

3rd Place or Better Seen for SF Seals

This is the last in a series on the outlook of Pacific Coast League teams for the 1955 season.

By SCOTT BAILLIE
Brawley, Calif.—(U.P.)—Tommy Heath, the round, personable San Francisco manager, said today there were too many "ifs" in the league, but ventured the opinion that his club would improve on its 1954 fourth place finish.

"I've been saying third place," Heath said. "But without knowing what the other clubs are going to do later, I can't be any more solid."

Heath says he desperately needs a first baseman, could use more power behind the plate and at third, and, like all managers, is on the lookout for outfield strength.

"Our pitching will be all right," he commented.

The Seals did much in the pitching line during the off season, getting from Seattle southpaws Gene Bearden (11-13) and Steve Nagy (7-11) and right-handers Bill Evans (5-7) and Pete Hernandez (9-2) with Vancouver of the Western International league. They also acquired Jim Walsh (10-7) with Hollywood.

Capable Relievers
Holdovers include Bill Bradford (6-2), Ed Chandler (12-11) and Tony Ponce (14-16) as well as able relievers Adrian Zabala (11-8) and Bob Muncieff (3-7).

New to the Seals will be rookies Ralph Burns and Don Frachia, who showed well in spring training, and Marshall Epperson, a lefty with limited duty with San Francisco.

When the question of first base is broached, Heath prefers to talk about the players he hopes to get. Play-coach Chuck Stevens, now past the everyday stage but willing to try it, has been sharing the initial sack with ex-outfielder Bob DiPietro.

The Seals gave up Jim Westlake, last year's first baseman, to the Philadelphia Phillies and have not yet been fully paid. They hope the final terms include a left-hander with a medium-padded glove.

Veteran Infielders
The rest of the infield seems to be pretty well set although Heath would do a lot of changing if he could get more power.

Jim Moran is on second, Leo Righetti on short and third base is the non-exclusive territory of Reno Chese and Mike Baxes.

Tommy Perez who hit .327 for Victoria of the Western International league last year, is shooting for Moran's job or a

spot in the outfield and Raul Dieppa, a .323 batter in the Class C Longhorn league, hopes to oust Righetti.

The outfield could be the league's best, or it could be a worse problem than first base for Manager Heath.

Presently it lines up with Clarence Maddern in left, Dave Melton in center and Ted Beard in right.

Beard Doing Well
DiPietro, Sal Taormina and Perez are also eyeing the garden spots.

Heath refuses to commit himself on the berths although Beard has been a demon through spring exhibitions, driving in every Seal run against the Cleveland Indians, and Melton's hitting is expected to give him the confidence to make a center fielder out of him.

"If Maddern hits, he gets left field," Heath said.

Catching chores will be handled as last year by Will Tiesera and Nini Tornay, although they will get help from young Merv Donahue who got out of the Army in time for spring training. All are capable receivers but none has yet shown a powerful bat.

"But where we finish depends on too many things," Heath added. "How can you tell about the other clubs. These other clubs have got a bunch of guys now you never heard of. Who will they have during the big part of the season?"

Bob Shantz Has Narrow Escape

West Palm Beach, Fla. —(U.P.)—Bobby Shantz, one-time 139-pound pitching giant of the American league, was expected to resume training today with the Kansas City A's after a narrow escape from serious injury.

Shantz, a 24-game winner in 1952 when he was voted the league's "most valuable player," suffered a cut left ear Tuesday when struck by a line drive off the bat of rookie Earl Smith of the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Pirates won the game, 9-8, on Frank Thomas' two-run, ninth-inning homer.

Smith's second-inning liner was partly deflected by Shantz as he threw up his glove but the ball caromed off the side of his head and the 29-year-old southpaw fell to the ground unconscious. He was carried off the field on a stretcher but x-rays at a local hospital revealed no fracture.

Dead line Sunday. Classified is at noon Saturday; 1 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

8 Baseball Lettermen At Phoenix

Phoenix — Coach Roscoe Larson's Phoenix high baseball team, with one practice victory to its credit, was scheduled to meet St. Mary's of Medford this afternoon.

The Pirates, fortified with eight returning lettermen, have bright prospects for a successful season, according to Larson.

Back this year from the 1954 squad are pitcher Jack Thompson, left fielder Bob Webster, catcher Riley Bean, center fielder Jerry Nye, first baseman Ray Dahl, third baseman Larry Blunt, and pitcher Bill Madden.

Another letterman is shortstop Ron Bean, who lettered two years ago, but was not out for baseball last season.

These lettermen will be contending with 13 other top prospects for starting berths by the time the Rogue league season opens. Many of the newcomers have not been out long enough to settle down to one position yet, according to Larson.

Nine of the new men have been working out in the outfield, but several of these are expected to contend for other spots. They are Mike Campbell, Jim Heath, Bill Clark, Lester Schleigh, Don Wallas, Earl Dillree, Milton Truman, Jim Hobbs, and Jim Goldenpenny.

Other newcomers, and the spots they are tentatively slated for, are Bill Shepherd, second base; Rodger Carson, pitcher; Gary Simmonds, third base, and Don McCarty, catcher. McCarty also may see duty on the pitcher's mound, while Carson has a chance to nail down an outfield post.

Larson's tentative starting lineup at the present time is Riley Bean, catcher; Dahl, first base; Madden, second base; Ron Bean, shortstop; Blunt, third base; Webster, left field; Nye, center field, and Carson or Wallace, right field. Top pitchers appear to be Thompson, Carson, and McCarty.

Robinson Unimpressive Winner Over Lombardo

Cincinnati, Ohio.—(U.P.)—Sugar Ray Robinson admitted today he "just wasn't sharp" in his timing in winning an unimpressive split decision over Johnny Lombardo in a 10-round match here Tuesday night before 3,124 fans in Cincinnati Gardens.

The 35-year-old fighter, who showed little of the flash and power that won him two world championships, blasted the Mt. Carmel, Pa., boxer with everything he had in a ninth round surge. But the young challenger absorbed the punches and kept pressing the fight.

Willie Pep Takes On Cadilli in 10-Rounder

Park Air Force Base, Calif.—An oldster, Willie Pep and a youngster, Gil Cadilli, tangle in a 10-round nationally televised fight here tonight with a similar target in sight—a crack at the featherweight championship. Pep, the 32-year-old ring-veteran of 194 fights, has had a healthy sampling of championship glory, having lost the title to Sandy Saddler in September of 1951. Cadilli, making his TV bow, is recently out of the service and rates high on the list of Saddler challengers.

Bobby Dykes Gets Good Workout With Rubicini

Miami Beach, Fla. —(U.P.)—Middleweight contender Bobby Dykes, who is "just waiting around" to hear from champion Bobo Olson, today called his streak busting victory over Gus Rubicini a "good workout."

It was a clear but close unanimous decision that the skinny Dykes recorded over Canadian Gus in the 10-round feature bout Tuesday night at the Auditorium.

Turley Hurls 5 Shutout Innings for NY Yankees

Clearwater, Fla. —(U.P.)—Manager Casey Stengel of the New York Yankees finally had today what he's been looking for all spring — an impressive performance from pitcher Bob Turley.

Turley hurled five shutout innings Tuesday as the Yankees beat the Detroit Tigers, 6-1.

Pittsburgh —(U.P.)—A tired Pittsburgh hockey team was given an "equal chance" in tonight's first game of a best-of-seven series against the Buffalo Bisons for the Calder Cup, symbol of American Hockey League supremacy.

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SPORTS



CUDD GETS OREGON OPEN PRIZE—Bruce Cudd, center, Portland, appears proud and happy as he accepts first low gross prize for his victory in the Oregon Open golf tournament here. The 72-hole tourney was staged last Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Rogue Valley Country club here. The stellar Columbia-Edgewater club amateur tabulated a 289 score to beat out Joe Greer, Yakima, Wash., professional, and Dick Yost, Portland amateur, by three strokes. Pictured with Cudd are Dr. L. Paul Walker, left, president of Rogue Valley Country club, and Al Williams, pro at Rogue Valley.

Cleveland, Gresham, Milwaukie On Slate Of Tornado Gridders

Three schools from Oregon's metropolitan area will be on the Medford high school football slate next fall, Coach Fred Spiegelberg has announced. Medford will have six home games in its regular schedule of nine.

The rivals from the northern section of the state will be Cleveland of Portland, Milwaukie and Gresham. Milwaukie and Gresham replace Marshfield and Springfield which were among opponents in the 1954 slate.

Cleveland's Indians, as they did last year, will provide the Tornado with its first opposition of the season. The game will be played here on Saturday, September 10. All other tangles will be on Friday's.

Gresham will come here on September 16. Medford will travel to Roseburg on September 23 and to Milwaukie on September 30.

The 1955 season will build up to a climax with all the Southern Oregon conference and district tussles at the tail end.

After playing Crater here on October 7, the Tornado will go to Klamath Falls for its conference and district opener on October 14. Eureka, Calif., breaks up the loop slate, coming here on October 21.

Canadiens Aim To Gain Stanley Finals Tonight

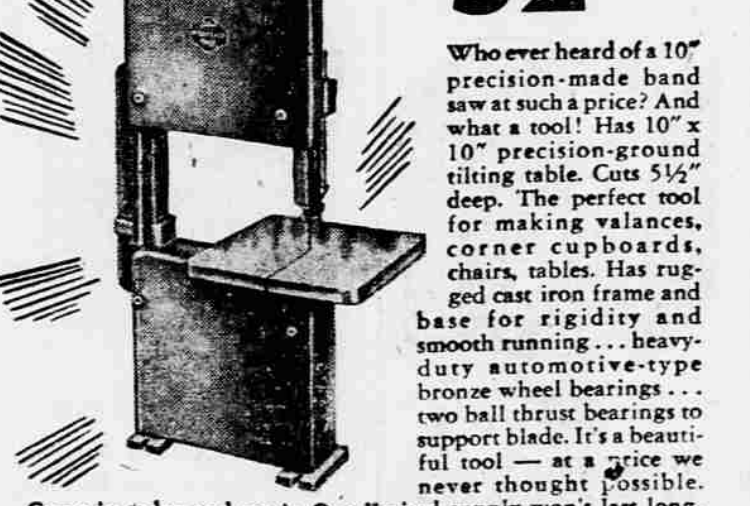
By UNITED PRESS
The fired-up Montreal Canadiens hope to storm into the final round of the Stanley Cup playoffs by beating the Boston Bruins at Montreal tonight, and the champion Detroit Red Wings hope they make it.

The Red Wings already are in the finals, for their easy 3-0 victory over Toronto Tuesday night gave them a four-game sweep of their semi-final series.

The Canadiens seized a commanding 3-1 in their semi-final by beating the Bruins, 4-3, in overtime.

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Tiger Pennant Hopes In Hands of Rookies

By LEO H. PETERSEN
United Press Sports Editor
Lakeland, Fla. —(U.P.)— Five rookie pitchers and two rookie outfielders hold the key to the pennant hopes of the Detroit Tigers this year.

If they come through, manager Bucky Harris believes his club will be a contender. If they don't, he expects a tough battle with the Red Sox for fourth place, figuring the Yankees, Indians and White Sox to wind up in the first three spots, although not necessarily in that order.

Harris has high hopes for three youngsters just out of service—pitcher Bill Black, who won 30 while losing only one in service games and outfielder J. W. Porter and John (Budda) Phillips. Porter, the bonus boy signed by the White Sox and then shipped to Detroit, has been hitting hard and appears a good bet to win the left field job.

Other Rookie Pitchers
The other rookies are pitchers Frank Larv, a 15-game winner with Buffalo last year; Bill Froats, a seven game winner with the same club; Paul Foytack, who divided his time last year between Buffalo and Louisville, winning only five games while losing 10; and Duane Maas, another Buffalo graduate who won seven last season.

Harris hopes that from those five pitching rookies and Bob Miller, a bonus player, he can come up with at least two starters to go along with Ned Garver, Steve Gromek and Bill Hoelt.

For relief there will be Bob Shultz, an 18-game winner with New Orleans; Led Christiane, who won 24 at Atlanta; and Ben Flowers, who won another trail after winning 11 at Louisville. Other pitching possibilities are holdovers Al Aber 5-11; Ray Herbert 3-6; George Zuvorink 9-13 and Dick Marlowe 5-4.

Boxer Hurt Seriously In First Pro Scuffle

Trenton, N. J. —(U.P.)—Young Philadelphia boxer Bryan Thompson was in a serious condition in St. Francis Hospital today, still unconscious several hours after being knocked out in his first professional fight.

Thompson, a last-minute substitute, was knocked out by Jerry Luedde of New Haven, Conn., at 2:38 of the second round of their semi-final bout Tuesday night, which had been scheduled for six rounds.

When the young middleweight failed to regain consciousness 10 minutes after the kayo, ring physician Dr. George A. Corio ordered him removed to the hospital. There officials reported that, while he seemed normal in all other respects, he remained unconscious.

will battle for the job. Fred Hatfield will be second with the brilliant Harvey Kuenn at short and hard-hitting Ray Boone at third. Boone has a sore arm but is sure he will be ready for the season's opener.

Reno Bertoia, the young bonus player who batted only .162 with the Tigers last season, and John Baumgartner, who was with Little Rock and Buffalo in 1954, are infield reserve candidates.

Best Throwing Outfield

If Porter wins the left field job, Harris believes he will have the best throwing outfield in the league with Al Kaline in right and Bill Tuttle in center. John Phillips also can hit and is fast, as are the other three. The veterans Jim Delsing will be around as will Steve Souchock, who can play first base as well as the outfield.

Even though they let him go, the White Sox rate Porter so highly they offered to buy him back with a reported \$100,000 bid, but the Tigers turned it down.

Red Wilson, who hit .282 last season after the Tigers obtained him from the White Sox, and Frank House will do the catching. Harris refuses to rate them No. 1 and 2, merely saying that he will catch whichever one "happens to be hot up there at the plate."

It is a young club overall and Harris realizes that it may be a year or two away. But if he comes up with some pitching help, he figures the Tigers will surprise a lot of people.

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