

Bear Fracas Rated Tough For SF Dons

By HENRY RIEGER
San Francisco — (U.P.) — Pacific Coast basketball fans were as nervous today as an expectant father as they awaited the renewal of the University of San Francisco's bid for a new major college consecutive win mark.

And the anxiety was sharpened by an unusually long—for a basketball team—two weeks lay-off between the Don's record tying victory over Fresno State and the Jan. 28 record breaker with California.

The Cal game, a win would be number 40 in a row, will be anything but a pushover for USF. Shrewd Pete Newell, a long-time teammate of USF's Phil Woolpert at Loyola of Los Angeles, has brought his young team along to where it is one of the better Pacific Coast Conference teams—and they would like nothing better than to upset the Don victory train.

Activity Curtailed
The same mid-year layoff that has sent USF basketballers to their examination books, has curtailed the week's court activity up and down the coast.

The highlight of an otherwise slim schedule is the Stanford-Oregon State two-game series at Corvallis, Ore. Other double-header series this weekend match Oregon at Idaho and Washington State at Washington.

Action in the California Basketball Association, USF's parent conference, also is practically nil.

Stanford, given little chance of winning 50 per cent of its games, in pre-season forecasts, has an overall season record of 10-1 and is the vanguard of the PCC's leaders.

Lovellette Clings To Scoring Lead

By UNITED PRESS
Big Clyde Lovellette of the Minneapolis Lakers clung to the scoring lead in the National Basketball association today at the end of another round in his battle with Bob Pettit of St. Louis, but his leading margin was cut to 13 points.

Lovellette notched only 17 points Thursday night as the Lakers were beaten, 122-100, by the Syracuse Nationals. Pettit notched 25 as St. Louis bowed to Fort Wayne, 90-83.

The New York Knicks announced an official protest of Wednesday's 108-103 loss to the Rochester Royals, claiming the Royals scored a basket in the closing minutes when the time-keeper was unable to call time because he wasn't provided with a noisemaker.

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KF PELICAN GRAPPLERS DEFEAT TORNADO 47-10

Klamath union high matmen won 11 of the 13 counting bouts yesterday to defeat Medford 47 to 10 in a wrestling match at Klamath Falls.

Ray Hilton, 147-pounder, and Mel Morgan, 191, were the only Tornado victors, both by pins. Hilton beat Bernard Hartman and Morgan subdued Darrell Peterson.

Klamath winners were: Larry Bender, 97, pinned David Mansfield; George Kramer, 105, pinned Don Large; Jim Brown, 114, pinned Sam Jennings; Gary Roberts, 122, pinned Fred Baker; Pete Barn-

heisel, 129, decisioned Gordon Owsley (6-0); Gary Price, 135, pinned George Flanagan; Bill Steiner, 140, decisioned Ron Lingren (4-3).

Dave Leeling, 156, decisioned Dick Swinney (4-0); Roy Ropp, 167, decisioned Larry Anderson (4-0); C. B. Simons, 177, pinned Frank Williams; Pedro Colley, heavyweight, pinned Melvin Colbert.

Medford grapplers took five of 16 exhibitions. Tornado victors were Charles Acker, Dick Corum and Gary Saker by decisions and Dennis Walker and Ken Christiansen by pins.

White Sox Interested In Robinson

By MILTON RICHMAN
United Press Sports Writer
The Brooklyn Dodgers are trying to get Jackie Robinson to hold still for a \$7,000 salary slice, but if they are unsuccessful, the Chicago White Sox, among other clubs have indicated they'll be glad to take him off their hands.

Robinson huddled an hour with Brooklyn Vice-President Buzzy Bavasi Thursday but failed to come to terms. The Dodgers then said that they and the 36-year-old Bobby "are not too far apart." But that's the same thing they said two weeks ago.

There have been repeated questions as to whether Robinson would play ball again this year and to all those questions he has replied, "That depends on the contract I get." He received an estimated \$40,000 last year.

No Dire Need
Brooklyn, well fixed at third base with Ransom Jackson, who was obtained from the Cubs, and also loaded with seven left field candidates, is not exactly in dire need of Robinson, despite his .314 lifetime batting average.

An official of the White Sox has admitted they tried to get Robinson late last year but Brooklyn could not get him out of the National League on waivers. Cincinnati and Pittsburgh reportedly also are interested in Robinson even though the .256 average he compiled last season was his worst in the majors.

Writer Predicts Coach of Huskies Will Walk Plank

Santa Monica, Calif. — (U.P.) — Dick Vanderveld, assistant sports editor of the Santa Monica Outlook, said yesterday in an exclusive story that Coach Johnny Cherberg of the University of Washington will be "walking the plank" when a current poll of players on the Huskie squad is completed.

"From the voting will come the basis for dealing with the man who last November fired Jim Sutherland, new Washington State coach, as backfield mentor at the height of the Husky varsity rebellion," Vanderveld said.

He said the recent Board of Regents investigation and subsequent conclusion to "rehire" Cherberg was "rumored to be a smokescreen" to curb possible student demonstrations.

"The result of the vote is expected to send him (Cherberg) packing," Vanderveld said.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE SPORTS

Reds Need Strengthening At First Base, Left Field

This is one in a series of interviews by United Press staffers with the major league managers on their prospects for 1956.

By JOE PHELAN
Nashua, N. H. — (U.P.) — Cincinnati Manager Birdie Tebbetts is ready to trade off a star or two if it will help the Redlegs to a first division finish in the "toughest National League race in years."

Tebbetts figured solution of his two main problems—"real first line performers at third base and left field"—would boost his team from a fifth-place finish a year ago to "at least third place this season."

"And if I get the pitching I expect, we'll win the pennant," the affable Redlegs pilot said.

Putting bite in his bark, he further ventured in an aside to interested rivals, "We'll deal for anyone who can help us and deal anyone to do it. Nobody is immune."

Not Fooling
Those are no wild statements, either, for Tebbetts, as "brainless" an insurance executive as he was a catcher in his active playing days with the Boston Red Sox, is not a pop-off guy. He is perfectly aware of the obstacles a second division team faces if it expects to rise even as high as third place. In fact, Tebbetts acknowledged the Philadelphia Phillies, one of the teams he proposes to bypass, "will be rugged again as long as they have Robin Roberts."

But as far as he's concerned, "Brooklyn is still the team to beat" though he doesn't see the Bums off to the early season jet start that virtually clinched the flag last year.

"This is going to be the toughest National League race in years," he said.

est National League race in years, which means the Dodgers won't get the jump they did in 1955," he said.

"New York and Milwaukee are bound to be tough customers again. I think the Cardinals will improve tremendously. Chicago is going to be right up there... and I'm looking for stiffer competition all the way down the line."

The Redlegs field boss concedes his main considerations will be finding somebody to join Gus Bell and Wally Post, "as good as they make them," in the Cincinnati outfield, and a third baseman.

However, fielding frowns turn to pitching smiles when he considers his corps of hurlers, plus the plans to have the veteran Smokey Burgess receive them.

Joe Nuxhall, Art Fowler and Johnny Klippstein are a trio of "definite" starters and Hal Jeffcoat, obtained from Chicago in an off-season deal for catcher Hobie Landrith, "should be good for at least six or seven games." Backing them up are Hershel Freeman, Bill Kennedy, who did "a great job for us last season," and Corky Valentine.

SC SIGNS BASS

Columbia, S.C. — (U.P.) — Marvin Bass, a much-traveled assistant football coach, has been signed as a line coach at the University of South Carolina. Bass, who left a similar post at North Carolina to take the job under new South Carolina Head Coach Warren Giese, also has served at William and Mary, twice, and with the professional Washington Redskins.

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NUMBER ONE PRO—Otto Graham sucks in his breath as he tries on the Hickok \$10,000 diamond-studded gold-buckled belt symbolic of the "1955 Professional Athlete of the Year" after presentation at Rochester, N. Y. The 34-year-old quarterback who came out of retirement to lead the Cleveland Browns to the NFL championship, received the award at the annual Rochester Press and Radio Club dinner for the Polio Fund. Brooklyn's Johnny Podres was runner-up.

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