

Grand Prairie Gophers Play Carrollton Lions

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas, Oct. 23.—The Grand Prairie Gophers, after winning four nonconference games, tackle the Carrollton Lions in their first conference tilt Friday night at the Gopher stadium.

Baseball Color Line Broken by Brooklyn Club

Rickey Signs First Negro; Wants More

MONTREAL, Oct. 23 (AP).—The first Negro player ever to be admitted to organized baseball was signed Tuesday night by the Brooklyn Dodgers for their International League club, the Montreal Royals.

Jackie Robinson, one-time UCLA halfback ace and recent shortstop of the Kansas City Negro Monarchs, put his signature on a contract calling not only for a regular player's salary, but also for a bonus for signing.

Product of a three-year search and \$25,000 hunt for Negro diamond talent by Dodger President Branch Rickey, Robinson signed up in a history-making huddle with Hector Racine and Lt. Col. Romeo Gauvreau, Royals' president and vice-president, respectively, and Branch Rickey Jr., who heads the Brooklyn farm system.

Much Criticism Expected.

"Mr. Racine and my father," said young Rickey in making the surprise announcement, "will undoubtedly be severely criticized in some sections of the United States where racial prejudice is rampant."

Robinson, himself, had little to say about his part in the unprecedented event.

The word that for the second time in his long career in baseball Rickey was taking an especially revolutionary step — twenty-five years ago he founded the chain store system of player development — came as a complete surprise even to the few baseball writers and photographers summoned for the event.

"It may cost the Brooklyn organization a number of hall players," Young Rickey said. "Some of them, particularly if they come from certain sections of the South, will steer away from a club with colored players on its roster. Some players now with us may even quit. But they'll be back in baseball after they work a year or two in a cotton mill."

Many More Sought.

In addition to Robinson, it was learned Rickey Sr.'s hunt for Negro talent has produced some twenty-five others he expects to sign to contracts for double-A ball, with the intention of developing them into big leaguers.

For Robinson, the entry into organized baseball tops off his first full diamond season of short-stopping for the Monarchs. A crack footballer with the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), particularly his sophomore year in 1932, he also went out for track and won the Coast Conference broad jump crown with a 25-foot 6-inch leap. In 1933, he was nominated to the West team in the annual East-West Shrine grid game.

Shortly afterward, he entered the Army and won a commission. After three years in a soldier suit, he was discharged last spring and joined the Monarchs, where the Dodger scouts spotted him.

Monarch Owner Protests.

Co-owner T. Y. Baird of the Kansas City Monarchs said Tuesday night in Kansas City that he would appeal to Baseball Commissioner A. E. (Happy) Chandler for a ruling on the right of the Montreal Royals to sign Robinson to a contract.