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There is no law against Negroes playing with white teams, nor whites with colored clubs, but neither has invited the other for the obvious reason they prefer to draw their talent from their own ranks and do not care to run the risk of damaging their own game. Other sports had their Joe Louis [boxer], Jesse Owens [Gold medal track star...and like notables, respected and honored by all races, but they competed under different circumstances from those dominating in baseball.

The baseball fan is a peculiar creature. We believe no one will question that fact. He deems it his inalienable right and privilege to criticize and jeer, in words that not always are the choicest or the most gentlemanly. Not even a Ted Williams or a Joe DiMaggio or a Babe Ruth is immune. It is not difficult to imagine what would happen if a player on a mixed team, performing before a crowd of the opposite color, should throw a bean ball, strike out with the bases full or spike a rival. Clear-minded men of tolerance of both races realize the tragic possibilities and have steered clear of such complications because they realize it is to the benefit of each and also of the game.

However, there are agitators... who have sought to force Negro players on the big leagues, not because it would help the game, but because it gives them a chance to thrust themselves into the limelight as great crusaders in the guise of democracy. There would be as much point in the reverse being tried and an attempt made by Negro teams to bolster their lineups with white stars. It is not difficult to visualize what would happen in the latter case.

As it is, players of both races have been permitted to develop in their own environments and rise to the heights of stardom within their own circles. Proper tribute has been paid to Satchel Paige, for instance, as being a great pitcher. Whether he would be held in such esteem had he attempted to win his laurels [praise] elsewhere is problematical: The same is true of other Negro stars. They have blossomed forth with the inspiration of the encouragement and sympathy of their own followers. It is doubtful if the road would have been so easy otherwise.

As a result, the country has a great Negro major league, which draws heavy support from the colored folk. If its ranks were raised by the American and National leagues, with their tremendous resources, it would have fewer stars and the caliber of ball which has made it an attraction would be so lowered that the Negro loop, of necessity, would sink to the status of an inferior minor circuit, with consequent decline in enthusiasm by fans and prestige of performers.

Organized Negro baseball has become a million-dollar business annually and is beginning to emerge from the red-ink stage into the profit column. It would be a staggering blow should its leading players be drawn into the majors and, with them, its fan support. It is doubtful if the colored game could survive. Instead of gaining anything, Negro baseball would lose everything and without a medium for developing talent there would be no players, in a short time, who could make the grade, even if given the opportunity, in the American or National leagues, not to mention the minors.

...Of course, there are some colored people who take a different view, and they are entitled to their opinions, but in doing so they are not looking at the question from the broader point of view or for the ultimate good of either the race or the individuals in it. They ought to concede their own people are not protected and that nothing is served by allowing agitators to make an issue of a question on which both sides would prefer to be let alone.

