

Sports

The Bulletin, Tuesday, May 21, 1963

Davis died from 'acute' leukemia

By Oscar Fraley
UPI Staff Writer

NEW YORK (UPI) — Art Modell, the owner of the Cleveland Browns, broke a long silence today to tell of the moment Ernie Davis received his message of death and the day last week "when he came to say goodbye."

Modell, a sensitive man, hesitates even now to reveal the details. Davis, the All-America halfback from Syracuse who will be buried Wednesday in Elmira, N.Y., died of the most severe and acute type of leukemia.

"The thing to fear is that average people with less acute cases will say 'How can I conquer something a big, strong football player couldn't beat?'" he says. "They must take strength from his courage and realize that he did the impossible for eight months and that with less acute cases people live long, long careers."

And it is the courage of the man Modell remembers best.

Last August 1, after the original tests on Davis, Modell was told that Ernie had four weeks to live. But by Oct. 6 doctors reported 100 per cent remission and Davis was called into Modell's office where the Browns' owner waited with two doctors.

The doctors told Modell that it was only temporary remission and that Davis "didn't have a Chinaman's chance."

"Ernie was perspiring when he sat down but he was completely expressionless," Modell recalls. "Then the doctors told him what he had."

"How serious is it?" he asked quietly.

"It's serious," one doctor admitted. "But it's totally remissive now. People have lived with this for years."

Davis nodded and, Modell remembers, "seemed almost relieved now that he knew exactly what he was fighting." Davis asked that nothing be said about his condition but agreed when Modell pointed out that his continuing activity might be an inspiration to others fighting the disease.

Ernie never fought harder on the gridiron than he did in the

weeks that followed. But, because of the severity of his case, it was only a matter of time.

"Usually he would call me whenever he went into the hospital for a transfusion," Modell said huskily.

Suddenly Becomes Critical

Then, last Thursday there was a call for Modell from the hospital advising him that Ernie's condition suddenly had become critical.

"Earlier in the week he had bought a set of golf clubs," Modell said. "But Thursday before he went into the hospital he dropped into the office. He didn't look good but he still was able to smile when he said he was going into the hospital for a couple of days."

They groped for conversation. This time was different from the others.

"I'm sure," Modell asserted, "that he had a premonition. I think he came to say goodbye."

Then he left, walking straight, if not strong, and with a proud, unyielding set to his shoulders.

Davis entered the hospital Thursday at 2 p.m. Saturday at 2 a.m. he died.

"We've set up the Ernie Davis Leukemia Foundation," Modell said. "Contributions can be sent to it at Cleveland, 1, Ohio. This way Ernie undoubtedly will make a bigger contribution to mankind than if he had broken every scoring record in the pro football books."

UO to honor Coach Kirsch

EUGENE (UPI)—Veteran Oregon baseball coach Don Kirsch will be honored next Monday night.

Kirsch, head baseball coach at Oregon for 16 years, is scheduled to be given a night prior to an exhibition game between Oregon and Northwest League Eugene Emeralds at the Emeralds' home Bethel Park here.

The Lane County Baseball Association is sponsoring the night.

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Seeks majors

Haffner fans 13, beats Tacoma, 1-0

By Michael Hudson
UPI Staff Writer

Big Bob Haffner of Seattle is trying to pitch his way into the major leagues, and Seattle is a Pacific Coast League contender because of his efforts.

Haffner fanned 13 and blanked Tacoma on eight hits Monday night in a 1-0 sizzler with the Giants' Jim Constable and John Pregenzer, two men who have hurled in the National League. The win moved Seattle to within a half-game of Tacoma in the Northern Division chase.

Haffner has knocked around the minors for seven years now. His 62-39 lifetime mark shows that he has got the winning habit, but he's never put together that one big year a pitcher needs to make the majors.

Now he is 4-1 with the Rainiers and the 26-year-old Pennsylvania Dutchman may finally make it yet.

In other action Monday night, Dallas-Ft. Worth blanked Oklahoma City 2-0 behind the five-hit pitching of Ted Sadowski; Tom Satriano's homer with one on in the 8th gave Hawaii a 7-5 win over Spokane; and Denver out-slugged Salt Lake City 11-7.

Sadowski, wheelhorse of the Dallas runs because of his speed on the bases. He doubled in the fourth, came to third on a fly ball and scored on an infield out. Then he walked in the sixth and roared home on a double by Joe Nossek.

Satriano's homer capped a seesaw affair at Honolulu before 1694 fans. Dick Simpson of the Islanders also slugged one with a mate aboard, while Al Ferrara of Spokane poled two fourmasters good for three runs.

Hal Griggs won in relief and Jack Smith was the loser.

Ethan Blackaby and J. W. Porter paced Denver against Salt Lake. They accounted for five of the Bears' 10 hits and drove in five runs. Reliever Dick Kelley got the win.

Brazil, USSR to vie for 1963 basketball flag

RIO DE JANEIRO (UPI) — A meeting between Brazil's defending titleholder and the Soviet Union Thursday night should settle the 1963 world amateur basketball championships.

Brazil handed Yugoslavia its first defeat Monday night, rolling to a 30-point lead in the second half en route to a 90-71 victory. It was the Brazilians' third victory against no defeats in the final round robin series.

The Russians, unbeaten in two final round games, play Puerto Rico (6-3) tonight. Brazil meets France (2-2) and then will gain a one-day respite before its showdown meeting with Russia.

The United States team, which won the recent Pan-American Games title, is virtually out of the running after losses to Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. The Yanks, idle Monday night, do not swing into action again until Wednesday night when they meet Puerto Rico.

ASSIGNED TO DENVER

MILWAUKEE (UPI) — Joseph Cisterna, a 20-year-old right-handed pitcher signed by the Milwaukee Braves Monday, has been assigned to Denver of the Pacific Coast League.

Seattle scored its run against Tacoma off Constable in the first inning. Stan Johnson got an infield single, and went to third on Bobby Gene Smith's single.

Seattle tried a double steal and Tacoma used the cut-off play. Johnson was out by a mile but catcher Tim Talton dropped the ball and that proved to be the difference.

San Diego and Portland took the night off.

Too many cars at Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (UPI) — The problem at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway today and for the rest of the week, was how to put 40 cars in a starting lineup for the 500-mile race where there is room for only 15.

A partial answer calls for bumping for qualifying faster than the slowest cars to make the field last weekend. While mechanics work to get a few miles an hour more out of their cars, drivers were keeping one eye open for another ride if their car is bumped or fails to qualify.

The fast boys including pole sitter Parnelli Jones who qualified at a record 151.153 m.p.h., can run fuel and tire tests at their leisure.

Eighteen cars have qualified but high winds both days kept the speeds for the 10-mile sprints down at least two or three miles an hour from the expected 152-plus speeds.

Low man on the chart is Mexico's Pedro Rodriguez, a rookie who turned in 146.687. With good weather the slowest car to make the field should have to turn over 147.

He has indicated he may take a tour of the 2 1/2-mile oval in a standard Offenhauser this week in case he is bumped and can get in another car. He qualified in the 6-cylinder Aston-Martin powered Cooper.

South Eugene in prep golf tourney lead

PORTLAND (UPI) — South Eugene grabbed a five-stroke lead as the two-day, 36-hole Oregon high school golf tournament got under way Monday.

The Eugene school's four-man team of Dave Hamaker, John Pinkstaff, Bob Rennie and John Larson fired an 18-hole total score of 305. Seaside gained second place with 310.

Other schools were Pendleton in third place with 312, Corvallis with 313, Sunset with 314, Cleveland and Lake Oswego with 315, Medford with 317, North Salem with 326, Marshfield with 328, Grant with 329, Reynolds with 331, Grants Pass with 332, Prineville with 351 and Parkrose with 354.

Five players shot one-under-par 73s to tie for the individual lead. They were Hamaker, Bill McRae of Pendleton, David Douglas of John Krogh and Carvel Nelson and Guy Gordon of Sunset.

Fairfield wins golf crown

OKLAHOMA CITY (UPI) — Don Fairfield birdied the final hole to win the \$39,000 Oklahoma City golf open by a stroke over Julius Boros.

Communists in line to gain basketball title

RIO DE JANEIRO (UPI) — Defending champion Brazil, the only team with a chance to stop a two-pronged Communist bid for the world amateur basketball championship, meets unbeaten Yugoslavia tonight, while the United States, already beaten twice, is idle.

Yugoslavia hasn't lost in three games and a victory tonight would put the Communist country in a good spot to take the title this year. Brazil and Russia, who meet on Thursday, both are unbeaten in two games.

The Yanks, who won the title in the recent Pan-American games do not play again until Wednesday when they meet Puerto Rico, which has lost all three of its games in the round-robin final series. France (1-2) and Italy (0-2) are the other teams in the final round.

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OSU slips into ND first place

SEATTLE (UPI) — Run-producing singles by Veevor South and Dave Hayward in the fourth inning gave Oregon State a 2-1 Northern Division baseball win over Washington Monday.

Oregon State now is 8-2 and Oregon 8-3 in league action. The Northern Division winter is scheduled to meet Southern California May 31-June 1 in a best-of-three series on the northern team's home field for an NCAA tourney berth.

Cecil Ira of Oregon State had 10 strikeouts and allowed only four hits, a performance matched by Jake Kupp of the losers.

Linescore:
Oregon State 000 200 000—2-1
Washington 000 000 100—1-0
Ira and Hayward; Kupp and Thompson.



CLEAN SWEEP—Bend really did it in the 880-yard run Saturday at The Dalles during the District 7-A-1 track and field meet. Bend runners took the first three places in the event. Mark Miller is shown at the wire. Coming up in the rear are, center, Mike Donley, and left, Herb Hickman.

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The Sports Beat

Hickman to state; relay team stays

By Web Ruble
Bulletin Staff Writer

Herb Hickman, Bend High School's 440-yard dash man, will make it to state after all. However, according to Coach Hoop Moore and Athletic Director Dick Geser, Hickman remains "disqualified" in Saturday's District 7-A-1 prep track meet at The Dalles.

Hickman will run in the state meet on the basis of having bettered the qualifying mark of 51.5 seconds. Hickman Saturday was very close to 50 flat.

Geser learned of Oregon State Athletic Association's ok of Hickman in a telephone conversation yesterday morning.

Geser said, "based upon evidence as presented by The Dalles meet officials, the OSAA has approved Hickman's entering the state meet because of his bettering the qualifying time."

"In addition," he continued, "a written report of the situation will be forthcoming from both The Dalles officials and myself."

What are the chances of Bend's disqualified relay team making it? None, it was learned. Geser added yesterday, "I expect nothing more to transpire." Nothing is changed in last Saturday's meet. There will be no point change, and Pendleton still gets the District 7-A-1 track flag.

Incidentally, Madras' Wayne Maw gets a Bulletin pat on the back for his conduct at the meet. Maw told both the officials and Hickman that Hickman didn't foul him. Maw, a top notch athlete himself, still holds the top 440-yard dash time in the state. The 50.1 he ran at new Bruin Field in the sub-district affair remains the state's interscholastic standard.

Last Saturday at The Dalles, Hickman and Maw had some close duels this year. Hickman beat Maw for the first time when the two schools got together

in April for a dual meet.

Maw, however, got one on Hickman in the sub-district, after Hickman took his measure in the Bulletin Metric Invitational 400 meters. Then, Saturday, Maw and Hickman went all out and nearly finished "in a blanket" with Hickman having the edge. Hickman's disqualification, however, gave Maw the victory. . . and if anybody deserved to benefit from the disqualification it was Maw.

Was somebody out for Bend's hide? You would have thought so if you could have heard some of the conversation that some of the other coaches were throwing around. However, The Dalles officials and the athletes themselves (we heard it) felt bad about Bend's misfortune. Meet officials (though they let the situation get a little out of hand) apparently were doing the best they could under "the circumstances."

But what we are asking ourselves today is . . . what were the circumstances?

MORE ABOUT BASEBALL

Coach Bill Bauer's Bend High School baseball squad needn't feel bad about losing their last two games. Their Pel opponents managed to win two twin bills in a row before bowing to a Medford team which captured the District 6-A-1 flag. The Pels played three doubleheaders in three days, defeating Yreka, Calif., 3-2 and 5-1, Bend 7-3 and 3-1, and losing to Medford 6-2 and 6-4.

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