

SPORTS

Brooklyn Manager Takes Wait-and-See Attitude

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

By WALT ALSTON
Mgr., Los Angeles Dodgers
(Written For UPI)

Oxford, Ohio — The Dodgers should be better next season, but we'll just have to wait and see how much.

As with most ball clubs, an awful lot depends upon our pitching. I know that worries me as much as anything. Our staff had a lot of bad luck last year and that was the reason for our low finish as much as anything.

A lot of our trouble came from sore arms that just wouldn't come around. Ed Roebuck was out all of the season and Don Bessent a good part of the year. Those two boys have done good jobs in relief and it really hurt to have them out of there.

On top of that, Don Drysdale was in service and didn't get a real good spring training.

Has Same Staff
This year, we'll have practically the same staff, and it should be a pretty good one if everybody is sound. It is a relatively young staff centered around Drysdale, Sandy Koufax, Johnny Podres and Clem Labine. Labine was out with injuries a lot last summer. Take him off the staff and it makes a big difference.

In the catching department, I'm pretty high on John Roseboro. He'll give us a better catching job this year. We know he can hit.

McDougald Joins List Of Balkers

By MILTON RICHMAN
United Press International
Gil McDougald, Roy Sievers and Jackie Jensen all were in the same boat today, threatening to rest on their oars indefinitely until they get more money.

McDougald thus joined a growing list of Yankee ball players who are balking at a cut. The group includes Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford, Yogi Berra and Bill Skowron. "This is a knock to every ball player — almost an insult," said the usually mild-mannered McDougald, who slumped to .250 last season. "It's a matter of pride." He added, "We did win the world championship last year and I think we deserve at least a token raise, certainly not a cut."

Asked To Take Cut
McDougald, who received an estimated \$35,000 last season, said he had been asked to take a cut of more than \$4,000. He added that everyone else he had talked with on the club also had been offered a reduction.

"I don't want to get mad," he said. "The Yankees are a wonderful organization. But I don't know any reason for these pay cuts. It's not right." Sievers, the slugging Washington outfielder who slugged 39 homers, drove in 108 runs and batted .295 last season, said in St. Louis he already had sent back one unsigned contract to the club. Wants \$4,000 More

He received \$36,000 last year — highest salary ever paid a Washington player — and was offered \$1,000 more for this year.

"I want more money," Sievers said, "and I intend to sit tight until I get \$40,000." Jensen, the American league's most valuable player in 1958, declared he was dissatisfied with terms offered him by the Red Sox. Jensen was offered a raise but feels he's entitled to more.

Stockton Gets Baltimore Aid

Stockton, Calif. — UPI — A six-team California Baseball league for 1959 was assured today with the announcement by Stockton club officials that they had signed a working agreement with Baltimore Orioles of the American league.

Stockton was the last of the six teams in the Class C loop to negotiate a working agreement with a parent club. Of the eight teams that started in the league in 1958, Salinas and Las Vegas will not operate this year.

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NFL Heads Think Over Player Plan

By RUSS GREEN
Philadelphia — UPI — The National Football league took another look at the pension plan proposed by the players association today after a forceful presentation of the pro gridders' case put on the owner's thinking caps.

Bill Dudley, an all-star during his many years in the league and now an insurance consultant, outlined the players' hopes for a minimum \$100 a month pension at the age of 65 years.

The plan handed the owners caused Commissioner Bert Bell, who long held a pension wasn't feasible, to state he now had an open mind and that he was "perfectly willing to listen, discuss and study it."

Dudley's outline, presented with association president Billy Howton of Green Bay, asked that \$338,000 be set aside annually for the old age benefits, with both the league and players contributing to the treasury. He estimated \$213,000 was

needed from the league, and \$125,000 from the players, with each participating player among the 400-odd gridders in the league paying \$300 a year.

A majority of the owners, which wouldn't cost the clubs anything.

"They know the lower clubs couldn't afford it," Bell said. "The players recommended as possible income sources for

the league's share the playing of an additional exhibition game by each team, a possible cut into the proceeds from the pro bowl and college all-star games, and perhaps a "two out of three" game

series for the league championship.

The owners let the game rules alone, thus providing for the same game next season as drew the record crowd last year. Eleven rules changes were proposed, and all were defeated or withdrawn.

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