

Are Black Athletes Naturally Better?

I read a news story concerned with why black trackmen are so much better at sprints than their white counterparts. Many consider blacks as naturally better athletes than whites. I disagree.



For instance, in the recent news story one coach said he felt blacks were better sprinters because they had more concentrated drive and energy; another felt it was because blacks are more relaxed.

I do not pretend to be an expert on track and field but I do have a strong hunch that when blacks as

a people reach the same standard of living as whites in this country, their so-called "natural" athletic prowess also will level off.

Athletic scholarships will not loom as the only avenue to a college degree and eventually as an avenue to the plush paydays of professional sports.

The gut drive of the underprivileged and under-respected to succeed will be diminished. In this respect professional prize-fighting offers the best examples. Every immigrant group mistreated by society has in turn produced the outstanding pugilists of their times — first the Irish, then the Italians and Poles and now the blacks and Puerto Ricans.

We must be leery of falling into the trap that says that blacks are naturally better than whites at such things as athletics or dancing or singing. It may also mean that we are subconsciously thinking that sure blacks are better at fun and games but we can run circles around them at the really "important" things in life.

Former Rochesterian Earl Caldwell of the New York Times has become a national celebrity as the result of government vs. press hassle. Besides running coverage in the press he has been on at least two network news shows... Frank Brown — he of many years with the Christopher Press — has retired. Look for him in the South in winter and in the country in summer.



Roller Skating Party

Photo by Susan McKinney

Sister Mary Anne, left, and Sister Maria, right, enjoy the Roller Derby pace set by students during a recent afternoon of roller skating held at St. Ambrose School.



Horizon House Starts Program For Elmira Senior Citizens

By DICK BAUMBACH

Elmira — A retirement counseling program began Tuesday at the New Horizon House here and will continue until March 13.

New Horizon House is a senior citizen center located at Park Place and W. Clinton St. It is open to all individuals who are 60 and older.

Under the new counseling program various subjects will be discussed every Tuesday through March 13.

Some of the topics to be covered are social security, health maintenance, financial planning. Courier-Journal

psychological aspects of being a senior citizen and retirement activities.

Professionals in the specific fields to be discussed will present the lectures. Literature on the various subjects will also be distributed during the sessions.

There is no charge for the counseling service. The Tuesday programs will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Registration for the program is desired, but individuals can also stop by the New Horizon House to take part in the programs.

Senior citizens who are married are invited to attend both

the special program and other events which occur at the facility.

Additional information on New Horizon House may be obtained by calling 607-733-7661.

CCD Dinner

Appalachian — An appreciation dinner will be held for CCD members working at St. Margaret Mary Church here on Feb. 23 at 6 p.m.

The dinner is to honor CCD members who have worked as volunteers in the Christian program. The dinner will be held in the church hall.

Wednesday, February 14, 1973

BOB CONSIDINE

On the Line



The war in Vietnam probably could have ended a long time ago and thus many lives and vast fortunes would have been saved. If it had ended, say about the time in November of 1963 when President Kennedy was thinking of pulling some of our 17,000 "advisers" out of there, perhaps the outcome would not have been much different than today's stagnant stalemate.

That's part of the hell of war that General Sherman had in mind, along with his feelings about the slaughter involved. The late Karl Von Wiegand, Hearst's goateed correspondent in Germany during the early part of World War I, told Hal Boyle and me at his place of retirement near Cairo, a long time later, that Crown Prince Wilhelm came to him in August, 1914, and said, "My dear Wiegand, Tell Pappa (the Kaiser) that we have already lost this war. You know him well, so please tell him. Whenever I try to tell him he gets furious."

The war continued for four more years, wiped out the youth of the nations involved in it, bled Europe white, did not, as advertised by the victors, "make the world safe for democracy."

The war in Vietnam had many good opportunities to stop years before it did. If John Foster Dulles had not emboldened President Diem not to go forward with the country-wide elections which had seemed to the principals at the 1954 Geneva Conference to be the best way to get a united Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh would have won and there never would have been a war between the divided sections. He was a highly respected personage both

North and South of what is now the DMZ. He received substantial aid from the U.S., via the OSS (forerunner of the CIA) in his resistance against the Japanese invaders in World War II.

After the war started, there were lesser opportunities, but still they were opportunities. LBJ could have ordered a much closer account of the raid of the North Vietnamese PT boats on our destroyers, Maddox and C. Turner Jay, which were reconnoitering in North Vietnamese waters when attacked.

It was, at the very most, a mild skirmish. No American was hurt, neither of the ships was more than scratched. By the same token, the Congress, including Sen. J. William Fulbright, could have held up the Tonkin Bay Resolution long enough to ponder what it might lead to.

The ceasefire in Vietnam, impending return of the POWs and troops, has nothing to do with any victory scored by either of the conflicting sides. "Unconditional surrender" has become as archaic as "domino theory" or "the right of self-determination."

The war has come to a pause because a sufficient number of warmakers concluded, "What the hell are we fighting for?" President Nixon's trips to China and the Soviet Union, and the accords that accrued, made it an anachronism to continue spilling blood and treasure in a far off land to protect what has become a Fascist dictatorship, South Vietnam, from the slings and arrows of a Communist apparatus, North Vietnam.

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