



By MARK QUEEN

WE WERE HAPPY to see Charley Sifford pick up his biggest check of the 1965 pro golf tour in the Canadian Open at Toronto last week-end. His \$3,050 payoff for an eighth-place tie behind winner Gene Littler should keep the veteran campaigner from Los Angeles in chompin' stogies for quite a spell.

Charley was in contention for the top prize of \$20,000 right up to the last few holes at Toronto, but couldn't quite match the closing drives of the top finishers. After a first round 68, he was dead even with Littler at the halfway mark with two-under par 138, but tapered off to 71-70 for 279 as Gene spurred home in 69-66 for 273.

One of these days, we hope to see Charley get off to one of those good starts and keep right on rolling to a major circuit victory and a berth in the Las Vegas Tournament of Champions. Had he been able to maintain his opening 68 pace through the last three rounds at Toronto, he would have nipped Littler by one stroke and collected the big end of the pot.

In the meantime, the other top Negro golfer in the country, Pete Brown, continues to be plagued by the bad back that forced him to withdraw from this year's Tournament of Champions after the first round. We understand Pete may be forced to take a long rest in order to get back in good physical condition. They say his ailment has the medicos completely baffled.

And That Ain't Hay

THE DALLAS COWBOYS of the National Football League will soon start paying Bob Hayes, the 1964 Olympic sprint champion, a reported \$50,000 per season on a three-year, no-cut contract as an offensive end. The former Florida A&M flash expects to earn it.

"I went to college on a football scholarship," said Bob, now a traveling publicist for a soft-drink company. "Football is what I think of as my sport. I liked it from the very start."

That was eight years ago, when, as a high school freshman in Jacksonville, Fla., the world's fastest human began his athletic career as a left halfback.

Today, at 22, Hayes looks more like a pro football player than a sprinter. A chunky 5-11 and full-muscled, he resembles Dick Bass of the Los Angeles Rams. He is now at his fullback poundage of 192, five above his Tokyo weight.

Spare Time Sprinter

ALL THE SAME, Hayes comes into the skeptical NFL pegged as a sprinter. A few have

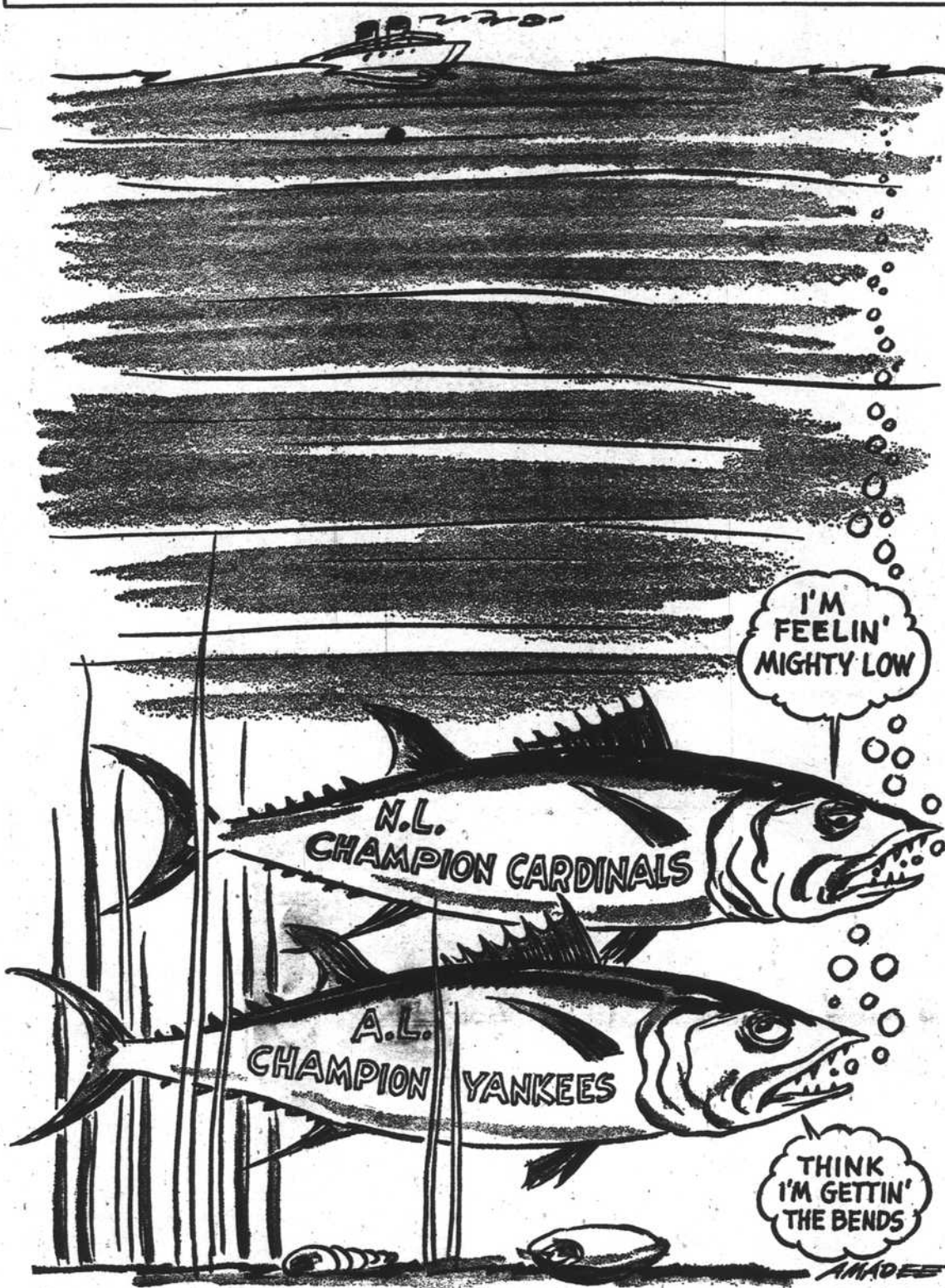
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made it, notably Buddy Young and Bob Boyd. But many have tried and faltered, recent examples including Ray Norton, Frank Budd and hurdler Glenn Davis.

It is because of the demand for sprinter speed in the receiving positions that the NFL keeps trying to convert trackmen--and usually fails for a reason best explained by Hayes' football coach at A&M, Jake Gaither.

"The only good football-playing sprinters," said Gaither, "are guys who are football players first, and who then develop into track stars. You can't do it the other way around. Bob is a football player. He just happened to be fast enough to run 100 yards in 9.1 in his spare time."

Speed Not Enough

HAYES HAS CONFIDENCE in his ability to play pro football well, and he has given considerable thought to the matter, citing three reasons why most track specialists have been unsuccessful in pro ball.

"First," he said, "they lose their football coordination if they don't play college football. Maybe in high school they were good in both track and football, but if you don't stay with the game in college you lose what you had."

"Second, they don't have the heart to play in the NFL. You need a lot of it. And third, when most sprinters put on a football suit, they try to outrun everybody. They don't use their blockers."

"I have found that my speed rates about sixth in importance to me as a football player. The five things that are more important are five good blockers."

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