

# *The Integration of American Sports*



From Jessie Owens  
to Muhammad Ali

# I. *Racial Stereotyping in American Sport*



*Jesse Owens about to win the 100 Meter sprint as seen in 'Olympia.'*

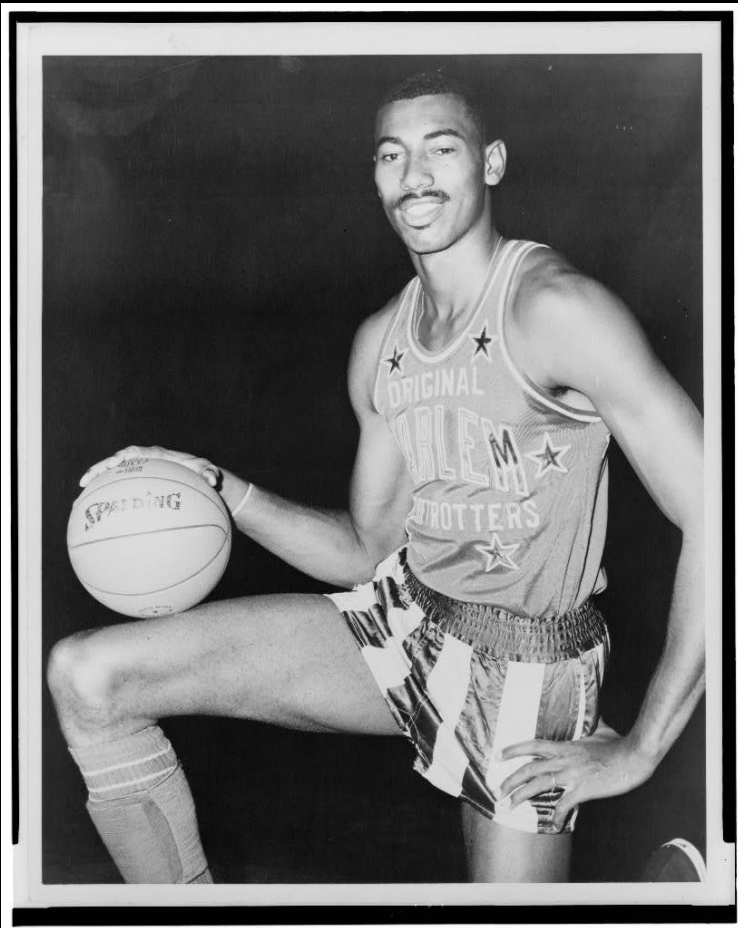
- The racial hypocrisy of sport in post World War II America
- Jackie Robinson's minor league debut on April 18, 1946
- The problem of an athletic "Sambo" image
- The notion of black athletic inferiority
- The white "interpretation" of Jesse Owens

## *II. The Racial Image of Joe Louis*



- The white “interpretation” of Joe Louis
- The racial overtones of Louis’ nicknames
  - The “Brown Bomber”
  - The “Dark Destroyer”
  - The “Sepia Socker”
  - Pictured as a jungle animal

# III. *The Harlem Globetrotters*



- The “acceptable” black athletes: The Harlem Globetrotters  
--Abe Saperstein
- The “Clown Princes” of Basketball
- Sporting Version of Rochester and Uncle Remus
- Preference for “ugly Negroes”
- Three rules for the players

*The Harlem Globetrotters Founded  
in 1927*



## *IV. The Integration of Baseball*



- Clowning in Negro League Baseball
- Robinson's second minor league at-bat
- Time was ripe for change
- Who was Jack Roosevelt Robinson?

# *IV. The Integration of Baseball* *(cont)*



- Branch Rickey's plan to integrate baseball
  - Roy Campanella
  - Don Newcombe
- Black Reaction to Robinson
- White Owner's Reaction to Robinson
- Death of the Negro Leagues

# IV. *The Integration of Baseball* (cont)



- White fan reaction to integration
- Robinson's Major League Ordeal
  - Pee Wee Reese
- Even harder time for some players
  - St. Louis Browns
- Paul Robeson and Robinson's HUAC appearance
- Black "Horatio Alger"

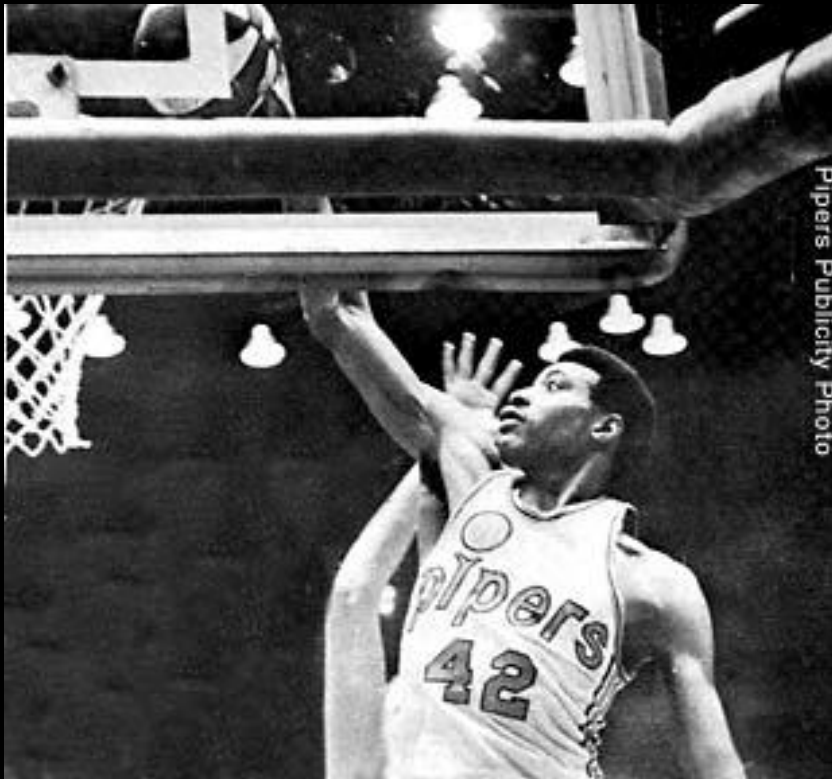


## *IV. The Integration of Other Professional Sports*



- Integration of Other Professional Sports
  - Kenny Washington
  - Larry Doby
- Chuck Cooper and Nat “Sweetwater” Clifton in the NBA (1950)
- Saperstein’s Reaction
- Althea Gibson

## *V. The Sad Story of Connie Hawkins*



- The Exploitation of Connie Hawkins
- Hawkins at the University of Iowa
- Hawkins implicated in “point shaving” scandal
- Reasons for the easier integration of the NFL

## VI. *Baseball After Robinson*



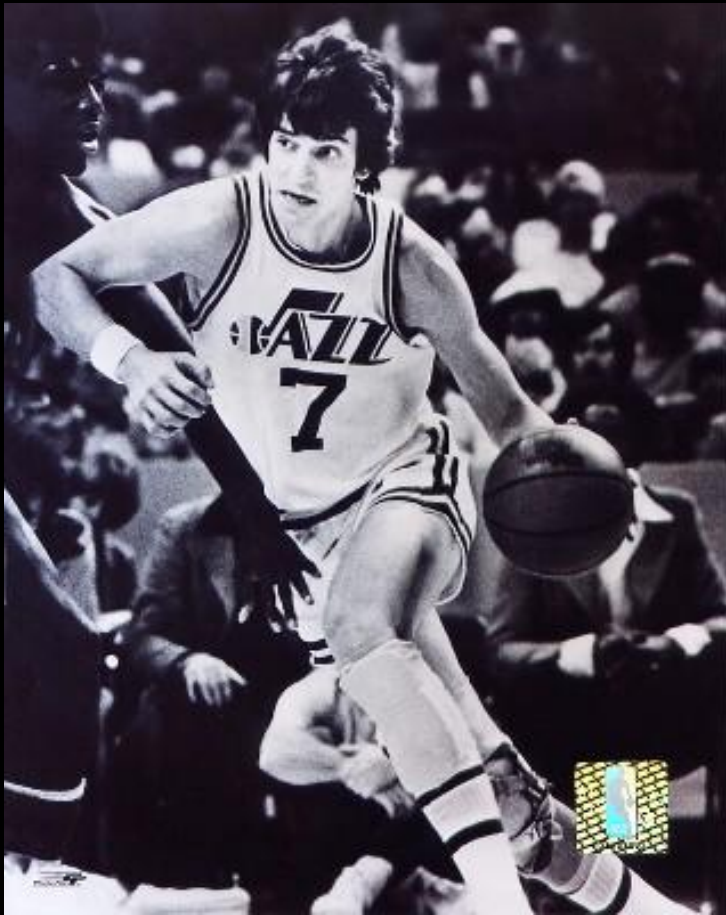
- Satchel Paige makes it to the major leagues
- New stereotype for Black baseball players
- Dominance of the more racially diverse National League
- The last ball clubs to integrate

# VII. *The Racial Transformation of the NBA*



- Black dominance in the NBA
  - Chamberlain's 100-point game, March 2, 1962
- Lennie Wilkens as a “myth buster”
- Stereotyping of white NBA players
- The problem of dwindling audiences . . .
- . . . And lethargic play

## *VII. Racial Transformation of Basketball (cont)*



- Search for the “Great White Hope”
  - “Pistol” Pete Maravich
- “The Eye of the Tiger”
- Serious doubts about the “mental competency” of the black athlete
- 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship Game
  - Texas Western over Kentucky 72-65
- Impact of the Game



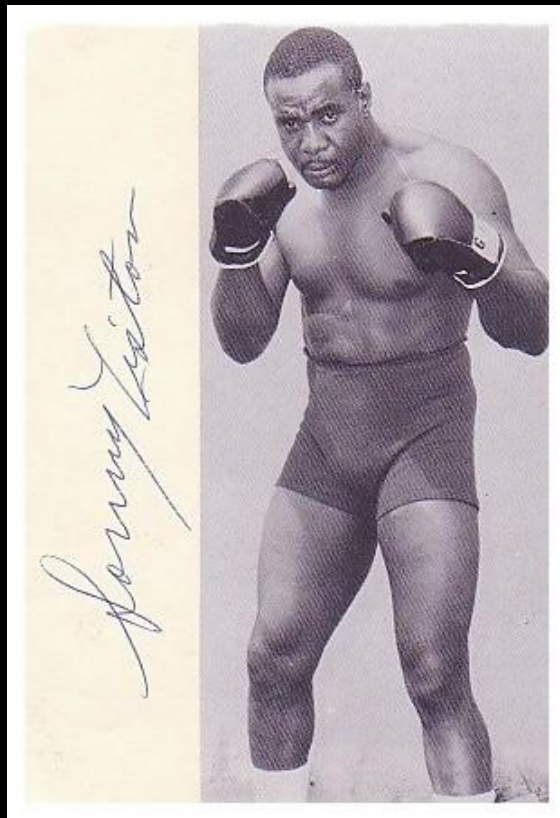
*The Black Rebellion in American  
Sports*

# VIII. *Changing Image of the Black Man*



- The era of “Black Power”
  - James Meredith and the integration of ‘Ole Miss
  - Stokely Carmichael and the Black Panthers
- The “trickster” in slave folk tales
- Emergence of the “bad” man black image after the Civil War
- “Bad” Men in 60’s popular culture

## *IX. From Liston to Ali*



- Real life “bad men” black athletes
  - Sonny Liston
- Floyd Patterson: “Credit to his race”
- Cassius Clay defeats Liston in 1964
- Clay becomes Muhammad Ali
- Ali’s Background
- Ali and his Black Muslim Faith



*Cassius Clay Knocks Out Sonny Liston in Heavyweight Title Bout, February 25, 1964*



# *X. Muhammad Ali and the Vietnam War*



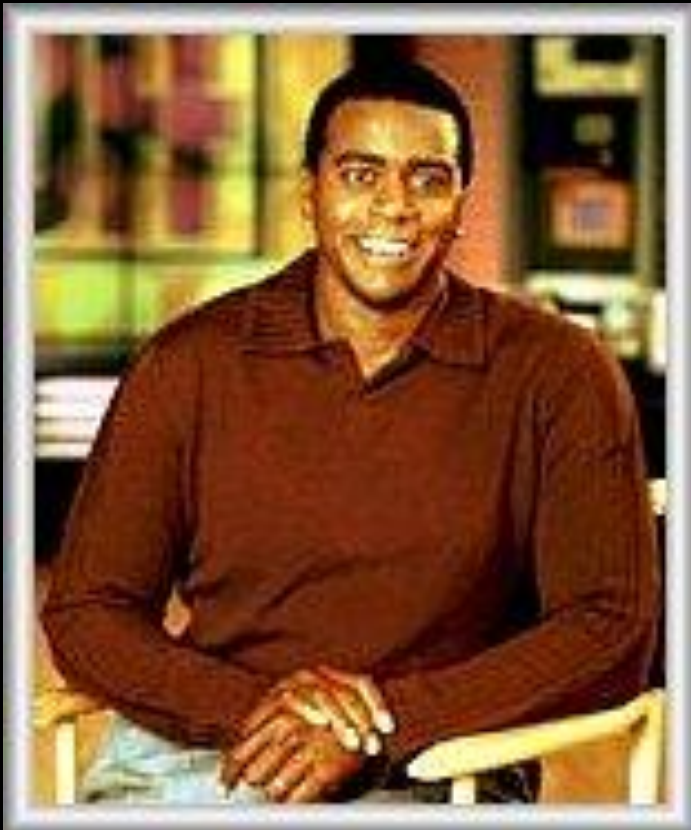
- Ali as the “baddest” black athlete of them all
- Ali as the “hard moral man” image
- White reaction to Ali’s new religion
- Ali’s opposition to the Vietnam War
- Ali’s refusal to enter the army
- Ali stripped of title and license

# *XI. The Evolution of Muhammad Ali*



- The New “Jack Johnson”
- Ali’s Poetic Antics
- Ali’s verbal abuse was directed against black fighters as well
  - Floyd Patterson fight in 1965
  - Ernie Terrell fight in 1966

## *XII. Black Athletes in the 1970's*

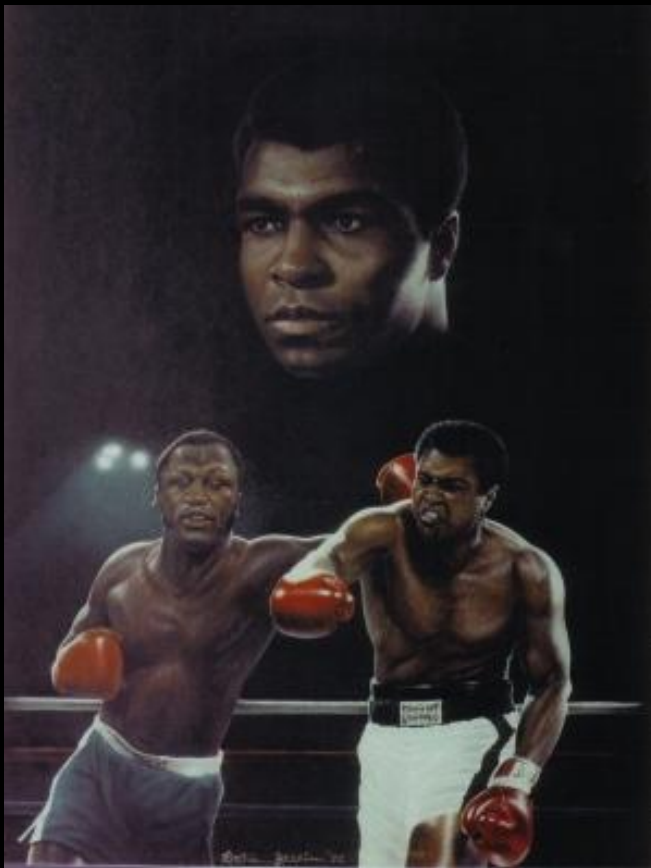


- George Foreman at the 1968 Olympic Games
- Pace of integration in sports accelerated in 1970's
- Diverse images of the black athlete
- Softening of Black Muslims
  - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
  - Ahmad Rashad

# *George Foreman at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City*

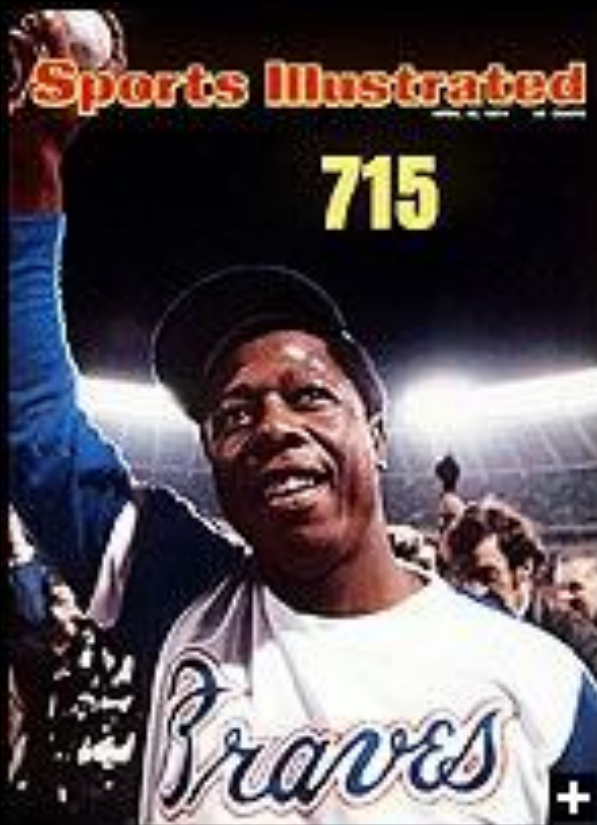


# *XIII. The Changing Image of Muhammad Ali in the 1970's*



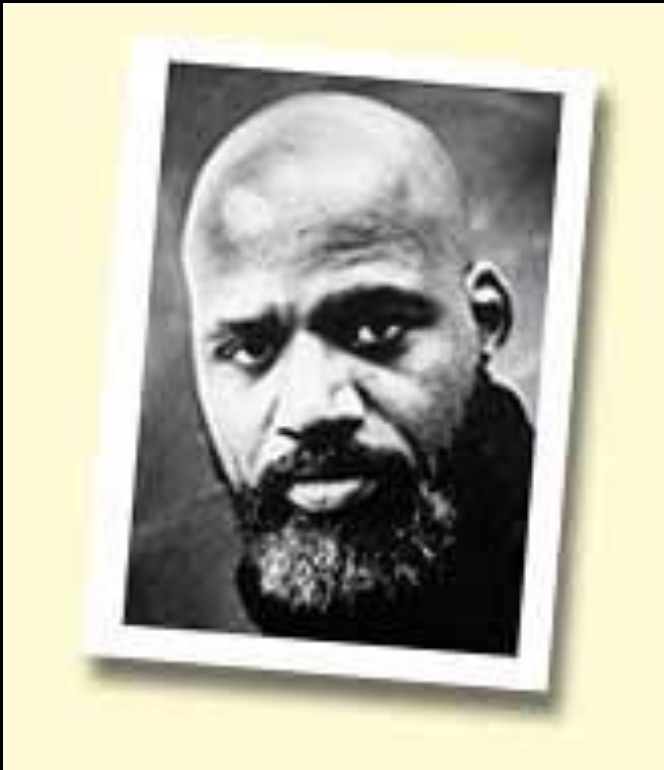
- Ali's reinstatement in 1970
- Ali's Comeback fight against Jerry Quarry
- Title Fight with Joe Frazier
- Regains Title by defeating George Foreman in 1974
- President Carter's "Ambassador of good will" to Africa in 1980

# *XIV. Complex Images of Black Athletes During the 1970's*



- The Symbolism of the “Rocky” Films
- Stan Wright and the 1972 Olympics
- The misinterpretation of Kermit Washington
- Henry Aaron and Babe Ruth
- Racist perceptions of Black athletes

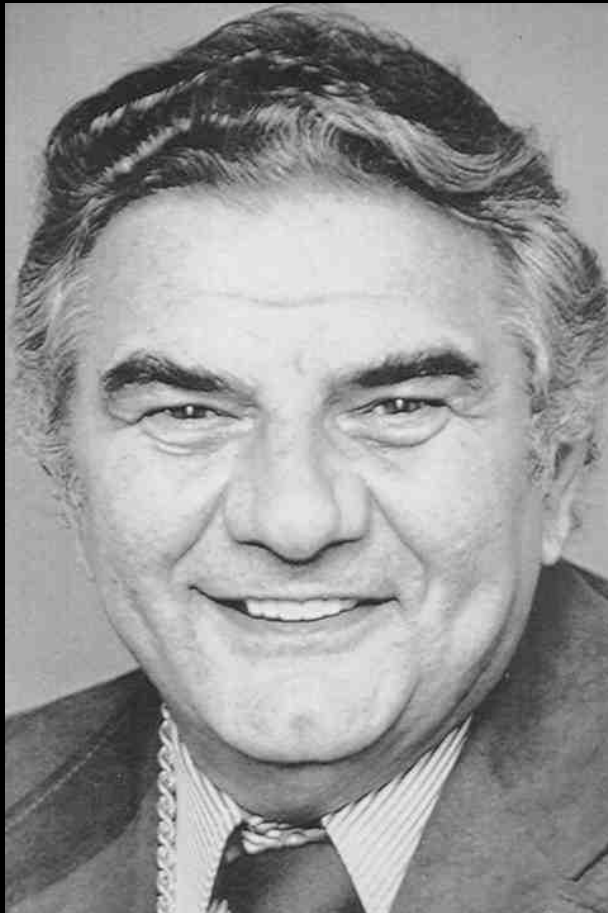
# *XV. Continuing Racial Controversy in American Sports*



- Black athletic success in the 1970's matched by the persistence of black social problems
- Martin Kane's 1971 *Sports Illustrated* Article
- Harry Edwards Responds
- Additional Criticisms of the treatment of black athletes



# *XV. Continuing Racial Controversy in American Sports (cont)*



- American Sports as a recreation of the Roman gladiator matches
- The tragedy of Earl Manigault
- Billy McGill and the University of Utah
- High Profile Racism in 1987
  - Al Campanis
  - Jimmy “The Greek” Snyder