

Tornado Baseball Squad Drills Under Arcs for A-1 Toga Tilt

Medford high school's sparkling baseball contingent, ambitious to bring home another state championship trophy for the Black Tornado in spring sports, scheduled its final workout this evening before heading for Portland to meet the Lincoln Cardinals for the Oregon Class A-1 crown.

The Tornado stalwarts were to drill under the lights in the football stadium. A practice was held last night under the stadium arcs. Saturday's titular engagement will be Medford's first and only one under floodlights this season. There are no lights over the prep diamond here.

The Medford squad will leave about noon Friday for the tussle in Multnomah stadium.

State finalist in baseball for the first time since they have been Oregon prep play-offs in the sport, the Black Tornado does not boast a high slugging average, but the Medfordites have been able to get their hits in the clutch when men are on base. They'll take that ability, sturdy defensive strength, improved pitching and high confidence and desire into the ruckus with the Cardinals.

Team batting mark for the Tornado is .228. Outfielder Ed Reinking leads the pack with .347 and Larry Gober, outfielder and first baseman, is next with .314. Jim Putney, third baseman, stands .244 and Steve Shorey, outfielder, who hasn't seen so much action as some of the others, has .250.

Gordon Owsley, shortstop, has recorded .228 and Dick McLaughlin, catcher, .227. Duane Sides has hit .224.

In pitching, Sides with a 4-2 win-loss record has an earned run average of 1.099. In 50 2/3 innings of hurling, he's walked only 11 men, has whiffed 34 and has given up 38 hits. Only eight of 20 runs charged against him were earned. Henry (Chuck) Putney with a 6-2 mark in wins and setbacks has thrown 46 1/3 frames and his earned run average is 2.71. He's walked 21, struck out 34 and allowed 37 hits. Fifteen of 22 runs scored against him were earned.

Four Each On All-Star

Ernie Tyler has a 3-0 standing in victories and defeats for 26 1/3 innings on the mound. He has given five bases on balls and has fanned 21 batters. Hits by rival batsmen number 31. Fourteen of 19 runs were earned. Tyler's ERA is 3.72.

Lincoln and Medford clubs each have placed four men on loop all-star assignments. The Cards placed, Dick Oechluto, centerfielder, Terry Lenchitsky, catcher, John Whitelaw, first base, and Mickey Lolich, pitcher, on the Portland Intercollegiate League, all-star club.

On the All-Southern Oregon Conference team Medford had Reinking, outfielder, Gober, outfielder and first base, Perkins,

second base, and Sides, pitcher-utility.

The Medfordites will be out to add the A-1 state baseball title trophy to the state championship hardware won by the Black Tornado in track.

Coach John Kovenz, who has brought the Tornado to its peak of the season for the Lincoln clash, indicated that last night's practice was a good one despite

wet grounds. Rubber balls were used during the drill. They shed water whereas the regulation leather-covered balls soak it up and aren't much use after one good drenching. The mentor said that the rubber balls "did the job."

A backstop was moved from one of the diamonds outside the stadium to serve as a batting cage.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

SPORTS

Mantle Clouts Two Homers as Yankees Nab Six-Game Lead

By JOHN GRIFFIN
United Press Sports Writer

The American League pennant race now has become as big a runaway as last year's National League chase, thanks to the fantastic slugging power of Mickey Mantle.

The Oklahoma strong boy crashed a tremendous home run in each of the Memorial Day doubleheaders to lead the New York Yankees to 4-3 and 12-5 wins over Washington—boosting their AL lead to six full games over the Chicago White Sox, the new second-place tenants.

And six games is exactly the margin enjoyed at this holiday milestone last year by the Brooklyn Dodgers as they made a shambles of the NL race.

If Memorial Day goes down in baseball history as the day the Yankees seized command, Mantle must be the man who did it. His two homers not only were the deciding blows in each game, but they put him 11 full games ahead of Babe Ruth's pace in his record 60-homer year.

Never Done Before

In the bargain, Mantle did something even Ruth never did before in Yankee Stadium, "the house that Ruth built."

His fifth-inning three-run homer that decided the first game was the first in history to strike the latticework hanging from the roof of stadium in right field. No fair ball ever has been hit out of the stadium, but Mantle's drive just missed clearing the roof by only two feet.

Mantle's 20th homer, putting him one-third of the way to Ruth's mark, traveled 440 feet deep into the right-center bleachers in the fifth inning of the nightcap to break a 3-3 tie, and from there the Yankees went on to finish a 13-hit assault that included two homers by Hank Bauer and one by Eddie Robinson.

Pittsburgh Pirates worked hardest on the holiday—a total of 25 innings. The Pirates won the 10-inning opener, 5-4, when Dale Long tripled home the winning run to break a streak of 10 hitless at-bats for him, and the Giants took the 15-inning second, 5-3, on Al Dalk's two-run double.

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