

I-told-you-so dept.: About a month ago—at the time Bob Feller and Ted Williams were made their lunge-dripping offers from one Jorge Pasquel of Mexico City—we wrote here that baseball, American species, faced a dilemma. The deduction was simple. Any time a guy, even one wearing a Chihuahuan sombrero, starts offering ballgamers diamond jobs reaching into the five figure bracket there's bound to be woe. Knowing a little bit about the game and some of the bat-wielding and curve-bending gents who make it tick, we wrote at the time that misters such as Branch Rickey had something to fret about in this baseball cousin of theirs: below the border. Since then at least a dozen recognizable ballplayers, including Vern Stephens of the Browns, Danny Gardella, George Hausmann, Sal Maglie and Roy Zimmerman of the Giants and Mickey Owen of the Dodgers, have quit the American game for Mexico pay and play. More are certain to go, for Pasquel has apparently convinced all he means business, big business. Few are the ballgamers who put love of the game before how much they can make in it once they turn pro. And fewer are the baseball purse-string holders who'll loosen up to give the ball-player what he thinks he's worth.

The how come connected with the story of Fitcher Steve (Thin Man) Gerkin, no less than a starting pitcher for Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics last season and now one of Frisco Edwards' prizes in daily rumps at the ball yard, is answered easily by the Coastville,

# SPORTS LIGHTNER

by Al Lightner



STEVE GERKIN

Pa., native himself. Rather than accept the ignominy of being a Portland Beaver reliever, lucky to start a game a month, the conscientious slabster would much rather work with the Senators where he can take his starting turn every fourth day. "I've got to have work, lots of it, to be effective," Gerkin opines. "I couldn't see where I was going to get it with Portland, so I asked if they would send me here. I'd rather work in a league where I have a chance

stray apartment in our town. And while you're at it, Messrs. Roy Younker, Carl Gunnarson, George Vico, and others, are on the prowl for places to roost their respective families also.

Sportie sorties: Salem Junior League's Prexy Oliver Huston has sold his cow and quit his extra job at the likker store, but he still claims to be at least the equal of the busiest gent in town. A couple of lawyers are gone at the state house and Oliver has inherited most of their work along with his own. The prexy intends calling the annual spring meeting of the Junior moguls soon, so don't stray off. . . . Gale Bishop, the basketball big who got \$15,000 for writing Gale Bishop on a Boston Braves contract, has been shunted to Indianapolis of the American Association on option. Which means he apparently wasn't such a big wind with the Bostonians. . . . Tommy Luke, Beaver Booster boss, writes he and his clan are after a 17,500 opening day attendance figure for Vaughn street. At least 50 of those fans, says Luke, must come from our town. In fact, the Maple & Keene establishment has 50 ducks for the April 16 Portland home starter. . . . We'd like to bet T. Luke Salem attendance that day will be nearer 250 than 50.

And speaking of bets, the Beavers have a bet with Seattle that Portland outdrags the Rainiers on opening day. The Beaver bat, that huge thing hanging in the foyer at the park, has been put up against a similar Seattle bat, the winner to take the enemy's bludgeon for the season. . . .

## Dads' Basket Feed Tonight

### City's Hoopsters To Be Honored

Salem's aspiring Dads' club, anxious to honor the city's basketball players after successful seasons in Northwest conference, No Name league, Junior high, AAU and Goldenball play, tonight plays host to almost 100 hoopsters at a 6:30 o'clock banquet at the chamber of commerce.

All members of the club are urged to be present to join in festivities. Dads' clubbers can purchase tickets at Maple & Keene's today.

Teams and their coaches to be fed and feted are Salem high varsity — Coach Harold Hark; Salem high Jrvees—Coach Gurnee; Coach Fleisher; Salem high Sophs—Coach Frank Beer; Parrish Junior high varsity — Coaches Bob Metzger and Emmett Rickard; Leslie Junior high varsity — Coaches Bob Keucher and Harry Mohr; Willamette university varsity — Coach Les Sparks (or a substitute since Sparks is out of town); Page Woolsens AAU third placers and City league champs — Coach Frankie Page, and the recent Portland Goldenball tournament teams — the Jayvees, Intermediates and Sophs — which brought home practically all the prizes in the long Rose City derby.

Entertainment and speakers have been lined up for the occasion. There is a possibility that OSC Coach Slats Gill will be the main speaker.

## Woodburn Sets Fistic Party

WOODBURN, April 3 (Special)—Woodburn high's Lettermen's club and the Future Farmers of America team are to play host to a boxing smoker in the high school gym Thursday night, 7:45 o'clock. Fighters from Chemawa, St. Paul, Gervais, Mt. Angel and Woodburn will box off a dozen three-round scraps. A six-man, battle royal will also be presented by the Oregon training schoolers, Packy McFarland, Salem, will be the referee.

Black Decker, 148, Mt. Angel vs. Ivan Vastan, 148, Woodburn. Johnny Kenasider, 142, Mt. Angel vs. Stanley Heide, 148, Woodburn. Bill Anderson, 150, Woodburn vs. George Reiter, 145, Mt. Angel. Bill Anderson, 150, Woodburn vs. Bill Tuley, 139, Mt. Angel. Ronald Saxton, 155, Oregon Training school vs. Jack Morton, 155, St. Paul. Cliff Tuss, 145, Woodburn vs. Jack Bonner, 144, Woodburn.

Bruce Miller, 138, OSTs vs. Lindy Phillips, 138, St. Paul. Jim Gay, 150, Woodburn vs. Bill Tremaine, 150, Woodburn. Charlie Brewer, 150, Mt. Angel vs. Wall Wilmes, 155, St. Paul. Cleve Weeden, 147, Gervais vs. Dick Hodges, 145, Chemawa. Bill Anderson, 150, Woodburn vs. Bill Collier, 170, OSTs. Ralph Roggenbach, 140, Mt. Angel vs. Joe Choquette, 150, Chemawa.

## Thin 'Mex' Air Aids Sluggers, Hurts Curvers

By Whitney Martin  
NEW YORK, April 3 (AP)—The baseball players who think they are hitting the jackpot in going to Mexico may not know it, but they also may be hitting a baseball farther than they ever thought possible.

In fact, we may soon see hearing of athletes who had trouble getting the ball out of the infield in this country suddenly blossoming into lethal wallpoppers who will be asking, "who was this guy Babe Ruth, anyway?"

That thin air, that is which offers comparatively little resistance to a baseball, permitting what would normally be a pop fly to the shortstop to sail out over the left fielder's head.

A fellow who returned recently from Mexico City reports he saw Luis Olmo, the former Dodger, hit a home run that must have carried close to 500 feet, and Olmo, although he hit a long ball on occasion, certainly was no Ruth or Hank Greenberg or Jimmy Foxx in this country.

The rarefied air also has its effect on the pitching, the ob-server reports. Fast ball pitchers can breeze the ball up to the plate like a rocket, but curve ball pitchers have one heck of a time making the ball do anything but bend a little wearily in its flight. There isn't enough atmosphere resistance to make the ball do its stuff.

Just what they'll do on the ball field remains to be seen. Likewise what the future holds for these border-jumping athletes is a big question. They must be convinced of the durability of the Mexican league or they would not brave the five-year suspension that has been imposed automatically for making the jump.

## Hoag Comes Back, Cops Beavers Drop Slugfest TKO in 4th Over Cook

### Seattle Boy Fags Out After Building Lead; James, Abney Win, Moore Takes First Loss

Damaging Duane Hoag showed a disappointing \$1578 house why they call him "The Durable" last night at the army.

The Tex Salkeld battering ram, definitely not up to the snuff he has shown in previous outings here, nonetheless got off his new silk panties twice to grab a fourth round TKO over Archie Cook in their fist-filled rematch.

It wasn't so much a case of Hoag outslugging the rangy Seattle boy—it was more the fact that Cook outslugged himself.

Hoag handler Salkeld insisted Cook "weigh under 135" for the retake of the roaring six-rounder the two slammed off here two weeks back, and the losing of the weight apparently weakened Cook too much. He simply ran out of gas in a riotous fourth heat after coming within a split hair of salting The Durable away in both the first and second stanzas. That fourth round, loaded with everything from a toe-to-toe start to warnings to Cook from Referee Packy McFarland to "lay off" what looked like rabbit-punching and elbowing, saw the 134½ pound Seattle boy fade out after holding the rallying 126½ pound Portlander even for the period. Cook slumped to the deck when he reached his corner, McFarland took one look, saw he wasn't fit to go on, and gave the duke to Hoag.

Hoag, fighting not like the usual buzz-saw he can be, nearly got himself kayoed in the first round. Cook caught him with a right high on the head to floor him for a one count and then followed up by backing the Dane into his own corner for a vicious two-fisted attack. Again in the second Hoag went down, this time from a slashing left to the face and over the counts. But he rallied strongly near the end to avoid signs of an apparent kayo.

The Salkeld boy opened up in the third and won the round despite failing to display much of his dynamiting style. Then in the fourth both came out after a knockout and stood toe to toe trying to get it for fully 10 seconds. Cook, hot to go, waved Hoag to "come and get it." He got it, all right, but dished some of it out to Cook also during the roaring round. It was apparent halfway through that Cook had blown out, and near the finish Hoag was trying to set him up for the payoff blow.

The semiwindup saw Manuel James, 157 pound Portland negro whiz, deck Johnny O'Day, 156, Butte, Mont., seven times in the first two rounds before slamming a wicked left to the tummy in 50 seconds of the third to gain a kayo over the stocky but Montana. Many thought James connected low with his wallopping lefts but the payoff punch landed above the beltline. O'Day just didn't like those thrusts at his middle.

Bud Abney, Sam Duncan southpaw at 146½, hardly drew a sweat before he had Swede Anderson, 148, Portland TKO'd in 2:40 of the first round of their four-mast-er. Abney's hard lefts scored easily and Anderson went down twice before Referee McFarland stopped it. Anderson was just as glad as Abney it was over.

Leon Moore, 134½, another Dunham boy, got his 5-fight win streak stopped abruptly in his prelim with Kid Brown, 135½, Portland, when Brown, scoring right and left all the way through with hard wallpops, took an easy decision. Moore was down for nine in the fourth. The opener between Bill Towery, 137, Turner, and Frankie Perry, 138, Portland, the latter subbing for Jackie Dillon, went to a draw. Towery was downed in the first round and was bloodied up considerably, but lasted through to get the split. Perry went down for a no counter in the fourth.

COOPER DISCHARGED  
ST. LOUIS, April 3 (AP)—Walker Cooper, the New York Giants' \$175,000 catcher, parted company with the U.S. navy today and prepared to head east to catch up with his club.

Vandals-Whits Vie  
MOSCOW, Idaho, April 3 (AP)—The University of Idaho baseball team will open an eight-game series with Whitman college in Walla Walla Friday, Coach Guy Wicks said today. The Vandals will play four games Friday and Saturday and entertain the Missionaries in Moscow next Wednesday and Thursday to finish up.

Amity Sets Sked  
AMITY, The Amity high school 1946 baseball schedule has been announced as follows: April 19—Willamina here. April 23—At Yamhill. April 30—Sheridan here. May 7—Dayton here. May 10—Yamhill here. May 14—Carlton here. May 17—At Sheridan. May 21—At Willamina. May 24—At Dayton. May 27—At Sheridan.

DEL RIO, Tex., April 3 (AP)—The St. Louis Browns passed a run in the ninth inning today to defeat the Chicago Cubs, 1 to 0. The victory gave the Browns a 7 to 5 lead in the series.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 3 (AP)—The Chicago White Sox won their fourth straight game from the Pittsburgh Pirates, today, 6 to 2, with pitcher Johnny Rigney going the full nine innings for the Sox. He yielded six hits and missed a shutout on Ralph Kiner's fluke two run homer.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., April 3 (AP)—A three-run homer by Red Durret climaxed a five-run third inning for the Brooklyn Dodgers today and gave the Brooklyn 5 to 2 victory over the New York Giants in an exhibition baseball game.

## Beavers Drop Slugfest 34 Hits Rattle Off Rivals' Bats in Wild Fracas; Acorns Lead Current Series, 2-0

OAKLAND, Calif., April 3 (AP)—The Oakland Acorns overcame the Portland Beavers, 15-12, in a wild hitting Pacific coast league game tonight. The clubs knocked out 34 hits in their see-saw battle. The outcome of which gave Oakland a 2-0 series lead.

Don Pulford started for Portland and appeared to be breezing along behind a 10 to 4 lead despite a poor opening frame, when the roof caved in in the fifth and the Oaks scored five runs. Joe Orrell came in to quell the riot, but he, Jack Tising, and Jack Salveson got nothing but buffetings the rest of the way. Portland outbit the winners 13 to 14.

OAKLAND	AB	R	H	PO	A
Burnett, ss	6	1	2	1	0
D. Smith, cf	4	3	1	1	0
Strange, 2b	3	2	1	1	0
Gullic, rf-3b	6	2	3	2	0
Reich, if	6	0	6	3	0
Flanagan, c	5	0	1	1	0
M. Smith, cf	3	1	1	1	0
Barton, lb	3	0	0	10	0
Brown, 3b	5	0	2	2	0
Helm, c	3	1	0	3	0
Pulford, p	3	1	2	0	1
Orrell, p	0	0	0	0	0
Tising, p	0	0	0	0	0
Adams, x	1	0	0	0	0
Salveson, p	1	0	0	0	0
Souza, c	0	0	0	0	0
Amaral, xx	1	0	1	0	0
Escober, xxx	1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	46	12	24	23	13

OAKLAND	AB	R	H	PO	A
Burnett, ss	6	1	2	1	0
D. Smith, cf	4	3	1	1	0
Martin, if	5	2	3	4	0
Scarcella, lb	2	3	1	3	4
Hart, 3b	2	3	1	3	4
Holder, cf	2	2	0	0	0
Stewart, 2b	3	0	0	7	0
Raimondi, c	4	0	0	7	0
Gassaway, p	1	0	0	0	0
Salveson, p	2	0	0	0	0
Bearden, p	2	0	0	0	0
Buxton, p	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	40	15	16	27	13

Portland 233 692 902-12  
Oakland 406 652 40-12  
Errors—Gullic, Flager, 2, Burnett, Hart. Runs batted in—Straw, Gullic, 4, Reich, 4, Brown, Scarcella, 2, Holder, 2, Stewart, 3, Tising, 2, Gassaway, 2, Bearden, 1, Earned runs—Pulford, 4, Orrell, 2, Tising, 4, Gassaway, 1, Bearden, 3, Buxton, 1. Hits—off Pulford 8 in 5 innings; Orrel 4 in 3; Tising 3 in 2; Gassaway 3 in 2; Bearden 3 in 3; Passing balls—Raimondi, Helm, Winning pitcher—Orrell, 2. Home runs—Orrell, 1. Umpires—Summers, Ford and Sears. Time—2:47. Attendance 2500.

## Pair of Texans, Ben and By, Favorites for Masters' Title

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 3 (AP)—Except for Byron Nelson's ailing right wrist, everything appeared to be in readiness tonight for the opening of the first post-war masters golf tournament. Nelson, winner of the last masters played in 1942 and co-favorite with Ben Hogan to win the \$2500 first prize in the current event, did not practice today.

He spent an hour with an osteopath getting the aches rubbed out of his wrist upon which he slept inadvertently two nights ago. He said he thought it would be okay by the time he tees off in the feature twosome, with Bobby Jones.

The bookmakers, frankly making no effort to choose between the two former Texas caddies, Nelson and Hogan, in the 72-hole test, bracketed them at 3-1 against Sammy Snead, who arrived only today in time for a brief practice session. He was held at 4-1. Jimmy Demaret, a former winner, was offered at 6-1.

## Rainiers Drop Fifth Straight

LOS ANGELES, April 3 (AP)—Los Angeles made it two straight over Seattle today, whipping the Rainiers by a score of 5 to 2 behind Dick Conger's effective pitching. Conger gave up 10 hits but kept them fairly well scattered while the Angels bunched their 12 safeties in the fifth and seventh.

It was the Rainiers' fifth defeat in five starts this year. Los Angeles has been scored on only six times in five games.

Seattle 180 609 610-13 8  
Los Angeles 199 620 20-5 12 1  
Orphan, Hutchison (4) and Sennie, Conger and Williams.

Twinks 4, Sacs 3  
SACRAMENTO, April 3 (AP)—The Hollywood Stars defeated Sacramento 4-3 tonight in a Pacific Coast league game before 2000 persons.

Seals 7, Padres 1  
SAN DIEGO, Calif., April 3 (AP)—Pounding three San Diego pitchers for 11 hits, the San Francisco Seals defeated the Padres 7 to 1 in a Pacific Coast league game tonight. Cliff Melton, Seal southpaw, limited the Padres to four hits.

San Francisco 602 602 200-7 11 8  
San Diego 600 600 001-1 4 4  
Melton and Sprinz; Eaves, Chapetta (7), Knowles (8) and Rice.

## Williams Hurt 'Cat Hopes, Too

Hopes of at least an even split when the Willamette university nine makes its '46 debut in a doubleheader at the University of Oregon Friday were dealt a severe blow at the Bearcat fair yesterday afternoon when Ollie Williams, hard hitting veteran first baseman, caught a hard throw from an infielder flush in the mouth while holding down the first sack during a practice session. The jaw was thought broken, and how long Williams will be sidelined was not known.

Replacing Williams at first base in the starting lineup Friday will be Bud Fairham. Others in the infield will be Earl Hampton, second base, Bruce Barker third base, and either Bill Winters or Charles Whittemore at shortstop. In the outfield will be Joe Dispenziera and Don Ackley, leftmen, and Marvin Goodman.

Either Howard Olsen or Clay Patterson will draw the starting assignment in Friday's initial clash, with the second game pitched from a group including George Wilkenson, Bob Charleton, Carl Butte and Dick Hightberger. Completing the battery will be Howard Blanding, With Joe Meyer and Hank Ercolini both likely to see action behind the plate during the twin bill.

## Beantown Looking Beyond '46

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., April 2 (AP)—Billy Southworth is launching a shiny new three-year plan in Boston with a first rate outfield but little else to back it up. Serious trouble in the left side of the infield and pitching headaches probably add up to a second division finish.

If money could do the trick, the Braves would win the flag in nothing flat. President Lou Ferrel and his contracting associates tossed a \$500,000 check at owner Sam Breadon last winter in an unsuccessful attempt to buy Shortstop Marty Marion from the Cardinals. They would do it again if they thought it would do any good.

Boston still has hopes of landing an experienced infielder (Whitey Kurovski, Card hold-out is the one they want) and some more pitching, but it is not too well prepared to go trading. Cash is their big asset with a smattering of run-of-the-mill surplus talent.

The owners are not expecting Southworth to rebuild the team in a single spring. They signed him to a three-year contract with instructions to start rebuilding.



OUT: Fresh out of the navy and apparently organized baseball too, Catcher Mickey Owen of the Brooklyn Dodgers says he will leave for Mexico City soon to complete arrangements for playing with the Mexican league. (AP wirephoto)

SEATTLE, April 3 (AP)—Lucius W. (Pop) Waterman, 46, is shooting for a berth on the University of Washington track team as a sprinter and discus thrower.

"My mind is okay," said the ex-GI, "but my legs lie up on me. I'll get loosened up soon and maybe I can show the kids how an old guy can run."

## Bowling

MAJOR LEAGUE	VALLEY PACKING
V-S, SALEM (1)	Kenyon 181 183-608
Hartwell 159 203 159-521	Thurish 191 197 204-586
Bart 164 162 144-470	Zahare 171 183 159-614
Reed 168 126 143-457	White 167 150 167-484
Barber 201 146 173-541	King 180 154 180-523
Page 245 187 213-647	TOTALS 940 949 946 2638
TOTALS 996 903 913 2812	
LEONARD'S SUPPER CLUB (2)	CLINE'S COFFEE SHOP (1)
Olinger 203 184 178-565	Evans 156 204 204-564
Adolph 148 184 163-497	Henderson 187 197 204-586
Scales 272 150 143-549	Kirchner 124 178 145-447
Barberina 190 201 184-575	Murder 178 213 142-533
Young 177 211 179-567	Murdoch 130 189 183-531
TOTALS 994 1005 919 2918	TOTALS 850 1055 928 2633
SALEM HARDWARE CO. (2)	RAMAGES 7-UP (3)
Kreick 179 198 131-528	Valdez 216 201 181-568
West 146 212 131-489	Henderson 187 197 204-586
Reed 201 150 143-549	DeGuite 148 145 173-466
Rayburn 189 176 148-493	Walters 202 159 176-537
Hayman 200 181 138-519	Cooper 130 189 183-531
TOTALS 950 977 706 2653	TOTALS 967 946 982 2895
CAPITAL CITY BIDDING CO. (1)	FRANK DOOLITTLE (4)
Poulin 168 194 176-538	Bone 174 190 179-532
McChuskey 179 173 215-567	Thurish 187 197 204-586
Louison 133 180 185-508	Foreman 146 186 211-543
Boyce 170 154 187-511	Kline, Jr. 186 132 170-488
Karr 192 187 231-610	Citron 130 181 173-507
TOTALS 907 953 1069 2929	TOTALS 924 903 981 2808