

Scarlet Sports

By Leo E. Geier
"Being Up"

Football fans have asked, "Why did Nebraska play such a good game against Minnesota and such a poor game against Penn State?" Last year the question was, "Why did Nebraska, highly favored over Colorado, lose that game but play such good ball against Notre Dame?"

Ask a coach and he'll tell you, "We were up for that game" or, "We were way down for that game." What is this thing they call "being up"? It's what wins football games. It causes the upsets no one can figure out. It's that thing called "spirit."

While expert coaching and good material are all-important in building a winning football team, there is something else that makes the player give his all for the game.

The Cornhuskers were up for Minnesota. And as drills got under way for the Oklahoma tilt, you could feel the static increase and you felt the team was going to be up for that game. It's something intangible. It's hard to describe. It starts early in the week, generating the "feel" that makes a player want to win.

"Oklahoma! Oklahoma!" The men chanted it during the practice sessions. They were thinking about it. They felt it. The feeling grew stronger as the week went on. By game time the men wanted to win that game more than they wanted to live. (But, alas!)

"The Missouri Bell"

When the Cornhuskers meet Missouri, they will be battling to bring home the coveted victory bell. The symbol of victory between the two schools is an old bell which never in its long history has changed hands without a struggle.

The exact origin of the bell is still being debated. Reliable sources insist that the bell was stolen from a church in the 1890's. Others say it was the mess bell for the men's boarding houses on the campus and some say it is the bell that once hung in the tower of old University hall, the first building erected on the Nebraska campus. One thing is certain. The bell was stolen.

After its removal from its original spot, the bell became the property of two rival fraternities on the campus. It was then that the bell became a symbol of great physical prowess. Bitter battles raged between members of the two groups for its possession.

Al Moses Lists Big 10 Events In Sports During The Year

When questions come to us we don't like the idea of by-passing any of them. From Toledo, O., reader John Sampson writes:

Dear Al Moses:

I hope you'll find time to name quickly ten outstanding incidents on your 1949 sports work . . . Thanks so much fella, I read your columns and enjoy them.

With no research material before us, Mr. Sampson here goes:

1. The announced ring retirement of 35-year-old Joe Louis.

2. Ezzard Charles' winning of the NBA (world title) boxing crown and his continued successful defense of same.

3. The appearance of Don Newcombe and Roy Campanella in the 1949 Baseball World Series, marking first time a Negro battery has done so. Three Negro players, Robinson, Campanella and Newcombe, playing on the Dodger team, National league opponents to the American league New York Yankees. The winning of the 1949 Batting championship by Jackie Robinson. DAN BANKHEAD's return to Dodgers.

4. Althea Gibson's appearance on "Big Time" National Tennis invitation lists.

5. Ray Robinson's dominance of tough Steve Belloise, "Policeman" of the 160 pound division. Robby, always a master craftsman, is generally regarded best fighter pound-for-pound alive.

6. Appearance of Paul Graham ("Detroit Slim") and A. B. Coles, Philadelphia billiards tournament held in New York City. It marked first time Negro exponents have been so invited since the retirement of incomparable James Evans, the undefeated World's colored champion, 14 years ago.

7. Branch Rickey receiving the astonishing sum of \$150,000 for Sammy ("Whirlaway") Jethroe, now a member of the Boston club of the National Baseball league. Players like Josh Gibson, Joe Williams, Johnny Lloyd and Oscar Charleston might have brought \$500,000 price tags had the "color

line" been out of existence as it should have been 25 years ago or less.

8. Sandy Saddler's loss of the World's featherweight championship to boxing veteran Willie Pep after Saddler had kayoed the Connecticut "Cutie" two months prior. Boxing fans have never understood how Saddler's manager, Billy Johnston, failed to stipulate that Pep should give the colored gamester a return match. Maybe we better ask racketeer Costello, aye??

9. Sensational work of the Harlem Globetrotters' Basketball team against clubs with such immortals of the greased-court as Mikant-the-Mighty, etc. The court work of one-armed "Deadeye" Bouie, member of a subsidiary club of the Abe Saperstein owned organization.

10. The astonishing (October) defeat of the perennial gridiron champions, Cleveland Browns, after three years of unbroken victories.

(P.S.) We do not place these events in any special order and they may not all be considered by the time Dec. 15, 1949, rolls around.

Luke Easter, Dan Bankhead On All-Star Tour

SAN FRANCISCO. (ANP).

Luke Easter of Cleveland, Dan Bankhead of Montreal, and Artie Wilson of Oakland will head an all-star team thru California this month.

The team was organized by Abe Saperstein of Chicago, owner of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team. Other prospective major league stars with the team are Pitcher Roy Welmaker, Al Smith and Harry Simpson of Wilkes-Barre; Parnell Woods of Oakland; Sam Bankhead of Memphis, brother of Dan; Eugene Smith, Lonnie Summers, Double Duty Radcliffe of the Chicago American Giants, and Herb Bracken of Belleville, Ill.

The schedule includes Oakland, San Diego, Hollywood and Los Angeles.

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