

Piersall Move To Mets Rumored As Hodges Becomes Manager

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Jimmy Piersall may wind up playing for the New York Mets as payment for Gil Hodges, the surprise new manager of the Washington Senators.

When Hodges was given his unconditional release in order to succeed departed Mickey Vernon as the Senators' field boss Wednesday, it was announced the Mets would receive nothing in return—except good will.

However, it was reported in Los Angeles Wednesday night that the Senators will offer the Mets a player as part of the deal. Speculation immediately centered on Piersall, a long-time favorite of Mets manager Casey Stengel who has been riding the bench in Washington this season.

Now 33, Piersall always impressed Stengel with his hustle when Casey was managing the New York Yankees. The outspoken center fielder was one of the

American League's top hitters in 1961 when he batted .322 with the Cleveland Indians.

Piersall was traded to the Senators at the end of the '61 campaign and immediately fell into disfavor with the club's brass and its fans. He skidded to .244 last year and has a .250 average in 28 games this season.

George Weiss, the Mets' president, was en route back from Los Angeles, where the team played Wednesday night, and thus was unavailable for comment on the Piersall report. However, a club spokesman pointed out Hodges went to Washington as a free agent, "So they don't owe us anything."

"But if they want to do us a favor and give us Piersall, I don't imagine we'll turn him down," the spokesman added.

It seems unlikely that the Mets would allow Hodges, who was so popular with New York fans, to go to Washington without asking something in return. The club paid the Dodgers \$75,000 for the 39-year-old first baseman in 1961 and also spent a bundle on Gil for surgery.

Hodges was stricken with kidney stones in mid-July last year and appeared in only 54 games. He underwent knee surgery during the off-season, then appeared in only 11 games this year before being placed on the disabled list with another knee ailment.

The announcement of Vernon's dismissal and the hiring of Hodges was made by George Selkirk, the Senators' general manager, who said Vernon would move into the club's front office as an "administrative assistant."



CONFERENCE — Dennis Baldrige, star McKenzie pitcher, receives advice aplenty during tight spot in Wednesday's A-2 quarterfinal game against Myrtle Creek. Surrounding Baldrige is short-stop Steve Becham, coach Ed Davidson (5), catcher Lewis Bradley and coming in to join the talks is first baseman Randy McMullen. McKenzie won the game 2-1. (News-Review Photo)

McKenzie Nips Vikings In Playoff Thriller, 2-1

By NIEL CELLERS
News-Review Sports Editor

Despite a stellar performance by the young Myrtle Creek Vikings Wednesday, the veteran McKenzie Eagles advanced to the semifinals of the state A-2 baseball playoffs.

The invading Eagles pushed across a single run in the top of the sixth inning to nip the Vikings, 2-1, in their quarterfinal battle.

Dennis Baldrige of McKenzie and Ron Westbrook of Myrtle Creek locked horns in a tight pitchers duel, with Baldrige setting the home team down on just two hits.

Baldrige not only pitched the win, but came through with some crucial hitting. The lanky Eagle right-hander drove in the first run for the winners with a single to right-center, then scored the winning tally in the sixth after slapping a line shot into the left field corner for a triple.

In addition to his hitting, Baldrige struck out seven Vikings, walked one batter and gave up a single and a double in working the full seven innings.

Westbrooks, classy port-sider of the Myrtle Creek mount staff, scattered six hits over the seven innings, whiffed five McKenzie batters and issued two free passes.

The Eagles drew blood in the first inning when Steve Becham singled with one away. Becham raced from first to third when Lewis Bradley's sharp grounder to second was bobbled. Baldrige followed with a looping liner to left center which dropped in to score the lead runner. Westbrooks then settled down to strike out Harvey Dolan and got Larry Hand to pop up to the third baseman.

In the second frame the home team came on to tie the count. Westbrooks led off with a scratch single between short and third. Both Becham and Baldrige threw the ball into center field on an attempt to pick off the lead runner, and as a result runners ended on second and third.

Two strike outs put the talented

Eagle hurler back in control before a wild pitch allowed Westbrooks to race home.

With one away in the sixth inning Baldrige belted his three-bagger. Dolan sent a high fly to left field which was dropped as Baldrige raced home with the winning run. The Eagles went on to load the bases on a walk and an infield hit. Some sharp fielding on a bunt got the lead runner at the plate and a force at third ended the threat.

The Vikings missed several chances leaving runners stranded at third base in the second, fifth and sixth innings. Myrtle Creek left four runners and McKenzie stranded seven.

An even 50 per cent of McKenzie's hits went to first baseman Randy McMullen who belted three singles in three appearances. Baldrige had a 2-3 record. Westbrooks' single in the second and John Benson's towering double to deep left field in the sixth were the lone hits for the Vikings.

The victory advances McKenzie to the state semifinals where the Eagles will play the winner of Friday's clash between Vale and Woodburn.

LINESCORE:
McKenzie 100 001 0-2 6 3
Myrtle Creek 010 000 0-1 2 2
Batteries: McKenzie; Baldrige and Bradley; Myrtle Creek; Westbrooks and Beansblossom.

In The Majors

American League	W.	L.	Pct.	GB
Chicago	24	15	.615	—
Baltimore	24	15	.615	—
New York	24	13	.690	1
Boston	19	16	.543	3
Kansas City	20	17	.541	3
Cleveland	16	17	.483	5
Los Angeles	19	23	.452	6 1/2
Minnesota	17	21	.447	6 1/2
Detroit	14	23	.378	9
Washington	14	27	.341	11

Wednesday's Probable Pitchers
Washington at Baltimore (night)
—Osteen (0-3) vs. Roberts (2-4)
(Only game scheduled)

National League

San Francisco	W.	L.	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	26	15	.634	—
Los Angeles	25	16	.610	1
Chicago	20	19	.513	5
St. Louis	21	20	.512	5
Pittsburgh	19	19	.500	5 1/2
Cincinnati	18	18	.500	5 1/2
Milwaukee	19	21	.475	6 1/2
Philadelphia	17	21	.446	6 1/2
Houston	18	24	.429	8 1/2
New York	16	25	.390	10

Wednesday's Games
Chicago 7 St. Louis 6 (11 in.)
San Francisco 10 Phila. 2
Cincinnati at Milw., night, ppd, cold weather.
Pittsburgh 4 Houston 3, night
L. Angeles 7 New York 3, night
Thursday's Probable Pitchers
St. Louis at Chicago —Broglio (4-1) vs. Ellsworth (5-2)

Jaycee Tennis Clinic Set For June 3-13

The Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsored tennis clinic will be held June 3-13 at the Jaycee tennis courts adjacent to the YMCA building at Stewart Park.

Registration blanks for the clinic can be picked up at Umpqua Goods or the YMCA. The fee will be 50 cents for youngsters up to 18 and \$2 for adults.

All persons interested are invited to attend the clinic which will feature instruction in the basic fundamentals of tennis.

Morning and afternoon sessions are planned for youths if enough register, with an evening class planned for adults.

Twin Lakes Trail Blocked By Snow

Jack Price, Little River District Ranger, reports that road conditions are good in his district for Saturday's opening of the trout season.

The only trouble spot listed in the district is the roads and trails to Twin Lakes. These are reportedly closed by snow, according to Guide correspondent Mrs. Arthur Selby.

The road around Lake of the Woods has recently been rocked, but is still passable. Roads to all streams in the district are in good condition.

Anglers planning to travel to Diamond Lake for opening day will find all roads leading to the lake open for the first time in several years.

Wrong Record Listed

Bill Loper, all-star Umpqua Valley League pitcher from Riddle, posted a 4-1 record for the season, striking out 26 batters and issuing three walks.

In an earlier story Loper's record had been listed at 3-1 and he had been charged with 19 walks.

Sports

'Watchdog' Picked By NFL To Prevent Future Scandals

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — The National Football League Wednesday increased the player limit for 1963 to 37 and appointed a veteran Los Angeles law enforcement officer as "watchdog" to keep an eye on player associations and "undesirable elements."

The 14 club owners, winding up their two-day spring meeting today, were set to discuss one of the more pleasant aspects of the game—future television policy and how to divide the \$926,000 for the 1963 championship game between the players' benefit plan and the players' pool.

The NFL is currently entering the final year of a two-year pact with the Columbia Broadcasting

Horseshoe Club Meeting On Tap

The Roseburg Horseshoe Club will hold its first meeting of the year Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Stewart Park picnic area.

The meeting will concentrate on organization of work parties to get the courts in shape at Stewart Park. Members are asked to bring their \$5 membership dues to the meeting.

Leveling of the ground at the site of the courts is scheduled to be done next week by the city.



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