



Sports roundup

By MARK QUEEN

WE UNDERSTAND that Jesse Owens, Ohio State's superb track and field artist of a generation ago, has been signed by the New York Mets to coach their base runners.

Recalling that Jesse was noted for his fast get-aways and a final lunge at the tape as a sprinter, someone on the Mets board of strategy decided that the man who won four gold medals for the United States in the 1936 Olympic Games at Berlin (much to Adolf Hitler's chagrin) was just the guy to get more Mets on first base and keep them moving once they got that far.

It seems that the lowly Mets, perennial doormats in the National League, have had a lot (!?) of hitters tossed out by a yard or less during the past few years. The idea is that Owens can teach the boys his famous jump and thereby put more of them in scoring position. Theoretically, this would lead to more runs and more runs would lead to more victories. Ergo, the Mets are out of the cellar!

All of which prompted a cynical Los Angeles sportscaster, who apparently saw no threat to Maury Wills' record string of thefts in this maneuver, to remark:

"We have news for Mr. Owens. Met players usually get thrown out by more than a yard!"

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HE WASN'T MENTIONED during Negro History Week, but in his own way, Prince Monolulu, who passed away recently at the ripe old age of 81, was one of the most famous colored men in the history of sports.

Born Peter Carl Mackay in Ethiopia, the "Prince" was one of horse racing's most colorful figures for almost half a century. Not as an owner, trainer or jockey, but as a tout!

Shanghaied from his native Africa at an early age, Monolulu eventually found himself in New York City around the turn of the century and wound up in the Salvation Army. But singing on street corners was much too tame for the adventuresome "nobleman" and he soon moved on to jolly old England, where selling tips on the horses was an honored profession before off-track betting was legalized and just about ruined the racket.

Gravitating toward the track, Monolulu decided to put his early training as an evangelist to good use. Recalling that a revivalist named Gypsy Daniels had attracted large crowds by shouting, "I got heaven!" Monolulu started shouting, "I got a horse!" He soon had plenty of customers for his tips and became wealthy in his new undertaking.

Monolulu's first great coup came in 1920 when he offered his clients Spion Kop as a free tip in the English Derby. He also bet 3000 pounds, about \$14,400 in those days, of his own money on the eventual winner. His personal winnings were multiplied by donations from grateful followers.

Garbed in flowing Ethiopian robes, Monolulu made frequent speeches on all sorts of topics in London's Hyde Park and more than once was picked up by the bobbies and fined for using language even more colorful than his costume.

His evangelistic bent led to one of his most flamboyant feats--a trip to Moscow in 1961 in an attempt to stop the East-West cold war with a "Peace Through Racing Mission." His logic was simple. Monolulu figured universal horse racing would end all international dissension because as soon as a bettor collected on a race, he automatically became a capitalist!

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SECOND SECTION

Voice

Thursday, February 25, 1965

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ALMOST MADE IT--This is Roy Martin Junior High basketball team that was nosed out by R. O. Gibson in final of county ninth grade tournament last week, 67-65. Front (from left): Robert Sullivan, Joe Page, Leroy Davis, Ron Dishman and Don Rosemead; rear (from left): Ulysses Winfrey, asst. coach; Don Gray, Joe Gilmore, Glenn Jackson, Robert Young, Butch Edwards and Frank Nails, coach. Not present, Pat Baker and Brent Cecil. Dishman (21), Davis (20) and Jackson (15) scored 56 points between them against Gibson as last ditch rally just failed to tie up game. Teams had split during regular season.

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