

# Sports round-up

By MARK QUEEN

**WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPION** Emile Griffith and former champion Luis Rodriguez arrived in town this week to complete training for their third title fight on June 12 at Las Vegas Convention Center. Both the Virgin Islands-born New Yorker and his Cuban challenger from Miami Beach are reported to be in top shape.

Griffith, co-managed by former teacher Gil Clancy and milliner Howie Albert, is working out on the stage of the big show room at the Thunderbird Hotel at 1 p.m. daily. Syd Martin, a highly capable trainer, is assisting Clancy and Albert.

Rodriguez, managed and trained by the astute Angelo Dundee, who "master-minded" Cassius Clay and Willie Pastrano to world championships, has set up camp at the Sands Hotel. Present plans call for Luis to work out at 3 p.m. starting today, also on the big stage.

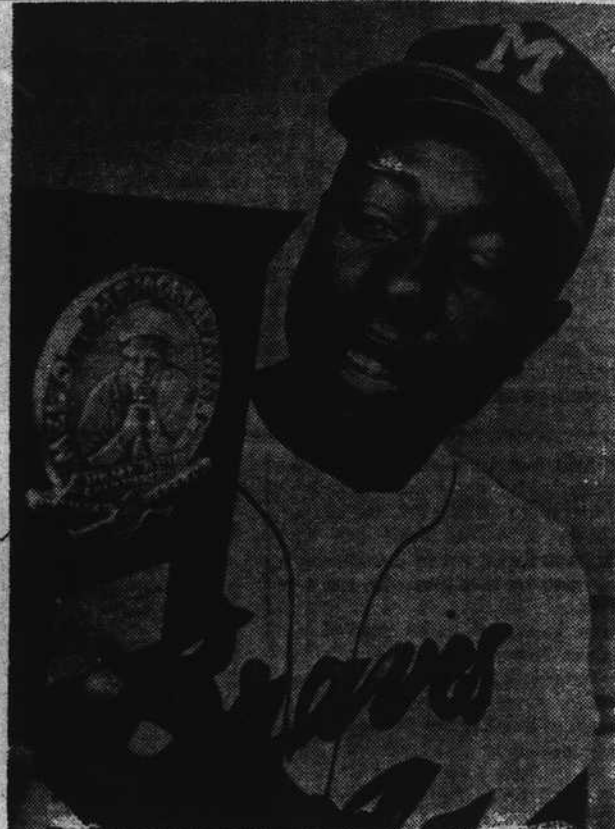
As this is written, no official "price" on the fight has been posted at the Rendezvous or Derby books. But we expect oddsmaker Frank Hall at the Rendezvous to open with Rodriguez a 5-8 favorite and Griffith the 6-5 underdog.

Before either became champion, Griffith scored a close 10-round decision over Rodriguez. In subsequent 15-round title bouts last year, Luis dethroned Emile in Los Angeles, but lost the 147-pound crown back to Emile in New York. Both decisions aroused considerable controversy.

Griffith had little trouble disposing of Ralph Dupas and Jorge Fernandez in two title defenses here in 1962 after taking the championship from the ill-fated Benny (Kid) Paret in 1961. But Emile's stock took a big tumble last winter when he was stopped in the first round by middleweight Ruben (Hurricane) Carter.

Rodriguez, on the other hand, has been impressive in victories over middleweight opposition, leading to his current favoritism over Griffith. This fight will be Luis' first local appearance.

As we said several weeks ago in this space, the column is inclined to stick with Griffith, especially at the tentative odds favoring Rodriguez. Our opinion is subject to change, however, after looking over both boys doing the next two



**HOMER TROPHY**--Henry Aaron of Milwaukee Braves displays Mel Ott Award he received recently for sharing National League home run title last year with Willie McCovey of San Francisco Giants. Both socked 44 circuit swats.

weeks. We will let you have further reports in our editions of June 4 and 11.

AFTER MAINTAINING a "reign of terror" over National League pitchers through the early weeks of the season, Willie May's batting average suddenly plummeted from around .475 mark to under .400. Arm-chair managers who had scoffed at the possibility that the brilliant Giants outfielder would become the first major league .400 hitter since Ted Williams accomplished the feat with the Boston Red Sox of the American League in 1941, immediately set up the holler, "We told you so!"

Don't be too sure, you guys. Nobody in the National League has finished a season with an official .400 or better since Bill Terry of the old New York Giants in 1930. Hugh Duffy of Boston set the NL high of .438 way back in 1894 and Willie Keeler of Brooklyn went .432 in 1897, both before the foul-strike rule went into effect. Under conditions closer to those of the present day, Rogers Hornsby of St. Louis batted .424 in 1924.

The American League record is .420, shared by the great Ty Cobb of Detroit (1911) and George Sisler of St. Louis (1922).

We must admit that the laws of probability are all against Mays joining this illustrious company during the current campaign. But once again we caution--don't be too sure, you scoffers.

## End of the Beginning

(From the Washington Post)

Perhaps the tenth anniversary of school desegregation will come to be recognized as the end of the beginning. It was hardly to be expected, when the Supreme Court handed down its historic decision a decade ago this day, holding that public schools may not segregate their pupils by race, that so profound a change in social patterns could be accomplished speedily or easily. The Court itself did not expect it. This is, no doubt, why it provided for accommodation to its order "with all deliberate speed"—and with allowance for differences of pace in different parts of the country with different mores.

The Supreme Court left it to the Federal District Courts to determine whether the school administrations within their several jurisdictions were undertaking compliance in good faith with the flexible desegregation order. Was it wise to do this? Historians may differ in their judgments on this question. We can but leave it among the mysteries of the myriad might-have-beens that attend the emerging pattern of race relations in America.

Who knows what might have been had the South developed a leadership capable of looking imaginatively at an inevitable future instead of transfixedly at an irrecoverable past—had the South chosen constructive adjustment instead of massive resistance to the supreme law of the land.

Who knows what might have been had the Executive and Legislative branches of the Government a decade ago assumed their full share of responsibility in promoting a human equality which the Judicial branch had proclaimed as required by the Constitution. But the Executive and Legislative branches, in truth, did very little; for several years they left enforcement of the school desegregation order in large part to the Judicial branch—the branch characterized by Alexander Hamilton as "beyond comparison the weakest of the three departments of power."

But there is now in motion a reawakening of conscience and a resurgence of responsibility throughout the Nation. It is symbolized by the civil rights bill currently before the Senate. Propelled by the militant demands of Negroes for recognition of their rights and by the imperatives of a developing industrial economy, the pace of change in America has quickened. There is now good ground for hope that the American people will deal effectively at last with the greatest tragedy in their history—the degradation of millions of their fellow men by reason of race—and will find a solution consonant with the great principles on which their Republic was founded.

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