

Dodger Catcher Dreamed Of Stardom as Youngster

(This is the first of three dispatches tracing the career of Roy Campanella.)

By MILTON RICHMAN
New York — Little Roy Campanella, standing there and selling newspapers on a Philadelphia street corner, instinctively knew that one of his big league heroes had just belted a home run at nearby Shibe park.

"How can you tell, Roy?" asked one of his eight-year-

old companions, who also was peddling papers.

"Easy as pie," chirped the chubby little Campanella boy, still keeping an ear cocked to the roar of the crowd at the ball park.

"Hear them yell?" he said. "That ain't no double or triple they're hollerin' about. That there is a home run. Gotta be, because they keep yellin' so long."

Even as a youngster, Roy Campanella dreamed of the day baseball fans would be hollering for him although no Negro had ever played in the major leagues as yet.

Lived Near Shibe Park
Shibe park, which is now Connie Mack stadium, was only a few blocks from the Campanella home.

Most of Roy's boyhood buddies preferred to play stick ball but Campanella liked "hard ball" much better. It wasn't long before he was playing sandlot baseball and by the time he was 13 he already was a member of the neighborhood American Legion team.

Campy wasn't particular what position he played but while he still was attending Gillespie Junior high school he noticed that no one ever wanted to be the catcher. So he volunteered to handle the mask and mitt.

Actually, Campanella was not much of a hitter at all in his youth. He had a number of other things going for him, though, such as tremendous enthusiasm, a fine arm and a remarkable ability for playing three and even four games in a single day.

At 15, Campy came into a downfall. The owner of the Bacharach Giants, an all-Negro semi-pro team, paid him \$35 to play on Friday nights, Saturday and Sunday.

A year later, he became the regular catcher for the Baltimore Elite Giants and it was not long afterwards that he quit high school to campaign around the country with that team.

Not Life of Riley
Playing in the Negro league didn't exactly afford Campanella the life of a baseball Riley.

The big day for Roy came in October, 1945. He had just caught a game for the Negro All-Stars against a group of big leaguers in Newark, N.J., when Chuck Dressen, then as now a Dodger coach, told him that Dodger President Branch Rickey wanted to see him.

Campy figured it was some kind of a joke at first but the next day he dutifully visited the Dodgers' office in midtown Brooklyn and came face-to-face with the colorful Rickey.

Rickey asked Campanella if he would like to come into the Dodgers' organization, but Roy, thinking that Rickey was about to form another Negro league turned down the offer. Less than two weeks later Campanella learned that the Dodgers had made a similar offer to Jackie Robinson. And Robinson told Campanella that he was going to sign with Montreal of the International league, thereby becoming the first Negro ever to play in organized baseball.

Campy thought he had missed the boat. It turned out he was only a little late.

The following spring, the Dodgers sent him to Nashua, N.H., of the New England league and his career was launched.

Virg Akins Named Top Contender

New York — Virg Akins, St. Louis' slick boxer-puncher, was named top contender for the vacant world welterweight crown today in the Ring magazine's latest ratings.

Because of his impressive 12th-round kayo over champion Tony Demarco on Jan. 21, Akins was boosted a notch to first rung, where he replaced Cuban Isaac Logart.

Logart, inactive since his decision victory over Mexican Gaspar Ortega in the first welterweight elimination bout at Cleveland, Dec. 6, was dropped to second place.

Vince Third
Vince Martinez, of Paterson, N.J., was raised from fifth to third because of his decision over Gil Turner in the second elimination bout at Philadelphia, Jan. 15.

Although the Akins-Demarco thriller at Boston was not an elimination, Akins' performance in flooring Demarco three times before stopping him was considered outstanding.

Akins, Logart and Martinez are the three survivors of the original six-man tournament.

Tommy (Hurricane) Jackson, top heavyweight contender a year ago, was finally dropped from the top 10 because of defeats and inactivity. His departure left room for unbeaten Ingemar Johansson of Sweden to return to the ratings at number 10. Johansson is champion of Europe.

BETHEA-JOHNSON VIE
Chicago — Heavyweights Wayne Bethea and Young Jack Johnson meet tonight in a televised bout. Both are sluggers with a knockout punch and neither boasts exceptional boxing ability. Each has had 23 pro fights; Bethea has won 16, lost seven and drawn two; Johnson has won 15, lost nine and drawn 1.

Ex-Mental Patient Murders Mother
Fort Smith, Ark. — State mental hospital doctors examined Bobby Joe Burns, 28, today to try to learn why he drugged his mother and cut off her head.

Burns, who had been released from the same hospital last May, faces first-degree murder charges.

Authorities said he signed a rambling statement Tuesday confessing that he killed his mother, Mrs. E. W. Burns, 56, Monday as part of an Aztec rite that he staged. "Inspired by Khrushchev of Russia."

Children found Mrs. Burns' head wrapped in sheets in a cardboard box in the choir loft of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic church. Police found the body in the blood-spattered Burns kitchen.

Burns fled to pastureland in Oklahoma west of Fort Smith. A farm woman saw him and notified the sheriff at Moffett, Okla. When a deputy drove up and offered him a ride, Burns meekly accepted.

"Yes, I'm cold," he said.

Burns in his statement to officials said that he gave his mother a hypodermic of demerol, making her unconscious, and then cut off her head. He said he took the head to the church because "there it would be blessed."

3,187 HOLES-IN-ONE
Chicago — A total of 3,187 holes-in-one were recorded during 1957 by the nation's golfers, according to Golf Digest magazine. Of the total, 2,949 were made by men and 238 by women. Charles Hedrick of Lubbock, Tex., made the longest shot—374 yards—at the Meadowbrook course in Lubbock.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING
Durham, England — Apprentice Robert C. Shaw, 20, was so proud of being put in charge of fire extinguishers at the paper mill where he worked that co-workers dubbed him "the fire chief."

A long fireless period ended with four in a row that caused \$50,190 worth of damage. All were started, a court ruled Tuesday, by "the fire chief."

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Idaho Tops Statistics In Offense

Los Angeles — Idaho's Vandals were tops on offense and California's Bears were best on defense in Pacific Coast conference statistics released today by the PCC commissioner's office.

On offense, Idaho had averaged 73.4 points in seven games, making 191 field goals and 132 free throws for a total of 514 points, and compiling a 38 per cent figure in field goal attempts.

On defense, California had allowed opponents an average of but 45 points a game. Opponents could only make 97 field goals and 76 free throws in six contests for a total of 270 points.

Idaho was trailed in total scoring by the University of Southern California with a 67.7 average; UCLA with 65.7; Oregon, 61.7; Oregon State, 60.8; Washington State, 54.9; Stanford, 54.3; California, 52.8, and Washington, 51.

In total defense, California was followed by Oregon State, 54.5 points a game; Washington, 57.1; UCLA, 62; Stanford, 62; Washington State, 62.6; Oregon, 64.8; Southern Cal, 65.9, and Idaho, 67.4.

Cal Heads Free Throws
California also led in free throws with 99 in 140 attempts for a .706 percentage. Oregon State had .705; Idaho, .698; UCLA, .695; Stanford, .667, and Oregon, .659.

Oregon State was second in Idaho in field goals with a 37.4 percentage. Southern Cal had 35.1; Stanford, 35.0, and Oregon, 34.9.

The rebound lead was held by Oregon State with 58.5 percentage, followed by Idaho .531 and California .527.

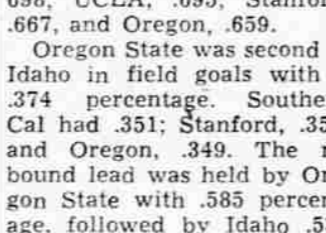
The UCLA Bruins was tops in field goal defense, allowing foes but .315 per cent. Southern Cal was second with .317 per cent, and California .355.

Idaho's athletes also lead in individual statistics.

Gary Simmons averaged 23 points in seven games, and teammate Hal Damiano led in field goals, making 28 of 60 attempts for a percentage of .467.

The first state legislature of Arkansas assembled Sept. 12, 1836.

'ANNE FRANK'?—According to rumors circulating in London, Millie Perkins (above) of New York has been selected for the title role in the 20th Century Fox production, "The Diary of Anne Frank."



CRABTREE CHOSEN BY GREEN BAY
By UNITED PRESS
Two members of Oregon's Rose Bowl team, tailback Joe Francis of Oregon State and Linfield passing star Ron Parrish were drafted Tuesday by National Football League teams.

One of the biggest surprises was the absence of Jim Shanley, the great Oregon halfback, from the draft lists.

Francis, who Tuesday night was given the Pop Warner award in Palo Alto as the most valuable senior football player on the West coast, was the second player chosen in Tuesday's fifth round. He was drafted by the Green Bay Packers.

Parrish to Rams
Quarterback Jack Crabtree and tackle Jerry Kershner were the Oregon players drafted. Crabtree was picked by the Philadelphia Eagles in the 12th round and Kershner was chosen by Green Bay in the 21st round.

Parrish, the Prineville lad who starred at Linfield, was picked on the 21st round by the Los Angeles Rams who are seeking someone to replace Norm Van Brocklin.

Francis was termed by former Stanford great Ernie Nevers as "one of the greatest backs ever turned out on the Pacific coast," as he received the Pop Warner award.

The first two ski areas in New Hampshire to install snow-making equipment are Black Mountain at Jackson and Mittersill in Franconia.



PRIZE ROOKIE SIGNS—One of baseball's biggest give-away programs ended as Dave Nicholson, 18, shown with his parents in St. Louis, Mo., signs a contract with the Baltimore Orioles for a price estimated at \$110,000 or above. Nicholson's baseball experience is limited to high school contests and the Ban Johnson League, but 15 of 16 major league teams had bid for him.

SPORTS

Crabtree Chosen by Green Bay

Windward Ends Race
San Diego — The Los Angeles sloop Windward today held the first to finish trophy and the record time trophy after crossing the finish line in record-shattering time in the San Diego to Acapulco yacht race.

The Windward, owned by E. R. and Don Chilcott, may yet lose the over-all title, however. The handicap winners of the race, with some of the class C boats having as much as two to three days, will not be decided until at least Thursday afternoon or later, a Copley News correspondent aboard the Coast Guard cutter Perseus said.

Jay Fuller Aims Higher

Salt Lake City — Stylish Jay Fuller, a more accurate if less powerful puncher than brother Gene, set his sights higher today after his unanimous 10-round welterweight decision over Idaho's Glen Burgess Tuesday night.

ASHEVILLE 'SAL' BID

Knoxville, Tenn. — Asheville, N.C., without organized baseball for two years may be added to the Class A South Atlantic league as the eighth team. John Duncan, a Knoxville attorney who is acting league president, said Asheville is "strongly interested" in obtaining a franchise, and a group of business men has invited league officials to discuss possibilities.

Buck Shaw Quits Post

Denver — The man who replaces Lawrence T. (Buck) Shaw as head football coach at the Air Force Academy will not have any of Shaw's assistants as his disposal.

Simultaneously with the announcement Tuesday that Shaw had resigned, the academy said three assistants on the football staff had completed tours of duty and would be transferred. They are Lt. Byron Gillory, backfield coach; Lt. James Bounds, line coach, and Lt. Marvin Jenkins, end coach.

Francis Gets Trophy as MVP

Palo Alto, Calif. — Quarterback Y. A. Tittle of the San Francisco Forty Niners and Joe Francis of Oregon State were honored Tuesday night at the Palo Alto club's 12th annual Million Dollar banquet.

Glenn Stackhouse of the United Press San Francisco bureau presented Tittle with a gold plaque as the UP's "pro player of the year."

Tittle won the award in a United Press poll of members of the National Football Writers association. He received 11 of 31 votes to edge out five other candidates for the honor.

Francis won the Pop Warner award as the Pacific coast's most valuable college football player of 1957.

ILL-FATED CIGARETTE

Nashville, Tenn. — Willis Hawkins stopped to light a cigarette Tuesday and ended up in the hospital for treatment of burns. Investigators said Hawkins halted to light his match over a gas main that was leaking, setting off a flash fire.



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