

# SPORTS TRAIN

BY RICK HURT

**THE RED HERRING DEPT.** Some of the reactionaries who are tried to a crisp over Branch Rickey's signing of Jackie Robinson are putting out the wash that Negro fans will riot if Robinson should ever be spiked or hurt on a ball field. The other night I talked to Robinson, and from our conversation I gather that Jackie can take care of himself. He knows the score, and he isn't going to get in the way of any spikes or step into any beanballs.



As for the riots—there aren't going to be any riots. When Jackie walks out onto the diamond it will not be he alone who is out there playing—thirteen million Negro Americans will be out there with him. And no Negro is going to riot or engage in anything that is detrimental to the progress and advancement of our entire people.

The majority of people that predict the awful antagonism which Jackie will run into from the players and fans are overlooking an important point—Jackie is an ace ballplayer and a very likeable chap personally. A guy who hits in the pinches, fields the hard ones, drives in winning runs and is also a "swell egg," can't miss being popular with his teammates. All ballplayers want to play on a winning team, and if Jackie comes through as expected he will be "good old Jackie" to his teammates. And the fans, who love a good ballplayer, will be with him all the way.

*Knock jimero over the fence by reelecting Ben Davis*

AS WE REPORTED LAST WEEK, Joe Louis is in a serious muddle when it comes to a manager. Joe is now to be managed, it has been announced, by Joe Gould, a "character" if there ever was one. Joe, with Jack Blackburn, John Roxborough, and Julian Black guiding him, has always had excellent advice. Blackburn is dead, Roxborough is in prison, and Black seems to have forsaken Louis.

The fight game is a business and Mike Jacobs, head of the Twentieth Century Sporting Club, is a businessman. "Uncle Mike" has in the past done all right by our Joe. But there are none of Joe's managers around now to sort of help "Uncle Mike" to do right. Jacobs, confronted with a choice of the almighty dollar and Joe's best interests, may have chosen the former. Joe made a serious mistake when he allowed Jacobs to persuade him to sign a contract that forbids Louis to engage in any tune-up fights before he meets Conn. After a three-year layoff from professional fighting, Louis needs some tune-up fights before he lays his title on the line. Uncle Mike probably told him he didn't need any. And Joe, trusting the promoter, signed. There was no manager there to stop him.

*Knock jimero over the fence by reelecting Ben Davis*

FRANK GRAHAM, New York Journal-American sports columnist who writes under the head "Graham's Corner," posed this little question in his October 4 column, "Remember Henry Armstrong, the little black Sambo of the ring, who held the featherweight, lightweight, and welterweight titles all at the same time?"

Oh, yes, Mr. Graham, we surely remember Henry Armstrong, for who could forget that great little fighter? We remember Hammerin' Henry. We remember Hank, the whirlwind champ—Mister Perpetual Motion, some called him. But we'll be damned if we can remember "the little black Sambo" you mention.

Look fans, let's analyze this little piece of name-calling. It is in line with an old and often-used technique that is supposed to pass as "the ridicule subtle." Suppose a writer has to describe an athlete who is good. Suppose the writer does not like the athlete because of racial differences. Now, the writer must say that the athlete is good, to do otherwise would cause the writer to appear asinine. Therefore, in employing the technique the writer praises the athlete and at the same time injects a subtle (or not-so-subtle) bit of poison in the cup of cheer.

And thus Graham, while stating that Armstrong accomplished the unprecedented feat of holding three boxing championships simultaneously, tries to offset the recognition due Henry by sneaking in a derogatory appellation.

I don't need to take up space in the telling of what is wrong with calling Henry Armstrong "little black Sambo." The sheer gall of this man Graham is amazing. But, and I bend over backwards in the spirit of fairness, it is possible that Graham does not know that the name he tacked on Henry is not just another nickname. Many is the time I heard individuals in similar situations begging off with, "Oh, I didn't know I was offending anyone."

And just in case he does not know, I have written him a very enlightening letter. You sports fans might sit down and also write the good Mr. Graham a letter.

## Warhawks Cop Capital Classic

By Sgt. BILL CHASE

WASHINGTON, October 27—Feathers flew here as the mighty Tuskegee Army Air Field Warhawks clawed the North Carolina State Eagles 14-0 before a cheering crowd of 25,000 pigskin fans at Griffith Stadium in the fourth annual Capital Classic.

Sparked by the brilliant running and passing of Corporal Bert Piggott, former University of Illinois quarterback TAAF took the offensive from the kickoff. The Warhawks scored in the second quarter when Piggott ran 69 yards for a touchdown. Master Sgt. Jerry Williams, Miami U. backfield star, converted.

Scoring again in the fourth quarter, Piggott cut loose for another sensational touchdown on a 65-yard run from a reverse play. Williams again booted the extra point, making the score 14-0 in one of the most exciting classics held to date.

It was a case of experience versus youth with the tarheels losing to the veteran TAAF stars.



**Triple Threat Back.** Cpl. Bert Piggott, Hinsdale, Ill. former All-Conference back at the University of Illinois who sparked the TAAF Warhawks to a 14-0 win over the NC Eagles Saturday. Piggott who runs, kicks and passes, accounted for 12 of the TAAF's 14 points—(Official US AAF photo by AAF Training Command).

## Bears Trample Lions in Philly

The Morgan College Bears hurdled a second obstacle on the road to their fifth consecutive CIAA championship as they routed a spunky Lincoln University eleven 20-0 under the arc lights of Shibe Park Friday night.

After playing a scoreless first half, Lincoln gave in to superior strength in the second half as Joiner, Berry, and Dismond scored for Morgan in that order before an enthusiastic crowd of more than 5,000.

William "Pee Wee" Bell again shone brilliantly as he frequently broke through Morgan's forward wall from his guard position bringing opposing runners down with might and main. In addition to his impressive defensive game, Bell was responsible for all of Lincoln's punting which brought the Lions out of many a hole. The 5'6" 160 lb. freshman accomplished such feats despite the painful aggravation of his three cracked ribs sustained in last week's game.



**Lion Co-Captains.** John Armstead, center and Hugh Johnson, left half-back of the Lincoln U eleven. Both performed well last Friday despite their team's 0-20 loss to the Morgan Bears.

### Sports Briefs

Howard dropped a hard fought contest, 13-7, to the Smith Bulls last Saturday at Washington...

The Dover State Hornets scored a 14-0 upset victory over the Hampton Pirates at Hampton last Saturday...

TAAF's Warhawks will meet the Fort Benning Reception Center Tigers at Fort Benning's famed Doughboy Stadium on November 3 at 7 pm...

Hampton Institute plans a huge post-war athletic program now that the Navy has vacated the campus and Hampton falls heir to the modern gym that Uncle Sam built for his sailors...

Ralph Zanelli, Providence, RI puncher recognized as the hardest hitter yet to face Philadelphia's knockout sensation Billy Arnold will be out for a victory when the two clash in Philly, Monday night, November 5...

## Ben Davis Lauds Victory

Ben Davis this week hailed the signing of Jackie Robinson as "a milestone on the road toward full and unconditional citizenship for all Americans irrespective of race, creed, color or national origin."

While editor of the "Daily Worker" several years ago Davis launched one of the first "end-jimero-in-baseball" drives. Last year his resolution calling on the Giants, Yankees and Dodgers to hire players was unanimously adopted by the City Council of New York.

"There are a great number of Jackie Robinsons among the Negro people," Davis maintains. "Let us keep up the fight of labor and the American people until the stand taken by the Dodgers is not the exception but the rule." [See baseball feature on page 19.]