

A LINE ON SPORTS

By ELBURT MILLER



Why does the Black athlete tend to monopolize certain professional sports such as: baseball, basketball, football and boxing; and are only sprinkled around the other top paying professional sports such as: Hockey, golf, tennis and bowling? The question isn't difficult to answer, but too often a pity to discuss. You know, by right, the Black athlete should have the biggest feet of any other race of athletes in this entire Universe.

Ask any Black athlete if he's ever played ball in the streets, he'll probably say, "Baby that's Home." It may sound ironical, but at one time or another statistics say he was there.

Black athletes stature in certain professional sports can be attributed, of course, to his natural ability; but also, to the fact that he was able to practice this sport, without adequate facilities in the street in front of his house. Discovering that the playgrounds with the fabulous facilities were just too far away and he had to be near to hear momma if she called. You see, baseball, basketball, football and boxing, these sports require little expense to participate in. In fact, as we know, most black athletes enjoyed these activities playing with no shoes on. Most of them found out about Allstar tennis shoes when they reached junior high. I guess it must have been a comfort.

You take these other sports, such as: Hockey, golf, tennis and bowling. If you don't have money along with transportation to get to these illustrious convention and golf courses then you're out of luck. Something that you never had. After you count the amount of money needed to buy the equipment; the amount needed in your pocket to feel like you belong, you can easily see why an impoverished black athlete tends to stay with the sport that he can best do with the least amount of annoyance and money. He knows how to fight, club someone with a baseball bat or throw a ball at someone's head; how to jump or make that one shot count, catch that pass or run away from that crowds because too often survival, indeed was getting away. So really the Black athlete is not a legend, he couldn't be because he's a walking "miracle." Now you know why he says, "Right On."!!!

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John Brodie, San Francisco, quarterback who had 24 passes intercepted last season, claims there's no truth to the rumor that after the 49ers' loss to the Cowboys, "I tried to commit suicide, but the bullet was intercepted."

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Bull fighter Manuel Benitez "El Cordobes," an illiterate peasant who became the world's highest paid athlete, announced his retirement yesterday. Cordobes, 35 and a bachelor, made the announcement at a news conference after returning to Spain from Britain where he had spent the winter studying English. His career as a bullfighter spanned 12 years, and his estimated yearly income was the equivalent of \$3 million.

Who was that guy who said a Mexican couldn't make it? I guess any person who is successful can be the example for all who are much less fortunate. You see Harry, "If Johnny did it, you can too." Can he? We're all created equal! Aren't we??

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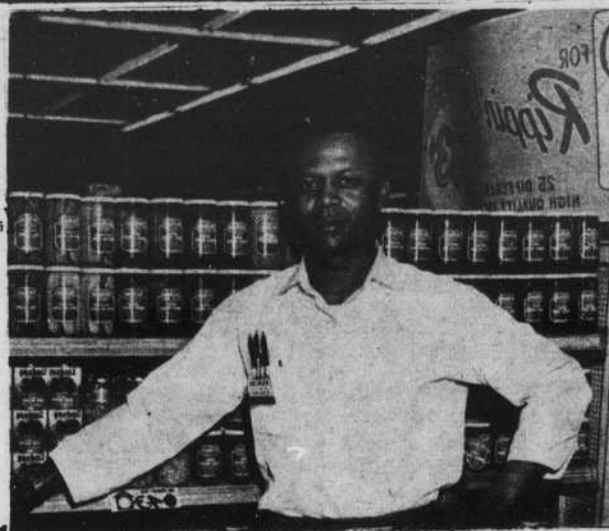
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Troy Denson, the first Negro to become manager of a grocery-market outside the West Las Vegas area, has proven that honesty & drive to better oneself pays. Mr. Denson, 33, graduated from high school in 1958 in Ludlow, Mississippi, and attended Jr. College one year. He came to Las Vegas in 1961 and entered the military service for two years. Upon completion of his military duty in 1963, he returned to Las Vegas and worked a year at a Strip hotel.

In 1964, he started working at Rancho Market as a floorman, and after two years was upgraded to a clerk heading the entire graveyard shift. After a year as store clerk, and showing tremendous ability in the grocery business, he was promoted to assistant manager, which he held for two years. January 5, 1970 he became the first Negro to hold a top position in the grocery-markey business outside the black community

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LOOKING TO BREAK A RECORD

Looking to break a world's fresh water fish record? Field and Stream magazine has compiled a list of 42 largest fresh water fish species caught on hook and line since 1866. In the trout category: Brook trout 14 lbs. 8 oz. from Ontario, Canada in 1960, brown trout 39 lbs. 8 oz. Scotland 1866, Golden Trout 11 lbs. in Wyoming 1948, lake trout 65 lbs. at Great Beak Lake, Canada in 1970, rainbow trout 42 lb. 2 oz. Alaska in 1970 and coho salmon 31 lbs. Cowichan Bay, Alaska in 1947. Nevada holds the honors for the largest cutthroat trout caught by John Skimmerhorn at Pyramid Lake in 1925. Since re-introduction of the Lahontan cutthroat into those waters in recent years the largest taken has weighted 19 lbs. 9 oz.

Cut-bow trout, a new species not listed in Field and Stream's records has become a common catch at Pyramid Lake. This cutthroat rainbow hybrid cross has reached weights up to 17 lbs. recently and is one of the species of Nevada Department of Fish and Game's trophy fish contest.

Warm water fish presently holding records are: small mouth bass 22 lbs. 4 oz. from Georgia in 1932, northern pike 46 lbs. 2 oz. New York in 1940, Walleye 25 lbs. Tennessee in 1960, bluegill 4 lbs. 12 oz. Alabama in 1950 and black crappie 5 lbs. from South Carolina in 1957.

A 55 lb. 5 oz. carp Minnesota and caught in 1952 presently holds the world's record. The largest caught that has been taken in Nevada to date weighed 28 lbs. 8 oz. and was taken with a hand spear by a Las Vegas skin diver.

Other warm water fish holding existing records are: channel catfish 58 lbs. taken in South Carolina in 1964 and black bullhead 8 lbs. from New York in 1951.

Since 1968, Nevada Department of Fish and Game has conducted a similar state fishing contest with 25 different species. All anglers who enter various species meeting established weight requirements are awarded trophy certificates. Anglers capturing largest fish in each category are awarded trophy plaques.

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