ON THE VANNWAGON

Whatta Guy he was in his pro debut

By EARL VANN
PHILADELPHIA

And they said he was too small.

This was the opinion of unbelievers, about Guy Rodgers' chances of becoming a professional basketball player.

The reasons given sounded something like this: "A good little player, but he won't be able to take the beating."

Another skeptic remarked: "Bob Cousy will make him look like a baby."

And the third wise man claimed, "Big Bill Russell will make him crawl into his shell."

* * *

WELL, LAST week the stage was set. The Philadelphia Warriors played the Boston Celtics, and our Guy was making his professional NBA debut.

The game started as usual with the Celtics jumping into the lead. After nine minutes of the first quarter, Coach Al Cervic of the Warriors sent Rodgers into the game.

Just as if this were a movie scene, Bob Cousy (Mr. Basketball), was assigned the difficult task of stopping Rodgers.

What Guy did to Mr. Cousy and the entire Boston Celtics team was almost unbelievable to the 4,154 fans that braved the freezing weather to see this game.

He jumped shot, he faked, he stole the ball, he gave off accurate blind assists that sent the fans into a frenzy.

And all the time, he was putting on this one-man show the Warriors played like a new and revitalized team.

WELL, LEST we forget to mention it, the Warriors lost the game, 123-114. But Guy certainly won the fans back for the team.

He played only 28 minutes in all. But during that time he scored 10 field goals and four fouls.

From the moment he entered the game until the end Rodgers asserted himself as the team's general.

To say he came in like "Gang Busters" would be the understatement of the week. Guy is now a professional basketball player.

The little fellow surprised me not at all.

He merely played the type of game he has been playing since his high school days at North East. This fellow is a wonder and he is only beginning.

Somehow, through it all, my mind kept wandering back to another Temple All-American, Hal Lear.

Lear was also drafted by the Warriors a few years ago. He worked a sum total of about nine minutes as an NBA player and then was promptly released. Too small they said.

Today, Hal Lear is playing magnificent ball for Easton Up State. He is one of the stars of that league.

He could be playing with the St. Louis Hawks, who at one time wanted him badly.

* * *

HE WAS then under contract to Easton and they would not release him.

After doing his hitch in the Army, Hal has returned and decided he would rather not play in the NBA.

Hal's uncle, Charlie Baker, who is commissioner of records and deeds in Philly, had this to say:

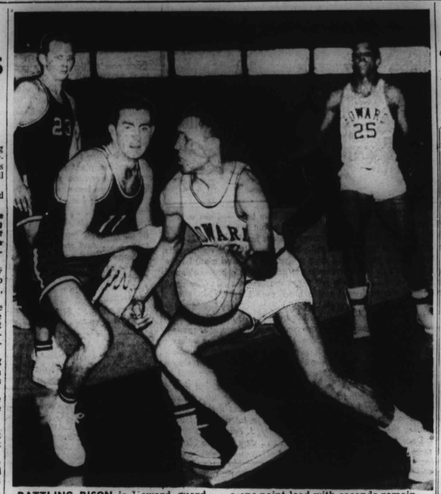
"Hal has a good permanent job, and also earns a good salary playing ball with Easton.

"Add this up in dollars and cents and what do you have?

"He is earning more money than he would have made with the Warriors and does not have to do all the traveling that is required of NBA players.

Then Charlie added, "The only thing he is not getting is the publicity and the glory."

Then he smiled significantly and said, well, you get the message.



BATTLING BISON is Howard guard Marty Tapscott as he charges around Catholic U's Tom Oltorik in the Gallaudet Invitational final at Gallaudet Saturday night. Bisons lost heartbreaker 59-58 after a spectacular comeback drive that had given them a one-point lead with seconds remaining. Catholic guard Bob Talbot (in background) sank the two free shots that clinched the game. In background for Howard is forward Gene Johnson. Tapscott led Bisons scoring with 16.

H.U. soccer coach praises new champs

WASHINGTON

Howard University soccer coach James (Ted) Chambers has closed the 1958 season of play with a city championship for the Bisons plus a post-conference all-star game victory Sunday, leading the Collegiate Soccer Association Standouts to a 5-1 win over the National Soccer League All-Stars.

In the wake of this double triumph, the Bison mentor was avid Monday morning in praise for his players.

After the game Sunday, coach Chambers called his All-Stars "One of the best combinations I've ever coached."

Coach Chambers, who played Herculean at three different positions during the game, termed the Bison sophomore a versatile player "whose overall knowledge of the game has helped me immeasurably throughout the season."

ALSO president of the D.C. Collegiate Soccer Association, coach Chambers thinks that soccer is gaining more and more public interest in this area.

He pointed out that the attendance at Sunday's game, which drew over 300 spectators in below - freezing weather, represents a sizeable increase in attendance as compared with past seasons of play.

The Collegiates held an awards banquet Wednesday night in Howard's Baldwin Hall. Highlight of the program was the presentation of the area championship trophy to the winning collegiate team. The trophy was presented by the Washington Pigskin Club to Howard.

Shrine Bowl to have tan trio

CHICAGO (ANP)—Three tan players — all from the Big Ten —will represent the East in the annual Shrine game at San Francisco on Dec. 27.

Don Clark, Ohio State; Ellis Kelly, Michigan State, and Sid Williams, Wisconsin, will be members of the 25-man squad that will meet the West in the annual classic for the benefit of crippled children.

Clark, an outstanding ball carrier for OSU, will likely get a starting role. He gained nearly 2,000 yards in his collegiate career.

Kelly, father of six children, was a standout on defensive for a drab Michigan State team this season.

Williams, the first tan quarterback in Big Ten history, was picked on the all-star squad as halfback. He is rated an excellent defensive back.

PRO BASKETERS

Herewith is the AFRO guide for identifying colored players in televised National Basketball Association games during the 1958-59 ramuns:

BOSTON CELTICS — Bill Russell (6), 7 ft., in., San Francisco; Benny Swain (19), 4 ft. 7 in., Texas Southern; Sam Jones (24), 6 ft., 4 in., North Carolina College; K. C. Jones (18), 6 ft., 1 in., San Francisco.

CINCINNATI ROYALS — Sihugo Greene (12), 4 ft., 5 in., Duquesne; Wayne Embry (24), 6 ft., 6 in., Miami of Ohio.

DETROIT PISTONS—Earl Lloyd (17) 6 ft., 6 in., West Virginia State; Wally Dukes (23), 6 ft., 11 in., Seton Hall; Sheldie McMillon (4), 6 ft., 5 in., Bradley.

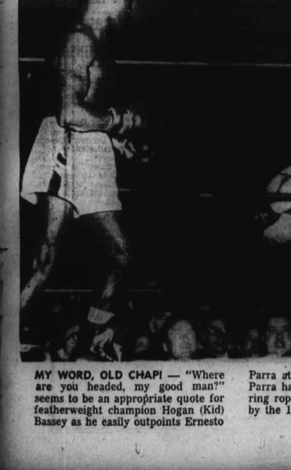
MINNEAPOLIS LAKERS — Elgin Baylor (22), 6 ft., 6 in., Seattle; Boo Ellis (32), 6 ft., 6 in., Niagara; Ed Fleming (30), 6 ft., 3 in., Niagara.

NEW YORK KNICKS — Ray Felix (19), 7 ft., Long Island University; Willie Naulls (4), 6 ft., 7 in., UCLA.

PHILADELPHIA WARRIORS—Woody Sauldsberry (14), 6 ft., 8 in., Texas Southern; Guy Rodgers (18) 6, ft., 1 in., Temple; Andy Johnson (12), 6 ft., 3 in., Hawkins (Globetrotter).

SYRACUSE NATS—Bob Hopkins (8), 6 ft., 3 in., Grambling; Hal Greer (13), 6 ft., 3 in., Marshall (Va.).

ST. LOUIS HAWKS — No colored players.



MY WORD, OLD CHAP! — "Where are you headed, my good man?" seems to be an appropriate quote for featherweight champion Hogan (Kid) Bassey as he easily outpoints Ernesto Parra at Hollywood Legion Stadium. Parra has just been draped over the ring ropes by a vicious right thrown by the 125-pound king from Nigeria.

Prairie View, Southern, Florida placed 1, 2, 3 in grid rankings

BY LUCKYRGIL OVERBEA
FOR ANP

By virtue of being the nation's only undefeated team, although once tied, the Prairie View Panthers rank as the nation's No. 1 football team for the 1958 season.

Playing against top competition in nearly every game, Prairie View opened the season with a 14 - 14 tie against the Jackson Tigers, then rolled to seven straight victories to end the season with a 7-0-1 record.

The Panthers' victims included Texas Southern (26 - 19), Grambling (44 - 6), Arkansas AM and N (37-13), Texas College (43-0), Mississippi Vocational (59-14), Wiley (13-0) and Southern (20-14). Prairie View spotted Southern 14 points, then came back to win. This victory earned the No. 1 spot.

RATED SECOND are the Southern Jaguars Cats (6-2-0). Southern started off strong until it ran into a 13 - 6 snag against Texas College. The Jaguars reached their peak when they walloped Florida A and M 33-6, then faltered in their third. The Rattlers had a good season, but were not as strong as last year. They had narrow final game of the season against Prairie View.

Florida A and M (7-1-0) rates row squeaks against Morris Brown and Texas Southern, but won most of their games handily.

HOLDING DOWN fourth is Lincoln (Mo.) with an 8-1-0 record. The Tigers did not lose to any colored teams and won a bowl game to achieve their record.

After a slow start Texas Southern (5-3-0) finished strong to land in fifth place. The Grambling Tigers (6-3-0) were strong great until they ran into Prairie View, then faded in the stretch. They rate sixth.

* * *

SEVENTH are the Jackson Tigers, the team that tied Prairie View. Jackson achieved a 5-2-1 record. Tennessee State's Tigers with a 4-4-0 mark, poor for them, were still good enough for eighth place.

The A and T Aggies (7-2-0) place ninth, and the North Carolina College Eagles (7-2-0) rank 10th. Rounding out the Huddle's Baker's Dozen ratings are South Carolina State (7-2-0), Wiley (4-3-0) and Morgan (5-3-0).

Conference champions for the season are Prairie View in the Southwestern, Lincoln (Mo.) in the Midwestern, Florida A and M in the SIAC (Southern Intercollegiate ATK letic Conference) and A and T in the CIAA (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association).

Pompey DQ'd

BIRMINGHAM, England (ANP) — Johnny Halifhi of Tonga was awarded a bout with Yolande Pompey of Trinidad after Pompey was disqualified in the tenth round for a low blow.

The light-heavyweight bout had been scheduled for twelve rounds.

Baltimore award to Ernie Banks

BALTIMORE

Ernie Banks, the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1958, will receive the Sultan of Swat crown awarded by the Maryland Professional Baseball Players' Association at its annual "Tops in Sports" banquet on Monday evening, January 12, at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

The 6-foot-1-inch, 180 - pound Chicago Cub shortstop, who will be only 19 days short of his 28th birthday on the 12th of next month, led the senior circuit in home runs last season with a total of 47, thereby establishing a new all-time major league record for most home runs in a season by a shortstop.

* * *

THE SLENDER star from Dallas, Texas, also led the National League in runs batted in with 129.

Banks is one of the few players in the history of baseball to begin his professional baseball without benefit of minor league experience. He was playing in the Negro American League in 1953 when the Chicago Cub purchased the 23-year - old shortstop's contract from the Kansas City Monarchs near the end of the season.

ERNIE QUICKLY took over as the Bruins' No. 1 shortstop and has never been challenged since. Of the five full seasons that he has been in the National League, he has appeared in every one of Chicago's games in four different seasons.

Only in 1956, when injuries forced him to miss 15 games, has he failed to play in all of his club's games. In the process he set a major league record for most consecutive games played from the start of a major league career, appearing in 424 straight games from September 17, 1953, through August 10, 1956.

Banks began to establish various records as early as 1955, his sophomore year in the National League. That year, he hit five basesloaded home runs to set a new all-time major league mark. And on August 4 of that year, he hit three home runs in one game.

* * *

BANKS HAS been named to three All-Star teams during his five-year career.

He has slammed a total of 183 home runs in a little more than five major league seasons, averaging more than 36 a year and his lifetime total of 47 ranked in is 518, better than 100 a year.

Banks is the first National League player to win the Sultan of Swat award, which is a gold crown, engraved with the batting feats of the winners and studded with diamonds. Two years ago New York Yankees center-fielder Mickey Mantle received the crown and last year Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox won the award.

Ex-champ will coach Y Golden Gloves team

WASHINGTON

Zeke Williams, former lightheavyweight Golden Gloves local champion, will coach the 12th Street YMCA's 1959 Golden Gloves entry team.

A total of 14 boys have thus far signed up and more entries are wanted. Training sessions are every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Y.

CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SLATED

The annual Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association basketball tournament is scheduled for North Carolina State College, Durham, on Feb. 26, 27, and 28.

Joe Black to scout for Washington Senators

TV GUIDE FOR PLAYOFF

Here is your AFRO ready refrence for use while watching the National Football League playoff game on TV, Sunday:

CLEVELAND BROWNS

No.	PLAYER	WEIGHT	HEIGHT	SCHOOL
32	Jim Brown	220	6-2	Syracuse
45	Leroy Bolden	155	5-11	Michigan State
49	Bob Mitchell	196	6-2	Illinois
78	Willie McClung	235	6-3	Fla. A & M
82	Frank Clarke	210	6-1	Colorado
89	Willie Davis	206	6-3	Fla. A & M

NEW YORK GIANTS

No.	PLAYER	WEIGHT	HEIGHT	SCHOOL
33	Mel Triplett	215	6-2	Toledo
45	Emlen Tunnell	200	6-1	Iowa
76	Roosevelt Grier	278	6-5	Penn State
79	Roosevelt Brown	245	6-3	Morgan State

BALTIMORE COLTS

No.	PLAYER	WEIGHT	HEIGHT	SCHOOL
24	Lenny Moore	190	6-1	Penn State
20	Milt Davis	190	6-1	UCLA
26	Lenny Lyles	198	6-2	Louisville
47	John Sample	203	6-1	Md. State
76	Gene Lipscomb	288	6-6	Miller H.S.
77	Jim Parker	270	6-3	Ohio State
79	Sherman Plunkett	265	6-4	Md. State

JOE BLACK

PLAINFIELD, N.J. — "We are agreed on just about everything, and I guess you can say I'm as happy as a man can be."

That was the reaction of Joe Black late this week when the AFRO reached him at his home here, to obtain confirmation of a Washington Senators' announcement that he will scout for them next year.

* * *

BLACK, A former pitching star with the then Brooklyn Dodgers and later a member of the Cincinnati Redlegs and Senators, was one of nine new scouts signed on a full-time basis by the Washington Club this week.

Currently a teacher of physical education and assistant baseball coach at Plainfield High School, Joe will not be required to lose any time from his school post. The Senators have assigned him to cover the talent-rich New Jersey area and have agreed to withhold any traveling assignments until after the close of school.

* * *

ACCEPTING TO the ball club, Joe and another colored scout, Harry Redd, were involved in a large scale reshuffling of the farm system. The turnover resulted in the letting out of six former bird dogs and the acquisition of the nine new ones.

In making the announcement of Black and Redd, the Washington club officials emphasized this fact:

Although we wish to take advantage of the knowledge of these men and their familiarity with colored prospects, their assignments are in no way to be construed as "racial." Both are expected to uncover the best available talent in their areas, regardless of color and nationality."

Redd, who lives in New York, has tentatively accepted assignment to the New York City area. Both he and Black will work the greater New York territory.

Redd's contract also calls for him to devote the spring months to covering games involving teams of predominantly colored colleges.

* * *

THE 34-YEAR-OLD Black was born and raised in this city. Following a brilliant scholastic career in four sports—football, basketball, baseball and track — Joe enrolled at Morgan State College, Baltimore.

In Baltimore, he starred in football as an end, played basketball and competed in track for Morgan. He pitched for several years with the Baltimore Elite Giants of the Negro National League.

* * *

HE WAS, purchased at the close of the 1950 season by the Brooklyn and moved up to the Montreal International League team. After two seasons at the National League club, he went to the Dodgers and was a key figure in the winning of the 1955 National League pennant.

His 15-4 record, acquired mostly in relief, won for Black the 1952 "Most valuable player" award and made him a strong candidate for the "most valuable player" citation (he finished second to Hank Bauer).

Joe remained with the Dodgers through the 1954 campaign then spent most of 1955 in the minors, at Montreal and Nashua.

* * *

IN 1956, he was acquired by Cincinnati and was with the Redlegs until Washington picked him up on waivers in 1957.

When he was released by the Senators at the end of the '57 campaign, Black proposed to President Calvin Griffith that the club sign him as a scout. The action this week was an outgrowth of this proposal.

—SAM LACY.

Tan stars await NFL playoffs

Seventeen colored stars were awaiting playoff games in the National Football League as the AFRO observed its early holiday press time Saturday night.

Ten were involved in the division playoff between the New York Giants and Cleveland Browns at Yankee Stadium, slated for Sunday (21st). They were to compete in the battle that was to decide which of the two clubs would meet the Baltimore Colts next Sunday (28th).

* * *

THE OTHER seven were standing in the wings along with their Colts teammates, awaiting the winner of the Giants - Browns scrap for the Eastern Division crown, Baltimore had already won the Western Division title and is scheduled to take on the Giants-Browns winner for the pro championship.

That game of December 28, will be played in the home park of the New York-Cleveland victor.

* * *

SET FOR the Giants-Browns test were four players with the New York entry, and six with Cleveland.

Competing with the Giants were fullback Mel Triplett, tackles Roosevelt Brown (offense) and Roosevelt Grier (defense) and defensive halfback Emlen Tunnell.

Competing with the Browns were halfbacks Jim Brown, halfbacks Leroy Bolden and Bob Mitchell, middle linebacker Willie Davis, ends Willie Davis and Frank Clarke.

* * *

WAITING FOR the Giants and Browns to settle their differences are the following Colts stars:

Halfbacks Lenny More, Milt Davis, Lenny Lyles and Johnny Sample; and tackles Gene (Big Daddy) Lipscomb, Jim Parker and Sherman Plunkett.

Last ten grid title tilts mixed

Colored faces have appeared in each of the last ten championship games of the National Football League.

Sunday's (28th) battle between the Baltimore Colts and the winner of the playoff between the New York Giants and Cleveland Browns for the Eastern Division title, will include 11 tan players if the Giants are the opponent, and 13 if the Browns are the opposing club.

* * *

CONSECUTIVE COLORED participation dates back to 1949, when the Los Angeles Rams (with Dan Towler, Tank Younger, et al) met the Philadelphia Eagles in a game won, 14-0, by Philadelphia.

The game pitted the Rams (Towler, Younger, Bob Boyd and Harry Thompson) against the Cleveland Browns (with Marion Motley, Lenny Ford, Bill Willis, et al). The Browns won, 30-28.

In 1951, the Rams were back to beat the Browns, 24-17, the old guard of Towler, Motley, etc., being joined by Horace Browns.

* * *

THE INTEGRATED Browns lineup lost the 1952 game to the Detroit Lions, 17-7. In the 1953 battle to the same Lions, 17-16, though joined by Sherman Howard.

In 1954, the Clevelanders ran roughshod over the Lions, 56-10. They collected the spoils in 1955, beating the Rams, 55-38, although the L.A. outfit was fortified with the addition of Gene Lipscomb, Woody Lewis and Dick Lane.

* * *

THE NEW YORK Giants, with Roosevelt Brown, Bobby Epps, Mel Triplett, Roosevelt Grier, scored a 47-7 triumph over the Chicago Bears and J. C. Caroline, Bobby Watkins et al, in 1956.

Last year, John Henry Johnson helped the Lions wallop the Brown (with Jim Brown, Harold Bradley, etc., 59-14.

Stilt hits 28 for Trotters at Uline

WASHINGTON

The famous Wilt (The Stilt) Chamberlain breered into town Wednesday night for his Washington debut with the Harlem Globetrotters. To celebrate the occasion, the basketball funnymen defeated the Hawaii Surf riders, 86-76, at Uline Arena as Chamberlain scored 28.

Chamberlain did most of his scoring on inside hook shots, but the 7-foot ex-Kansas player found time between antics for some fancy long shots that brought more than than 4,600 fans from their seats.

* * *

AS FOR the antics themselves, Chamberlain seems to fit in quite with the Globetrotters' style of comedy. But the show-stealer Wednesday night was Meadowlark Lemon.

Lemon, reminiscent of the former Trotter comic, Goose Tatum, brought laughter from the crowd as he tormented players and referees alike with tricky ball handling, fancy dribbles, and just plain monkey business.

At one time Lemon so upset one of the referees that the Harlem star was chased off the court and up into the jam-packed grandstands, much to the amusement of the crowd.

Near the end of the game, the Trotters, with a 10-point edge, abandoned basketball tactics and went into an exhibition of football, kicking a 'field goal' into the stands as the puzzled Surfriders looked on.

By the time the opposing team and the spectators had gotten used to the uncanny transition, the famous funnymen had switched positions and eased into a baseball formation, with Chamberlain on the 'mound' tossing the ball across the "plate" as each teammate took a swing at it.

The Trotters may have had a couple of more antics up their sleeves but the clock was running out and suddenly the contest was over.

In an earlier game, the Texas Cowgirls turned back Carroll Hall's Press and TV All-Stars, 37-18.

Banks named for 2 more Chi awards

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs' Ernie Banks, busy on the banquet circuit making acceptance speeches these days, has been chosen for two more trophies — the newly-named Will Harridge Award for achievement of the year and the Chicago Picam for the Year award.

The announcements was made, December 18, by Ed Prell of the Tribune, chairman of the nineteenth annual Diamond Dinner, the climactic social event of the hot stove season here, which is sponsored by the Chicago chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

* * *

BANKS, the majors' homer and RBI king (he also led in total bases and slugging percentage), will be honored with an unprecedented double trophy presentation at the Palmer House on Sunday evening, January 18. More than 800 persons are expected to attend.

The Harridge trophy is one of three major awards given annually by the Chicago scribes.

Bowie wins 3rd and 4th straight

The Bowie State Bull Dogs won their third and fourth consecutive games Friday and Saturday, turning back Frostburg State and Coppin State Teachers at Bowie, Md.

In the Frostburg game, Alfreddy Perry was high point man with 29 as Bowie won 80-74. The following day the Bull Dogs went on a rampage, rolling over Coppin State, 118-61. Coach Reggie Pearman's team has a season record of 4-1.

Horse Racing

AT CHARLES TOWN
SEVEN SE

MIGHTY EASTER — Fit
BLACK WHIP — Map upset
POWDER FLASH — Innovated
FAMOUS ROCK — Good trials
ADMIRAL ROCK — Fine race
ALAN ANN — Dull race
DEEP SUN — Fast trial
MACH REVAL — Good but had miler
WHO CAN TELL — Well prepped
SHINING — Better than rated
NAVY BRAT — Good stable

AT TROPICAL PARK

AMERIGO — Good new
AIR PILOT — Likes track
DANCE CARD — Last a pip
LAST FIRE — Fast trial
CLUB CHAMP — Very fast
BROTHER CORN — Good racer
TRANCELIKE — Last a pip
HANDY-MAN — Better than rated
WHY BILL — Going well
SEARCHING WIND — Just missed
BELL'S RANGE — Good trials
GALA ROCK — Could surprise

AT FAIR GROUNDS

ROAD TO ROME — Last good
LITTLE VICTOR — May upset
LIBERTY HILL — Beaten choice
STOLEN KISS — Well prepped
RESULT PLAYER — Last a pip
BARACHEL BOB — Second last try
MANY ERRORS — Could surprise
OUR ROCKY — Speed in last
PETES FOLLY — Good jockey

STAR GAZING:

Brussels liked Satchmo; busy days for Dakota; Ory is 72

People visiting the Brussels fair last summer were asked to begin cast their ballots in voting machines situated about the grounds, for their choice of most popular musicians . . . . The results of the voting, recently announced, disclosed that the one-two-three finish had Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman and Count Basie in that order.

Basie, by the way, is set to open his tour on February 7th at Royal Festival Hall in England . . . . Just back from Europe Don Shirley.

Erroll Garner, returning Monday from his Montreal (Canada) television engagement, is skedded for a guest slot on the December 29th "Voice of Firestone" program . . . . On January 2nd, the goateed pianist will for a two-week engagement at the remodled Black Orchid (Chicago), the only night club in the popular musicians . . . . The past six months.

Birthday greetings due Edward (Kid) Ory this week . . . . the famed jazz star of many years will be 72 years young on Christmas Day.

Phineas Newborn, having succeeded Mary Lou Williams at the spot, is at the peak of a three-week stand at Chicago's Sutherland Lounge through January 3rd . . . . Don Shirley at the Hickory House (NYC) on a hold-over . . . . ditto Lester Young at the Five Spot (ditto NYC).

There's a big deal coming up for Harry Belafonte fans on NBC-TV January 12th . . . .That's when Harry, opera great Renato Tebaldi, Maurice Evans and the New York City Ballet are to be co-featured in a huge undertaking titled "Adventures In Music."

The all-tan musical, "Satin Legs," slated for its Broadway debut in the spring, will feature the music of Duke Ellington, Luther Henderson, Frank Fields and Irving Schlein . . . . And the production of "Raisin In the Sun," also due to open on Broadway next year, is considering Mahalia Jackson for one of the parts.

Ella Fitzgerald cut a brand new jazz album with a big band last month, one to be released by Verve Records within the next fortnight . . . . Timex Jazz Spectacular for 1959, will be TV'd on January 7th, with Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie and Dakota Staton in featured slots.

Mention of Dakota serves to focus attention on the back-breaking schedule worked out for the thrush through the Yule holiday . . . . Miss S Begins a series of one-night stands in Denver, Colo., on Christmas Eve, then flies to Seattle for a Christmas date . . . . On the 26th, she's at Portland, Oregon, on the 27th at San Jose, Cal., the 28th in San Francisco, the 31st at Sacramento and New Year's Day in Los Angeles.

More than 700 teen-aged boys were interviewed by talent scouts before Johnny Nash, the 18-year-old singing star, was selected for the lead role of "Spence" in the motion picture version of "Take a Giant Step."

Incidentally, United Artists is listed as distributor of the "Take a Giant Step" production, is undoubtedly the first major company to display such widespread interest in movies with racial themes and starring colored artists . . . . The company of Kings Go Forth" and "Anna Lucasta" this year, and will put out "Giant Step," "The End of the World" and five other films to be made by Harry Belafonte in 1959.

—SAM LACY

COUNT BASIE LOUIS ARMSTRONG

BAKER'S DOZEN:

Hail the Dee-Jay, but...'dig the poll'

By BAKER E. MORTEN

All year long they've played records over and over again, again.

They've played everything from "Purple - People Eaters" to "Cherry - Pink and Apple-Blossom Time."

They've spun platters by Elvis Presley, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Muddy Waters, Dirty Waters and even Dish Waters, till the tunes came out of your toes.

* * *

THEY'VE DISCUSSED these entertainers at banquets, dinners, luncheons, track meets, funerals, wakes, beer gardens, barber shops, schools, churches, and perhaps even in politics.

They gave us Chuck Willis, Huey Smith, Big Maybelle, Clyde McPhatter, Ricky Nelson, Little Anthony, Big Anthony, Middle - Sized Anthony, Little Willie John, Big Willie John.

Bobby Darin, Jimmy Reed, Sam Cooke, Jimmy Clanton, the Coasters, the Platters, the Toasters, the Sensations, Inflations, Duration.

The Heartbeats, the Rubies, the Pearls, the Gems, the Chantels, the Dells, the Bells and the Smells.

* * *

THEY FILLED us with "Splish - Splash," "Peggy Sue," "Hard - Headed Woman, "Do You Want to Dance," "Yakety Yak," "Tom Dooley," "Bird Dog," "Hound Dog," "No Dog Get a Job," "Rock-in Robin and "Tequila."

Then comes the 11th Annual Disk Jockey Poll. And who do they select as their favorite artists?

None other than Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, Nat "King" Cole, Doris Day, Patti Page, Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald, The Four Freshmen, George Kenton and Nelson Riddle, among others.

* * *

SINATRA BESTED Como and Cole as the top male vocalist. Doris Day won female singing honors over Ella Fitzgerald and Patti Page, with Sarah Vaughan not even mentioned.

Nor was Dakota Staton, Ernestine Anderson or Dinah Washington mentioned, except as "promising" female singers.

(ED. NOTE: How much promise is necessary in this business? Dinah's only been singing for the past 12 years and commanding salaries in the four-figure bracket.)

George Shearing's group took first place honors in the instrumental group category, with Jamal's Trio was fourth and the Modern Jazz Quartet was listed among those "pretenders."

Count Basie was fourth among big bands, according to the Dee Jays. Duke Ellington wasn't even mentioned and Les Brown won first place.

* * *

LIKE I SAID in the beginning, all year long they've played records over and over again.

And look what comes out in the end.

But, despite it all, fellows . . . Happy Holidays and a happy New Year. . . to you. . .to readers. . .to all.

Belafonte gets Yiddish award

NEW YORK, N.Y. (ANP) — Harry Belafonte has received the Yiddish Theatrical Alliance's Humanitarian Award.

The presentation was made during special ceremonies at the Downtown National Theatre.

Belafonte was given the honor for "your outstanding work in every phase of social welfare and for his professional contribution to the uplift of the international culture of the theatre."

Earl Bostic inks King Record pact

LOS ANGELES (ANP) —Syd Nathan, president, King Records, and Hal Neely, general manager, are in Los Angeles to record star performer, Earl Bostin, for a series of albums.

They will also open branch operations in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and on the way back to the home base in Cincinnati will stop at Dallas, Houston, and New Orleans to check operations there. While in Dallas they will also record Tini Lopez, a young singer just signed.

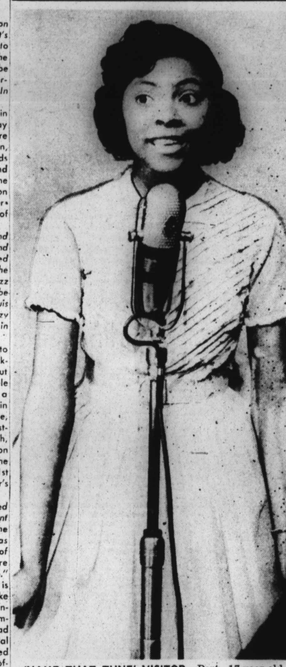
Belafonte hails TV use of tan stars

NEW YORK (ANP)—Harry Belafonte told reporters here that a lot of colored actors and singers, not in the top brackets, were not getting a fair share of the TV work.

"But the picture," he admitted, "is changing and it will level off. In most fields of entertainment, America has shown a great growth in terms of the use of colored talent.

"In a short span of a week or 10 days, I saw Lena Horne, Sammy Davis Jr., Johnny Mathis, Mahalia Jackson, and Nat Cole on TV. And that's delicious with me!"

Theatricals



'NAME THAT TUNE' VISITOR—Pert, 17-year-old Leslie Uggams, who sang "The Lord's Prayer" during a visit to the "Name That Tune" program on December 15, was invited to return for a guest shot on the nationally-televised Christmas show this Monday. Miss Uggams is a former golden marathon winner on the program.

This week in records

By ALBERT ANDERSON
FOR ANP

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ALBUMS

One of the most cherished of all yuletide traditions is the singing of Christmas carols, the songs that tells the story of the birth of Christ. Where ever and wherever carols are sung, they help to rekindle the spirit of Christmas.

This year, in keeping with that tradition, many record companies are releasing special recordings of Christmas music in LP's, stereo, and singles. A number have already hit the sales market.

AMONG THE BEST released to date are albums by RCA, Capitol, Vanguard and Warner Brothers. Capitol's entry is in stereo. All the albums are done up in gay colors matching the season.

"Christmas Holidays at Radio City Music Hall," by RCA, is the best of the lot. Featuring the Radio City Music Hall Orchestra, under the direction of Raymond Paige, and the Music Hall's choral ensemble this album provides the finest balance of orchestral excellence and sound reproduction to be found anywhere. Fine pacing and brilliant introduction of the selections add to listening pleasure.

* * *

ANOTHER RCA Christmas treat is "To Wish You A Merry Christmas" by balladeer Harry Belafonte.

Harry's musical Christmas greeting consists of 20 songs that are not all standard carols. Top side mixes such novelties as "A Star in the East," and "Gifts They Gave," with the better known "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and "Deck the Halls," while on the flip Harry is especially good on "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Joy to the World," and "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

Harry is in top form on this album, and the music, provided by orchestra and chorus conducted by Bob Corman, is outstanding.

"JOY TO THE WORLD!" is the title of Capital's Christmas stereo offering, an absorbing recording of 19 carols of varying vintage.

The oldest tune on the record is "Angels We Have Heard on High," said to have been compissioned by Telesphorus, Bishop of Rome, in 129 A. D.

Played on stereo hookup, it provides a full spectrum of sound that is rich and ebullient, particularly the singing by the Roger Wagner Chorale, which is featured throughout the set, elected president.

FLOPPY JO ON HER head, cashmere on her frame and mink on her arm, singer Abbey Lincoln arrives at London Airport from Montreal. The popular American entertainer made her British television debut last week on "Chelsea at Nine," a widely publicized BBC variety show.

African Society is formed at Oxford

LONDON — Africans at Oxford University last Tuesday organized the African Society, a Pan-African non-political unit to promote interests in sympathetic understanding of African problems.

Dennis Bouwer of South Africa, a Rhodes scholar, was elected president.

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Nation's jazz fans elect Basie to Hall of Fame

CHICAGO (ANP) — William Basie, better known throughout the jazzdom as Count Basie, has been elected to the DownBeat Hall of Fame by the thousands of reader who voted in the 22nd annual readers poll conducted by the magazine. (The Dec. 25 issue carrying accounts of Basie's selection, as well as individual winners, went on sale early this week.)

In the balloting, Basie, whose big band has been a predominant force in jazz for many years, outscored such other outstanding artists as Dizzy Gillespie, Art Tatum, Dave Brubeck, Miles Davis, Woody Herman, Thelonious Monk, Lester Young, and Clifford Brown.

* * *

IN WINNING, Basie became the seventh member of the exclusive group. Previous award winners include Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Charlie "Yardbird" Parker, and Stan Kenton.

Basie will receive a plaque especially designed for Hall of Fame winners, in ceremonies soon.

Basie, 54, has been in the forefront of jazz ever since he took over Benny Moten's band in Kansas City in 1935. His unit is noted for the swing of their individual quality, rhythmic strength, and color. Basie bands also featured spirited solo works.

The Basie band has won acclaim throughout the world.

* * *

AMONG THE illustrious figures who played with Basie at one time or another are Lester Young, Harry Edison, Don Byas, J. J. Johnson, Jo Jones, Buck Clayton, Bennie Morton, Jimmy Rushing, and Freddie Green.

Meanwhile, a number of other jazz artists noted for first place honors in the Downbeat poll. Miles Davis was the top trumpetist; J.J. Johnson was voted top trombonist; Erroll Garner, the "Poet of the Piano," topped the ivory crew; Ray Brown excelled on bass, and Milt Jackson topped Lionel Hampton and others on vibes.

Also placing high were Thelonious Monk, piano, second; Dizzy Gillespie, trumpet, second; and Max Roach, drums, also second.

REPORT FROM THE UN

W. Africans take step for freedom

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (HNS) — Often discussed in United Nations circles these days is the fact that many countries in West Africa, particularly in the French orbit, are taking advantage of techniques designed to gain freedom.

Since Nov. 24, eight countries in West Africa have declared their independence and decision to join the French Community of Overseas States.

They are French Sudan, population 3,650,000 and area of 591,000 square miles; Senegal, population 2,108,000 and an area of 80,600 square miles; Chiad, population, 2,250,000 and an area of 486,000 square miles; Mauritana, population, 565,000 and an area of 415,000 square miles; Gabon, population, 700,000 and an area of 132,000 square miles; Ubangi-Shari, population, 1,083,600 and an area of 250,000 square miles, and Upper Balta, population, 3,136,600 and an area of 103,900 square miles.

Another 10 countries are expected to join these soon.

* * *

THE ACTION of Guinea was different from the above mentioned countries. Guinea chose immediate independence by the rejection of the DeGaulle proposals.

The countries joining the French Overseas Community have until next February to make final their decisions.

However, the admission of her African Colonies to accept the proposition of "autonomy" has come as a surprise to the French Government and political leaders. The French are stalm. This is certainly "Africa's Hour."

* * *

ENGLAND HAS long recognized that the hour has struck for colonialism, and has moved in cases where it was evident that she had to. France has been more reluctant, so have Belgium and the Netherlands.

One-off hears the question, "What do the Africans want?" They want four things:

Political independence, the chance to take up and develop their own culture in the way that they want to; economic development, and most want freedom from entanglement in the 'cold war.'

This adds up to the simple proposition that the Africans simply want to be themselves. All of these are rights that free men demand for themselves wherever they are or whomever they may be.

* * *

AMBASSADOR LODGE of the U.S. delegation to the UN, was one of the first to go over and shake the hand of Ambassador Telli after he was seated. The United States recognized the Government of Guinea last Nov. 1.

They are going to publish the verbatim record of the debate on South West Africa. British, American, Netherlands and other efforts notwithstanding, the fight of Ghana, India, and the Arab and of the Asian-Arab-African group stood up.

Yes and don't leave out Liberia. The record will be out some time in January—watch for it.

Taking advantage of as many provis