that the 100 yards is more glamorous than the 220, 440, 880 yard and mile runs and their metric approximations used in the Olympic Games.

Carr, for instance, could make a strong case for himself as "fastest human" because he has bettered Dave Sime's listed world record of 20.0 in the 220.

Anyway, to get back to how Dick Hill's "best laid plans" went awry Friday night, we refer you to John Underwood's interesting article on Hayes in the May 18 issue of Sports Illustrated, which hit the newsstands only hours before Hayes and Carr toed the mark at the Coliseum.

In that article, entitled "How Fast Is The Fastest Man Alive?", Underwood revealed: "Hill has a surprise this weekend as part of his projected pre-Olympic schedule (for Hayes). He is taking Hayes with a relay team to the Coliseum Relays, but he has not entered him in the 100-yard dash. Hayes will run only in the 200 meters. 'I want him fresh and ready for Carr (Underwood quoted Hill). If possible, I want him to annihilate some people out there. Put a few scars on their memories, so they'll be thinking how nobody breaks that tape before Bob Hayes!'"

Somehow or other, what happened Friday night reminded us of another Carr—little Billy Carr of Pennsylvania—who came out to the West Coast more than 30 years ago to challenge Stanford's supposedly unbeatable Ben Eastman in the 400 meters. Coast track writers ridiculed Carr's chances. But if you don't already know, just take a look at the Olympic



WORLD'S FASTEST HUMAN?

Bob Hayes lost to Henry Carr in 200

Games records and notice who won the 1932 "four hundred" in that same Coliseum where Henry Carr ruined Dick Hill's "best laid plans" the other evening.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE baseball attendance is up almost 25 per cent over the corresponding period for last year despite an all-time high of 11,382,277 fans in 1963. Analyzing why the league is enjoying its greatest boom in its 88-year history, C. C. Johnson Spink, editor and publisher of the authoritative Sporting News, concluded his findings with the following significant comment:

"And finally, looking further back, we find the N. L. was the early bird in aggressive recruitment of Negro players. This strategy has paid huge dividends both in overall quality of talent and standout individuals."

Spink, who sees that Negro players are accorded plenty of space—and proper recognition—in his excellent publication, interviewed league president Warren Giles regarding the big N. L. attendance boom. Here is part of the interview:

Spink: "What effect has the Negro player had on the National League?"

Giles: "When you consider the fine Negro players we have had and the fact that the National League was the first to tap this source of talent, you have to conclude the Negro is a mighty important factor in the N. L. position today."

Spink: "Jackie Robinson's recently published book includes a statement by Branch Rickey (who erased the color-line in big-league ball by signing Robinson to a Brooklyn Dodgers contract in 1946) that major league club owners met in 1945 and adopted a resolution opposing the entry of the Negro into the major leagues. Do you recall this resolution?"

Giles: "I attended every meeting and I know of no such resolution. With one exception, I never heard the Negro mentioned at any baseball meeting I attended. The only exception was the appearance years ago of Paul Robeson (the singer) before Judge Landis, who was then commissioner. Robeson told Landis he wished baseball would lift the ban against the Negro player."

Spink: "What was Landis' reaction?"

Giles: "Landis was infuriated. He told the stenographer who was present to 'strike that question from the record. That question has never been stated, that question will not be answered. There is no rule, there is no understanding, there is nothing implied or agreed.'"

We suppose old Kenesaw Mountain meant there was no official rule barring the Negro from the big leagues and no understanding a-

mong the owners, implied or otherwise, in regard to a color barrier at that time. If so, the judge was only half right. There was no written rule, sure enough. But there certainly was an understanding among most of the owners, even if Landis didn't know about it. Which we doubt.

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RECALLING the controversial decision he received over Doug Jones shortly before he became heavyweight champ, we wonder if Cassius Clay agrees with the lefty Ghanese boxing commission's opinion of those "imperialistic thieves" from North America who voted for featherweight champ Sugar Ramos in his title fight with hometown favorite Floyd Robertson in Accra the other night.

Cassius has been visiting Ghana as a guest of Kwame Nkrumah, the African nation's boxing fan president. Nkrumah, incidentally, had replaced his entire boxing commission three months ago after it had failed to obtain a title fight for Ghana in four years of trying. The Ramos-Richardson match was signed shortly thereafter, with the new commission reportedly guaranteeing Ramos \$50,000 for the defense.

As this is written, we understand Sugar is still waiting to get his "sugar," although the promotion apparently was a financial success.

Ed Lassman of Miami Beach and Ramon Valesquez of Mexico City, the two imported judges, awarded the decision to Ramos, a Cuban now fighting out of Mexico City. Referee Jack Hart of England voted for Robertson. The Ghanese commission, agreeing with the left-wing Accra press that Robertson had been the victim of "capitalistic robbery", reversed the majority decision in favor of Ramos and named Robertson as the new 126-pound ruler.

Ramos will continue to be recognized as champion by the World Boxing Association and its World Boxing Council affiliates, including, we expect, the British Boxing Board of Control and the European Boxing Union. This despite the fact that Hart is considered one of the BBC's top officials and Ghana, at last report, was a member of the EBU.

Lassman, who made a number of foolish moves following the Clay-Sonny Liston fiasco, happens to be president of the WBA. Valesquez, a recent visitor to Las Vegas, is WBA foreign coordinator. Lassman claims Ramos had a definite edge over Robertson for the first ten rounds, took quite a beating through the next four, but finished strong to take the 15th. Valesquez agreed. Hart said he was "astounded" by their decisions.

Without delving into the qualifications of Lassman and Valesquez as fight judges except to say that we are pretty sure they haven't had much experience, we are certain they called the fight as they saw it. There can be no question about their honesty.

However, we have serious misgivings about

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