



Two Sets of Rules

Five years ago, Al Campanis, an official with the Los Angeles Dodgers, appeared on the television program "Nightline" and tried to explain the absence of blacks as managers and in the front offices of baseball teams. His comments, such as blacks not having the "necessities" for those jobs, were so obviously prejudiced they prompted an outcry.

Baseball was embarrassed. Many promises were made that an all-out effort would be made to improve the situation. I met with then Commissioner Peter Ueberroth, and he seemed genuinely interested in reform.

Have we progressed in five years? Not really. Other than a very visible action or two, such as naming Bill White president of the National League, nothing has happened. That is why when "Nightline" invited me to appear on the fifth anniversary of its first baseball program, I made no bones about my feelings.

I know Commissioner Fay Vincent has a tough job. But I also know that somewhere along the line somebody's got to take the bull by the horns and say we've got to do something about this problem.

Let's face it, there are two sets of rules for hiring in baseball. I see case after case of white players hired right off the field into important baseball jobs. When blacks apply for these jobs, they are told they have to have years of experience.

This attitude toward blacks may be coming back to haunt baseball. I know of a study that baseball has carefully smothered that shows most blacks view baseball as a white man's sport. This is a shocking statement to me, and it should be to the commissioner.

Baseball isn't doing enough to promote the game in black neighborhoods. Many black communities don't have Little League programs or Peeewe Leagues. Many poorer schools are dropping baseball as an organized sport. Money also is a factor. It costs a great deal to put a glove on a kid's hand, a uniform on his back, a pair of spikes on his feet and to provide a playing field. In addition, the average black family can't afford to come to the ballpark as often as the average white family. Even if you buy tickets in the Bob Uecker seats, it costs a lot of money.

Many gifted athletes who might have chosen baseball 30 years ago are now choosing football or basketball. They know that for every three or four college baseball scholarships there are 40 football scholarships.

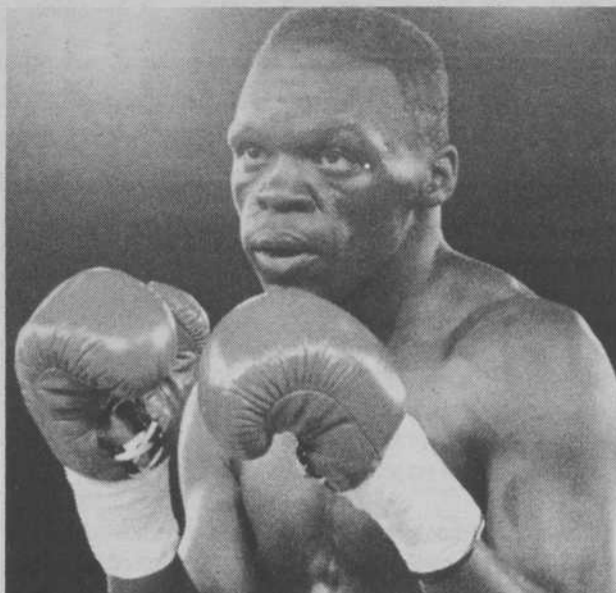
What can be done? Well, there's a small program now that promotes the game of baseball in black neighborhoods. Professional baseball has given the program some operating money in recent months. But that program was created by a scout in the Texas Rangers organization, not by the commissioner's office.

Professional baseball's leadership needs to direct some of its creativity to this problem as well as open up its purse. Team owners also need to reach beyond the same old-fashioned, "Good Old Boy" system and give some of the management jobs to retiring black players. ■

Hank Aaron is the top home-run hitter of all time with 755 homers. A member of baseball's Hall of Fame, Hank is senior vice president of the Atlanta Braves.

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Mayweather, Coffee, Lonon, Avelar Mean Business at Union Plaza Friday Sept. 13th



"JAZZY" JEFF MAYWEATHER

By Bob Rodgers, Sportswriter

Friday the 13th will probably mean bad luck for the fighters who will have to face "Jazzy" Jeff Mayweather (18-1), Brian Lonon (8-0), Saul Avelar (10-3) and "Kid" Coffee (33-6) at the Union Plaza.

You couldn't ask for a better card than this one as undefeated Kennedy "Sharp" McKinney (15-0) will add to the madness, along with Arthur Williams (10-1), who will be seeking revenge after being K.O.'d by Sim Warrior in his last outing, a bout which snatched Williams from the ranks of the unbeaten.

AF Promotions are putting on the bouts in an effort to give the local fighters a chance to show what they can do.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS SPORTS LEAGUES

Over 40 Men's Basketball League

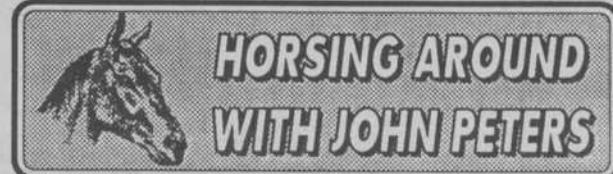
The City of Las Vegas Robison Community School, 825 Marion Drive, accepts registration for an over 40 men's basketball league, Tuesday, September 10 at 7 p.m. The cost is \$220 per team. Call 459-0201 for times of play.

★★★★★

Women's Volleyball League
Registration takes place Thursday, September 12, for a women's volleyball league at the City of Las Vegas Robison Community School, 825 Marion Drive. Beginning at 7 p.m., those 16 and up can register for \$120 per team. Call 459-0201 for play schedule.

★★★★★

Flag Football League
A flag football league is now being organized by the City of Las Vegas Robison Community School, 825 Marion Drive. Registration take place Saturday, September 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at a cost of \$20 per player. The league is designed for grades 4-8. Call 459-0201.



"TIGHT SPOT" SQUEEZES THROUGH A TIGHT SPOT AND WINS "ARLINGTON MILLION"

A field of nine (9) went to post Sunday for the 12th sunning of the "Arlington Million."

This race was run on the turf at a distance of 1 1/4 mile. Tight Spot, owned by Las Vegas Verme Winchell and trained by Ron McAnally, went off at odds of 9 to 5. Its allgreekto me went off at odds of 4 to 1. The large crowd at Arlington Park was stunned as Julie Krone broke on top with the long-shot (30 to 1) Chenin Blanc. Tight Spot with Laffit Pincay aboard broke second. Chenin Blanc ran fractions of 23.4 seconds for the quarter mile; 47.3/5 seconds for the half mile; 1 minute 11.1 seconds for 3/4 mile and 1 minute, 35.4/5 for the mile.

About 50 yards from the finish line Tight Spot sprinted through a very tight spot and kept his head in front of the two closes, Algenib and Kartafana, and won this race by a neck.

Tight Spot ran the last quar-

ter in 23 2/5 seconds and finished the race in 1 minute, 59 2/5 seconds which was 3/5 of a second off the fastest "Million" ever run. Coming into this race, Tight Spot had won seven straight races on the grass and had won most of the races by going to the front.

In winning this "Arlington Million", trainer Ron McAnally joined Charlie Whittingham as the only trainers to win this race three times. McAnally won the Million twice before with the gelding John Henry.

History was also made in this race as Julie Krone became the first female jockey ever to ride in the "Million." Tight Spot returned \$5.60; \$4.20 and \$3.00. Algenib returned \$6.80 and \$4.80 and Kartajana returned \$4.20.

In winning this race, Tight Spot showed his versatility because he doesn't have to run on the front in order to win a race but he can also run off the pace.

★★★ SPORTS BRIEFS ★★★

BASEBALL:

LEAGUE LEADERS

National League:

EAST - Pittsburgh

WEST - L.A. Dodgers

American League

EAST - Toronto

WEST - Minnesota

NOTES: Odds makers are being given a run for their money. At the beginning of the season, the American League's Minnesota Twins were 100-1 underdogs to win it all, while Atlanta, of the National League, was given 250-1 odds.

Currently Minnesota holds an eight (8) game lead over the Chicago White Sox and Atlanta is tied for first place with the Dodgers.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL:

The college football season gave its fair share of upsets during the first week of action. Penn State gave last years UPI

No. 1 Georgia Tech, a sound 34-22 beating, while Memphis State beat BYU as well.

Miami had little trouble in beating Arkansas 31-3.

This weeks top game: Ohio State vs. Arizona.

PRO FOOTBALL:

As in the college ranks, upsets could also be found in the pros during the opening week. New England upset Indianapolis 16-7, while Cincinnati fell to Denver 45-14.

This weeks top game: Dallas vs. Washington.

NOTES: NFL's priciest tickets are \$35 and can be found in San Francisco, while the lowest are \$18 in Detroit.

At a Jets or Giants game, a beer could cost you as much as \$3.90 per cup.

At a Patriots, L.A. Raiders, Dolphins or 49er's game parking will cost you up to \$10.

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