



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

Integration wins games

College baseball teams with "melting pot" rosters win more games than teams with all-white or all-Black line-ups, according to a well-known college professor who conducted the first survey to ever examine the racial make-up of college baseball programs.

Some fans around the Pacific Northwest will look at successful, all-white teams, such as Pacific, Lewis and Clark, etc., and will certainly argue this point. But one should be realistic and remember that the Pacific Northwest is not a haven for Blacks, let alone Black baseball players.

It has been reported that the winning percentages for teams with at least one starter from each of three categories... Black, white, and Hispanic... were higher.

"There is no real explanation for that from this data," states Charles Benson, an assistant professor of recreation studies, "but I suppose that teams with a racial mix have more highly developed programs with wider recruiting bases."

The belief here is that geography would have a lot to do with the team's make-up. Where the college or university is located can determine how many Hispanics or Blacks would be involved.

Surveys have found that ethnically diverse teams had a .605 winning percentage. Next in order were teams with one to five Black starters and the rest white, .594. All-white starters had a .540 winning percentage and all-Black teams, of which there were five surveyed, had a .467 winning percentage.

All-Black leagues, even with an abundance of talent, usually suffer due to lack of good coaching. The fundamentals aren't usually there until the Black player enters the low minors or transfers to a good four-year university. Sad, but true.



Carl Lewis won the gold medal in the long jump and helped the USA 4x400 team set a new world record.

From a purely humanistic viewpoint, it's encouraging to know that teams comprised of people of different ethnic backgrounds and cultures can effectively work as a unit.

It is a well-known fact that white males clearly dominate college baseball. Ninety percent of all college baseball players are white, 6 percent Black and 2.7 Hispanic.



Mary Decker won the 3,000 and 1,500 meter races in the World Track and Field Championships.

And college baseball is much like the professional game. Black players are usually starters if they're in the team. The odds of a Black player being selected for a team when he will not be a starter are slim.

There's some strange reason for this weird phenomenon: either college baseball coaches are just not giving scholarships to marginal Black players or they would much prefer to save those spots for whites.

The professional teams offer very little difference. Rosters for the 26 major league clubs in 1983 were estimated at 69.3 percent of all players being white, 19.9 percent Black and 10.5 Hispanic.

The position group which shows the greatest disparity between

college and the pros... yes, you guessed it — the outfield.

You can watch baseball at the college level all day and will rarely see a Black player in the outfield. The recent college world series was a prime example.

Arizona State was the only team in the four team final with a Black outfielder. Almost 85 percent of all college outfielders are white. But only 40 percent of all major league outfielders are white. Why the big difference?

It seems that the Black athlete is not using the colleges to enter professional baseball. Seemingly, the good Black players are going directly to the minor leagues.

Portland's Darryl Motley is a good point to focus on. Motley turned down an offer to Arizona State and instead signed with K.C.

Decker does it again

Mary Decker, the greatest middle distance runner in the world, showed her stuff by claiming two gold medals in the first-ever World Track and Field Championships. Decker won the 3,000 earlier in the week, then captured the 1,500 in a close and thrilling race against the USSR. Decker destroyed Soviet runner Zameira Zaitseva in a fierce stretch run which left the lass from the Ukraine lying helplessly on the Tartan track in Helsinki.

It was being said by experts, or so-called experts, that the American champion could not run with the stronger Europeans. That has now been dispelled, as Decker, from Eugene, Oregon, showed one and all that she's clearly the best.

Decker, as usual, went out and led throughout the first three laps. However, coming off the curve on the fourth lap Zaitseva suddenly cut in front of Mary, breaking her momentum.

But she regained her poise and momentum and literally destroyed the Russian in the last 10 meters. It was at the tape that the U.S. runner carved the heart out of the Russian as she sped past for the victory. Kudos to Mary Decker.

Gonzalez: Stevenson's substitute

Who is the man who will substitute for Teofilo Stevenson in the Pan American Games? Gorge Luis Gonzalez, 21, is the 1983 Cuban national champion in the super heavyweight class, with a lifetime record of 90 wins and 12 losses.

Gonzalez came to boxing naturally since his father was once an amateur boxer. However, his first sports training was in baseball. A pitcher in the 14-15 age group, he left baseball because of pain in his shoulder and turned to boxing.

Launching his career in 1979, he won the Cuban Student Games in 1981. Later that year he lost in the final match in the national championships to Angel Millan and was named sub-champion. That same year he lost his only match with

Stevenson.

In his debut in foreign competition, in 1982, Gonzalez won the silver medal at the Swiss youth tourney and the silver at the Spartacads in Hungary. He won the gold medal at the Central American and Caribbean Games in the Dominican Republic. In 1982, Gonzalez again lost to Millan in the final bout of the national championships. That year, in Cuba-USA competition, he defeated Pat Bagley, W. Thompson and Craig Payne.

This year, Gonzalez was crowned national champion of Cuba. He won the gold medal in tournies in Hungary and German Democratic Republic and defeated Ulli Kaden (GDR) who had beaten Stevenson the previous year. He again defeated

the U.S.'s Craig Payne.

Gonzalez, who is 6'6" and weighs 216 lbs., looks forward to a world championship and, after Stevenson tries for his 4th Olympic Gold in Los Angeles in 1984, an Olympic gold. A bachelor, he studies at the Manuel Fajardo sport school in Havana and hopes to be a trainer after retirement from the ring. For recreation, he enjoys dancing, the beach, and watching baseball, basketball and volleyball on television.

Gonzalez has a rough road ahead, his first match in the Pan American Games being with Tyrell Biggs, the U.S.'s world champion. But Biggs was knocked out by Stevenson in November, 1982, and Gonzalez plans to match that performance.

Medals roll in

The U.S., which is expected to run away with the Pan American Games, moved to the forefront Tuesday with 13 gold to Cuba's 12.

Cuba's 60-kg class weightlifter, Daniel Nunez, 24, set a new world record (breaking his own world record set in 1982) with a 304 pound snatch. He also broke Pan American records in all three categories while earning gold medals in the snatch, the jerk and the press.

In the hotly contested basketball competition, Cuba defeated Dominican Republic in overtime; Puerto Rico defeated the world champion Canadian team; and the U.S. beat Brazil.

The U.S.'s flurry of medals came in shooting. Cuba's World Cup championship baseball team beat Dutch Antilles and their soccer team beat Chile, while Guatemala beat the U.S.

U.S. boxer McCraig won a 4-1 decision over a Panamanian, while Cuba suffered two defeats. Luis Delis, 119 lbs., was decided by Juan Molina of Puerto Rico and world champion Rafael Sainz lost a controversial decision to Rafael Ramos of Puerto Rico. Cuba will protest the Sainz decision.

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Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

The talk of a state sales tax has become a hot topic since 1981, when the Street Beat team first asked this question, "Are you for or against a state sales tax?"

Patricia Simmons
Machine Shop
"I don't want a sales tax. Everything is too high now. It is fine to reduce property taxes but they are going to get us in the long run. We all have to buy food."

Eddie Drayer
Bottler
"I would rather see an increase in the property taxes rather than the sales tax. The people that are buying homes can afford to pay that tax. But with a sales tax everyone gets hurt — the handicapped, the elderly and the poor."

Steve Winslow
Unemployed
"I'm against it. I don't want to pay any extra money. Since I don't own a house, I wouldn't worry about the effect a sales tax would have on property taxes. Right now, I just can't afford it."

Ruth Tally
Housewife
"I'm against it. It hurts and penalizes the low income. It gives the businessmen a big tax break. I don't think our property taxes are too high here in Oregon. I think we have to pay our share of everything in order to take care of the things we have to take care of."

Nelle Crockett
Hospital Worker
"I don't feel too hot about it. Everything is so high and expensive. I wouldn't vote for it. It is too expensive."

Bruce Pottorf
Engineer
"I'm confused about it. I would like to see a way of taxing tourists in order to help reduce our property taxes. If a sales tax were introduced, it really wouldn't lower our property taxes. We would get taxed double."

In 1938, black boxer Henry Armstrong held the feather-weight, welterweight and light-weight championship titles, all at the same time.

Crossword Answers