

Hitting Again Carries Baltimore To Triumph; Solons Bounce Tigers

By MILTON RICHMAN
United Press International
Strictly for the birds!

That's as good a way as any for summing up all those pre-season calculations on the hard-to-figure third place Baltimore Orioles.

Everyone agreed - even astute Paul Richards - that Baltimore's pitching staff shaped up second to none. So far, however, it has shaped up more like a sad sack of potatoes.

There was also a rather general agreement that obvious lack of hitting would keep the Orioles back. So far, that hitting has been the only thing that has kept Baltimore up.

Only five times in 24 games this season has an Oriole pitcher gone the full distance. Southpaw Steve Barber, who has done it twice, couldn't do it Thursday even though he was credited with his fourth victory in an 8-7 decision over the Minnesota Twins.

The Orioles' hitting has been a bird of another feather, however.

Orioles Batting Leaders
Three Baltimore regulars - center fielder Jackie Brandt, first baseman Jim Gentile and third baseman Brooks Robinson - are among the American league's top 10 hitters. Brandt is batting .371, Gentile .347 and Robinson .333. All three connected safely in Thursday's triumph over the Twins.

The Washington Senators beat the league-leading Detroit Tigers, 9-4, in the only other major league action.

Gentile, who hit a pair of grand slam homers against the Twins last Tuesday, continued to pick on them Thursday with a three-run double during a five-run fifth inning rally that put Baltimore in front for keeps. Gentile's blow came off loser Camilo Pascual (2-3) and boosted the

Viks Show Strength In Track
Ashland - Southern Oregon college's Red Raider track and field squad got its final tuneup before entering the Oregon Collegiate Conference meet in LaGrande on May 20 when it went to Klamath Falls for a dual meet with Oregon Tech today.

This was the second meet this spring between the two conference rivals. SOC scored a decisive 108 to 23 win over the Owls earlier.

Portland - Portland State's powerful Vikings will be favored to repeat as Oregon Collegiate conference track and field champions May 20 in LaGrande on the basis of top performances compiled from meets this spring.

Coach Ralph Davis' PSC elder team owns 10 best efforts, including half of a four-way tie in the pole vault, eight seconds and four thirds. Closest to the Viks are the Red Raiders of Southern Oregon.

Portland made a mild threat in the ninth but a double play with two aboard ended that.

LINESCORES:
Salt Lake ...000 001 010-8 7 0
Spokane ...211 000 110-8 5 0
Shipley, Fackels (3) and Grace; Reed, Bassett (4) Valdes (7) Gialombardo (9) and Friel. WP—Fackels. LP—Reed.

Portland ...000 000 000-0 3 3
Tacoma ...000 102 088-11 10 0
Nelson, Podbielan (8) and Schaffer; Perry and Orsino. WP—Perry. LP—Nelson.

Hawaii ...010 000 100-2 13 0
Grant, Stabelfeld (7) Giggie (8) and Parks, Lankett (8); Cluco, Earley (7) Radatz (8) and Tiltman. WP—Earley. LP—Grant.

(1st game 7 innings)
San Diego ...000 002 0-2 2 0
Vancouver ...000 001 8-7 9 1
Barnes, Drapo (3) Horner (6) and Napier; Reim and White. WP—Reim. LP—Barnes.

(2nd game)
San Diego ...001 000 103-5 13 0
Vancouver ...010 000 000-1 7 0
Peters and Retzer; Singleton, Abernathy (9) and Azcue. WP—Peters. LP—Singleton.

STANDINGS
United Press International
AMERICAN LEAGUE

W L Pct. GB
Detroit ...18 7 720
New York ...14 8 636 2½
Baltimore ...13 11 542 4½
Cleveland ...12 11 522 5
Minnesota ...12 12 500 5½
Kansas City ...9 10 474 6
Boston ...9 12 429 7
Los Angeles ...9 13 409 7½
Washington ...10 16 385 8½
Chicago ...8 14 364 9½

Thursday's Results
Washington 9, Detroit 4
Baltimore 8, Minnesota 7

NATIONAL LEAGUE
W L Pct. GB
San Francisco ...15 8 652
Los Angeles ...16 11 593 1
Cincinnati ...14 10 583 1½
Pittsburgh ...12 10 545 2½
Milwaukee ...10 10 500 3
St. Louis ...10 11 476 4
Chicago ...9 14 391 6
Philadelphia ...6 18 250 9½

Thursday's Results
Vancouver 7, San Diego 2 (1st game)
San Diego 5, Vancouver 1 (2nd game)
Salt Lake City 8, Spokane 6
Seattle 4, Hawaii 2
Tacoma 11, Portland 0

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE
W L Pct. GB
Seattle ...17 6 739
Vancouver ...13 7 650 2½
Tacoma ...8 8 500 5½
Spokane ...11 12 476 6
Portland ...9 10 474 6
Hawaii ...10 14 417 7½
San Diego ...9 14 391 8
Salt Lake ...8 14 364 9½

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Vancouver 7, San Diego 2 (1st game)
San Diego 5, Vancouver 1 (2nd game)
Salt Lake City 8, Spokane 6
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NORTHWEST LEAGUE
W L Pct. GB
Salem ...8 4 666
Yakima ...8 8 571 1
Leviston ...7 7 500 2
Tri-City ...7 8 467 2½
Wenatchee ...6 7 462 2½
Eugene ...3 7 300 4

Thursday's Results
Leviston 2, Salem 1 (1st game)
Salem 10, Leviston 2 (2nd game)
Tri-City 2, Yakima 0
Wenatchee at Eugene (ppd.)

Himsi Returns To Cubs' Helm
Chicago -UPI- Vedic Himsi has been booked for a return engagement as head coach of the Chicago Cubs.

Himsi, one of 10 Cub coaches, was appointed to the top job Thursday for the second time this season, replacing Harry Craft who will take over the San Antonio farm club.

The bespectacled Himsi, a pitching specialist, was head coach of the Cubs for the first two weeks of the season when they compiled a 5-6 record. Under Craft, the Cubs have lost eight of 12, including their last six games.

Oriole first baseman's RBI total to 33-tops in the majors. **Walks Winning Run**
Minnesota reliever Paul Giel gave up what proved to be the winning run in the eighth inning when he walked Ron Hansen with the bases full.

Barber, who struck out six and walked three in 5 2/3 innings, was nicked for eight of the Twins' 14 hits, including a homer by Don Mincher in the fifth. Knuckleballer Hoyt Wilhelm took over for Barber and allowed six hits and Minnesota's final run.

The victory gave the Orioles undisputed possession of third place and moved them within two games of the second-place New York Yankees, who are 2½ games in back of the Tigers.

The Tigers, who open a four-game series with the Yankees at New York tonight, ran into a barrage of homers by the Senators Thursday.

Hits Grand Slam
Billy Klaus hit a grand slam homer during a six-run fifth inning rally and Gene Woodling also connected in the same frame with one on.

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