

Duck Tracks

By Jim Larimore
Emerald Sports Writer

With opening day 10 days off its time for the old swami to dust off the crystal ball for a look at the 1956 American league pennant race. Like last year, the top five clubs will fight it out while the rear echelon scraps for sixth, seventh and eighth. Two unpredictable factors can offer prognosticators an out—injuries and trades that don't pan out.

The word is out: "Dem Yanks is loaded!" and Casey Stengel's Bombers will take their eighth straight pennant. They haven't let anyone in since Cleveland garnered the bunting in 1948. As for the rest of the league: Cleveland, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Washington and Baltimore in that order.

Mickey Mantle will be named Most Valuable Player and Cleveland outfielder Rocky Colavito, Rookie of the Year. Twenty game winners will be: Whitey Ford and Bob Turley, New York; Herb Score, Cleveland, and Frank Sullivan, Red Sox. Now for a rundown on each team:

NEW YORK—"Old Case" is smiling these days as the Yanks are packed with talented youngsters and tried and capable veterans. Looks like Gil McDougald can handle shortstop with Phil Rizzuto on hand to fill in. The rest of the infield: Andy Carey, 3b; Billy Martin, 2b and Moose Skowron at first with Joe Collins against right-handed pitchers.

The pitching staff is awesome—leftiest Whitey Ford (18-7), Tommy Byrne (16-5) and Mickey McDermott, obtained from Washington. Bullet Bob Turley has improved his control and is in shape as is Don Larsen (9-2). Don't forget Bob Grim (7-5) and Rookie of the Year in 1955, Yogi Berra (MVP), Hank Bauer and a fella' named Mantle will be around.

Tribe Hurlers Potent

CLEVELAND—Getting a little shopworn around the edges but still potent. Senior Al Lopez has a pitching staff of Herb Score (16-10 as a rookie), Lemon (18-10), Wynn (17-11) and Garcia (11-13) with Art Houtteman (10-6) for good measure. Ray Narleski, the fastest pitcher in the majors, and Don Mossi will be around to put out any fires.

If Vic Wertz recovers from a polio attack, Bobby Avila (.272) doesn't drop 70 points in batting as he did in '55. at the plate, Senior Al Lopez will be set. Rookie Colavito (100 RBIs-30 HR man in minors) should add punch previously supplied by Larry Doby to lineup.

BOSTON—Mike Higgins' Red Sox are loaded with youth and talent and must rank as the dark horse. They strengthened themselves by obtaining Mickey Vernon (.301), Bob Porterfield (10-17) and Johnny Schmitz (7-10) from Washington over the winter. With Ted Williams ready for a full season, it looks like the Bosox are going for a one-year big push instead of the five year plan.

Rookies Don Buddin and Frank Malzone from Louisville will probably take away the jobs of 1955 shortstop Billy Klaus and third baseman Grady Hatton.

CHICAGO—Marty Marion feels he has improved his club and flatly predicts a pennant for the Pale Hose. But the other teams are also improved and fourth looks like high enough. The addition of Larry Doby in the Cleveland trade will add punch to the light-hitting Sox. Minnie Minoso should come back after having his troubles in 1955.

Chisox Infield Weak

Marion has definite infield problems—Rookie Luis Aparicio has to take over Carrasquel's job at short and aging George Kell is going to strip his gears and head back to his Arkansas farm any day now. The first three pitchers, Billy Pierce (15-10 and 1.97 ERA), Dick Donovan (15-9) and Jack Harshman (11-7) are tough.

DETROIT—Bucky Harris has a coming young club with power but at present there are too many gaping holes. Namely, at second base, in left field and relief pitching. Twenty-one-year-old batting king Al Kaline (.340), with Ray Boone (116 RBIs) and shortstop Harvey Kuenn (.306) will give the pitchers fits.

KANSAS CITY—Lou Boudreau's Athletics have power and a solid infield but suffer from inept pitching. The outfield is weak and aging. Boudreau needs a comeback by Bobby Shantz (MVP-'53) and Arnold Portacarrero badly. Keep your eye on sophomore Hector Lopez (.290).

WASHINGTON—Charley Dressen's Spanish improves and so does his ball club. His best players, Vernon, Porterfield, Schmitz and McDermott have hit the trail. It's a long road back.

BALTIMORE—Paul Richards should stick to field managing and leave the front office to the bromo-seltzer brigade. The punchless Orioles may have one bright prospect in Ray Moore, pitcher (10-10). Willie Miranda, ss, can field and Dave Philley, lf, can hit but they aren't near enough.



JIM WHITE romps home to add another Oregon run against Willamette at Howe Field yesterday afternoon. The Webfoot basebatter was pushed by Johnny Keller's long double in the sixth inning. Oregon walloped the Bearcats, 11 to 5.

Schlosstein, Dmochosky Help Ducks Down W.U.

By Terry Sherwood
Emerald Sports Writer

The University of Oregon's varsity baseball team, sparked by a six-inning, three-hit pitching effort by Stan Dmochosky, lashed the Willamette university Bearcats 11-5 in a Tuesday afternoon Howe field game.

Dmochosky, the ex-service veteran, in holding Willamette to three hits gave up only two runs during his six-inning stint on the mound, and struck out five Bearcat batters. He was replaced by a pinch-hitter in the sixth inning and Ev Styles finished out the ball game.

Ducks Score Twice in First

Oregon scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Jim Pifher and John Keller both drew bases on balls from Willamette starting hurler Brad Lucas. They both advanced on a double steal with Terry Maddox at the plate. Maddox, who went down via the strikeout route, was followed by first baseman, Dick Schlosstein. Schlosstein's broken-bat "Texas league" single over first base scored both Pifher and Keller.

The Webfoots added three more runs in the bottom of the fourth. Pifher again lead off and smashed a fly ball into the deep left field corner for a stand-up double. John Keller followed with a single to left, moving Pifher to third.

After a base on balls issued to Terry Maddox, Schlosstein hit his second single of the afternoon, this a sharply-hit liner between shortstop and second base. Both Pifher and Keller scored on the blow. Schlosstein scored on: Jim Pingree's sacrifice fly to left.

In the sixth inning, three walks, three singles, by Pingree, Keller and Eskildsen accounted for four more Oregon runs.

Ross Grabs Single

They ended the afternoon's scoring in the seventh with two more runs. Dick Schlosstein opened the inning with a single and

was followed by Jerry Ross who also singled. Jim Pingree's single and second hit of the game scored both Schlosstein and Ross.

Willamette gleaned their first run of the ballgame in the first inning by virtue of one Oregon error, a base on balls and two passed balls by the Duck catcher, Eskildsen.

They scored again in the second inning on two hits but failed to cross the plate again until the eighth inning. In the eighth, the Bearcats pushed across three runs on three hits on a two bagger by Willamette catcher, Jerry MacAllister.

Schlosstein Leads Slugging

Schlosstein, with three hits and four runs batted in, led the

Duck's 11-hit onslaught. He was followed by Jim Pingree, with two-for-three and Eskildsen who hit twice in four times at bat.

Schlosstein also came up with one of the game's outstanding plays in the fourth inning when he speared Frank Caruso's hard-hit ground ball deep behind first base and threw to Dmochosky for the out.

The Willamette game marked the fourth varsity victory of the season and the fourth this week. This afternoon, in another Howe field game, they again meet Linfield college. Game time is scheduled for three o'clock.

Willamette: 110 000 030—5 6 4
Oregon: 200 304 20x—11 11 3
Willamette: Lucas, Reid and MacAllister.
Oregon: Dmochosky, Styles and Eskildsen.

Olympic Coach Rates U.S. Team High; Russell, Hougland Listed as Big Assets

KANSAS CITY (AP)—The newly selected U. S. Olympic basketball squad should be equal to teams that represented this country in past years and "perhaps a bit stronger in the scoring department."

That is the opinion of Gerald Tucker who will coach the squad selected early Thursday by the Olympic Basketball Committee.

The Olympic Committee made the selections following completion of a three-day round-robin tournament here. Two AAU teams—the Bartlesville, Okla., Oilers and the Seattle Bakers—an armed forces team and a college all-star squad participated. The Oilers, coached by Tucker, won the tournament on a point basis, thus qualifying five men for the Olympics. Twelve players in all were selected, plus two alternates.

Of the 12, Bill Hougland, former University of Kansas star now playing with the Oilers, is the only one repeating from the 1952 Olympics.

Hougland said he felt his year's team, which will go to Melbourne, Australia for the games in November, would be just as strong as the 1952 outfit.

"In fact, we may be a bit better because of the addition of Bill Russell," he commented. "His superb shooting and height will be a tremendous asset along with the overall good balance of the squad."

Russell, 6 foot 10, the University of San Francisco All-American, played with the college all-stars in the round robin tournament.

In addition to Hougland other Bartlesville Oilers on the team are Chuck Darling, former Iowa great; Jim Walsh, onetime Stanford star; Burdette Halderson and Jeangerard played at the University of Colorado in their college days.

Others selected were Russell, K. C. Jones and Carl Cain of the College all-stars; Billy Evans, Gib Ford and Ron Timsic of the armed forces, and Dick Boushka of the Seattle Bakers.

Indians Handle Giants By 2-0 Victory Margin

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (AP)—For the second straight day brilliant Cleveland pitcher stopped the New York Giants by a score of 2-0.

Just as Bob Lemon and Bob Feller did the trick Wednesday, this time Herb Score, Ray Narleski and Bud Daley collaborated on a five hitter.

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