

PV Writer Sees Jackie Sign Up in Montreal

By SAM MALTIN

[When the Jackie Robinson story broke, PV assigned its Montreal correspondent to cover it. Here is an on the spot account of the actual signing which took place in Montreal, October 23—Editors.]

MONTREAL—"Guess I'm just a guinea pig in this noble experiment." These were the words that warmed their way into the hearts of leading Canadian sports writer, editors, commentators and sportscasters who packed the large club rooms of the Montreal Baseball Club of the International League to witness the historic signature of Jackie Robinson to a contract which broke the black barrier in organized baseball.

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JACKIE CONFIDENT

"Maybe I am doing something for my race," said Robinson in the hour-long interview. He was introduced by Hector Racine, president of the Montreal ball club, which is owned and is a farm of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The signing of Robinson was greeted by every English and French newspaper here as great move, though a very late one. Sports fans waited hours to find out what the big announcement was, which was hinted in early afternoon papers.

None of the writers had a hint of what the secret call to the conference was all about, but they soon found out as Branch Rickey, jr, son of the owner of the Brooklyn club stepped into the room with Hector Racine and the Montreal directors. Many questions were asked of them, the main one centering around a number of southern players and their attitude towards playing with a Negro on the same team.

He said that was no reason why a Negro is not given a chance to make good in baseball and if some

players, particularly from the south, decide to start an open rebellion then they will find themselves out of organized baseball. After a year or two of sweating it out in a cotton mill, they'll be back playing ball and learning to understand to get along with their fellow Americans.

ROBESON JUBILANT

A few blocks from the ball club, another great Negro was holding a spellbound audience that packed every available spot in the theatre, including the stage, with the familiar songs of the oppressed. Paul Robeson was forced to stay over for an extra evening to meet the great demand of the thousands of Montrealers who literally begged for a chance to buy tickets for his concerts.

Mr. Robeson was told the news of the signing of Jack Robinson by the Montreal club by a correspondent of the People's Voice as he stepped into his dressing room after the concert.

"Great! This is wonderful news. That's what was needed. Something solid to go ahead with it and there's no better man to be given this break than Jackie Robinson."

"If I can make good here, with the Montreal club, which is likely the only club where I would have been given a chance, then it will be a real new deal in baseball for men of my race. I'm truly grateful for the chance thus offered.



It could be that I'll be subjected to many snubs, the target of some abuse, but I'm ready to take the chance.

I'm anxious to make good, not for myself so much, but for my race. We have had a lot to overcome."

All American Back. Charlie Weaver, veteran back of the A. & T. Aggies and CIAA American for the past two seasons. Weaver is well on his way to All honors again this year.

Cross Country Run

The Public School Athletic League cross country championship will be held on next Saturday, October 27th at 10 am. Over 200 boys from the New York City high schools will compete in this race. Among the schools having exceptionally large entries, will be Stuyvesant, George Washington and Haaren of Manhattan; Boys, Lincoln, Erasmus, Manual Training, Brooklyn Tech and New Utrecht of Brooklyn; Monroe, Morris, Clinton and Science of the Bronx; Bryant, Adams, Jamaica, Newtown, Bayside and Flushing of Queens; and Curtis, New Dorp and Port Richmond of Staten Island.

Mexican Jumping Bean Decisions Cleo Shans

In a punch-packed thriller that gave the fans every bit as much boxing as was expected Cleo Shans was decided in a close ten-rounder by Mexico City's Humberto Zavala at the St. Nicholas Arena last Friday night.

Shans appeared strong in the first four rounds, and opened a cut over Zavala's eye in the fourth. The dynamic Zavala, however, began to get Shans in the fifth, and from then on the Mexico City boy had the fight in the bag.

In a preliminary Wendy Wilson, 148 pounds, looked very good against Jerry Wright. It was Wilson's first pro fight, and the lad will bear watching.

Central, Dixon Favored in Meet

PHILADELPHIA—The Public High School cross country league lowers its curtains this afternoon (Wednesday) with its annual championship tests over the 2 1/2 mile Strawberry Mansion course in Fairmount Park. Major interest will focus on the efforts of Ken Dixon, defending individual titlist, and the Central High school team, defending team champions.

Both are heavy favorites to win although stern competition might develop for each. Dixon has already stepped the route in the amazing time of 12.18. He recorded this time in defeating John Walsh, Olney star and his closest competitor.

Walsh is set to give Dixon a close tussle, but the Germantown boy is out for a course and championship record and expects to be perfectly groomed. The course record is 12.14, established by Fraaghan, of Olneys, in 1943.

Central's team is banking on its four colored stars, Captain Al Jackson, Gene Baxter, Bobby Chapman and Reggie Freeman to bag the gonfalon. Along with teammates Dick Spady and Ken Hart, the Mirrors appear invin-

ible. Jackson failed to race last week, being sidelined by a bruised hip. Meanwhile three new threats appeared in other races in Sonny Hoxter of Germantown who turned in a 12.56 effort; Albert Granshaw and Jerry Cousins, of Overbrook and Ellwood Johnston, of Germantown, who were very close to 13 minutes flat.

At this writing it looks as if Dixon, Hoxter, Johnston, Royce Webb and Robert Thomas, all of Germantown and Baxter, Chapman and Jackson, of Central will finish in the first twelve, and unprecedented feat for colored competitors in local barrier races.

Significantly more colored boys are competing in this sport this fall than in football. And the number of bobby-sex adherents attending the meets to root for them has increased weekly.

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