



# Sports

## From the BLEACHERS

By AL LIGHTNER

Since our gone west WIL isn't around to inhale and exhale the baseball weather this spring because of her hibernation for the duration, we add to her obituary a few of the records, highlights and other outstanding incidents which came to pass in the six-year history of the circuit. Boasting in that six-year span everything from the rankest busher to the ex-major league star, the loop proved a stepping stone for a few who finally hit the big show as well as a pitfall for dozens of others, too numerous to mention, who dropped into baseball's oblivion.

Most of those few who finally made the grade after gathering momentum in the Western International were Les "Bill" Fleming, Rugger Ardizio, Cliff Dapper, Eddie Stewart and Jim Tyack of the Bellingham club now with the Club, Yanks, Dodgers, Pirates and Athletics respectively; Les Webber, Al-

don Wilkie, Larry Powell, Harvey Storey, Neil Clifford and Mary Rickett of Tacoma, who achieved success by landing with Dodgers, Pirates, Red Sox, Cubs, Cincy Reds and Cubs respectively at one time or another; Russ and Lloyd Christopher, Mike DeJan, Milo Candini, Al Gearhauser, Vince DiBiasi and Ed Kearse from Wenatchee to Yanks, Athletics, Reds and the last four to the Yankees respectively, and Froilan "Nanny" Fernandez from Yakima to Boston Braves.

### Many Stopped Over on Way Down

Stopping over in the circuit on their way down the ladder were such former diamond stars as Hal Rhyne, Lou Garland, Smead Jolley, Wes Schulmerich, Erly Horne, Glenn Wright, Ken Penner, Jimmie Reese, Bernie DeViveros, Johnny Kerr, Hal Sume, Eddie Wilson, Andy Harrington, Roy Chesterfield and Moose Clabaugh—all of whom added color galore during their 'leaves in the loop.

And all those say nothing of the many who went up and came down from the Coast wheel and other circuits in between the WIL and the majors.

Far and above all the powerhouse hitters who strode to the WIL plates with mace in hand was the "Big Smudge"—Jolley. He still holds all-time loop records for individual batting, runs batted in and two-base hits, all picked up in that big 1940 year when Smead hit .373, drove in 181 runs and laced out 56 doubles for Spokane.

Schulmerich, as deep as a clown as he was a pitcher's nightmare, led the loop in hitting the first season, 1937, with a .367 average while managing the Lewiston, Idaho, club. Lewiston also set an incomparable record that year by taking 23 consecutive losses. Incidentally, Lewiston became Bellingham in '38 and Bellingham in turn became Sale in 1940.

### Jolley's Gun Had Biggest Boom

Dave Goodman of Tacoma was batting champ in 1938 with a .337 average when the league developed into a pitcher's paradise and adopted the "dead" ball. The "rabbit" ball came back in '39 and Bill Skelly capped the crown for Wenatchee right out from under "mate Lloyd Christopher's" nose with a .366 mark. Jolley in '40 and again in '41 for Vancouver, the last time with a .345 mark, and our own Jack Richards' .3512 barely nosed out Vancouver's Clarence Maddern's .3510 for the title last summer.

Tacoma's Morry Abbot swatted out 37 homers in 1939 for the all-time high mark in that department and in 1940 our Bucky Harris, Paul McGinnis of Spokane and your writer, also an "ex," all had 18 triples for the recognized all-time high. You can skip this, but your "ex" was also the most missing member in the circuit's history, fanning 145 times in 1939 for Bellingham.

Vic Buccola's 52 stolen bases last summer for Spokane is tops and Tacoma's, (as well as Willamette's at one time) Stubby Harriman sacrificed 21 times in '39 for the high in that department.

Fearing Pete Hughes of Spokane was passed 156 times in '41 for high and Arnold Traxler, at home in wrestler's tights just as much as on the diamond, got in the way of pitched balls most by getting hit 18 times while with Wenatchee in '40. Traxler unseated us that year since fresh busher that we were in 1938, we were the target which was directly hit.

### Miller's 24 Wins a Record

Oscar "Red" Miller, well known in semi-pro circles hereabouts now, hung up the most wins for any one season—24 for Yakima in 1937. But Don Osborn's 18 wins and 3 losses in 1941 and 22 and 3 last year earn the ex-Vancouver pitcher-manager the title of outstanding moundman in the life of the league.

Osborn's 1.63 earned run average compiled last season is also tops in the circuit and bested the 1.79 Fleming had in '38. Fleming's mark that year was the best in all organized baseball, by the way.

Strikeout king of the circuit was Floyd "Lefty" Isekite of Tacoma. In '38 Lefty mowed down 246 batters the hard way. Yakima's Howard Johnson hit 18 batters in '37 for high and Bob Williams of Wenatchee walked 186 and wild pitched 24 times in 1941 to take the laurels in those departments.

### Pennant Winners Always Failed

Spokane's amazing .315 team batting average in 1940 was tops by far and in '41 and '42 the Vancouver team fielding mark of .263 each year proved to be the best ever.

Wenatchee and Tacoma each won a half pennant in '37 with the Tigers getting the flag via a playoff. Yakima nosed out Bellingham in '38, although the Chinooks nabbed the Shaughnessy playoffs. Wenatchee hauled up the pennant in '39 but Tacoma again demonstrated that the pennant winner seldom comes through in the Shaughnessys by nabbing the '39 playoffs. Spokane's fine clubs came through in '40 and '41 and Vancouver finally got over the hump last year and keeps the flag until the clubs get back to battling after the bigger battle.

## A's to Dicker For Johnson

TACOMA, March 20—(AP)—Bob Johnson, outfielder with the Philadelphia Athletics for the past 10 seasons, said here Saturday the Washington Senators had been

given permission by the A's to dicker for his services.

Johnson said terms offered him by Washington were "quite satisfactory," but that he would not agree to report until his differences with the Philadelphia club in connection with a 1942 bonus arrangement were straightened out.



The major league spring ball camps sprung open last week and here's a few scenes of the boys going through preliminaries for the coming campaigns. Upper left, three pitchers for the World Champion Cardinals, (left to right) Howard Pollet, Ernie White and Mort Cooper, look over long underwear issued by Property Man Butch Yankeman on the first day. Upper right, Cleveland Manager Lou Boudreau gets the feel of his glove after slipping on his uniform jacket and cap. Boudreau says the Indians are "the team to beat" this year. Lower photo, Al Unser (left), rookie, asks Detroit Manager Steve O'Neill which position to try for. Unser is listed as a catcher but can play almost any position.

## Cardinal Chain Gang Proving Worth Despite Player Losses

CAIRO, Ill., March 20—(AP)—Even more than in peace-time, the St. Louis Cardinals' farm system is proving its value today at the champions' spring training camp where manager Billy Southworth faces the problem of replacing his war losses.

Three world series heroes—outfielders Enos Slaughter and Terry Moore and pitcher Johnny Beazley—are in the armed forces and second-baseman Jimmy Brown has been called for his physical examination with possible induction in mid-April.

Yet, Cardinal fortunes have not yet been affected to the extent that similar military contributions have weakened the majority of the other major league teams. The reason is that the Cardinals farms, while virtually shut down themselves, have supplied the parent club with a group of promising replacements. It's perhaps premature to put the yardstick on rookies in advance of actual big-time experience but it's safe to predict, as Southworth did, that the Cardinals will have "a very interesting team."

## Blair Topped Rookie Hitters

DURHAM, N.C., March 20—(AP) Jim Blair, first baseman with Petersburg of the Virginia league last season, was the leading rookie batter of the 1942 minor leagues, according to an announcement Saturday by the national association. Blair, a home town boy, batted

## Will Use It On the Axis Now



KELLER WAGNER, well-known heavyweight fighter in Salem and the northwest, will do his battling for Uncle Sam now if he passes his final induction examination. Wagner went into the army as an inductee in the March 19 group from Salem.

## NOTES FROM THE Spring Ball Camps

ASBURY PARK, N.J., March 20—(AP)—Rookie infielder George Stirnweis reported to the New York Yankee training camp Saturday and immediately increased Manager Joe McCarthy's worries. McCarthy is planning to use Stirnweis, who swiped 73 bases while playing with Newark of the International league last year, at either shortstop or third base during the coming campaign. But Joe Gordon, regular Yank second baseman, is a hold-out and so McCarthy indicated he would use the rookie at the keystone in early April.

TRENCH, Ind., March 20—(AP)—The Chicago White Sox forgot contract troubles Saturday as four athletes—shortstop Luke Appling, catcher Mike Tresh, and outfielders Wally Moses and Moose Solters—either appeared in camp or informed club officials they soon would be. Moses said he would report Monday, Appling sent a telegram he would be here Tuesday and Solters notified the club he would appear as soon as he could find a man to replace him at his tavern. Tresh strode into camp, beaming and apparently well satisfied with his contract. Workouts again were restricted, most of the action being confined to indoor tactics.

## McNutt Flashes Green Light for Wartime Golf

By TED MEIER  
PHILADELPHIA, March 20—(AP)—Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the war manpower commission, has given the go-ahead signal for wartime golf, Ed Dudley, president of the Professional Golfers' association disclosed today.

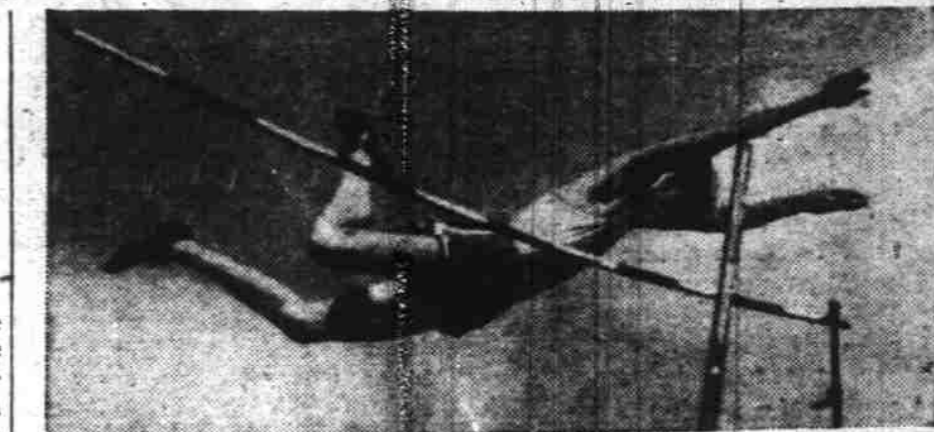


It was emphasized, however, that the war effort comes first and that persons should only play in their spare time and provided they do not abuse transportation privileges. Dudley said golf has been seriously handicapped in the past year by an "adverse psychological influence in the minds of the people due to the fact that many who wanted to play and get beneficial exercises were afraid they would appear unpatriotic."

"Mr. McNutt," Dudley said in a statement, "was surprised to learn that this psychology prevailed. He pointed to the emphasis which the armed forces place upon physical fitness through recreation and exercise. While certainly professional sports can never expect any kind of favored treatment either in draft deferment or in competition with essential or wartime industries, recreational sport as such, he felt, would be a good thing."

"If country clubs can provide horsedrawn vehicles to get their players to the courses or if the people can reach them by public conveyances, there is no reason why they should not play in their spare time. Bear in mind that the war effort comes first, but don't be afraid to get out and exercise on the golf courses at the right time. Don't feel that it is unpatriotic to play golf," McNutt stated.

## Sailor Warmerdam Sails up 15-8 1/2 To Notch 'Nother New Vault Mark



ENSIGN CORNELIUS WARMERDAM, the pole vault king. He hiked the record to 15 feet 8 1/2 inches Saturday night in Chicago.

## Bearcats Belt Prison Outfit

### Ball Season Opened With 13-1 Triumph

Willamette's Bearcats and the Penitentiary Grays ushered in the 1943 baseball season Saturday inside the prison walls but Coach Spec Keene's outfit made it a miserable debut for the distant State street boys by routing 'em, 13 to 1.

The 'Cats creased the offerings of Cornwall, Farrell and Zimmerman for a dozen blows and picked up tally clusters of two, one, two, two and six in the eight inning game. Eight convict bobbles accounted for almost half the 'Cat scores.

Earl Toolson, Ammon Adams and Bill Hanauka divided the mound chores for Keene's outfit and allowed in all only four hits. Toolson was touched for hit lone prison tally.

Art Baird smashed out a long homer in the third and Ben Schad hung a triple high on one of the cell blocks in the six-run eighth for Willamette. Don Hilton and Bud Larson also contributed a couple of run-scoring blows apiece in the 'Cat assault.

The Grays, minus the services of their famous pitcher, big Luke Crosswhite, who's now out on parole, were no match for the Methodists, although both teams had only a few days training under their belts. The teams met again next Saturday.

Keene announced his 'Cats would meet Oregon's Webfoots here on Friday, April 2.

Line score:  
Willamette 201 022 06—13 12 2  
Grays 001 000 00—1 4 8  
Toolson, Adams (4), Hanauka (6), and Cannon, Krcolnik (6); Cornwall, Farrell (4), Zimmerman (4) and Fuller, Springfield (6).

## 56th Training Camp for Mack

PHILADELPHIA, March 20—(AP)—Connie Mack goes south—just 30 miles, to Wilmington, Del.—Monday, for his 56th spring training jaunt as a baseball player and manager.

The 80-year-old manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, recalling his first training trip with the Washington Senators in 1888, said Saturday:

"We had 15 players that year and we bunked two in a longer berth and one in an upper to Charlotte, N.C. Then we changed trains and rode in a day coach to Jacksonville, Fla.

"We lived in a third-class hotel during the training season, because the first and second-class hotels wouldn't house 'rowdy' ball players. In fact, we weren't allowed to mingle with the other guests at our own hotel."

## WSC Ringsters Off for Meet

PULLMAN, March 20—(AP) Mike Melson, 155-pounder on the Washington State college boxing team, and David Knight, 135 pounds, left this afternoon for the National Collegiate Athletic association boxing tournament at the University of Wisconsin in Madison next Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

They are the first WSC entries in two years in the nationals. The pair, accompanied by Coach Red Spiegelberg, were to stop in Spokane over Sunday and work out here, then proceed to Madison Monday morning.

## WWCE Sans Trackmen

CHENEY, March 20—(AP)—Coach Bob Brumblay faces in his track team the same paucity of experienced athletes he had in this year's basketball team, a team which nevertheless took the Winko league title and went on to be a leading contender for national honors.

## Grovesters Win

MIDDLE GROVE—The Middle Grove softball team smashed out an easy win over the visiting Hazel Green nine here Friday afternoon.

## Basketball Scores

National AAU Tourney at Denver (Championship game)  
Phillips '66 Oilers 57, Denver Legion 40.  
(For third and fourth places)  
Wyoming University 58, Denver University 45.

## Husky Five Draws Texas in Tourney

### Wyoming Plays Okies First Game Western NCAA Playoffs Friday

KANSAS CITY, March 20—(AP) The first round of the NCAA Western basketball play-off pits the University of Oklahoma against Wyoming at 8 p.m., and Washington against Texas at 9:30 p.m., Friday night to determine who shall battle it out in the finals the next night.

Drawings for both first round opponents and playing time were made Saturday by the fifth district basketball committee of the NCAA. Pairings were arrived at by drawings from a hat by the committee, headed by Dr. H. H. King of Kansas State college and including George Edwards, basketball coach at University of Missouri; Bill Williams, basketball coach at Drake university, and C. E. McBride, sports editor of the Kansas City Star.

The winner of the Western play-offs will go to New York to meet the winner of the Eastern play-offs in the NCAA championship game. The championship team will meet the winner of the New York invitational tournament in a Red Cross benefit game later in Madison Square Garden.

## Phillips Oilers Defeat Denver For National AAU Hoop Title

DENVER, March 20—(AP)—With a dazzling speed attack Phillips Oilers of Bartlesville, Okla., won the national AAU basketball championship Saturday night by beating Denver American legion, the defending champion, 57-40.

The Phillips speed built up a seven-point lead at the start of play before the legion could score a point. Phillips led 23-12 at halftime.

In the first game of the evening, to settle third and fourth place standings, two scoring bursts by sleek-muscled Kenny Sailors short Wyoming University to a 58-45 win over Denver University and gave the cowboys third honors in the tournament.

## 39 Fighters In NCAA Meet

MADISON, WIS., March 20—(AP) Thirty-nine boxers, representing 12 colleges and universities and one US army flying school, have been entered in the ninth annual national collegiate athletic association tournament to be held March 25, 26 and 27 in the University of Wisconsin field house, Buy Sundt, tournament manager, announced Saturday night.

Schools which have entered boxers include Washington State.

## Bocchi All-State To Baker Quint

BAKER—March 20—(AP)—Baker's Bulldogs Saturday named Captain Jim Bocchi of Klamath Falls' State basketball champs on their all-opponent team. Bocchi didn't rate the official All-State first team, although he hooped 20 points in the title game with Baker during the tournament at Salem.

## Trappers Fire for Merchandise Today

Secretary Clarence Townsend reminds that the Salem Trappers club will hold a merchandise shoot on the club range today starting this morning at 10 o'clock. Members are urged to join in the shoot.

## Nancy Captures New Record

PORTLAND, Ore., March 20—(AP) Sixteen-year-old Nancy Merkl of Portland added another national title to her collection by swimming the 100-yard women's junior breaststroke course in 1:21 minutes. Miss Merkl, holder of several middle distance titles, finished far ahead of a field composed of teammates from the Multnomah athletic club.

## Both Outdoor, Indoor Marks Bested by Hop

### Gil Dodds Gallops To Banker Mile Win

CHICAGO, March 20—(AP)—Ensign Cornelius Warmerdam Saturday night bettered his own world's record in the pole vault at the Chicago relays by leaping 15 feet 8 1/2 inches.

Warmerdam's feat topped both his world outdoor mark of 15 feet 7 1/2 inches and his world indoor record of 15 feet 7 1/4 inches. Dashing down a 140-foot runway, Warmerdam barely ticked the bar making it vibrate slightly.

While the rest of the field dropped out, Warmerdam, vaulting for the first time as a navy man stationed at the Chapel Hill, NC pre-flight school, soared over the bar at 15 feet 1 1/2 inches and then at 15 feet 3 1/4 inches before taking off on his record jump. His successes added up to the 33rd time he had cleared 15 feet or better.

Gil Dodds, Boston divinity student, broke on top and held the lead throughout to win the Bankers Mile with 10 yards to spare over Second Place Ed Mitchell of Indiana. His time Saturday night was 4:58.5. Dodds thus annexed his second major title of the season, having won the Boston Baxter in 4:05.8. His time Saturday night was the best mile of the year.

Frank Dixon, the New York university freshman seeking his fourth big mile crown after winning the Hunter, Columbian and National AAU, fell into the tape in an effort to beat out Mitchell after his famous closing sprint failed him, but came in third.

One world record was equalled when Herbert Thompson posted a time of 30.4 in the 40-yard dash, first event in the spring series which the New York negro has dominated for the last three years.

The first upset of the meet, which attracted a crowd of about 16,000, came in the "1000" when Les Eisenhart, former Ohio State captain and now running out of Port Clinton, O., beat out the famed Gene Venke by two yards, and Dave Matthews, Michigan track captain, who finished third.

Little Greg Rice captured his 63rd successive race in the two-mile despite a gallant challenge by Notre Dame's Ollie Hunter. Time was 8:55.9.

## Cougar Track Stock Rises

PULLMAN, March 20—(AP)—The stock of the Washington State college track team received a boost with the announcement Saturday by Coach Babe Holmberg that four more experienced thin-clads are turning out.

The four lettermen are Captain Pat Haley, sprints and hurdles; Larry Brown, sprints; Scott Witt, field events, and Bill Zimmerman, hurdles and field events.

## Fite Results

PITTSBURGH, March 20—(AP) Buddy Walker, Columbus negro heavyweight, knocked out Dan Merritt, Cleveland negro heavy, in the second round of their scheduled 10-round fight tonight. Walker weighed 192; Merritt 210.

NEW YORK, March 20—(AP) Phil Norman, 148, Detroit, and Carl "Buddy" Farrell, 150, battled to a draw Saturday night in an eight round bout that had Norman saved by the bell at the end of the seventh and Farrell staggering helplessly about the ring in the final frame.

## Nancy Captures New Record

The race was one of two national titles events held in connection with the annual Oregon swimming meet. The other is the 150-yard women's junior individual medley, scheduled for Sunday. The only state record established was by Bud Hill of the Washington athletic club, Seattle, who swam the 100-yard boy's breast-stroke in 1:21 minutes.