IN THE REALM OF ...SPORTS...

By F. M. Davis
(For ANP)

MEET OTIS THOMAS

Chicago, Dec. 21.—I will always be a pleasure to talk with Otis Thomas, former Golden Gloves heavyweight champion, now following the trail blazed by Joe Louis, because one can feel a six foot, one inch 198-pounder like your correspondent to now and then be in the company of people who could look upon him in the physical light of a little brother, Otis Thomas, except when fighting, weighs around 210 pounds.

Quite naturally one is very polite in addressing Mr. Thomas. I mean, a sensible person doesn't take undue liberties when talking to a young man built powerfully enough to go lion hunting with a broken arm and no gun even if the young man does resemble a college student. Furthermore, Mr. Thomas was showing us very impressive pictures printed in the St. Louis dailies of his five-round knockout victory over Irwin Striebel, 243-pound Italian leather slinger, on Dec. 4.

"I haven't lost any one of my four fights since turning professional last June," Mr. Thomas told us, 'but I was held to a draw by Adolph Wiater."

This Wiater chap is something of a trouble maker. He was one of the few to stay the limit with Joe Louis and the opponent Joe says has given him his hardest fight. Striebel, too, had been a trifle bothersome. Twice before, when both Otis and the Italian were amateurs, they met and Thomas got both decisions, although spectators protested. Their recent bout was a natural for St. Louis, and this time Otis gave his ring foe a personal taste of Adowa. It's getting to be a habit for a kinsman of Mussolini to lose out in the same ring with one of Sclassie's cousins.

Mr. Thomas, as he told of himself, sat playing the steam radiator like an accordion. This was all right, as in cold weather the radiator replaces the frigidaire anyway. But next time he comes by, I shall arrange to have a supply of iron crowbars. I imagine he could tie some fancy knots in them.

It seems the young boxer, now 24, was born in Crawfordsville, Ark. He has been boxing since coming here two years ago. In 1934 he was national and international Golden Gloves champion and last year was runner-up, losing to Lorenzo Pack. Since turning pro in June, Otis, a southpaw, has been made over into an orthodox right hander which has greatly improved his effectiveness. As a matter of fact, when Thomas went to the A. A. U. meet in St. Louis in 1934 critics wondered who would go farther, Otis or Joe Louis.

Thomas loves to fight. He is one of the strongest looking lads since Hercules, and if he takes care of himself should be one of the best for the next eight or ten years. He at present lacks Joe's cleverness, but I'd rather be kicked by a mule than hit by Thomas. In addition to Joe and Otis, two other Golden Gloves champions were destined to do their bit to muss up the boxing picture. Lorenzo Pack is really going places, but Clinton Bridges seems to have fallen by the wayside.

By the way, Striebel was champion of Missouri, which makes Thomas kingpin now of that state. There are only 47 more to go to get the U. S. diadem. Otis is managed by David H. Caplow, and assistant-managed by Chandler Owen—which he may in time overcome.

By Harvey Woodruff
Chicago Tribune

"At the Northwestern-Iowa game, a sweet young thing was rooting enthusiastically for the Purple. Time and again Ozize Simmons of Iowa frustrated her hopes for victory. At the game's conclusion in a scoreless tie, she said: I'm mad at every one in the world and evry one in the stadium and most of all at Abraham Lincoln."

Incidentally, the team picked by Ted Husing of the CBS giving the Wizard of Oz the halfback berth was All-Radio, and not All-American, according to the official announcement by CBS.

Colgate Coach And Team Are Square Shooters

New York, Dec. 21, (ANP)—When the final discussions of the brilliant football season recently closed, have been ended, one of the things that will stand out in the minds of all who followed the gridiron was the very fine stand taken by Andy Kerr ,coach of the noted Colgate University "Red Raiders" who played Iowa and Ozie Simmions. Before the game, Kerr told his men to forget that Simmons was colored and to treat him just like any other member of the Iowa team. This is in distinct contrast to instructions given oher teams where it is alleged that "get Simmons" was the password. After the game which Colgate lost largely through the super-efforts of Simmons, the colored star went to the Colgate dressing room and told Kerr that his team was the greatest bunch of sportsmen he had ever played against. This was a tribute to the entire Colgate team as well as to the coach, who has never been guilty of a faux pas along the color line. Kerr is one of the football instructors at the annual school held at Hampton Institute.

Livingstone Has Good Season

By John H. Coffin

Salisbury, N. C., Dec. 21, (ANP)—Coach Bob Gill ended his first season as mentor of the Livingstone college Blue Bears with one of the best records enjoyed by th Salisbury institution for several seasons. His charges in six starts wone two games, lost three and tied one.

Those who saw the resumption of the Smith-Livingstone classic say that sports are definitely on an up grade at the Methodist school.

Ask How Negro Athletes Fare In The South

New York, Dec, 21, (ANP(—Spors writers from the metropolitan dailies are beginning to decry the action of the A. A. U. with reference to the Olympic Games in Berlin. Says the chief of them all, Dan Parker: "Daily Mirror." "America will participate in the Olympic Games next year, but it has served notice on Germany that it doesn't approve of the religious and racial hatred being fomented in Naziland. When almost 50 per cent of the votes cast at the A. A. U. convention called upon America to boycott the games, it is a convincing demonstration of the fact that feeling against the present regime in Germany isn't confined to the small racial group that is being persecuted by the Hitler government.

"Now that we have taken action on a flagrant abuse of the code of sportsmanship 4,000 miles away, it would be a good idea to consider a situation just as unfair right here in America. I refer to the discrimination against colored athletes in the South. Jewish athletes in this country aren't barred from he Olympic team, if they have sufficient athletic ability to make it. But if a colored athlete is unfortunate to live below the Mason-Dixon line, his chance of making the Olympic team are just about as good as Haile Selassie's of becoming Speaker of the House of Rrepresentatives.

Wouldn't it be poetic justice if the German people started a move to boycott the U. S. team on that account?"

Eighteen Nations To Aid Ethiopia

Paris, Dec. 21.—Eighteen nations are sending contributions to the Ethiopian Red Cross in Addis Ababa, Rear Admiral Gary T. Grayson, head of the American Red Cross, declared.

The contributions are in the form of money, materials and ambulances. Japanese workers have enough surgical supplies to take care of 10,000 Ethiopian wounded.

Blackburn Indicted For Assault

Chicago, Dec. 21—(ANP)—With both sides claiming that sensational disclosures will be made at the trial, Jack Blackburn, along with William Parnell and John Bowman were indicted by the Grand Jury here Thursday on charges of assault with intent to kill, growing out of the alleged gun battle staged by the trio Sunday afternoon, October 20, during which Lucy Cannon, 9 yea rold daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Cannon was seriously wounded and Enoch Houser was killed, and the date of the trial was set for Monday.

According to reports follow-in gthe hearing before the grand jury the charges of manslaughter against Blackburn and and Parnel that of murder against Bowman was changed to assault with a dealy weapon with intent to kill based upon the shooting of the little Cannon girl and in addition to being indicted on the aforementioned charges, Joe Louis' trainer also faces a charge of perjury due to his persistent testimony that he was unarmed and did not participate in the battle.

Sensational Disclosures Are Promised

Thirty-three witnesses appeared before the Grand Jury to support the claim of the State an dtestified that Blackburn was armed and ook part i nthe shooting in which Houser was killed and little Lucy Cannon was shot. One of the witnesses went so far ,again to declare that Blackburn fired the soht that fatally wounded Houser. Blackburn on the other hand has maintained that he was unarmed and therefore could not have fired the shot. His testimony was substantiated by three alleged witnesses to the gun battle.

Bot hthe State ,and the counsel fo rthe defense have promised many sensational disclosures when the trial is held on Monday. The State armed with evidence alleged t ohave been gained through the efforts of Sheridan A. Brouseaux priavte detective, has time and again mentioned that efforts have been made to "fix" the case, dating it back to the first arrest of the defendants, according to reports, and involving the police making the arrest and the inquest into the killing of Houser.

Counsel for the defense, rumor has it, will attempt to prove that efforts have been prevalent to "shake-down" Blackburn and that evidence will be produced substantiating this claim at the trial. Interest in the case is at fever heat and when the case is called Monday morsing it is evidenced by the interest on the part of local citizens that the courtroom will be crowded.

Olympic Star Scores German Olympics

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 21.—Eddie Tolan, Olympic sprint star in 1932, added his voice to the thousands asking for the removal of the 1936 Olympics from Nazi Germany.

The movement to transfer the Olympics is gaining wide support. Workers and professionals are taking to heart the statement of Bruno Malitz, Storm Troop sports official, that "dirty Jews and Negroes" should not be allowed to participate in athletics in Germany. They remember Julius Streicher's remarks in a speech delivered last August 15th.

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"We say that when a Negro is lynched (in America) for assaulting a white woman, he gets what is coming to him. And as we do not bother about executions of Negroes, you should not bother when we lead a race desecrator through the streets."

Tolan spoke at a meeting of the Anti-Nazi Olympics Forum here on December 6th. Louis C. Blount, president of the Michigan section of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was one of the sponsors of the meeting.

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If you are denied the blessing of a baby of your own and yearn for a baby's arms and a baby's smile, do not give up hope. Just write in confidence to Mrs. Mildred Owens, Dept, P512 Hanan Bldg., Kansas City, Mo., and she will tell you about a simple home method that helped her after being denied for 15 years. Many others say this has helped bless their lives. Write now and try for this

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