

Pre-Loop Play Justifies Optimism of KC Chiefs; Stars, Workhorses Back

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of dispatches sizing up the prospects of pro football teams for the 1963 season.)

By WILLIAM COOK
Kansas City, Mo. (UPI) — If the Kansas City Chiefs (nee Dallas Texans) were any more optimistic, they'd be downright cocky.

"We're better than we ever were," boasts Hank Stram, head coach of the defending champions of the American Football league.

All the stars and workhorses of the 1962 club which won the crown in a sudden-

death, six-quarter marathon against the Houston Oilers are back this season. Stram has an excellent crop of rookies to go with his established players.

And if pre-season games can be used as a gauge, the Chiefs' optimism is justified. The Kansas City team has a 3-1 record in the play-for-fun contests. More important, Stram got a good look at his rookies, and liked what he saw.

The Chiefs close out their exhibition season on Saturday against the Houston Oilers in a game at Wichita, Kan. A victory over their arch-rivals, exhibition or not, will leave the Chiefs in a fine frame of mind for their regular season opener Sept. 7 at Denver against the Broncos.

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Quarterback Len Dawson, who led the league in passing in 1962, has displayed the same cool efficiency which carried the Texans to the championship.

Halfback Abner Haynes, the AFL's leading scorer in 1962, and fullback Curtis McCClinton, last year's rookie-of-the-year, have been no less impressive in exhibition games.

Defensive stars of 1962 are still shining for the Chiefs. The fearsome linebacking trio of E. J. Holub, Sherrill Hendrick and Smokey Stover continue to intercept passes, red-dog quarterbacks and generally diagnose plays with uncanny skill.

Offensive end Chris Burford, quarterback Dawson's favorite target in 1962, has been bothered this summer with injuries. But in his brief, exhibition-game appearances, Burford has shown the finesse with which he caught 12 touchdown passes last season, high for the league.

Rookie Crop Fine
To go with this array of talent, coach Stram has some choice rookies, including defensive end Bobby Bell of Minnesota, UPI's college lineman of the year; defensive tackle Junious Buchanan, 276, of Grambling (La.) college, the No. 1 AFL draft choice; offensive guard Ed Budde, 260, of Michigan State; defensive back Charley Warner of Prairie View (Tex.) A.M., who set a team record last week against Denver with a 104-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

Other rookies coach Stram believes will give the team "great assistance" are flanker back Stone Jackson of Grambling, former Olympic dashman, and halfback Jerrel Wilson of the University of Southern Mississippi, a top punter averaging about 40 yards per kick.

Barring injuries to key players, it's hard to envision the Chiefs being knocked out of the top spot in the Eastern Division.

SPORTS

Roseburg Legion Team Eliminated

Keene, N. H. (UPI) — It was all over today for the Roseburg entry in the American Legion Junior World Series.

Roseburg dropped its second game Tuesday night, by a narrow 4-3 score to Somerville, Mass. It lost its first game to Omaha 23-9 on Sunday.

Coast League Hurling Headed By Ellis, Reed

San Mateo, Calif. (UPI) — Sammy Ellis of San Diego and Howie Reed of Spokane dominate Pacific Coast league pitching statistics in games through Sunday, according to officials' statistics released here today.

Statistician William J. Weiss reports that Ellis leads pitchers with 143 innings or more pitched with an earned run mark of 2.88. He also leads the loop in walks with 93.

Reed has completed a fine 16-1 mark, but his lead among starting hurlers is in jeopardy. Reed lost Tuesday night, while Terry Nelson of Oklahoma City (13-5) and Ray Rippelmeyer of San Diego (11-2) are also vying for honors of having the league's best record.

Aurelio Montegudo of Portland has recorded 201 strikeouts and Denver's Chi Chi Olivo has tossed 213 innings, both league highs.

Billy Cowan of Salt Lake City has regained the batting lead in his ding-dong battle with Chico Salemon of Denver, 328 to 326.

Cowan also leads in total bases, 297, and runs batted in, 114.

San Diego's Derron Johnson has hit 32 homers and Cesar Tovar of Dallas-Fort Worth has 40 doubles and 109 runs scored to lead the league.

Football Cards Release Bates
St. Louis (UPI) — The St. Louis Cardinals of the National Football league Tuesday released former Oregon State All-American tackle Ted Bates.

Bates, who was the Beavers' most valuable player in 1958, was a linebacker and a four-year veteran for the Cardinals.

Dick Williams went the distance for Roseburg, striking out 9 and allowing 7 hits.

Mike Blomberg had a home run for Roseburg in the third.

In another game, Greensboro, N.C., eliminated Washington, D.C. 6-1.

San Diego Might Be Waking Up

By MICHAEL HUDSON
United Press International
Sleeping giant San Diego may be waking up—thanks to the prodding of a 19-year-old youngster.

Rookie Bill McCool of the Padres outpitched league ace Howie Reed of Spokane in a 2-0 sizzler Tuesday night to close the Padres gap in the Southern division to three games.

The defending champion Pads were everybody's pick to win at least the Southern Division this season. But they were 10½ out not so long ago and have made up seven lengths in 27 games.

As for McCool, he had a 5-13 record at Tampa in the Florida State league, but was still hustled upward by the Pads who liked his 2.01 earned run average and his Roger Craig-like luck of having been on the short end of a shutout on seven occasions.

Last night, McCool blanked the Northern division kingpins on seven hits, while Mel Queen and Chico Ruiz socked solo homers to provide the night's offensive power. Reed is now 16-7 for the season.

The Pads were able to gain a notch on the Southern division leading Oklahoma City since Dallas-Fort Worth climbed on 8th ace Jerry Nelson (13-6) who missed in his try for an 11th straight win.

Least anybody think the Southern division is a two-team race, Dallas-Fort Worth is a half-game ahead of the Padres and 2½ behind Oklahoma City.

In other action Tuesday night, it was Denver 6 Portland 3, Tacoma 7 Seattle 3, and in a double header, Hawaii 3 Salt Lake City 1 and Salt Lake City 1 Hawaii 0 in the 7-inning nightcap.

Dallas-Fort Worth bashed 13 hits off the 8bers with Tony Olivo and Jay Ward providing victory with seventh inning homers.

Oklahoma City opened the ninth with an Al Heist homer, and George Williams—loop leader in triples—banged No. 12. But reliever Gary Dotter got out Bob Boyd and Carroll Hardy to leave the tying run stranded.

Denver's Russ Heman was the difference at Portland where he pitched no-hit ball for five innings before Hector Martinez greeted him with a solo homer.

The Bears meanwhile exploded for four runs in the fifth with Bob Uecker, Steve Demeter, and Tommy Aaron driving in the tallies. Corky Withrow homered for Denver in the eighth as Portland workhorse Jose Santiago reaped for the defeat.

Another wheelhorse, Gerry Thomas, finally got his 14th win at Tacoma after failing in three prior tries.

Thomas needed help from John Pregoner in the ninth however. But Big John delighted his nationwide fan club by quickly snuffing out a Seattle threat by getting Dave Hall to hit into a game-ending double play.

Joey Amalfitano clipped in with key singles in two three-run Tacoma outbursts.

Portland Bills NW Softball

Portland (UPI) — The four-day, double-elimination Pacific Northwest men's softball tournament will open with two games here Friday night.

Nine teams from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana including defending champion McKee Ramblers of Beaverton are scheduled to compete for a berth in the men's world softball tournament at Clearwater, Fla., next month.

DISINTEGRATES
Detroit (UPI) — The high-speed hydroplane, Mariner Too, disintegrated on the Detroit river Tuesday while traveling at 130 miles per hour and its driver, Marvin Henrich, was seriously injured. The 33-year-old Henrich was taken to receiving hospital with neck, back and abdominal injuries and also suffered cuts on his face and head.

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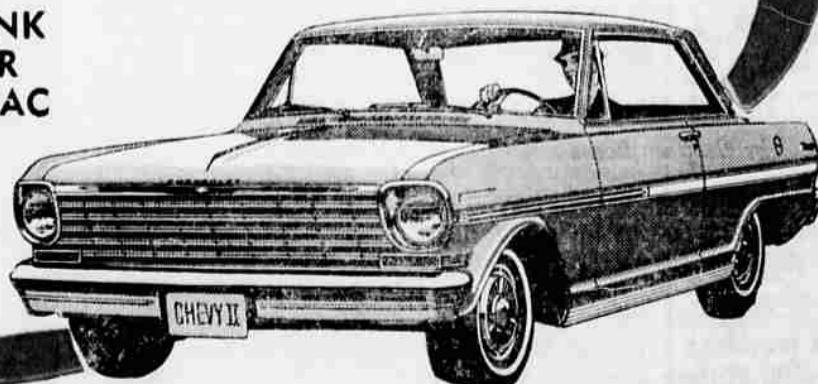
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