Royals deny saving Oscar for playoffs

CINCINNATI (UPI) —Cincinnati Royals officials said Tuesday that Oscar Robertson was too sick to play against the St. Louis Hawks Sunday "and we don't have to apologize to anyone for that."

The comment came in reply to criticism from St. Louis sportswriters that the Royals were merely holding him up for start of action to rest him for the upcoming National Basketball Association playoffs.

"Oscar had such a bad case of intestinal flu, he couldn't leave his St. Louis Hotel room," said Royals general manager Pepper Wilson. "He also was bothered with a groin injury which was aggravated in the game with the Hawks in Cincinnati Saturday night."

"Would we have taken him to St. Louis in the first place if we had wanted to rest him?" Wilson asked.

HE SAID Robertson still was bothered with the groin injury and the lingering effects of the flu, but probably would play against the New York Knicks in Dayton Ohio Tuesday night.

"It resent the insinuation that we aren't playing to win anytime we go onto the floor" Wilson bristled. "You ask Red Auerbach (Boston Celtics coach). He said not so long ago that the Royals play to win every game and added that you could not say the same thing for some NBA teams?"

Wilson said the Royals would use Oscar in every game possible, but would not play him when he "was so weak he could hardly walk."

The Royals general manager concluded in a sarcastic vein:

"I wonder why Richie Guerin (Hawks coach) didn't protest that game they won Sunday if they wanted Oscar to play so badly. Or could it have been that he was just as glad not to see Oscar in uniform?"

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Tiger signs with Britisher

NEW YORK (UPI)—Middle weight Champion Dick Tiger was in London for only three hours Tuesday but it was long enough for the Nigerian to sign another contract with promoter Jack Solomons.

Tiger, who was scheduled to arrive here Wednesday to begin training for his title defense against Welterweight Champion Emile Griffith, will make his next defense for Solomons. The British promoter had Tiger under contract but released the champion for the Griffith fight following a plea by Madison Square Garden.

In return, Solomons has secured agreement from Griffith, his manager Gil Clancy, and now Tiger, that whoever wins will make the next defense for him against Nino Benvenuti of Italy.

In the event Griffith wins, the fight will be held in Italy, but if Tiger retains, his title, the bout will be held in London. Solomons said he is planning for either fight to be held in the summer.

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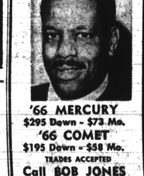

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Fred Valentine may be Senators' centerfielder

By SAM LACY
AFRO Sports Editor

MIAMI, Fla.—Washington manager Gil Hodges makes no secret of the fact he is counting heavily on a 31-year-old "rookie" to make him look good with his prediction that the Senators will be a first-division ball club in 1966.

The affable former Dodger star says he is undeterred by Fred Valentine's history as a major league candidate and plans to install the fleet Mississippian as the Senators' starting centerfielder.

"I know he's been up and down like a yo-yo," agreed Hodges here Tuesday before his Senators took it on the chin from the Orioles, "but something says I've got to go with him.

"And he's going to do the job, I promise."

* * *

VALENTINE, who was a star quarterback at Tennessee State before signing with Vancouver in the Pacific Coast League in 1956, has been shuttling between the minors and majors like an elevator since 1959.

He was with the Orioles in 1959, served terms with Miami and Rochester before returning to Baltimore in 1963.

In 1964, he had a brief stay before being sent to Hawaii, where he hit .324 and clouted 25 homers last year.

* * *

"HE WON'T hit .324 up here," Hodges confessed, "but I'm sure he'll be adequate.

"I'm convinced Fred, has been bothered by the knowledge he wasn't set anywhere; that whenever he played in the majors it was a temporary thing.

"I told him our first day in camp that he had the centerfield job until somebody else—not the manager—moved him out of it.

"HIS WHOLE attitude picked up. Not that he doesn't have a wonderful attitude, because he does. There's no harder worker, no more cooperative man in camp than he.

"But the moment I made it clear that it was strictly up to him, he became a determined, confident Valentine," Gil declared.

* * *

'LAST YEAR, he showed signs of moving up. But everytime things began to improve, something happened. Frank Howard got hurt, Don Lock slumped off, Jim King had streaks and Willie Kirkland got down on himself."

"Fred looked like the answer to our outfield deficiency, and with our pitchers staying healthy, we are headed upward"—LACY.

Frank Robinson gets radio show

Samuel E. Feldman, vice-president and general manager of WEBR announced today that Frank Robinson, outfielder of the Baltimore Orioles, will report sports exclusively on WEBR.

Frank will work with sports director, John Mackey, in preparing and airing "Sports Capsules." The slugging star will concentrate on the latest news and personalities in major league baseball.

Robinson was recently acquired from Cincinnati where he hit .290 last year with 33 homers and 13 runs batted in.

His 'Sports Capsules' will be sponsored by National Beer, and Westview Dodge, and will be heard throughout the day.

THE GREATEST IS SILENT

Clay's request denied

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (UPI)—Cassius Clay asked his draft board Thursday to switch his classification from 1A, but the board rejected the religious ground of his Black Muslim beliefs as a basis for a change in draft status.

Board Chairman J. Allen Sherman made it clear the heavyweight champion had not made a formal appeal, only a request. Clay, who fights George Chuvalo on March 29 in Toronto, has 10 days to appeal his reclassification from 1Y to 1A with the Selective Service Appeal Board in Louisville.

The 10 days begin from the day Clay receives B mail official notification of the decision made Thursday by the board.

* * *

THE BOARD unanimously granted Clay permission to leave the United States for the Chuvalo bout. The champion said he had not expected any difficulty receiving that permission.

Edward Jacko, Clay's attorney, intimated his client would formally appeal the 1A classification.

"I'll recommend that he exercise all rights due him as a citizen," Jocko said.

* * *

CLAY DECLINED to comment on the draft board's decision.

"I ain't talking about nothin' but fightin'," he grinned. The smile was in reference to the furor that ensued when he blasted the draft board immediately upon hearing he had been reclassified. His remarks — especially, "I haven't got anything against them Viet Congs" — caused him much trouble.

The March 29 fight was originally set as a title match in Chicago against Ernie Terrell. Chicago threw it out, as did several other cities. Then Terrell pulled out, citing an inferior contract. Of the approximate 100 theaters which had planned to carry the Terrell - Clay fight on closed - circuit television, only about 35 will carry the Chuvalo - Clay encounter.

* * *

THE CHAMPION was subdued after his hearing Thursday.

"This whole thing has been disturbing to me," he said. "I've broken camp five times and missed three days of training. It's too bad the fight won't be carried on too many stations because a lot of people want to see me get beat.

"It's always a possibility, too, because I'm human," he added. "I may be the greatest, but I am human."

If the board had ruled Clay could be exempt from military service on the grounds of being a conscientious objector, he then would have had to spend two years working at a non - profit civilian project in Kentucky.

* * *

THERE WAS A possibility that Clay would also raise the question of dependency because the fighter has stated he is the sole support of his mother and faces payment of $17,000 in alimony to his former wife Sonji.

Neither of the two points was mentioned, however, as Clay stuck strictly to the religious line in his plea for reclassification from 1A.

Clay's original status was 1Y based on his failure to pass Army intelligence tests. He was later reclassified as fit for service when the Army lowered its requirements.

* * *

THE CHAMPION was in a serious mood as he broke off training for the trip to Louisville.

His manager, Angelo Dundee, had made plans for them to leave Miami Wednesday night and return Friday morning, but Clay would have none of it.

"We fly up Thursday morning and go straight to the (Selective Service) building," he ordered. "We gotta can do the same in Louisville and book out of there Friday around noon, or as near to noon as we can get out.

"That way," he said, "I can run about 4 miles in Miami before we leave, and I can do the same i Louisville before we catch the plane to come back here.

"This means I will miss only one day in the gym. I don't want to miss any more gym-time than I have to, you know that."

British Board deplores Clay-Chuvalo title fight

LONDON (UPI) — The British Boxing Board of Control this week labelled the proposed Heavyweight Championship fight between Cassius Clay and George Chuvalo as "undignified, degrading and detrimental to the interests of boxing."

The Board of Control, in a prepared statement, said:

"The circumstances and ramifications which have arisen in connection with the Clay - Chuvalo contest are in the view of the British Boxing Board of Control undignified, degrading and detrimental to the interests of the sport and are to be deplored.

"In the view of the Board, Chuvalo, on his recent performances, cannot be regarded as a logical contender, particularly in the exclusion of Henry Cooper, the British and Empire Heavyweight Champion.

"The Board is communicating with the World Boxing Council to request controlling bodies throughout the world not to recognize the Clay - Chuvalo contest as being for the Heavyweight Championship of the World."

* * *

THIS IS the first time the Board has pressed Cooper's claims for a title shot. He is the only man ever to have put Clay on the floor.

British sports writers have called the bout "a farce" and it is unlikely any of them will be in Toronto, March 29, to see the fight. The national press has been present at every heavyweight championship since the war.

The British Broadcasting Corporation announced it had withdrawn arrangements to screen the bout live on television.

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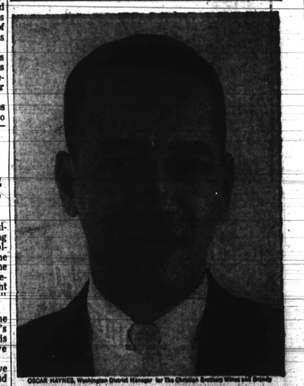

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NCAA scoring record goal of Utah's Jerry Chambers

As improbable as it seems, veteran basketball fans around the Washington area are looking hopefully for lanky Jerry Chambers to spark the Cinderella Utah quintet to a upset and win the NCAA cage championship.

Chambers is an unsung star of the underdog Utah team which stunned the experts by gaining the tourney semi - finals along with the nation's top three teams, Kentucky, Duke and Texas Western.

The four teams held secret workouts at the University of Maryland's Cole Field House Thursday.

Friday night's opening semi - final contest pits Utah (23 - 6) against no. 3 ranked Texas Western (26 - 1) while Kentucky's top - ranked Wildcats (26 - 1) go against no. 2 Duke (25 - 3). The winners meet in the championship game Saturday night on nationwide television.

* * *

CHAMBERS, A 1965 graduate of Washington's Eastern School, already has poured 73 points through the basket in Utah's preliminary round games against University of Pacific and Oregon State.

Chambers now has a shot at breaking the four - game NCAA tournament scoring board of 141 set by Clyde Lovellette of Kansas in 1952.

Princeton's Bill Bradley set the five - game mark of 177 points last year.

* * *

Chambers, who transferred from a junior college to Utah last year, has only recently reached the plateau of a star. In his last 11 outings, the 6 - foot - 4 player has averaged better than 36 points a game.

Bauer not worried about Frank's batting

By SAM LACY

MIAMI, Fla. — Baltimore Oriole fans who are growing fidgety over the early shortfall of Frank Robinson, may take heart.

Neither Manager Hank Bauer nor Robinson himself is disturbed by the fact that in the first five games of the exhibition season, Frank has been a great deal less than sensational.

The former Redleg slugger, of whom so much is expected in Birdland was hitting a meager .182, when the Orioles reached the first of three rest dates in their 31 - day spring schedule.

* * *

THE AFRO discussed Robinson's lukewarm bat with manager and player at Wednesday's workout.

"Shucks," scoffed Bauer using a term more in keeping with his Marine sergeant's background, "don't let that worry you. Robbie's gonna hit; that he won't is the least of my worries."

According to Robinson, the low average is not unusual for him.

"I've always been a slow starter," Frank asserted. "You will recall that I told you this when we talked in Baltimore in January.

"It never fails," he went on, "that I have a hard time getting unwound in the spring of the year. This is one of the reasons, I think that I was in the Cincinnati 'doghouse' on occasion. I was accused of not putting out.

* * *

"IT WASN'T a case of not giving all — I always do — but for some reason I take longer than some guys to get unravelled."

Bauer, hearing this later, reiterated his expectations.

"If regular players were made up of guys who do the bit job in spring games," said the Bird boss, "there'd be more stars sitting on the bench than you could shake a stick at.

"I remember one spring," Bauer added. "I went .e for 50. That year I hit .320."

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Dave Bing picked by top coaches

NEW YORK (UPI) — Michigan's sensational Cazzie Russell was the top vote-getter and the only repeater on the 1965 - 66 National Association of Basketball Coaches All - America Team announced this week.

Russell picked up 2,131 points in the balloting of the nation's college coaches association of Basketball walk away with top honors. He was joined on the first team by Vanderbilt's Clyde Lee, who had 1,538, Jim Walker of Providence, who had 1,282, Dave Schellhase of Purdue with 1,225 and Dave Bing of Syracuse with 1,173. Bing is a former Washington, D.C. high school star.

* * *

THE SECOND unit consisted of Lou Dampier of Kentucky, Walt Wesley of Kansas, Bob Verga of Duke, Mark Soukup of St. Joseph's and John Austin of Boston College.

The third team was made up of Jack Marin of Duke, Henry Finkel of Dayton, Dick Nemelo of Brigham Young, Lou Hudson of Minnesota and Don Lewis of North Carolina.

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Browns teammate to recover

CLEVELAND, Ohio (UPI) —Surgeons have removed several wires from the shoulder of Cleveland Browns' Paul Warfield in the final step toward Warfield's recovery from a broken collarbone, suffered last summer.

MRS. MARTHA GWALTNEY Buried Today . . .

—Vietnam soldiers

(Continued from Page 1)

up reinforcements, either. That will just start another war in Korea."

One of the main reasons for the success of the Viet Cong, the 14 - year veteran said, is hate.

"The Viet Cong have a hate like I've never seen before. They hate so much they are going to fight and keep on fighting until they are all dead."

* * *

THE SERGEANT said the hatred for Americans was almost universal throughout the civilian South Vietnamese population in Da Nang as well.

"We say we're helping the country, but they resent our very presence. "They want Americans out of there," he maintained.

"They never speak to us unless they want something. They don't bother to learn English, but we are supposed to learn Vietnamese. The prices they charge you are much higher than the prices they charge among themselves. It makes you miserable.

"Nobody wants to go to town. The men just sit in the barracks all the time and get bitter."

SGT. BOSWORTH gave cent of the Americans in Viet Nam were "content or satisfied in any way at all"

He added: "The nightly talk in the barracks is about one thing. Everybody wants to go home. If they had a chance to say something about it, they would, too if they felt it would do any good."

However, the sergeant said, despite the fact we are losing a war no one wants to fight, we "couldn't withdraw. That would make it worse all over the world.

"I can't say this war is senseless," he reflected, "but there must be some other way to do it without sacrificing so many lives with all the power we have."

Sgt. Bosworth didn't suggest what the solution might be.

* * *

HE WENT ON to describe living conditions in the city of Da Nang as "filthy."

"If you've never seen a war - torn country and the poverty they have there, you couldn't know what it's like. years and gone through war after war. They have no bathrooms, no sewage, no road to wash with. They are dying faster by disease on anything else."

* * *

AMONG THE population, Sgt. Bosworth continued, you "never know who's who.

"The VC's are every place. There are little boys with grenades on their bicycles, and women spreading every kind of disease."

Outside Da Nang, he added, "patrols go through villages where the people look so innocent carrying their ancient tools around, and then when you leave they put on their black pajamas (the Viet Cong 'uniform') and get you in a trap."

He observed that it was S.O.P. (standard operating procedure) for the Viet Cong to cut up captured American soldiers in pieces, because they believed that then the Americans souls wouldn't go to heaven.

"They, cut off the arms and legs and everything," the father of eight said, turning to his wide - eyed wife. "There's nothing left but the trunk."

* * *

ASIDE FROM the bitterness over the war itself, Sgt. Bosworth said, there was much bitterness among colored soldiers about what he said was racial bias in promoting non - commissioned officers.

"I'll say without any hesitation, colored soldiers are not getting their fair share of promotions. It's pathetic how long some real good men have been in their present jobs without getting promoted."

Discrimination was practiced by lower officers, he specified, and was applied through the use of biased "performance reports' compiled by these officers on men seeking promotion.

He said many colored soldiers who had desired service careers now "just want to get out" because of this situation.

* * *

SGT. BOSWORTH, who is on 30 - day emergency leave, said he will seek to have his leave extended so he can be permanently assigned to another area.

He shook his head. "I've never been so unhappy about any assignment since I've been in the service. I'd rather be in Alaska."

Terrell offered Frankfurt bout

FRANKFURT Germany (UPI) — German promoter Joachim Goettert was asked Wednesday to mak ea definite Terrell - Karl Mildenberger heavyweight title bout here in June.

Goettert said he received a cable from Terrell asking what he was willing to pay. Goettert said he wired back a guarantee but he did not disclose the amount.

The Berlin promoter started negotiations with Terrell, recognized by the World Boxing Association as

Chicago rites held for 'Uncle Abe'

CHICAGO (UPI) —Abe Saperstein, basketball entrepreneur who built the Harlem Globetrotters into one of the world's best known road shows, died Tuesday night in Weiss Memorial hospital.

Death was attributed to an acute coronary attack. Saperstein, who was 63, entered the hospital Friday. He long had suffered from a heart ailment.

Funeral services were held 2:30 p.m. Thursday at Temple Beth Israel here.

Saperstein was survived by his wife, Sylvia; a son, Gerald, 25, and a daughter, Mrs. Eloise Berkeley, 28.

* * *

SAPERSTEIN, a native of London's Whitechapel section, moved to Chicago as a youngster and parlayed a Model T Ford, road maps and five colored athletes into a rags-to-riches career.

His basketball teams in 40 years played in nearly 90 countries on six continents and Saperstein, who was affectionately known as "Uncle Abe," became one of America's best known good will ambassadors.

For the colored athlete, Saperstein was to basketball what Branch Rickey was to baseball. He championed the cause of the colored player long before Rickey introduced Jackie Robinson into the major leagues.

Saperstein suffered his only major setback in later years when the American Basketball League, which he organized, lasted only a short time against the competition of the well - established National Basketball Association.

The league began play in the fall of 1961 and lasted only one season. Saperstein, owner and commissioner, lost millions of dollars, by his own admission.

* * *

SAPERSTEIN was owner, coach, publicity man and — in the early days — substitute, ball boy and chauffeur for the Globetrotters. From the start, the team would play anywhere on a split - the - gate policy.

The Trotters started playing in and around Chicago, branched out across the tank towns in the middle west, moved on to arenas in the nation's largest cities and eventually overseas. Some of their engagements in recent years took them behind the Iron Curtain.

Saperstein coached colored stars into a blend of comedy, skill and science to make the game both funny and exciting for the patrons. His teams were unbeaten in 420 games in the 1963 - 64 season.

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Garret A. Morgan (1877-1963)

It took a disaster to prove his invention.

On July 25, 1916, a tunnel explosion trapped over twenty men working 228 feet below Lake Erie. The huge clouds of smoke, gases, dust and debris made it impossible for anyone to search for survivors. Just as it seemed hopeless, someone remembered hearing about a man named Morgan and his invention. It seems Garret A. Morgan had been trying to interest Ohio manufacturers in his device for a long time. It was the "gas inhalator," or gas mask, as we know it today.

Morgan was summoned and quickly arrived with his brother and two gas inhalators. Together they descended into the suffocating blackness. The crowd waited silently at the surface. Could anyone penetrate the smoke and gas and come out alive? Finally, Morgan emerged carrying a survivor. Again and again he returned to the hole until he had saved over a score of workmen. This remarkable feat not only drew publicity to his invention, but marked him a hero as well.

Morgan didn't stop there. In 1923 he patented another device—one that may annoy us at times, but has undoubtedly saved many lives—the electric stop light. He sold the rights to a large corporation.

Morgan was awarded a gold medal by Cleveland for his heroism in the tunnel explosion, and settled down in that city where he continued the work he loved.

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