

# From Midfield

By PAUL HAINES

STURGIS, Mich., May 16—Back here, not so far from where the Wolverines of the University of Michigan battered their way to more than one Big Ten championship and the gridiron flash that was Tommy Harmon flamed brightly in the reason why so many major league ball games have been postponed by the weatherman this season.

Since we disembarked from the city of Portland in Chicago, it has done nothing but rain, rain, rain. While passing through Chicago we bought a rain-soaked copy of our favorite newspaper next to the Herald and News—the Chicago Daily Tribune. In perusing its sport page we found cause for rejoicing in the announcement that the University of Oregon has decided to resume intercollegiate football this fall and will attempt a full schedule in all other intercollegiate sports.

This is indeed cheering news to gridiron fans of Oregon and it is something that we have hoped would be done. Oregon State has already expressed a desire and willingness to field an eleven this fall and with the welcome addition of the Webfoots, Oregon should be the scene of some swell gridiron tussles in 1945.



HAINES

On our way back here, we stopped off a day in Portland and had the opportunity of fulfilling a long-thwarted desire. The desire was to see a world championship billiard match and we lost no time in walking to the Multnomah Athletic club where Welker Cochran, present world title holder, was playing a challenge match with Willie Hoppe, the former "Boy Wonder" of the game.

Hoppe is and was to three-cushion billiards what Babe Ruth was to baseball, Jack Dempsey to the fight game, Bobby Jones to golf, and Big Bill Tilden to tennis.

Cochran triumphed, 60 to 50, in the one match we witnessed, but you could sort of feel that the crowd was with the "Boy Wonder," who is now, in all probability, reaching the twilight of his career.

After watching these two masters of the most scientific game in the world perform, one felt that the three balls had more than a speaking acquaintance with each other.

Hoppe came up with the longest run of the game with 10 straight, but failed to maintain the pace, missing several shots that he could have probably made with his eyes closed 30 years ago. We do not mean to infer that the old master is slipping as he is still the lead of 42 points over his arch-rival.

No, he's not slipping in the accepted sense of the word, but he no doubt isn't quite the player he was in the years that he astounded the sports world with his accuracy and precision. Time, in billiards as in any other competitive game, takes its toll.

Anyway, we had the grand pleasure of watching these men pit their skill against each other and it was very definitely something worth seeing.

There isn't much else stirring here at present, even the ducks are using water-wings. So we'll call this enough for now and go out and buy a raincoat. We'll try to send more later. So long for now!

## Angels Ride Crest, Head For Seattle

### Monday Night Games Make Up For Postponements Due To Rain; Ducks Drop Four

By The Associated Press  
Los Angeles, riding the crest of a four-game winning streak at the expense of the league-leading Portland Beavers, heads for Seattle today to tackle the Rainiers who strengthened their grip on second place in a series with San Francisco.

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The Seals, who have played three doubleheaders in four days, continue the grind with a single game at Portland tonight. Los Angeles and Seattle will remain idle today, opening their series with a twin encounter Wednesday evening. Oakland will entertain San Diego and Hollywood will be host to Sacramento in regular week's play starting tonight.

The Beavers, who dropped the last four of their six games with the Angels, were victims of a ninth-inning five-run uprising last night. Submariner Ad Liska, ace of the Portland mound staff, was credited with the loss as the result of his first pitch. Liska was sent in as relief hurler after the Angels had scored one run and loaded the bases. His first toss, a low curve, was slammed over the right field wall by Pinchhitter Johnny Moore to give the Californians a one-run margin. Relief Hurler Red Adams set Portland down one-two-three in the last of the ninth.

Seattle, which took its series with the Seals 4-2, had little trouble in winning the opener, 9-4, but ran into trouble in the eighth. Bob Bartholomew, hard-luck Seals' pitcher, came through with a four-hit one-run classic while his mates were turning six hits into three runs off Chet Johnson, making his debut for Seattle. Johnson, southpaw ace formerly with San Diego, was acquired by the Rainiers last week from the St. Louis Browns after his Seattle deal had returned to let him join the American League club.

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## Holmes, Cuccinello Lead Swat Kings; National High

NEW YORK, May 22 (AP)—Tommy Holmes of the Boston Braves and Tony Cuccinello of the Chicago White Sox were the major league batting leaders today as the averages in the National loop continued to run much higher than the American.

Lowest man in the top 10 of the National was hitting .337 while the American had only eight over the .300 mark and dipped down to .297 for a tenth place Bobby Estalella of the Philadelphia A's, according to figures including Sunday's games. The top 10 hitters in each league:

NATIONAL LEAGUE					
Player, Club	G	AB	R	H	PCT.
Holmes, Boston	25	101	27	43	.426
Ott, New York	28	92	28	37	.402
Kurovski, St. Louis	25	93	18	36	.387
Olmo, Brooklyn	24	89	15	34	.382
Dinges, Philadelphia	27	108	16	39	.361
Lombardi, New York	27	92	15	32	.348
Reyes, New York	28	98	14	34	.347
Glennwater, Boston	25	88	11	30	.341
Weintraub, New York	28	95	24	32	.337
Cavarretta, Chicago	25	98	14	33	.337

  

AMERICAN LEAGUE					
Player, Club	G	AB	R	H	PCT.
Cuccinello, Chicago	21	73	13	26	.356
Case, Washington	26	102	16	34	.333
Stephens, St. Louis	21	78	18	26	.333
Etten, New York	24	88	14	29	.330
Moses, Chicago	17	68	10	22	.324
Hockett, Chicago	22	87	12	27	.310
Maier, Detroit	15	52	6	16	.308
Kell, Philadelphia	22	86	10	26	.302
Steinweiss, New York	24	87	18	26	.299
Estalella, Philadelphia	25	91	12	27	.297

## 75 Boys Out For Junior Legion Ball

### 12 More Signed Up At Big Organizational Meeting; 2-Hour Instruction Given

Twelve more boys signed up for American Legion Junior baseball at the organizational meeting Saturday afternoon at Mills school and the total of 75 boys received almost two hours of instruction in batting, throwing, base running, and sliding from Lynn Roycroft, coach.

The 12 new baseball players have been adopted by L. Lombard, who has agreed to sponsor the team, furnishing suits.

The boys are enthusiastic, and now the Legion baseball committee needs help from adults. Crying need at this time is playing space in the districts where the teams will practice. This is necessary so that the lads can practice and play on fields nearest their homes.

Six fields are needed. Real estate men are needed to locate these fields; owners are needed to donate the land for play; and equipment is needed to bulldoze and smooth the playing surface so the boys will have a level ground to practice good baseball tactics.

Playing spaces is needed for the following districts: Conger school area, the lower end of Del Moro street for the upper Hot Springs area, the vicinity of Main street canal bridge for the lower Hot Springs area, the Altamont school area, and the Shasta school area. Recreation field will be used for one of the playing spaces.

First call for Legion baseball was put out for boys from 12 to 17 years of age, but the committee feels that if younger lads are well-enough-developed and have the permission of their parents to play in the series, they should be admitted, too. Boys falling into this category are urged to come out to the next meeting which will be announced later through the press and radio.

There will be one more organizational meeting, according to Roycroft, and adults who are interested in coaching or assisting the boys on the four teams still uncoached are asked to come to this meeting.

PRINCETON, N. J.—Army retained its eastern intercollegiate golf title, beating navy by six strokes over Springdale course.

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Player, Club	G	AB	R	H	PCT.
Cuccinello, Chicago	21	73	13	26	.356
Case, Washington	26	102	16	34	.333
Stephens, St. Louis	21	78	18	26	.333
Etten, New York	24	88	14	29	.330
Moses, Chicago	17	68	10	22	.324
Hockett, Chicago	22	87	12	27	.310
Maier, Detroit	15	52	6	16	.308
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## Giants Drop 1st Battle Of Invasion

### Pittsburgh Takes Eastern Team 5-2 At Forbes Field; Cardinals Shutout Dodgers

By JACK HAND  
Associated Press Sports Writer  
Pittsburgh sounded a warning note to overheated New York Giants' fans today after the league leaders had dropped the first game of their opening western invasion.

All was well in the Polo Grounds as Mel Ott's gang slugged the bad men from the west, nine out of 11, but Pirate pitching was too tough to handle last night at Forbes field and Pittsburgh won, 5 to 2.

Max Butcher handed to the Giants with four hits, two of them home runs by Ernie Lombardi, giving him the undisputed major league lead with nine. Phil Weintraub and Ott were horse-collared and the Bucks settled down for a long home stay.

Pre-season dopesters had labeled the Pirates the chief threat to the St. Louis Cards but Frankie Frisch couldn't get his team started in the first few weeks. Despite a 5-5 even split in the east, the best record of any western team, Pittsburgh was still in sixth place.

The eastern "pushovers" upset the "powerful" invaders in the first inter-sectional set, 25 to 18, with the Giants and Dodgers, who won 8 of 12, showing the way. There were those who expected things to return to normal now that New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Brooklyn were headed into enemy territory.

The Dodgers wound up their home stay on the wrong note, suffering a 4-0 shutout by the St. Louis Cardinals as Blix Donnelly broke a four-game losing streak for his first success of 1945. Manager Leo Durocher even called the veteran Curt Davis for his first relief job, a day after he had started against Chicago.

The Cardinals wound up their jaunt with six victories in 13 contests, despite a third Mort Cooper walkout and an epidemic of pitching miseries.

American league teams headed east today after an open date, with a twilight Philadelphia at New York. Yankees' experiment the only scheduled action.

As in the National, the home clubs enjoyed a wide success margin in the American east-west contests, sweeping 23 of the 35 games played between rainstorms.

Best mark for a visiting team was a sorry 3-5 performance by the Boston Red Sox while the St. Louis Browns struck out in a determined defense of their crown by sweeping eight of nine lulls, including four in a row over their old Nemesis, the Yanks.

Chicago kept up its first-place pace by a 6-3 average, while Cleveland took five of nine and Detroit broke even in eight starts.

NEW YORK, May 22 (AP)—Stockholders have approved sale of the Oregon City Golf club property on Beaver creek road to Herbert Hartke and Ben Gassaway.

Sale price was reported \$20,000. The Oregon City purchasers agreed to operate the club for 10 years with stockholders permitted to retain memberships under conditions set at formation in 1923.

EASTON, Pa.—Lafayette won middle three track championship with 601 points to 584 for Rutgers and 35 for Lehigh.

NEW ORLEANS, May 22 (AP)—Phil Foto, 16-year-old prep school athlete, started his second game as a pitcher today and turned in his second no-hit no-run game.

Foto pitched Jesuit high school to a 4-0 win over Fortier today. Five men reached first base on walks.

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