

From A To Z with Sam Lacy

For several weeks, A to Z readers have been bombarding the column with inferences that perhaps the writer is a little carried away with racial ties to look at current baseball records with an objective view... Has A to Z not overlooked the fact that, in running up his sensational won-lost record, Don Newcombe has met only the weaker teams in the NL...



SAM LACY

Taking first things first, let's take a good look at the 18-1 as this is written) mark of Newcombe... Big Don has beaten the Philadelphia Phillies four times, the Chicago Cubs three times, the Cincinnati Reds three times, the St. Louis Cardinals four times, the Pittsburgh Pirates twice, and the New York Giants and Milwaukee Braves once each... The Cubs are the team which handed him that lone setback and the next time out against them, Newk tossed a one-hitter in Wrigley Field... Now then, how does the record look, as far as it can be said Newk has been picking on the weak sisters?...

"In the early part of the season," explains the Bums' skipper, "we were playing 'between rains' so to speak... I had to be sure Billy Loes and Carl Erskine got to go against the Giants and Braves... They always pitch well against those teams when they're healthy... That meant switching my rotation so that would happen... I never knew when we'd get in one game or two and then get rained out of the rest... So I had to make certain I got Loes and Erskine in there against the clubs against whom they were most effective... Besides, during that period Newcombe wasn't our 'big man,' you know... he hadn't settled down to pitching the kind of ball he's been pitching since the suspension and fine"... During his current spin, Newk has started twice against each of these two clubs... They both chased him once and they both lost to him once.

On the subject of hit batsmen, suppose we go again to the statistics... Sports fans are undoubtedly aware of the letter which Buzzy Bavasi, vice president of the Brooklyn Dodgers filed with Commissioner Ford Frick... In it, the Flatbush veep complained of the number of times Brooklyn players have been struck by opposing pitchers... 32 times, said Bavasi, is more than any other club in the league has suffered in this respect... Which enables A to Z to use the Dodgers as an example of the frequency with which "knock-down" pitches are aimed at colored players.

Broken down, here is the way the 32 Dodger HB's (hit batsmen) are listed: Carl Furillo (6), Sandy Amoros (6), Junior Gilliam (5), Roy Campanella (3), Jackie Robinson (3), Gil Hodges (2), Pee Wee Reese (2), Don Zimmer (2), Don Hoak (1), George Shuba (1), Don Newcombe (1)... Omitting the fact that Newcombe is the only pitcher in the group (it is a code among them that pitchers don't throw at each other), one must observe that of the 32 times Dodger batsmen were struck, 18 times the victim was colored... There are five tan players among the 25 on the Brooklyn roster... They represent, therefore, 20 percent of the playing personnel... But their 18 HB's are over 56 percent of the total of those struck by alien mounds-men... Anticipating the usual contention that opposing pitchers throw at batters because they want to "loosen them up" because they are "dangerous," the column asks since when did Sandy Amoros (hit six times) and/or Junior Gilliam (hit five times) become a more "dangerous" batter than Duke Snider (hit no times)?

And now to the third assertion, the one which hints at A to Z's partiality toward Campanella as superior to Berra... Back again to the records... How shall we compare 'em?... Offensively?... Yogi's lifetime average (as of Friday morning) is .295... Campy's lifetime mark is .285... but thereafter the advantage of Yogi ceases... Lifetime homers?... Roy has 200 for SEVEN years in the majors, Yogi has 197 for NINE years... Campy on Friday morning was hitting .337 for the year, Berra at the same time was hitting .276... Roy had 22 homers and 71 runs batted in, Yogi had 15 homers and 69 RBIs... Each has won the most valuable player award in his league twice... Last year, Berra won his second MVP with, among other things, 22 homers... The same season, Campanella hit 19 homers (only three fewer) WITH ONE HAND, the other being virtually useless the better part of the campaign... And Campy wasn't even considered for the NL's most valuable prize... Should baserunning be a factor?... In NINE years, Berra has stolen 16 bases... In SEVEN years, Campanella has stolen 21... How've they done in World Series competition?... Campy's overall hitting mark in the title classic is .246, Yogi's .230... Maybe they should be compared as defensive ball players?... Okay... Campanella is fielding .991 lifetime... Berra's mark is .984 lifetime... Need we go farther?

When Al Smith took over at second base in the late innings of the July 23 game against the Baltimore Orioles, it marked the sixth position the Cleveland Indians' leading hitter has played for manager Al Lopez this season... The Tribe's sophomore star has been used everywhere but as catcher, pitcher and first baseman... "Heck," said Smith to A to Z, "if it means being in the lineup, I'd play them too; anything but that bench!"... Dick Ricketts, who insists he wants to try his hand at both pro basketball and organized baseball, won his first four starts as a pitcher for the Allentown (Eastern League) farm club of the St. Louis Cardinals... Luke Easter is already three-over-the-home record for Charleston (American Association) players... he hit his 19th the other day and the season's just a little over half gone.

One of the first cases on which N.Y. Supreme Court Justice Harold Stevens had to rule was one in which a woman bettor sought to recover \$425 she lost at the horse races at Aqueduct... The new tan jurist threw out the suit of Miss Paula Aiello on the ground that pari-mutual betting is not a violation of the state's anti-gambling statute as she claimed... Miss Aiello had a bad day at the races, dropped \$425 and wanted it back... Justice Stevens said no soap.

Bill Miller, former U.S. Navy and University of Arizona javelin ace, was one of the record-breakers in the recent "Jamaica 300" track and field championships at Kingston... Miller tossed the javelin 258 1/2 feet, far short of his top effort of 265, but enough to crack a West Indian mark in the event... Milt Campbell, Indiana hurdler, also hung up a new standard in the 110 meters timber race... Campbell led an all-tan finish to the wire in 14 seconds flat, and was followed by Charley Pratt, of Manhattan, and Lou Knight, a Jasper teamfide of Pratt's... Other winners in the games were Andy Stanfield, who took both the 100 and 200 meters sprints; Charley Dumas, the youthful California high school high jumper; Reggie Pearman, who garnered the 400 meters test... One of the oddest sights of the affair, however, was the presence of Herb McKenley on the sidelines. As Jamaican director of athletics, the great quarter-miler could not participate.

Included among candidates seeking berths on the 1955 Philadelphia Eagles pro football squad are Ralph Goldston, of Youngstown (Ohio) College; Ed Ball, Pennsylvania; Winifred Tillery, North Carolina College, and Duke Washington, of Washington State... Goldston is in his fourth year with the Quakers, the others are rookies... Tex Robinson, who was the mainstay of the 1954 Temple University eleven, is trying to win a job with the champion Cleveland Browns.

Amos Thornton, three-time All-CIAA halfback from North Carolina College, took the vows the other day with Sallie Mae Hughes, of Washington, D.C., and Columbia, S.C., Miss Hughes' name was at one time linked with J.C. Caroline, former University of Illinois all-American... While in the vital statistics department, note should be taken of the seven-pound, 15-ounce boy presented to ex-heavyweight champ Ezzard Charles by his wife, Gladys... It's their first boy, earlier two being girls... The Williams had a birthday Tuesday, and Johnnie Simpson, wife of Sultace Harry, celebrated on Wednesday... Thursday (4th) is a big day on the birthday calendar in the sports field... That's the natal day of Len Ford, Luke Easter, Dave

Santiago sees Tribe winning AL flag race

'Lucky Joe' has never played on a losing club

BALTIMORE — Although Manager Al Lopez and the rest of the Cleveland Indians know that pitching and hitting are the two prime factors in the winning of a major league pennant, they agree with Jose Santiago that it helps having him on their side. Santiago, who refers to himself as "Lucky Joe" during periods when he's displaying his dry humor, has never played on a losing team in organized baseball. So, he represents a sort of good luck omen in the Wigwam.

JOSE, A 26-year-old Puerto Rican whom the AFRO tagged in 1953 as a bright prospect for the parent Indians, was called up from Indianapolis about 10 days ago. Ever since his arrival in Cleveland's Lake Front Municipal Stadium, the Tribe has been on an upward swing. "Sure," says Santiago. "What else would you expect? I told Greenberg (general manager Hank Greenberg) that in the spring, when he said they'd call me as soon as they felt they needed me. "I told him then that if I come to Cleveland, I'd win the pennant for them."

JOSE DIDN'T mean to imply that he would win the American League flag on ability alone. "That'll help 'em, too," he says, unabashed. "I can pitch up here. "But what I mean most is that 'Lucky Joe' always brings good luck to any team he play on. I play two years at Dallas in the Texas League. We win two years. "Before that I play one year in Dayton. Dayton win the pennant. Next I play a year, in Wilkes-Barre. Who win? Who else?"

Last year, I get in one game at Cleveland, and Cleveland wins. I already in one game with Indians this year. So...

"We win pennant, World Series, too," SAM LACY.

Let's Go Fishing

By ARTHUR WALTON — With the crab season under way, here are a few tips to keep in mind: The fishing laws okay hand lines and trot lines but list crab traps, with folding wire sides as illegal.

Hard shell crabs must measure five inches or more, across the shell from spike to spike.

FOR READERS who like to fish with cork and line on a cane pole, the column would recommend the following as good spots for trying their luck: The many small rivers, ponds, creeks, and lakes along the Eastern Shore are housing yellow perch, cruppies, sunfish, catfish, eels and suckers.

They're pan size for the most part and usually go for live minnows, live grass shrimp, peckers, angle worms and night crawlers.

IN FISHING creeks and rivers, it will help to remember that most fish come nearest to shore in the late afternoon when they're seeking natural food that has been uncovered by the movement of the surf.

Deep gulleys, sloughs and holes are good places to work. Also around a fallen tree or near a deep, shady hole, or even in the vicinity of fallen brush. It is surprising how often one meets with success in locations of this kind.

Of course, the use of fresh water bait is important in this connection.

Really good spots for the present are Caroline County, the Choptank River near Denton, Md., the Tuckahoe Creek and the Tuckahoe River, three miles south of Denton.

Chicago Cubs option Solly Drake to L.A.

CHICAGO — General Manager Wid Matthews of the Chicago Cubs announced Friday that the club was optioning Solly Drake to Los Angeles.

Drake, an outfielder, suffered a broken leg in spring training and has been hampered ever since. He had been carried on the disabled list until Friday.

Los Angeles is the Pacific Coast League farm of the Cubs.

Hoskins and Gaston (Country) Lewis... Greetings go on Sunday (the 7th) to Bessie Kean, frau of Tennessee Coach Henry A.

Tabbing the stars

Table with columns: Player and Club, G, AB, R, H, 2B, 3B, HR, RBI, SH, PCT. Lists statistics for various players like Campanella, Hank Aaron, Al Smith, etc.



RESURGING REDSKIN

One of the major factors in the resurgence of the Cleveland Indians has been the big bat of Larry Doby. The slugging centerfielder was hitting .266 on June 1. He pulled his mark up to .310 by July 1, but had only seven homers to his credit. On August 1, Doby was hitting .302, to show no notable decline in consistency. At the same time, however, he had upped his homer output to 17, which means in the month of July Larry hit three more roundtrippers than he had obtained in the two-and-a-half months prior to July 1.



ERNE BANKS

Clowns to play in Charlotte, N.C.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — One of the greatest names of colored baseball, Dick Lundy, comes out of retirement to take over the reins of the crack New York Black Yankees.

Retired since 1948, Lundy was the top shortstop with many ball clubs from 1918 until an injury forced him to the sidelines many years later.

Lundy comes into Charlotte with his Black Yankees to play the famed Indianapolis Clowns' team at Griffith Park on Tuesday night, Aug. 9.

ANYWAY, ERNIE grew up to be a fine athlete, captaining and playing end on the high school football team and captaining and centering for the basketball team. He was proficient at swimming and a good track man.

Baseball? Well, you could take it or leave it as far as he was concerned. He did like softball, though. And during the summer months, he occupied his time (when he wasn't at the Moorland Branch YMCA pool) "fooling around" on the playgrounds of Dallas.

IN 1940, HE was persuaded by a friend to try out for a semi-pro team in a neighboring town, with the promise he could make "some good money."

Ernie made so good on the field while making "the good money" that he was picked up by Dirty Dismukes for the K'n's as City Monarchs, and was signed to a contract calling for \$100 a month.

SHORTLY thereafter, however, young Banks had to sign a contract with Uncle Sam. After two years' service with the Army in Germany, Ernie was discharged

Dixie Threatens Kids' Baseball

Juvenile delinquency program is shattered

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Little League Baseball was dealt a severe blow here last week in a series of incidents which left a mass of wreckage of Dixie's anti-Juvenile delinquency program.

The aims of a colored YMCA Little League champion to compete in the 1955 State tournament, were snuffed out when the 55 white teams spread over South Carolina, withdrew in protest against its entry.

For several years, the Little League movement has been regarded as one of the strongest forces yet conceived in the nationwide battle against juvenile delinquency. The action here poses a serious threat to the structure of the entire project.

Following their rebuff in their home state, the members of the colored league—the Cannon St. YMCA of this city—began preparations to enter the regional tournament at Rome, Ga. But officials there, quickly notified them they would not be permitted to participate.

THE GEORGIA edict was issued on the ground that no team could be recognized as a state champion unless it had won the title in competition. The Rome authorities contended that the

Cannon Street youngsters were winners in South Carolina by default and, therefore, not eligible. Result is that the national Little League office at Williamsport, Pa., was in a quandary as to what to do when last heard from on the weekend.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT Peter J. McGovern said on Friday: "We haven't made up our minds yet about what to do. This is the first time we've been confronted with this segregation problem on such a scale."

"We have mixed colored-white competition in other Southern states—Kentucky and Texas, for example—and we've never had this trouble before."

He added: "It's a shame this had to come up. This is a children's program—not a racial or political question."

Robert P. Morrison, president of Charleston's Cannon St. YMCA, felt the same way. "We feel our children should have the same right as any others to at least attempt to go to Williamsport for the national competition, he said."

DANIEL H. JONES, who resigned his post as commissioner of Little League Baseball in the State, also in protest against the

admittance of the colored boys, said: "I think it would not be in the best public interest at this time for colored teams to play in competition with white teams."

"The schools set the pattern for everything," he said. "Until segregation is ended in the schools, our people will resist all attempts to end segregation in recreation and in other social activities."

"There is no question in my mind that this situation is being used as an opening wedge to put all recreation facilities on a non-segregated basis."

REPLYING TO Jones's statement, Morrison asserted: "Mr. Jones, working with the Little League national office for six years should know the laws of Little League. Every application for a charter either participating or non-participating has a clause which states in making this application you may be required to meet teams of various races."

"If anyone was guilty of undermining the laws and customs it was Danny Jones himself when he became connected with a national organization such as the Little League which demands that every boy between 9 and 12 should have an equal chance to play in their program."

MEANWHILE, THE South Carolina white teams plan to form a tournament of their own under direction of the South Carolina recreation activity. It will be called the "Little Boys" tourney.

At the Ringside

By CHARLES J. LIVINGSTON

SUGAR RAY CAN STILL OUT SMART 'EM

CHICAGO (ANP) — After an absence from the ring of almost three years, Sugar Ray Robinson can still outsmart most of the top middleweights of today. He proved that recently when he pounded out a split decision over Rocky Castellani, the No. 1 challenger for Bobo Olson's middleweight title.

The Castellani fight was the biggest success to date in Ray's campaign to regain the middleweight championship which he held from Feb. 14, 1951 to Dec. 18, 1952, when he officially announced his retirement. Ray has now won six and lost one since returning to ring warfare; his lone defeat being to Ralph "Tiger" Jones, whom Robinson swears caught him badly out of condition.

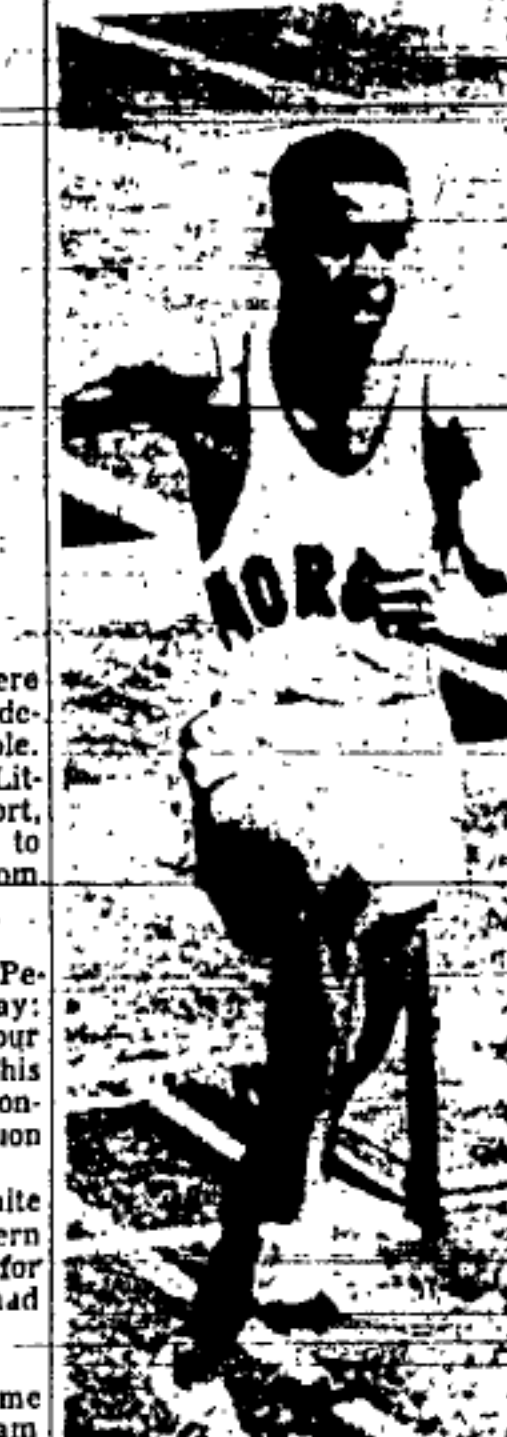
BUT THE Robinson-Castellani fight had other significant angles. First, it proved that Ray has succeeded in regaining some of his former ability and, second, it demonstrated that the Sugarman is still a great ring general—still capable of outthinking his opponents.

The latter quality has always been one of his outstanding assets, as the more than 100 fist fighters he has met and defeated can attest.

As the Ringside sees it, Ray's ability to think one step ahead of his opponent was the deciding factor in the Castellani fight.

Before the bout, Nat Fleischer, editor of Ring Magazine, writing in TV Guide commented: "It will be Robinson's young legs. Two years ago Castellani would have been no threat to Robinson. But 1955 is a different story."

ROBINSON, however, had plans of his own. Perhaps realizing that he is no longer as agile as before, he sought to bring Rocky within range by slowing him down with body punches.



OVERSEAS WINNER

Josh Culbreath, former Morgan State College cinder ace, captured the 400-meters hurdles of a meet at Boras, Sweden, Friday night. The three-time national timber champion covered the distance in 51.6 seconds.

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ROBINSON, however, had plans of his own. Perhaps realizing that he is no longer as agile as before, he sought to bring Rocky within range by slowing him down with body punches.

From the first to the fifth round, Ray dug hard and fast to the body, forcing Castellani to abandon his usual hit-and-run tactics. So instead of outspeeding Robinson, Castellani was forced into innumerable clinches, where Ray tied him up effectively.

The victory was not overwhelmingly impressive. But except for the sixth round when Robinson stalled and got tagged with a wild right for a nine-count knockdown, Ray was in complete command.

HELPING HAND—Roy Campanella drives into the field boxes to snag an enemy foul to aid his pal and roommate, Don Newcombe, as the latter chalks up his 17th win of the season. After the catch, Campy went headlong over the gate railing and into the arms of fans but held onto the ball. Newk acquired his 17th victory against one loss by beating the Cincinnati Redlegs, 4-2.

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