



Four of the five famous fighting Sands brothers.
 Left to right: Dave (Australian and British Empire Middleweight Champion), Clem, George and Alf.

[Where are our Sportsmen ?]

FOR many years Australian aborigines have been outstanding in boxing and running . . . particularly in the first . . . but why is it we do not see more of them in the many other sports ?

True, we do hear of them playing cricket and football, in the lower grades, but very seldom do they reach the topline.

We have had no outstanding aboriginal cricketers, for instance, for many years . . . not since the time of Eddie Gilbert, the Queensland fast bowler, who was the centre of a raging controversy in the cricket world.

We never hear of a first-class aboriginal tennis player, or swimmer, or footballer, or bikerider, although the natural instinct for these sports is undoubtedly there if they would exercise it.

Is it the Australian aborigine is naturally shy and hesitates to pit himself against the white man in these sports, or is it he just lacks the necessary facilities to train and participate.

Properly trained and developed, the Australian aborigine should be able to run and swim faster, and jump higher and further than the white man.

With his keen eyesight which can spot a school of fish in a line of breakers half a mile off the shore, he should be a keen tennis player, marksman, or golfer.

Surely the time will come, as the aborigine is assimilated into the white community, when he will participate in all these other sports.

If he does participate with that enthusiasm and energy that is common to the aboriginal sportsman . . . he must excel.