

FEB.

THIS MONTH IN SPORT



Jeff Greenfield

This issue of *SPORT* went on sale a few days after Amy Carter and her parents moved into the White House, and while there is no direct connection between those two facts, we are pleased that this issue has at least a taste of the political about it.

In the first place, we have an article by Bob Hope, the man who has, face to face, amused more American Presidents than anyone except, perhaps, the late J. Edgar Hoover. Hope writes for *SPORT* of his favorite sport (golf), of his favorite tournament (the Bob Hope Desert Classic) and of his favorite playing partners (the recent Presidents of the United States). Hope's fee for his article, incidentally, has been sent, at his request, directly to the Eisenhower Medical Center in California.

We also have an article—on Reggie Leach of the Philadelphia Flyers—by Jeff Greenfield, who has spent most of the past decade in a different arena, the political game. After his graduation from Yale Law

School in 1967, Greenfield worked as a speechwriter for two Presidential aspirants, Robert F. Kennedy and John V. Lindsay, then as a consultant to David Garth Associates, a firm specializing in political campaigns.

In recent years, Greenfield has been involved in the political campaigns of such men as Hugh Carey (governor of New York), John Tunney (former California senator) and Tom Bradley (mayor of Los Angeles), and he has also found time, as a freelance writer, to profile for *SPORT* such athletes as Willis Reed, Dave Cowens and Walt Tkaczuk. His book on the Boston Celtics, *The World's Greatest Team*, was recently published by Random House.

"Sports is the perfect antidote for politics," says Greenfield. "In politics, there's a sense of an argument that never ends: Who's the better candidate? What's the best thing to do about jobs or crime or the economy? In sports, there's a clear-cut winner—and loser."

Coincidentally, this month's issue includes a story on an athlete who met Robert F. Kennedy before Greenfield did. The athlete is Richie Szaro, now the place-kicker for the New Orleans Saints and once a Brooklyn high-school star recruited, for Harvard, by Senator Kennedy.

The author of the Szaro story is Robert Ward, whose byline is becoming very familiar to *SPORT* readers. Ward attended neither Yale nor Harvard but Towson State Normal, which, he says, "turned out people totally unfit for politics in any form. However, I am seriously considering running for King of the United States, because I feel that the only real hope for the future in this country lies in sports and monarchy."

This month's story on Billy Martin was written by Norman Lewis Smith, who spent the early 1970s as the managing editor of *SPORT*. The material in Smith's article, "The Cincinnati Reds Didn't Scare Billy Martin: They Just Made Him Cry," will be part of his forthcoming book, *The Return of Billy the Kid*, to be published by Coward, McCann & Geoghegan.

Dick Schoon