

SPORTS

Chicago, Feb. 27—When James Bruno Herbert, freshman at New York university who runs for the New York Curb Exchange, won the Columbia Council 500 meter race at the start of the current indoor season in the first time of 1 minute 6.6 seconds as he caused several eyebrows to lift. Still, he hasn't raced against the best in the field.

Two weeks ago Saturday night at Boston, he was entered in the Prout 600 yards. Present also was Eddie O'Brien of Syracuse, white speedster who hadn't been in two years of running on the boards. O'Brien was expected to win but Herbert came in first. Some of the boys explained this defeat of the favorite by pointing out that the Syracuse youngster miscalculated the laps, sprinted, and at the finish line found he had made a mistake and must make one more lap. But Herbert won, and incidentally established a track record of 1:14.4.

So the stage was all set for a week ago Saturday night in New York for the classic Millrose 600. Competing against him were John Woodruff, the Pett and Olympic sensation; this same Eddie O'Brien who wanted his revenge, and Charlie Beetham of Ohio State, national intercollegiate half mile champion. It was considered the finest field ever assembled for the event.

But it didn't matter Herbert won again, nosing out O'Brien by approximately a foot in the fast time of 1:12.6. He was the first septa ever to win this classic race and wrote his name beside such white track immortals as Ted Meredith, Charles Horne, Dick Caldwell, Earl Eby and Alex Wilson.

So they can't laugh off Herbert

any more. He has become the sensation of the 1937 indoor season and may repeat outdoors but in A. A. U. meets only, for like Woodruff in the spring of 1936, he is barred from intercollegiate competition because of his freshman status.

James Bruno Herbert is 22 years old. He stands six feet tall and weighs 154 pounds. He was born in Harlem July 20, 1914 and is majoring in physics and hopes eventually to teach. At the Curb Exchange he is employed as a porter. Occasionally he plays the trumpet at night in dance bands for extra cash, but can't make a habit of it as this keeps him up too late.

He became interested in track while at Stuyvesant high school and in 1933 won the city quarter mile title in 51 seconds, but since then has appeared mainly in relays. Running for the Curb Exchange, he helped win the 1,000 meter and 1,600 meter A. A. U. relay championships the same night two years ago, also was a member of the quartet winning the A. A. U. 1,600 meter relay championship at Lincoln, Nebr.

From now on, Herbert is a marked man. The boys will be out to beat him, for a chap who wins three important individual trophies during the same campaign against the type of competition he has faced is a lad to be reckoned with.

Odds and Ends

Chicago will get a chance to see for itself if Eulace Peacock, the Temple flash who holds three outdoor sprint and two indoor sprint victories and a broad jump triumph over Jesse Owens, can come back. He will run in the Daily News relays on March 6th. Cornelius Johnson will also be present to compete in the high jump. Well John Henry Lewis has whipped Al Ettore twice now. If John Henry licks him again, they ought to let him keep the boy.

Tuskegee has awarded its women's track and field team for its great showing at Providence, R. I., on July 4th when it won second place from the nation's finest. With some of the girls undoubtedly victims of stage fright and appearing for the first time before a big crowd of white spectators, they should by now be cured and this year ought to be ready to really bust marks. And we hope they do.

Crescents Take Two From Bronx Whites

By Marion Marshall, Calvin Service New York, Feb. 27—The Passaic Crescents triumphed over the Bronx Cavanaugh's at Vasa Temple Sunday night, 31-24, on a slippery floor.

At Passaic, N. J., the Crescents added the second to their list of victims when they trounced the New Yorkers to the tune of 44-36 Thursday night at Casey hall.

The game started at a slow pace, both teams casually passing and dribbling the ball. Although they lost many chances at scoring by failing to drop the leather into the cage after an excellent toss, and losing seven out of ten free tosses the home team held the lead throughout the entire game, coming out at the heavy end of 10-7 at the quarter and 21-17 at the half.

The third quarter offered more excitement as the visitors endeavored to gain the lead and the locals refused to give in as they chalked up six markers before their opponents successfully shot a technical ninth and every one perfect.

Leading by seven points and anxious to defeat this team who had won nine consecutive games vanquishing such teams as the Jamaica Cardinals and the Whitebirds, the Passaic quintet thrilled the crowd with their trick passes as they determined to keep in the lead. They remained in possession of the ball the best part of the time though when they lost it the visiting team managed to break through the Crescent defense to ring up two more points.

'Puggy' Bell led the scoring parade with eleven points followed by Charlie Isles and 'Gas' Holms with nine.

Collegiate Sports

Tuskegee, Feb. 27—The Tuskegee girls quint stopped Talladega, 35-17, Saturday night.

Baltimore, Feb. 27 (C)—Benjamin Hawkins, guard, and 'Bojaj' Sowell, center were elected co-captains for the '38 Morgan college grid squad.

Greensboro, Feb. 27 (C)—The A. and T. Aggies took the Howard Bisons, 27-25, in a stiff cage battle Saturday.

Richmond, Feb. 27 (C)—The Union Panthers won over the Virginia Trojans, 44-38, Friday.

Montgomery, Feb. 12 (C)—The 'Bama State Hornets were checked in their winning streak, 30-20, by Morehouse cagers on Lincoln's birthday.

Knoxville, Feb. 26 (C)—The Knoxville college Wolverines lost to the Morris Brown basketballers in two games, 31-23, and 43-32, Friday and Saturday.

Greensboro, Feb. 27 (C)—A. and T. college is all set for the second annual basketball tourney which begins Feb. 27th.

Six Composers Works On Cotton Club Show

Under the personal supervision of Irving Mills, the score for the new show at the famous Cotton Club in New York is being written by a half dozen famous composers. The new show will star Duke Ellington and his orchestra and Ethel Waters of 'Stormy Weather' fame. The premiere will be staged about March 13th.

Ellington will write original music for a couple of the production numbers which Mills has suggested. Reginald Forsythe, the English composer who wrote 'Serenade to a Wealthy Widow' and other hits, will collaborate with Andy Razaf, another another noted colored writer, on several numbers.

Lupin Flin and Lee Wainer have completed a sensational number 'Strike Me Blue,' for the new. Another team for song writers, Leo David and Don Redman, who were responsible for the current hit, 'The Duchess Had the Duke for Dinner,' have been placed under contract by Mills and also are working on the score.

Bill Robinson Selects White Girl As Dancing Partner In New Film

Los Angeles, Calif., Febr. 27 (ANP)—Comment rather captious in character is running the gamut in moving picture circles here because Bill Robinson has intoredeed with studio officials in behalf of a white girl who will work opposite him in 'Cafe Metropole' the new 20th Century Fox movie. The white girl will blacken her face to dance as Bojangles partner in the production and speculation is rife regarding Robinson's failure to choose a colored girl for the favored spot since there are so many capable dancers eager to share the favored spot.

Geneva Sawyer, a white dancer on the Fox lot has been given the role, is reported to have profited through Bojangles' free hearted teaching of his dancing steps to her as well as to many other white persons in the studios including Shirley Temple, Eleanor Powell, Eleanor Whitney, Tiny Gamberelli and Adolph Menjou. Bill is said to have been so delighted with Miss Sawyer's ability to mimic his steps that he went to considerable lengths to have her cast opposite him. Robinson's vogue and his insistence are said to have encouraged studio officials to overlook the fact that a white woman will be dancing with a Negro actor, the fact that she will be in black face proving a mitigating factor.

Bojangles is one of the most popular of the Negro performers among the white actors and studio attaches in Hollywood. He has a flair for cultivating the opposite group and often stages elaborate functions to which he invites all and sundry. He can frequently be found in the center of a group of whites, regaling them with his inimitable stories usually portraying some senegambian in a humorous role.

Radio-Stage-Screen

Footlight Flickers (By Al Moses for ANP)

The Real Dope On Ella Fitzgerald

New York, Feb. 27—Currently the story has been going the rounds these past three weeks in which the 'writing boys' have sort of contradicted themselves at times, concerning that popular 'swing singer' Ella Fitzgerald.

Possibly you have or have not read wherein a certain maestro Benny Goodman, had dangled \$5,000 (all at one time), in the face of the businesslike Chick Webb, in order to snare the exclusive services of the ex-amateur nite prodigy. Doubtless you listened to the 'pro and con' chat that naturally does arise from such controversies where more than a five-dollar bill tends to bind the parties thereto... and should we add in our legal minded fashion, thereunder.

But after pulling a rabbit or two out of the hat ala 'Black Herman (boym)... we come up with this rather startling bit of info that be rightfully characterized as a true yarn.

First, just in order to keep all of the record books for future posterity sort of okey-doke. THERE NEVER WAS ANY SUGGESTION OF SUCH A SUM AS \$5,000 IN QUESTION. Rumor has been running amuck to the extent that pleasing little Ella has been working for the 'slave's wage' of \$20 weekly, wherein the 'Chickadee' has been shelling out to the tune of FIFTY-FIVE SMAKEROONS (\$55) for every seven days of toil before the flickering globules.

Miss Fitzgerald, is never contracted along with the band. Her services are secured under entirely separate working agreement. Mr. Goodman used our 'Harlem Swinger Par Excellence,' some three times at the rather fair rate of

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\$350 each setting, and for SEVEN recordings made for the DECCA COMPANY under orchestral genius of Goodman and the boys, our informant tells us that the sum ranged around \$375 per recording. 'Chick,' played a fine part in bringing Miss Fitzgerald to the spot she occupies in the public's affection and some portion of that is going to be repeated here. Under his personal supervision, Miss Fitzgerald was rehearsed in a number of songs in Chick's apartment with a certain well known piano player, running over the numbers.

He has stood behind Ella through thick and thin. Another story would carry us into the angle of SAVOY BALLROOM'S MR. GAYLE, but of that, more anon. For the time being, this ought to adjust the wobbly records a little as the \$5,000 offer that BENNY GOODMAN NEVER MADE.

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