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Let's Face The Facts

(A Sports Editorial)

The fact that no Negro boy was selected on the Top 10 who make up the Indiana All-Star team this year, for the second year in a row, has caused considerable confusion, misunderstanding and possible racial discord in this state. We hope the Negroes of this city will think carefully about their charges of racial prejudice.

Because in 1963, the year this writer took over as sports editor of this newspaper, we, too, were upset and suspicious because no Negro boy was selected for the All-Star team. We didn't want to believe that a 10-man All-Star squad could be selected in this state without even a single Negro player getting a berth.

Overlooking the fact that good Negro players that year were either scarce or ineligible because they were not seniors, we blindly flipped the racial prejudice charges at the Indiana All-Star game and the more than 100 sportswriters and sportscasters throughout the state who make the selections. All this, despite the fact that the All-Star game had never been known for segregationist or racial sympathies.

Fred Corts, the All-Star Game Director, who had heard of the racial prejudice charges leveled against the All-Star Game, passionately denied any such thing. In fact, as he pointed out, the All-Star Game Committee had been working feverishly and quietly over the years to promote racial understanding between the players and to crack racial barriers within the two states.

Mr. Corts also came rather close to suggesting that some Negroes (including myself) were expecting not equality on account of their color, but privileged treatment on account of their color. There is some truth to this.

For one thing the record clearly substantiated the fact that down through the ages the All-Star teams have been completely integrated. In fact, our Negro boys have been among the very best on the All-Star teams ever since George Crowe, a Negro, became the first Mr. Basketball in 1939. Since then we have had many, many outstanding boys to represent our race on the All-Star team—such great stars of the past as Bill Garrett, Hallie Bryant, Oscar Robertson, John Coalman, and many more.

These persons who are irked over the All-Star selections this year and who believe these selections were based on race rather than athletic ability are grossly ignorant of the facts, just as we were a year ago. On the basis of these facts, we cannot agree that racial prejudice is, or ever has been, the policy of the All-Star game or its sponsors. — Ron Woods.



BOWLING CHAMPS HONORED: Posing with their bowling balls and a trophy awarded them by Fun Bowl Recreation are members of the Rumble Bees, champions of the Crispus At-

tucks Intramural Bowling league. They are (kneeling, L to R) Paul Jones and William Squires. Standing, L. to R, Theidia Warfield, Coach Albert Umphrey and Catherine Ludy.

Negro fans irked over All-Star selections

BY A STAFF REPORTER

The failure of a single Negro boy to qualify for the Top 10 on the Indiana All-Star basketball team for the second consecutive year drew criticism of the selection system this week from persons throughout the city.

Although The Recorder sports department does not go along with this apparent unwarranted criticism of the All-Star selections by Indiana's sportswriters and sportscasters, we feel that "the other person has a right to be heard."

Bill Anderson, who played high school and college basketball during the 1950's, said the All-Star case suggests that it is time to review the selection procedures in regards to Negro athletes.

"ONE OF THE things I've observed in my career as a basketball player, is the strange relations between the Negro athlete and the white press," Anderson said.

"It seems to me that for some strange reason, perhaps as a result of discrimination, the white press fails to show the same appreciation for the Negro athlete as for the white athlete.

"For this reason, I can't conceive that out of the many outstanding Negro basketball players in the state of Indiana, there was not even one colored boy good enough to make the Top 10 of the All-Star team this year," Anderson said.

Anderson referred specifically to Mike Warren of South Bend Central and Vernon Payne of Michigan City.

Howard Wilkins, a local construction worker, said Negroes should feel insulted at having their boys overlooked in the selection of the Indiana All-Star team.

"The ignoring of our colored boys on this year's All-Star team is a reflection of the biased feelings of some of our state's sportswriters and the Game Committee," Wilkins said.

"I believe it is almost impossible to select a 10-man squad in all honesty for two consecutive years without even

one Negro player on the team." A former high school basketball coach, now a neutral observer of Hoosier Hysteria, has some observations on the All-Star selections.

"FROM WHAT I'VE been able to observe first hand, the white sportswriters' attitude toward the Negro athletes, in many cases, borders on snubbery," said the ex-coach who asked his name be withheld.

"This, despite the fact the Negro athlete has always done his best for his team.

"The significance of no Negro boy being selected on the All-Star team for the last two years is that the Negro athlete is challenging the tenure of the

white athletes as the finest all-around athletes in the city, state and the country. It may well be that some of our sportswriters don't like this idea."

A former Shortridge High School athlete now playing basketball for a major college in the East said sometimes it is downright sickening to note the extent to which the white sportswriters of the daily press will go in catering to white athletes while clamming up and acting downright inconsiderate in his dealings with Negro athletes.

"I never was on the All-Star team," the athlete admitted. "But I know of a number of Negro boys who could have made the team from time to time and didn't, simply because they weren't white."

"Sure I know about George Crowe, Oscar Robertson, Hallie Bryant and the likes, but these were fellas who would have brought about another Civil War had they not been selected.

Bowling at Crispus Attucks High School reached its climax last Thursday as the Rumble Bees, a spirited young group of bowlers, won their sixteenth game while losing only one to clinch first place in the Attucks Bowling League.

At one stretch, the Rumble Bees won fourteen straight games. This is the longest winning streak in the history of Attucks bowling, according to school officials.

League play, which began seventeen weeks ago at the Fun Bowl Recreation, St. Clair and West Street, reportedly has been very exciting in that most games were very close.

Trophies were awarded to the members of the Rumble Bees by the Fun Bowl management. The members of the winning team are Coach Albert Umphrey, Captain William Squires, Catherine Ludy, Thedia Warfield and Paul Jones.

Also awarded as the best girl bowler with a four-year average of 138 pins was Catherine Ludy. William Squires, with an average of 156 pins, was named the best boy bowler.

Payne, Martin named to Indiana All-Star squad

In answer to criticism that the Indiana High School All-Star basketball team contained no Negroes among its 10 members, came the announcement Sunday that Vernon Payne, of Michigan City, and Calvin Martin, 6-7 Evansville Central star, had been named alternates to the team. Both are Negroes.

This assures Hoosier Coach Angus Nicolson excellent replacements, if needed, for the Indianapolis Star's Blind Fund benefit game against Kentucky in Butler Fieldhouse June 27 and for the opening Indiana-Kentucky clash in Louisville June 20.

PAYNE WOULD be called up to the squad if one of the four guards elected to the Indiana All-Star team by the state's sportswriters and sportscasters was unable to play because of illness or injury. Martin would be tapped for duty if something should happen to one of the regulars on the All-Star front line.

In four years of action on the varsity at Michigan City, Payne scored a total of 1,318 points, a school record. His 540 points for the past season also was a school record, and his 43-point output against Gary Froebel represented the most points scored in the home gym.

Payne, who is 5-10 and weighs 150 pounds, has been regarded as one of the best guards in the state for the last two seasons. He averaged 22 points a game as a senior and 18 as a junior.

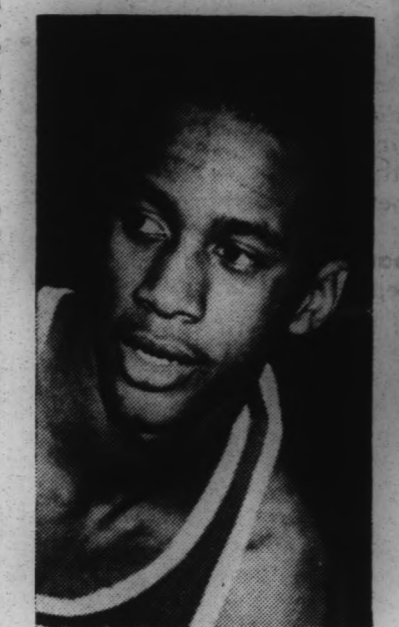
The Michigan City star also played quarterback on the football team and has been active in basketball and track.

MARTIN WAS ONE of the few good big men in Indiana high school basketball this past season. He led the Central Bears to an impressive 16-2 record and scored an average of

17.2 points a game. His best was against Mount Vernon when he tossed in 29 points.

The agile center collected 358 points this past season and 244 as a junior for a total of 602 at Central. He played varsity ball as a sophomore at Lincoln High School which was closed the following year. He also was

in the Indiana Central College gym. Tickets for the Indianapolis game may be purchased at the public service desk at the Indianapolis

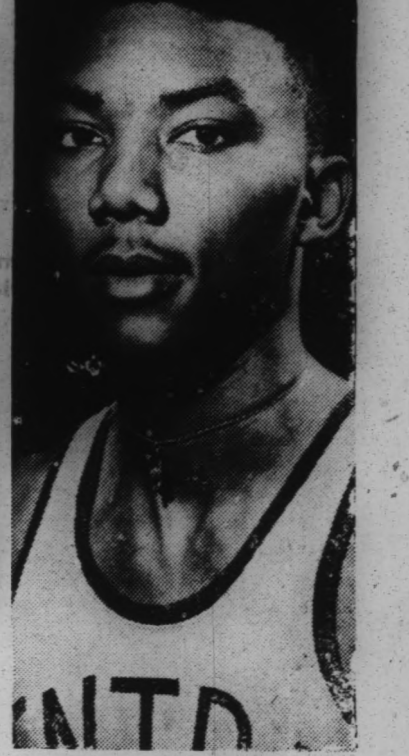


VERNON PAYNE

the top rebounder and was named most valuable player at Central.

Martin was chosen for the all-city and all-Southern Indiana Athletic Conference teams this year. He also played quarterback and end on the football team and pitched and played first base on the baseball team.

The Indiana All-Stars will report at Indianapolis on June 10 to begin preparations for the two games with Kentucky. Practice sessions again will be held



CALVIN MARTIN

Star or by writing All-Star Game, The Indianapolis Star, 307 N. Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. Tickets are \$2.00 each, and checks or money orders should be made payable to All-Star Basketball Game. A stamped, self-addressed envelope should accompany all mail orders.

Brown is second Negro to win PGA tourney

WACO, Tex. — Golfer Pete Brown last week pocketed the first prize money of \$2,700 after winning the \$20,000 Waco Open and becoming the second Negro to win a PGA-sponsored golf tournament.

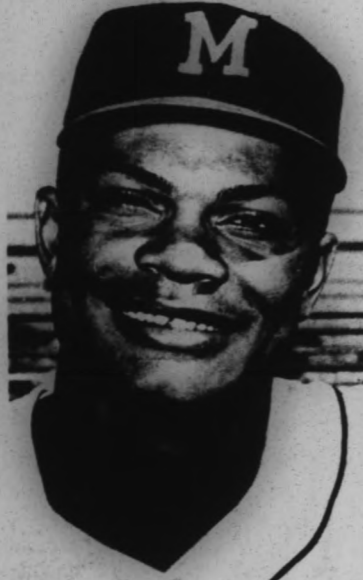
Brown, a native of Mississippi, also automatically won an invitation to become the first Negro to compete in this week's \$75,000 Colonial National Invitational tournament at Fort Worth, Texas.

Hard-hitting Charlie Sifford, who has preceded Brown in becoming the first of his race to win a PGA meet, was tied with Pete going into the final round, but faded and dropped to sixth place.

Sifford, however, collected a tidy \$1,050 for his labors on the course, to continue his course as one of golf's leading money winners. His victories include winning the San Diego and Puerto Rican Open tournaments some time ago.

Brown finished the Waco Open with a sizzling 2-under par final round of 70. He won the tournament with a 280 total.

Brown has been touring as a pro for about 18 months.



FELIPE ALOU

MILWAUKEE—If there is one thing fixed in the mind of Felipe Alou, Milwaukee Braves outfielder and ex-San Francisco Giants slugger, is that he wants to become a preacher when his baseball career is over.

That new facet of his personality was discovered after he arrived here with his wife, Maria, and their three children, Felipe, Jr., 4; Maria, 3, and Jose, 7 months, to join the rest of the Braves clan. Alou is a native of the Dominican Republic.

Felipe said he "found Jesus Christ" after a friend gave him a Bible, and he has since joined the Plymouth Brethren church, an orthodox, evangelical group. His religion is said to follow no set pattern.

Alou has even done some evangelizing. After the 1963 baseball season, he toured Venezuela with a west coast evangelist who later compared him to Billy Sunday, who also was a major league baseball player before turning to religion.

Lions tackle holds line but not wife

DETROIT — Roger Brown, star Detroit Lions tackle, is outstanding when it comes to holding a line on the football gridiron, but he apparently cannot hold the wife he married a few months ago.

The latter was indicated recently after his wife, Charlotte, filed for a divorce here, charging the huge lineman with brutality and mental cruelty.

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Seeking Help Kentucky bids for Negro hoop star

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Integration leaders are doing all they can to get Wesley Unseld to become the first Negro athlete at Kentucky and in the Southeastern Conference, an integration leader said last week.

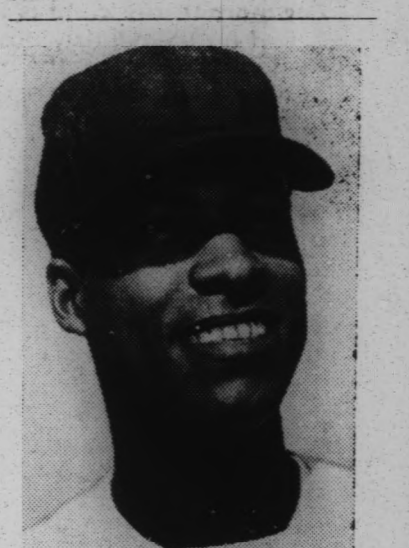
"We've tried to get everyone who we have reason to believe is close to Unseld to talk with him about it," Frank Stanley Jr. of Louisville, said.

Unseld, a standout basketball star last season at Louisville Seneca High, and a member of the Kentucky All-Star team that played Indiana in the annual blind fund series, has been offered a grant-in-aid scholarship at Kentucky. But he also is being sought by about 100 other colleges and hasn't decided where he'll go.

Stanley, publisher of the weekly Louisville Defender, said: "The entire Negro community is anxious for him to go to Kentucky."

"But so far I don't think he's made up his mind." Kentucky coaches agree that the first Negro athlete should be a star from Kentucky who is a

top notch student, too. Kentucky basketball coach, Adolph Rupp, visited Unseld recently in Louisville, but got no commitments from the 6-7 star.



NEW INJUN — A switch-hitting outfielder, Ellis Burton now is a member of the Cleveland Indians, having been purchased from the Houston Colts. Burton originally came up with the Pirate organization, played in 29 games with the Cards in 1960 and the last year hit .286 for Louisville.

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