

The Sports Parade

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

NEW JUMP CHAMP

KANSAS CITY - (NPI)--Bobby Beamon of the University of Texas at El Paso last week emerged as the new world long jump champion, after he leaped 27 feet one-inch to set a new world mark in the National Intercollegiate Athletics indoor track meet. Beamon outjumped Ralph Boston--co-holder with Russia's Ter-Ovanesyan of the world outdoor record at 27-4-3/4--in shattering Ovanesyan's former indoor record of 27 feet flat.

WIN GAME HONORS

LOS ANGELES - (NPI)--Gale Sayers has done it again. This time he electrified a throng of 53,289 in the West's 38-20 Pro Bowl victory over the East last weekend with a 74-yard punt return and a three-yard touchdown run. As a result, Sayers was voted the "Back of the Game".

CONTROVERSY

HOUSTON - (NPI)--Houston's upset 71-69 win over UCLA and Lew Alcindor has provoked a controversy between the opposing coaches concerning the merits of Alcindor and the Texans' star, Elvin Hayes. After Houston snapped UCLA's win streak at 47 games, Coach Guy Lewis said of Hayes, who scored 39 points in the game: "If there's any college basketball player better than Elvin, I've never seen him." But UCLA coach John Wooden retorted: "...I wouldn't trade Alcindor for two Hayes."

SPENCER FAVORED


OAKLAND, Calif. - (NPI)--Hard-hitting Thad Spencer last week was rated a strong favorite to defeat Jerry Quarry when the two contenders clash in a 12-round semi-finals elimination heavyweight bout in the Oakland Coliseum, Feb. 3. Spencer first gained national prominence among the contending heavyweights after defeating one-time contender Doug Jones.

ROOKIE SIGNS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - (NPI)--Frank Coggins, a 23-year-old second baseman on whom the Washington Senators place great stock as coming big star of the future, last week signed his 1968 baseball contract with the club. Brought up from Hawaii for the stretch drive last season, Coggins batted .307 in 19 games, hitting safely in 10 of his first 11 major league games, while coming through with some fine defensive plays at second base.

Appeals Court Ruling On Rights Cases Awaited

HOUSTON - (NPI)--Southern race relations could be sharply affected by a series of civil rights cases being considered by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The Court is expected to rule in February on the status of a privately-owned amusement park in Baton Rouge which turned away Negro children, segregation of swimming pools in Jackson, Miss., and Tallahassee, Fla., and appointment of Negro election commissioners in Mississippi. Based in New Orleans, the court is meeting in Houston, home of Chief Judge John R. Brown.



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Negro Dentist Candidate For N.C. Governor Seat

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - (NPI)--Feeling the time is ripe for Negroes to make all-out bids for elective offices, another black candidate has come on the political scene to go the Stokes-Hatcher twosome one better--he will be seeking the gubernatorial seat in North Carolina.

The candidate is Dr. Reginald Hawkins, 44, who expects to become governor by appealing to "black men and poor whites" with a program for their common good.

To help his chances, Dr. Hawkins is hoping that elected mayors Richard G. Hatcher of Gary and Carl Stokes of Cleveland will take part in a massive rally supporting his candidacy, as well as to pass on some tips on how best to get his program over to the people. In addition, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Negro entertainers are expected to participate in the campaign.

The black candidate said the time has passed when he might have campaigned "for the right to drink a cup of coffee in a restaurant. Instead, I'm campaigning for the right to sit in the governor's mansion."

Dr. Hawkins will be entering the May 4 Democratic primary, and proposes to conduct his campaign "the same way we ran the civil rights fight." He was a participant in the nation's first sit-in at Greensboro, N.C., in 1960.

IN SEEKING the gubernatorial post, the dentist admits being inspired by the election victories of Hatcher and Stokes. If elected, he would be the first black governor since P.B.S. Pinchback acted as governor of Louisiana for several days during the Reconstruction era.

Dr. Hawkins has one thing going for him, and one against him. His major strength lies in the state's 280,000 registered Negro voters. This is slightly more than half of North Carolina's voting-age Negroes.

On the other hand, Dr. Hawkins has been charged by the state dental society with overcharging patients and doing faulty work. His political opponents can be counted upon to use these charges against him.

The candidate's civil rights advocacy could be a two-edged sword. It just could rally the state's black voters and civil rights advocates.

However, Dr. Hawkins is running in a state in which Negroes make up 1,116,021 of the state's 4,556,155 population--or about 25 per cent.

Gary's Hatcher and Cleveland's Stokes campaigned heavily on their civil rights records, but they were running respectively in a predominantly Negro city and one that will be within a decade.

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GEORGIA LEGISLATOR COMMENTS ON MADDUX

NORFOLK - (NPI)--Gov. Lester Maddox, remembered for chasing Negro patrons out of his Atlanta eatery at gunpoint, has been given a roundabout compliment by Georgia State Rep. Julian Bond.

"I think he has done more for the Negroes in Georgia than any other governor has," said Rep. Bond, who added, however: "But that's only because none of the others did anything for us."

The Georgia legislator said Gov. Maddox is "peculiar, because he is not really a politician."

He was evidently referring to the maverick governor's unprofessional, capricious way of running the state government. While labeling himself a "segregationist," Gov. Maddox has appointed several Negroes to high office--more than his "liberal" predecessors.

Rep. Bond went on to charge that black people made a mistake in 1960 in concentrating their energies on seeking the right to eat hamburgers at lunch counters.

"We had not increased in our position with white people through such efforts."

But when Negroes turned to organizing voter drives, they began to see results, Rep. Bond added.

CAMPY A MORTAL LOCK TO MAKE "THE HALL"

By CHARLES J. LIVINGSTON
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Time--something which he has in abundance these days--is in Roy Campanella's favor to make baseball's Hall of Fame, despite his close miss last week.

Campy missed making the Hall by a mere eight votes, receiving a total of 205 of the 283 ballots cast by members of the Baseball Writers Association. A total of 213, or 75 per cent, was necessary for election.

Joe Medwick, a former member of the St. Louis Cardinals' "Gas House Gang" of the 1930s, made it on what was regarded as his "last time at bat," because he retired in 1948 and would have gone into the Oldtimers category next year. The baseball writers voted only on players active in the last 20 years.

Medwick was surprised that Campy did not make it into the Hall with him last week. So was I. If there was ever a player who truly merits being in baseball's hallowed shrine, it's got to be Roy Campanella.

He was a guy who could do everything one could ask of a great catcher. A superb backstop, who could catch and throw in virtually the same position, Campy excelled at handling pitchers, particularly the temperamental ones. Many were the times that Roy went to the mound to calm down a hurler or intentionally make him so angry that he would shed his jitters and pitch his way to victory.

The possessor of a very strong throwing arm, Campy's keen judgment and unique ability to quickly master each hurler's pitching rhythm, enabled him to cut down many runners on the base paths. And he was a master at the art of blocking off home plate.

AS ONE former teammate stated, "They (the baseball runners) knew better than to try to barrel their way past Campy." In his heyday, Campy was rather stocky, weighing anywhere between 195 to 253 pounds. He was, however, very agile.

You hear talk often these days of young catchers having trouble with knuckle ball or slider pitchers, but such hurlers posed absolutely no problem for Campy. He handled all of them with consummate ease.

Besides, Campanella caught just about all the great pitchers of his day, and was one of the game's greatest workhorses.

The story is told of how Campy once awed his friend, Yogi Berra with a rundown of his catching experiences in the now defunct American League--before Roy made it to the Brooklyn Dodgers. Yogi had been talking about how many doubleheaders he was catching for the then world champions New York Yankees. Campy listened with a faint smile on his lips. Yogi noticed it. "You doubt me Roy?" he asked.

"No, I don't doubt you," Campy replied, "But Yogi, you think they are really working you hard? Listen, when I was playing in the Negro American League, I sometimes caught tripleheaders the same day. We'd play an afternoon doubleheader in one town and then catch a bus for another town where I'd have to catch again that same night."

"Man!" Yogi reportedly replied, "when did you rest?"

"We didn't," Campy replied. "After the regular season was over we went barnstorming until way into the fall. After barnstorming, we went to the Caribbean to play winter baseball, and by the time that was over, it was time for spring barnstorming and the regular baseball season afterwards." Yogi whistled.

BUT DEXTERITY and endurance were not the only things Campy had going big for him during his career, which was unfortunately halted by an auto accident in January, 1958.

Roy was a much feared stickman, with home-run power to burn. He thrice won the National League's Most Valuable Player Award.

He appeared in a host of World Series classics and perhaps engaged in more All-Stars games than any other catcher of his day.

Yes, Roy was quite a guy.

I predict that he will make it into the Hall by January, 1969, when balloting is held again. But in any event, he cannot miss making it before the 20-year limit for modern-day stars expires. He has until 1977.

