

**The Sports Front
With Smoky**



By Howard
"Smoky"
Molden

PRO COURT TEAMS ROLLING AGAIN

Professional basketball teams were practically anchored during the war due to travel restrictions. Now that the big guns are silenced, leaving the final decision as to who won and who lost to the diplomats of the world, the play-for-pay cagers are once again roaming the highways and byways of the nation. They're showing their wares in the hamlets, villages and towns across the nation, playing as many as two and three games a day.

The famous Harlem Globetrotters are leading the mileage parade once again, showing up one day in California and a few days later in Iowa, Illinois, Michigan or Pennsylvania. Up to and including Feb. 15, the Trotters had bagged 97 wins against two losses. Paced by such court greats as Ted Strong, Bernie Price and Babe Pressley, the Harlem quintet—which actually hails from Chicago—is probably the most colorful team in professional basketball. As a result they are in constant demand and travel farther and play more games than any team in the world. Here is an example of their far-flung schedule: On Feb. 25, 26, and 27 they compete in the international invitational cup tournament in Havana, Cuba. Approximately thirty days later they leave San Francisco by Clipper plane for Honolulu where on March 27 they start a three weeks tour of the islands.

That's a lot of traveling and a lot of basketball, especially when you consider the fact that they've been playing practically every night since Thanksgiving. But the Trotters are used to such life and continue packing 'em in and winning more than 95 per cent of their games. They move about via bus, train and plane. It's the most unique setup in professional basketball and maybe in the entire sports world. For no sports aggregation we know of travels so many great distances in quest of victories. They're the vagabonds of sportdom.

Last Friday night found plenty of good fast action at the Urban League as the Lincoln, Omaha,

and Belmont Center leather pushers went all out to give fans a good evening's entertainment.

In the Heavy Class, Nolan Davis hurt his hand and lost to Sam Williams. Butch Buttgenbach lost to Clifford Triggs of Omaha by a decision. Cecil Hatcher lost by a decision to James Gregory of Omaha. Beaman lost by a decision to Herbert Gray of Omaha.

In the lightweights, Arnold 'Mouse' Tarpley lost a close decision to Bobby Battles of Omaha. Gwen Lyburger of Belmont Center decided Sonny Cook of Omaha.

A trophy which was given by referee Frank Selders to the best fighter was won by Clifford Triggs of Omaha. Another fine point not to be omitted was the excellent sportsmanship shown by all the fighters.

HOUSING OUTLOOK FOR NEGROES WORSE, URBAN LEAGUE REPORTS

New York—New housing for Negro occupancy reached a further low in 1946 as an already intolerable housing situation assumed crisis proportions, Reginald A. Johnson, Director of Field Services and housing coordinator of the National Urban League reported this week.

Pointing out that then end of temporary war housing construction had seriously reduced building of new units for the entire population, Mr. Johnson stated that recent reallocation of government housing for emergency use in certain cities has had the effect of cutting Negro unit-occupancy even below the level of the war years.

Of the total of 254,000 re-use temporary housing accommodations provided for veterans during 1946, only 5,000 or less than two per cent, were specified for Negroes and, as late as October, only 1,600 were available for actual use, the Urban League spokesman charged. In contrast, it was pointed out, 15,000 special war housing units for Negro occupancy were constructed between 1940 and 1945, and during the federal housing program 129,000 units, or nineteen per cent of the total, were earmarked for Negro occupancy.

"The sharp decline in availability of new public housing for Negroes has not been matched in any degree by increase in private construction for lower or middle income families," Mr. Johnson revealed. "Only a negligible amount of private money ever has gone into construction of housing for Negroes. As an example, from 1939 to June, 1946, only 23,000 FHA insured units had been con-

structed for Negroes throughout the country. While some privately financed housing construction for Negroes now is under way in twenty or more cities, the amount is negligible, since private builders are concentrating on construction for higher income families."

The Urban League's report places much of the blame for the situation on failure of Congress to enact the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Housing Bill. Charging that public apathy and confusion undermined the work of the supporters of public housing in Congress and among the interested agencies, Mr. Johnson stated, "If all those in America who were themselves in need of housing had expressed themselves to their respective Congressmen the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill would today be in effect and low-rent construction a reality. Active pressure groups with a special interest in the end of housing controls and the resultant skyrocketing dwelling and rent costs to the consumer far outnumbered those consumer-interest groups which filed in support of the bill."

A recent National Urban League spot-check showed a 175 per cent average price increase in property purchased by Negroes in Baltimore, with specific sales showing increases as high as 433 per cent; conversion of a group of new houses constructed for Negro occupancy in Lincoln, Nebraska, to exclusive white occupancy; a Negro vacancy rate in Cincinnati of .6 per cent as against 2.4 per cent for whites, with 27 per cent of the Negro population hemmed into 16 per cent of the space; a nearly doubled Negro population in Washington with no new space for Negro occupancy and most of the new governmental construction eating up land formerly the site of low-income Negro housing; and in Buffalo the development of racial ghettos in a locality where there was little or no housing segregation 10 years ago.

"In enactment during 1947 of a federal housing legislation such as the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill lies the only hope for even a partial solution of the problem of America's many thousands of homeless and crowded Negro families," Mr. Johnson stated.

"Under present circumstances, we face the reactivation of restrictive covenants, the further mushrooming of white neighborhoods to the exclusion of Negroes, rapid encroachment of industrial and other non-dwelling construction on the dwindling space available for Negro occupation and intensification of racial ghettos."

UNION MEET

Interdenominational Union Services will be held at Newman Methodist Church, Sunday, February 23, at 2:30 p.m. Rev. James Hull, Associate Minister at Christ Temple (Holiness) will be speaker. Rev. G. W. Harper, is president and Rev. R. L. Moody, Secretary of the Negro Ministerial Alliance which sponsored the meeting.



**NYLON
HOSIERY**



51 gauge
Sizes 8½ to 10½

RAYON HOSE (Irreg.)
Dark and light shades for your new Spring costumes. Sizes 8½ to 10½. **79c**

GOLD'S BASEMENT

**SHOWALTER
ROOFING CO.**
Dealers
Inselstone and Inselbrick
Insulation
Just Arrived
New Shipment of Inselstone
233 North 22 2-2493
Lincoln, Nebraska

Patronize Our Advertisers