

MEDFORD TRIBUNE
SPORTS

Hemus Feels Cards Should Be Regarded Pennant Contender

(This is the third of 16 dispatches by the major league managers giving mid-winter appraisals of their teams.)

By SOLLY HEMUS
Manager, St. Louis Cardinals
(Written for UPI)

Houston, Tex. — (UPI) — The St. Louis Cardinals, if we can come through as we expect, definitely should be considered one of the top contenders for the 1959 National league pennant.

We're not going to be in there this year just to get into the first division, but to win the pennant. But it would be too early at this time for me to definitely predict we will win it.

The main club to beat again will be Milwaukee, although they have never won a pennant without Red Schoendienst and probably will have trouble staying on top without him. He's one of the steadiest infielders in the business and they will have a tough time replacing him.

Respects Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh also will be thought of quite highly with their well-balanced club. Their pitching has improved over last year and they should be one of the top contenders. San Francisco also is improved and Jack Sanford should help their pitching staff. In fact, every club in the league has helped itself some and with Schoendienst missing from the Brave lineup, there should be a very tight race for the pennant.

As for the Cardinals, we need to strengthen our pitching staff. Our starters will be Sam Jones, Larry Jackson and Vinegar Bend Mizell. Jackson is just coming into his own and should be a big winner.

Ernie Broglio will be a bright prospect in spring training and I believe he will help us a lot this year, although he's never pitched in the big leagues. He has a good fast and curve ball. Jim Brown will be our "long man" in the bullpen. Alex Kellner, acquired in a trade with Cincinnati, will be effective as a relief pitcher, and is good against left-handed hitters.

Good Spot Relievers

We also have Marv Grissom, whom we got in a trade, and Lindy McDaniel, both of whom should be good spot relievers.

Our infield should compare well with any in the league, with Joe Cunningham at first, Don Blasingame at second, Ken Boyer at third and Alex Grammas at shortstop. Lee Tate still is considered a good prospect at short.

Our outfield, with Stan Musial, one of the greatest ball players I've ever seen play, in left field, should have good control over the long hits this year. We've moved Musial back to the outfield from first because I think this will let him play in more games.

Centerfield still is open for grabs. We have Gino Cimoli, Kurt Flood, B. G. Smith, and Ellis Burdon under consideration. Charley James, who played with Houston last year, also will get a long look for the outfield at spring practice.

Bill Casper Heads Pros In Performance Average

Evanston, Ill. — Bill Casper is the 1958 performance average champion of the professional golf circuit, according to figures released today by Golf Digest Magazine.

Casper's victory in this important statistical race is announced in the magazine's 1959 annual, on newsstands next week. He finished the campaign with a .611 performance average, edging out Ken Venturi by 13 percentage points.

The averages are based on the players' comparative finishes in every tournament entered and are similar to batting averages in baseball.

Venturi Early Leader

Venturi was the leader throughout the year until the PGA Championship (July 17-20), where Casper finished second. Venturi did not compete in this event. Casper's runnerup position put him ahead of his rival for the first time.

Actually the turning point came at the U.S. Open (June 12-14), where Casper tied for 13th and Venturi was well out of contention. Bill won the Buick Open the next week and was a contender in most events thereafter. Venturi then slumped, although he did win the Chicago Glen Eagles Open later. Ken did not compete after the Hesperia Open Sept. 18-21, but Casper played out the rest of the campaign.

Dow Finsterwald, the 1957 champion, was a strong third at 574. Arnold Palmer, who suffered a late summer and fall slump, placed fourth at 499.

Neumann Leader in PCC Scoring

Los Angeles — The sharpshooting of Paul Neumann, Stanford, Rafer Johnson of UCLA and Jim Woodland, Oregon State, today dominated the Pacific Coast conference basketball statistics released by the PCC Commissioner's office.

Neumann is the leading scorer, ranks second in field goal percentage and is third in free throws while Johnson is the No. 1 marksman from the floor and Woodland has the top percentage from the free throw line.

The statistics for all conference games through Jan. 10 show Neumann with 33 field goals and 22 free throws in five games for 88 total points and an average of 17.6 per game. Walt Torrance, UCLA, is second with a 16.8 average, followed by Lee Harman, Oregon State, Doug Smart, Washington, and Stu Robertson, Oregon, all tied at third with 16 point averages.

Johnson 69.2 Per Cent

Johnson has scored on nine of his 13 field goal attempts in three games for a blistering 69.2 per cent and the floor shooting lead. Neumann is the only other player above the 500 mark, shooting 53.2 per cent. Woodland is third, 49 per cent; Robertson fourth, 48.2 per cent, and Gary Goble, Oregon State, fifth, 47.7 per cent.

Woodland has made 15 of 16 free throw attempts for 94 per cent and the top mark in that department. Steve Kemp, Southern California, 91.4 per cent, and Denny Crum, UCLA, 87.6 per cent.

Top rebounder is Robertson with 26 recoveries out of 177 total opportunities and a percentage of 14.7 per cent. Smart, last year's best rebounder, has a percentage of 14.4 per cent, followed by Darrell Inhoff, California, and Dale Herron, Oregon, 11.3 per cent and Torrance, 10.5 per cent.

Rounding out the top 10 scorers are Woodland with a 15.2 average, Fitzpatrick, 14.8, Bill Bloom, Southern California, 13.5, Jim White, also of SC, 13, and Crum, 12.4.

Cougar Slate Full Six Years

Pullman — (UPI) — Washington State college announced it has drawn up a six-year football schedule which features traditional Pacific Northwest opponents and moves independent schools into spots previously filled by UCLA and Southern California.

California is on the Cougar schedule through 1960. Washington and Stanford will play Washington State each year.

Oregon, Oregon State and Idaho will meet the Cougars annually as in the past.

Washington State will play San Jose State and College of Pacific regularly. The schedules also show dates with Iowa, Army, Indiana, Denver and Arizona State at Tempe.

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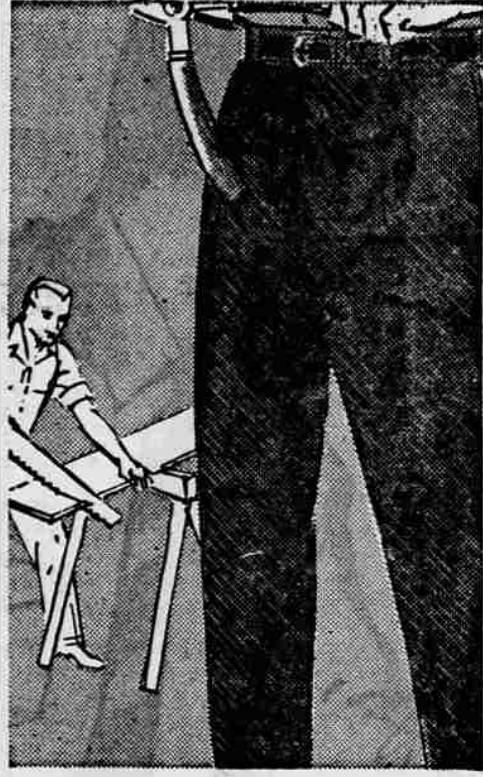
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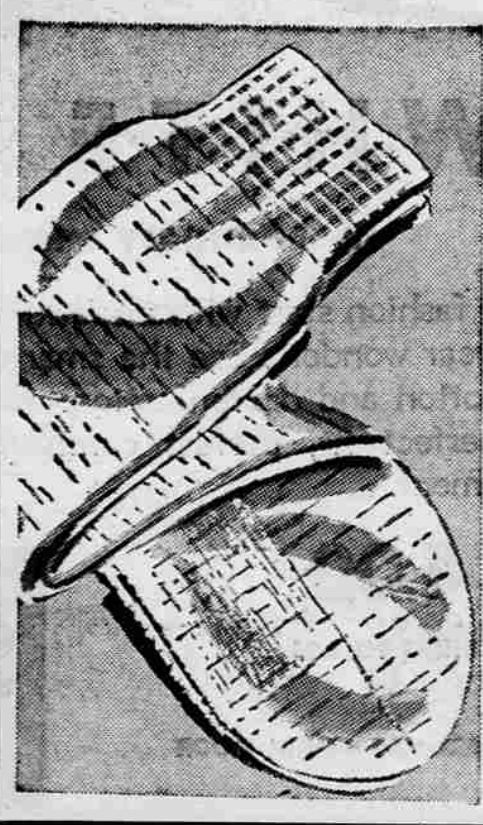
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DENIM
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