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Interesting COLLEGE LIFE of the Great Robeson

Dissatisfied with His Achievements as a Scholar, the Gifted, Talented Paul Robeson, Becomes an All-American Football Star, a Brilliant Debater and a Member of Rutgers' Most Exclusive Undergraduate Societies.

By
EDWARD H. LAWSON JR.

The world of art today hails Paul LeRoy Robeson as perhaps the greatest Negro actor and singer in history. Someone has styled him "The Black Chaliapin." London first-nighters willfully insisted on twenty curtain calls when he first appeared in that city in the role of Othello.

But there is another Paul Robeson which the world does not know. He is not Paul Robeson, the great Negro, at Rutgers, his alma mater, but Paul Robeson, the great athlete, the greater scholar. The small kid from Somerville was the grandest son of Rutgers.

Just as Robeson carved a niche for himself in the world of art, so he won a name for himself while he was in college. His record stands unexcelled in the annals of Rutgers history. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Cap and Skull, and the Philoclean Literary Society, a winner of letters in football, baseball, basketball and track, chosen by Walter Camp as all-American end for two years in succession, the winner of freshman, sophomore, junior and senior oratory prizes, and a member of the debating team, he came as near to being the perfect type of college student as any young American graduate from any college in this country.

Six feet, three inches tall, with a weight of 225 pounds, a mighty fast



Now Rutgers' "Grandest Son" Has Distinguished Himself and His Race, as One of the World's Foremost Interpreters of Shakespearean Plays, and as a Genius in Song Whose Rendition of Negro Spirituals is Unequaled.

pair of legs, and, best of all, a well-developed mind, all combined to produce in him a magnificent specimen of the trained athlete.

Beside all this, Paul Robeson possessed a rarer quality, a magnetic, inspiring personality. He impressed those who knew him, and made friends rapidly. Everyone on the campus knew Robey. Everyone rather idolized him.

He was the third Negro to enter Rutgers. His father was a minister in Somerville, N.J., not far from New Brunswick, at which place the university is located. He himself was a tall, lanky boy of seventeen with a perpetual smile and a cheery way of saying "Yes, sir!" when he answered you.

Even before he entered Rutgers he acquired for himself some little reputation as a student and as a debater. Throughout the state he was fast becoming known for his fiery speeches in high school contests. He liked to speak to people. It came down to him naturally, from his father.

One day he spoke in a debate at which two Rutgers professors acted as judges. They were impressed by his sincerity, and his powerful, moving voice. They listened keenly. One of them asked him after the debate if he weren't going to college.

"Well, sir," Paul replied, "I really hadn't thought much about it."

"Had you ever thought of going to Rutgers?" the professor asked.

Paul had thought about it, but never very seriously. Many people had tried to induce him to go to a Negro university. Always he had refused. He had told them that he wanted to fight against odds, to prove

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Top center, Paul Robeson as he appears today. Below left, Frontispiece of "PAUL ROBESON: NEGRO," by Eslanda Goode Robeson which is published by Harper and Brothers, New York City.

Below, center, Paul Robeson as he appeared when he was named on Walter Camp's All-American football team. Right, Paul Robeson, Jr., at 6 months old. Will he follow in the footsteps of his illustrious dad?