

'Well Satisfied' With Offer by Senators, Lou Novikoff May Sign Contract With Club

By Al Lightner
Sports Editor
Lou Novikoff, left field.
Such may be a common item with Salem Senators baseball followers next season, as the big slugger and the Solon management are currently in the process of getting together for the possible signing of a contract.
Approached by Dewey Soriano a few weeks ago when Soriano was acting as representative of the club, Novikoff telephoned The Statesman from his Los Angeles home late in the week and reported that he was "well pleased with the offer made me by Dewey" and looked forward to playing the 1951 season in the Senators outfield.

Word of Novikoff's call was passed along to both Soriano in Yakima and Senators General Manager Hugh Luby in Oakland, Cal. Board of Directors President Don Young also was well pleased with the possibility that one of baseball's more colorful figures might sport Solon spangles next summer. The terms offered Novikoff by Soriano were not announced.

Now a truck driver in Los Angeles, Novikoff added that he was in tip-top shape. He played with both Yakima and Victoria most of last.

(Continued on next page)

EAGLES END TACOMA JINX

TACOMA, Jan. 20. (AP)—It took more than two years but the Portland Eagles finally managed to win a Pacific Coast hockey league game on Tacoma ice here tonight. Portland's Bill Summerhill banged in a third period goal and that was enough to give the Eagles a narrow 2-1 victory over the slumping Tacoma Rockets, who now have lost three in a row.

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Bearcats Defeat Badgers

by Al Lightner

SPORTSLIGHTNER

Young Eddie Kahut isn't doing any pay-for-punch boxing these days, but he's still in close touch with the game. He's instructor for Director Eymard Berning's Mt. Angel Youth Recreation program, and on Wednesday nights teaches the kids the many art of self defense...

Reaction to the signing of Bill Beard by the Senators has met with naught but a rousing okeh from village baseball natives, as blond Bill has many friends here. Besides, he'll make a good catcher for H. Luby & Co. ... Boss Luby will be interested in this bit of info also: Salem resident Glenn Stetter who led the WIL in hitting last season for Spokane has nixed his contract terms with the Indians for '51. Mrs. Stetter is ill here, and Glenn says he would play for Salem for less money than he has been offered at Spokane if the Senators could latch onto his contract. Which may be hard to do inasmuch as the "Jeep" is annually one of the most respected batsmen in the circuit. ... We cannot print the details of it here, but can say that the deal cooked up between the Senators board of directors and the Sport service (Jacobson) is one that the stockholders will like. ... His friends might like to know that tall Rod Province, onetime Salem high and American Legion junior ball pitcher is now attached to Co. D, 1st Infantry, 6th Division, Ford Ord, Cal. ... When we told Lou (Mad Russian) Novikoff in our telephone conversation with him the other day that the Waters field left and center field fences were to be moved considerably nearer home plate, the rotund slugger gave with, "Ah, that's what I like to hear." Lou also realizes the value of the home-produced round tripper to a baseball audience, and is just the fellow who can produce 'em. Of course Lou hasn't yet been signed by the Senators. But it's a fair bet that he will be...

Also on the speculative side for H. Luby's upcoming crew are a few other names that have been linked with the club lately. What would you like of a lineup consisting of Bill Beard as catcher, George McDonald (veteran coast leaguer) at first base, Luby at second base, Pete Coscarart (two years ago in the majors) at shortstop, Johnny Hack (purchased from Victoria) at third and Novikoff and Mel (Hambone) Wasley in the outfield?

Going at Lining Up Club the Smart Way

An "old man" ball club you say? Right. But if you were given the responsibility of lining up a Class B ball club next season that will win in the WIL, what would you do? You certainly wouldn't depend upon young players this time. Not with the international situation in the fix it's in. You'd be foolish if you did. And so it is with Luby. He's going at it the smart way — trying to land players who won't be snatched by you-know-who in midseason or sooner, therein wrecking the club. And in trying to get the older journeymen, Hugh wants only those he knows will put forth a best effort at all times. He realizes full well his responsibility here.

What about the other clubs? Looking back even to last season, there were many "oldtimers" in the league then. There will be more this time as the clubs shy away from the draft-eligible youngsters and go after their personnel on the same basis that Luby is going after his.

Might also add the name Will Hayef to that list of Senator (Continued on next page)

Basketball Scores

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LOU (MAD RUSSIAN) NOVIKOFF May wind up in Senators outfield.

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Locals Snare 55-37 Verdict

by Al Lightner

SPORTSLIGHTNER

The Willamette Bearcats, playing a beautiful defensive game, completely confused the Pacific Badgers and beat them handily last night, 55 to 37. The 'Cat win gave the local forces the season's first fast-break battle from the opening whistle with Portland finally pulling ahead only because of a slight margin in backboard play.

Coach John Lewis had his Bearcats playing a zone defense that drove the visitors wild. The Badgers were unable to figure a way to crack the 'Cat formation so they could get some shots. By halftime Willamette had built up a 22 to 13 lead and the visitors were unable to threaten the bulge in the second half.

Action was so slow in the first half that after ten minutes of play when Lou Scrivens sank a 30 footer the locals led by but a single point, 10 to 9. However, with guard Dan Montag leading the way Willamette moved out into its intermission lead.

The second half was much more active, with the Willamette fast break piling up points faster than the Badger long shot artists could pour them through. Larry Smith and Ted Loder led the 'Cat attack in the latter stages of the game as they consistently broke away for buckets. Smith scored 12 and Loder 9 in the second half. For the game, Smith led the scoring parade with 15, while Loder had 13. Montag was close behind the leaders with 12 counters, nine of which came in the first half.

The Willamette defense had the Badgers so baffled that they failed to score a single field goal over a stretch of 19 minutes. Dick Young scored on a hook shot after seven minutes of play, and it wasn't until six minutes into the second half that Ed Ball put in a follow shot to break the visitors long drought of field goals.

If it hadn't been for Pacific's phenomenal free throw shooting they would have been beaten even worse. The Badgers hit 11 of 13 gift shots awarded them. The Bearcats did pretty well themselves, hitting 15 of 22.

It was the field shooting where Willamette shown. They sank 20 of the 42 shots they took for a sensational 47.6 average. The Badgers were able to connect on but 13 of 46 field shots, for 28.3.

Montag did a great job at the starting guard spot, steadying the defense, and scoring in the clutch. Last night was Dan's first crack at a starting position, but off of his fine performance it shouldn't be his last.

In the prelude the Bearkittens also took the rubber game with the Pacific Frosh, 53 to 48. Clint Ague of Pacific led the scoring parade with 17. Duane Shields was high for W.U. with 12.

PACIFIC (40) WILLAMETTE (55)

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Top-Ranked Aggies Upset

NORMAN, Okla., Jan. 20. (AP)—Oklahoma upset Oklahoma A & M, the nation's No. 1 basketball team, 44-40, tonight in an edge-of-seat, foul-loaded game which scuttled the Aggies' 18-game winning string.

Oklahoma, a seven point underdog, pulled the surprise of the season by stealing a page from the Aggie's own book—controlling the ball most of the way.

Pete Dorcey, A & M's six-foot eight-inch center, fouled out a minute and a half after halftime intermission and with him went the Aggies chance to win its 19th straight and 17th this season.

The Sooners immediately pulled in front 27-26, and led the rest of the way before a screaming capacity crowd of 5,500.

The first half was close and rough and ended with the Aggies going to the dressing room with a 26-24 margin.

(Continued on next page)

Tech Wallops Wolves 71-55

KLAMATH FALLS, Jan. 20. (AP)—Oregon Tech trounced Oregon College of Education for the second straight time tonight, 71-55, in an Oregon collegiate conference basketball game.

Guard Don Sutphin again led the victors, totaling 18 points. Howard Sullivan tallied 15 for the losers.

Oregon Tech seized the lead at 17-16 on a push shot by Homer Duncan, and never again trailed.

The visitors narrowed the gap to 38-36 after eight minutes of the second half, but Sutphin and his teammates pulled away.

(Continued on next page)

Pilots Topple Seattle 72-68

PORTLAND, Jan. 20. (AP)—The University of Portland grabbed a one-game lead in its long-awaited series with Seattle university, winning here tonight, 72-68. The two standard independents fought a fast-break battle from the opening whistle with Portland finally pulling ahead only because of a slight margin in backboard play.

Portland led at the half, 40-35. It was the second loss in 22 games for Seattle, Portland's 16th win in 19 games. They will meet twice later in Seattle.

Because of bouncing Johnny O'Brien, Seattle had a slight speed edge on Portland, but the Portlanders decided to run with Seattle anyway. They couldn't quite match O'Brien, but they almost did. He merged as high scorer, with 22 points, but Portland's Ray Foleen collected 21.

SEATTLE (68) PORTLAND (72)

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Ducks Again Top Vandals

NFL's Study Re-Alignment

Bears' Owner Wants Switch But Majority Favor Keeping '50 Setup

CHICAGO, Jan. 20. (AP)—The National Football league adjourned tonight after six futile hours of discussing a proposed re-alignment of its American and National divisions. Commissioner Bert Bell said the meeting of club owners would resume tomorrow morning.

Bell declined to say what caused the deadlock in the talks, but presumably it was the insistence by Owner-Coach George Halas to shift his Chicago Bears from the National to American division.

Reportedly nine of the 12 owners were in favor of retaining the 1950 divisional lineup which was as follows: