



From Midfield

By PAUL HAINES

Today's Guest Column

(From Tower Lights by Marlowe Branagan)

'Three Little Sisters' Prove DU Flight Charts Offer Hazards For Forecasters

As if it weren't enough, the St. Louis Browns and the St. Louis Cardinals are making dopes of the dopesters, now comes mallard ducks to make forecasting an even more hazardous job these days.

As a matter of record, thanks to Ducks Unlimited coming up with another of its frequent reports, we have just discovered what happened to the "Three Little Sisters" who, the last time they were being talked about by barber shop quartets, were waiting for a soldier, sailor and marine.

Thanks to Ducks Unlimited having a way of charting the progress of a duck when it takes off for the tall timber areas, we are now in possession of facts which prove one "little sister" met an untimely end in Illinois, another in California and still another in Kansas—of all places. This probably proves nothing except that a gal will go a long way to find that elusive soldier, sailor or marine.

Before fond mamas get alarmed and tell their darling daughters to stick close to the front porch and thus escape a shot in the gizzard, the "three little sisters" under discussion today were mallard ducks, while alive, and the only reason they offer much in the way of a sports yarn is for the plain and simple reason they offer much to back Ducks Unlimited's banding idea.

Such an idea was hatched in Tom Main's fertile brain several years back and it was offered as just a suggestion that it might aid Ducks Unlimited in finding out where ducks go when they shake the moss of their own breeding grounds from their web feet and make tracks to more popular and populous centers of activity. Since ducks can't read, anything we may say on the subject won't alter the situation a bit.

We can just imagine the DU field man who tied bands on the three ducks who offer the subject of today's discussion. He probably gave one a fond pat on the top of the dome and told her to "Look up my Uncle Gus in Philly." To the second he might have said: "Don't try to crash the chorus line of a night spot on your way through New York." And he may have said to the third: "So long, Margie, if you need any do-re-mi stop off and see a friend of mine who has a friend working in the First National bank at Cheyenne."

That the three little sister ducks didn't listen to reason may be gathered from the report which proves one met a hunter in Illinois, another in Kansas and the third, while looking for the bank in Cheyenne, met a guy with a shotgun in California and all three wound up with their feet pointed upward at a banquet table.

Purpose of DU in placing leg bands on waterfowl is used solely as one means of checking duck flights through the continental United States. In the last two years more than 31,000 ducks have been tagged before they started their Cook's tour of neighboring territories.

The three little sisters were tagged by DU on August 31, 1944. On November 27, just less than three months later, the first was tagged by a hunter at Browning, Ill., nearly 1400 miles southeast of the Saskatchewan, start of her final flight.

The second little sister didn't travel long with her kin, making a beeline for Agua Caliente, where she hoped to put in a winter of profitable work at booting in long shots, but a short shot by a fellow with an eagle-eye and a steady finger wrote her obituary on December 1, 1944, in northern California. The next day the last of the three gals was a gunshot victim at Arlington, Kas. All three traveled approximately the same distance to reach the same end, the California-bound duck ending a 1200-mile flight and the one in Kansas finishing up with 1400 miles to her credit and a handful of buckshot in her innards.

Some happy bachelors will probably point out that the foregoing proves nothing except you can't tell where a gal will go when she makes up her mind to travel. Married men, it seems, are more fortunate, having only to write their better half in care of her mama when she up and leaves the family fireside.

Ducks Unlimited offers the story penned here in the fervent hope it will help to eradicate ideas of some sportsmen that their vicinities are being short changed when it comes to distribution of ducks. These same sportsmen seem to feel that DU provides a map for use on the part of the ducks.

The very fact that the mallards mentioned wound up dotting festive boards in Kansas, Illinois and California shows that Ducks Unlimited can't tell the ducks where to go. It also shows Ducks Unlimited has no definite idea where the birds will go.

Areas where hunters feel they have been cheated will, in the long run, be areas where these same hunters have made no improvements on breeding or nesting areas. Ducks, being ducks, like to travel, but they also like to travel in comfort and sportsmen realize that improvement work on marshlands and swamp areas is the best way to get 'em to pay a short visit. After that, it's strictly up to the fellow in the duck blind.

Bruins Should Tighten Hold On First Place; Nats May Pass Bengals

By JACK HAND
Associated Press Sports Writer

Chicago should tighten its hold on the National league lead and Washington should pass Detroit in the American scramble during the intersectional series opening today, according to the past performance charts.

Although the Cubs will be on the road and the Tigers will be home, the results of the first four east vs. west tests reveal the Bruins' strength and the Bengals' weakness against their rivals from the Atlantic seaboard.

Charley Grimm's front-runners, currently six games ahead of the defending champion St. Louis Cardinals, have trimmed the eastern clubs 35 out of 54.

Cubs Come East
The Cubs come east for the last time with a "Big Four" pitching staff made possible by the addition of Hank Borowy. With Hank Wyse, Paul Derringer and Claude Passeau ready to take their turn, Grimm has Paul Erickson and Hu Vandenberg ready for "spot" duty. The Cubs open their eastern campaign with a double-header today at Boston.

St. Louis is hardly in a position to make a strong bid but with the time running out on the champs, Billy Southworth's gang can't afford to wait for their cripples to return. Both Third Baseman Whitey Kurovski and Pitcher Ted Wilks are back in St. Louis for arm treatments as the Cards prepare to open a New York series with a night game.

Addition of Chunky Art Rebel, a stoutish left-handed batter from the Cardinal farm system, and who has been hitting at a .429 clip since moving up, has given the club added power, but the pitching has been spotty although improving.

Bums Appear Weak
Brooklyn, also weak in the mound department, has been unable to overpower the western clubs like it has ridden over the east. Both the Dodgers and New York Giants are shuffling players from their farm clubs trying to hit on a win combination but

the general impression is that the Cubs and Cards will fight it out for the big money. Pittsburgh could do no better than play 500 ball during the past two weeks and has dropped 14 games behind Chicago. Only another sensational stretch drive can make them a factor.

Surprisingly enough the St. Louis Browns have the best intersectional record in the American league, despite their seventh place standing, copping 29 of 49 from the east with Cleveland right behind with 29 of 50. Washington is just over the .500 circle at 25 won and 24 lost but has been hottest on the road where it will be playing for the next two weeks. Detroit has been plagued by its eastern rivals, losing 24 of 47 to them.

Ossie Bluege's surprising contenders ripped through the west, sweeping 11 of 15 last time around, and pulled to within a half game of the pace during their home stand. With six starters ready to go in rotation, Washington is well prepared for the final western tour calling for 20 games.

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Holmes, Cuccinello Lead Major Leagues Hit Parade

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (AP)—Tommy Holmes of the Boston Braves and Tony Cuccinello of Chicago's White Sox still held the lead in the major league batting races today with two months of the season to go.

Although Goody Rosen of Brooklyn still was shadowing Holmes' .365 average with a second place .362 in the National Phil Cavarretta of Chicago had become an important factor in the hit derby with his .357 mark. The Cubs' first sacker picked up seven points during the last seven days, moving to within eight points of the lead in average including Sunday's games.

The 10 leading batsmen in each league:

NATIONAL LEAGUE					
Player and Club	G	AB	R	H	PC.
Holmes, Boston	102	419	93	153	.365
Rosen, Brooklyn	92	381	84	138	.362
Cavarretta, Chicago	99	378	77	135	.357
Hack, Chicago	99	389	76	131	.337
Olmo, Brooklyn	94	382	50	128	.334
Ott, New York	94	326	54	109	.334
Kurovski, St. Louis	87	331	59	105	.317
Dinges, Philadelphia	93	342	43	108	.316
Johnson, Chicago	99	404	70	126	.312
Walker, Brooklyn	100	399	71	124	.311

AMERICAN LEAGUE					
Player and Club	G	AB	R	H	PC.
Cuccinello, Chicago	84	292	38	98	.329
Stirnweiss, New York	93	384	68	122	.318
Case, Washington	92	377	56	119	.316
Lake, Boston	75	266	55	82	.308
Boudreau, Cleveland	85	312	45	96	.308
Estalella, Philadelphia	93	335	37	103	.307
Stephens, St. Louis	90	345	58	104	.301
Myatt, Washington	84	313	48	93	.297
Moses, Chicago	87	344	46	101	.294
Mayo, Detroit	84	373	55	107	.285

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HOW THEY STAND

By The Associated Press
PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE

Portland	W	L	Pct
Seattle	74	54	.576
Sacramento	68	63	.519
Oakland	65	60	.520
San Francisco	64	67	.489
San Diego	61	72	.456
Los Angeles	55	75	.423
Hollywood	52	78	.400

Results Last Night:
Oakland 3, San Francisco 4.
San Diego 5, Sacramento 3.
Los Angeles 11, Hollywood 2.
Only games scheduled.

Bevos Open Series With Suds Today

Oaks Take Over Undisputed Possession Of Fourth Place By Lambasting Seals, 8-4

By PAUL WELLS
Associated Press Sports Writer
Oakland's Acorns, scoring the vaunted prowess of 24-game winner Bob Joyce, are back in undisputed possession of a Pacific Coast league first division berth after their 8-4 victory over the San Francisco Seals last night.

The defeat, Joyce's eighth of the year, broke a tie between the two clubs for fourth place and gave the Oaks an uncontested spot in the upper bracket for the first time since July 4.

In the other two tilts scheduled Tuesday, the San Diego Padres beat the third-place Sac-

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ramento Solons 5-3, and the Los Angeles Angels broke a five-game losing streak in humbling the Hollywood Stars 11-2.

Bevos Open Series
A full slate is listed for today. The circuit - pacing Portland Beavers will open their crucial series at home against the Seattle Rainiers, with the seventh game being played next Monday night. The Stars and Angels tangle in an afternoon twin bill and the other pairings continue in single night engagements.

Joyce's performance against Oakland was a far cry from his scintillating one-hitter last Friday. He was shelled from the mound in the fifth after giving up 13 safeties and five runs. Mitch Chetkovich, winning pitcher, had little trouble subduing the Seals with six hits. Shortstop Jake Caulfield, whose trade to the Philadelphia Athletics was announced yesterday, and Second Baseman Glenn Stewart led the Acorns' attack with three raps apiece. Newcomer Don Smith, speedy outfielder purchased by the Oaks from Toledo, lived up to his advance billing by getting two singles and stealing second the first time he got on base.

Padres Trip Sack
Joe Wood's shaky start was instrumental in Sacramento's 5-3 defeat at the hands of the Padres. He was touched for four counters in the first frame on a combination of three hits, two

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ALSO NEWS

Coming A THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS

American Legion Junior Baseball Tourny Slated

BOISE, Idaho, Aug. 8 (AP)—Entries from Vancouver, Wash., and from Boise stand out as the top contenders on the basis of state tournament play, for the Pacific northwest regional

American Legion junior baseball tournament opening here Saturday.

The four teams representing their respective states which have qualified for the regional playoffs are the John Regan post of Boise, Lind-Pomeroy of Portland, Ore., McLoughlin Heights of Vancouver, Wash., and the Karl Ross post of Stockton, Calif.

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