

EMERALD Sports

Duck Tracks

By Jim Larimore
Emerald Sports Writer

Every sports writer with the strength to sit up to a typewriter has picked the Brooklyn Dodgers to repeat as National league champs in 1956. There is no reason to go along with this line of reasoning as the other seven clubs in the league have glaring weaknesses which should keep them from overhauling the Bums.

But picking the finish from second to eighth places is a tough chore. With a deep, shuddering breath, here goes: 1. Brooklyn, 2. Milwaukee, 3. New York, 4. Cincinnati, 5. St. Louis, 6. Philadelphia, 7. Chicago and 8. Pittsburgh.

Here is a club by club run-down:

BROOKLYN — Walt Alston's Dodgers are loaded with power and have a promising rookie crop which should make them a stronger club than last year's world champions. Perennial Pee Wee Reese, 37, enjoyed his greatest season in '55 (.282 in 145 games) and will be back at shortstop. If he should run out of gas there is Don (Mighty Mouse) Zimmer and brilliant rookie Chico Fernandez on hand to fill in.



PEE WEE REESE
Ageless Little Colonel

Rookie Charley Neal, up from Montreal, has chased Junior Gilliam right off second base. Gil Hodges will have the first base job in his powerful hands and Ransom Jackson, power-hitter obtained from the Cubs will be at third. Jackie Robinson, still a hungry ballplayer at 37, reported to spring camp in fine shape and will be a hard man to keep on the bench.

The outfield is well-set at center and right with Duke Snider and Carl Furillo at their posts but left field may pose a problem. Manager Alston has some fine young pitchers; Don Drysdale, Ken Lehman, Sandy Koufax, Roger Craig and Don Bessent to replace Johnny Podres (who ever heard of being drafted into the Navy?) and sore-armed Karl Spooner and Bill Loes.

Braves Picked for Second

MILWAUKEE — Jolly Cholly Grimm has his troubles and might even lose his job if he fails to win the pennant, as the Milwaukee wolves are beginning to howl. The big question marks are pitcher Gene Conley's sore shoulder, Bobby Thompson's prospects for a comeback and the light stick-work of second baseman Danny O'Connell and Jack Dittmer.

The Braves pitching staff is predominantly southpaw and Warren Spahn (17-14) is not getting any younger. Rookie outfielder Wes Covington looks like a good prospect to stick with the club. It is hard to fathom the trading of first sacker George Crowe to Cincinnati except that Crowe (.281) was not happy playing behind Joe Adcock.

NEW YORK — Billy Rigney, one of the three new managers in the majors this season, has a ball club that is hard to evaluate. The Giants are weak at second, third, left field and the pitching staff is spotty.

But the Durocherless "Jints" have Willie Mays, Alvin Dark, Don Mueller and Johnny Antonelli. Rumor has it, by the way, that Durocher is going out of the television executive league on waivers.

Redlegs Lack Hurlers

CINCINNATI — Birdie Tebbetts has a team that is laden with power and sharp double play combination but is deficient in pitching talent. Joe Nuxhall, (17-14) is the sole bulwark of the staff but Birdie should get enough help from ex-Dodger Joe Black and ex-Cardinal Brooks Lawrence to finish in the first division.

ST. LOUIS — Fred Hutchinson, back in the big time after winning the PCL pennant at Seattle in 1955, has a

Beavers Roll On With 6-1 Triumph; Young's Homer Paces Sac Defeat

SACRAMENTO (AP)—Dick Young's leadoff home run, his second of the season, and Ed Mickelson's 400-foot triple were Portland's big weapons Thursday in defeating Sacramento 6-1 in the first half of a day-night Pacific Coast league double-header.

Young, whose home run won Tuesday's game, drove Thursday's wallop over the same right field fence. The Beavers added two more runs in the third inning on singles by Bill Girdley, Lloyd Merriman and Jim Baxes plus a wild pitch by Roger Osenbaugh and a throwing error by shortstop Tom Agosta.

With Young aboard on a single in the seventh, Mickelson lashed his triple against the cen-

terfield fence, later scoring himself on Bob Borkowski's single through short.

The only Solon run came in the first inning when Ferris Fain singled home Agosta from second. Fain later made two spectacular catches in left field to hold down the Portland scoring.

Rene Valdes was relieved with one out in the seventh after hits by George Risley and Harry Bright. Royce Lint came in to put down pinchhitter Russ Rosenberg and Agosta on pop flies.

First game:
Portland 102-000-201—6-12-0
Sacramento 100-000-000—1-10-3
Valdes, Lint (7) and Calderone; Osenbaugh, R. Jones (8) and Bright.

good young ball club. Many experts like the Cards to finish as high as third and they may well do it. However, Hutch is going with too many young pitchers at once.

Very seldom can a large number of youngsters be integrated into a ball club in one season. Harvey Haddix should be the bellwether of the staff and the Redbirds are counting heavily upon Vinegar Bend Mizell, back from the Army. Stan Musial is raring to go after the batting title and old Red Schoendienst will be at second base again.

Roberts Will Help Phillies

PHILADELPHIA — Mayo Smith brought the Phillies home fourth last year, but the boys from the City of Brotherly Love don't have enough pitching "cousins" to make up for their lack of overall punch.

Robin Roberts is the major's number one pitcher but is by himself on the staff unless Curt Simmons can regain his early form. Richie Ashburn (.338) won the batting crown last season and Del Ennis, a solid left-hander, hit .296 and drove in 120 runs. These few fine Phils need more help.

CHICAGO — Manager Stan Hack's Cubs have medium strong pitching, the best second to short combination in the majors (Banks to Baker) but have major holes to fill. The worst problem is the outfield, where Hack will rely on Monte Irvin, trying to make it back to the majors and Dodger castoff Walt Moryn for the heavy work.

Slugger Hank Sauer went to the Cardinals. The catching is inexperienced. The Cubs won't be a "bad" seventh place club and could win 70 games but still finish next-to-last.

Pirates Need Power

PITTSBURGH — The Pirates, managed by freshman Bobby Bragan, lack punch but have some good young pitchers and should give the leaders fits all year. If Frank Thomas gets any help in the power-hitting department, the Bucs may finish as high as sixth.

Pitcher Bob Friend (14-9) was ERA leader in 1955 with 2.84, the first time an eighth-placer has ever accomplished that feat. Vern Law and Dick Littlefield are two other young flingers to keep an eye on.

In the 1956 World Series, it looks like the Yankees over Brooklyn in six games. National league MVP will be Willie Mays, who will also take the batting crown. Rookie of the year — Charley Neal of Brooklyn. Twenty game winners — Don Newcombe, Brooklyn, Robin Roberts, Philadelphia and Johnny Antonelli, New York.

UO Divotmen Meet Rogues

The 1956 Oregon varsity golf team enters its first competition of the young season Saturday and Sunday when the Duck brigade faces a strong eight-man team from the Rogue River Country Club in Medford.

Coach Sid Milligan commented only that he has a "strong team." The Rogue River has been drilling for this match and Milligan expects them to put up some tough competition.

The low eight squad members making the trip are: Bob Prall, with a 71.5 average in the qualifying round; Bob Norquist, 72.0 average; Art Abrahamson, 72.75; Art Fujita, 74.5; Barry Ott and Don Anawalt, tied at 75.0; Chuck Higgins and Don Bick, deadlocked at 75.25.

IM Schedule

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Friday, April 13
Softball
3:50 North field, Philadelphia vs. Legal Eagles
3:50 South field, Hale Kane vs. Dorm Counselors
3:50 Upper field, Theta Chi vs. Delta Upsilon
4:55 North field, Delta Tau Delta vs. Phi Gamma Delta
4:55 South field, Pi Kappa Alpha vs. Phi Kappa Sigma
4:55 Upper field, Kappa Sigma vs. Phi Sigma Kappa
Tennis
Sigma Nu vs. Sigma Sigma
Golf
Sigma Phi Epsilon vs. Lambda Chi Alpha.

Bosox Snatch Win Despite Home Runs

WILSON, S.C. (AP)—The Philadelphia Phillies wasted two home runs as they dropped a 6-4 decision to the Boston Red Sox before a record breaking paid crowd of 6,500 here Thursday.

Rookie Bob Bowman and Roy Smalley hit the homers for the Phillies, but their efforts failed as Curt Simmons gave us four runs on five hits and six walks in the first five innings, then Jim Owens, who relieved him, was nicked for two more.

Frank Sullivan held the Phillies scoreless for the first four innings but Bowman and Smalley broke the spell in the next two frames.

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