

Alston Not So Sure Dodgers Will Jell During 1961 Slate

(This is one of 18 dispatches on the 1961 prospects of the major league teams.)

By LEO H. PETERSEN
UPI Sports Editor

Vero Beach, Fla. —(UPI)—This is the year a lot of the baseball experts expect the Los Angeles Dodgers' youth movement to pay off although manager Walter Alston isn't so sure.

There are too many "ifs" on the club to satisfy Alston. Not that he doesn't think the Dodgers can win, but to do it he pointed out that:

"Our kids are going to have to come through. Our pitchers are going to have to find the strike zone. Our catching has to improve. Our hitting has to improve. And the few veterans we have left like Gil Hodges and Duke Snider are going to have to do better."

If all that should jell, then Alston feels the Dodgers "have a real shot at it."

"It simply boils down to this," Alston said, "of the contending clubs, the one which has all of its players live up to their potential will win. That's how we won in 1959 and how the Pirates won last year."

He named the Pirates, Braves, Cardinals and Giants in the contending group along with the Dodgers and also gave the Reds "an outside chance for they always play like champions against us."

Moves Them Around

Alston is experimenting with his youth.

He is trying Frank Howard, who can hit the ball as far as anyone, at first base and

another outfielder, Tommy Davis, at third base. The Howard move appears doomed to failure, thus leaving the berth to Norm Larker, who lost out by two percentage points to Dick Groat of the Pirates in the 1960 National league batting championship race.

If Howard should surprise and make it at first, Larker would be put in the outfield. There's where Tommy Davis will wind up, too, if he doesn't make it at third.

Pitching is about the only department on the club which is set. Don Drysdale (15-14), Johnny Podres (14-12), Roger Craig (8-3), Sandy Koufax (8-13) and Stan Williams (14-10) will be regular starters with Larry Sherry also getting a shot at starting roles if he is not needed for relief. Sherry, the Dodgers' World Series relief ace of 1959, began last season as a starter but then was shifted back to the bullpen and wound up with a 14-10 record.

Ed Roebuck (8-3) will be one of the top relievers. That leaves three spots open and Alston is hoping to fill one of them with Ron Perranoski, a left-hander who had a combined record of 12-11 with Montreal and St. Paul last season. Alston pointed out the Dodgers needed a southpaw relief hurler and hopes the former Cub can fill the bill.

Trics Comeback

Big Don Newcombe may stick with the club for which he was a star for many years. Although he has lost the zip off his fast ball, he has been impressive thus far this spring. Last year Newcombe was 4-6 with the Reds and 2-3 with the Indians.

Ed Palmquist may win a relief berth and Jim Golden, who won 20 games with St. Paul last year, has a chance to break into the starting rotation.

John Roseboro, who slumped to .213 last season, and Norm Sherry will share the catching duties, with Hodges, who can play first, third or the outfield, also available behind the plate if needed. If the three can't supply what is needed, Alston will call on Doug Camilli, who hit .281 at Atlanta in 1960. Camilli, son of the former star first baseman, Dolph Camilli, is tagged a star of the future but Alston would like to have him get another year of seasoning in the minors rather than sit on the bench with the Dodgers.

Only three of the infield and outfield spots are set.

Maury Wills, who blossomed into a star last season, will be at short and Charley Neal at second. Neal fell off to a .256 average last season, but Alston expects him to come back.

Lots of Candidates

Howard, Larker and Hodges are the first base candidates, with Junior Gilliam, who also had a bad season last year, Willie Davis and rookie Charlie Smith, a .322 hitter at Spokane, battling for the third base berth. Bob Lillis will understudy Wills.

Wally Moon in left is sure of a regular job in the outfield. Howard will be in right if not at first. Otherwise Larker, Snider and Ron Fairly, back for another try after hitting .303 at Spokane, will share the job. If Tommy Davis makes it at third, Willie Davis, who hit .346 at Spokane last year, and Don Demeter will be available for center.

There is no doubt the potential is there for the Dodgers appear to be three deep at every position. But Alston remembers that the Dodgers finished fourth last year after winning the pennant and the Series in 1959 so he isn't going out on a limb on his club as a lot of the baseball experts are.

St. Louis, Providence Reach Final

By TIM MORIARTY
New York—(UPI)—Providence College owed its berth in the final round of the National Invitation Basketball Tournament today to a five-foot, eight-inch "bomber" who looks like Mickey Rooney in short pants.

Vince Ernst would have made an ideal "Andy Hardy" in those old Rooney movies but he was born 20 years too late. So the blond-haired court midget from Jersey City, N.J., is tossing baskets instead of spit balls—providing thing for Providence college.

Ernst scored eight points in an overtime session to carry the Friars to a thrilling 90-83 victory over Holy Cross Thursday night in the semifinals of the NIT at Madison Square Garden.

Sixteen-year-old competition will have trophies for runners-up in four classes. There must be three or more entries for class trophies. Awards also will go to high lady, high junior and high sub-junior.

Trophies go, too, to winners and runners-up in the handicap and in each of two doubles classes.

Practice traps will be open at all times and lunch will be available at the grounds. Registered part of the shoot is under Pacific International Trapshooting association certification and rules.

Amateur all-age stake began the trial. The derby was to follow it. Third stake of the trial will be the qualifying. Open all-age will be the concluding stake.

The qualifying rivalry is not to start before 8 a.m. Saturday. Noon on Saturday is the earliest that the open stake can begin.

Entries as of last Monday's deadline were 33 in the derby, 38 in the open, 29 in the qualifying and 18 in the amateur.

Working Dogs

Dogs in each stake are put through water and land tests that simulate hunting conditions. The trial is "working dog" competition. In many of the series the ability of the handler, as well as the dog, is judged. Use of dogs to retrieve is widely acclaimed by conservationists.

A good number of the dog owners and professional trainers and handlers who come for past trials here are expected to be on hand again. There will be local participants in the trial as well.

James Wever, Klamath Falls, and Dr. Charles Versteeg, Cave Junction, will be derby and qualifying judges. Donald L. Burnett, Pocatello, Ida., and Kenneth Denman, Medford, will judge the amateur and the open. Versteeg and Denman are members of the RVR.

Glen Bessonetie is trial chairman and Harley Nelson is marshal.

The public is invited to watch the dogs in action. There is no charge for admission. However, spectators, as they are at other sports events, are asked to observe certain rules of etiquette.

Those watching are asked to refrain from loud talk or excessive motion when dogs are in action or on the line. They are requested to stay well behind the line in the area designated by the marshal. "Visiting dogs are not allowed on the field trial grounds. Applause is to be withheld until dogs on the line have completed the series. Spectators are asked not to throw trash or empty bottles on the trial grounds.

Safety first is emphasized and those attending are advised to stay out of the line of gun fire.

Arrow markers, starting at the Y in north Medford, will point the way to the trial area. Starting time each day is 8 a.m.

A snack truck will be in operation at the grounds.

Voris Heads Ashlander Track List

Ashland—Bob Voris, who won sixth place in the high hurdles and in the quarter-mile last spring in the Oregon Class A-1 meet, heads the list of 32 athletes out for track and field at Ashland High school.

There are seven other lettermen on Coach Hiram (Bud) Crane's practice roster.

They are Farley Buell and Gordon Self, half-milers and miler; Dave Colwell, pole vaulter and javelin man; Dan Lewis and Jeff Baker, vaulters; Forrest Farmer, high jumper and broad jumper, who also hurdled last season and may run the 100-yard dash this year, and Mike McCarty, discus thrower.

Two top candidates, both lettermen, have been lost by transfer. Tom Hudson, miler, moved to Eagle Point and Richard Clement, sprinter, moved to Colorado.

First meet for the Grizzlies will be the Ore-Cal relays here on April 1.

Robbie Frey Bowls Here

A trim tenpin toppler from Texas will be in Medford on Tuesday, March 28.

She is Brunswick star Robbie Frey, one of this country's best lady bowlers. Robbie is scheduled for afternoon and evening appearances at Medford Bowling lanes. Fred Anderson, owner of the lanes, said she will take part in exhibitions and will give free instruction to local bowlers.

A Dallas resident, Robbie Frey is three-time winner of the Texas state all-events diadem. In 1955, 1959 and 1960 she won her state's match game honors. Also, last year, she shared third in the Bowling Proprietors Association of America national doubles.

Robbie has a five-year average of 187, has rolled a 279 single game and a 752 three-game series. She is a member of the Brunswick advisory staff.

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He said the layout would employ the rubber-asphalt surface on the quarter-mile oval, a 22-yard straightaway pole vault runway and the high and broad jump takeoffs.

SPORTS

270-Target Program For Scattergunners

A 270-target program, 250 of them registered, will be offered gunners Sunday in the ninth annual Southern Oregon trapshoot of Medford Gun club.

The tourney will lead off with 100 targets at 16 yards. One hundred handicap birds and 25 pairs of doubles will follow. Non-registered event will offer 20 backerup targets at 25 yards.

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Woods, Water, Wildlife

By Hank DeVoss

Those steelhead fishermen expecting some action on the Winchuck and Chetco rivers have been disappointed so far. Brookings reports that 29.93 inches of rain have fallen during this month and the streams have been up and out of shape as a consequence. So far this week the weather hasn't given us any hope that the conditions will change.

APPLAGATE SEASON

Several weeks ago this column reported on the results of the winter steelhead season on the Rogue river. The Applegate river winter steelhead season had samples run from Jan. 31 to Feb. 28 and may hold surprises for some of us. There were 3528 angler days computed during that period. This means there were 3528 fishermen who fished for a period of time — 10 minutes to all day. They caught 464 fish and it is estimated that each fish took 27.1 hours of fishing to catch. This also indicates that there was one fish to about nine anglers.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Montreal—(UPI)—The Chicago Black Hawks, stealing a page from the defending Stanley Cup champions, flew back home today with renewed hope after tying their semifinal Stanley Cup series with the Montreal Canadiens at one game apiece.

The Hawks, 1½ goal underdogs on Forum ice against the Canadiens, twice blew leads before pulling out a tense struggle on Eddie Litzenberger's third period goal for a 4-3 victory.

Snowmen at Shasta Announce Ski Capers

Mt. Shasta, Calif.—Konwaxion Ski Capers will be sponsored on Saturday, April 1, by Mt. Shasta Snowmen Ski club at Mt. Shasta Ski bowl.

Events include a kiddies' Easter egg hunt, a costume parade, a ski scramble race and an obstacle race. Activity will begin at 10 a.m. and prize awarding is set for 3:30 p.m.

Further information can be obtained from Pat Murdoch, club president, Box 676, Mt. Shasta.

POTTER OFFERED PACT

Sandy—(UPI)—George Potter, football coach placed on probation last fall after an early season scrimmage with West Linn, has been offered a new contract to again coach Sandy next fall.

Eight 4-H'ers Are Competing in Event

Eight 4-H club members from Jackson county are competing with 4-H'ers from throughout Oregon for national awards, according to Phyllis Kirkland, Jackson county 4-H agent.

The awards include trips to National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago and college scholarships.

Records of the member's 4-H club achievements and experience will be judged in Corvallis where the winners will be selected.

Those competing from the county are Alice Woolfolk, Karen Jossy, Georgia Hubbard, and Ron Anderson, Antelope; Terry Gall, Gold Hill; Robert Kuest and Carolyn Sidener, Central Point; and Steve Stewart, Ashland.

Selections for national trips to be made are for achievement, agriculture, automotive, beef, canning, clothing, dairy, electricity, entomology, field crops, garden, health, home economics, home improvement, leadership, recreation, safety, swine, tractor and food preservation.

Basis of the awards are 4-H projects and activities, 4-H leadership and personal development.

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Retriever Trial Action Underway

Activities of the west coast circuit in retriever competition were centered in the White City area today as the Rogue Valley Retriever club opened its 10th annual field trial.

Four stakes are being run and the event will continue through Sunday. Most of the action is slated for Rogue Valley Game Management land along Rogue river and at Hoover lakes. Some of the finest dogs in the west, labradors, goldens and chesapeake are entered.

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'55 PONTIAC 2-DR.
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