

# Maris just one homer shy

BALTIMORE (UPI)—Roger Maris stands within one home run today of some share of immortality and only two within touching of baseball's greatest controversy since the famous "Merkle boner" of 1908.

The man squarely in the middle is Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick.

Frick put himself in that position last July 17 when he ruled that a player must hit more than 60 homers during his team's first 154 games to gain recognition for an all-time record.

Maris, who hit his 59th homer and barely missed equalling Babe Ruth's mark of 60 Wednesday night in the New York Yankees' 15th game, doesn't quite see it Frick's way. Neither do many others, including American League President Joe Cronin.

"He's making the rules," Maris shrugged upon being reminded of Frick's dictum.

"I'll say this, though. I'm a whole lot relieved that those first 154 games are out of the way. I have a hunch I may hit a couple more now."

Many of Maris' teammates feel the same way, now that the pressure of trying to match Ruth's record within the time prescribed by Frick is finally off the 27-year-old Raytown, Mo., slugger.

"That was a foolish ruling Frick made," said one Yankee player during the height of Wednesday night's pennant-clinching celebration which followed a 4-2 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

"I think he pulled a boner," the player added. "If Maris suddenly gets hot now—and he's liable to because he'll be more relaxed—a

lot of people aren't going to pay any attention to what Frick says."

**Orioles for Maris**

In an informal poll conducted among the Baltimore players, 14 out of 15 felt Maris should be entitled to a home run record—without reservation—if he hits 61 with the Yankees' next eight games.

"It's going to start a helluva rhabarb if Maris hits 61 and all they give him is an asterisk," commented one Baltimore pitcher.

Maris wasn't swinging for an asterisk Wednesday night. He was going for the whole box of biscuits.

He hit his 59th homer off Milt Pappas in the third inning, missed his 60th by only 10 feet or so with a line foul in the seventh, and then tapped back weakly to knuckle-baller Hoyt Wilhelm in the ninth, taking only a half swing.

"I wanted to get three good swings," he said, speaking of his final effort in the ninth. "The way it turned out, I didn't get one."

Despite missing the record, Maris seemed as if he had gotten rid of the weight of the world.

"It's a big relief," he admitted. "I tried, but all I got was one. I have no kicks. I'm lucky to have gotten as many as I did."

**Strain Tells**

During most of his exciting run at Ruth, the soft-spoken generally impassive Yankee outfielder managed to maintain his composure. Lately, though, the strain had begun to tell.

"Don't think my collar isn't tight," he said to Baltimore catcher Gus Triandos in the fourth inning Wednesday night.

Even so, Maris still surpassed the 58 homers in one season hit by Jimmie Foxx and Hank Greenberg, the two men who came near-

est to Ruth's record previously.

Greenberg, on hand for Wednesday night's game as a TV commentator, said:

"I take my hat off to him. Maris is to be congratulated. I know how much pressure there was on him and he never buckled once."

Maris, however, admitted he was disappointed.

"Who wouldn't be after you've come this far?" he said. "But I gave it my best shot and you can't do any better than that."

## Willamette set for Tacoma tilt

By United Press International

The Willamette Bearecats of Salem, Ore. travel to Tacoma Saturday to take on the University of Puget Sound Loggers in a non-conference football opener. The game starts at 1:30 p.m.

The Willamette outfit, champions of the Northwest Conference for the past two seasons, will be highly favored to win. The Loggers are handicapped by the loss of their two top coaches, head coach John Heinrich, who was injured in an automobile accident last Saturday night, and line coach George Palo, who was killed in that same crash.

Whitworth, the favorite to win the Evergreen Conference crown, takes on Oregon Tech in a non-league game in Spokane.

In other action by conference members, the Pacific Lutheran Knights travel in Forest Grove, Ore. to meet Pacific University in a non-league game; Central Washington takes on Whitman in Ellensburg; Eastern Washington battles Humboldt State College in Eureka, Calif., and Western Washington plays the University of British Columbia in a game in Bellingham Saturday night.

## Cross country racing planned

Any Central Oregon College boys interested in cross country racing are urged to call new COC PE instructor Elvin Johnson at EV 2-4801.

Johnson said cross country races are planned with small schools in the state, and hopes to get the program underway as soon as possible.

## SETS WORLD RECORD

LONDON (UPI)—Tamara Press of Russia set a world's record for the women's discus throw with a toss of 193 feet, 6 inches Wednesday while leading a Russian women's team to a 75-43 victory over an English women's track and field team. The U.S.S.R. men's team also whipped its English counterparts, 122-102.

## Magic number 4 for Reds in race to clinch pennant

By United Press International

Time has run out on Roger Maris but it's galloping swiftly along for the Cincinnati Reds in their rush to a World Series date with the New York Yankees.

Maris hit his 59th homer to help the Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles, 4-2, Wednesday night and clinch their 26th American League pennant. In his last three times at bat, however, he was unable to hit the 60th homer that would have earned him a share of baseball immortality with Babe Ruth.

Still, there are many who will recognize him as home run king if he surpasses the magic 60 during the last eight games of the regular season without any pennant pressure.

As for the Reds, the only magic number they're interested in is "4," which happens to be their pennant-clinching combination. Cincinnati moved a step closer to the World Series by edging the Pittsburgh Pirates, 3-2, on Wally Post's two-run homer in the eighth inning.

**Dodgers Keep Alive**

The Los Angeles Dodgers kept "alive" by edging the Chicago Cubs, 3-2, in 13 innings. Los Angeles now is five games behind Cincinnati and has nine games left to play. Thus, any combination of Reds victories and Dodger defeats that add up to four will clinch the pennant for Cincinnati.

The Milwaukee Braves defeated the San Francisco Giants, 7-4, and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the

St. Louis Cardinals, 6-1, in other National League games.

In the American League, the Kansas City Athletics defeated the Cleveland Indians, 4-2, the Detroit Tigers ended their home schedule with a 6-3 victory over the Los Angeles Angels, and the Chicago White Sox beat the Boston Red Sox, 3-1. Minnesota at Washington was rained out.

**Second Straight**

For the second straight season, Ralph Terry pitched the pennant-clincher for New York. He held the Orioles to four hits as he gained his 13th victory against three defeats. Besides Maris, Yogi Berra hit a Yankee homer.

The triumph made Ralph Houk the 12th manager in baseball history to guide a team to the pennant in his first season as skipper.

In the World Series, the Yankees' opening-game pitching opponent undoubtedly will be Joey Jay, who yielded seven hits Wednesday night in achieving his 21st victory. Post's game-winning homer was hit off reliever Roy Face following a walk to Vada Pinson.

Ron Fairly singled home Wally Moon with the Dodgers' winning run in the 13th. Norm Sherry sent the game into extra innings with a homer in the eighth. Sandy Koufax pitched the distance for his 18th victory and struck out 15 batters. That gave him 259 strikeouts for the season and tied him with Christy Mathewson for the third highest total in National League history.

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See additional sports... On page 8



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## Beavers, Ducks set for action

By United Press International

Oregon and Oregon State football teams see their first action of the season Saturday in home state contests.

Oregon State meets Syracuse in a national headliner at Portland while Oregon seeks its 11th straight victory over Idaho at Eugene.

Game time in Portland is 1:30 p.m. PDT, 12:30 p.m. PST. Game time in Eugene is 1:30 p.m. PST, 2:30 p.m. PDT.

Syracuse's team was due in Portland Friday while Idaho was to leave for Eugene today.

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