

Beavers Top LA on Home Runs; Solons Set Pace in Coast Loop

By PETER HAYES
United Press Sports Writer

One swallow doesn't exactly make a summer, but look who's leading the Pacific Coast League today! None other than the Sacramento Solons, everybody's choice for the team most likely to end up last.

Only a couple of weeks ago, after the Solons had dropped their ninth straight exhibition game, Manager Tony Freitas moaned that his pitching staff was "a little sorry."

Most of the pre-season dopsters agreed with Tony. Hollywood, with its close ties with the Pittsburgh Pirates, was the team to beat, they said.

Solons Downstairs

Maybe so. But Sacramento has met Hollywood twice and won both times, largely as a result of sparkling pitching. Sophomore Bud Daley won 4-3 on a seven-hitter on opening day and tiny Marino Pieretti held the Stars hitless for seven innings yesterday and was credited with the 2-1 victory.

The veteran righthander weakened in the eighth, giving up one run and walking two men, but Milo Candini came in to save it for him. Leo Thomas' bases empty homer in the seventh provided the margin of victory.

San Francisco also got fine hurling from Tony Ponce and beat San Diego 4-1; Portland beat Los Angeles, 3-2, on consecutive ninth inning homers by Don Eggert and Frankie Austin, and Oakland fought back to down Seattle, 10-9, in a slugfest featured by seven homers.

Ponce, who had a 14-16 mark last year, scattered six hits among the Padres and struck out three as the Seals took a 2-1 series lead that left them in second place.

John Ritchey, catcher acquired from Seattle, homered for San

Francisco. Angel pitcher Jim Brosnan gave up eight hits to the Beavers, but three of them were home runs. Russ Sullivan tagged one in the sixth to tie the score at 1-1 and Eggert and Austin swatted theirs in the ninth to let the Beavers square the series at 1-1. Bob Hall went the distance for the Beavers, giving up eight hits.

The Oaks also won in the ninth when Seattle reliever Vern Kindsfather walked Tony Rivas to load the bases and then wild-pitched to let Jim Marshall score. Marshall, last year's PCL home run king with 31, hit two four-baggers in last night's three hour and 12 minute marathon.

Other homers were clouted by Russ Rose, Joe Brovia and

George Metkovich of the Oaks and Joe Ginsberg and George Schmees of Seattle. George Bamberger, last of four Oak pitchers, gained the win although he hurled only the final inning.

LINESCORES
Hollywood.....000 000 010—1 2 0
Sacramento.....000 100 100—2 2 2
San Francisco.....012 000 100—4 8 0
San Diego.....000 001 000—1 6 2
Ponce and Ritchey; Thomas, Herrera (9) and Aylward.

Portland.....000 001 002—3 8 0
Los Angeles.....100 000 001—2 8 0
Hall and Calderone; Brosnan, Zick (9) and Frances.

Seattle.....021 032 010—9 12 2
Oakland.....011 220 103—10 14 1
Savransky, Kennedy (5); Kindsfather (9) and Ginsberg; Drews, Betans (5), Stras (6), Bamberger (9) and Seal.

Sports Editor of UP Sees Yanks, Dodgers As Pennant Winners

By LEO H. PETERSON
New York (U.P.)—The Yankees and the Dodgers.

That's the way the 1955 major league pennant races shape up to this observer after spending six weeks covering the clubs training in Florida and getting first hand reports of the three teams which trained in Arizona.

The American League shapes up as a two-club race between the Yankees and the defending champion Indians with little or no hope for the other six teams.

Snead, Hogan Co-Favorites In Masters

Augusta, Ga. (U.P.)—A field of 78 teed off today in the 19th Masters golf tournament, expected to be the tightest competition in the history of the event founded by Bobby Jones.

Co-favorites were two-time Masters champion Ben Hogan, rated at a 7 to 2 choice, and Sam Snead, pegged at 9 to 2 on the basis of his playoff victory over Hogan in last year's Masters.

But this is the year that even the cold-eyed betting gentry figure the younger, straight shooting pros will have a look-in. Mike Souchak, the football player who found out that a putt is more profitable than a blocked punt, is rated an 8 to 1 gamble.

A late rush of support established Cary Middlecoff of Memphis a 6 to 1 shot. Others liked in the odds were Gene Littler of Palm Springs, Calif., at 10 to 1, and Billy Joe Patton, the amateur who was figured as a 25 to 1 gamble. Patton was 1,000 to 1 a year ago but he came within a stroke of matching Hogan and Snead.

Gill To Address Lions Dinner for MHS Hoop Squad

Amory T. (Slats) Gill, head basketball coach at Oregon State college will be main speaker on Wednesday night, April 20, when Medford Lions club is dinner host to the Medford high school basketball team and its coaches.

Players and Coaches Frank Roelandt and Bob Newland will be honored for the fine season in which the Black Tornado reached the runner-up spot in the Oregon Class A high school basketball tournament.

A limited number of tickets will be available to the public. They will go on sale Friday, April 8, at Barker's Men's store. Lions said that tickets should be purchased as early as possible. Jackson hotel, where the dinner will be held must have a commitment by Monday evening, April 18. The dinner will be at 6:15 p.m. in the Pioneer room.

Gill's Oregon State Beavers won the Northern Division and Pacific Coast conference championships this year and reached the quarterfinals in the National Collegiate Athletic association championship eliminations.

Detroit Aims for 3rd. In Row in Cup Play-Off

Montreal (U.P.)—The Detroit Red Wings invade the Forum tonight for the first time since the St. Patrick's day riot, this time seeking a victory that would virtually wrap up the Stanley cup.

The Wings, who beat Montreal, 4-1, on the riot night when an exploding smoke bomb forced the game to be stopped after one period, now lead the Canadiens, 2-0, in the best-of-seven cup finals and seem on their way to the title.

The league figures to be as unbalanced as last year when only three teams—the White Sox, in addition to the Indians and Yankees—won more games than they lost.

But the outlook is different in the National with six clubs—the Braves, the world champion Giants, the Cardinals, the Redlegs and even the Phillies in addition to the Dodgers—having a chance. Only the Cubs and the Pirates appear to be on the outside looking in.

How They'll Finish

Here is how the writer picks them to finish:

American	National
1. New York	1. Brooklyn
2. Cleveland	2. Milwaukee
3. Chicago	3. New York
4. Detroit	4. St. Louis
5. Boston	5. Cincinnati
6. Washington	6. Philadelphia
7. Baltimore	7. Chicago
8. Kansas City	8. Pittsburgh

The Yankees get the nod over the Indians because they have the better defense, more power hitting and a strong bench. The Indians should come up with the best pitching in the majors, but the defense is porous and the bench only average. The White Sox are likely to run out of gas with a mixture of cast-offs.

Picking between the Tigers and Red Sox is tough. For if Ted Williams should come back, Boston, with a fine mixture of youth and veterans, could possibly go all the way. There just isn't any hope for the Senators, Orioles and Athletics—especially the latter club unless it makes some deals.

The writer agrees with Chuck Dressen's size-up of the Dodgers, the team he led to successive National league pennants in 1952 and 1953 before he was let go. "They should win even if they come up with a few broken arms and legs, for they have youngsters ready to take over for any veterans."

The weak link in the Dodger scheme of things could be their manager, Walt Alston. He hasn't been the take-charge guy the Dodgers need to keep them hustling, but there are indications that Alston has changed and will assert himself more forcibly. If he doesn't the Dodgers are likely to blow it again.

Pistons Picked To Keep Up Pace

Indianapolis, Ind. (U.P.)—Fort Wayne Pistons will be favored tonight to maintain their furious scoring pace for a third straight victory against the Syracuse Nats in the National Basketball Association championship series.

The Nats, who subdued the Pistons twice at Syracuse, cooled off when they hit Indianapolis, enabling Fort Wayne to knot the series at two games apiece in the best-of-seven title round.

A victory tonight would put the Pistons in good position to wrap up the series at Syracuse in a nationally televised game Saturday afternoon.

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TOO MUCH STRETCH—San Diego's Milt Smith slides back into second as Seals Shortstop Leo Righetti takes a wide throw from the pitcher on an attempted pickoff play during the first game of their Pacific Coast League double-header at San Diego. Smith later hit a two-run home in the 11th to give the Padres a 7-5 win.

Flu Bug May Hamper Medford In Relays

Medford high is already being rated a cinder power on the basis of its dual meet with Grants Pass but the Black Tornado may be hurting this week end when it hosts the annual Rogue relays. The reason is the flu bug or a virus going the rounds.

Coach Bob Newland of the Tornado had his line-up virtually set for the Saturday afternoon relays following trials on Tuesday. He's expected to reveal the roster on Friday. But Newland indicated that the groupings in the various events are to a considerable degree tentative because of illness on the squad.

The head mentor listed Doug Clark, Bud Kastner, Wilcie Winchell, Dennis Miller and Ken Tucker on the ailing list, saying that was just a start and that he feared others were getting the "bug."

Participants in the Rogue rumpus with Medford will be Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Ashland, Klamath Falls and Crater. All are expected to enter full teams in this prelude to the Hayward relays the following week at

EQUALITY

Providence, R. I. (U.P.)—Rhode Island's House of Representatives has so many page boys that they serve in shifts. There are 45 pages for the 100 members. Pages are paid \$300 a year. So are representatives.

Eugene.

There will be 12 events in the Rogue romp. All but the javelin, discus and pole vault will be relays and no school can place more than one man in those events. Boys will be limited to two running events and one field event, or to two field events and one running event or to three field contests. The limits assure a large entry.

Flat races will be four-man team events while the shuttle hurdles and the broad jump, shot put and high jump relays will have three man teams. In the field relays four men from each school may enter but only the efforts of three will count.

Only running event in which the Medford participants had not been established yesterday was in the hurdles. Wally Larson and Bron Oglesby grabbed berths in the Tuesday trials.

Two Mikes, Hawkins and Stearns were to vie for the third spot. Grants Pass, Coos Bay and Klamath Falls loom as main threats to Medford, which will defend its 1954 championship. Coos Bay was second to Medford last year, although it trailed by a wide margin. But reports that the Pirates this year are more powerful than ever. Sprinters include the star football backs, Johnny Johnson and Denny Baker.

Starting time Saturday will be 1:30 p.m.

Rogue Salmon Catches Reported Improving

Portland (U.P.)—The week-end fishing report prepared by the State Game Commission: **SOUTHWEST:** Striped bass fishing only fair in Isthmus slough; bullheads best bait; bottom fishing in bay area fair to excellent dependent on weather; salmon catches on lower Rogue improving with improved water conditions; water turbid but clearing.

Final Effort In Softball On Friday

The outgoing administration of the Medford Softball association will make its final effort Friday, April 8, to get organization of the league underway for the 1955 season.

A meeting has been set for 8 p.m. tomorrow in Room B at the Medford YMCA.

If there is little or no response to this call, the loop will be "washed up" so far as the retiring officers are concerned. Herb Vessey, who served as vice-president last season, has called meetings several times since President Russ McKechnie moved to Albany. He has been met by either no turnout at all or just a handful.

Friday's meeting is for all persons of the area interested in softball, players and possible team representatives. Managers or representatives of last year's teams are asked to be on hand. A particular invitation has been extended to officers and team managers of the Medford Independent Basketball League.

Preps Busy With Sports Encounters

Trip of two Medford high athletic teams to Ashland this afternoon touched off a busy week end of prep sports in this area which includes opening contests in Rogue and Jackson County Class B League baseball states.

Medford baseball and tennis squads had action in Ashland this afternoon.

Rogue League baseball play begins Friday with Crater at Eagle Point and Illinois Valley at Phoenix. On Saturday Eagle Point plays Crater at Central Point and Phoenix meets IV at Cave Junction. A Jackson county G game Friday takes Jacksonville to Rogue River. The Friday EP-Crater game will be under EP's lights at 7:30 p.m.

The annual Rogue relays Saturday with Medford high as host to Crater, Klamath Falls, Ashland, Grants Pass and Coos Bay is track highlight of the week end. Illinois Valley will come to Phoenix for a dual meet. Both engagements will be at 1:30 p.m.

PITCHER OPTIONED

Washington (U.P.)—The Brooklyn Dodgers today announced the optioning of pitchers Bob Darnell and Ron Negray to St. Paul of the American association.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Jean Elbon Will Present Unusual Wrestling Skill In Bout With Gerry Hunter

Wrestling patrons should be in for an unusual treat when Jean Elbon of Lincoln, Neb., comes to town Saturday night to oppose Gerry Hunter in one of the matches on Mack Lillard's three-pley card at Merrick's arena.

Miss Elbon, whose real name is Iva Jean Noble, is not a run-of-the-mill performer but is an outstanding student of the art of wrestling. She specializes in use of the drop kick, flying leg roll, flying head scissors, the Irish whip and breath-taking shoulder tackles, maneuvers fans seldom see among the feminine matsters. She was tutored by Jerry Adams, wrestling coach at the University of Nebraska, who advised her to turn professional after many long hours spent in the gymnasium during which time she tried her tricks on anyone whom she could lure into the ring.

While she is said to lack the sturdiness of some of the other lady athletes, it is said her speed and skill more than make up the difference.

Her match with Hunter, claimant to the world's feminine middleweight championship, is slated for 30 minutes or two out of three falls.

Fans also will be introduced to the world's largest active matman when Man Mountain Dean Jr., nephew of the late and world-famous Man Mountain Dean, meets Yogi Hussane in the feature scrap, scheduled for 40 minutes or the best of three falls.

Cyclone Cobb, who has created a large following among local mat bugs, will tackle equally popular Buck Davidson in the 8:30 p.m. opener, over the same distance.

Ringside tickets are on sale at the Rogue restaurant, 42 South Central ave.

ALL-AMERICAN DERBY

Indianapolis, Ind. (U.P.)—The 39th annual Memorial Day 500-mile auto race probably will be the third straight All-American gasoline derby. With the April 15 entry deadline only eight days away, speedway officials figured there was only an outside chance of a foreign entry. At least, they knew of none en route.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.



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