

Oregon Semi-Pros Are Accused Of Raiding WIL Baseball Teams

Spokane Indians File Protest, Seek Action

Spokane (AP)—The Spokane Indians Friday accused an Oregon semi-pro baseball league of "raiding" top players from the Western International "with fabulous offers" and proposed an emergency WIL meeting to combat it.

"This is just as serious as it was for the major leagues when their star players were jumping their contracts and playing in Mexico," said Don Osborn, general manager of the Spokane club.

He didn't identify the semi-pro league but said its teams are sponsored by lumber companies which "sit like vultures" waiting to pick off professional players with offers that even the pros can't match.

The Southwestern Oregon semi-pro league has been referred to as "the sawdust league," because of lumber company sponsors.

Osborn made his comments in a letter to Bob Brown, president of the WIL. A copy was sent to George Trautman, president of the National Association of Baseball Leagues—the minors—and another copy was given the press.

Osborn, who is also Spokane's field manager, mentioned specifically the case of Cal McElvin, a pitcher-infielder obtained from Portland who was expected to be a key man in the Indians 1953 plans.

McElvin has said he will not report to Spokane this year but has accepted an offer to join the Bandon, Ore., semi-pro team instead. Osborn said his decision will cost the Indians \$5,000.

McElvin was to be the last installment on a player deal that sent Joe Rossi to Portland of the Pacific Coast League in 1950.

"This league is costing WIL owners thousands of dollars," Osborn said. He claimed that probably every team in the WIL has been affected by the semi-pro league in the last few years.

Osborn said organized baseball spends "thousands of dollars" developing a player and that the semi-pros step in when the players are ready to be sold to a AAA league or the majors.

"There is no legislation in organized ball to protect this

investment," he said. "The WIL owners should not let this go on. Some legislation should be made such as the majors did when their players were enticed into Mexico."

Major league players who "jumped" to the high-paying Mexican league after the war drew five-year suspensions from U. S. leagues.

Osborn said Ward Rocky, a former Spokane pitcher, quit the WIL several seasons ago for the semi-pros and that he has information the Oregon league is seeking two other Spokane players.

Dallas Chamber Of Commerce Hosts Dragons

Dallas — Friday the Chamber of Commerce play host to the Dallas High school basketball team, its coaches, and its managers.

The enthusiasm felt by the entire town over the showing of the local team made in the state tournament is increased by reports from travelers returning from other parts of the state stating that the team is a statewide topic of conversation.

As a special attraction for Friday's meeting a chamber president Kenneth Shetterly has arranged to have John Lewis, Willamette University basketball coach, attend.

Bandon Manager Says Accusations Nonsense

Bandon (AP)—Bill Burgher, manager of the Bandon team in the Southwestern Oregon Semi-Pro Baseball league, said Friday that talk of luring players from organized ball through "fabulous salaries" was nonsense.

Commenting on a complaint by Don Osborn, general manager of Spokane in the Western International league, that this was the case and that Spokane had lost Cal McElvin to Bandon, Burgher said security, not pay, was the lure.

"McElvin is here now," he said, "and he's getting the

regular scale in the mill."

The Bandon team is sponsored by the Moore lumber mill. Mill officials declined to comment for publication but called on Burgher to speak for them.

Burgher, former Portland, Salem and Texas League player, said the whole trouble was low pay in professional ball for players "who aren't going anywhere."

"They don't offer enough to live on," he said, amending that later in commenting on his own discussions with the Salem Western International League team that they offered "hardly enough" to live on.

"I have a family, two children," he said. "I have to think of 12 months in the year."

Most Bandon players, he said, are college students who work in the mill from 7 a. m. to 3:45 p. m., practice baseball from 4 to 6, play two games a week, all for the regular mill pay.

He said they work on stacking or on the green chain or elsewhere and have to do the job or they don't stay.

Viking Baseball Team Opens Season Today

The Salem high school baseball team travels to McMinnville today for its first game of the season. Coach Harold Hauk has five returning lettermen back along with a large group of Salem American Legion players who did so well last summer.

Returning lettermen include Phil Jantze, first base; Wayne Osborn, catcher; Lowell Pearce, pitcher; Larry Springer, shortstop; and Jim Rice, second base.

Eight varsity players were first string on the Legion team last year. They are Osborn, Pearce, Springer, Jantze, Mike Campbell, Jerry Gregg, Curt Jantze, and "Twink" Pederson.

Track Meet Cancelled

Forest Grove (AP)—A muddy track forced cancellation Thursday of a track meet between Pacific and Linfield Colleges, scheduled as a non-conference test.

Willamette Nine Plays Prisoners In Season Opener

The 1953 Willamette University baseball team makes its season's debut Saturday afternoon with a trip inside the walls of the State Penitentiary for a scrap with the Prison Greys.

The tilt will be the first of a 21-game schedule for Coach John Lewis' men.

Lewis plans to use most of his pitching staff in the opener, that including Andy George, Benny Heit, Mickey Coan and Dave Gray.

The catching will be handled by Harvey Koepf and Les Akoe.

Dave Feriman, a three-year letterman, is a certainty for the second base position and Elmer Hansen will be at shortstop barring a call by the draft.

A pair of freshmen, Tex Kirkendall and Jack Scrivens, are in the fight for the third base post, while first base still is a question mark with half a dozen men bidding for the berth.

Duane Shield and Denny Klamer are top outfield possibilities and other candidates are Bob Platenberg, Chuck Lewis, Charlie Naone and Mike Munn.

Minor Leagues Increase Staff Of Ump Checkers

Columbus, O. (AP)—The minor league leagues Friday increased from four to six their staff of umpire supervisors.

George M. Trautman, president of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, announced the appointment of Pat Padden and Jack Powell for the 1953 season. They will join veterans George H. Johnson, George W. Pipgras, James F. Tobin and Hal Weafer.

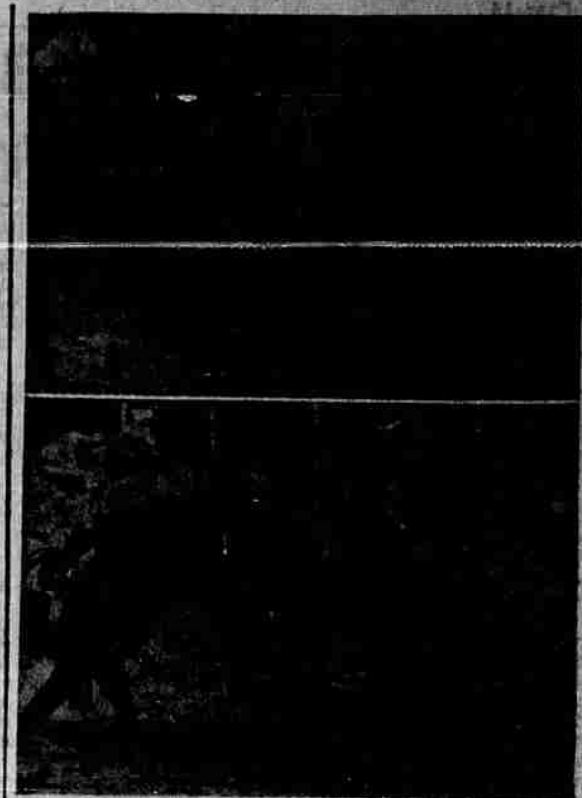
Padden, who began umpiring in 1937, has been with the American Association since 1944. Powell started in 1923 and has 24 years of service with the Pacific coast loop.

The supervisors spend the season visiting the Class A, B, C and D leagues where they observe the work of the umpires with special attention to the less experienced men.

They submit daily reports to the minor league association office, help league presidents build competent umpiring staffs, and work with individual arbiters to improve their techniques.

Leagues which will be handled this year include: Powell—Arizona-Texas, California, Pioneer and Western International.

The Elephant Butte, N. Mex., irrigation reservoir holds enough water to cover 2,319,000 acres a foot deep.



All for Two Dollars Winning for the lucky holders of two dollar daily double tickets at Tanforan in San Bruno, Calif., are Munkgen (top) in the first race and Urebin (bottom) in the second race. The lucky bettors collected \$1397.20 for their ticket. (UP Telephoto)

37 Horses Ready for Grand National Race at Aintree

By OSCAR FRALEY

New York, Aug. — Thirty-seven longhorns are ready for the world's toughest horse race, a galloping gamble known as the Grand National. They'll run it tomorrow at Aintree, a suburb of battered Liverpool, and the winner will be the year's fittest, and luckiest horse.

For this undoubtedly is the most grueling race of them all. Imagine a four and one-half mile race over 30 jumps, with some of the fences well over five feet high. A long and hazardous journey when you consider the obstacles and the fact that some of these gallant steeds are asked to carry as much as 175 pounds.

I've seen the Kentucky Derby and a lot of other great horse races. But for danger and sustained drama, nothing on the turf ever has touched the day in 1859 I watched Freebooter hurl his muscular chestnut body to victory over those awesome jumps.

It was a mad race all the way, from the moment a field of 40 horses cut loose from the wire and lunged in a tight pack toward the first fence a quarter of a mile away. It was the charge of the Light Brigade all over again, and the results were almost the same when one of the leading horses ticked the top of the fence and carried a half dozen other horses down with him.

Some of the riders remounted. Others lay there, unmoving, while riderless horses scrambled to their feet and ran wild into the massive infield while a crowd of 25,000 roared its frenzy to the sky.

The next fence claimed still others and then there were other hazards to the home stretch where dead in front of the stands is the final obstacle, a 16-foot water jump.

With all that behind them, they started out to do it all over again.

Freebooter was running second all the way until, on the second time around, the royal entry stumbled. Then it was Freebooter all the way.

A long race and a savage one, which explains why so many long-shot wins and why the odds are against a horse even finishing.

Yet only one jockey has been killed in the 116-year history of this race, although numerous horses have been killed or so badly injured that they had to be destroyed.

This is the race on which they pay off the Irish hospital sweepstakes.

Fish Screen Installations Under Way

The annual installation of rotary fish screens is commencing throughout the state by game commission crews. The screens, numbering over 800, have been credited with saving thousands of fish each year by diverting them back into the main streams of the state.

This prevents a tremendous loss through irrigation ditches and other water diversions. The screens are removed each year to make ditch cleaning easier and also to prevent flood damage to the mechanical parts.

In addition to the regular reinstalls, the game commission's program of 80 new screens per year is scheduled to continue. The recently announced screening of the John Day river system is a separate project included in the lower Columbia river development program for restoration and protection of migratory fish. Over 300 screens are involved in this plan.

The construction of new screen boxes is generally limited to the fall months of the year when the various diversions being screened can be dried up and the concrete poured. During the summer months, maintenance and inspection of all operating screens is necessary for continued operation of each unit.

A pontoon bridge carries traffic across the harbor of Willemstad, Curacao, Dutch West Indies.

SPORTS

LOCAL ★ UNITED PRESS ★ ASSOCIATED PRESS ★ NEWS AND FEATURES
Salem, Oregon, Friday, March 27, 1953—Page 15

Solons Sign Rookie Hurler But Lose Catcher Thrasher

Calistoga, Calif. (Special to the Capital Journal)—The Salem Senators have added a rookie pitcher to their roster, Manager Hugh Luby reported here Friday.

Jim McGee, a Richmond, Calif., youth, comes to the Salem team on recommendation of Bernie deVivastro, scout for the Detroit Tigers and a good personal friend of Luby.

McGee will report to the Senators when they open their spring training at the Napa county fairgrounds in Calistoga Monday.

While the Solons were gaining a pitcher, they were losing a catcher in another development. Art Thrasher, Salem's No. 3 catcher last year, told Luby in a letter that he was staying out of baseball, at least until mid-summer, in order to go to college.

That leaves the Salem team completely minus a catcher, unless Sacramento returns Bob Nelson, who was sold to the Sacs on a look-see basis by Salem. Luby expects Nelson to be returned soon.

Meanwhile, the Senator skipper is shopping around for a catcher, and he needs one pronto. It would be kind of tough, he reasons, to open spring training without one.

The weather at Calistoga is warm, and the playing field at Napa county fairgrounds is in good condition.

The National Geographic Society says a hippopotamus can stay under water as long as nine minutes.

97-54. The winners play Friday night.

In consolation games Salem will meet Chattanooga and Buffalo will play Kannapolis.

The Hoboken spurt, led by Maurice Sylvester, who scored 18 points, broke a tie with three minutes to go. High scorer for the game was Bill Smith of Salem with 24 points.

That advanced Hoboken to a semi-final game Friday night against High Point. The High Point team defeated Chattanooga, 121-59. In other games Butler, Pa., defeated Kannapolis, N. C., 80-53, and Philadelphia downed Buffalo, N. Y., 121-59.

Final scores:
Salem 24, Chattanooga 18, Hoboken 24, Buffalo 18, Kannapolis 18, Philadelphia 121, Butler 59, Chattanooga 59, Buffalo 59.

Different Sports Vary Opinions of 'Amateur'

By WILL GRIMSLEY

New York (AP)—What is an amateur?

He's a tennis player who can accept \$15 a day for expenses. But if, as a track man, he pays \$3.25 for a meal he's a pro.

He's a golfer who must pay his own tournament freight at all times except in rare instances when he's playing for Uncle Sam on the Walker Cup team or in an intercollegiate meet for his college.

He's a trapshooter who can accept an unlimited cash prize, as an amateur; can't take anything if he's a professional.

He's a tennis player who can be equipped with a half-dozen racquets and a drawer full of strings—all for free—by a sporting goods firm. But if he does the same as a golfer the USGA throws him out on his ear.

He's a track man who can't spend more than \$10 a day for room and board but if he happens to be adept at hitting a tennis ball he can go \$5 higher.

An amateur is a crack football halfback who can accept a college scholarship plus a grant-in-aid-side money for books and board—without jeopardizing his si-mon-pure standing.

An amateur is a tennis player who can travel around the lush play spots of the world on an unending expense account but, if he tries it in golf, he gets the back of the USGA's hand.

The inconsistency of America's amateur code was emphasized this week when Billy Maxwell, 1951 National Amateur champion, and seven members of the North Texas State College golf team at Denton, Tex., were stripped of their amateur standing—some for taking expense money for a venture to Mexico City, others for accepting fees for teaching fellow students.

The golf code is by far the strictest of American sports. A player can't accept expense money, can't get free equipment and can't receive a scholarship for golf ability alone.

Tennis restrictions are liberal and getting higher. Players are allowed first class air travel and \$15 a day for an unlimited number of tournaments but they ask and get more.

The Amateur Athletic Union put a ceiling of first class rail ticket and \$10 a day expenses on its track and swim stars and specifies that no more than \$3 shall be paid for any one meal.

Trapshooters have the unique arrangement which permits only amateurs to accept prize money—such as the \$5,000 to grand American champion at Vandallia, Ohio—but the pros, who work for shotgun concerns, aren't permitted to take a penny.

Exhibition Baseball

(By The Associated Press)

Boston (A) 4, Washington (A) 3, Cleveland (A) 4, Chicago (A) 4, St. Louis (N) 10, New York (A) 2, St. Louis (A) 4, New York (N) 3, Milwaukee (N) 10, Cincinnati (N) 8, Brooklyn (N) 8, Philadelphia (N) 7, Philadelphia (A) vs. Atlanta (A) cancelled.

Pittsburgh (N) vs. Cuban Stars cancelled.

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Houbregs Is Named Captain Western Team

New York (AP)—The Western all-star squad slated to meet Eastern all-stars in the Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund college basketball game in Madison Square Garden Saturday has elected Bob Houbregs of the University of Washington captain.

All-America Houbregs, Joe Cipriano, also of Washington, and Chet Noe of Oregon are Pacific Northwesters on the Western squad.

Fights Last Night

(By The Associated Press)

Detroit—Lester Pelton, 186½, Detroit, outpointed Gus Ribicini, 197½, Toronto, 10, 4.

Pali River, Mass.—Houston Brown, 181, New York, knocked out Willie Cox, 178, Hartford, 10, 2.

Newark, N. J.—Danny Rubio, 161, Hoboken, outpointed Billy Andr, 148, Providence, 8, 4.

New York (Sunrise Garden)—Dan-ny Giovannelli, 161½, Brooklyn, stopped Don Braun, 167½, Baltimore, 6, 2.

Kowitz Kriss Kross

Another of those popular kickoff luncheons for the never could figure out why they call a BASEBALL luncheon a KICKOFF.) Anyhow, the affair is scheduled for noon, April 23, at the armory. Jim Mosolf, manager of the Salem Sears store and a former major league baseballer, is handling arrangements. A huge welcome for the Senators and an hour of baseball fun is promised. The Senators open their Western International league season, against Edmonton, at Waters park the following afternoon, April 24. By then, many Salem fans will have already seen their favorite team in action twice. The Senators play Silverton's Red Sox at Silverton April 19, and meet San Diego of the Coast League in an exhibition game here April 20.

Kahut Beating Bushes

Joe Kahut, claimed by Woodburn but actually a resident of Beaverton, is keeping his promise of passing up the big cities temporarily and doing his boxing in upstate Oregon rings. Kahut recently fought in Klamath Falls. Now he is scheduled to meet Chuck Ross, Tacoma heavyweight, in a 10-round main event at Medford Saturday night. Ross was one of Kahut's sparring partners when Kahut worked out at the old Washington school in Silverton in training for his Portland bout with Ezzard Charles last year. With Kahut beating the bushes, and with Promoter Tex Salkeld still interested in bringing professional boxing back to Salem, it looks more and more like Kahut will be boxing in the Ferry street armory soon.

Product of the World

If he starts in the Kentucky Derby May 2 the colt Nicholas should wear the United Nations flag as his racing silks. Nicholas was bred by an Irishman, comes from an English sire line, had a Swede as an attendant when he was foaled, is named for a Russian czar, owned by a German, and trained by a Negro.

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