

Bringing Women to the Sports Pages: Margaret Goss and the 1920s

By Dave Kaszuba

As a writer for the New York Herald Tribune in 1924 and 1925, Margaret Goss described herself as the first American female journalist to cover women's sports for a daily newspaper. She was also the first woman with a regularly appearing sports column. Titled "Women in Sport," the column provided Goss a forum to champion female athletics at a time when society had not yet fully embraced athletic competition among women. Goss's columns, which often shared the same page as columns by the legendary Grantland Rice, proved that a woman could stand toe-to-toe with male writers in producing the kind of highly stylized writing demanded during the so-called "golden age" of sports journalism. Apart from that, Goss also developed her own unique voice, thus helping usher in a new style of writing that illuminated the personalities of sports heroes and helped to change the sports pages themselves. In the process, Goss challenged institutional practices and cultural norms that had steered female journalists away from sports and so paved the way for women to crack the sports pages at other New York City newspapers shortly after her own emergence. Although her career lasted just a year and a half, Goss clearly deserves recognition as a pioneer among female sports journalists.

As they rolled out of bed on the morning of Sunday, February 17, 1924, New Yorkers were greeted by bitter weather: temperatures were in the teens and snow was forecast for the upcoming work week.¹ The winter was made even bleaker by the passing two weeks earlier of President Woodrow Wilson, still widely beloved for leading the United States through the Great War.² For readers of the *New York Tribune*, Wilson's death had come as little surprise. The paper had kept a "death watch" for days, with extra editions providing updates

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***Sports Illustrated's* African American Athlete Series as Socially Responsible Journalism**

By Reed Smith

In July 1968, Sports Illustrated magazine published a series of articles titled "The Black Athlete: A Shameful Story," that ran for five consecutive weeks. Up until that year, and contrary to popular opinion and mainstream journalistic accounts, collegiate and professional athletic teams had discriminated against African Americans. SI's series was the first to appear in a national periodical that comprehensively investigated and "indicted" the American sports establishment for its treatment of African Americans. The series was the first controversial investigative analysis of a social sports topic that SI had undertaken during its history, and it was printed despite opposition from its own upper management team. This research investigates the findings of the series as well as the resulting reader feedback that exceeded any SI has received on an article(s) it has published. It argues that the series played a role in bringing the civil rights movement to the locker room by raising public awareness. As a result, the series represented a significant development in the advancement of socially responsible sports journalism.

1 968 was a seminal year in United States history. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. There were riots at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, and the Tet Offensive changed America's mind about the war in Vietnam. It also was an extraordinary year for African American athletes. Bob Gibson won Major League Baseball's Most Valuable Player Award, Arthur Ashe Jr. became the first African American to capture the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament, O.J. Simpson ran a football to the

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From Fraternity to Fracture: Black Press Coverage of and Involvement in Negro League Baseball in the 1920s

By Brian Carroll

This examination of baseball coverage by the country's largest black weeklies during the 1920s reveals a close partnership between the black press and the black community's businessmen to found and sustain Negro league baseball. Themes revealed in an analysis of coverage include the significance of baseball as a way to create jobs and income within the black community; the moral obligation for blacks to support their own leagues; the symbolic importance of black baseball in terms of civic pride and solidarity; and the opportunity to demonstrate economic and athletic achievement to mainstream society. Implicit in each of these themes is an acceptance of or acquiescence to white-enforced segregation and the nether world for blacks it created. This article also explores what was absent in black press coverage. There was no discussion of major league baseball's color ban in evidence during the decade and, consequently, no coordinated plan to challenge or even protest professional baseball's racist policies. Also conspicuously absent is coverage of baseball players as personalities; the heroes during the period, at least to the writers, were the Negro league team owners.

So many black baseball fans jammed Detroit's Mack Park on a chilly Sunday afternoon in May 1920 that according to the *Chicago Defender* the very structural integrity of the stadium had quite possibly been compromised. There were not enough seats for the more than 15,000 fans who "did everything except riot in their quest for entrance."¹ Those who managed to get inside Mack, including those who elbowed past security guards and the "hundreds perched" on

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From the Negro News Page to the Sports Page: Mary Garber's Influence on the Newspapers of Winston-Salem, N.C.

By Lynn Klyde-Silverstein

Mary Garber began covering sports in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in 1944. Garber's work as one of the first female sports journalists in the nation has been well documented. Another important part of Garber's legacy, however, has been largely ignored by journalism historians. Garber was the first white reporter in North Carolina to cover black high school and college sports in a meaningful way. Garber's work brought the news about black athletes from the segregation of the Negro News page to the equality of the Sports Section. It also changed the way stories about black athletes were written. This study takes an in-depth look at who Garber was, why she did what she did, and how she overcame several obstacles to desegregate the sports pages. It also examines newspaper coverage to gauge how her work impacted her newspaper, as well as others in North Carolina. The data show that her influence was vast and is still being felt.

Mary Garber becomes annoyed when people refer to her as the woman who broke into the locker rooms. "I surely hope I've done something better than that," she says.¹ Garber worked as a journalist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, from 1940 to 2002. During that time, she covered high school and college sports of all sorts. She also broke barriers for female sportswriters. She was the first female sports editor in North Carolina and the first female reporter allowed in the Duke University football press box.² She is a member of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame and the North

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