

Skits and Scratches

By Fred Zimmerman
Capital Journal Sports Editor

Anybody in these parts interested in professional basketball on a league basis? If so, one Joseph Behoff, who gives his address as 619 South Key street, Tacoma, would like to hear from them. Behoff, who gives no information concerning his background, writes that he plans to get behind professional basketball in the northwest after the close of the war. "It will be a long time before big league baseball will be played in the northwest, or it may never be played here," comments Behoff. "Football has its fling and failed. Big time basketball can be had here and it will not fail if properly handled. My plans are to give every large city in the northwest a special weekly attraction of the very best teams in the country. What I would like to do right now would be to get in touch with the general sporting element of the northwest, such as players, coaches, managers, promoters, sponsors and others who would be interested."

One thing professional basketball has over football or baseball is the smaller amount of money involved. Equipment, quite an investment in football and baseball, costs little on a comparative basis for basketball. Fewer players are needed, cutting down travel and living costs. The larger centers of the east have come for pro basketball in a big way and something on a smaller scale might be accomplished on this way. Just what Behoff means by the "large" cities of the northwest we have no way of determining.

Gurnee Fleisher, physical director of boys for Salem schools, fully intends to place baseball in the curriculum this spring but he's making no schedule of games until he has had a chance to locate a few prospective pitchers. A general call for candidates for all positions will be issued in a few days. After that, Gurnee may have something to say concerning competition. Salem high doesn't plan to enter a team in the wrestling meet which Canby is beating the drum for next Friday night. Canby is said to have a wrestling team of championship caliber and is anxious to see how the matmen stack up against outside competition. In any event, it is being advertised as a "state meet" under the joint sponsorship of Coach C. A. Blood of Canby and Coach Geo. Gillis of Sandy.

"We have some pretty good boys, but we haven't had time to really get down and drill for tournament competition," Physical Director Fleisher comments. Wrestling such as has been sponsored at the Viking institution, has been on a physical conditioning basis, rather than for competition. However, a dozen or 15 boys will be entered in the three-way meet at the blind school Thursday evening. Dallas high will be the third member of the group. If this sort of weather continues for long, valley schools may be forced to center on sports that can be played under cover. Certainly the cold rains have not been conducive to participation in baseball and track.

If boxing promoters in this country feel they are having their difficulties because of war time obstacles, they should compare notes with Sergeant Allen LaCombe, who has been doing the leg work for his lieutenant in Iran. "My poor lieutenant is the one who is blowing his top trying to arrange meals, because Egyptians, Indians, Russians, Arabs, Persians do not eat certain foods on certain days. I guess he will have to fix separate meals for each team." There were 67 fighters in the tournament, 14 Egyptians, 17 Britishers, United States 22 while the Russians, Arabs and Persians entered four each.

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"Bloopers Rip" Signs Contract

New York, March 21 (AP)—Truett "Rip" Sewell and his famous "bloopers" pitch will be back with the Pittsburgh Pirates as usual this year. The veteran right-hander, who won 21 games last season, signed his contract yesterday.

The Pirates' pitching problems thus diminished. Max Butcher, their 13-game winner in 1944, helped the situation by reporting to the Muncie, Ind., camp.

Elsewhere on the baseball training front, Brookline Manager Leo Durocher took the offer of President Branch Rickey that he would pay a bonus of \$1000 if Leo would play second base for the first 15 games of the season.

Chicago Cubs—Bob Chipman, No. 1 southpaw checked into camp last night, saying he's in "pretty good" condition.

Detroit—Total of 21 players now in camp. Notable absences include first baseman Rudy York, third baseman Pinky Higgins, pitcher Rufe Gentry, and outfielders Jimmy Outlaw and Don Ross.

Cleveland—Vice President Roger Peckinpaugh expected at camp to discuss holdouts Mickey Vernon, Jeff Heath and Rick Cullenbine.

Chicago White Sox—Bill Neigel, back in majors for third time, probably will be shifted from third to first base.

Boston Braves—Johnny Hutchinson, 200-pound pitcher, hit a home run in practice, but fell exhausted as he rounded third. Teammates rushed over, grabbed him by arms and legs and dragged him over home plate.

Stressing that it was his opinion the racing ban would be lifted within two or three months, McCreery made a full report to a group of midwest horsemen on his recent correspondence and talks with high government officials.

Submarine Barbel Loss Announced

Washington, March 21 (AP)—The navy announced today that the American submarine Barbel has been lost, presumably in the Pacific or far eastern waters.

Forty American undersea craft have been lost during this war. Less than a month ago, the navy disclosed that the submarine Escolar and Shark were overdue from patrol and presumed lost.

The Barbel was skippered by Lt. Cmdr. Conde L. Raguet of Norfolk, Va. It carried a normal complement of 65 men. All of its crew were listed as missing in action and their next of kin have been notified.

Governor Vetoes Raising Race

Boise, Idaho, March 21 (AP)—A legislative enactment which would have legalized pari-mutuel wagering on horse and dog racing in Idaho was vetoed by Gov. C. C. Gossett last night only a few hours before the veto deadline.

SPORTS

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Surplus of Pitching Power Looms for Cards after War

New York, March 21 (AP)—The world champion St. Louis Cardinals are going to have so many pitchers when the war ends that head man Sam Breadon may have to call in the surplus commodities corporation to dispose of them, it seemed evident today.

Although such a situation seems amazing in these days of acute manpower shortage, the Cards will "be stacked" with the greatest accumulation of top quality hurling talent ever owned by one major league team when their fighting men come home.

All of this came to light today in the red-white-blue decked roster of the world champions—a roster that brought back memories of some of the standout pitchers that we have seen.

Among the 28 men now serving their country for the Cardinals are 10 pitchers of proven major league ability. Add to that six established regular hurlers from last year's championship squad, and the six standout newcomers up from farm clubs and it totals better than three complete pitching staffs.

And that doesn't include the inevitably promising crop of youngsters now working out with Cardinal farm clubs and who through regular Broadon "graduation exercises" will advance through the ranks until they too are major league timber.

So what is the alternative? It appears to us that Breadon will have to conduct the greatest and—how—expensive sale of "soup bones" in history and he'll have one inducement. Buyers won't need any ration points, but it should take plenty of cold cash.

According to major and minor league regulations tentatively in effect, but awaiting clarification, when the service men return they must be given a period in which to acclimate themselves with the club of their pre-war connection. Players on the club at the time will have the same status as any major league player, they may be sold, traded, optioned, waived, or released.

The list includes Johnny Beazley, John Grodzicki, Mat Surkont, Howie Pollet, Alpha Brazie, Murry Dickson, Howie Krist, Ernie White, George Munger.

Washington, March 21 (AP)—Conversion of west coast shipyards is proceeding at such a pace that by the end of the year no yard will be engaged exclusively in building ships; Rear Admiral E. L. Cochrane, chief of the navy bureau of ships, declared last night.

Nine west coast yards already have been converted to repair yards and six others are in the process of conversion, he disclosed.

"That was the idea of putting construction work on the west coast in the first place, Cochrane said. "To have facilities which could be converted for repair when the time came. Last year we transferred back to the east coast \$300,000,000 worth of ship building which opened up a number of yards for repair work."

Yards which have been converted to repair work include: Todd-Pacific Shipyards, Inc., Seattle (formerly a destroyer building yard); Kaiser-Swan Island yard (maritime operated).

Yards now starting to be converted include: Everett Pacific Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., Everett, Wash.; Puget Sound Bridge and Dredging Co., and Associated Shipyards, Seattle; Commercial Iron Works, Portland.

Los Angeles, March 21 (AP)—Homer Norton, offensive-minded football coach at Texas A. & M. since 1934, today was reported ready to accept the head football coach's job at the University of California at Los Angeles—if the Bruins up the ante \$2,000.

Norton informed UCLA Graduate Manager William C. Ackerman that he would be willing to accept the job if the added amount were paid him for "living expenses."

Birthday Celebrated—Mrs. A. L. Duke of Portland spent several days with her aunt, Mrs. C. M. Cummings. While here she helped her aunt celebrate her 65th birthday.

Feller Moans Like Veteran

By Jimmy Jordan

Great Lakes, Ill., March 21 (AP)—For a coach who's been on the job only 24 hours, Chief Specialist Bob (Rapid Robert) Feller can moan like a veteran. It was only yesterday the navy appointed Bob, Cleveland Indians fireball artist, a few years back, to head the Great Lakes baseball dynasty for 1945. Already he's worried about material, but he has more abled-bodied and experienced players than many of the 16 major league clubs.

Of course, the 26-year-old former pitching king of the American League is taking over his first managerial job right on the heels of a great season by blue-jacketed diamond stars who were managed by Lt. Cmdr. Gordon (Mickey) Cochrane, one of the all-time great catchers of the majors and former Detroit manager.

"I don't have near the play-ers I should for the schedule we plan," Feller said in an interview today. "You know, we plan to play every major league team at least once, and all night American Association teams once each."

Natural Spawning Best Says Expert

Portland, March 21 (AP)—The widespread belief that hatchery propagation is a more efficient means of conserving angling than natural spawning is a misconception, Dr. Paul Needham, director of state game commission fisheries, told the Rotary club here.

"We found in California that you can't begin to stock a stream as economically as the natural replenishing," Dr. Needham said yesterday. "It would take hundreds of hatcheries to accomplish the same results."

He said 98 percent of naturally deposited eggs survive. Dr. Needham urged improvement of the environment to which fish go to spawn, cleaning up of streams and protection of fish in the pre-spawning period.

Bob Montgomery Defeats Rojo

Los Angeles, March 21 (AP)—Became Bob Montgomery, New York's version of the lightweight boxing champion, weaved and bobbed his way to an eighth round technical knockout over Genaro Rojo, Los Angeles, before 10,400 fans at Olympic auditorium last night.

The outcome was never in doubt as the veteran New Yorker drew his game but inexperienced opponent in close and hammered him with a merciless barrage of rights to the jaw and body.

Referee Reggie Gilmore saved Rojo from complete annihilation when he halted the one-sided match after 1:54 of the eighth. Gilmore stopped the bout when Rojo's second, Dan Thomas, jumped into the ring, shouting that his boy had taken enough.

Keltner Will Report to Navy

Great Lakes, Ill., March 21 (AP)—Ken Keltner, third baseman of the Cleveland Indians for the past seven years, was expected to report to the navy training center here today.

Keltner passed his selective service physical in Milwaukee yesterday and was assigned here.

Los Angeles, March 21 (AP)—Dan Barnhart, 32, coach of the Los Angeles Mustangs pro football team, was scheduled to don khaki today at Ft. MacArthur after induction into the army.

Big Men Have It By Close Margin

Wheaton, Ill., March 21 (AP)—The big men have it—but not by much—if one experiment on the basketball court means anything. A team averaging six feet, seven inches, culled from five schools, last night beat a team averaging eight inches shorter, 59 to 57. Quintets represented in the Red Cross benefit tilt were Valparaiso University of Indiana; Elmhurst, Ill., college; Northern Illinois Teachers; North Central of Naperville, Ill., and Wheaton college.

National League Travel Upped

New York, March 21 (AP)—The 1945 National league schedule, calling for the usual 154-game season, involves 5765 more miles of team travel than last year, a United Press mileage check revealed today.

Like the American league, however, the National hopes to achieve the 25 percent travel reduction stipulated in the voluntary program baseball submitted to the office of defense transportation by the elimination of the all-star game, making short trips with reduced squads and having umpires stay in one city longer.

The 1945 American league schedule calls for 6470 more miles of team travel than the 1944 card. The team travel in the 1945 National league sked amounts to 91,479 miles as compared to 85,714 last year.

Mrs. Joe Louis Seeks Divorce

Chicago, March 21 (AP)—Mrs. Joe Louis filed her second divorce suit in less than four years Tuesday against the world's heavyweight boxing champion, charging him with desertion.

Louis, a sergeant now, was inducted into the army January 14, 1942.

Mrs. Louis previously charged the heavyweight champion with cruelty in a suit filed July 2, 1941, but the two patched up their differences and the action was dismissed a few weeks later.

Bishop Sets AAU Record

Denver, March 21 (AP)—Pfc. Gale Bishop of Fort Lewis, Wn., last night showed 3000 national A.A.U. basketball fans why he is the nation's leading scorer. Playing in a second round game against Hoxie, Kans., the soldier sharpshooter whipped 28 field goals and six free throws through the hoop for 62 points—a new A.A.U. tournament record.

Bishop set the old mark of 50 points in the tournament here two years ago.

During the past season the G.I. court wizard scored 1086 points in 43 games for the nation's high total.

The accuracy with which the husky Ft. Lewis player-coach hit the hoop amazed even veteran tourney observers who have watched all the A.A.U. point-makers in the tourney's 11-year tenure in Denver.

As he canned his first five shots without a bobble, spectators who were beginning to file

out after looking at three other one-sided games, stopped to watch from the aisles and finally returned to their seats to cheer the former Washington State star. Altogether, Bishop hit 28 shots from the floor and missed only 16 tries, besides adding six free throws in eight chances.

As he left the floor two minutes before the end of the game, which Fort Lewis won 87-21, fans gave the soldier star a roaring salute that rattled the walls of ancient City auditorium.

Fort Lewis became a more popular choice to go to the finals Saturday after Bishop's record-breaking feat. Last team to enter the third round, the Washington soldiers met the Peoria, Ill., Caterpillars today at 2:30.

In other second round games the Bushnell General Hospital, including four "Purple Heart" wearers, dropped a 76-44 decision to Fort Warren, Wyo.; Camp Robinson, Ark., officers eliminated the San Diego Calif., Dons 62-40.

Dormant spraying of fruit trees should be done as soon as pruning operations are completed, states Ben A. Newell, assistant Marion county agent.

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