

# National League Starts Season Today, American Set Next Week

By FRED DOWN  
United Press International  
Two West Coast cities, which waited a half-century for the chance, are stealing the show today as the major league baseball season opens in four National League cities.

San Francisco—UPI—The San Francisco Giants have sent outfielders Matty Alou and Sal Taormina to their Tacoma farm club in the Pacific Coast league.

Alou, younger brother of Giant outfielder Felipe Alou, had been impressive in spring exhibitions, but was sent out for more seasoning. Taormina is a veteran who has been in the PCL for a dozen years.

The Giants also announced Monday that veteran infielder Danny O'Connell will join Tacoma after he was unable to hook on with any other major league club after his release by the Giants.

It was a tough break for O'Connell who needed only a few months to become a 10-year major leaguer.

An estimated 175,000 fans were expected to turn out in good weather but the spotlight was definitely turned on San Francisco and Los Angeles, where the transplanted Giants and Dodgers celebrate historic occasions. The Giants dedicated their new 15-million-dollar Candlestick Park, first completely new big league stadium in seven years, while the Dodgers raise the first world championship baseball flag in West Coast history.

Vice President Richard Nixon, a native Californian, was to be among the 43,000 fans to see the Giants start against the St. Louis Cardinals while some 60,000 were to see the Dodgers launch the defense of the world title they won in such amazing fashion against the Chicago Cubs.

A near-full-house of 40,000 were set to see the Pittsburgh Pirates play the Braves at Milwaukee's County Stadium and a capacity crowd of 33,000 were to watch the Philadelphia Phillies oppose the Reds at Cincinnati's Crosley Field in the other openers.

The National League started its race a full week earlier than usual this year in order to add a week of travel dates to its trans-continental traveling schedule. The American League "presidential opener" in Washington, D.C., is scheduled for next Monday with the six other teams joining the race on April 19.

Two new managers—Charlie Dressen of the Braves and Charlie Grimm of the Cubs—plus a half dozen rookies and players acquired in winter trades made their debuts on a program that includes three afternoon games and a night game in Los Angeles.

The Giants, solid favorites to win San Francisco's first pennant this year despite their 1959 closing-week collapse, were scheduled to send 21-game winner Sam Jones against Larry Jackson, 14-13. The Dodgers, starting their third season in the rectangular-shaped Coliseum, nominated fireballer Don Drysdale (17-13) to face Bob Anderson (12-13). Dressen, confident he can bring the Braves their third pennant in four years, picked 21-game winner Warren Spahn to oppose Bob Friend, a disappointment at 8-19 last season.

The Pirates, besieged by injuries last season, were to start their regular 1959 lineup behind Friend, who was a 22-game winner in 1958 and has given every indication of making a comeback this spring.

Roberts Pitches Opener  
Robin Roberts was to make his 11th consecutive opening-day appearance for the Phillies against Jim Brosnan of the Reds. Brosnan, a native of Cincinnati, had an 8-3 record with the Reds after being acquired from the Cardinals last season, and has been a spring sensation.

The United Press International picked the Giants to win the flag this year, with the Braves second and the Dodgers no better than third. Following in the forecast, were the Reds, Pirates, Cardinals, Cubs and Phillies.

Today's inaugural launched a clutch year for the Giants and Rigney. They set the pace in the National League for six weeks last season, then folded while losing seven of their last eight games. Since then, Rigney has been signed to a contract which calls only for one year while the team has shored up its pitching and defense.

The main acquisitions have been pitchers Billy O'Dell and Billy Loes from Baltimore who should help spell the starting unit of Jones, Johnny Antonelli, and Mike McCormick. Rigney also landed a fine second baseman when he acquired Don Blasingame from Cardinals. "The Blazer" is rated one of the game's best leadoff men.

Then there is rookie of the year Willie McCovey at first base, \$85,000 per year Willie Mays in center field and pinch-swingers Dale Long and Jim Marshall. Both were acquired recently in a bid to give the club some extra power on the port side of the plate.

The United Press International's 50-man board of experts tabbed San Francisco as this year's pennant winner and fans will be arriving by yacht, bus, Cadillac and jalopy to see how the club starts out.

## SPORTS

### 43,000 Fans Watch Giant-Card Opener

By SCOTT BAILLIE  
United Press International  
San Francisco—UPI—The San Francisco Giants took the wraps off their new ball park today as well as what it tabbed as a pennant-bound team when they opened the National League season against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Manager Bill Rigney of the Giants, pronouncing his club "in great shape," was scheduled to send Sam Jones out to the mound to face the Cards' Larry Jackson. Both are right handers. Jones, 21-15 last year and the league's best earned run average man with a 2.82 mark, turned back St. Louis four times last year without a loss. Jackson had a 2-3 record against the Giants in 1959.

A sellout crowd of 43,000 was expected to jam the streets leading to Candlestick Park, the new home of the Giants. Showers were predicted but the weatherman added that they might hold off until after the game.

Old Stadium Razed  
Bill Rigney and Manager Solly Hemus said they were pleased with the park after their teams went through wind-whipped workouts Monday.

"This will be a better place for us to play than Seals Stadium," Hemus said, referring to the former Giants' park which has been razed. "We won't have that problem of the jet stream to left field which helped such batters as Ed Bressoud and Jim Davenport. They both hurt us with home runs in that old park."

Vice President Richard M. Nixon headed the list of dignitaries showing up for opening day. Others included Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick, National League President Warren Giles, American League President Joe Cronin who is a hometown boy, Mrs. John McGraw and Ty Cobb. Foldsat at End

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## Giants Demote Two To Minors

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## FIGHTS

By United Press International  
New York—UPI—Isaac Lagard, 146½, Cuba, outpointed Marvin (Candy) McFarland, 145½, Philadelphia (10).

Providence, R. I.—UPI—Mickey Dwyer, 155, Boston, stopped Jackson Brown, 149, Boston (7).

Holyoke, Mass.—UPI—Andre Tessier, 168, Springfield, Mass., stopped Jack Harrison, 165, New York (1).

Sydney, Australia—UPI—Ralph Dupas, 142½, New Orleans, outpointed George Barnes, 146½, Australia (12).

Philadelphia—UPI—Vic Eamond vs. Jackie Leonard, cancelled.

## Sport Parade

By OSCAR FRALEY  
United Press International

New York—UPI—Until tonight, which marks the end of the first day's play in the 1960 baseball campaign, it can be safely said today that there will be a seven-team race in both of the major leagues.

Not since Gen. Abner Doubleday promised President Lincoln that he would invent baseball has there been such obvious optimism in practically every camp. Only Bob Elliott of the A's and Silent Eddie Sawyer of the Phils, who doesn't even dare talk to himself, aren't taking dead aim on their respective pennants.

So let's give our annual listen to what the managers' promise and, only one man's opinion, what they are thinking.

NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Walt Alston, Los Angeles: "We'll make a strong bid for the pennant." And if we get half as lucky as last season, and the old guys don't fall dead from exhaustion, we just might do it again.

Whistling Charley Dressen, Milwaukee: "We can beat the Dodgers and Giants." And who else is there with my brains and talent?

Bill Rigney, San Francisco: "We'll be a strong contender." We'd better be, because I see somebody standing in the wings.

Danny Murtaugh, Pittsburgh: "We have a fine chance to win." Sure hope I don't have to hold my breath until we do.

Cholly Grimm, Chicago: "We'll finish in the first division." How far do they expect me to go?

Solly Hemus, St. Louis: "It's not an awfully long way to first place." But it's closer to Little America.

Eddie Sawyer, Philadelphia: "\$70-O-K?" crime-in-entirely.

AMERICAN LEAGUE  
Al Lopez, Chicago: "I am sure we're going to win again although I respect the Indians and Yankees." This being a gentleman sure can be a strain.

Joe Gordon, Cleveland: "We've the best infield and our outfield and catching is as good as any."



EXERCISE ROOM—There is room for more participants in the weight lifting class at the Y. The YMCA obtained the equipment of the former Medford Health Club. The class meets from 4 to 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

## Ski Capers On Sunday

Mount Shasta, Calif.—The "Konwakiton Ski Capers" will be held at the Mt. Shasta Ski bowl Easter Sunday.

A grand costume parade, obstacle race, and Easter egg hunt will be the features of the day.

Sunrise church services will start the day at 6 a.m. The Easter egg hunt for kids will follow at 10 a.m., with the grand costume parade and judging at 12:15 p.m. The obstacle race will be held at 1:15 p.m. and the trophies and prizes will be awarded at 4 p.m.

There will be a perpetual trophy for the most original costume, and other prizes for varied accomplishments.

The capers are being sponsored by the Mount Shasta Snowmen Ski club and the Mt. Shasta Ski bowl. This is the first of what is to be an annual Easter event at the bowl.

The name Konwakiton is derived from the glacier of the same name which is just east of and above the ski bowl.

The Snowmen are inviting all skiers to come and enjoy a day of good fun as well as enjoy good skiing. A recent storm brought the snow pack in the bowl back up to over 100 inches.

## Oregon Wheat Crop Estimated

Washington—UPI—The Agriculture Department today estimated the winter wheat crop in Oregon at 23,744,000 bushels.

This compares with 1959 production of 25,524,000 bushels and the 1949-58 average of 22,269,000 bushels.

The April 1 condition of Oregon's rye crop was estimated at 87 per cent of normal.

Grain stocks on Oregon farms as of April 1 were: Corn, 755,000 bushels; wheat, 3,700,000 bushels; oats, 1,698,000 bushels; rye, 84,000 bushels; and barley, 1,840,000 bushels.

Pasture conditions in Oregon as of April 1 were estimated at 88 per cent of normal.

San Bernardino, Calif.—UPI—Sacramento built up a 9-1 lead but then faded and lost a 13-11 decision to Vancouver Monday. The Mounties scored seven runs in the final inning as Ray Barker and Howie Goss slugged homers.

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MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 9  
Tuesday, April 12, 1960

Salem—UPI—Oregon State's golf team defeated Willamette 16½ to 1½ Monday. Bill Aubry of OSC was medalist with a 72.

BACK

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## Frick Predicts New Era For All Sports

BY FORD FRICK  
Commissioner of Baseball  
Written for UPI

San Francisco—UPI—Flying west over this vast land, I began to think the sports world may be on the threshold of a new golden era.

We have a tendency to look back to the golden era of the 1920's—the days of Babe Ruth, Bobby Jones, Red Grange and Jack Dempsey—and to think in terms of "good old days." They were, of course, but signs indicate that the era ahead may be every bit as glamorous and profitable.

I'm talking, not only of baseball, but about all sports. An expanding economy has given our citizens more money and more leisure time and reports from every section of the country indicate they are becoming more sports conscious than at any previous time in our country's history.

Baseball Shares Boom  
Baseball is sharing—and will continue to share—in this "boom." And one reason, often overlooked, is that baseball is both a spectator and a participant sport. This is borne out by simple statistics that prove more youngsters than ever before are playing baseball in organized leagues at the same time that an ever-increasing number of fans are attending major league games.

We must remember that a season attendance of 5 million for either the National or American League was exceptional prior to World War II. Now each league regards 9 million as a standard figure.

I am on the West Coast to see the Giants open their magnificent new "Candlestick Park"—another sign of expansion and healthy economy. I feel that more new stadia are coming and that baseball is only now beginning to grow into the vast giant it ultimately will be.

Filled With Players  
We sometimes hear people ask where we would get the ball players if the leagues expand. Well, my answer to that is that the modern balance in the league is at an all-time peak. Both leagues are filled with standout players who have put the skill of our teams at record levels. Where major league baseball would find new players while the nation's economy is so healthy is just about the least of my worries.

I saw about half the 16 teams in action, this spring and came away, as usual, marveling at the eternal optimism of baseball people. Enthusiasm is high. Teams that finished high in the races last year are confident that they will do so again. And teams that finished poorly in the standings are convinced they have strengthened themselves either by winter deals or by the arrival of high-class rookies.

## Dodgers Send Trio To PCL

Los Angeles—UPI—The Los Angeles Dodgers Monday night trimmed Frank Howard and three other players to meet the 28-player limit for today's opening of the National league season.

Howard, former Ohio State baseball and basketball star who is being groomed as a home run artist, was optioned to Spokane of the Pacific Coast league. Ron Fairly and shortstop Charlie Smith also went to Spokane. Fairly, on the varsity part of last season, just returned from military service.

In training as a first baseman, Howard was sent down for more seasoning despite his long ball hitting in spring training.

Outfielder Card Warwick was sent to St. Paul.

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