

1

Document

Brooklyn Athletics

The parade ground at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, was used last season 900 times by baseball clubs, 150 cricket matches were played, 150 football and 35 lacrosse games. The lawn-tennis ground on the long meadow was played on by upward of 250 regularly organized clubs. The Park Commissioners are going to erect another clubhouse on the parade ground, which will be fitted up with lockers, closets, wash-rooms, etc., for the ball players.

The New York Times, December 17, 1885



GLOSSARY | *cricket*: a game played with a ball and bat by two teams of 11 players. *erect*: build. *lacrosse*: a game first played by Native Americans; teams use long-handled sticks with nets at the end and a solid rubber ball.

2

Document

Tennis Players in Prospect Park



Lewis Nostrand Anderson Jr., his cousin and friends in Prospect Park, ca. 1880; v1974.11.12, Anderson Collection, Brooklyn Historical Society.

3

Document

The First Girls Track Team of the Police Athletic League (PAL), ca. 1948



Mary DeSaussure Sobers Collection, 2005.053, Box 1, Folder 2, Brooklyn Historical Society

4

Document

On Basket Ball Courts

Great Activity Wherever the Game Is Played

Basket ball, a game that has sprung into great and deserved popularity within the last year or so, is this fall claiming the attention of local athletes to an unlimited extent. The open tourney which last spring took place at the Clermont avenue rink and the previous appearance of the crack Yale team at the Thirteenth regiment armory were both instrumental in exhibiting to Brooklynites the highest development of the game. Basket ball is now being played, with untiring vigor, not only by the Young Men's Christian association throughout the country, among whose members it has always found favor, but in the gymnasiums of the great Eastern colleges and universities, which, in pursuance of Yale's example, have seriously devoted themselves to the sport. In all probability there will be during the approaching winter an inter-collegiate basket ball league established on the same lines as inter-collegiate base ball, foot ball, and tennis associations. The proposed league will be formed among the students of Yale, Brown University at Providence, and possibly Dartmouth College at Hanover, N.H. When an athletic sport, indoor or open air, is taken up by college athletes, its success is generally assured.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, November 5, 1896



GLOSSARY | *assured*: certain to happen; guaranteed. *crack*: very good (slang).
tourney: tournament. *vigor*: effort and enthusiasm.

4 Document

On Basket Ball Courts

THINK ABOUT IT

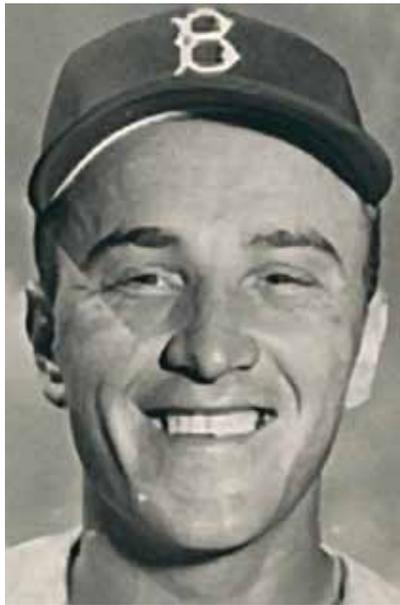
- According to the article, what were the two events that got many people in Brooklyn interested in basketball?

WRITE IT

- In your own words, explain this quote from the article: “When an athletic sport, indoor or open air, is taken up by college athletes, its success is generally assured.”
 - Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Explain.

5 Document

Oral History Interview with George “Shotgun” Shuba, 2008



George Shuba in 1948 and 1999, courtesy of Mike Shuba.



BACKGROUND | George “Shotgun” Shuba was born on December 13, 1924, in Youngstown, Ohio. He joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1948 and played with the team until 1955. In this interview with Brooklyn Historical Society, he talks about his teammate, Jackie Robinson, the first African American person to play major-league baseball.

5 Document

Oral History Interview with George “Shotgun” Shuba, 2008

Running Time: 1 min 52 sec

George “Shotgun” Shuba: Oh, Jackie Robinson! What a ballplayer! What a human being! And also his beautiful wife, Rachel. In 1946, I was in Montreal when Jackie joined us down in Daytona Beach for spring training—the first time a black fellow was coming to professional baseball. We trained at Daytona Beach, we had a little ballpark there for the Montreal club. The Brooklyn club, the main club, was there also but they trained at a professional minor-league field. But anyhow, while we were at Daytona Beach, we went up to Jacksonville, Florida, ninety miles away, to play another minor-league team. Jackie was with us on the bus, and John Wright, a black pitcher. Well, when we got there, there was a padlock on the door and they said, “Well, we’re not going to let you fellows play.” So we turned around and came back to Daytona Beach.

Well, Jackie had a great first game. He had four for five. He stole a couple of bases, he made the pitcher balk. He was the second batter, I was the third batter on deck. He hit a home run. Everybody was watching to see if a white guy is going to shake his hand. So, of course, I went up to home plate; as he was crossing home plate, I shook his hand. You know, I could care less if Jackie was Technicolor, because as professional ballplayers we’re there to beat the other team and Jackie’s our teammate. In fact, if the truth be known, he was the best ballplayer in the club, anyhow.

So now Jackie, his wife, Rachel, was in the stands and I read somewhere that she was so nervous at the beginning of the game that she had to get up and walk around. But Jackie had a great game, so they both probably slept very good that night.

George Shuba, Oral History Interview, 2008, Brooklyn Historical Society.