

'Nice guy' Flatbush kid didn't want the Brooklyn 9

By Oscar Fraley
UPI Staff Writer

HALEAH, Fla. (UPI)—A few years back, when the Dodgers lived in Brooklyn, their manager was a man named Leo Durocher who caused a great deal of indignation with a remark that "Nice guys finish last."

It was accepted by the baseball buffs at that time that every kid in Flatbush wanted to play for the Dodgers. It is to be presumed that a great many of them did want exactly that. But there was at least one

who didn't — and Walter Blum has gone on to also disprove the Lip's crack about nice guys finishing last.

It took him 10 years to hit the top but the serious, quiet Blum made it in 1963 by becoming the jockey champion with 369 winning mounts. Booming from 10th place to first, he also showed that nice guys could finish first.

And he never wanted to play baseball for the Dodgers.

"I always liked horses," he recalls. "I used to save up my

weekly allowance and then on Sunday, when I had enough money, I'd go riding in Prospect Park in Brooklyn."

After his sophomore year in high school, Blum was convinced by a friend who worked for trainer Hirsch Jacobs that he should try to become a jockey.

"I didn't know anything about racing," he relates. "I thought you'd just go out to the track, say you wanted to be a rider and they'd put you up on a horse."

It wasn't quite that easy. The dark-haired little man got a job but for two years his duties were confined to walking "hots," which means leading horses after a workout or a race until they cool out, or cleaning tack and holding horses for the blacksmith.

It wasn't until the spring of 1963, after "riding" a carload full of bales of hay in simulated "races," that he finally got his first mount. And it wasn't until three months later that he brought home his first winner,

a 37 to one shot named Tuscania.

Blum presents a withdrawn attitude to the world, holding himself aloof behind a reserved exterior, and rides with a quiet ferocity. Yet, with his friends he is warm, affable and well liked. And success hasn't turned one strand of his dark brown hair.

"I rode real well last year," he admits almost reluctantly. "But to a certain extent I had to be lucky. I rode for trainers who had winning horses, I have

the best agent in the business in Harold Wiscman and I had a lot more mounts than I ever did before."

Blum, now 29, has been consistently successful in recent years and it has brought him material comforts which were only vague dreams when, as a skinny 16-year-old, he first applied for a race track job. He and his pretty wife, Sally, have a luxuriously furnished home on the southwest fringe of Miami where they live a quiet life with their two children, Seth,

five, and Jeff, two.

"I'm home just about every night," he says. "I play with the kids, watch television or just relax. And I'm usually in bed by 10:30 p.m."

It's a nice life if you don't mind risking your life every afternoon and if you haven't a gargantuan appetite. Blum breakfasts on toast and coffee and has one good meal daily.

But Blum isn't kidding. He proved that a nice guy can finish first, even if he never wanted to play for the Dodgers.

A LOOK AT SPORTS

Slats ranks OSU victory 'great'

by Web Ruble
Bulletin Sports Editor

Polpourri:

People in Oregon feel "just great" about Oregon State's victory over the Cincinnati Bearcats Saturday night.

But the important thing in the sports world is how a game or a series stacks up in significance with the coaches. One would imagine that Saturday night's triumph would be one of the greatest for Coach Amory "Slat" Gill.

Well...it was. The veteran mentor admitted that this win had to be one of the biggest of his 38 years at the OSU helm. He said, "you bet it's a big one...it sure helps make our season."

Not only did the Beavers beat Cincy, but it was just about the worst defeat the Bearcats have received in modern times. Or, at least, since the Bearcats came into national prominence in the last decade.

Good Margin

And what a margin it was — 82-61! The last time anyone came even within shooting distance of a spread like that was in 1960 when Cincy mentor Ed Jucker was beginning to install a California-control game at the Ohio city.

Seton Hall beat them by 18. Jucker's squad dropped three of its eight openers and then commenced a blitzkrieg that carried them to the national title.

Cincy in 1961 successfully defended their title by whipping Jerry Lucas and the Ohio State Buckeyes in perhaps one of college basketball's most thrilling chapters. Last year saw the Bearcats lose the national crown to Loyola of Chicago on a tip-in at the buzzer.

A Real Boost

Not only did Oregon State gain a shot in the arm in national prominence, but the Beavers made up for, at least in part, a 80-46 lacing they suffered in the NCAA semi-finals last year.

According to George Pasero of the Portland Journal, Saturday night's hoop war on the Corvallis hardwoods was the 100th contest for Coach Jucker since his coming to Bearcatville.

What kind of a team is Cincy? Well...aside from the Bearcats' sojourn with the national crown and near-crowns, Cincinnati has posted a 90-10 win-loss record in that 100.

A SKIFFING EYEFUL

Getting back to something that pertains to the local scene. Nolan Skiff, sports editor of the Pendleton East Oregonian, came up with some tidbits the other day concerning the two teams that the Bend Lava Bears and the Redmond Panthers will be facing up there this weekend.

Even though Pendleton didn't "slaughter" Mac Hill last weekend (score: 58-45), the Bucks did finish out the contest with their reserves. Mac suffered, on its own court, some stone colditis in the first period.

Bucks Ragged

Mac jumped off to an early 6-1 lead as Pendleton started out raggedly. Then at a point just after the Bucks began to get organized, the Pioneers for the next seven minutes and forty seconds "couldn't beg, borrow or steal a field goal." The Bucks in the meantime racked up 18 tallies. From that

Doctors examine Hutchinson's chest cancer

SEATTLE (UPI) — Doctors here continue to look for answers to questions about the cancerous growth discovered in the chest of Cincinnati baseball Manager Fred Hutchinson.

They say the answers must be found before treatment on the 44-year-old Hutchinson can begin in a special high pressure oxygen chamber at Seattle's Swedish Hospital Tumor Institute.

Dr. Orless Wildermuth, Institute director, said Hutchinson is still in a "work up" stage for treatment.

"We are still trying to determine exactly what kind of tumor he has, where it came from and exactly what its nature is."

But he indicated they might be ready to begin treatment within the next few days.

Hutchinson is scheduled to undergo hyperbaric radiotherapy, a method of treating cancer in this country used only at the Seattle hospital.

The treatments would alternate one week of X ray with three weeks of rest over at least a two months' period.

The former Seattle pitching star returned here last week on the advice of his brother, William, a prominent Seattle physician, who confirmed the diagnosis of a "malignancy." Hutchinson revealed the ailment last Friday.

Doctors have declined to term the malignancy "lung cancer" at this time. The tumor is in the upper chest and lower neck region.

Hutchinson, meanwhile, remains in good spirits, with hopes of joining his team for spring practice March 1.



SHARPSHOOTER—Pat Hammack, a 5-10 junior guard, may have to carry the load this weekend when the Sisters High School Outlaws try to pick up their first wins of the season. The locals face Fossil at home Friday and do battle with the Bulldogs at Culver Saturday. (Nate Bull photo).

Puget Sound ranks fifth; Lutes, Pioneers in top 20

NEW YORK (UPI) — Kentucky Wesleyan, a team which tackles more than its share of major college competition, and Washington of St. Louis today broke into the top 10 small college basketball ratings conducted by United Press International.

Evansville, another quintet with a major college schedule, remained in first place for the fourth week in a row, followed by incumbents Grambling (No. 2), Western Carolina (No. 3) and Pan American (No. 4).

The ratings are based on games played through Saturday, Jan. 4.

Kentucky Wesleyan grabbed 10th spot with its strong 9-1 record which includes victories over major college teams such as Baylor, South Carolina, Virginia and George Washington. Its lone loss was to Louisville by six points.

Unbeaten Puget Sound and once-defeated Hofstra also gained in the standings. Puget Sound took over fifth place, changing places with seventh-ranked Wittenberg. Hofstra moved into sixth, trading spots with eighth-rated Fresno State.

WHL: 5 squads vie for playoffs

By United Press International

The fight among five teams for three playoff spots in the Western Hockey League is getting fiercer every day.

Denver is the only team in the league playing over .500 and the Invaders hold a 19-point lead over everybody else. Denver would seem to have first place — and the advantageous playoff spot that goes with it — sewed up.

That still leaves three more berths in the post-season competition to determine the league's champ and the five also-rans are within five points of each other after last-place Vancouver dumped the league-leading Denver squad in a 3-1 stunner Tuesday night.

In the evening's only other action, Los Angeles snapped a six-game losing streak and moved back into second place by defeating Seattle, 4-2.

It's not far from Los Angeles (17-18-3) down to Vancouver (14-20-3), and the real drama of this year's race should be the frantic fight for fourth place among the loop's second division clubs.

Bruce Carmichael was the hero at Vancouver. After Denver grabbed a 1-0 lead, Carmichael meshed a pair of third period goals to give the Canucks the lead. Vancouver added another tally after Denver pulled net-minder Al Miller out of the goal to add another attacker.

Portland Pilots keel-haul Oregon Ducks by 61-58...

PORTLAND (UPI)—Sam Coston's lay-in and two free throws by Ken Falkner in the final one-half minute gave the Portland Pilots a 61-58 basketball win over the Oregon Ducks Tuesday night.

Coston stole the ball from Elliott Gleason and scored with 20 seconds left and Falkner made his points with five seconds remaining.

The decision gave the Pilots a 7-3 record and left the Ducks with a 2-6 mark.

Cincy Powell and Falkner each scored 16 points and Tom Nichols tallied 12 for Portland.

For Oregon, Jim Johnson made 24, Steve Jones had 13 and Jim Barnett added 12.

The Pilots made 24 of 63 field goal attempts for a .381 percentage and the Ducks hit 22 of 73 shots from the floor for a .301 mark.

Oregon held a 54-50 edge in rebounding. Steve Anstett and Powell of Portland each had 13 rebounds and Johnson made 12 recoveries.

The Box:

Team	G	F	T
Oregon (58)	8	8-10	24
Johnson	2	1-2	5
Cooley	4	4-7	12
Jones	6	1-1	13
Barnett	4	4-7	12
Gleason	2	0-1	4
Jennings	0	0-0	0
Brockmeyer	0	0-0	0
Totals	24	14-21	58
Portland (61)	G	F	T
Powell	7	2-3	16
Nichols	4	4-5	12
Anstett	3	1-4	7
Coston	3	0-0	6
Falkner	6	4-5	16
Toner	1	2-3	4
Cooper	0	0-0	0
Totals	24	13-20	61

Halftime Score: Portland 29 Oregon 28

Personal Fouls: Oregon — Johnson 2, Cooley 5, Jones 4, Barnett 3, Gleason, Jennings, Brockmeyer, Portland — Powell 4, Nichols, Anstett 5, Coston 3, Toner 2, Cooper 2.

Attendance: 2,254

OCE gets win...

NEWBERG (UPI) — Oregon College of Education posted a 59-50 nonconference basketball win over George Fox Tuesday night.

Dave Pappin scored 11 points to lead OCE.

COWBOYS PICK DILL

DALLAS (UPI) — Jimmy Dill, a 6-foot-1, 185-pound offensive end at the University of Alabama, has been signed by the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League as a free agent. Dill was not picked in the NFL draft.

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