

SPORT THRILLS

AS TOLD TO AL WHITE

By BABE COOKE
Former Syracuse Sprint Star

Girl Friend was Inspiration to Babe Cooke as He Shattered a Record to Win 440-Yard Dash.

Back in 1925, a runner was attracting national attention at Syracuse University. He had come up from the De Witt Clinton High School in New York where he had won distinction as a runner and through a scholarship was studying at Syracuse.

Entering Syracuse in 1923, Cooke was graduated in 1927. He is now in New York where he hopes to teach during the coming winter. Last year Cooke was an athletic coach in a Southern university. His story follows:

"I believe my greatest thrill in sports came in a race in San Francisco in 1925. Under the auspices of the great Olympic Club in San Francisco, some of the country's greatest runners were performing in a national track and field meet.

"I had entered in the junior and senior 440-yard races. Already, I had won the championship my first time in varsity competition. But in the metropolitan try-outs, I hadn't even qualified, finishing third to Joseph Tierney's first and Allen Helfrich's second. The time didn't matter. When I entered the meet at the invitation of the Olympic Club, I was up against nine of the best runners in the country. Included in the array against which I was pitted were Horatio Pitch Olympic runner-up in 1924; Joseph Tierney, who had established a record of running the 440 in forty-seven and nine-tenths seconds, and recognized as intercollegiate champion; Ray Robertson, 1600 meters relay champion; Racehorse Cochrane of the Olympic Club and Tokelson of the University of Southern California.



Cecil Cooke

"By some unaccountable twist, I had taken a girl friend to the race, just to see me run and to cheer me along. She was the only person I knew in that mighty horseshoe stadium.

"We got on the starting line, and after the usual preliminaries, I got

away behind the rest of the mob. I was positively the last man out.

"At the first turn—the field had only one turn—I was still last, when it dawned on me that it would never do for me to bring a girl friend out to see me run last in a race, so I put on an extra burst of speed.

"The faster I ran, the faster the men in front of me seemed to run. I could see nothing but heels. I never saw so many heels in all my life, until I finally got a glimpse of an ankle, then a pair of legs, and it dawned on me that I must have been running pretty fast.

"Again, I caught a flash of white leg, dropping behind me as I sped on in the mad, dizzy dash down that final long stretch, but I had no idea how fast I was traveling.

"It did not take me long to realize that I was getting somewhere in this race, for I couldn't be passing all of those fellows and not be getting near the lead.

"I could hear the roar of the crowds in the stands, but I had no idea they were cheering me on. That's just what they were doing. All I could think of was that little girl in the stands that I had brought out to see me run. And I knew she would be disappointed if I didn't make a good showing. Well, I was out to show them all up and I was really doing my stuff.

"Down the stretch, nearer the goal we flew. Now only one or two more minutes separated me from another race and the finish. I could see very plainly that there were just two men in front of me and I wanted, above all things, to beat those two men. Putting on an extra burst of speed, I strained every effort to overtake those two fellows and I did. As I dashed wildly past them, I knew that my inspiration in the stands was a valuable one.

"At the end of the race, I found that I was the winner, establishing a new time of 39 and one-tenth seconds, finishing ahead of the field by a full two and one-half yards! Boy, what a feeling, and the cheering of those folks in the stands still rings in my ears.

"My opponents congratulated me on the race I had run and declared that it was the greatest sport they had enjoyed.

Dies at Seventy-Six



GEORGE WILLIAM COOK

Howard's grand old man and trustee, dies at 76 and is buried from the University chapel.

Household Hints

When cream will not whip, add the white of an egg to it. Have the egg and the cream thoroughly chilled.

Linoleum is better than oilcloth for covering tables. Try using it to cover the kitchen and laundry tables. It will last much longer and will be far more satisfactory in every way.

A waterproof dressing for shoes is easily and cheaply made by melting tallow, and mixing with neatfoot oil in the proportion of 7 parts of oil to 3 parts of tallow. In cold weather, use less tallow, about 1 part to 3 parts of oil.

Where North Carolina Soda Jerker Attacked Banker



The soft drink and cigar store in Raleigh, North Carolina, where Mr. C. C. Spaulding, banker and head of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, was attacked by George Brown, a clerk, when he attempted to drink a bottle of Coca-Cola in the store.

When We Went Into the WAR

By J. E., a Florida World War Vet,
in the Southern Worker



Hard Labor

We colored soldiers were broken up into labor battalions. Some built

railroads, others worked in the forests, some were chambermaids for the army mules in the transport department. In the section I was in I was sent to the wharves to unload ships. We handled high explosives, shells and other war materials for a dollar a day, and the food we got was not fit for hogs. My stomach gave out. I was so sick I fainted on the job, my insides wanted to meet up with my ears. The transport doctor said I was malingering; that I had no fever and to give me a big draft of salts, when he came, so I come around in an hour or so, my sides hurt very much, as someone kicked me while I was unconscious. The white orderly said, "Come here, you God-damned shine. Come and get your medicine the doctor prescribed. Why the hell don't you get sick some other day when I have no date with a girl in town?" We Negroes were not supposed to get sick in France. We were supposed to work, slave 16 hours a day, talk to no one else.

Well, the salts moved all the rotten rations out of me, also a part of my insides. When we were awakened the next morning for roll call I was among the missing. I was in my bunk in the barracks with the first case of dysentery. I was out off my feet for over a month, all on account of a student medical officer leaving his work to another underpaid worker's hands. My stomach has never been right since the day I fainted. After I was able to get around again the medical officer put me on light duties, such as cleaning lavatories, urinals, emptying bed pans and scrubbing them out while the rest of the white soldiers were in the Y.M.C.A. hut singing and having a good time. The nurses had no use for me on account of my face being black.



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