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## Boxing Gone, Baseball Next?

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EDITORIAL PAGE

# JACKSON DAILY NEWS

*Mississippi's Greatest Newspaper*

JAMES M. WARD, Editor

MISSISSIPPI PUBLISHERS CORP., Publishers

FREDERICK SULLENS, Editor, 1906-1957

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SATURDAY, NOV. 25, 1961

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## Boxing Gone, Baseball Next?

A national sports authority made an observation recently before a group of newspaper editors in Dallas which may have a bearing in many, if not all other, fields of endeavor.

He said professional boxing is doomed and he predicted that within a few years baseball would no longer be the national pastime. Professional football will take over as baseball declines.

Boxing is doomed, he said, because the participants are now drawn from ethnic groups from distressed areas who have no other way of making a living except to bash each other's heads.

Baseball will fade, he said, because people are too impatient to sit around for two hours watching nine men on each team throw the ball and sometimes one is finally able to hit the ball.

Professional football will dominate because human nature is thrilled by combative engagements.

While these observations seem valid on the surface, has the subject been explored to its fullest significance? To dig deeper one might enter into a most sensitive field and be subjected to a cascade of wrath in these days of thought control.

Only a few months ago boxing was a dominate subject for television entertainment. How did it fail so swiftly?

One does not have to take a second look to see who are the participants in the ring.

One sees the same shades beginning to dominate the baseball field.

Boxing and baseball have not changed as sports. Something happened to let a new set of performers take over. Name one field of endeavor that has been taken over by Negroes and succeeded. Name one!

As to the sports authority that professional football will soon become the national pastime, we doubt it, under existing trends. The same group that killed boxing and is dooming baseball will soon take over professional football and it, too, will perish for lack of appreciation.

Watch this prediction. Professional football will reach a rapid peak and hit the skids in haste. The next dominant sports will be ice hockey and it will be enjoyed more and more because it is played indoors and with new facilities can be played year round in all climates. The reign of ice hockey as this nation's dominant sport will depend on how long it will take for a given ethnic group to grab control.

If the same takes place on the field of play, cannot the same degree of deterioration strike stage and screen, business, education and government itself? Therein lies the peril of the direction in which we all travel today.

Before anyone works themselves into a lather with blanket screams of racial bias and all that sort of traffic, it might be well to remember boxing and baseball.