Skipper Craft Thinks Kansas City Will Be Tougher Next Season

(Editor's note: This is the fifth of 16 dispatches on the off-season outlook of each major league team for 1958, written by the managers of each club.)

By HARRY CRAFT
Written for the United Press

Kansas City, Mo.—(UP)—Kansas City, I believe, will be a definitely stronger American league contender next summer than last when we climbed out of the cellar in the final weeks, leaving Washington in eighth place.

We're setting our sights on solid improvement, and if you insist on being specific, say sixth place, maybe a notch or two higher.

Frankly, I'm counting on an improved team for three reasons. One, I believe our Detroit trade helped, even though we released Billy Martin reluctantly.

I think another thing working in our favor this year is our rookie crop. Pitcher Walt Craddock, the International league pennant-winner's top winner, and infielder Mike Baxes, from the same Buffalo team, should help substantially.

One of Off Years

The third factor I'm counting on is one I'd likely to get some arguments on. Boiled down, I'd say several of our top players simply had "off" seasons in 1957, among them Vic Power, Billy Hunter, Bob Cer.

I figure Hal Smith, Frank House and Harry Chiti will give us fine catching, the first two sharing most of the work. In the infield, Power looks solid at first base, and Lopez will get a thorough trial at third.

Joe DeMaestri, an American league all-star, should handle shortstop in good style. Second base might be called our wide-open infield slot.

Woody Held, who I put second to Jim Piersall and nobody else in centerfield, should be improved and he's looked great already. Bill Tuttle, in from Detroit, looks like our rightfielder. Cerv, Bob Martyn, Jim Small and others will fight for the left-field job in our plans right now.

Our pitching has some gaps, but altogether doesn't look too bad. Jack Urban and Ralph Terry should be ready for solid seasons after early seasoning.

I'd like a good lefthander for the bullpen to go with righthanders Virgil Trucks and Tom Gorman. George Brunet and Harry Taylor, both up from Little Rock, are apparently the best of the rookie crop aside from Craddock.

Former Detroit pitcher Duke Maas should help us and I'm counting on Arnold Portocarrero for some good work after a fine showing in the late weeks of 1957.

Overall we need help in a couple of places and it's quite possible we'll make another trade or so before the season opens.

Offer Made To Dodgers On Coliseum

Los Angeles—(UP)—A last-ditch effort to keep the Los Angeles Dodgers from making their temporary home in Pasadena's Rose Bowl comes before the Coliseum commission today.

Chairman Jim Smith announced a new proposal under which the Dodgers would pay no rent for the 105,000 seat Memorial coliseum but would guarantee the Coliseum revenues of $350,000 from concessions.

And as an added inducement, Smith proposed that the Coliseum meet Dodger President Walter O'Malley's objections to having home plate at the east end of the stadium by shifting the diamond so that the batter would be facing north.

The plan outlined informally by Smith Thursday was for the Coliseum commission to retain its 30 per cent of the gross concession revenues with O'Malley guaranteeing that the stadium's receipts over a two-year period would total $350,000.

10 Per Cent Nomral

The coliseum normally charges 10 per cent of the gate as rent for the stadium, a figure baseball men said could not be met by a club playing 77 home games. The Dodgers and the Coliseum commission never discussed rent because of the impasse over location of the diamond.

Meanwhile, O'Malley conferred with Pasadena's city board of directors and virtually has reached an agreement to use the Rose Bowl as a temporary home until the Dodgers can build their own stadium. A formal agreement, however, was not made and O'Malley, before leaving for the East, said he expected to resume talks with the Rose Bowl management when he returns.

PHILS SIGN CAMILLI

Philadelphia—(UP)—Dolph Camilli, who won the Most Valuable Player Award in 1941 while a star first baseman with the Brooklyn Dodgers, has been signed as a scout in the San Francisco Bay area by the Philadelphia Phillies.

SPORTS

Red Rocha Mentor of Piston Quint

Detroit —(UP)— Charley Eckman's coaching philosophy of "What can you teach All-Americans?" led to his downfall as coach of the Detroit Pistons and Thursday resulted in the hiring of Red Rocha.

Owner Fred Zollner said he and Eckman parted "without animosity" but it was their differences over personnel that wound up with Eckman's resignation despite winning two divisional titles and tieing for a third in three years as head coach.

Zollner said that although Rocha, 34, has not coached in the National Basketball association before, he is "impressed by his gray matter."

Rocha was a star forward, excelling in defense, for nine years. He played with Syracuse, St. Louis, Baltimore and closed out his playing career last season with the Pistons.

He signed a contract through Oct. 1, 1958 with an automatic one-year extension if the team shows improvement.

Rocha formerly starred for Slats Gill at Oregon State and broke into pro basketball in 1947 at St. Louis.

CALGARY EYES NOLAN

Calgary —(UP)— The Calgary Stampeders are interested in signing Lehigh university quarterback Don Nolan, who was the Washington Redskins fourth draft choice in the National Football league draft last month. Nolan stands 6-2 and weighs 190 pounds.

Many Slums Claimed Deliberately Created

Chicago — (UP) — National Association of Housing and Redevelopment officials say that many landlords deliberately create slums.

In a recent issue of the Public Administration Bulletin, the officials cited the case of a Chicago landlord, believed by his neighbors to be a respectable businessman, who was fined $107,600 for failing to maintain his apartment building properly.

The creation of a 13-block slum area in Toronto, Canada, was blamed largely on two owners, the officials said.

One of the owners began business with a $1,000 payment on a rundown building in the area and the other as a rent collector. They gradually secured control of more than 80 buildings by permitting indiscriminate occupancy and making as few repairs as possible.

They went free in most of approximately 500 court appearances, but their operations produced one good result—Toronto started a major war on its slums.

2,700 Landings, Take-Offs Made

Landings and take-offs at the Medford municipal airport during November, totaled 2,700, according to the city's monthly report of activities.

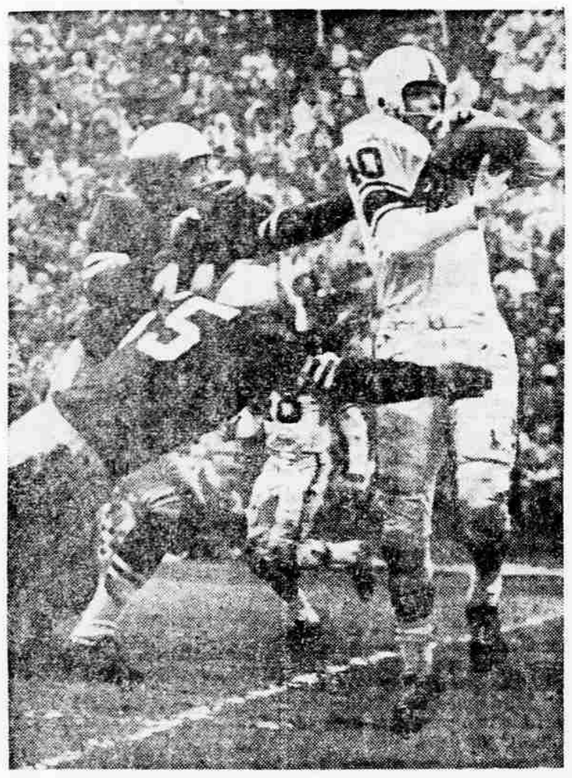
This is 248 more than November, 1956, and 959 less than October. Two landings and takeoffs were made by the Navy, 18 by the Air Force, 687 by commercial airlines and 1,993 by private aircraft.

Passengers boarding and getting off planes last month amounted to 17,666 pounds, or 543 pounds more than October and 2,754 pounds less than November last year. Mail outbound was 8,257 pounds and inbound mail totaled 9,409 pounds, according to the report.

Air express shipped through Medford during the month was 4,120 pounds, including 1,296 pounds incoming. The total is 708 pounds less than last month and 296 pounds less than last year.

Air freight during the month totaled 11,245 pounds with 6,075 pounds outgoing and 5,170 incoming pounds. The total is 3,252 pounds less than October and 3,491 pounds less than last year for the same period.

The northernmost post office in the United taStes is Penasse, Minnesota, on American Point, a 50-acre tract located on Lake of the Woods, north of International Falls.



ON TARGET—Halfback Joe Johnson (40) of the Green Bay Packers gathers in a pass good for five-yard gain in first quarter of pro clash with the 49ers at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco. Ready to make stop are 49ers Val Joe Walker (44) and Matt Hazeltine (55). The 49ers won, 27-20.

FRANCIS WILL RECEIVE WARNER SENIOR AWARD

Palo Alto, Calif.—(UP)—Oregon State tailback Joe Francis returned to practice with the West Shrine team today after being named winner of the Glenn (Pop) Warner award as the most valuable senior college football player on the Pacific coast during the past season.

The talented Beaver backfield ace won the coveted award Thursday in a close voting battle among 400 sports writers, broadcasters and coaches. Only a dozen votes separated the three top choices —Francis, Jim Shanley of Oregon and Washington's Jim Jones.

Francis will be presented with a wrist watch and trophy at the Palo Sports club's annual "Million Dollar banquet" here Jan. 28.

GETS MINORS POST

Columbus, Ohio—(UP)—George M. Trautman, minor league baseball president, has named Vincent M. McNamara, president of the Class D New York-Pennsylvania league, to the $500,000 fund committee set up by the major leagues to aid financially distressed minor league franchises. He replaces Claude Engberg of Salt Lake City, Class C Pioneer league president, recently named to the minor leagues' three-man committee.

Ducks To Head South Saturday

Eugene, Ore. —(UP)— The Oregon U. football team, which plays Ohio State in the Rose Bowl game on New Year's day, emplanes for Los Angeles Saturday after completing its preliminary phase of training here.

The team will work out at the University of Southern California's Bouvard field in Los Angeles. The Webfoots, who will go into the Rose Bowl decided underdogs, worked hard on offensive maneuvers during Thursday's final home drill.

Charles White Named ASC Group Chairman

Charles E. White, Rogue River, was elected chairman of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation committee this week, according to Harry Martin, ASC office manager here.

Others elected are Donald Nickles, Ashland, vice chairman; Albert L. Straus, Gold Hill, regular member; Ray Vogel, Central Point, first alternate, and Otto Niedermeyer, Medford, second alternate.

The committee administers the farm program for Jackson county organized under the ASC office.

Ducks Travel For Tangles With BYU

University of Oregon, Eugene —Coach Steve Belko's winning basketball Webfoots finished final examinations today and left by plane for Salt Lake City and the first of three Christmas season games, and Belko has high hopes that the young Ducks can keep alive a winning skein that has stretched to four straight.

The Webfoots, after an opening season loss to Oregon State, rebounded to sweep a pair of series from Utah State and San Jose State last week, and indicated in the process that they will be reckoned with in the coming Pacific Coast conference battle.

On the road, Oregon will play two nights in Provo against BYU, Dec. 21 and 23, then move to Fort Collins, Colo., for a one-night stand, Dec. 27 against Colorado State university.

Club Rebounds

Coach Belko's surprisingly versatile crew has rebounded and shot at furious clips since the loss to OSC, and paced by a pair of two-year veterans, Hal Duffy and Charlie Franklin, are expected to hold their own against the Skyline Eight foes.

Duffy, the PCC's rebound king last winter, and Franklin, the 6-3 forward who does everything well, has teamed with one other vet, guard Bud Kuykendall, and two newcomers to make a sterling starting combination. Forward Dale Herron, a JC transfer from Aberdeen, Wash., and guard Chuck Rask, one of the key cogs in an unbeaten Frosh team last year, complete the Webfoot starters.

Rask, a 6-1 dead-eye from Portland's Jefferson high, was expected to play a large part in Oregon hoop fortunes in '58, but Belko admits that the 6-4 Herron is a pleasant surprise. Although weighing only 190 pounds, Herron has rebounded with the best of the Webfoot opponents, and has averaged almost five points a game. Franklin with 70 points and a 14.0 average, leads the squad.

Petroleum power in the form of tractors, trucks and stationary engines on farms in the U.S. provides almost 200 million horsepower, twice that used by American industries.

Albert Girds Forty Niner Offense for Play-Off Mix

San Francisco — (UP) — Coach Frankie Albert of the San Francisco Forty-Niners went into a huddle with his staff today to brew a batch of new plays to use against the Detroit Lions and their vaunted secondary defense in the pro playoffs here on Sunday.

Naturally, Albert wasn't telling anyone what he had in mind —but so far this season he has come up with some of the most surprising plays in the National Football league. There was some speculation that the new plays would be in the nature of a passing pattern.

It is probable that the fertile Albert mind took a look at the National league statistics and noted that a bigger percentage of passes was completed against Detroit than any other team in the league during 1957. The averages showed that 56.2 per cent of all aerials thrown against the Lions were completed. This compares with 54.8 for the Forty-Niners, who had the second most-porous air defense.

Hazeltine Knocked Out

The San Francisco camp got a scare during the testing of one of the "new" plays Thursday. End Billy Wilson raced down the field to take a toss from Quarterback Y. A. Tittle and hit defensive back Matt Hazeltine on the head with his elbow. Hazeltine was out for three minutes, but will be okay.

Albert also worked out End Clyde Conner, who has been sidelined for a month with injuries, and it now appears probable that the ex-College of Pacific star will see considerable action.

In the Detroit camp the picture wasn't quite as bright. Coach George Wilson and his staff spent most of the day working on defense. The practice was secret again.

The bad news was that injured tackle Charley Ane and back Gene Gedman did not appear to be improving and there was some belief that neither man would be able to play. On the other hand, defensive ace Jim Davis continued to recover from his leg injuries and may be in tip-top shape for the crucial battle.

MANAGERS MEET MIKE

Boston—(UP)—Seven farm club managers will meet with Boston Red Sox manager Mike Higgins next month at an organizational meeting. The managers include Gene Mauch, Minneapolis; Warren Robinson, Memphis; Ed Popowski, Allentown, Pa.; Len Okrie, Raleigh, N.C.; Elmer Zoter, Corning, N.Y.; Jack Kaiser, Lexington, Neb., and Ken Deal, Lafayette, Ind.

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Somebody Fouls Up Army Serial Number

Fort Lewis, Wash. — (UP) — After millions of digits without a miss, somebody finally fouled up an Army serial number.

Pfc. Gerhard Hipp of Los Angeles and Pfc. Doran D. Bray of Whittier, Calif., have shaken the foundations of the armed forces' numerical systems right down to the decimal point.

The thorn in the side of the Army is No. 56282086. Both Bray and Hipp rightfully claimed the number.

"Beats me how it happened," said Hipp, a 39th Infantry soldier. "We were both processed at the Figuero and 15th St. Induction Station in Los Angeles on Oct. 4, 1956. We were buddies in basic training at Ft. Carson, Colo. The error showed up one day when our shoes got mixed up because they were marked with the same numbers."

Assignment to different outfits here has eased the problem. Bray now is in the 4th Division Hipp is in the 39th.

Meantime, personnel officers are still puzzling over what may be the first such error in three wars and 50 million serial numbers. Until they can come up with a solution, the figures will stand.

Paulist Fathers Plan Celebration

Chicago — (UP) — The first Roman Catholic order of priests founded in America will celebrate its centennial next year.

The Paulist Fathers also will celebrate the 125th anniversary of Chicago's first Catholic parish, Old St. Mary's, which they have administered since 1903.

The Paulists will celebrate their first hundred years from their 24 houses and foundations from coast to coast.

The order, known formally as the Society of Missionary Priests of St. Paul the Apostle, was founded in New York City on March 6, 1858.

During the last 99 years, the five charter members have expanded to more than 200. They administer parishes in Chicago, New York, San Francisco; Portland, Ore.; Layton, Utah; Boston, Mass.; Clemson, S. C.; Memphis, Winchester, Tenn.; Minneapolis; Lubbock and Austin, Tex., and Los Angeles.

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