Charley Neal Looms As Dodger Regular

By SAM LACY
AFRO Sports Editor

TAMPA, Fla.—Newsmen traveling with the Brooklyn Dodgers will not be surprised if the world champions open their 1956 season with five tan players in the opening day lineup.

Although Manager Walt Alston is his same reticent self, there are indications he is leaning toward Charley Neal and Jackie Robinson for his two questionable infield spots.

Neal appears to have won the second base berth from Junior Gilliam, and Robinson would seem to be the choice at the moment over Randy Jackson for third base.

It being fairly certain that Don Newcombe and Roy Campanella will be the starting battery, four colored players seem sure of inaugural assignments.

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THE FIFTH tan starter could be the leftfielder, with the question being whether it will be Gilliam or Sandy Amoros.

"I wouldn't want to say what my plans are as of the moment," declared Alston in a press conference that was wedged between weekend exhibitions with Cincinnati and the White Sox.

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"I'M SURE who the catcher will be, and the centerfielder (Duke Snider), and the first baseman (Gil Hodges).

"But the two positions you baseball writers have referred to as 'open,' I'd rather let remain that way.

"I've got a pretty good idea," the Brook pilot went on, "but if I were to say, it wouldn't be so good.

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"IF I SAID one fellow had the job, the other guy would probably feel, 'what's the use of me continuing to work—you've already made up your mind.'"

Despite what Alston says—or rather, doesn't say — reporters covering the circuit are offering prohibitive odds that Neal is the 1956 varsity second baseman at Ebbetts Field.

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CASEY STENGEL, Yankee manager who rarely has good to say of the Bums (particularly since last October) asserted last week:

"Neal's the best second baseman I've ever seen on the Dodgers."

Brooklyn coach Billy Herman declares ("I've never seen anybody better on the double play than Janice." Herman is a former Ebbets Field keystone star.

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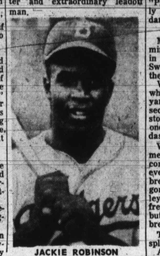
AS FOR Robinson, he is in the best spring shape of his 10-year career. Even Jackson rooters among the writers (and they are numerous) are inclined to believe Jackie will be the April 17, third baseman.

Gilliam, ousted from the second base post, is still a valuable asset. He is a switch hitter and extraordinary leadoff man.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Recreation News

The Indoor Center at P.S. No. 145 presented an "Open House Program" on March 22.

The dance, drill and music groups organized at the Center presented a variety program for "Open House Week" which was sponsored throughout the city by the Bureau of Recreation.

The program featured: Community singing, led by Mrs. Hazel F. Duvall, center director; "a "Mexican Hat Dance," by the "Small Frys,"; a song dramatization, "How Many Miles to Boston Town," and "My Pigeon House" by the "Singing Parakeets," a music group; community singing, led by Miss Mary Henley, Morgan State College student and "Waltz Unique" led by the drill group.

An interpretive dance was performed by Tearlane Carey and Rheta Thompson; a duet by Jessica and Delvan Bailey; square dance numbers by "The Steppers," and a ping pong exhibition between Edward Pembroke and Columbus Dailey.

The following participated in the program: Gloria Thompson, Carolyn Rouse, Jessica Bailey, Carol Brown, Zelda Thomas, Marian Kearney, Deborah Louis, Janet Louise Sanders, Rose Simmons, Tearlane Carey, Delvan Bailey, Elaine Northington, Doris Jackson and Anna Marie Thompson.

Also, Edwin Huey, Anna Kearns, Velva Jean Buxton, Doris Coleman, Dorothea Gough, Brenda Belamy, Joyce Patterson, Janice Thompson, Betty Lowery, Magdalene Lide, Edward Pembroke and Columbus Dailey, Delvan Bailey was master of ceremonies.

The Indoor Center, recently opened to the public for recreation activities, is located on Poplar Grove St. between Lafayette Ave. and Lanvale St.

The program schedule is as follows: Mondays through Thursdays, 2-10 p.m., Fridays, 2-7 p.m.

Afternoon activities are offered daily, Mondays through Fridays, 3 to 6 p.m. for children 8-12 years of age. The evening schedule is as follows: Monday and Wednesday nights, boys only, 13 to 17, 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, girls only 13-17, 7 to 10 p.m.

Staff members are Mrs. Hazel F. Duvall, center director; James Grant, senior leader and Edgar Contee, part-time leader.

Assistants are Miss Mary Henley, Benjamin Randall, Chris Dyer and James R. Brown, Morgan State College students who are working on their Field Education Project.

Parents interested in enrolling their children at the center should contact Mrs. Duvall, on Mondays through Fridays from 3 to 6 p.m.

Among the Bureau of Recreation officials at the opening were: Senior Supervisor, Theodore E. Brown and C. C. Jackson, district supervisor.

Other guests were: Mrs. Wilson, vice principal of P.S. No 145 and Mrs. Nellie Edmonds, Miss Mary Burke, representing the faculty at 140. George Simms is principal of P.S. 145.

Lexington Center

A total of 121 roller skaters participated in the bi - monthly skating activity conducted by the staff at Lexington Center recently.

The activity was free for members participating on March 22.

Indoor roller skating is sponsored by the Bureau of Recreation. The next roller skating date is April 12.

Among those present were: Geraldine Stewman, Delores Richburg, Alice Wilson, Gwendolyn Taylor, Thomas Roberts, Vernon Brooks, James Richardson, Delaphine Hall, Regina Milburn, Marion Braxton, Denor Thornton, Chester Talley, Ernest Durrah, Joseph Wells and James Mackey. Also: Zella Mae Rouse, William McCoy, Donald Coates, Ruby Harris and Joyce Anderson.

Also Carolyn Gross, Reginald Brogdin, Andrew Mullen, Arthur Myers, Earl Simmons, Delores Gross, Edith Jones, Clifford Brissett, Elethia Thomas, Tyrone Herndon and Joseph McCoy.

Also: Robert Moore, Louise Cross, Annie J Oglesby, Vernon Johnson, Jean Batten, Joseph L. Burke, Arthur Lee Womack, Garland McGuire, Eric Lassiter, Ruth Bantum and Bettie Wells.

Others were Charles Conyers, Edna mith, Herman "Woody" Lee, Ralph Green, Seeless Henderson, Barbara McCullough, Joyce Wynn, Grace Wilson, Helen Gaines, Elizabeth Turnage, Willie Turnage and Mary E. Holmes.

Also: Robert Wise, Andre' Burton, Inez Reese, Sidney White, Corrine Burrell, Gloria Best, Robert Jenkins, Alfred Tolson, Richard Pettus, Carol Ann Cruse, Loistine Maxdy, Annie Ruth McCoy, Ulysses McCorry, Alexander Perram, Gilbert Rawlings, Richard Shane Rawlings, Irvin Bailey, Arlene Burton, Brenda Ward, Barbara Selby, Carolyn Pettit and Everett Sherman.

Other visitors were Wilcox Wilson, Mildred Hawkins, Louis Toulson, Odessa Stevens, Dorothy Hawkins, Odessa Wainwright, Marie Perkins, Shirley Tucker, Audrey Smith, Patsy Thomas, Flora Thompson, Yvonne Johnson, Ruby Shaw, Annie Shaw, Louise Duffy, Lawrence Taylor, Barbara Banks, Sandra Comegys Russell Davenport, "Bobby" Brogden, Mary Martin, Geraldine Moore, Frances Taylor, Sandra Epps, Marlene "Pine" Williams, Iesil "Ike" Williams, Joan Bettes, Andrew Washington and Joseph Simmons.

Also, Florine McCoy, James Saunderline, Donald Robinson, Geraldine Hicks, Carolyn Johnson, Leroy Dixon, Carrie Lowery, William Roberts, Patricia Douglass, Celestine Heyward, Barbara Henderson, Alberta Pointer, Naomi Thomas, Sueen Esther Simmons, Eddie Griffin and Carole Wilson.

Mrs. Celestine Anderson was chaperone for the group from the Poe-Barbour Center.

The Easter program at Lexington was held on Thursday.

Some of the program participants were: Norma Atkins, Cleatrice Parker, Joseph Cotton, Diane Reed, Catherine Harding, Mary Ellen Gardner, Jeanne Battery, Calvin Atkins, Mildred Daymond, and Jo An Daymond.

More than 107 youngsters took part in the program.

Mrs. Zelma Thompson is recreation leader; Leroy Hobbs, student leader from Morgan; Miss Gloria Ford, student leader from Morgan; Mrs. T. Millard, recreation leader was in charge of the program.

The "Teen Agers" gave a "Pre-Easter Hop." Approximately 212 youngers attended the dance.

Chick Webb Center

Members of the senior swimming team at Webb participated in the Indoor Championship Swimming Meet last week at the Jewish Community Center.

Winners were: John Swann, who won first place in the 200-yard breast stroke in 3:02.2 and second in the 100-yard butterfly stoke; two William Howard, second in the 100-yard freestyle dash.

Webb was represented in the meet by: George Sutton who competed in the back stroke event; William Brown, 220-yard breast stroke; Lawrence Montgomery, 200-yard individual medley; William Howard—100-yard freestyle; John Swann, 100-yard butterfly stroke and the 220-yard breast stroke.

The Silver Starlighters held a splash party and dance recently.

Among those present were: Annette Fitzgerald, president; Ellen Faulkner, vice president; Ethel Smith, secretary; Bessie Cunningham and Arminee Byers, treasurers; Corita Lewis, business manager; Bernice Cunningham, Nannie Harris, Clara Johnson; Joyce Leach, Vertell Pearson, Elaine Smalls, Janice Wilburn, Patricia Williams and Esther Keely.

Guests were Dewitt Armstrong, Samuel Brown, Beverly Anderson, Brenda Burrell, Nilo Byers, Mary Curtis, Jean Dowridge, Patricia Gattis, Reginald Harris, Carolyn Keely, Eleanor Pearson, Barbara Powell, Lloyd Newton, Johnnie Mae Guest and Anthony Showell;

Also, Lena Waters, Cecil Rowlett, Clarence Campbell, William Carter II, Joe Gilliam, Andrew Pryers, Jean White, Barbara Vines, Ralph Williams, James Williams, Freddie Williams, Nathaniel Trader, Johnny Stevens, Charles Scott, Dorothy Mason and Rosita Travis.

Easterwood Carver

On March 30th, 60 boys and girls participated in a "Pre-Easter Treasure Hunt"

Winners in the treasure hunt were: Billie Patterson, Franklin Darby, Carolyn James, Bernard Wright, Irvin Dixon, Albert Keely, Richard Hatfield, Ernest Stewart, Margie Matthews, Sandra Kimbel, Herman Briscoe, Clarence Coates and Zellene Mitchell.

Other participants were: Purcell Wylie, George Dorsey, Bernard Wright, Albert Wylie, Irvin Dixon, Augusto Butler, Ronald Brown, William Patterson, Royn James, Andrea James, Carolyn Lanier; Albert Kelly, Elton White, Richard Hatfield, Tommy Roche, Floyd Brown, Leroy Brown, Herbert Johnson and William Wood.

Also, Ernest Stewart, Delroy Jones, Ronald Taylor, Earl Temple, Ralph Darby, Odell Grant, Margie Ann Matthews, Bertha Chambers, Saundra Kimbell, Franklin Darby, Charles Cunningham, Michael Hughs, Thaddeus Stevenson, Johnny Newson, Norman Chavis, Larry Young and Victor Harley;

Others were Beth Cryor, Eugene Benecous, Joan Dorsey, Michael Cryor, Herman Briscoe, Harold Barnes, Cara Mitchell, Bernard Tailferro, Vernon Henderson, Melvin White, Michael Marshall, Yvonne Marshall, Rosalind Smith, Clarence Coates, Bernard White, Leon Hamlin, Zelline Mitchell, Essie Mae Young and Robert Williams.

Richmond YMCA will defend national cage title in Toledo

RICHMOND

Leigh St. YMCA of Richmond, boasted by several Virginia Union University stars will defend its national basketball crown a the Central YMCA in Toledo, Ohio (April 5-7) this weekend.

During the recent Old Dominion championships, Leigh (minus the Union stars) dropped a close 76-68 decision to the Rockingham Rockets in the semifinals.

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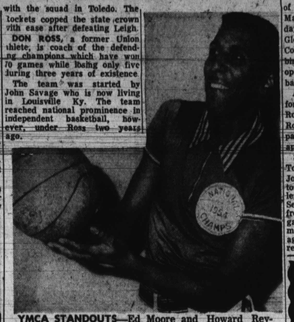
LEIGH DEFEATED the Rockets—composed of stars from the University of Richmond, University of Virginia and Duke University—in a return match last Monday, 91-83.

The Virginia Union cagers joined the Richmond team for the return game and will play with the squad in Toledo. The lockets copped the state crown with ease after defeating Leigh.

DON ROSS, a former Union athlete, is coach of the defending champions which have won 70 games while losing only five during three years of existence.

The team was started by John Savage who is now living in Louisville Ky. The team reached national prominence in independent basketball, however, under Ross two years ago.


YMCA STANDOUTS—Ed Moore and Howard Reynolds, two of the top college prospects with the Leigh St. YMCA basketball team of Richmond, Vs. Moore, 6-foot-5 backboard wizard, and Reynolds, clever shooter, are both former Armstrong High stars of Richmond.

HOWARD REYNOLDS

Trotters win series opener

NEW YORK (ANP)—A crowd of 12,135 fans were on hand in Madison Square Garden last Sunday as the clowning Harlem Globetrotters handed the 1956 College All-Stars a 61-52 drubbing in an afternoon tilt that opened their current 20 - game basketball World Series.

Andy Johnson was top scorer for the Trotters with 19 points. Ron Sobieszczyk of DePaul and Robin Freeman of Ohio State paced the Stars with 10 points apiece.

Sihugo Greene of Duquesne, Tom Heinsohn of Holy Cross and Joe Holup of George Washington also saw action for the collegians. The trio, along with Sobieszczyk, had been barred from Saturday night's East-West game because of their announcement to play with the All-Stars against the Trotters on the current tour.

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Elston Howard back in action

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—His injured hand healthy again, Elston Howard took part in his first game in over two weeks here Tuesday.

The New York Yankees' only tan player was called upon to pinch hit for pitcher Joe Coleman in the Bombers' 5-3 loss to the Boston Red Sox.

He popped out to first base.

HOWARD SUFFERED a fractured right middle finger when he caught a foul tip on the unprotected hand during a game with Detroit on March 31.

Bandages and splints were removed last Friday, and Howard began taking full fielding and hitting workouts on Sunday — LACY.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

APRIL 4
Alcorn at Southern.
Morehouse at Fla. A-M.
APRIL 7
orehouse at Fla. A-.
Alcorn at Southern.
Shaw at Fayetteville State.
APRIL 9
Jackson st.-Tenn. State.

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'Newk' explains refusal to pose with Willie Jones

TAMPA, Fla. — Don Newcombe, contacted here early Tuesday morning, explained his refusal to pose for a picture with Phillies' third baseman Willie Jones the previous day.

Newcombe stopped briefly at the home of Frank Selden, while enroute from Clearwater to join the main Brooklyn squad at Jacksonville for a Tuesday night game.

He was questioned by telephone about having turned down requests of photographers to pose with Jones.

Willie "beaned" by big Don on March 27, was quoted as saying the act was "deliberate." Later, Jones denied making the accusation.

"I'm sure Jones must have made the statement," Newk declared. "It was a mean thing to do, designed to hurt me.

"As I see it, Willie was twice a liar. I'd rather he go his way and I'll go mine." —SAM LACY

EYE MIXED SPORTS BAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A bill is still on the Alabama House calendar to prohibit integrated sports participation and viewing. The measure would ban mixed baseball, football, basketball and also public meetings.

Dodgers and Braves come close to blows

By SAM LACY
AFRO Sports Editor

MOBILE, Ala. — Bitterness flared anew between the Brooklyn Dodgers and Milwaukee Braves here Wednesday as the two principal rivals for the National League pennant barnstormed homeward from spring training.

Knockdown pitches and dugout barbs were exchanged, reminiscent of the 1955 clashes between the Braves' Lew Burdette and Roy Campanella, and between Milwaukee's Joe Adcock and several Brooklyn pitchers, among them Don Newcombe.

Like last summer, however, the battles did not get beyond the verbal stage.

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THE TROUBLE started in the second inning, when Campanella was low-bridged by the Braves' Bob Buhl with the bases full.

Campy accused Catcher Del Rice of calling for the "knockdown" and the latter started toward the Brooklyn dugout.

This acted as a signal for Newcombe and Adcock to trade words; and the Milwaukee first baseman made threatening gestures toward big D.

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POSSIBLE FISTICUFFS were averted when Carl Furillo and Duke Snider restrained the two Milwaukee belligerents and Manager Walter Alston instructed Campy and Newk to remain in their dugout.

Alston and Braves' manager Harley Grimm then conferred at home plate and order was restored.

No sooner had play been resumed than Jackie Robinson was struck on the right arm by a Buhl pitch.

ROBINSON, THOUGH, hurriedly cleared the Milwaukee righthander of intent. He said he did not believe he was hit "deliberately" and dismissed it as "coincidental" that it occurred so closely in the wake of the disturbance.

As for the game, Milwaukee won it, 7-5, aided by a 3-run homer.

BASEBALL

(NOTE: Teams in capitals are integrated)

APRIL 6
Red Sox at JACKSONVILLE
ORIOLES vs. CUBS, San Antonio
WHITE SOX vs. CARDINALS, Knoxville, Tenn.
INDIANS vs. GIANTS, Houston
YANKEES vs. Phils, Mobile
ATHLETICS vs. Pirates, Austin
NATS vs. REDS, Florence, S.C.
DODGERS vs. Braves, Chattanooga
APRIL 7
Red Sox at Birmingham
CUBS vs. ORIOLES, Corpus Christi
WHITE SOX vs. CARDINALS, Memphis
INDIANS vs. GIANTS, Dallas
IGERS at HOUSTON
YANKEES vs. Phils, New Orleans
ATHLETICS vs. Pirates, San Antonio
NATS vs. REDS, Columbia, S.C.
Dodgers vs. BRAVES, Knoxville
APRIL 8
WHITE SOX vs. CARDINALS, Memphis
GIANTS vs. INDIANS, Dallas
Red Sox at BIRMINGHAM
ORIOLES vs. CUBS, Corpus Christi
Tigers at HOUSTON
Phils vs. YANKEES, New Orleans
ATHLETICS vs PIRATES, San Antonio
REDS vs. NATS, Charlotte, N.C.
DODGERS vs. BRAVES, Nashville
APRIL 9
Red Sox vs. Phils, Montgomery
WHITE SOX vs. CARDINALS, Okla. City
INDIANS vs. GIANTS, Shreveport, La.
Tigers at New Orleans
YANKEES at HOUSTON
ATHLETICS vs. PIRATES, Wichita
NATS vs. REDS, Chattanooga (N-
BRAVES vs. DODGERS, Louisville

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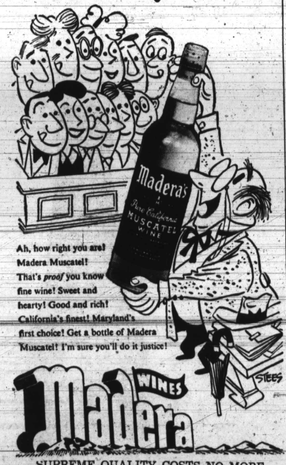

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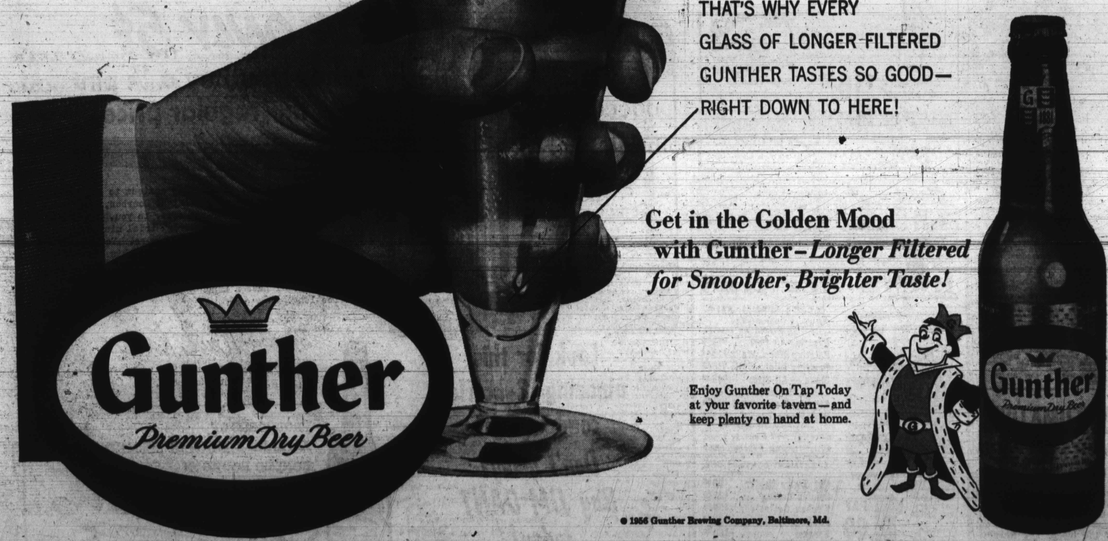

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