MORGAN-GRAMBLING DELIVERS MESSAGE

NEW YORK — As everyone knows by now, the score in Yankee Stadium Saturday afternoon was Morgan 9, Grambling 7. . . It was a football game that satisfied the appetites of all deeply ingrained sports fans — allegiances notwithstanding . . .To these people the result of the contest on the field was secondary to the overall importance of the promotion.

SAM LACY

To them, I'm sure — as it was to me — a rewarding experience to look around and see more than 64,000 cash customers gathered for a football game between two predominately-colored teams. . .It was well played before an orderly crowd, gathered in the interest of a heart-warming program, the desire to revive interest in an education among young sters who for one reason or another became dropouts.

Additionally, it opened the eyes of television sponsors who have been hoodwinked by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) into the idea that any two teams — providing they're from predominately-white colleges — make good TV viewing. . . that anything else is unworthy of a look. . .For years, these sponsors have been brainwashed to the point that they will buy the NCAA product, even if it's good old Whatsis State against Whizabang Tech. . .so long as its white. . . Morgan-Grambling on Saturday delivered a message.

A Red issue

In our business, taking issue with Red Smith is like knocking money . . . They just don't come any more important than the influential and gifted New York syndicated columnist . . . But, being the maverick I am, there are times when I can't resist the urge . . . One of those times arrived the other day, when Red implied that there are occasions when it is all right to lend aid to an opponent in an athletic contest.

The implication came in Smith's reaction to comment here . . . and elsewhere — that Detroit pitcher Denny McLain had no right to purposely serve up a home-run pitch to the Yankees' Mickey Mantle, if so he did, in their game on September 18th . . . Red's position is that "Mickey deserved one 'on the house' after having consumed 534 drinks at the same bar" . . . and that, with the pennant already secure, McLain and the Tigers could well afford this one gesture to a great and popular star.

Well, now, let's take a look at this whole business . . . If you need a refresher, McLain was on the mound, leading 6-0 and enroute to his 31st victory of the year . . . On what figured to be Mantle's last turn at bat in Tiger Stadium this year, possibly for good, Denny responded to Mickey's indication (with bat) of where he best likes to hit a pitch, by throwing the ball there . . . Mantle slugged it into the rightfield stands for a homer.

That was Number 535 for Mickey and it enabled him to break a tie with Jimmy Foxx and move into third place (behind Babe Ruth and Willie Mays) on the list of all-time home-run hitters.

Unethical? Cheap

Despite what Red says and thinks, I regarded McLain's act as highly unethical and on the verge of being cheap.

Under immediate scrutiny, the charge may appear harsh, but I'm sure further consideration of it will make it the more understandable.

For years, professional baseball has sought to protect its integrity through various means . . . For one thing, it has a strict rule against fraternization — that is the old practice of opposing player indulging in friendly conversation at ball parks . . . Does it make sense to have a rule that imposes automatic fine on McLain and Mantle for talking to each other before a game, yet permits umpires to look the other way when Denny and Mickey are not doing their best against each other in the game?

Magnanimity

The very lifeblood of competitive sports is the determination to beat the other fellow and to make him earn everything he achieves . . . Anything less has no place on the corner lot or in the neighborhood pool, to say nothing of in the major leagues of baseball, football and basketball.

When Maury Wills tied the great Ty Cobb's record of stolen bases at 96, would it have been "magnanimous" as some people claim, for the catcher to throw the ball into centerfield as Maury tried for the 97th?

Suppose by some stretch of the imagination, we could picture another McLain-Mantle confrontation next year . . . but with a reversed situation . . . Mickey comes to bat in Yankee Stadium, Denny's on the mound seeking to become the first 30-game repeater in modern history . . . the bases are loaded, two out in the bottom of the ninth and the Tigers leading, 1-0.

Would it be any less "magnanimous" to have Mantle take three called strikes with his bat on his shoulder?

AFRO Sports

A to Z

Cards Picked To Make It 2 In Row

BOB GIBSON

CURT FLOOD

ORLANDO CEPEDA

LOU BROCK

BOB TOLAN

Pitching, speed provide edge over Tiger power

By SAM LACY

The St. Louis Cardinals! They are my pick to win the 1968 World Series and thus become baseball world champions in back-to-back years.

As I see it, strong pitching and blinding speed will prevail over the at-times awesome power of the Detroit Tigers.

• • •

JUST AS last year, the series may go the full seven games. But — also like last year — the fleetness of Lou Brock, Curt Flood, Julian Javier, et al, will give the Redbirds the edge over the American League rivals.

Bob Gibson, baseball's finest pitcher of the generation, along with the likes of Nelson Briles, Ray Washburn, etc., should silence the thunder in the bats of Willie Horton, Jim Northrup, Norm Cash and Bill Freehan.

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THEY HANDLED the comparable challenge of Boston's Carl Yastrzemski, Ken Harrelson, George Scott and Reggie Smith last year, so should do it again.

Gibson is the choice over Denny McLain in the opener and in any later confrontations.

The Tiger ace, despite his plus —30 victory season, cannot be held in the same awe as the Cards' flame-throwing righthander.

Despite his frequency of wins, McLain pitched in a weaker league than Gibson. This isn't to be denied.

The season ended Sunday with but one .300 hitter in the AL, where Denny cavorted. In the NL, Gibson took his turns against teams which produced six batsmen.

Additionally, Bob wound up the year with the most fantastic earned-run average of the modern game.

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UNTIL THIS season, he was known as a "gutty" pitcher who "often got in jams but had a lot of heart" and worked his way out of them.

But he seems to be getting better with age and this year his earned run average has been just above one run all season. He tossed 47 consecutive shutout innings in one stretch and has 13 shutouts.

He doesn't make many boasts and comments about the impending duel with McLain that "McClain is a good pitcher who plays the organ, that's all I know about him."

WILLIE HORTON

EARL WILSON

JOHN WYATT

GATES BROWN

BEARS 9, GRAMBLING 7:

Chester's brilliance high spot of Morgan victory

BY SAM LACY

NEW YORK —For two years, Raymond Chester played in the shadow of the likes of Gerald Boyd, Jeff Queen and Ev Fullwood at Morgan State College, but last Saturday afternoon at Yankee Stadium, he emerged and took over center stage.

Playing like the potential pro his coaches have labeled him, the young Douglass High School end-tackle and what-have-you inspired the Golden Bears to a 9-7 victory over nationally-ranked Grambling College.

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UNTIL HE was injured in the last half-minute of the game, Chester was the rallying force each time the Baltimoreans appeared to lose momentum. He scored the only Bear touchdown and was the principal figure in the third-quarter safety that decided the contest.

A throng of 64,204, capacity for Yankee Stadium, cheered to the echo as the 6-foot-3 225-pound junior caught passes from Chuck Harrison, blocked for John Fuqua and George Nock, then reverted to defense and time and again was in on key tackles that blunted the vaunted Louisiana offense to a virtual standstill.

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THE BEARS jumped into the lead within the first two minutes of play when, after negotiating a first down on the initial series, quarterback Harrison stunned the gathering—and Grambling — by calling for the "bomb" pass on first down.

It was a magnificent series of fakes to his criss-crossing backs that cleared Harrison for a relaxed toss to Chester. The latter had outmaneuvered the Grambling secondary and was virtually alone at the ten-yard line when Chuck's long, slightly wobbly pass arrived.

So completely fooled were the Southwest Conference champions that Chester actually appeared to catch the ball nervously. But he snuggled it and stepped the few yards into the end zone without an enemy defender within 15 yards of him.

RAYMOND CHESTER

• • •

GRAMBLING EVENED the score late in the second quarter when Harrison was intercepted by linebacker Hilton Crawford. It was an unfortunate break for Morgan, who appeared to be doing a good job of running out the clock on a 7-0 lead, by staying on the ground.

Typical of the pro coaching of Grambling's Eddie Robinson, the very next play hit Morgan while she was dispirited by the interception. Quarterback Frank Holmes zoomed a shot 32 yards to halfback Frank Lewis for the score.

The game remained in a 7-7 deadlock through the early moments of the third quarter and went into Morgan's favor in a shocking development.

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THE BEARS had been playing it cozy, not pressing Grambling punts. This time, however, Chester had other ideas.

He poured in on punter Coleman Zeno, blocked his hurried kick and then chased the oval into the end zone. The automatic safety was awarded the Bears when the ball continued through the end zone with Morgan having last touched it.

The play gave the Bears aflimsy 9-7 advantage, and they zealously guarded it through two serious thrusts by the Louisiana eleven.

Each time the occasion arose, the Baltimoreans were equal to the task. And as the final seconds ticked away, Morgan was backed against her own goal line thwarting three successive charges from inside the 6-yard stripe.

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THE PAID attendance was one of the largest ever to watch college football in New York.

It far surpassed the 40,113 who witnessed he Grambling-Florida A and M Orange Blossom Classic of 1955 at Miami's Orange Bowl, the previous record crowd to watch colored college powers.

The victory in its 1968 opener extended Morgan's undefeated streak to 27 games over four seasons. The Bears, coached by Earl Banks, have won the championship of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association the past three seasons.

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GRAMBLING, 9-1 a year ago and winner of three consecutive titles in the Southwestern Athletic Conference, has now dropped its first two games this season.

The Football Coaches Foundation sponsored the game for the benefit of the Urban League's Street Academies Program to retrain high school dropouts in ghetto areas.

Japanese boxer to defend title

By ALEX KAHN

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Sho Saijyo of Japan, who earned his greatest acclaim as a boxer in the United States climaxed by his capturing the World Boxing Association Featherweight crown, has indicated he may remain here to make his first title defense.

The tall Japanese boxer upset WBA Champion Raul Rojas of San Pedro, Calif., last Friday night on a double championship program outdoors at the Memorial Coliseum.

Earlier in the evening, lightweight champion Carlos "Teo" Cruz of the Dominican Republic scored a unanimous decision over Mandi Ramos of Long Beach, Calif.

• • •

BY HIS VICTORY, Saijyo proved that his previous non title upset win over Rojas last June was no fluke. He dropped the champion in the sixth round and took the decision unanimously.

The sponsoring Olympic Boxing Club immediately announced it was trying to arrange for Saijyo to make his first title defense within the next two or three months against Pedro Gomez of Venezuela, generally regarded as the No. 1 challenger in the division.

Cruz, now that he has defended the brown he won last June from Carlos Ortiz, said he was returning to Puerto Rico and had no immediate plans for another bout.

The fight program drew 23,211 to the huge stadium for a gross gate of $181,216. Cruz received $60,000 for his 15 rounds while Rojas was salved by approximately $40,000. The challengers each earned $10,000.

Ray Charles Show on European tour

The Ray Charles Show — '68 has left the country for an extensive tour of Europe. The tour includes:

Neiderhalle, Koncert Haus, Jahr Hunderdt Halle, Koncertgebauw, Beau Aurts, Salle Playe, S KILL

Neiderhalle, Stuttgart, W. Germany, Oct. 1; Koncert Haus, Zurich, Switzerland, Oct. 2; Jahr Hunderdt Halle, Frankfurt, W. Germany, Oct. 4;

Koncertgebauw, Amsterdam, Holland, Oct. 5; Beau Aurts, Brussels, Belgium, Oct. 6, and Salle Playe Paris, France, Oct. 8, 9.

Gibson versus McLain for MVP honors, too?

NEW YORK — Pitchers Bob Gibson of the St. Louis Cardinals and Denny McLain of the Detroit Tigers, the leading candidates for the Most Valuable Player Awards in their respective leagues and scheduled starters in Wednesday's first game of the World Series, could have the inside track on Sport Magazine's 14th annual World Series Sports Car Award, if precedent rules and hurlers dominate in the fall classic.

In the 13 years that the magazine has presented the award, a sports car, to the man the editors select as the Most Valuable Player in the Series, eleven pitchers have earned the prize, and of these, four had started the opener for their clubs.

They were Whitey Ford of the New York Yankees in 1961, Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1963, and Gibson in 1964 and 1967.

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THIS YEAR'S prize, a fully equipped 1969 Dodge Charger, will be presented to the winner at a luncheon in his honor at the conclusion of the Series.

If Gibson manages to win the Charger, it will be an unprecedented third sports car and the second in two years that he will have won as the Series MVP.

'Ironside' TV series cited

BEVERLY HILLS — An Image Award from the Beverly Hills-Hollywood Chapter of the NAACP was presented to NBC Television Network's "Ironside" series at a banquet here Sunday in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Executive producer Cy Chermak was presented the Image Award by actor Ed Begley with the following citation:

"To 'Ironside' for its frequent portrayals of colored persons in major roles and for its use of actor Don Mitchell in a continuing role, in which he is presented realistically as an articulate, involved and sometimes angry young black."

Request by Ali to fight in Columbus rejected

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI) — The Columbus Boxing Commission Friday night unanimously rejected the proposed 15-pound comeback fight by Mohammad Ali, former world heavyweight champion, here Nov. 11 against an unnamed opponent.

The commission voted 5-0 against sanctioning a fight at the state fargrounds involving the controversial Ali who has not appeared in a professional fight in 18 months. Two commissioner's were not present at the brief meeting.

The commission indicated that as an affiliate with the World Boxing Association, it must follow its decisions, and it has banned Ali.

William Cummins Jr., one of the fight promoters, said he would appeal the rejection to the courts if his attorney is unable to get the local commissioners to change their minds.

The commissioners to change their minds.

ton followed the vigorously expressed opposition of Columbus Mayor M. E. Sensenbrenner, who criticized Ali on the basis of his anti-draft stand.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE
COLLEGE GAMES
Saturday
N.C. College at Morgan
Howard at St. Paul's
Hampton at Delaware State
Norfolk State at Savannah
A and T at Johnson C. Smith
Elizabeth City at W. Salem (N)
Shaw at Fayetteville
Ala. State at Knoxville
S.U. and M at S. C. State (N)
Albany at Albany State
Ala. A and M at Morris Brown
Texas Southern at Tenn. State (N)
Southern at Miss. Valley
Arkansas at Jackson State
PRO GAMES
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Saturday
Pittsburgh at Cleveland (N)
Sunday
Chicago at Baltimore
Philadelphia at Washington
New Orleans at New York
Dallas at St. Louis
Green Bay at Atlanta
Minnesota at Detroit
San Francisco at Los Angeles
AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Saturday
San Diego at New York (N)
Kansas City at Buffalo (N)
Sunday
Boston at Oakland
Cincinnati at Denver
Miami at Houston
HIGH SCHOOL GAMES
BALTIMORE MSA
Saturday
Southern vs. McDonogh (Kirk Fld)
Glen Burnie at Northern
N. Western at Stig (Wilmington, Del.)
WASHINGTON INTERHIGH
Friday
Spingarn at Anacostia
Ballou vs. Phelps at Eastern
Chamberlain at McKinley
Bell at Wilson
Saturday
Eastern at Dunbar
Western at Cardozo
Coolidge at Roosevelt

Balance looms as main hope for U.S. Olympics 5

NEW YORK — The United States has had some of the greatest basketball players of the modern era on the Olympic team in the post war period, including Princeton's Bill Bradley, UCLA's Walt Hazzard, Luke Jackson of Pan American College, all of whom are established professional stars today. They starred for the 1964 Olympic team.

Perhaps the greatest team ever put together was the 1960 Olympic team which included Jerry West, Walter Bellamy, Jerry Lucas and Oscar Robertson, among others.

• • •

COACH HANK IBA, drilling the United States Olympic team at Alamosa, Colo., is not blessed with ready-made All-American players. After two weeks of intensive drills Iba has expressed quiet confidence that the current squad will be well-balanced and in due time will develop its own stars.

If asked to tab four players for key roles on the team, he probably would name Bill Hosket, three-time Big Ten selection at Ohio State, Spencer Haywood who played a year at Trinidad (Colo.) Junior College, Houston University's Ken Spain, and Jojo White of the University of Kanas.

• • •

HOSKET, 6-8, has been a tower of strength in the early drills. The former Buckeye standout has the requisite ability and physical characteristics to be the work horse of the current team.

He was also selected by the basketball writers as NCAA Group IV player of the year, symbolic of the No. 1 college basketball player in the Mid-Western area of the United States. His most prolific scoring game was 35 points against Purdue last season.

Haywood, 6-8, graduated from Detroit's Pershing high school and spent last year at Trinidad Junior college where he earned All-American Junior College recognition.

After the Olympic Games he will matriculate at Detroit University. He has been called the most improved player on the squad.

• • •

SPAIN, A member of Houston University's great college five last winter, has deeply impressed the Olympic official with his inspired pivot play.

Teaming up with Haywood, this could make a devastating front court duo although they don't have the experience for picking off the rebounds. Ken has fitted in well with each of the combinations he has worked with during the two weeks of drills.

• • •

THERE IS no question that Jojo White is the ideal person to exercise the back court quarterback. White was an outstanding player in the Jayhawker five in the National Invitation Tournament in Madison Square Garden.

On the Pan-American Games team, White was considered the outstanding player in the entire tournament in Wenipeg in 1967.

Even though he averaged 16.4 points for a medium-high scoring Kansas five last summer, White is an exceptional player leading the fastbreak and has the knack of getting the big field goals in the clutch.

ALL RECORDS SMASHED — The 64,204 wild-eyed fans who watched the Morgan State College Bears down the Grambling Tigers, 9-7, in Yankee Stadium Saturday afternoon, smashed all records for an athletic contest between small-college teams. The previous high had been 49,113. Receipts from the huge turnout meant insurance for the continuation of the New York Urban League-Football Coaches Foundation project of street academies to aid school dropouts, particularly youngsters from ghetto areas who want and deserve a second chance to obtain an education. PHOTO BY BOB QUEEN OF THE AFRO.

Grambling coach takes blame for vain TD try

NEW YORK — Eddie Robinson, a highly volatile man on the sideline when his Grambling College football team is in action, was a calm, almost solicitous individual in his Hotel New Yorker suit following the heart-breaking 9-7 loss to Morgan State College Saturday afternoon.

"It was a splendid ball game," he said. "And naturally, I'm a little disappointed that we didn't win. But Morgan played hard and alertly arnd deserved to win.

"Whichever team won it would have deserved it. It was that kind of contest.

"Perhaps I lost it, I don't know," Robinson continued obviously anticipating the question.

It came anyway.

"WHY DIDN'T you elect to go for the field goal with only one play remaining on the clock? Was it your decision to let the boys try to get the touchdown?"

"It was my decision, nobody else's.

"I heard my assistant coach yelling from upstairs, and I heard the Grambling fans screaming and pointing at the clock.

"BUT HARRIS (quarterback James Harris) begged me while we were talking during the timeout, to let them take it over. He said that Joneey (fullback Henry Jones) kept insisting in the huddle, "give it to me, give it to me," and he (Harris) felt they could get in.

"Still, nobody coaches my team but me. I made the decision."

ASKED WHEATHER he though Harris' absence in the early part of the game meant the difference in winning and losing for his side, Robinson proved the true sportsman.

"I don't know. He's a fine boy, one of the best five had. But Morgan was as good as they had to be." . . . SAM LACY.

Craft joins team

ALBANY, Ga. — Guy C. Craft, head librarian at Albany State College, has been invited to serve on the Southern Association of College and Schools' visiting committee to LeMoyne — Owens College in November.

The committee, according to John G. Barker, associate executive secretary of the Commission on Colleges, will visit the Memphis, Tenn. institution to determine a recommendation with respect to temporary accreditation based on the present accreditation as separate institutions. The two schools — LeMoyne College (a four year institution) and Owen College (a two-year institution) — merged on Sept. 1.

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CRAFT — a graduate of Morehouse College and the Atlanta University School of Library Science, has been head librarian at ASC since 1965.

Grambling held psychological edge

By SAM LACY

NEW YORK — In addition to surprising the favored Grambling College eleven in the first annual Coaches Foundation invitational game Saturday, Morgan State College successfully overcame a distinct psychological advantage the Louisianans held.

Coach Eddie Robinson and his Tigers from Ruston, La., enjoyed the edge in game experience, incentive and vested poise.

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FOR THE Bears, it was their opening game of the season. No coach is desirous of inaugurating his campaign with a foe as rugged as Grambling, a longtime Southwest region champion and frequently ranked in the top ten of small-college elevens.

Practice drills no matter how vigorous, nor scrimmages regardless of the knockdown-drag-out characteristic, prepares a team the way a game against another team does the job. It matters little how strong or weak the competition is in that warmup contest, it is regarded as a vital necessity.

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GRAMBLING had played one game. She was defeated by Alcorn College the Saturday previous to her meeting with Morgan at Yankee Stadium.

The fact that the Tigers lost that battle would further serve to provide a psychological edge. They had the incentive to want to bounce back.

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PERHAPS the biggest advantage of all, however, was Grambling's crowd experience.

A throng of 64,204 rabid partisans were rooting from the arrival of the teams on the stadium turf until the final toss of the ball in the air by referee Mel Jackson.

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FOR MORGAN — with 22 freshmen dotting their travel roster — this was a jitter-producing situation. Except for an occasional homecoming crowd, or for the infrequent appearance in a bowl game, the Bears play mostly before "crowds" of 3,000 to 5,000.

In the Southwest Conference, where Grambling reigns supreme, high school crowds range up to 12,000 and college turnouts average between 28,000 and 30,000.

Eastside Chargers take opener, 42-0

Baltimore's Eastside Chargers (1967 unlimited champions) opened their season Sunday with a 42-0 win over the "Southwest Bandits."

According to the Chargers coaches, Charlie Brown and "Pete" White, the team looks very favorable this year, with a good running and passing attack.

Here, a Bethlehem employee is learning the high-paying skill of welding under the supervision of one of our experienced instructors.

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