

SPORTS

TED CORBITT

By: Tom Thacker

Growing up in Kentucky, I was excited each time I met sports heroes like Bill Russell and Joe Louis. They were the greatest in their fields, they were the images we patterned ourselves after. They had endured pressures while believing strongly in their principles and maintaining self discipline, which aided them in defeating or subduing their competitors.

Today I find myself still excited when meeting special sports figures, but I am even more excited about Black heroes of yesteryear who were victorious both on and off the field/court.

Recently, I was fortunate enough to have been inducted into the University of Cincinnati Sports Hall of Fame, along with one of the legends in Black sports. Ted Corbitt is an antique because of his special value and qualities. He set eight (8) American records in his track career, has broken many racial barriers and at age 61 is still involved in racing.

From 1933 to 1981 he has been a runner, designed marathon race courses, written books on racing, and has held executive positions in The New York Runners Club and Road Runners Club of America. His first formal race was at Bloom Jr. High School in 1933, where he won the 60 yard event. Track became a way of life for him after 1933. Through Bloom, Woodward High School and The University of Cincinnati, where he majored in education, making the Dean's List all 4 years and finishing second in the class of '42.

Ted Corbitt and Willie Stargel, who Corbitt describes as the best all-around athlete at U.C., were often left home when U.C. travelled to Jim Crow Colleges across the country. This shortened their (Corbitt & Stargel) season each year because of the color barriers but Ted and Willie won their share of varsity letters and praise. Training hard under prejudiced conditions and inadequate facilities, Ted qualified in the mile time trails at a near record run, but AMERICA showed him her true colors when he tried entering the AAU track meet during the early 40's when the line was drawn -----NO BLACKS ALLOWED !!!



In 1944 he continued to train for the long distance run entering some of the AAU sanctioned races, the 440 yd run, winning the championship in record time. Determined to be good, Corbitt worked out at 8 different parks and tracks. The 4th street C&O playground was his favorite training ground where he frequently worked out with the late Ezzard Charles. He remembered always WALKING home from the park. "My mother thought that the police might shoot first and ask questions later, if I were ever spotted running by the police, so I always walked home," Corbitt recalled.

In '45, his track career was interrupted when he was drafted and served time in Okinawa and Guam during World War II.

He entered New York University and graduated with a Master's degree in Physical Therapy. He was employed by the Institute for Crippled and Disabled shortly after graduation, Corbitt has been with the Institute for 32 years.

In 1951, he finished 18th in his first Boston Marathon. Over the next 25 years he ran The Boston Marathon 21 times, finishing 6th three times, 11th several times, clocked between 2:28 and 2:53. In 1952 he was one of three Americans selected to run the Helsinki (Finland) Olympic Marathon where he finished 44th out of 67 runners. In 1954, he won the Shahahan Marathon in Philadelphia; 1955, he won the Canadian National Marathon; in '56 and '57 he won the National 30 kilometers Championship in Cincinnati, in 1959 he won the 26.218 mile marathon; in 1962 in London, England in a series of ultramarathons races at 52½ miles he finished 4th, 2nd three times and 5th once.

He won his last 50 mile National Championship race in 1968 at age 49. His longest race was at age 54, in 1973, a 24 hour run in England, 134 miles for a new American record. Meeting super heroes like Ted Corbitt will always interest and excite me!!!!

By: Justine Clark

BOWLING

Mose Torain



This month NIP Magazine goes to Bowl-O-Mat Lanes and discovers another one of Cincy's finest bowlers. Mr. Mose Torain, a native of Hillsbora, Alabama (born under the sign of Cancer) has been bowling for 10 years. His most memorable experience was rolling 10 strikes in a row and the eleventh roll being the 7-10 split. Bowling can be described as exciting, enchanting, and exhilarating, and I simply believe in "Relaxing and Letting it Float", says Torain. During his bowling career he has achieved a high game of 287 and a league high average of 190.

Mose resides in Madisonville, Ohio and enjoys hobbies such as dancing, remodeling houses, sports, and meeting people. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of Mount Auburn and is very active in an organizational project designed to help and foster youth in the Cincinnati community. NIP Magazine takes pride in saluting Mr. Mose Torain as the feature bowler of the month and also for being a great humanitarian.

"I enjoy the single life and meeting new friends", says Mose. The single life may be okay for Mr. Torain at the present time, but believe me ladies Mose Torain would be a good catch.