

Duck Tracks

By Jerry Claussen
Emerald Sports Writer

It's the same old story for baseball fans across the nation, for the fifth time Casey Stengel's New York Yankees collide with the Dodgers from the borough of Brooklyn. The rivalry is notable for the absence of a Dodger victory and Wednesday afternoon at Yankee Stadium the Bronx Bombers will try to make it six straight. It will be Whitey Ford, (18-7) reliable southpaw, against hulking Don Newcombe, who started the season with nothing, ended it with little, but won twenty ball games in between times. Whether or not this classic goes the seven game limit (remember 1954?) it promises to be a thrilling, hard-fought series. Both teams possess pitching, power, speed and great defenses. Both possess a pot pourri of talented youths well seasoned with veterans.

The key question confronting Old Case is the physical condition of brilliant centerfielder Mickey Mantel, who injured a leg in late September. The talented but temperamental Mick had a great season at the plate, and established himself, between sulks, as the finest center gardener in the American League. He led the circuit with 37 home runs, he swatted at a .306 clip and drove home right at 100 base runners. His replacement is Burly Bob Cerv, a power hitter who possesses few gazelle-like qualities afiel and whose throwing arm is decidedly weak. Mantle will probably not be available for more than pinch-hitting chores until the third game.

On the credit side has been the late season surge of right fielder Hank Bauer, a scowling, slashing answer to a manager's dreams. Do not discount the fine clutch hitting of Irv Noren and Joe Collins; the power of Elston Howard and Moose Skowron; the versatility of infielder Gil McDougal; and the fire and hustle of little holler guys like Billy Martin and aging Phil Rizzuto. And how do you get Yogi Berra out when he takes it in his head to win a ball game?

Pitcher Bob Grim May Be Key

However, the comeback of young Bob Grim can be the factor which will decide the outcome of this fall classic. If Grim continues to show the form of recent games, which won him twenty games as a rookie in 1954; and back up right handers Bob Turley and Don Larsen the Yankees will maintain their winning record over the Dodgers. This threesome will fire the three middle games at the telephone booth called Ebbets Field; a right-hand hitter's paradise. To further add to the woes of Dodger fandom both of the top New York relievers, Jumbo Jim Konstanty and Tom Morgan, are orthodox throwers. The Brooklynites are notoriously hampered by effective right handed pitching. Lefty Tommy Byrne, wild man turned control artist, will start the second game at spacious Yankee Stadium.

Facing this yeoman crew with nary a flinch is the strong Dodger club which clinched the National league flag earlier than any other in the history of the senior circuit. True, since sewing up the bunting they have been stumbling along like a second division club, but the letdown following the tremendous pennant-winning celebration at Mader's restaurant in Milwaukee, for which club president Walter O'Malley picked up the check (if he could lift it), was only natural.

Manager Walter Alston, under fire after the 1954 season, has proved he could handle this club very capably. Mr. Brooklyn fan will tell you that just when Jackie Robinson is at his crankiest; and Duke Snider is most temperamental and Big Newk is brooding (about his foam-filled fedora?) the beloved Bums are at their toughest. There were rumors of dissension all the way North from spring training and what did Brooklyn do but wallop all opposition for a record 22 straight victories to initiate the National League season.

Bums Solid Despite Slump

This is a really solid ball club which led the tough senior circuit in batting, fielding and pitching. Catcher Roy Campanella has been above .300 all year; centerfielder Duke Snider was hotter than a tin pistol through June and July, Carl Furillo, hitting .314, has been brilliant on occasion at the dish and is still the best throwing outfielder in baseball; and Gil Hodges and Captain Pee Wee Reese have been at a potent .280 mark all year while fancy dancing it defensively. Don Hoak and Don Zimmer have been great as fill-ins for aging Jackie Robinson and slumping Junior Gilliam.

It was Robinson who came off the bench when the Dodgers faltered early in September and woke up the club; Robbie, graying, creaking, who got on base and drove the pitchers crazy, Robbie who climaxed it by stealing home; and the Dodgers rose and shook their heads clear.

Both the Dodgers and Yankees have surpassed crisis after crisis this season. Now the question is which one can take the short series. It will never be any closer but this reporter picks the Yanks in six games to become World Champions again.

Longhorn Leads Total Offense; Shanley Shining

By the Associated Press

Joe Clements, a University of Texas sophomore whose father used to pitch for the Texas baseball team in the 1920's, put a different twist on throwing to take the total offense leadership in major college football after the first two games of the season.

The season's first statistics from the NCAA Service bureau, show Clements on top with a total of 300 yards gained—all but one yard by passing.

The 6-foot, 3-inch quarterback from Huntsville, Tex., has completed 22 of 30 passes for 299 yards and four touchdowns to gain the top in the pitching department.

Clements is something of a surprise leader. At the end of spring practice he was hobbling about on a broken leg and hardly figured to be a top performer.

Second to Clements in total offense is Mississippi junior Eagle Day, another star passer, with 291 yards while Jim Swink of Texas Christian is third with 271 yards.

Swink has gained all his ground by rushing to take first place in that field over last year's champion, Art Luppino of Arizona. Luppino has run for 232 yards and Jim Shanley of Oregon for 216.

Nick Consoles of Wake Forest, who has the best pass-completion average, is second to Clements on the basis of yardage with 204 yards. Consoles has connected on 17 of 23 passes for 73.9 per cent as compared to Clements' 73.3 per cent.

Jerry Gustafson of Stanford also has completed 17 passes, the usual basis for ranking, but has made only 159 yards, Mississippi's Day has 16 completions for 252 yards.

Stanford's John Stewart, No. 2 pass receiver in 1954, has caught 11 passes for 119 yards to take the early lead in receptions. Four players have caught seven passes each—one of them, Michigan's Ron Kramer, in just one game.

The others are Georgia's Jimmy Orr, Mississippi's Billy Kinard and Wake Forest's Bill Barnes.

Jon Arnett, Southern California halfback, is out in front in scoring with six touchdowns and a seven-for-seven conversion record for 43 points. Swink is second with 31 points.

Billy Smith, Louisiana State sophomore end, has punted for a 52.4 yard average on five kicks. He's the only one to average better than 50 yards.

'Falcons' Adopted By A. F. Academy

DENVER (AP) — The falcon was picked as the U.S. Air Force Academy mascot Monday by members of the school's first class of cadets.

As a result, academy teams entered in intercollegiate athletic competition will be known as the "Falcons."

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Sanders Praises Terps' Defense

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Coach Red Sanders of UCLA said Monday that Maryland has the best defensive team he ever faced in his coaching career. Of the Bruin loss to the Terps last Saturday, he added:

"What happened was what always happens. When you meet a great team you get beat. We were good, else we would have been beaten worse than we were."

UCLA was rated top team in the nation in the AP football poll before the game. Maryland was fifth.

Slippery Turf

Sanders made it plain at a football writers luncheon that he was not alibing but, he noted that the slippery condition of the field at College Park, Md., did nullify

Optimistic Taylor Claims Cassady Can Be Handled

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—All-American halfback Howard Hopalong Cassady of Ohio State "can be had," Coach Chuck Taylor of Stanford declared Monday.

"But," added Taylor, whose Indians entertain Cassady and his Buckeye team Saturday in the national television football game of the week, "I don't know if we're the ones that can get him."

Chuck Steals Show

Taylor, who regularly risks being read out of the football coaches society for non-conformity with the usual crying towel routine, stole the show at the weekly luncheon of the Northern California Football Writers association.

"We know that Cassady is good," he said. "We saw him play in the Rose Bowl last year and our scouting report on the Ohio State-Nebraska game last Saturday confirmed what we knew already—that he's the best halfback in the country either on the inside or the outside."

Stanford Spirits Good

"I don't know what we're going to do with him, but our boys are in good spirits and that's a big thing."

"You all know we lost to Oregon State, 10-0, in our last game. We played pretty good on both offense and defense, but we lost anyway. It was a sort of frustrating evening, especially for our quarterbacks who most of the time were up against those second down, 25 to go situations."

his usually effective reverse and fullback spin plays.

Sanders was asked if a fumble in the end zone by Doug Peters in the first half took the starch out of the team.

"I don't know about the team, but it took it out of me," said Sanders, smiling ruefully.

Rams Happy

Coach Sid Gillman, still happy over the Los Angeles Ram victory over the San Francisco 49ers, told the writers it was a case of "pure spirit and determination."

Gillman, whose debut in league play was a resounding success, refused to single out any one player. He said the Rams had planned on an aerial game but switched strategy when they discovered they could run against the vaunted 49ers.

"We were amazed, in fact, to find we could run against them," Gillman said.

U. S. C. Spirited

Coach Jess Hill of Southern California said he expects a spirited contest here Friday night with Texas. The Trojans made fewer mistakes in defeating Oregon than they did the week previous against Washington State, he said. But the team still has much work ahead in perfecting its offense.

Wilbur Evans, publicity director from Texas, said the Longhorns probably will have three sophomores in the starting backfield and the overall picture presents a "green" team.

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