

Mantle Has Still to Conquer World Series Jinx

By OSCAR FRALEY
United Press Sports Writer
New York — (U.P.) — The 1956 season which will be remembered as the one which "made" Mickey Mantle but indications are that the Oklahoma kid still has his personal world series jinx to conquer.

Just about every year, as the New York Yankees make their annual trip to the post season classic, something goes wrong with Master Mickey. Four times he has been there and only once was he at near top efficiency.

This year the threat hangs over him once again. "I'm going to be all right," Mantle said as he nursed an aggravated muscle in his upper thigh and lower groin today.

That's a long statement for Mantle, a reticent and uncommunicative young man. But deep inside the wheels must be whirling frantically as he looks back on his misfortunes in three

of the four world series in which he previously appeared.

First A Knee Injury
In his very first series, in 1951, he was "scared to death" when his knee buckled under him in the second game and he dropped

to the Yankee Stadium turf as if he had been shot through the head.

It was the second game of that series and Mickey and Joe DeMaggio raced toward a fly belted by Willie Mays.

"I've got it," Di Maggio called. Mantle tried to pull up short.

"I could feel my leg snap," he recalls tensely. "I am too scared to move. I thought my leg had fallen off at the knee."

The next year he had his one good series, batting .345 with 10 for 29 and walloping a pair of homers.

Yet in 1953, Mantle was hobbling again when he went into the classic and batted a meager .208. After the season he had two operations on his knee for

removal of cartilage. It was the same worrisome tale again last fall.

In the closing days of the season he tried to beat out a bunt against Boston and pulled a thigh muscle. The leg was swathed in bandages and the limping Mantle was available for duty in only three games. He hit a lowly .200.

Which means that in four world series, Mickey has an overall average of only .265.

Year of Decision
There was a great deal written during the off season that this would be Mantle's year of decision.

Mantle must have read some of those things but the answer had to lie within himself. With a new maturity came added confidence and there is no question but what Mickey passed the cross-roads triumphantly and today is the game's brightest star.

He missed Babe Ruth's record 60 homers, but so have all the other big hitters for 29 years. Yet he did get up into the 50s and, quite possibly, could take the batting title and the runs-batted-in crown to boot.

Whether he does or not, he'll still be the player of the year. But when he suffered that aggravated muscle in Boston last week-end, it had to bring back a lot of bitter memories.

Even Mickey must be wondering whether that jinx is still working overtime.

Redlegs to Try For New Record

Cincinnati — (U.P.) — It's just a secondary target for them, of course, but the Cincinnati muscle men can equal the major league season home run record by hitting one homer against the Milwaukee Braves tonight.

The Redlegs go into the fray with 220 circuit clouts for the season, only one short of the all-time record set by the New York Giants in 1947.

STANDINGS

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W.	L.	Pct.	GB
Milwaukee	80	60	.569	—
Brooklyn	78	62	.559	2
Cincinnati	78	62	.559	2
St. Louis	73	75	.493	16
Philadelphia	69	83	.450	29
Pittsburgh	66	84	.440	32
New York	64	86	.427	34
Chicago	58	91	.389	41

Today's Results
Brooklyn 3, Pittsburgh 3 (night), completion of suspended game.

Tuesday's Probable Pitchers
Philadelphia at Cincinnati — Spahn (19-10) vs. Jansen (12-2).

Pittsburgh at New York — Kline (14-10) vs. Antonelli (18-13).

St. Louis at Chicago — Blaylock (11-5) and McDaniels (5-6) vs. Brooman (4-9) and Hillman (0-1).

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W.	L.	Pct.	GB
New York	95	54	.638	—
Cleveland	85	64	.570	10
Chicago	86	65	.568	11
Boston	80	69	.537	15
Detroit	78	71	.523	17
Baltimore	68	83	.448	29
Washington	58	91	.389	37
Kansas City	50	99	.336	45

Monday's Results
Chicago 1, Detroit 11; Baltimore 5, New York 4 (night), only games scheduled.

Tuesday's Probable Pitchers
Chicago at Detroit — Harshman (15-10) vs. Holt (13-13).

Washington at Boston — Ramos (12-9) vs. Stiller (7-8).

New York at Baltimore (night) — Ford (19-5) vs. Brown (9-6).

Kansas City at Cleveland (night) — Burnett (5-8) vs. Wynn (19-9).

League Leaders

NATIONAL LEAGUE	Player	Club	G.	AB.	R.	H.	Pct.
Mantle	145	326	131	157	336	323	.323
Robinson	120	283	68	134	350	331	.331
Kuenn	141	371	81	189	331	321	.321
Maxwell	126	480	96	158	325	310	.310
Boyer	144	370	89	175	307	307	.307
Moon	144	321	85	160	307	307	.307

Home Runs: Mantle, Yankees 51; Snider, Dodgers 39; Robinson, Redlegs 38; Adcock, Braves 37; Post, Redlegs 36; Matthews, Braves 36.

Runs Batted In: Mantle, Yankees 127; Kline, Tigers 121; Simpson, Athletics 106; Musial, Cards 105; Berra, Yankees 103.

Runs — Mantle, Yankees 131; Robinson, Redlegs 120; Snider, Dodgers 106; Aaron, Braves 103; Fox, White Sox 103.

Hits — Aaron, Braves 192; Kuenn, Tigers 189; Mantle, Yankees 187; Kline, Tigers 187; Ashburn, Phils 189; Fox, White Sox 186.

Pitching: Newcombe, Dodgers 26-6; Ford, Yankees 19-5; Freeman, Redlegs 18-6; Buhl, Braves 18-8; Pierce, White Sox 20-9.

SPORTS

Pittsburgh's Friend and Thomas Share Blame for Braves' Lead

Back At A Glance
W. L. Pct. GB L.
Milwaukee 80 60 .569 4
Brooklyn 78 62 .559 2
Cincinnati 78 62 .559 2
St. Louis 73 75 .493 16
Philadelphia 69 83 .450 29
Pittsburgh 66 84 .440 32
New York 64 86 .427 34
Chicago 58 91 .389 41

Games remaining:
Brooklyn (5) — At home (5); Philadelphia, Sept. 28, 29, 30.
Milwaukee (4) — Away (4); Cincinnati, Sept. 25, St. Louis, Sept. 28, 29, 30.
Cincinnati (3) — At home (1); Milwaukee, Sept. 25, Away (2); Chicago, Sept. 29, 30.

By MILTON RICHMAN
United Press Sports Writer

Milwaukee Manager Fred Haney, although "tickled to death" to be back in first place again, insisted today the only way his Braves can cop the pennant is by "winning all our games and paying no attention to Brooklyn."

The Dodgers took over the National League lead briefly Monday night—for two hours and 45 minutes to be exact—when they defeated the Pirates 8-3 in the resumption of Sunday's suspended contest but then dropped a half game behind the idle Braves by bowing to Pittsburgh, 6-4, in the regularly scheduled game.

As matters now stand Milwaukee has four games remaining and Brooklyn five, and since both clubs are even in the all-important "lost column," a playoff would become necessary if the Braves and Dodgers win all their remaining games. Cincinnati, still nursing a mathematical chance, is a game and a half off the pace with three games remaining.

"Naturally, I was tickled to hear that Pittsburgh had knocked off Brooklyn," said Haney, who arrived in Cincinnati with his Braves Monday night for a game against the Redlegs today.

Work Still Cut Out
"We were just getting our bags unpacked when we heard the news," Haney said. "But there was really nothing to celebrate. Of course, it was a good break for us and it makes things look nicer but it still boils down to the fact that we have to keep winning all our games and ignore what Brooklyn does."

Frank Thomas and Bob Friend were the chief "villains" as far as the Dodgers were concerned in the setback that really hurt Monday night and gave the Pirates three games out of four in the series.

Thomas slammed his 24th

homer off reliever Ed Roebuck in the fourth inning to give Pittsburgh a 3-3 lead and then, after the Dodgers had tied the score on Gil Hodges' two-run homer in the top of the eighth, he singled home Bill Virdon with the winning run in the bottom of the frame for his fourth hit of the game.

Baker Choice In Jackson Ring Tangle

New York — (U.P.) — Big Bob Baker is favored 7-5 to turn the tables on Tommy (Hurricane) Jackson in their return heavyweight contenders' fight at Forbes Field, Pittsburgh, Wednesday night.

Eccentric Jackson of New York won a majority 10-round decision over Baker of Pittsburgh at Madison Square Garden, last Feb. 3; but the voting was water-close: 5-4-1, 5-4-1, 5-5.

Although Jackson is rated third among contenders and Baker, fifth, Big Bob is favored because he finished stronger in their February 10-rounder and Wednesday's bout is slated for 12 rounds. Also because he will be fighting in his home city.

Their fight will be televised and broadcast nationally over ABC networks.

Bobby Boyd of Chicago, second-ranking middleweight contender, is favored at 12-5 to beat unranked Joey Giardello of Philadelphia Friday night in their 10-rounder at the Cleveland Arena.

Boyd seeks his 10th straight victory. Giardello, former top contender, won six of eight bouts this year on the comeback trail.

Their bout will be televised and broadcast nationally over NBC networks.

CATCHER SIGNED
Brooklyn — (U.P.) — Catcher Clayton Harrison from Granite, Ill., who caught Dodger pitcher Johnny Podres when they were together at the Norfolk, Va., Navy Base, was signed by Brooklyn today for its Pueblo, Colo., farm club in the Class A Western league.

Friend, surviving a rocky start, gave up three runs in the first inning and then held the Dodgers at bay except for Hodges' 31st homer to post his 17th victory against 16 setbacks.

Newcombe Gets 26th
It took the Dodgers less than 15 minutes to wrap up the suspended contest. Clem Labine retired three Pirate batters in order in the ninth to preserve Don Newcombe's eighth straight victory and 26th win of the season.

Labine also started the regularly scheduled game but gave up three runs in the first inning and was yanked in the second. Roebuck took over and gave way to Craig in the sixth.

Baltimore beat the Yankees, 5-4, on Tito Francona's two-run double in the eighth inning as Johnny Kueks again failed to notch his 19th triumph. Bill Skowron hit a pair of homers for the Yanks. Mickey Mantle saw action only as a pinch hitter in the ninth and drew a walk.

Mike Fornieles registered his fourth victory in relief.

In the only other game scheduled, the White Sox blasted out 22 hits to defeat the Tigers, 14-11. Seven homers were hit in the contest with Sherm Lollar and Ray Boone hitting two apiece and Larry Doby, Charlie Maxwell and Red Wilson one each. Paul LaPalme was the winner and rookie Hal Woodeschick the loser.

LINE SCORES:
Chicago — 005 620 100—14 22 0
Detroit — 000 260 201—11 14 1
Kansas, Kinder (5), LaPalme (5), Howell (9) and Lollar, Woodeschick, Bunning (3), Grumek (4), Masterson (6), Aber (8) and R. Wilson, Winner—LaPalme (3-1), Loser—Woodeschick (0-2). HR—Lollar, 2, (19th and 11th); Boone, 2, (24th and 25th); Doby, (22nd), Maxwell (27th), Wilson (11th).

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Completion of suspended game of Sept. 23.
Brooklyn — 011 104 100—8 12 1
Pittsburgh — 101 100 000—3 6 2
Newcombe, Labine (9) and Campanella, Hall, King (3), Munger (4), Pollet (4), Facer (3), Waters (6), Garber (7) and Shepard, Winner—Newcombe (26-6), Loser—Facer (12-13). HR—Hodges, 2, (25th and 30th).

Brooklyn — 300 000 020—5 10 2
Pittsburgh — 310 100 018—6 13 1
Labine, Roebuck (2), Craig (6) and Campanella, Friend (17-10) and Shepard, Loser—Craig (12-11). HR—Thomas (24th), Hodges (31st).

Bears Rated High With New Coach

Chicago — (U.P.) — The Chicago Bears have a new coach this year, but many observers believe they have the potential to win their first National Football league title since 1946.

George Halas closed out a 35-year career as Bear head coach after the 1955 campaign. As owner of the club, he turned over the coaching job and what appears to be the nucleus of a championship squad to one of his long-time assistants, Paddy Driscoll.

PLAYERS RELEASED

Pittsburgh — (U.P.) — Quarterback Maurice Duncan, halfback John Howley and ends Jack McClaren and John Stock were released today by the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Football league.

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

WRESTLING CARD

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Wednesday Nite, Sept. 26

MAIN EVENT—Challenge Grudge Match! Winner take all! Best 2/3 falls or 1 hour limit.
Henry "Mucles" Lenz, 215 Santa Monica

vs.
Wild Red Bastien, 208 Minneapolis

Red tried to break down the dressing room door to get at Lenz last week. He says he will clobber the Golden Boy this week.

SEMI-FINAL — Best 2/3 falls or 1 hour limit.
Reggie Parks, 215 Edmonton

vs.
Regie Siki, 205 Los Angeles

Parks said he would like to wrestle Siki to see who was entitled to be called Reggie.

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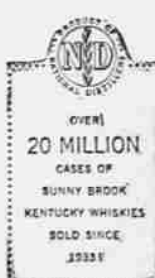
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LUBY QUILTS SALEM
Salem — (U.P.) — Hugh Luby, for six seasons general manager of the Salem Senators baseball club, resigned last night.

Thumper Doesn't Care About Title

Boston — (U.P.) — Ted Williams said today "I don't give a hoot about winning the batting title," but the cantankerous Red Sox veteran indicated he would return next season to try again.

An unimpeachable Red Sox source disclosed Williams has confided he will be back in 1957 regardless if he fails to wrest this year's individual batting title from Mickey Mantle.

ANNOUNCEMENT EXPECTED
New York — (U.P.) — The long-delayed announcement that Sugar Ray Robinson will defend his middleweight crown against Gene Fullmer at Madison Square Garden, Nov. 14, was expected today.

A combat soldier's daily ration of food weighs about five pounds. By contrast that of an average civilian weighs only three pounds.

HUNTING TIP
Plan your Fall Hunting Trip with a detailed, up-to-date map. Buy them now at your favorite Stationery or Sporting Goods Store.

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