

A's Purchase E. Blackwell From Yanks

West Palm Beach, Fla. —(U.P.) Officials of the Kansas City Athletics insisted today that the A's purchase of three players from the New York Yankees had "nothing to do" with a reported Yankee offer for pitcher Arnold Portocarrero.

The deal announced last night, first made by the A's since their shift to Kansas City, brought to last season's last place team pitchers Ewell (The Whip) Blackwell and Tom Gorman and first baseman Dick Kryhoski.

The purchase price was not announced, but was estimated at \$50,000.

Ray Kennedy, the A's director of player personnel, said that the straight cash transaction did not stem in any way from a report two days ago that the Yankees had offered five players to Kansas City for pitcher Arnold Portocarrero, generally regarded as the ace of the Kansas City staff.

However, many observers at the training camp here believe this purchase may be the forerunner of still further deals between the two teams, possibly involving Portocarrero.

Baseball Briefs

San Diego, Calif. —(U.P.) — Manager Bob Elliott scheduled only a batting practice today after his San Diego Padres whipped the Camp Pendleton Marines 10-2 yesterday. Left-hander Bob Kerrigan pitched nine innings of ball in the win and gave up only six hits. Dick Faber hit a bases loaded homer in the second and drove in a total of five runs.

ANGELS DUMP UCLA

Fullerton, Calif. —(U.P.) — Cal McLish starts for the Los Angeles Angels today as they renew their cross-town rivalry with the Hollywood Stars here. The Angels dumped UCLA 11-1 yesterday to avenge an earlier 9-6 defeat at the hands of the Bruins. Pitcher Joe Hatten went seven innings and allowed only four hits. Outfielder Bob Usher slugged a homerun, a triple and a single in driving in two runs. Buzz Clarkson also homered for the Angels.

SUDS BEAT STARS

Palm Springs, Calif. —(U.P.) — The Seattle Rainiers play the Portland Beavers at Glendale, Calif., today after defeating Hollywood 12-3 yesterday with a 15-hit barrage against four Star pitchers. Moe Savransky, a southpaw obtained from Cincinnati, pitched seven innings versus pinch and scattered five hits.

PINCH HOMER WINS

El Centro, Calif. —(U.P.) — George Melkovich, limping with a bad charlie horse, uncorked a two-run, pinch hit home run in the ninth inning last night to give the Oakland Oaks a narrow 6-5 win over Sacramento. The Solons had taken the lead on two homers by catcher Dan Baich and another by first baseman Nippy Jones.

3-0 RECORD

Augusta, Ga. —(U.P.) — Bob Porterfield pointed to a 3-0 Grapefruit League record today as evidence he's ready for the Washington Senator's opening day mound assignment. Porterfield was credited with his third victory of the spring Wednesday in an 8-4 win over the Cincinnati Redlegs.

MORTON TO FARM CLUB

Sarasota, Fla. —(U.P.) — Guy Morton Jr., son of a former Cleveland Indians pitcher, was sent by the Boston Red Sox today to their Montgomery, Ala., farm club. The Red Sox, who play the Philadelphia Phillies today, were battered Wednesday by the Detroit Tigers, 9-3.

GARMON TO DENVER

Daytona Beach, Fla. —(U.P.) — The Pittsburgh Pirates announced today that pitcher Chuck Garmon has been returned to Denver in the Western League. Garmon had a 16-7 record with Denver last season but did not pitch an inning of exhibition ball this spring. The Pirates bowed to the Baltimore Orioles, 3-1, in the opener of a doubleheader Wednesday but bounced back to win the second game, 2-0, for their seventh triumph in their last eight games.

SOILY DRAKE HURT

Mesa, Ariz. —(U.P.) — Solly Drake, 24-year-old rookie rated a chance to be the Chicago Cubs' regular centerfielder this year, will be side-lined for an estimated two months with a dislocated right ankle and broken fibula.

JUSTICE RETIRES

Chapel Hill, N.C. —(U.P.) — Charley (Choo Choo) Justice Washington Redskins halfback and former football All-America at the University of North Carolina, has announced his retirement from football. Justice, a native of Asheville, N.C., who now resides here, said he has accepted a job as a salesman for an oil company and would continue to live in this city.

STENGEL THINKS YANKS SHOULD ABOUT MATCH LAST YEAR'S WIN TOTAL

By LEO H. PETERSEN
United Press Sports Editor

St. Petersburg, Fla. —(U.P.) — The Yankees won 103 games last season and finished second, eight games behind the Indians. Willy Casey Stengel thinks his 1955 team will win about the same number of games, and that it will be enough to win the American league pennant. Most baseball people agree, although they also feel as Stengel does that the Indians will be tough to beat.

"But we should do it," Stengel said. "It won't be easy, though."

Except for pitching and one infield spot, his 1955 club is all set. The infield spot undecided is shortstop. It looks like Stengel will open the season with the veteran Phil Rizzuto, but no one expects him to hold up very long. And if he does fade, it will be Bill Hunter at that important post.

Scouter Poses Problem

Hunter was one of the three players the Yankees acquired in their big million-dollar deal with the Orioles, and the others being pitchers Bob Turley and Don Larsen.

Hunter has more range than 36-year-old Rizzuto. Last season Rizzuto, who criticized Stengel for not using him more, hit only .193, far below his usual batting average. Hunter, who is 26, hit .240 with the Orioles.

At first base it will be Bill Skowron, who as a part time performer hit .340 last season. Stengel plans to use him against all types of pitching, instead of platooning him with Joe Collins. Last year, Skowron played only when left-handers pitched against the Yankees.

Howard Should Stick

Gil McDougald will be at third and Andy Carey at third with an outfield of Irv Noren in left, Mickey Mantle in center and Hank Bauer in right. Gerry Coleman will be around to take over at either second, short or third and Eddie Robinson, a first baseman, will be kept mostly for pinch hitting chores. Stengel also must carry two infield bonus babies, first baseman Frank Leja and a shortstop Tom Carroll.

Bob Cerv and the veteran Enos Slaughter will be the outfield reserves. Collins also can play the outfield and so can rookie Elston Howard, who seems sure to be retained. Howard, however, is not too sure in the outfield and probably

Hearn Key to Giants' Flag Hopes With New Attitude, Secret Pitch

Tucson, Ariz. —(U.P.) — Jim Hearn, who helped pitch the New York Giants to a pennant in 1951, has been described as the key man in the Giants' efforts for a repeat National league flag. Manager Leo Durocher himself cited Hearn as his most exciting improvement this spring training campaign.

"Hearn is the most improved man on my staff," said Durocher. "His attitude has not only changed but he's a far better pitcher than I have even seen him to be."

That new attitude is the obvious change in Hearn, who had an 8-8 won-lost record last year. But there's a "mystery" about him, too — a "secret pitch."

Hearn developed the pitch under Coach Frank Shellenback, his private tutor, and catcher Wes Westrum. They will unveil it shortly after the season begins.

OSC DINNER CANCELLED

Portland —(U.P.) — The Portland retail trade bureau's scheduled dinner to honor the Oregon State basketball team next Monday night was cancelled today because of lack of public response.

Baseball

WEDNESDAY EXHIBITIONS
(1st Game)
Pittsburgh (N) 000 100 000—1 8 1
Baltimore (A) 010 002 003—3 8 0
Wade, Donose (5) and Shepard, Patricia, Rogovin (6) and Moss, Winning pitcher—Rogovin, Losing pitcher—Donose.
(2nd Game, 8 Innings)
Pittsburgh (N) 000 000 02—2 6 1
Baltimore (A) 000 000 00—0 2 0
Sawyer, Face (7) and Artwell, Coleman, Miller (8) and Batts, Winning pitcher—Face, Losing pitcher—Miller.
Milwaukee (N) 000 100 001—2 9 1
Brooklyn (N) 000 012 003—3 8 0
Burdette, Wilson (6) and Crandall, Parks (7), Wojew, Darnell (7) and Walker, Winning pitcher—Darnell, Losing pitcher—Wilson.
Detroit (A) 030 600 000—9 14 1
Boston (A) 000 000 003—3 5 1
Hoelt, Zuverink (7) and Wilson, Yewick (6), Delock, Smith (8), Freeman (8) and White, Winning pitcher—Hoelt, Losing pitcher—Delock.
Cincinnati (N) 000 004 100—5 8 2
Wash. (A) 200 410 103—13 2 3
Minnacore, Collum (5) and Bailey, Porterfield, Shea (7), Currie (6) and Korchek, Winning pitcher—Porterfield, Losing pitcher—Minnacore.
(Called end of 12 Innings, dark.)
N.Y. (N) 100 303 030 000—10 15 3
Phila. (N) 000 130 040 000—10 12 3
Kucks, Wiesler (6), Sturdivant (8) and Howard, Owens, Casagrande (7), Penson (9) and Lopata, Burgess (9).
New York (N) 100 230 042—12 16 2
Cleveland (A) 210 031 030—11 10 3
Antonelli, Grissom (6), Jansen (8), Liddle (8), Grier (9) and Westrum, Kati (8), Garcia, Houtteman (8), Moss (8) and Hegan, Winning pitcher—Liddle, Losing pitcher—Moss.

will wind up as the No. 2 catcher behind Yogi Berra.

Three Starters Ready

Ed Ford (16-8), Bob Grim (20-6) and Turley, who won 14 while losing 15 with the Orioles, are three sure starters. The No. 4 starting job is wide open with Larsen, who won only three games with the Orioles last season; rookie John Kucks and the veteran Tommy Byrne, who won three games for the Yankees last season after being purchased from Seattle, battling for the job. Another possibility is Tom Morgan, (11-5).

Two veterans, Johnny Sain (6-6) and Jim Konstanty (3-4) will be the relief specialists.

Another veteran, steady Eddie Lopat, will be used as a spot starter on a once-a-week basis.

Other pitching possibilities include Tom Gorman, who was hurt most of last season when he won only three games while losing two at Kansas City; Art Schallack, back for another shot after winning 12 at Oakland and Lou Slesater, the former Browns left-hander who won seven with Charleston and Kansas City last season.

Eagles Nab 4th in Row

Eagle Point — Eagle Point high scored its fourth straight baseball win and its second over Prospect by drubbing the Cougars 15 to 0 at Prospect yesterday.

The tussle had been set for Monday, was switched to today then was rescheduled for yesterday when the Rogue River-Eagle Point track meet plans succumbed to bad weather. Even at that weather threatened the baseball game. There was snow on the ground yesterday at Prospect.

Carl Christian turned in a three-hit pitching performance and got three safeties in five times up for Eagle Point. He faced only 26 batters, walked one and fanned 10. Dick Brown hit three for four for the Eagles.

LINE SCORE:
Eagle Point 304 230 3—15 11 2
Prospect 000 000 0—0 3 7
C. Christian and Boren; Babbis, Peterson (4) and Walls.

Nats, Pistons To Open Play-Off For NBA Mantle

Syracuse, N. Y. —(U.P.) — The Syracuse Nationals and the Fort Wayne Pistons, meet tonight in the first game of the National Basketball Association's championship play-off.

The Pistons, who never have won a game at Syracuse, were 10-point underdogs for the opener of professional basketball's best-of-seven title series. A standing-room-only crowd of about 9,000 was expected to watch the game at the War Memorial Auditorium.

Syracuse and Fort Wayne both won regular season pennants in their respective divisions. Then the Nationals turned back the Boston Celtics in the Eastern semi-finals, while the Pistons surprised the defending champion Minneapolis Lakers in the Western eliminations.

USF Dons Choose Swede Halbrook

San Francisco —(U.P.) — Tom Gola of LaSalle headed an all-opponent team named yesterday by the University of San Francisco Dons, NCAA basketball champions.

Others named to the first team were Ken Sears of Santa Clara, Jim Scott of West Texas State, Wade (Swede) Halbrook of Oregon State, and Tom Salvino of Loyola, Los Angeles. The selections were made without regard to position.

Yankee's First Large Cut in Squad Expected

St. Petersburg, Fla. —(U.P.) — The New York Yankees were expected to make their first large squad cut today before breaking camp to begin an eight-game trip northward.

Particular interest centered on whether Negro catcher-outfielder Elston Howard and a rookie pitcher Johnny Kucks would stay with the squad. Both are expected to be retained although Kucks was hit hard Wednesday in the Yankees' 10-10, 12-inning tie with the Philadelphia Phillies.

COX TRANSFERS

Minneapolis, Minn. —(U.P.) — University of Washington football star Bobby Cox was admitted officially to the University of Minnesota as a transfer student Tuesday.

Cox, star quarterback for the Huskies last season, left Washington recently saying he was "unhappy" there. He will take radio and television announcing courses here. Cox will not be eligible for football at Minnesota until the 1956 season. He is a sophomore.



GETTING READY—Harold "Buck" Davidson, above, long a favorite with Medford wrestling fans, is shown working out in preparation for his match with newcomer "Champ" Thomas at Merrick's arena here Saturday night. In other bouts Yogi Hussane opposes Cyclone Cobb and Gerry Hunter takes on Shirley Winters in a girls' match. Starting time is 8:30 p.m.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE SPORTS

Tornado, Comet Nines Vie Friday, Saturday

Rival coaches today indicated probable line-ups for the week end baseball series between Medford and Crater high schools.

The teams clash at 3:30 p.m. Friday and at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Both games will be on the Medford high diamond since the city field at Central Point is not yet in playing condition. Medford's Black Tornado will be making its first appearance of 1955 before a home crowd. The tangles open the season for Crater.

Coach Alex McDonald reported that Ed McCullough and Ken Piland are the likely starting moundsmen for the Tornado. Crater Mentor Clarence Mellybe said that Kay Kelley and Fred Herrmann probably will get their first call for the Comets. Neither coach designated which of his choices would start on Friday. Little Ernie Tyler is expected to get first bid for relief for Medford.

McCay Leads Off

The Medford Tornado listed its tentative starting crew in a possible batting order with Dale McCay, centerfielder, leading off. Jim Owsley or Larry Perkins will be at second spot and at second base with Ed Reinking batting third and playing first base. Slated for clean-up post is Lorin Jacobs, leftfielder.

Paul Eckel will be in right field. Larry Guber at third base. Duane Sides or Gordon Owsley at shortstop, and Dick McLoughlin at the catching post.

The pitcher is listed the usual ninth in McDonald's order. McLoughlin was on the sick list yesterday and Terry King or Ray Hilton might handle the catching if he is still on the shelf.

Coach Mellybe who has eight freshmen and more than 20 lettermen and sophomores on a squad of 40, indicated that one of the letterwearers, Harold Lefler, will handle the catching chores. Pitchers Kelley and Herrmann are both lettermen and a third hurler who wears a "C" is Fred Hogue.

Tonn at First

Harvey Tonn, letterman and performer for the Cheney Studs last summer, is expected to hold down the first sack with the current choice between Ken Bailey and Frank Saxbury, non-lettermen, at second base. Likely shortstop is a veteran, Donn Johnson but a pair of non-lettermen, Morton Gossett and Lyman Stubbs, are vying at third.

In the outfield, Vern Parent, who has lettered at second base, is expected to roam the middle area with Mel Harsh or Allen Gosnell to get the call in the left pasture.

In right field Gary Smith seems to have the edge over Neil Green, a letterman, who has been groomed to as a first baseman. John Shama and Charles South are among the leading outfield prospects.

Lack of a field has hampered the Comets, who won the DJJ League and District 6 A-2 southern division last year. They have been working out as best they can on the school grounds. Mellybe is looking for jayvee opposition for his 10 to 12 freshmen and 10 to 12 sophomores. He is handling the coaching of the large squad alone.

Coach Alex McDonald reported yesterday that he has cut his squad to 27 boys and may drop three or four more. Frank Roelandt is now assisting Mac with the tutoring.

CRATER SCHEDULE

April 1 and 2—At Medford; April 3—At Eagle Point; April 9—Eagle Point at Central Point; April 12—Klamath Falls at Central Point; April 15—Ashland at Central Point; April 22—Phoenix at Central Point; April 23—At Phoenix; April 26—At Grants Pass; April 28—Illinois Valley at Cave Junction; April 30—Illinois Valley at Central Point.
May 2—At Klamath Falls; May 10—At Ashland; May 17—Grants Pass at Central Point; May 18—A-2 district play-off; May 21—A-2 and A-1 inter-district play-off.
(All Crater games will be in the afternoon.)

Pro Net Tourney To Use Ping Pong Scoring Method

Cleveland —(U.P.) — The annual "world" professional tennis tournament opens tonight at the Cleveland arena with more attention focused on inauguration of the ping pong scoring system, perhaps, than on the players themselves.

Richard (Big Pancho) Gonzales heads the field in the three-day event, but the ping pong method of scoring could affect his chance of retaining the title he has won the last two years.

Fishermen Must Turn in Cards

Portland —(U.P.) — The State Game commission has reminded fishermen the salmon-steelhead punch cards expire today, March 31, and should be turned into game commission license agencies.

New cards, which will expire Dec. 31, will be issued by the agencies.

Kid Gavilan Slips to 8th In Ring Rank

New York —(U.P.) — Former welterweight champion Kid Gavilan, skidding rapidly since losing his title to Johnny Saxton last October, faded almost out of the welterweight picture when the monthly ratings of Ring magazine, placed him at eighth in the division.

Gavilan, the one-time Cuban Hawk whose rapid hands and all around ring generalship carried him to the title in July 1952, returned to the ring after the loss to Saxton on New York and squeezed out an unimpressive majority decision over Ernle Durando of Bayonne, N.J., on Feb. 4.

Gavilan then lost in succession to Hector Constance of Trinidad and the elongated Bobby Dykes of Miami.

The "Keed," who was ranked fourth last month, is now listed behind Carmen Basilio, Vince Martinez, Tony DeMarco, Ramon Fuentes, Maurice Harper, Constance, and Del Flanagan. Freddie Dawson and Virgil Atkins are rated behind him.

Despite Mexican Raul Macias' 11th round knockout victory over Chamrern Songkritat of Thailand, Ring magazine continues to list Robert Cohen of France as the world bantamweight king. Macias is ranked as the No. 1 contender, while Songkritat is rated sixth.

Among the heavyweights Nino Valdes of Cuba, by-passed for a title shot at Rocky Marciano in favor of England's Don Cockell, remains the leading challenger, while Tommy Hurricane Jackson of New York, who currently is on a winning streak, has been upped from sixth to fifth. Jimmy Slade of New York has dropped out of the top 10 in favor of Charley Norcross, Jersey City, N.J., who is ranked 10th.

2500 To Contend In Willamette Relays at Salem

Salem —(U.P.) — Fortune Gordien, former Minnesota ace who holds the world's discus record of 194 feet, six inches, has entered the Willamette relays to be held here Saturday.

Salem —(U.P.) — More than 2,500 Oregon college and high school athletes will compete here Saturday at the annual Willamette relays.

Willamette university athletic officials said the meet would probably be the largest one-afternoon track event in the world. The Northwest's top prep and collegiate lineclads are entered. The college class invitational 100-yard dash and 120-yard high hurdles will be the feature events. Bob Gary, University of Washington, tops an imposing list of sprinters with a 9.6 best. Ken Mischall, Mather Air Force base in California, tied the relays mark in the hurdle event last year at 15.5. His best is 14 flat.

Another showpiece of the meet will be University of Oregon's four-man distance medley team, which is sure to be one of the best in the nation this season. Included on the team is Bill Dellinger, whose 4:10 NCAA mile victory last season was one of the year's top marks; Jim Bailey, Australian 880 champion; Ken Reiser, who will run the three-quarter mile, and Gordon Dahlquist.

Eagle Point high plans to have 10 or 12 boys participating in the Willamette relays at Salem on Saturday.

Salmon Fishing Slow On Lower Rogue River

Portland —(U.P.) — The weekly report on fishing conditions prepared by the State Games Commission:

SOUTHWEST: Few bass been reported from Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes; if weather clears bay fishing should be good; lower Rogue salmon fishing slow.

Gil Cadilli Victor Over Willie Pep

San Francisco —(U.P.) — A summer re-match in Madison Square Garden was predicted today for Gil Cadilli and Willie Pep in the wake of young Gil winning a split and disputed 10-round decision over the former featherweight champion Wednesday night.

Cadilli, 23, squeaked out a close verdict over the former titleholder before a lusty crowd of 5,000 Air Force men at Parks Air Force base about 40 miles from here.

Sid Flaherty, manager of Cadilli, made the prediction of the Garden re-match. But there's a major stumbling block in the way of that, because Pep is presently on the "retired" list in New York state — placed there after being kayowed by Lulu Perez, Feb. 26, 1954. He would have to be approved by the whole medical board of the New York commission before the fight could be held.

Referee Jack Downey voted Wednesday night's fight to Pep, 58-52, but he was overruled by Judges Tony Bosnick and Eddie James, who each gave it to Cadilli, 56-54. The United Press had Pep winning, 57½ to 52½.

Hornets Capture First Encounter

Pittsburgh —(U.P.) — Coach Gaye Stewart banked on comeback play today for his Buffalo Bisons but rival Coach Howie Meeker of the Pittsburgh Hornets hoped for an "as you were" status when the teams clash here Saturday in the second game of the American Hockey League Calder Cup playoffs.

The Hornets took the opener of the best-of-seven series, 5-4, Wednesday night. They got off to a fast 3-1 lead in the opening period.

Outlook Here For Softball Discouraging

Prospects for organized softball play this summer are still discouraging but President Herb Vessey of Medford Softball association and a few allies will "keep trying" in efforts to revive and stir up interest.

Only a handful of katball devotees were on hand last night for a meeting at the YMCA. It had been announced before the session that poor attendance and apparent lack of interest might mean abandonment of formal league contention. However, Vessey reported that more "preliminary work" will be done and that possibilities at Talent and Central Point will be investigated.

He set Friday, April 8, as the date for another meeting. It will again be at the YMCA.

Giants Scrounge Out

12-11 Nod Over Tribe

San Antonio, Tex. —(U.P.) — The New York Giants and Cleveland Indians put the big fall classic of 1954 on the road today but they'll have to pardon the fans if they ask: "This is a World Series?"

The Giants, who lead in the series, 6-4, scrounged out a 12-11 triumph Wednesday with the aid of an error by second-baseman Bobby Avila. Foster Castleman followed the two-out boot with the winning single.

Ralph Kiner, Avila, Art Houtteman and George Strickland homered for the Indians while Gail Harris and Hank Thompson homered for the Giants.

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