

Avalanche of Votes Rates 'Babe' Top of Half Century

By TED SMITS
New York, Feb. 15 (AP)—For twenty years a slender American girl of Norwegian blood has dominated women's sports internationally. So it was to be expected that Babe Didrickson Zaharias would be overwhelmingly selected as the greatest female athlete of the first half of the twentieth century.

Eleventh and last of the sports titans chosen in the Associated Press mid-century poll, the Babe is unchallenged in versatility.

She won world fame at the 1932 Olympic games by taking two gold medals and losing a third on a technicality. In 1947 she became the first American to win the British women's golf championship.

She was noted even before 1932; she has gone right on winning after 1947. Out of 361 first place votes cast by the nation's sports writers and sportscasters, she received 319. Only 34 rated her in second place, and five in third.

On the basis of three points for first, two for second, and one for third, the Babe amassed a total of 1,030. Helen Wills Moody, the tennis immortal, was second with 394; Stella Walsh, the track star, was third with 136, followed by the Dutch Olympian, Fanny Blankers-Koen, with 107.

Babe Didrickson came along at the close of the fabulous twenties, and she is still a top golfer—contender—one of the few direct competitive links with the decade called the "Golden Era" of American sports.

Four times previously she has won AP polls, being chosen as outstanding woman athlete in 1932, 1945, 1946, and 1947, the only quadruple winner.

It was Mrs. Zaharias' versatility that lifted her to a niche alongside Jim Thorpe, voted the greatest male athlete of the past 50 years. A true great in track and golf, she also played a superb game of basketball and baseball.

After the 1932 Olympics, Grantland Rice, a sports observer not given to gushing, said of the Babe that she was "without question the athletic phenomenon of all time, man or woman."

That, mind you, was before she had ever competed in golf (her first was in 1934) or had even dreamed about setting the amazing record of winning 17 consecutive amateur golf tournaments.

Mildred Ella Didrickson was born June 28, 1912, in Port Arthur, Texas, the sixth in a family of seven. Her father, Ole, a carpenter, had migrated from Norway.

Her family started calling her "Baby" but switched to "Babe" when she hit so many home runs in school games—a bow in the direction of Babe Ruth, the baseball winner in the AP's mid-century poll.

By 1930 the Babe was a sensation in Texas in basketball and track, winning 92 medals in the latter sport in two years. She was the individual star of the 1932 Olympics at Los Angeles—a flaming competitor with stringy hair and a conspicuous indifference to cosmetics or seductive clothes.

Through the years, however, the Babe has blossomed out as a woman of considerable personal charm, mighty handy with a mouth organ and at singing blue ballads, and devoted to her mammoth husband, George Zaharias, whom she married in 1938. Zaharias, an ex-wrestler, now is a promoter.

She is currently competing in Florida, not quite so successfully as a few years ago, but with all that terrific drive that has characterized her amazing career. In October of last year she was signed as the full-time professional of the Sky Crest Country club at Chicago, the first of her sex to be given a job at a big club.

It is significant that of the three women athletes who re-

ceived enough votes to be termed in the competition with Mrs. Zaharias, the second place winner Helen Wills Moody, came out of the golden twenties. She was considered by many as the greatest of all women tennis players.

Fifth place in the poll went to Gertrude Ederle, the channel swimmer, with 76 points, followed by Suzanne Lenglen, French tennis star, 62; Alice Marble, tennis player, 47, and Ann Curtis, swimmer, 31.

Vandal Coach to Keep 'Em in Trim

Spokane, Feb. 15 (AP)—Idaho boxers will lose none of their physical fitness en route to Madison, Wis., if Coach Frank Young has his way.

A railroad baggage car equipped with punching bags, medicine balls and other training gear will be attached to the train. Road work will be taken on station platforms along the way.

George D. Widener, owner-breeder and president of the Westchester Racing association which operates Belmont Park, is the fifth chairman in the history of the Jockey club.

Cougar Cager Is Proof Stars Are Made, Not Born

By PETER HAYES
(United Press Sports Writer)
Cheney, Wash., Feb. 15 (AP)—It takes a heckuva lot more than just a father's ambition and a kid's determination to make a good basketball player.

Especially when the kid looks like a walking ovaline ad to start with.

But if you consider the story of Dick Eicher, you can take that theory and toss it out the window. How 6-foot, 4-inch Dick Eicher blossomed out into a score-crazy center this year is one of the big reasons why the Eastern Washington College basketball team is currently leading the Evergreen conference.

Eicher's basketball career began in 1941 on a farm near Wolf Point, Montana. His father, a crack gymnast himself, decided that his puny, hollow-chested 11-year-old son would learn how to handle himself on athletic field and floor.

That's when C. Emory Eicher nailed a hoop to the side of the barn, bought a basketball and proceeded to show the boy how to use it. But young Dick was awkward. He had about as much coordination as a newly-foaled colt. And those legs! Pipe-cleaners would be more like it.

The next year the Eicher family pulled up stakes and headed for Palouse, Wash. Pretty soon Dick, a spindly 87-pound, 5-foot, 8-inch freshman, was playing with the bigger boys.

Gawky young Dick Eicher began to improve. He starred in his favorite sport, basketball, and with his father's encouragement, even played a little football.

By then Dick had decided he wanted to be a coach. And because Eastern's Red Reese has probably turned out more prep coaches than anybody else in the Northwest, Eicher enrolled at EWCE.

By this time Dick had 155 pounds sparsely scattered over a 6-foot, 2-inch frame. But Reese could see the lad's potential and had him put in long hours skipping rope to build up his coordination.

As a freshman he played JV ball. Last year he made the second five and tallied 157 points in 26 games. But he still was the gangling, clumsy kid who

had a hard time keeping his legs from getting tangled up.

This year Dick finally hit his stride. He put on an extra 10-pounds to bring him up to 175; he camp up with a deadly left-handed hook-shot; and as a tip-in specialist he was the Savages' man of the hour.

"He's a real fighter and a workhorse," says Coach Reese. "If only he had a pair of legs he'd be the best pivot man in the northwest. He's got everything else—hands, eye, know-how."

So that's the story of how a skinny kid made the varsity. Chalk it up to guts, good coaching and a father who wanted like everything to see his son become a star.

You think Dad Eicher is proud of his boy? He sure is. But there's a twist of irony in this story. Emory Eicher's eyesight began to fall when Dick was in his teens. He's never seen his boy play a game of collegiate basketball.

Proud Papa Gerry Coleman, New York Yankee second baseman voted Rookie of the Year in 1949, points with pride as he looks at his newborn daughter, Diane Louise, held by nurse at Children's hospital in San Francisco. (Acme Telephoto)

American League's 1950 Red Book Is Released

Chicago, Feb. 15 (AP)—Winter winds may be howling, but the American baseball league today released its annual messenger of spring, the 1950 Red Book, a 53-page manual jammed with junior circuit facts and figures.

The statistical reference book, authored by publisher Earl Hilligan, lists 294 players—123 of them rookies—on the rosters of the eight American loop clubs.

St. Louis has the biggest rookie crop, 20, followed by Chicago and Cleveland with 17 each. All other clubs have 14 newcomers each, excepting Washington, which has 13.

Bucky Harris' return to Washington as Senator manager long has been given proper notice, but the Red Book also points out that nine coaches will be in new jobs this season.

Cleveland has no fewer than three coaching changes, including Oscar Melillo, Muddy Ruel and Al Simmons, the latter a transfer from Philadelphia. Other new coaches are John Corridan with Chicago; Rick Ferrell, switching from Washington to Detroit; Mickey Cochran and Bing Miller with Philadelphia (Miller was with Chi-

SCORES in the ALLEYS

LADIES CLASSIC LEAGUE	
Lea Florist (0)—B. Lindsey 413, J. O'Neil 394, E. Lutz 408, R. Marks 427, G. Spawls 442, Anita 425, Schreiber 410, W. J. Lewis 388, J. Lamon 306, B. Casper 426, A. Thompson 412, Davey 400.	470, Jurman 362, Hulerich 363, Souza 384, Hubbers (0)—Jaszonow 405, R. Ash-shire 488, Merrill 480, D. Alshire 468, McNeil 327.
W. Hall 408, B. Rainhard 429, E. Pease 346, E. Pick 491, Frank Conat. (0)—32, P. 310, M. Rios 323, F. Schneider 418, Goodhousekeeping (4)—W. Clark 483, A. O'Neil 409, M. Jones 493, D. O'Neil 435, C. O. O'Neil 434, A. Alexander 427, J. O'Neil 409, M. Merrell 405, P. Mock 414, V. Mohlman 418, W. Tanner 394, D. Johnson 381.	Cal Pak (0)—Lance 332, Sloan 408, Hainke 304, Warbowski 283, Scheidesser 368, Barb's Sporting Goods (2)—Inglis 190, Braucht 07, O'Neil 207, O'Neil 210, O'Neil 212.
High team series and same: Anita 520, 369 and 318.	High individual same and series: J. O'Neil 419, 314 and 219. High team same and series: Keith Brown, 568 and 2692.
MERCANTILE NO. 3	
Terminal Ice (2)—Ranta 375, McDonald 289, Walton 478, Thronberry 424, Souza 409, Malmes Chevron Station (1)—Malm 406, Wexler 440, Nooka 403, Koppinger 364, Owens 370, Standard Station (2)—Knutz 487, Redding 399, Speck 377, Koutchie 314, Purdy 432, F. S. Sawyer 423, C. Sawyer 418, Alexander 444.	W. Hall 408, B. Rainhard 429, E. Pease 346, E. Pick 491, Frank Conat. (0)—32, P. 310, M. Rios 323, F. Schneider 418, Goodhousekeeping (4)—W. Clark 483, A. O'Neil 409, M. Jones 493, D. O'Neil 435, C. O. O'Neil 434, A. Alexander 427, J. O'Neil 409, M. Merrell 405, P. Mock 414, V. Mohlman 418, W. Tanner 394, D. Johnson 381.
High individual same and series: M. McDaniel, 428 and 324.	High individual same and series: J. O'Neil 419, 314 and 219. High team same and series: Keith Brown, 568 and 2692.
INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE NO. 2	
W. Hall 408, B. Rainhard 429, E. Pease 346, E. Pick 491, Frank Conat. (0)—32, P. 310, M. Rios 323, F. Schneider 418, Goodhousekeeping (4)—W. Clark 483, A. O'Neil 409, M. Jones 493, D. O'Neil 435, C. O. O'Neil 434, A. Alexander 427, J. O'Neil 409, M. Merrell 405, P. Mock 414, V. Mohlman 418, W. Tanner 394, D. Johnson 381.	W. Hall 408, B. Rainhard 429, E. Pease 346, E. Pick 491, Frank Conat. (0)—32, P. 310, M. Rios 323, F. Schneider 418, Goodhousekeeping (4)—W. Clark 483, A. O'Neil 409, M. Jones 493, D. O'Neil 435, C. O. O'Neil 434, A. Alexander 427, J. O'Neil 409, M. Merrell 405, P. Mock 414, V. Mohlman 418, W. Tanner 394, D. Johnson 381.
High individual same and series: M. McDaniel, 428 and 324.	High individual same and series: J. O'Neil 419, 314 and 219. High team same and series: Keith Brown, 568 and 2692.
DUCK PIN	
O. K. Rubber 491, Waiders (0)—Rodia Harrison 350, Dottie Caspell 264, Bill Gauthier 328, Terry Kemp 302, Marlon McArthur (1)—Bert Robinson 438, Louise Tribble 342, Bud Tribble 407, Bye 390.	O. K. Rubber 491, Waiders (0)—Rodia Harrison 350, Dottie Caspell 264, Bill Gauthier 328, Terry Kemp 302, Marlon McArthur (1)—Bert Robinson 438, Louise Tribble 342, Bud Tribble 407, Bye 390.
High team series: General Finance, 1738.	High team series: General Finance, 1738.
High individual same: Cappa Used Cars, 618.	High individual same: Cappa Used Cars, 618.
High individual series: Eddie Harrison (O. K. Rubber) 580. High individual same: Wretia Cappa (Cappa Used Cars) 308.	High individual series: Eddie Harrison (O. K. Rubber) 580. High individual same: Wretia Cappa (Cappa Used Cars) 308.
MEN'S CITY LEAGUE	
Davis Oil (4)—Wayne Fields 478, Jim Hunter 404, Bud Booth 406, Rand Miller 441, Jerry Davis 380, Reider's Radio (0)—Al Kenfield 484, Paul Russell 424, Lee Russell 488, Keith Kaye 450, Bye 460, E. Lee Newman (0)—Sam Fox 371, Bert Bahalman 300, Harvey Fox 373, Bill Meyer 400, Delmer Holman 332, Samuel Dennis (4)—Royal Fawley 488, B. P. Cushman 402, Cliff Reed 402, Duane Christian 480, Art Finney 417.	Davis Oil (4)—Wayne Fields 478, Jim Hunter 404, Bud Booth 406, Rand Miller 441, Jerry Davis 380, Reider's Radio (0)—Al Kenfield 484, Paul Russell 424, Lee Russell 488, Keith Kaye 450, Bye 460, E. Lee Newman (0)—Sam Fox 371, Bert Bahalman 300, Harvey Fox 373, Bill Meyer 400, Delmer Holman 332, Samuel Dennis (4)—Royal Fawley 488, B. P. Cushman 402, Cliff Reed 402, Duane Christian 480, Art Finney 417.
High team series, Davis Oil, 2623; high team same, Frosty Olsen, 828; high individual series, Jerry Davis (Davis Oil) 618; high individual same, Art Hershback (Nick's Sign Shop) 224.	High team series, Davis Oil, 2623; high team same, Frosty Olsen, 828; high individual series, Jerry Davis (Davis Oil) 618; high individual same, Art Hershback (Nick's Sign Shop) 224.
CAPITOL ALLEYS	
Industrial League No. 1 Mike Lake 488, Fisher (0)—Lambert 480, Eckley 400, Van Oedal 481, Arvo 414, Carlson 412, Valdes Meat Co. (2)—Harwell 358, Farver 373, Kildall 481, McKinney 311, Bijler 323.	Industrial League No. 1 Mike Lake 488, Fisher (0)—Lambert 480, Eckley 400, Van Oedal 481, Arvo 414, Carlson 412, Valdes Meat Co. (2)—Harwell 358, Farver 373, Kildall 481, McKinney 311, Bijler 323.
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New Tiger Happy to Be Traded from Yank Stable

Leonla, N. J., Feb. 15 (AP)—Great to be a Yankee? Not always. "It has its drawbacks, too," declared Detroit's Dick Kryhoski today.

"I didn't have much of a future with the Yankees," said the Tigers' new brash, blond first baseman at his home. "It's kind of tough bucking Tommy Henrich, who is just about the best first baseman in the game."

Traded by Dick Wakefield last December Kryhoski said he had no regrets whatsoever over his transfer to Detroit.

"I was tickled when I got the news," he pointed out. "A sports writer called me up to tell me about it and I remember saying, 'Holy mackerel, Mama, they traded me to the Tigers!'"

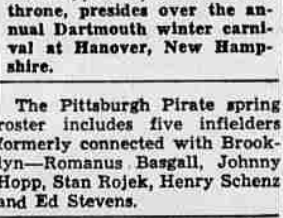
"My mother was glad for me, too."

The 24-year-old Kryhoski beat out four other Yankee first base candidates last spring and was off to a brilliant start when the regular season opened. Sporting a creditable .294 average in 54 games, he suddenly was optioned to Oakland of the Pacific Coast league in mid-summer.

"It was a tremendous disappointment," he recalled. "Joe Bush 473.

High individual same: Larsen, 220. High individual series: Krall, 369. High team same and series: Scio, 226 and 2328.

Queen Pretty Lee McConnell (above) of Garden City, N. Y., seated on her throne, presides over the annual Dartmouth winter carnival at Hanover, New Hampshire.



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That brings us to "Interviews," although this factor is a trifle late to assist Coach Charlie Conacher of the Chicago Black Hawks, who last week lowered the boom on a Detroit sportswriter. O. I. Fearless is interested in this because it might get to be a habit.

"Columnist contacts" are very important to any coach. With the right kind of touch he could take over completely—and some of us might wind up with a raise.

Wichita's announcement was a bit vague on the business of "Winning the parents." It was whispered that a prominent Kansas banker would be the chief lecturer during this section of the forum.

The handling of downtown quarterbacks poses a real problem. It would take a Siamese contortionist to kiss one alumnus without exposing his back to another. Should be very interesting.

Then there's the part about handling "minor scandals." Even those words are frightening, because I never met a college official yet who would admit there was such a word—unless it was in connection with another campus.

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