

Jackie Robinson Says:

By JACKIE ROBINSON

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Next time I go to a movie and see a picture of a little ordinary girl become a great star, I'll believe it.

And whenever I hear my wife read fairy tales to my little boy, I'll listen.

I know now that dreams do come true.

I know because I am now playing with the Brooklyn Dodgers in the big leagues!

I always dreamed about playing for the Dodgers, but, honestly, I always had my doubts. I used to tell myself: "Something will happen. It just isn't in the books for you to play in the majors. You're a Negro. Negroes haven't been in the big leagues. Some day they will be. But you won't be the lucky guy."

Then last Thursday, Mr. Rickey called me to his office. He said: "Jackie you're a big leaguer now. You're going to play with the Dodgers and we're announcing it to the world today."

IN A TRANCE

I walked out of his office in a trance. I went from there to Ebbetts Field to play my last game with Montreal against Brooklyn. I don't think I was too impressive in that last game with Montreal. But that was because, I guess, I couldn't keep my mind on the game all the time. Every time I'd look at Pee Wee Reese or Bruce Edwards, or Ed Head and the other Dodgers, I'd start thinking.

"Just think," I'd say to myself, "tomorrow I'll be with them. I'll be wearing a Brooklyn uniform. And then I'd look at the big park and realize that I would be here this year—playing in a major league park before big crowds and fighting for a pennant."

At noon Friday, I walked into the Brooklyn clubhouse. When I opened that door I walked into the major leagues, and a few minutes later I was dressing with big league players and getting ready to play against the famous Yankees.

Then we went out on the field.

Gee it seemed big. Twice as big as the day before. I sat down in the Brooklyn dugout and started to think all over again. The game started and I found myself at first base. I was the Brooklyn first baseman. The day before, I had been Montreal's first baseman. "What a difference a day makes," I said to myself.

When the umpire said: "Play ball!", I finally started thinking baseball. I finally realized that I was a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers; that I had made the big leagues.

REALIZED RESPONSIBILITY

When I realized that, the thrill was gone. I knew that from then on I'll have to play like the very devil. So now I'm trying my best. I don't know how successful I'll be, but you can bet that I'll give my level best. I think I can do good enough job to stay up here and face such teams as the Cardinals, Pirates, Giants and the rest. I'm new and have a lot to learn, but I've found out that there are fellows on the club willing to help me. Ed Stanky, a great ball player, helped me the first day. Others have advised me and coached me since. I know by that experience that I'm not alone. I also know by the applause I've received in these first games that the public is for me and wants to see me make good.

I will never stop trying. I hope I'll get better and better every day and help bring a pennant and world series to Brooklyn.

Bein' up here is absolutely wonderful. That's why I'm a believer in fairy tales now. You see, it actually happened to me.

—HE MADE IT!—