

track, a Black speedster was not even considered for the Olympic team if he did not attend a white college. Black athletes, whatever their talents or titles were invisible during that period. The so-called Golden Age of Sports could more appropriately be termed the White Golden Age of Sports. The period lauded only the white athletes.

The melt down of Black professional football players began in 1927. As salaries increased, white players felt the money should be kept for themselves. Baseball had already set the precedent. By 1928, there was only one Black player signed for the second consecutive year, Fred "Duke" Slater. Slater, tackle at the University of Iowa from 1918-1921, made Walter Camp's third team All-American as a freshman (19 18) and second team All-American in 1921. He was so good that if he were rejected not only could owners' integrity and morality be questioned but also their sanity. Joe Lillard, the Oregon University Black running back was maintained in 1932 and 1933. He was the only Black player in the NFL in 1932. The last Black player before the NFL gentlemen's agreement to follow major league baseball and ban all Blacks was Ray Kemp. From 1934 through the 1945 season, no Blacks played on nor were any invited to tryout for NFL teams. The excuses given for the rejection of Blacks lacked all credibility but the ban applied all the same.



Just hanging out-crutches and all.