

WIDE OPEN RACE

Freshmen Vie for 'Rookie of the Year' Honor

By OSCAR FRALEY

New York (AP)—The race for rookie of the year honors was more wide open today than it has been in many years, with candidates battling it out for the freshman crown with the season more than half over.

At this point in the pennant parade last year only three—Alvin Dark, Rickie Ashburn and Gene Bearden—still were hustling for the honors.

But at the moment there are five American leaguers and four national leaguers who have a chance to win this coveted award with only a very few already eliminated.

American league candidates are pitchers Alex Kellner of the A's, Mike Garcia of the Indians and Mickey McDermott of the Sox, and outfielders Johnny Groth of Detroit and Gus Zernial of the White Sox.

The National leaguers are pitcher Don Newcombe of Brooklyn, infielders Eddie Kazak of St. Louis and Willie (Puddin' Head) Jones of the Phillies and outfielder Dino Restelli of the Pirates.

None of them stands much above or behind the others. There seems to be as many arguments for each as there are against. McDermott may not have pitched enough—yet—and Zernial, out for a long stretch with a cracked collarbone, may not play enough.

Kellner apparently has a lead on the pitchers, the big southpaw having won 12 games against five defeats and gone the distance eight times. Garcia, after working in relief, now is a starter with a record of seven wins, one a three hitter, against three losses. McDermott, re-

called from Louisville, has pitched brilliantly for his three and two mark, tossing a three hitter and a four-hitter.

In the rival National league, Newcombe, the Giant fast baller, has a good 7 and 2 mark—and six times has gone the route.

Groth started fast but tailed off rapidly. The Detroit rookie has showed signs of making a comeback, however, and currently is hitting a respectable 259 with eight homers and 53 runs batted in, best in this de-

partment among the first year men.

Restelli, too, made a big splash with the Pirates. Big-shouldered Dino in 29 games smashed eight homers and knocked in 22 runs with a batting mark of .325.

Kazak, over the long haul, probably has done as well as any of them. The 29-year-old Cardinal took on terrific responsibility by subbing for Whitney Kurovski, yet still is hitting .317 and has clubbed across 41 runs.

The Phillies' Jones, a rugged, 24-year-old Carolinian, has bounced back from a hitting slump. He is hitting only .247 but his 23 doubles and 11 homers have given him 41 runs batted in.

The Yankees' Kick Kryhoski apparently is out of the running, even though he is hitting around the .300 mark. For he is used only in spots and is not an every day performer. The Braves' Johnny Antonelli also has failed to live up to his bonus price with a three won, four loss pitching mark.

The tough luck guy of the lot probably was Zernial, the 26-year-old six foot, two inch Texan. "Ozark Ike," as he is known to his mates, was batting a nifty .355 when he was hurt. At that time he had 17 doubles, two triples and three homers plus 27 runs batted home.

Whether he'll come roaring back is a question. But it's still wide open for any enterprising freshman to step right out and take charge.



Easy Walking Hots—Because a 40-1 shot stumbled while leading in the stretch, Ora Dunkin is taking it easy these days.

Dunkin is a harness race horse owner and driver. Two years ago he suffered a broken leg when a horse he was driving at Roosevelt Raceway swallowed his tongue, couldn't breathe, fell down and threw Dunkin over his head.

"But the worst break was that we were 40-1 and home free when the accident happened," says Dunkin.

After the accident it wasn't too easy for Dunkin to walk, and since he had to walk a dozen or so horses a day to cool them off, he got to thinking about easier ways to do the job.

Around a racetrack, horses usually are walked three-quarters of an hour after a workout or a race. It's called "walking hots."

Dunkin has rigged up a lightweight walker and put it into action here at the Fairgrounds Tracts. It can be folded and transported from track to track without trouble.

The walker is run by an electric motor. The horses are tied to long poles and they do their own walking. Ora and his wife sit by with buckets of water. Now and then they stop the motor, give the horses a drink, and get back to sitting. (AP Wirephoto)

French Interest Follows Bicycles

Paris (AP)—Sports fan interest is as high here as it would be during the World Series in the U. S., as Europe's top bicycle riders speed toward the July 24 conclusion of the famed Tour de France.

The 24-day grind is the biggest and most exciting race on two wheels. Riders start and finish here in Paris, but cover more than 3,000 miles, including 16 mountain passes, before they return. Highest mountain pass is Isoran, 9,055 feet. Twenty-two cities will be visited en route.

Last year's edition of the annual marathon which was created by the late French sports writer Henri Desgrange in 1903, was won by Gino Bartali, the Italian ace.

Bartali, runner-up to his countryman, Fausto Coppi, in the recent gruelling Tour of Italy, is not defending. Coppi, rated one of the world's top cyclists, is captaining the highly touted Italian team in the French tour.

Approximately 1,500 men participated in the University of Arizona's 17 sports intramural program during 1948-49.

Pitcher Keeps Winning After 24 Campaigns

Henderson, Tex.—George Milstead, in his 25th season of professional baseball still wins games.

Name a league and chances are that George has played in it. Right now he's manager and pitcher for Henderson in the East Texas league. And he's one of the toughest hurlers to beat. He shines in relief roles.

Milstead broke into pro ball in 1921. Except for four years during the war, Milstead has been smoking them past batters in the pro ranks since that time. He once was with the Chicago Cubs.

George retired after last season but it lasted only 24 hours. He owns a combination grocery store-market-filling station near Cleburne, Tex., his home town. He couldn't get anybody to run the place so he applied to George Trautman, president of the minor leagues, for voluntary retirement.

The day the application was granted, the Ballinger club of the Longhorn league made him a proposition. George hurriedly called Trautman's office and got his retirement cancelled.

He leased out his store and went west with the young men. But before long he began to long for the East Texas league, where you don't have to leave home more than twice a month. In his first five weeks in the circuit he won five and lost one.

Most of the East Texas leaguers have only two long road hops—to Bryan and Paris. The rest of the time they live at home and commute to the neighboring parks.

Milstead's most successful season was 1941 when he won 20 games and lost only three

Crack Records At Oregon AAU Swim Openers

Portland, July 21 (AP)—Three records were cracked at Multnomah Athletic club and Portland Aquatic club dominated the opening events of the Oregon AAU swimming meet last night.

One of the record smashers, however, was unattached. He was Traver Campbell whose 38.4 for the 50-meter backstroke broke the old record for boys under 14. The other new records were set by Multnomah club's 150-meter medley trio and by Johnny Goode, PAC, in the 100-meter backstroke for boys 16 and under.

Goode's time of 1:22.1 erased the 1:23.6 set in 1938 by

WOODBURN PARK BOARD TO SPONSOR SOFTBALL

Woodburn — The recreation committee of the Woodburn park board will sponsor softball games for boys, ages 12 to 15, inclusive, during the month of August. Boys who want to play should register at the office of the Woodburn Lumber company.

The division of age groups and the number of teams will be determined by the number of boys that register.

for Cheyenne in the Western league.

"Won five in a row, then lost one," he recalls. "Then I won 11 in a row. Fellers began to write me up in the papers when I won 11 in a row."

That really wasn't anything, though, he says. "Usta win 16 to 19 in a row in the International and American Association."

One of the things he's proudest of is the fact that he never has been chased from a league game by an umpire. George never did much arguing, just pitching.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Charles Explains Bum Showing

By UNITED PRESS

Ezzard Charles, heavyweight champion of Cincinnati, O., and Camden, N. J., has a logical explanation of how he let Jersey Joe Walcott get away from him in the seventh round of their title fight and was content to coast home to victory.

"I thought I had him in the seventh," Ezzard recalled, explaining in the vernacular that he had been told Jersey had no intestinal fortitude. "But then, woosh, that right hand whistled past my head and I figured why should I be a chump for a desperation right."

Ezzard figures to clinch at least the New Jersey rights to the title in subsequent bouts against Gus Lesnevich of Cliffside and Lee Savold of Paterson, should the latter get by Bruce Woodcock . . . and if Savold blows that one, things really will be in a mess. . . .

There is a question whether Rex Barney, Don Newcombe, Warren Spahn or Ewell Blackwell has the best fast ball in the National league, but Manager Bucky Walters of the Reds claims that it doesn't matter

how fast it comes in, it will go out much faster unless the pitcher has "something on it."

"You could shoot it out of a cannon and guys like Stan Musial and Ralph Kiner would hit it," Walters argued.

Bucky doesn't agree, either, that a curve ball is an optical illusion.

"If so, an optical illusion made a pitcher out of me," said the man who won 198 ball games with his curve ball. Walters' argument was that when photographic "proof" of that optical illusion business was made they used the curves of Cy Blanton. They took the pictures from overhead—and Blanton's curve ball broke downward. . . .

Conservation corner: The male ruby-throated hummingbird does not help its mate build the nest, nor does he help incubate the eggs. (Which gives him an easier time of it than most of us who play mixed doubles). . . . And grayfish eyes are dark at night and light in the daytime. (Just in case you were wondering). . . .

Calumet farm is prepping Citation for a return to the

tracks next month—and a determined shot at the million dollar mark. Citation, out since December with a bad ankle, needs \$46,185 to catch the leading stymie and \$134,850 to become the first to win \$1,000,000. . . . that's all Calumet wants before sending Citation to stud for good. . . .

The race fans meanwhile continue to pour it on Eddie Arcaro when he hops with a favorite, often knocked down just because he is aboard. It got so bad recently that one unhappy bettor leaned over the rail at the weighing-in stand and shouted:

"I'm through with you, Arcaro. I've had enough. I bet on you on that race."

Arcaro had enough, too. So he snapped back:

"Well, why don't you go bet on Ted Atkinson?"

By coincidence, Atkinson won the next race. And, as Arcaro weighed-in again, the customer leaned over the rail with a smile and whispered:

"Gee, Eddle, thanks for the tip!"

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