LOOPING THE LOOPS

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

By J. G. T. SPINK
of THE SPORTING NEWS

Lopez—He's Last to Leave

CLEVELAND, Oo — Mel Harder, the Indians' coach, remembers that when Al Lopez was with the Tribe in 1947, he'd hoist himself onto a trunk in the clubhouse after each game, fully uniformed, and needle the players who dressed hurriedly for a quick departure.

J. G. T. Spink

He'd holler, "Hey, where you young fellas going? Let's sit around and talk a little baseball."

Alfonso Ramon Lopez, now the manager of the Indians, laughs pleasantly and smiles a handsome smile when reminded of this.

"That's right," he admits. "Course as manager I can't needle the boys as much, but I'll still walk into the clubhouse and shoot the breeze. I know I'll have an office of my own, as I did at Indianapolis, but I'll be in the players' locker room as much as I ever was. More than I'll be in my office, that's for sure.

"In fact, one of my ambitions is to get the players to stick around the clubhouse, too. I'll always be the last to leave. Want to get 'em all to think about baseball all the time. Want to get 'em to know each other real well and pull for each other real well."

But in other ways, Lopez' life has changed. "As a played I used to play cards a lot with the fellows," he recollects. "Now I hardly play cards anymore. It isn't good for a manager to play cards with his players and at Indianapolis I had only one coach. So I cut out most of the card playing. Started going to the movies, instead.

"In the last two or three years I've been going to a show just about every afternoon, especially on the road. I find it's a good way to relax before our night games. I'm crazy about shows, mainly westerns. Give me a good shoot-'em-up movie. They're the most relaxing."

* * *

Has His Superstitions

As a manager, Lopez has become much more superstitious. "I had a couple of superstitions as a player," he reflects. "Like using the same bat each day.

"But now, when things are going right, I even eat the same things."

He then recalled, with a chuckle, "Last season I was on a lamb chop diet for five days when we won five in a row. After we lost I tried a new menu. When we're winning I even wear the same clothes. A fellow does most anything to try to keep his luck going."

And the sleeping isn't as good. "When I was a player I used to sleep like a baby," Al said. "Now I can't sleep much during the season. I keep thinking about those tough games. After a rough one I take lots of newspapers to bed with me and try to read myself to dreamland."

Lopez considers himself lucky that in his 19-year major league career he was educated by four outstanding managers — Wilbert Robinson, Casey Stengel, Bill McKechnie and Frank Frisch. "They all taught me something," he points out.

Lopez' parents were born in Madrid, Spain. They came to the United States, settled in Tampa, Fla., and reared a family of seven boys and two girls. Al became interested in baseball through his brother Emilio, who was two years older. "He was a good catcher," says Al, "and I learned much by following him around the sandlots. I tagged along wherever he went. Then I made the Sacred Heart School team."

He quit school in the tenth grade to turn pro with the Tampa club of the Florida State League. "Got $150 a month. That was a lot of money," he explains.

"My dad was crazy about baseball. He watched me play every game in Tampa. The next year, 1926, he died." Of his large family, Al has only two sisters and one brother left. He lost two brothers in the past two years; one was Emilio, who died of a heart attack.

Al, himself, stays in fine physical condition. He's five-eleven and weights about 190. He appears physically able to go behind the plate today. "Those days are over," he insisted. "I'll manage from the dugout, or maybe from the third-base coaching box, but not from behind the bat." He was still putting on the mask and mitt at the age of 40, catching over 50 games in his first year as manager at Indianapolis.

"Despite the tragedies in his family Al says he doesn't worry about his health. "I eat all kinds of food and like all kinds," he says. "My stomach doesn't bother me. Oh, since I became a manager I get a few butterflies down there now and then, but not enough to worry about."

* * *

Married a Show Girl

Al married an Irish colleen, Evelyn Kearney, 11 years ago. "Met her when I was with Brooklyn," says Al. "She was in show business, doing specialty numbers. I met her after an All-Star game. She was at the game and we were introduced later."

They now have a son, Al, Jr., age nine. Both mama and boy are baseball bugs. Mrs. Lopez goes to every home game. Young Al plays regularly, but he doesn't want to be a catcher. "He likes shortstop," smiles daddy. "He says in catching you've got to work too hard.

"He's right. But if I had it to do all over again I'd still be a catcher."

For relaxation in the off-season, Al plays a lot of golf, shooting in the low 80s. He likes to fish and hunt. He enjoys talking about the day he and a partner caught 100 speckled trout. Who wouldn't-

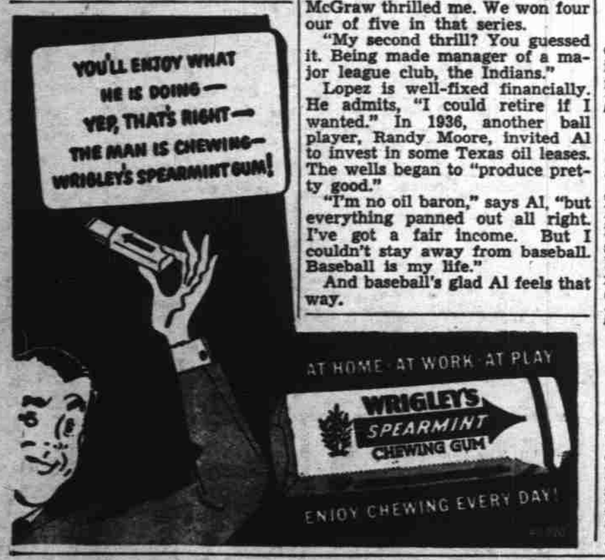
In all his baseball years, two thrills stand out. "The first was when I broke in to the majors in 1930. I wasn't anything special," he recollects. "It was just that the Dodgers were playing the Giants. McGraw was managing the Giants and there really was red hot rivalry between the two teams. There still is. I was just an excited kid, 21 years old. Just the idea of breaking in against McGraw thrilled me. We won four our of five in that series.

"My second thrill? You guessed it. Being made manager of a major league club, the Indians."

Lopez is well-fixed financially. He admits, "I could retire if I wanted." In 1936, another ball player, Randy Moore, invited Al to invest in some Texas oil leases. The wells began to "produce pretty good."

"I'm no oil baron," says Al, "but everything panned out all right. I've got a fair income. But I couldn't stay away from baseball. Baseball is my life."

And baseball's glad Al feels that way.



They'll Do It Every Time

Registered U. S. Patent Office

By Jimmy Hatlo

Cardinals vs. Greys . . .

Junior High Grid Title Clash Today at Olinger

The all-Parrish argument for the City Junior high football championship takes place today on Olinger field, with kickoff tabbed for 3 p.m. The game was at first scheduled for last weekend, but was postponed due to bad weather. Athletic Director Vern Gilmore says the finale will be played today come rain, snow or flood.

Coaches Bob Metzger of the Cardinals and Caley Egleston of the Greys intend sticking with the starting lineups announced last week. For the Cards it will be Chuck Walters and Paul Beck at ends, Howard Pingle and Fritz Collett at tackles, John Gilmore and Jim Friese at guards, Tom Pickens at center and Ron Whittaker, Eddie Costello, Ray Taylor and Doyle Porter at backs.

Greys: Wayne Carr and Ron Mather at ends, Ron Renaud and Bob Goddard, tackles, Larry Martin and Don Pence, guards, Bill Holmquist, center, and Dave Tom, Junior Pierce, Herb Triplett and Dick McGuire, backs.

After tieing with the Leslie Blues at the end of the regular season, the Cards gained the playoff finale via victories over the West Salem Giants and Leslie Golds. The Greys finished third in regular play but then gained the finale via a 7-6 upset victory over the Blues in the first round.

Cage Campaign Occupies SHA

With 40 aspirants in his turnout, Coach Don Vandervort of Sacred Heart Academy is getting the Cards in shape for the upcoming basketball campaign. Gone are such veteran SHA performers as Jim Colleran, Dick Staudinger, Ed Jirges, Jerry Weger and Clark Ecker. But Vandervort hopes to fashion a winning combination from Terry Cooney, Vern Daniels, Dave Mock, Virgil Weber, John Hoy, Dick DeRosier, Ted Rienwald, Jim Dimpewolf, Paul Riley and Jim Wiemals.

The Cards open with Woodburn December 5 at Woodburn.

Vandervort led the Cards football ers to the Marion-Polk league championship during the season just finished. SHA won five, lost two and tied one for the entire campaign. A banquet honoring the team has been scheduled for November 29, seven o'clock, at the Catholic center.

Hal Moe, Oregon State Rooks coach will be principal speaker at the banquet and movies of an Oregon State game will be shown.

Oscar Buchenhorst, Penn State's athletic equipment manager, recently had a day. The coaches went to his farm and painted his house.

Sooner Team Lands on Top

(Cont. from Prec. Page)

16th ranked Nebraska Saturday, the Sooners wind up with Oklahoma A and M. Army (8-0) plays Navy Dec. 2 in its last game.

Kentucky (10-0) tangles with ninth-ranked Tennessee (8-1) in Saturday's most important game. It will be Kentucky's finale but Tennessee also must play Vanderbilt, Dec. 2. Tennessee polished off Mississippi, 35-0, last Saturday to hold its ninth ranking.

San Francisco threw quite a scare into California (9-0) before the California Bears finally won it, 13-7. Stanford is the only barrier in California's path to the Rose Bowl.

Texas (7-1), a 21-7 winner over Texas Christian, has two to play—Texas A. and M. Nov. 30 and Louisiana State Dec. 9. But they have already clinched the Southwest conference crown and a Cotton Bowl appearance.

Illinois' upset of Ohio State, 14-7, brought its season record to 7-1. Wisconsin was the only team to defeat Illinois, 7-6, in early season. Northwestern is the final opponent on the Illini schedule.

Unbeaten Princeton (8-0) nailed down its fourth straight big three title by whipping Yale, 47-12. They finish their season with Dartmouth Saturday.

Ohio State (6-2) needs a win over Michigan Saturday to be sure of the Western conference championship.

Michigan State ended its season, bowling over Pittsburgh, 19-0.

The University of Washington was rated 18th nationally.

Look and Learn

By A. C. Gordon

1. Why is New York City often called Gotham?
2. What is the largest and most important of the so-called ductless glands of the body?
3. In what famous story does the heroine wear the letter "A" embroidered on her dress as punishment?
4. What city's church architecture is conceded to be the finest on the American continent?
5. What kind of riding breeches were named for a town in India?

ANSWERS

1. Gotham was a village in England whose inhabitants were known for their follies. Washington Irving applied the name to New York.
2. The spleen.
3. "The Scarlet Letter," by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
4. Montreal, Canada.
5. Jodhpurs.

SPORTSLIGHTNER

(Cont'd from preceding page)

"come on in" after the party of the first part had given Soldat a sizeable kick when the latter was thrown outside the ring.

What ensued didn't last long despite the fact that the fan was rather a huge hunk of man who boasted to all that he would be able to "take care of myself." Soldat tore into the guy and in about as much time as it takes to spell Vishinsky he had him ready for the stretcher. The man wound up in the hospital and in bad shape and thoroughly convinced he'll leave the rassling up to the rasslers from now on.

We've warned here many times that those guys aren't to be fooled with no matter how tough someone might think he is. The ring is their domain and anyone entering it has no comeback for what he might get during his visit.

Baum Has Size at Silverton, but—!

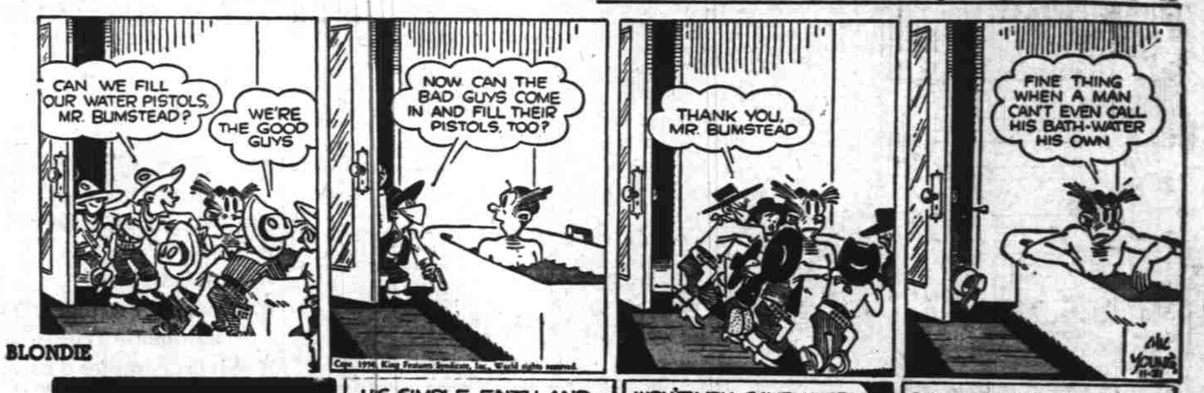
Silverton cage coach Milt Baum, another of the numerous ex-Willamette men now in the mentoring field, has what may be the tallest team in the Willamette Valley league, but is quick to add that "they really aren't very good." At any rate, and whether his league opponents will believe him or not, Baum has a six-foot-fiver in Scott Douglas, two six-threes in Jim Cooper and Bob Brotherton, a six-two in Gary Carter, a six-one in George Johnson and a couple of even sixers in Bob Burr and Dave Finlay. Gary Gustafson, Gaylen Stoltenberg, Larry Lincoln and Ed Montgomery are "runts" under the 6-foot level. . . . The other extreme is surely at Estacada where Truman Osburn's tallest player is a rousing 5-feet, 9-inches! . . . .

May Get Look at Kurland at Corvallis

Speaking of height in basketball, if he's still with them this season cage fans of this area will have a chance to watch the great 7-footer, Bob Kurland of the Phillips Oilers play. The Oilers are booked at Gill Coliseum with Oregon State on December 16. . . .

Bruce Barker's Falls City Mountaineers were eliminated in their bid for the state 6-man football title last weekend. But the team had one of the finest athletes in F-City history going down with it. He's Ray Nairn, quarterback who directed the team to the league title and scored 74 points himself. Ray is a busy boy in other fields also, as he plays center for the basketball team, pitches for the baseball team and is an outstanding half miler in track. Pretty fair batch of athletic achievement for a 145-pounder, eh? . . . .

BLONDIE



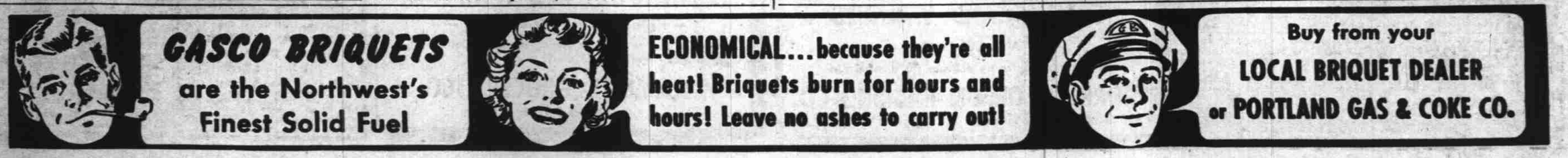
DICK TRACY

LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY

BUZZ SAWYER

MICKEY MOUSE

RIP KIRBY

GASOLINE ALLEY

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