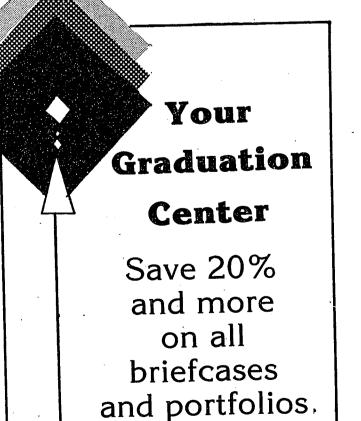




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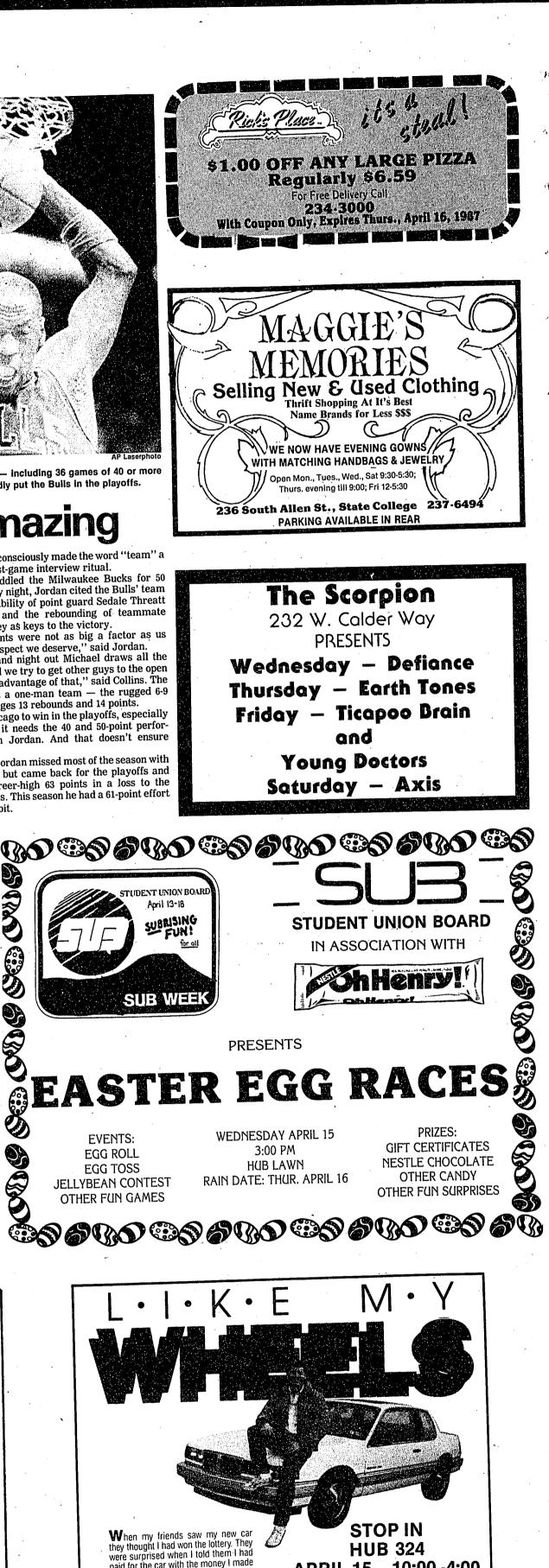
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Jackie Robinson overcame baseball's trials, racism

By JOHN NELSON AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — In the spring of 1947, the Brooklyn Dodgers traveled to Chicago overnight by train to play the Cubs in their first meeting of the

It was to be a special game, one in a series of firsts. Jackie Robinson, a college-educated black man, was in a Dodgers uniform, playing baseball and changing the face of America. Robinson already had become the first black man to play in the major leagues in the modern era, starting at first base for the Dodgers at Ebbets Field on April 15, 1947 – 40 years ago

outfielder Phil Cavarretta recalled, "and in those days, you know - I don't mean to be degrading — but black people very seldom came out to

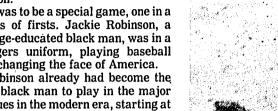
Jackie was there with the Dodgers. the place was packed, and over half of them were black people." Americans in Chicago, just as there had been special days for blacks throughout the country during Robin-

Jack Roosevelt Robinson, the

inson left home for good when Jackie that he learned how to fight back with diabetes. was 6 months old, and Mallie took the within the context of the games he "He was always ready to take track star, and the time he spent trail. He wanted to get a black man training. Instead of touring the South, family west to Pasadena, Calif., the would play later at UCLA and in action. Maybe volatile isn't the right barnstorming with a racially mixed into baseball, and as World War II as so many teams did, the Dodgers major league baseball.

Already a pioneer in the areas of





When the doors were closed at Wrigley Field, there were more than 47,000 in a ballpark meant to hold about 38,000. "The place was packed," Cubs

our games. This particular day, when

This was a special day for black

son's first tour of the National League in 1947. Only later would all of Ameri-Jackle Robinson, the first black man to play major league baseball in the Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball when he started at first base for the ca fully realize how special these davs were. grandson of slaves, was born in Cai- tion of northwest Pasadena, living in said Rachel Robinson, who married techniques for fighting back within trigued Dodgers' General Manager ro, Ga., on Jan. 31, 1919, the fifth and a two-story house on 121 Pepper St. It Jackie on Feb. 10, 1946, and was with the structure of the sport he was Branch Rickey. last child of Mallie and Jerry Robin- was there that Robinson first heard him when he died on Oct. 24, 1972, of playing." son, a plantation worker. Jerry Rob- the word "nigger," and it was there complications from a lifelong fight Robinson's days at UCLA, where he minor leagues and talent scouting, In many ways, the Dodgers pro-

next vear.

modern era, steals home in a game in April 1956. It was 40 years ago today that 🔰 Brooklyn Dodgers in a game at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, N.Y.

They moved into an all-white sec- "Jackie was emotionally volatile," reaction to things. He knew all the Robinson's past said to have in- world, he felt the time was right. He then came north.

The Daily Collegian Wednesday, April 15, 1987—13



ability to operate in an all-white world, would serve him well as he broke baseball's color barrier. Under the guise of putting together an all-black team he would call the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers, Rickey had signed the major league's first black ballplayer. He met with Robinson in his Manhattan offices for three hours, calling him every name that his strict Methodist upbringing would allow. It was a test, and Robinson passed.

"All of us who played with or against him are so respectful of him," said Hall of Famer Monte Irvin, who broke into the majors in 1949 with the Dodgers' crosstown rival New York Giants. "We knew what he had to go through. A lot of us experienced the same things."

While Robinson was the trailblazer, the experiences of other early black ballplayers closely paralleled those of Robinson.

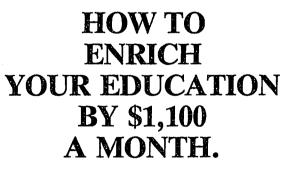
"You knew you had to go play someplace," former catcher Roy Campanella said. "You'd be there on time, play, shower up and then go find a black hotel. You couldn't stay with the team. You did what you had to do. It's always difficult to know you're shunned and couldn't stay with your teammates.'

Campanella vividly remembers the AP Laserphoto ' first time he was forced to stav away from his teammates. It was in his hometown of Philadelphia. "We weren't allowed to stay in the

Bellevue Stratford Hotel." he said "We couldn't stay with the team in three towns: Philadelphia, St. Louis and Cincinnati."

was a standout football player and Rickey was ready to blaze another tected Robinson, especially in spring word, but he had a strong emotional baseball team were two things in began to work its changes on the spent spring in Cuba and Panama,





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