Major Leagues Get First Negro Coach

CHICAGO — John (Buck) O'Neil, an astute baseball man who has brought a number of outstanding players into the Chicago Cubs organization, last week was promoted by the Bruins from scout to coach with limited status, and became the first Negro coach in the history of the major leagues.

O'Neil, an alumnus of Negro American League baseball, thus joined the Cubs 11 man coaching staff, but will not participate in the highly publicized "Wrigley rotation system."

The promotion of O'Neil on a limited basis, although laudatory on its face value, seems a rather timid move in fact, For instance, the Cubs' head coaching job in the rotation is limited to Elvin Tappe, Lou Klein and Charley Metro, although Tappe, at least, has considerably less experience in baseball than O'Neil. Tappe well liked by P. K. Wrigley, Jr., Cubs owner and president, was promoted straight from the Cubs parent team. He was a catcher who barely made the Cubs team.

The 50 year old O'Neil on the other hand, was hired a Cub scout several years ago and proved his salt by bringing such outstanding players into the Bruins organization and eventually to the parent team as George Altman, Billy Williams, and Lou Brock, a candidate for rookie of the year honors.

Because he is limited to straight coaching chores and will not participate with Tappe, Klien and Metro in the rotation as head coach, O'Neil will miss the opportunity to lead the Cubs on the field.

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Freedom Problem

With the great stress on integration currently being put upon schools both in the North and in the South, Negro parents and leaders are constantly faced with the complaint that the Negro child is not as well prepared for learning as the white child. Too often, comparative tests show this to be true. In St. Louis, district director, Dr. Sam Shepherd found that children in schools in his slum ridden area tested lower in reading, language and arithmetic than the average for the city. He did something about it. After intensive work with teachers, parents and children ,he brought his pupils' ratings up to par in less than two years.

Similar programs in some schools in New York, Detroit and Chicago have worked equally well. Their results have shown that the Negro child is not inherently inferior. As it has been proved repeatedly—give a Negro child an equal chance and he will perform as well as any other American.

But who is to give him that "eqal chance?" Is it to be just the school system, the philanthropic organizations? Is it to be just the settlement and community houses? Is it to be the trained social worker who is dedicating his life to just such work? Is it to be just the city, the state, the federal government?

Often the parents put the blame for poor performances by Negro pupils everywhere except where much of it should fall. They blame the system, the teachers, the principals, the crowded conditions, the rundown buildings. They refuse to accept that part of the blame which must fall on themselves.

Olympic Star Now In India

NEW DELHI — (ANP) — Charles L. Jenkins, winner of two gold medals in the 1956 Olympics, is now in Calcutta training Indian Athletes.

Jenkins is training the West Bengal athletes. More than 10 coaches are taking lessons from the Olympic Star. Preseason conditioning of a number of athletes is also part of the training program, which includes four miles of cross-country running every other day.

THE FORMER Boston quarter - mile spent nearly three weeks in Calcutta last year demonstrating advanced coaching methods.

His current tenure in India is for four months, and is under the U. S. Government's Educational and Cultural Exchange program.

The results of his painstaking efforts were obvious when some of the athletes he coached won laurels in the national games at Jabalpur last Feb-

They included B. Ford, the 100 meters winner, Gillian Broughton, winner of the high jump event for women, and Maureen Hawkins, who took second place in 100 and 200 meters for women.

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