

Park of Phoenix Giants Possible Home of Homers

By BILL MCFARLAND
United Press International
Phoenix, Ariz.—(UPI)—Pacific Coast league pitchers must wonder, when playing in the Phoenix park, if today's "rabbit" baseballs have a homing instinct, the way they're disappearing over fences in this desert mecca.

At the rate the bunny ball is sailing over the garden walls, Phoenix is making a bid in baseball's record book at the home of the homers, and not Los Angeles' Coliseum, with its short left field foul line and high screen.

There isn't so short a barrier here as in the Dodger lot. The boundary lines on the square Phoenix park run 321 feet at the foul lines and 420 feet in dead centerfield. Most of the homers here aren't disappearing at the foul lines. Many of them are Ruthian type swats that clear tall palm trees, and sometimes the 40-foot light standards, at the 385-foot marks in left and right center.

A total of 124 homers have been hit thus far, and the season is only half over. Phoenix has hit 68 of its 97 homers in the home lot and the opposition has done well here, too, slapping 56 out of sight.

There must be a season for it, and veteran pitcher Max Surkont, traded by Phoenix

to Seattle earlier in the year, has a pretty good theory. Max says it's not the light air or the fences in Phoenix that make the curve balls hang for the hitters to blast, although the lighter air offers less resistance to a hard-hit ball.

My curve broke well at Phoenix, but I think the key factor for the homers in Phoenix is the baseballs," said Max.

"They're drier in Phoenix. Because there is so little humidity, and the temperatures go so high," adds Max. "The baseballs dry out and become harder than other places. Those dry, hard balls leap off bats faster and farther in Phoenix than anywhere else I've pitched."

Statistics Add Proof
Surkont's theory is well borne out by the statistics provided by Coast league headquarters here.

That Phoenix total of 124 homers far outdistances the rest, but Salt Lake, another desert area city, is second, with 60 homers hit there, 30 by the Bees and 30 by the opposition. Another dryland club, Spokane, is next in line with 37, 19 by the Indians and 18 by the opposition. San Diego's mark is 35, with 22 by the home club. Only 22 have been hit out of Multnomah Stadium in Portland, while 31 have been lost at Sacramento and 30 at Vancouver. Seattle, right in the middle of the Northwest moisture belt, has had the least lost fair balls—seven by the home team and 17 by the opponents.

At the rate Phoenix is going, it looks like a cinch to break the Coast league record for homers in a season—202, set by the Steve Bilked Los Angeles Angels in 1956.

Los Angeles—(UPI)—Televising of big league baseball is getting out of hand, in the opinion of E. J. (Buzzy) Bavasi, vice president and general manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Speaking of the flood of National league games that are being beamed into New York from Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and St. Louis since the Dodgers and Giants have moved to the Pacific Coast, Bavasi declared:

"It's now a beer war back there. And it's not a healthy situation.

"I'm not against the televising of a limited number of games. It always has been our attitude that the home club should do what it wants with television.

"But I never thought we'd go this far. You are giving your show away for nothing when you over-televise. You are making it too easy for people to see ball games—for free."

"TV has its place. It makes fans and, in that respect, helps baseball. But you can't afford to saturate the market," he said.

SPORTS

Salt Lake Outfielder Top Hitter

San Francisco—(UPI)—Carlos Bernier, fleet Salt Lake City outfielder, batted exactly .368—his season's average—in seven games last week to retain the Pacific Coast League hitting leadership, according to statistics released today and including Sunday's games.

Bernier has appeared in 58 games, collected 81 hits in 220 trips to the plate. He has clouted eight homers and knocked in 41 runs. Team-mate Dick Stuart leads in homers with 26 and runs-batted-in with 69.

The pitching leader, on an earned-run average, is Gordon Sundin of Vancouver, who has allowed only .209 runs per nine innings while winning four and losing three.

Seven wins have been posted by four hurlers: Dick Hanlon, Spokane; Art Ceccarelli, Vancouver; and Don Zanni and Ernie Broglio of Phoenix.

Marshall Bridges of Sacramento leads in strikeouts with 82 in 86 innings.

DODGERS SIGN THREE
Los Angeles—(UPI)—The Los Angeles Dodgers announced Tuesday that they have signed three college players—catcher-outfielder Conrad Munatones and Ernest Rodriguez, from UCLA, and outfielder Ron Cutter, from Wilmington, Ohio, college.

Kid, Yama Vie This Evening
Miami Beach—(UPI)—Former welterweight champion Kid Gavilan is favored to whip tough Yama Bahama, the Bimini slugger who is out to kill the "keed's" comeback hopes in tonight's nationally televised 10-round.

The odds were about 12-5 for the Cuban bolo puncher, but were expected to change before fight time at the Miami Beach auditorium.

San Jose, Calif.—(UPI)—A lone bandit robbed the First National bank of San Jose of \$4,000 to \$5,000 Tuesday after handing teller Shirley Reese, 26, a note reading "Have gun, will shoot."

The organization after it was learned he was out of a job and nearly destitute.

"After the story about my financial problems I got a few job offers. Maybe I could be making more money," he said, "but just being back in baseball is good enough for me."

Mike Monroe Ousts No. 2 OGA Qualifier

Portland—(UPI)—Two favorites lost out Tuesday in the opening round of match play at the Oregon Junior Golf championships.

Mike Sweet, Nampa, Idaho, 1957 semi-finalist was upset by Rick Swan of Vancouver, Wash., who missed Boys' medalist honors by one stroke Monday, was ousted by Mike Monroe of Medford.

Jim O'Toole, medalist in the Junior division, barely got by Scott Bennett of Rose City, 1-up. Fred Taylor, the Boys' medalist, won on the 20th hole from Ken Huth of Oswego.

Doug Olson Wins
Defending Peewee champ Mike Soran of Klamath Falls lost to Mike Truax of Salem on the 11th hole. Doug Olson of Medford, the Peewee medalist, won his first match, 2-up over Charles Milne of Salem.

Treasure Sullivan of Ashland, the Girls' medalist, defeated Carole Hendrickson of Astoria, 4 and 3.

Lynn Yturri of Ontario, turned in the hottest Boys' division round. He defeated Mike Cherry of Baker on the 11th hole and played the round out for a 69. Biff Lovett of Portland, 1957 Junior runner-up, was three under par in defeating Bob Hermanson of Vancouver, Wash., 6 and 5.

Results of Rogue Valley Country club players in state junior tourney included:
Juniors—Stew Schroeder def. Stan Meusse, Portland, 2 and 1, championship flight; Tony Monroe def. Bob Cone, Vancouver, Wash., 7 and 6, second flight; Gary Miksche def. Joe Gilbert, Tualatin, 1 up, sixth flight.

Boys—Charles Allen lost 3 to 2 to Chuck Allen, Roseburg, championship flight; Stan Dowson lost to Dick Hopper, Portland, second flight; Steve Cummins def. Doug Morton, Portland, 3 and 1 in second flight; John Hamlin lost to Robert Lyman, La Grande, 5 and 4, fourth flight; Dick Knight lost to Bud Wedin, Chehalis, Wash., 2 and 1, sixth flight; Larry Berg lost to Rich Hood, Vancouver, Wash., 3 and 2, 10th flight.

Girls—Pam Stacey def. Judy Casiato, Portland, 4 and 3.



IN STOCK CAR RACE—Jack Keck Jr., is shown beside the car he'll be racing this Saturday night at the Valley View speedway under auspices of Dave and Vern Fraysher service of Medford. The program will open the season at the track just north of Ashland. Time trials are billed for 7 p.m. and the first race for 8 p.m. Cars in the races will be 1949 through 1953 models.

Stock Cars' Racing Debut on Saturday

Stock car racing for the 1958 season opens Saturday night, June 21, at the Valley View speedway one mile north of Ashland.

More than 25 cars are expected to be in shape for the time trials which will begin at 7 p.m. First of the races will start an hour later.

Stock cars of the 1949-53 vintage will race for a \$575 purse that will be split up between the top drivers in the final standings.

Races will feature such drivers as the father and son team of Jack Keck Sr. and

Jr., Louis Kurz, Ashland Fire Chief Chuck Davis, and a number of top drivers from around the area. Many of these drivers are veterans from the hard top races of years gone by.

Racing of stock cars at Valley View marks the first time in a number of years that such races have been run. Stock cars have been a huge success in the Portland area, according to reports.

In the time trials each car will get two laps. From them the post positions will be determined for the various events.

M-W, Parsons Win Softball League Tangles

Willard Barnum and E. C. Brittan combined for a no-hitter Monday evening as M and W Chain Saw squelched Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce 25 to 0 in a Jackson County Softball association game at Camp White.

Parsons Motors trimmed the Cheney Studs 8 to 1 on a one-hitter by Ron Weatherford.

Two games are set for Thursday at the Veterans Administration diamond at Camp White. M and W will face the Bureau of Reclamation at 7 p.m. and the Rogue Valley Dairy Maids play the Jaycees about 8:30 p.m. Chain Saw has two wins in the loop and the Bureau has won its only game.

M and W put over nine runs each in the first and fourth innings Monday.

Brittan homered for M and W. Barnum had two doubles and Larry Slesler one two-baser.

Baseball Video Out of Hand, Bavasi Claims

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Jim Foxx Happy At Minneapolis

Minneapolis—(UPI)—Jimmy Foxx, the hall of fame member of the Boston Red Sox hired last winter, is happy as a rookie with his job with the Minneapolis Millers of the American association.

Foxx, 30, has been under a doctor's care the past few weeks with "fluctuating blood pressure."

"It's not being back in uniform, though, that's raising the pressure, it's hereditary," he said. "I couldn't be happier with my work."

And his bosses are well-pleased with the famous slugger in his new role as hitting coach and goodwill man for the Millers, the Red Sox' Triple-A farm club.

Foxx was invited to join

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