

## Spotlight On Sports

### EVEN THE YANKEES!

By CHARLES J. LIVINGSTON  
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

IT HAS happened to every major league ball club; now its happening to the once haughty San Francisco Giants.

The Giants are faltering and every keen baseball observer knows the reason: Marvelous Willie Mays and ace pitcher Juan Marichal are faltering.

This is not supposed to be, because baseball is basically a "team sport." But again the keen observer knows that the pennant fortunes of every top team have almost invariably rested on the shoulders of one or two key players. And thus it has been the case with Mays and Marichal, the Giants bread-and-butter players.

With the Giants these past several years it has been a case of "As Mays and Marichal Go, So Go the Giants."

MAYS WAS first. After many winning years under Tom McGraw, the Giants had been in somewhat of a doldrum until the baseball-wise Leo Durocher brought Mays into the fold in 1951, and then the team began to click again.

Since then, with Mays as the pivotal player, the Giants has been a highly successful ball club, stretching its pennant conquests from New York's Polo Grounds to Frisco's present Candlestick Park.

In recent years, Mays was joined in the campaign by a smiling resolute fellow from the Dominican Republic named Juan Marichal, and together they virtually "carried" the ball club. They keyed Giants offensively and defensively, with Willie starring both ways.

In the process, Mays became the second greatest homerun hitter in the history of the game, second only to the late Babe Ruth. Way over the 530 mark in homers, Willie, in fact, breaks his own record every time he clouts a circuit blow. In 1965 he slammed 51 homers and came only three shy of his all-time season's total of 54.

MARICHAL HAS won 20 or more games for the Giants for the past four years, and it was on that basis that he was able to demand a \$100,000 salary this season. But Juan had to hold out so long to get the 100 Gs, that he had virtually no spring training and started the 1967 campaign "rusty." It has cost him dearly, pitchingwise.

After losing three straight games, he had to bear down so hard, that he lost his pitching finesse. Then, just as he was regaining top form, tragedy struck. The high-kicking, mound ace pulled a hamstring in his right leg. And when he tried too soon to pitch again, he aggravated the injury and "gave-up" in pain and disgust "for the season" last week.

Actually, though, Juan has always been a hardluck pitcher, plagued by injury. In 1965, when he and the great Sandy Koufax were battling for pitching supremacy, Juan had 20 games in the bag a little past mid-season and seemed certain to become a 30-game winner. Then a teammate slammed a car door on his pitching hand and he was sidelined. The mishap cost him a 30-victories, season and Juan had to settle for 24. A suspension also cost him during another season, and now comes the hamstring mishap.

TO SOME extent Mays had had similar experiences with injury and illness. He batted in pain in 1963 when he was struck on the right thumb and had a comparatively poor season at the plate. Twice during Giants pennant races, Willie was sidelined by a combination of virus and exhaustion, and he has been ill again this season. In every one of these luckless seasons for Willie, the Giants' pennant hopes suffered.

However, Willie has always sparkled afield, and even today when, at 36, he has slowed up a step or two, Mays is still the greatest defensive centerfielder, although perhaps not the fleetest. Willie has the surest gloves, still plays the shallowest center field, and is such a seasoned campaigner that he knows "how to play" every batter, even those he hasn't seen before, merely by the way they "shape up" at the plate. This is a rare characteristic of greatness.

But playing center field at top speed at his age is taking the starch out of Mays, and the Giants would do well to shift him to a less arduous position, even shortstop, where his great throwing arm would be an asset. Let's face it, nobody can continue at top speed forever--Willie

## Dixie's Voice Of Reason

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

The Atlanta Journal, one of the largest newspapers in Georgia, hit at Georgia's Governor Maddox for congratulating the school board in Lowndes county for attempt to resegregate its school system. The board passed a resolution reverting to the former segregated system despite the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Journal had the following editorial comment in its issue of Aug. 4:

"IN THE MIDST of concern about the contempt for lawful processes in the urban riots, much older defiance of the law and contempt for the Constitution continues in the South.

"Just in the past few days, Gov. Lester Maddox has been taking steps that underscore the depth of this problem.

"He fired off a wire to the Lowndes County school board congratulating it on resegregating school faculties and this, in effect, defying the Constitution and courts and heading toward surrender of \$350,000 of badly needed federal school funds annually.

"The governor's action is important far beyond what is going on in one Georgia county. It is significant because it again places the weight of the state government against constitutional processes--against the law.

"What schools such as those in Lowndes must do has been outlined explicitly in federal court decisions, especially in a recent ruling of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

"There can be no doubt about what the law requires.

"So the meaning of the Lowndes board's action is unmistakable, and the governor's encouragement of it is equally unmistakable. It is a step toward putting Georgia back into the old near-insurrectionary position, the one which the state's top political leadership fomented and led for many years, of attempting to live outside the law and of encouraging contempt for it.

"It is reported that some Georgia educators are privately expressing the view that increasing evasion of school desegregation requirements in a number of Georgia school systems, coupled with the governor's statement of a state-level policy on the matter, could result in the whole state's being placed under a federal court integration order.

"The only other state which recently has defied the law enough to have that happen is Alabama.

"Georgia had been moving closer to being a full law-abiding state in these matters. Gov. Maddox's position can only have the effect of moving the state back, toward its old posture of contempt for the law and of saying "Never" to the Constitution."

## GIRLS VOLLEY BALL CLINIC SPONSORED

Doolittle Recreation Center will sponsor a Volley Ball Clinic for all fifth and sixth grade girls wishing to participate in the Elementary Volley Ball League.

The Clinic will be held Saturday morning, September 30, in the Doolittle Gym beginning at 9:30 a.m. Rules will be discussed and all questions concerning the League and schedules will be answered.

The season's first League game is scheduled for October 2 at 3:30 p.m. All games will be played at the Doolittle Gym.

For further information, call 385-1221, Ext. 365. After 5 p.m., call 385-1228.

being no exception.

EVERY BIG league club has suffered when their key players faltered. The once mighty New York Yankees virtually fell apart when Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris slipped. The Indians suffered from the loss of pitching aces Bob Feller, Early Wynn, Bob Lemon and "Big Bear" Mike Garcia; the Dodgers, from the loss of Jackie Robinson and Sandy Koufax; and Baltimore has yet to recover from the loss of slugger Frank Robinson, to injuries.

Now in this painful, painfilled 1967 season the Giants are having their slumps, due to the faltering of Mays and Marichal. Baseball is a team sport, but you've got to have your big guns going for you at full blast.

Marichal is young enough to recover his great form, but the Giants will have to try to conserve Mays' seeming abundant energy at this stage of his career.

It's for the Giants and Mays to decide.

## ERNIE BANKS LAUDED

ATLANTA - (NPI)--Sluggish Ernie Banks last week was hailed as the Chicago Cubs "Comeback Star" by General Manager Paul Richards of the Atlanta Braves, who said Ernie is responsible for the Cubs comeback as a leading NL contender this year.

Richards heaped praise on Banks, saying: "Some athletes can do it. He's just as charged up now as he was during his first full season. Let's be realistic about it, the Cubs wouldn't be anywhere close to their current (third place) position without Banks."

## MINNESOTA IS YOURS WE'LL TAKE ST. PAUL

ST. PAUL, Minn. - (NPI)--This city has outdone its twin rival, Minneapolis, by passing one of the strongest civil rights ordinances in the country. Minneapolis has a rights measure banning housing discrimination in all dwellings except boarding houses. But St. Paul's ordinance affects all housing in the city and sets up an independent city department of human rights to administer the ordinance. The new ordinance, considerably stronger than St. Paul's present civil rights measure, goes into effect Oct. 9.

## DIXON'S BARBER SHOP

"It Pays To Look Well"

Barbers:

LEON DIXON

CHESTER DUNN

JOHNNY CROCKETT

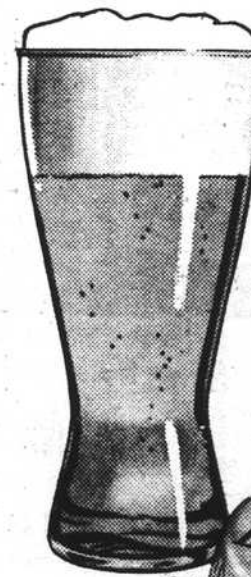
413 JACKSON — 385-9367

## Fear Political Football

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--Whitney M. Young, executive director, National Urban League, has urged Congressmen not to make a "political football" out of the slum housing issue.

Supporting a bill by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D.-N.Y.) to encourage construction of medium-income integrated housing in rundown areas, Young said the score would be "nothing-to-nothing" if the housing question becomes a "political football."

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