

Reds Need Pitching To Run Strong Race

This is the 15th of 16 dispatches by major league managers giving mid-winter appraisals of their teams.)

By MAYO SMITH
Manager, Cincinnati Redlegs
(Written for UPI)

Lake Worth, Fla. — (UPI) — Cincinnati has a fast, well-balanced team — and pretty good power — but we need another pitcher if we want to beat Milwaukee out of the National league pennant.

Of course it's hard to say now what will happen. But it looks like the Braves are the team to beat, Pittsburgh and San Francisco will be tough, too, but Milwaukee has a little more depth in its pitching staff.

The Redlegs got off to a slow start last spring, but still finished in fourth place. Certainly we hope — and expect — to do better this year.

This is my first year with the club, and I'd like to have a winner.

Pitching Big Problem

The biggest problem at the moment seems to be pitching. We have some fine pitchers, like Bob Purkey and Don Newcombe, but one more real solid pitcher would make a big difference. Either a left-hander or a right-hander would do if he can throw the ball.

We may have just the man we need in a young left-hander from Nashville, Tenn., named Jim O'Toole. He was a 20-game winner last year in the Southern association in his first year of professional ball. Before that he played college ball for Notre Dame. This will be his first trip to the majors and we shouldn't expect too much from him right away, but you never know.

We have another newcomer in Orlando Pena, who pitched a few games last year after coming up from Havana. And we got Bob Mabe in a trade with the St. Louis Cardinals last September. He's a right-hander and has a good major league future.

Has Hopes For Ennis
In that same trade, we picked up Eddie Kasko and Del Ennis. Kasko can play almost all infield positions, Ennis had a bad year with the Cards, but he could be a big threat for us at the plate. It was a gamble, but we think he'll pay off.

Frank Robinson probably will continue to bat cleanup for us. He hit 31 home runs and had almost 100 RBI's last year. He should do just as well, if not better, again.

Our catcher, Ed Bailey, and outfielder Gus Bell ought to improve also, along with everybody else. I'd say prospects are bright in all departments.

We'll have a good defense, speed, and our hitting will be okay. Johnny Temple and Roy McMillan at shortstop and second base give us a good double-play combination.

Depends On Pitching
For pitchers, besides those I've named, we have Brooks Lawrence, Joe Nuxhall, Harvey Haddix, Tom Acker, and Hal Jeffcoat — all steady, reliable performers.

I might also mention Bob

Thurman in the outfield, Walt Dropo, Smoky Burgess, and Don Hoak at third base. And we hope to get a lot of work out of a rookie outfielder, Vada Pinson, who hit 346 for Seattle last year.

Naturally I saw the Redlegs play plenty last year, but this will be my first time as manager. I'll get help with them from Wally Moses, Clyde King, and Reggie Otero.

If everything goes right — and we get the pitching help we need — we could run a strong race.

NWL Pace Continued By Kalapus

Portland — (UPI) — Jerry Kalapus of Pacific continued today to lead Northwest Conference basketball scorers with 110 points in six games. Jackie Riley of Linfield was second with 80 points in five games.

The games were through Jan. 27.

Dick Ramsey of Pacific has five-out-of-five free throws while Terry Woods of Linfield is tops in field goal accuracy with .530 on 30 out of 57.

Max Johnson of Whitman leads in rebounds with 72 in five games.

Linfield has the leading team-shooting percentage with 44 out of 327 for 440 in field goals and 94 out of 130 free throws for .723.

HOCKEY
NATIONAL LEAGUE
United Press International
The uncanny ability of Ted Lindsay and Ed Litzenberger to beat goalie Lorne Warsley of the New York Rangers is responsible today for the Chicago Black Hawks' sole occupancy of second place in the National Hockey League.

Lindsay and Litzenberger each beat Warsley for the sixth time this season Wednesday night as the Black Hawks took over second place by beating the Rangers, 3-1, at Madison Square Garden. The teams entered the game tied for second place with 46 points each.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
United Press International
The Buffalo Bisons today opened up a three-point first-place lead in the American Hockey league with an assist from the Springfield Indians.

The Bisons opened up the lead Wednesday night when they beat the Rochester Americans, 3-1, and Springfield downed the Hershey Bears, 6-3. Those results gave Buffalo 57 points compared to 54 for Hershey which also has played one more game than the league leaders.

TROTTERS TIP '49ERS
Oakland, Calif. — (UPI) — The Harlem Globe-trotters defeated the San Francisco Forty Niners, 74-59, Wednesday night in an exhibition basketball game at Oakland Auditorium. Bob St. Clair of the Forty Niners led the scorers with 21 points but seven-foot Wilt Chamberlain dominated play and "stuffed" 20 for the Trotters.

Pay Boost Spahn Aim

Warren Spahn and the Milwaukee Braves are locked in a \$60,000 stalemate, and the southpaw ace says it's their move because he won't budge an inch.

Spahn, who won 22 games last season and then added two more against the Yankees in the World Series, has been offered the same \$60,000 contract as last year. He feels he deserves more and \$10,000 would be a good guess at what he's asking.

Birdie Tebbetts, executive vice president of the Braves, said, "We're not far apart."

In that opinion, he seems to be a minority of one, however.

"I'm glad Birdie feels we're not far apart," Spahn said. "I thought we were. I expect a raise."

Spahn isn't the only member of the Braves who is dissatisfied with his contract. Hank Aaron, Lew Burdette, Wes Covington and Don McMahon also are asking for more than they have been offered.

BOB USHER RETIRES
San Diego, Calif. — (UPI) — Former major league outfielder Bob Usher informed the Miami Marlins of the International league Wednesday that he will not play this season.

Usher said he would remain at his bank job "which offers an excellent future."

Electricity is available to an estimated 98 per cent of Sweden's people.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE SPORTS



BALKING YANKEE — New York Yankees' slugger Mickey Mantle may just stick to bowling this year. He has declined to sign the new contract offered him, which would pay him less than last year. Here he is shown in his new bowling alley in Dallas, Tex., which he hopes to open in a few days. Mantle is just one of several Yankee players who have balked at accepting a pay cut this year.

Patterson, Johansson Fight Set

New York — (UPI) — Floyd Patterson and Ingemar Johansson were matched today for a summer world heavyweight title fight, and they were scheduled to sign official contracts at the Stockhof restaurant on 51st St.

The signing ceremony was to be staged today before platoons of reporters and cameramen.

However, promoter Bill Rosenzohn will not announce the exact date or site of the fight until he had had a chance to shop for the best bid among 10 cities that are interested in holding the million-dollar international 15-rounder.

Conley Sparks Boston in Extra

United Press International
Gene Conley regained his control Wednesday night as the Boston Celtics whipped the St. Louis Hawks in an overtime session.

Conley, the Milwaukee Braves pitcher who doubles in basketball, scored six points in the extra period as the Celtics beat St. Louis, 120-111, in a battle of National Basketball association leaders.

In other games Minneapolis edged Syracuse, 112-109, and Philadelphia defeated Cincinnati, 99-84.

About 9 per cent of U.S. children up to the age of 14 are orphans.

Don Newcombe Still on Stand

Newark, N. J. — (UPI) — Asst. Prosecutor Maurice McKeown was scheduled to resume cross-examination of big-league pitcher Don Newcombe today on a charge of atrocious assault and battery brought against him by an ex-policeman.

The Cincinnati Redlegs' pitcher denied Wednesday that he once threw the ex-cop.

Corvallis Road Closed by Water

Salem — (UPI) — The Corvallis east side highway was closed by high water a half mile east of Corvallis today.

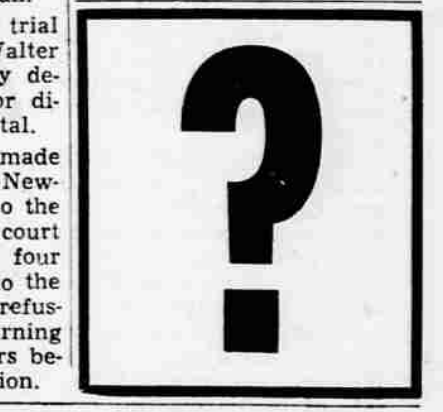
Mountain areas had new snow and chains were required at Government Camp, Timberline, Warm Springs junction, and Meacham. Santiam and Willamette passes had packed, sanded snow.

Icy spots were reported at Detroit, Siskiyou, Green Springs, Sisters, Ochoco Summit, Lapine, Chemult, Bly, Lakeview and Baker. La Grande had packed snow.

The Willamette river at Corvallis was 17.6 feet today with a slow fall predicted. That was 2.4 feet under flood stage. The Santiam at Jefferson dropped back below flood stage.

A new world's record for first month sales of cemetery plots is claimed by Hawaiian Memorial park, with 1759 sites purchased during the period.

Buffalo, N.Y. — (UPI) — Thieves abandoned Leon Rutowski's stolen car on the Squaw Island dump, but since it was a brand new '59 model, police didn't have any trouble finding it.



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