

# San Francisco's Les Fleming Leads Coast League In RBI's

By JIM HUBBART  
(Associated Press Sportswriter)

Long ago, baseball strategists fought off insomnia with a little ditty which today is regaining popularity on the managerial hit parade. It goes approximately like so:

It's not home runs that win the games.  
Take back your power guys;  
A batting average ain't no good  
Without those RBIs.

With this in mind, then, let us pause for a moment of silent tribute to San Francisco's Les Fleming, who, as of now, leads the Pacific Coast league's runs-batted-in department.

No bases empty swatter, he. The stocky Texan is one of those rare personalities who derives his inspiration for hickory mayhem simply by the sight of a teammate camped on second base.

Fleming's batting average is a skimpy .239. Yet in 27 games, the Seals' first baseman has knocked in 29 runs, a generous contribution to San Francisco's foothold in the first division—third place, to be precise.

He'll probably figure prominently in Manager Lefty O'Doul's plans when the Seals open their intrabay series at Oakland tonight.

Le also pause for a moment to mourn for the Seattle Rainiers, last in the standing and, significantly, last in RBIs. The carcass has been removed to San Diego, where the second place Padres are whetting their instruments for further experiments on the cellar club.

The Rainiers became stricken at the start of the season and were pronounced dead at Hollywood Sunday from an overdose of sleeping pills.

The autopsy shows that Seattle is largely responsible for Hollywood's 3½ game bulge and that the Suds have lost, among other things, the knack of hitting in the clutch.

If Hollywood could get fat on the Rainiers, it seems reasonable to expect that the Padres can get even fatter, because San Diego is the league's No. 1 team in runs-batted-in. The Padres also lead the home run parade with 19.

In other games tonight, Los Angeles enters the Hollywood and Portland plays at Sacramento.

Manager Bill Sweeney hasn't announced Portland's starting pitcher, but for Sacramento it'll probably be Bill Bevens (1-1). Other starters:

Seattle (Al Gerbeuser, 4-1) at San Diego, (Al Olsen, 4-1).  
San Francisco (Al Lien, 3-0) at Oakland (Charley Gassaway, 3-0).  
Hollywood (Pinky Woods, 3-0) at Los Angeles (Bob Munchief, 1-1).

## PENNANT CRY:

### Spahn, Sain, Then 2 Days Rain—Etc.

By JOE KELLEY  
BOSTON, April 25—(AP)—Boston Braves' fans are beginning to chant their 1948 pennant winning refrain again:

"Spahn and Sain — then two days of rain — then Spahn and Sain."

That was the rallying cry of tribal supporters as their favorites battled to Boston's first National league flag in 34 years with Warren Spahn and Johnny Sain doing most of the pitching.

That accomplishment graphically supported Manager Billy Southworth's frequently reported contention:

"Give me a team of mediocre fellows who'll hustle, using 85 percent of their ability at all times and you take the stars who are sluggish and give 40 percent of their energy."

Now the warriors, once again a united tribe with an eager all for all spirit in contrast to their dissension riddled outfit which staggered into fourth place last season, are off to a fair start.

Slender southpaw Spahn and rugged Sain, tobacco chewing right-hander, are the boys who got the tribe off a-running as each won his first two games.

A year ago Sain lost his first two starts and didn't gain his first victory until his fourth start April 30 when he shout out the New York Giants 4-0.

Big John, who seemingly has regained his ability after a poor season last year, probably will pitch against the same Giants Thursday, after Spahn faces them tomorrow night.

In 1949 Sain never won more than two games in succession and couldn't win a single game after Aug. 23. From that date to the end of the season he started seven and lost four, winding up the season with a 10-17 record.

**WILLAMETTE WINS TWO**  
CALDWELL, Idaho, April 25—(AP)—Willamette took over first place in the Northwest conference baseball race yesterday, taking both games of a twin bill from the College of Idaho 6-1 and 11-6.

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**WEST LEADS HITTERS**  
SAN FRANCISCO, April 25—(AP)—Max West, San Diego's hard hitting outfielder, was still the Pacific Coast league's leading slugger through games of last Saturday.

The Padre outfielder was at bat 56 times in 18 games and collected 23 hits, including four homers, for an average of .411.

**SPORTS IN BRIEF**  
(By The Associated Press)

**BASKETBALL**  
Chicago—Denver, Sheboygan and Waterloo quit the National Basketball association, leaving a 12-team league.

**GOLF**  
Pinehurst, N. C.—Grace Lenszyk won medalist honors in the North and South women's tournament with 72.

**RACING**  
New York—Bank Account (\$3.60) won the feature race for two-year-old fillies at Jamaica.

Havre de Grace, Md.—Swap Out (\$5.00) won the headline Salisbury purse at Havre de Grace.

**West Leading Field In State Open Golf Play**

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25—(AP)—Harold West, pro at the host Tualatin club, held a two-stroke lead on the field today as the annual Oregon open golf tournament moved into its second 18-hole round.

But, although his five-under-par 67 established him as an early favorite to regain the crown he won in 1948, West still faced a challenge from any of the 10 other competitors who broke or equalled par.

Right on the leader's heels was the ever-dangerous Chuck Condon, Tacoma, and a pair of amateurs, Neil Sater of Vancouver, Wash., and John Frey of Portland. Each had a first day 69.

At 70 were Bob Duden, Portland amateur; Frank Newell, another Tacoma pro; and Dick Yost, the Oregon State college ace. Ed Oliver, Seattle pro, and a Portland duo of Joe Moxel and Al Zimmerman posted 71's. Completing the par-equaling contingent was Portland's Ted Longworth.

Other first round scores included: (X) denotes amateur:  
Dick Killen, Olympia, 73; Buck McKendrick, Sunnyside, Wash., 74; (X) Bill Johnson, Corvallis, 74; (X) Ron Clark, University of Oregon, 75; Wendell Wood, Eugene, 75; Ted Neist, Walla Walla, 75; Jim Russell, Walla Walla, 76; Les Daniels, Vancouver, Wash., 77; (X) Sidney Milligan, Eugene, 77; Ken Tucker, Everett, 77; Don Bowles, Salem, 78; (X) Rodney Taylor, Eugene, 78; (X) Ad Huckle, Olympia, Wash., 79; (X) Jack Kay, Olympia, Wash., 79; **Norman Tauscher, Roseburg 81**; (X) Bump Schmidt, Olympia, 81; (X) Ken Omlid, Eugene, 82; (X) Ralph Maples, Salem, 82; Tom Suesens, Vancouver, Wash., 82; (X) Charles Kindred, Corvallis, 83; (X) Hal Grant, Olympia, 84.

for Johannesburg, South America, where he will meet Vic Towell, British empire titleholder, May 20.

**WIL Teams Go North**  
(By The Associated Press)

It's opening night for northern members of the class B Western International league tonight.

As the league swings into its second week of play, Spokane jows into Tacoma, Salem at Victoria, Wenatchee at Vancouver and Tri-City at Yakima.

Except for the two Canadian sets, all series will be for three games. At Victoria and Vancouver, games are billed tonight and Wednesday with the two above-the-border members switching opponents for four-game sets winding up with Saturday's twin bill. No Sunday baseball is played in Canada.

**ORTIZ LEAVES U. S.**  
LOS ANGELES, April 25—(AP)—Manuel Ortiz, world bantamweight champion, leaves by plane tonight

**College Sports**  
(By The Associated Press)

**BASKETBALL**  
Washington 4, Oregon 2.  
Willamette 6-1, College of Idaho 1-6.  
Whitman 5-2, Linfield 0-4.

**TENNIS**  
Puget Sound 6, Seattle University 1.

**Machinist Leads Bowling Tourney**

COLUMBUS, O., April 25—(AP)—A 39-year-old gray-haired machinist from North Tonawanda, N. Y., took over first place in the all-events of the ABC yesterday.

Jim Collins marked up an 1,893 total without much notice from the gallery. He banged out 573 in the team event, 698 in the doubles and 622 in the singles.

Art Kirchen of Lansing, Mich., rolled 247-183-267—697 for second place in the singles.

And Knute Berg and John Larson of Chicago blasted a second-place doubles total of 1289. Bert hit for 248-214-253—715 to Larson's 215-179-180—574.

Kirchen also took over third in the all-events, thanks to his big singles tally. His all-events total is 1831 on series of 558-396-697.

Sixth place went yesterday to Ray Kirchner of Louisville, Ky., with 563-640-635—1838, and seventh to Frank Kartheiser of Chicago, a match game champion in the old days. Kartheiser had 573-647-610—1830.

**Celeri To Make Debut In Baseball With Bees**

SALT LAKE CITY, April 25—(AP)—Bob Celeri, the University of California ace football quarterback, will make his professional baseball debut with the Salt Lake City Bees.

The announcement of Celeri's signing with the class C club was made by President Bert Dunne upon his arrival from the Bees' California training camp.

Celeri will report to the Pioneer league club Wednesday or Thursday from Oakland, Calif., Dunne said.

The California griddler of two Rose Bowl games is the property of the Oakland Aconors of the Pacific Coast League.

**Indian Baseball Team To Play Glide Thursday**

Indian diamond coach Norm West, still looking for opponents to face his Roseburg baseball club, announced today that he has scheduled a practice game with Glide at Finlay field Thursday.

The Indians defeated Glide last Thursday 12-8 in a game that saw 25 Indian players enter the lineup.

Coach Les Wright hopes to get the Wildcat pitching under control and, with a few less errors

**TWO MEETS AT ONCE**  
Finlay field saw two track meets being run at the same time when the Indians played host to the Grants Pass thincleds and the junior varsity and Poposes ran a dual meet with Grants Pass junior varsity and junior high school squads.

The meet was scheduled to get underway at 3:30 today.

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