

Mickey Mantle Trying Not to Strike Out As Much As Last Year He Indicates

By MILTON RICHMAN
United Press Correspondent
New York — (U.P.) — Mickey Mantle honestly can't see why the whole baseball world is making such a four-star fuss over him.

The young Yankee slugger has the world in his palm, but to hear him talk, you'd think he is carrying it on his back instead. "Why all the excitement?" he asks, with a slight show of irritation.

"Sure I've been going pretty well, but it's still early in the season, isn't it? Anything can happen."

Everyone's talking about me breaking Babe Ruth's record, but that's not what I'm concentrating on at all. What I'm really trying to do is not strike out as much as I did last year. I was swinging at wild pitches last year. I'll bet that cost me anywhere from 15 to 20 points on my batting average."

Compared With Greats
But whether Mickey likes it or not, the baseball world is set on comparing him with the all-time greats. And every fan in the country will keep watching to see whether he stays up with Ruth's record of 60 homers in one season.

Last year Mantle batted .306 and led the American League with 37 homers. That would constitute a banner year for any other big leaguer but not for Mickey.

If anything, he minimizes his own accomplishments. When he first came up to the Yankees in 1951, he said, "I don't think I'm good enough to make this team yet."

Mantle has anything but a swelled head. When the Yankees are at home, he still shares a local hotel room with teammate Billy Martin and when it comes down to discussion of baseball in the team's clubhouse, Mickey always does far more listening than he does talking.

Lately writers from national magazines have clustered around him like bees around honey. In the next few months, Mantle's picture probably will grace more magazine covers than President Eisenhower's. Mickey finds the prospect disturbing.

"I wish they wouldn't write so much about me. There are other guys doing pretty good, too, besides me."

Like most players, Mantle has a fear of being jinxed by too much publicity. Because of one kind of injury or another, he has never played in the full 54 games for the Yankees during any season he has been with them.

"So far this season I've been lucky in that respect," he says. "I'm just hoping that nothing happens to keep me out of the lineup. If I can play every day I'll be all right and then maybe I can do some of the things they always expected of me."

It has been said by many competent baseball judges that a healthy Mantle is capable of hitting more than 60 homers and batting .400 over a season.

Broach that subject to Mickey and he shrugs. "What's the sense of making predictions?" he says. "If I can do it, I'll do it and if I can't, I won't. Predictions aren't going to change anything one way or another."

With that, Mantle jumped up

to take his turn in the batting cage for a few practice licks. He let the first ball go by and then hammered the next one into the right field seats almost 400 feet away.

Back on the bench, Casey

Stengel watched the flight of the ball and said nothing. The blow would have caused loud raves in another dugout but to Stengel and the rest of the Yankees it was merely another routine Mantle wallop.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

SPORTS

Delany, Nielson Run Mile in 3:59 Friday

Compton, Calif. — (U.P.) — Ron Delany, an Irishman, and Gunnar Nielson, a Dane, Friday joined the select but growing ranks of those who have cracked the four-minute mile. An American has yet to crack it.

Delany and Nielson, co-holder of the world's 1,500-meter record, became the seventh and eighth men, respectively, to break the barrier Friday night at the record-breaking 17th annual Compton Invitational track meet. Delany hit the tape at 3:59 to nip Nielson by a fraction of a second.

The Danish miler's time was 3:59.1. The barrier has now been surpassed 14 times, six of which can be credited to Australia's John Landy who holds the world record of 3:58 for the course.

Trained Most of Race
In the breath-taking race Delany had an overhand crowd of 9,300 fans standing as he made his bid with a burst of speed in the final 200 yards of the race. He was never ahead until the

final sprint, running third for two laps and then dropping back to fourth in the tightly bunched field.

Fred Dwyer, New York Athletic club, was third at 4:00.1 to nose out Bobby Seaman, of UCLA, who was clocked at 4:01.4.

Neither Delany nor Nielson had conquered the barrier before, although the Irishman had run against Landy when he and his fellow countryman, Jim Bailey, ran the mile in less than four minutes last month in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Delany, now a sophomore at Villanova, seemed slightly nervous and unsure before the race, and after registering the victory admitted "My coach, James Elliott, had more faith in me than I did."

Credits Shoes
The modest Irishman credited his victory to a new pair of track shoes given him before the race. He said he had been having trouble with his old shoes because the laces were slanted.

Delany's lap times were 58.5, 53.1, 60.9 and 56.5. Nielson's were 58.7, 63.0, 60.8 and 56.8.

The meet, acclaimed the greatest in its 17-year history, saw one world record, the 100-meter dash which equalled; one American record in the 400 meter broken, nine meet records broken and two meet records tied.

Ira Muchison, U. S. Army sprinter serving in Europe, equalled the world record of 10.2 in winning the 100-meter dash. He defeated a field composed of Willie Williams, formerly of the University of Illinois, and Alex Burl, formerly of Colorado A&M and now serving with the Army.

Boardman KO's Ryff in 9th

New York — (U.P.) — Larry Boardman, a remarkable young Connecticut lightweight who fights like Jack Dempsey, may get a shot at the 135-pound crown at Boston Sept. 10 because of his ninth-round knockout of Frankie Ryff at Madison Square Garden Friday night.

Sam Silverman, Boston promoter, said "a guarantee of \$50,000 will be offered champion Wallace Bud Smith for a defense against Boardman in September, and if he refuses, the Massachusetts Boxing Commission will ask the NBA to vacate his title."

When 20-year-old Boardman of Marlborough, Conn., tagged Ryff of New York with his first kayo defeat at 46 seconds of the ninth round in their TV-radio fight, it was his third major victory of 1956. And it was a sensational New York debut. He had outpointed Eff York Smith in a non-title bout at Boston, Feb. 7, and outpointed featherweight ruler Sandy Saddler similarly in the same ring, April 14.

Larry, who registered his 31st victory and 15th knockout in 33 professional bouts before 2,000 cheering fans, weighed 137½ pounds to Ryff's 137¼. Heavy, last-minute support sent him into the ring favored at 6-5 to beat clever Ryff.

Crocker Leads Golf Tournament

Pittsburgh — (U.P.) — Fay Crocker, U. S. Women's Open Golf champion from Uruguay, held a one stroke lead Saturday in the Dodge Women's Invitational golf tournament by virtue of a record-tying par 70 round at Churchill Valley County Club in the second day of play.

Miss Crocker's sparkling short-game on the windswept course Friday gave the veteran competitor a 36-hole total of 145 and a single-stroke edge over Patty Berg, who went five over par on the second nine to lose her first round leadership in the four-day medal play tourney.

BAND NAMES ASKED

Seattle — High school seniors who intend to become a part of the University of Washington marching band have been requested by band director Walter Welke to send him their names and addresses. "We intend to begin mailing material on the band program at Washington later in the summer," Welke said. "If any high school bandman has aspirations of joining the band at the university, it would help greatly if he sends us his name and address now."

Yesterday's Scores

By United Press
American League
Kansas City 11 15 1
Boston 3 9 1
Gorman, Shantz (7) and Thompson; Sullivan, Hurst (8), Kieley (9) and White.
Detroit at New York, postponed.
Chicago at Baltimore, postponed.
Cleveland at Washington, night.
National League
New York 2 7 1
Cincinnati 5 8 0
Gomez (2-4) and Katt; Lawrence, Fowler (7), Freeman (8) and Bailey.
Brooklyn 1 2 1
Chicago 8 12 0
Erskine, Lehman (5), Templeton (8) and Campanella; Kaiser (1-0) and Landrith.
Philadelphia 6 7 2
St. Louis 4 10 1
Miller, R. Miller (8) and Lopata; Wehmeier, Littlefield (4), Schmidt (6), Collum (8) and Sarni.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
American League
Boston 5, Kansas City 9.
Detroit 6, New York 3.
Baltimore 3, Chicago 2.
Washington 5, Cleveland 3.
National League
Chicago 4, Brooklyn 2.
New York 3, Cincinnati 2.
Philadelphia 5, St. Louis 2.
Pittsburgh 4, Milwaukee 1.

Mesa Hurls Pads to Win

San Diego, Calif. — (U.P.) — Pete Mesa pitched six innings of shutout ball Saturday to give the San Diego Padres a 9 to 1 victory over the Vancouver Mounties in a Pacific Coast league game.

Mesa went the distance for the San Diegoans but was deprived of a shutout game in the seventh inning when Johnny Jorgensen brought the Mounties their only tally with a home run over the right field fence.

The San Diegoans piled up six more runs, five of them unearned, after two were out in the fourth. Astroth collected his second homer of the season. A walk for Pete Mesa, grounders by Al Federoff and Floyd Robinson which brought two Vancouver errors, a single by Bob Usher and a homer by Kazak brought in the other runs.

LINE SCORE:
Vancouver 1 2 3
San Diego 9 12 3
Searcy and Neal, Mesa and Astroth.
Home runs—Astroth, Kazak, Jorgensen.

Southern Oregon Junior Baseball Plans Announced

Plans for the Southern Oregon Junior Baseball League have been announced.

There again will be three leagues, pee wee, intermediate and cub. Pee wees will open the season June 26 in the southern division and will vie on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Intermediates will play on Wednesday's beginning June 27 but the games in Fourth of July week will be on Thursdays, Cub games will be on Thursdays, starting July 2.

In the pee wee southern sector teams will be Ashland, Eagle Point, Central Point, Lone Pine, Medford Tigers and Medford Wildcats. A Grants Pass area league will make up the northern division. Central Point, Eagle Point, Ashland and Medford will have intermediate clubs and Ashland, Grants Pass and Medford will make up the cub circuit.

Ages Outlined
Boys 12 years of age and under play in the pee wee loop. Those who have not reached their 13th birthday on June 15 are eligible. The intermediate circuit is for youths 14 and under who have not become 15 by June 15 may play. Cub play is for boys 15 and under with boys not 16 by June 15 able to play.

Pee wee and intermediates will play five-inning games and cubs seven-inning contests. Intermediates and cubs will vie on regulation sized diamonds. Pee wee diamonds will have 80 feet between bases and the pitching slab will be 50 feet 6 inches from home plate. Regulation baseballs will be used.

Warren LaBounty, Ashland, is league president.

49ers SIGN MORRALL
San Francisco — (U.P.) — The San Francisco Forty-Niners announced the signing Saturday of Earl Morrall. All-American quarterback of the Michigan State, 1955 Rose Bowl team.

Morrall was San Francisco's first choice in the National Football League draft. He was signed personally by Frankie Albert, head coach of the Forty-Niners, after a meeting at the player's home in Lansing, Mich.

State Athletic Group Resigns In California

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Gov. Goodwin J. Knight Saturday had a "free hand" to revise California boxing and wrestling regulations with announcement that all five members of the state athletic commission were submitting their resignations.

The commissioners' action followed a state investigation which revealed purse splitting and at least a dozen alleged "fixed" fights.

The governor stressed Friday as far as he knew there had been "no accusations of misconduct" against the commissioners.

There was no indication he had accepted the resignations. He had said earlier he did not believe the commissioners actually had enough time to properly oversee boxing in addition to their private business. He indicated adoption of a full-time, paid commission patterned after that of New York might be considered.

Knight said he thought the resignations "might be a step in the right direction" since it would give him a clean slate to start with.

LA Assaults SF Hurlers

San Francisco — (U.P.) — The Los Angeles Angels assaulted three San Francisco pitchers for 12 hits and a 7-4 victory over the Seals that evened their series at a game each before a crowd of 3,351 fans here Saturday.

The Angels scored by Steve Bilko and Bob Speake and a triple by Jim Bolger. They added three in the fifth when Gale Wade doubled and Bilko, Speake and Bolger followed with singles the third run coming in when Seal centerfielder Tom Umphlett juggled Bolger's hit.

The final two Angel runs were doubled in by Elvin Tapp in the eighth inning.

LINE SCORE:
Los Angeles 7 12 0
San Francisco 4 0 2
Briggs, Anderson (9) and Tappe; Kemmerer, Slack (5), R. G. Smith (8) and Sadowski. Home run—Sadowski.

Bowling

SATURDAY SENIORS
The Saturday Seniors will have their last meeting Saturday, June 9. They are to be at the Bowling alley at 11 a.m. Trophies and awards will be given at this time and there will be a party afterwards.

Strike Outs
Dale Casey 23 9
Rambling Rebels 21 11
Alley Cats 19 13
Pin Slayes 10 2
Bowling Bombers 8 24
Crazy Four 3 29

Bowling Bombers
Joy Eastman 170
Maryis Brown 192
John Sullivan 226
Steve Drew 196
Roger Russell 226
Total 784

Strike Outs
Dale Casey 234
Bill Hartman 333
Sue Harmon 228
Gary Williams 180
Total 875

Pin Slayes
D. Spain 219
Deans Allen 183
E. Osborne 222
K. McQuigg 218
Total 844

Gibson Wins Europe Test

Surbiton, England — (U.P.) — Althea Gibson of New York won her eighth consecutive European Women's Singles championship Saturday when she defeated Anne Shilcock of England, 6-3, 13-11, in the final of the Surrey County Lawn Tennis tournament.

Miss Gibson and Angela Buxton of England lost out in a bid for the women's doubles crown, however, when they were defeated by Betty Rosenquest Pratt, an American now living in Jamaica, and Thelma Long of Australia, 6-4, 6-3.

Athletics Slow Boston Drive for 2nd Place

By United Press
The Kansas City athletics slowed down Boston's drive on second place in the American League Saturday by racking up the Red Sox, 11-3, with a thunderous 15-hit attack.

The Red Sox, who had moved to within percentage points of second place Friday night, gained a 3-0 lead in the first inning on Mickey Vernon's home run with two aboard. But the A's rallied to knot the score in the second and then went ahead to stay with another three-run cluster in the seventh.

Vic Power, Jim Finigan and Tim Thompson each collected three hits for Kansas City, while Johnny Groth drove in three runs. Tom Gorman gained relief help from Bobby Shantz, and Frank Sullivan absorbed the loss. Gorman now has an 8-1 lifetime record against Boston.

The Philadelphia Phillies scored all their runs off former

teammate Herm Wehrer in the fourth inning to defeat the St. Louis Cardinals, 6-4. The winning pitcher was Stu Miller, the ex-clad who switched teams with Wehrer during a recent St. Louis-Philadelphia trade.

A three-run double by Richie Ashburn, following four consecutive walks by Wehrer, featured Philadelphia's big fourth inning. Bill Sarni batted in all the Cardinals' runs with a double and a single.

The Cincinnati Redlegs scored four runs in the eighth inning for an uphill 5-2 triumph over the New York Giants. Hershel Freeman, who relieved Starter Brooks Lawrence in the seventh frame, picked up his fourth victory against no defeats. Ruben Gomez went the route for the Giants and suffered his fourth setback against two victories.

The Chicago Cubs swept a doubleheader from the Brooklyn Dodgers. Right-handed bonus Pitcher Don Kistner, in his first major league starting assignment, twirled his way to a two-hit, 8-1 victory in the opener. The Cubs also took the second game, 5-4, on key singles by Dee Fondy and Jim King in the eighth inning.

Kaiser missed a shutout in the first inning of the opener when the Dodgers bunched a walk, a single by Duke Snider and a sacrifice fly by Ransom Jackson for their only run. The 21-year-old Ada, Okla., youth then retired the next 18 batters on the way to his first major league victory. Carl Erskine was the losing pitcher in the opener and Don Newcombe suffered the second game setback.

The Detroit at New York and Chicago at Baltimore day games in the American League were rained out.

Cleveland was at Washington in an American League night game and Pittsburgh was at Milwaukee in a National League ARC-Lighter.

18-Year-Old Englishman Wins Crown

Troon, Scotland — (U.P.) — Eighteen-year-old John Beharrell of England gallantly battled a cold rain and gale-force winds Saturday to defeat Leslie Taylor of Scotland, 5 and 4, and become the youngest player ever to win the British Amateur Golf championship.

Undaunted by some of the worst weather conditions ever to accompany a British amateur final, Beharrell showed his mettle when he recovered from a near-dissastrous letdown on the afternoon round and swept the last three holes for his victory.

Before pulling his game together on the 30th hole, the English school-boy's lead had dwindled to 2 up as a seige of poor putting and bunker difficulties lost him four straight holes from the 26th through the 29th.

Beharrell, who turned 18 only a few weeks ago, thus became the first English player to win the coveted amateur crown since Michael Scott in 1933.

The Scottish galleries, jubilant when defending champion Joe Conrad, the last of the 27 American entries, was eliminated in Thursday's quarterfinals, glumly watched Taylor lose. They had hoped to watch Taylor become the first Scottish champion since 1939. Americans had won six of the nine previous tournaments.

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