

Connie Mack Reaches 85

Aged Athletic Boss Still Seeking Flag

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23 (AP)—Connie Mack, still one of baseball's shrewdest managers, is 85 years old today and his birthday prophecy flatly rejected major league expansion to the west coast.

"There never will be a third major league," Mack said in an interview. "And I don't think either the American or National league should become 16-team circuits as suggested by some west coast people."

"The eight-team league, with four in the east and four in the west, is ideal. There will never be a change from that. Major league baseball never can be profitable if it extends from New York to Los Angeles."

"The Pacific Coast league has been demanding recognition as a third major league but to date the American and National leagues have politely by-passed the suggestion."

Connie was suffering from a winter cold. "I'm usually down south this time of year," he noted, thanks for the birthday well-wishes.

Looking Fit as a fiddle, his six-foot-two frame erect as ever, baseball's grand old man was looking for only this Christmas gift—two infielders, a second and third baseman, "to make the Athletics a 1948 pennant contender."

"Nobody wants to sell me a good second or third baseman," Mack said. "Sure they want to trade—but they offer you nothing and want your stars. I'm not going to break up this team of mine now. It's going to be great in a few years when we start getting the needed help from our farm clubs."

"The way things shape up today the Athletics will field the same team that finished fifth last season. But if we could get two more infielders who were fast and could hit in the pinches we'd be almost in."

Sex To Beat

"The almost means the Boston Red Sox—'That's the team to beat in the American league next season,'" Connie predicts. "The players the Red Sox bought from St. Louis are exactly the scoring punch they needed."

The noted octogenarian, whose blue eyes still sparkle with the enthusiasm of a rookie, was born Cornelius McGillicuddy in East Brookfield, Mass. "It was in the middle of the night—some say on December 22, I say the 23rd."

Mack broke into organized baseball in 1884, was manager of a Pittsburgh team and has headed the Athletics since 1901. During that span his Philadelphia teams have won the pennant nine times, finished second

seven times, third, 3; fourth, 2; fifth, 3; sixth, 2; seventh, 3; and eighth, 16.

One More Flag

"I just want to win one more pennant, then the world championship before I retire, and think I have the makings in this current team of mine."

Mack will be guest at a private dinner party this evening with his family—his wife, five sons and two daughters—and several close friends. Friday he leaves for St. Petersburg, Fla. for a two-month vacation prior to opening of the A's training camp at West Palm Beach, Fla.

Point-Spread Palaver Ires CCNY Coach

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (AP)—Can you imagine anyone suggesting that a basketball coach's strategy be guided by the point spread, or betting handicap?

Yet that has popped up more than once, and will again, with warring on college games' rocketing to unprecedented heights.

"After our game with Oregon State at Madison Square Garden," Nat Holman of City College of New York told the basketball writers, "someone questioned my tactics in waiving fouls during the last minute."

"Didn't you know there was an eight-point spread?" this fellow asked me.

"Apparently he was implying that it looked bad for City to win by seven points."

"Talk like that makes me want to fight. When my team is in a close game, and trying to freeze a lead, I'm worried about winning, and certainly not about any spread. I don't want the other side to get the ball."

"Look what happened in the close one we dropped to Bowling Green. We reduced their lead from 19 points to two in exactly one minute. If we'd given them the chance, Oregon State might have done that to us."

As things turned out in the City-Oregon State engagement, Oregon

TOONERVILLE FOLKS

"THE WIMMIN' OF TODAY IS LAZY! I CUD



Warren May Be On Oregon Ballot

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Dec. 23 (AP)—Possibility that the name of California's Governor Earl Warren may be placed on the republican presidential ballot in Oregon next spring was indicated here today.

The governor's office confirmed a report that Frank S. Sever, Portland attorney and the governor's

State's Frank Roelandt converted two free throws with one second to go to make the score, 58-51, in favor of City.

Oregon State better collected, not the bookmakers both ways. The coach's idea is still to win. He isn't interested in protecting those who gamble.

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MIDLAND EMPIRE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Simpson of Ashland visited over the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Davis of the Keno road.

Ray Hinshaw left his pick-up running a moment recently on the hillside in front of his home near Keno. He had just removed the boys and turned away when he looked around the pick-up had started off on a trip of its own. It ended up on a big rock across the road with two wheels off the ground but not damaged much.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Scherer and children of the Keno road are leaving the first of the week for Tacoma, Wash. to visit Ray's brother, Ralph. They will go on to Chehalis, Wash. to a large family reunion of the Scherer family on Christmas Day.

K. W. Moret and family of Couer d'Alene, Ida. are recent additions to Keno. They are living in the Puckett home across the street from Aitchison's store.

Kirk Lybrand and wife of Stewart-Lenox took dinner Sunday at the home of W. L. Freer and family. Mrs. F. M. Murrell of Bakersfield, Calif. is spending the holidays with K. W. Moret and family. Mrs. Murrell and Mrs. Mort are sisters. Harvey Denham and wife expect to leave Saturday for Ontario where they will spend the holidays with Mrs. Denham's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Lee, also Denham's sister, Mrs. Preston Cloud.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Simpson of Ashland and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis of Rogue River will spend the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Davis of Keno road. Mrs. Simpson and Mr. Davis are children of the Davis.

Sery Clemente, an ex-GI from Mt. Vernon, spent the night recently at the Ray Hinshaw home. Clemente

World War I commanding officer, had discussed the possibility with Warren last Saturday.

The office spokesman emphasized, however, that Sever had not sought Warren's entrance into the primaries but merely had brought him up to date on developments.

Warren, it was said, made no commitments with respect to the Oregon primaries.

TO WED

PORTLAND, Dec. 23 (AP)—A marriage license has been issued here to Elmer C. Johnson, Corvallis, and Dornelle Rees, Vancouver, Wash.

is an old friend of the Hinshaws and is attending the Oregon Vocational school.

C. W. Wall is busy these days butchering hogs. He is the very efficient butcher for this community.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Tofell entertained at a Christmas picnic party for Mr. and Mrs. Joe Halonsek, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Petrasek, Mr. and Mrs. L. Kallina, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rajnus, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Stastny, Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Wilde. Awards went to Edwin Stastny and Mr. and Mrs. Halonsek.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Stastny returned last week from Detroit, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. John Reber, a patient at Stanford Lane hospital in San Francisco, is reported to be improving satisfactorily.

Edgar Storli of Santa Monica spent last week-end with his sisters, Mrs. Payor and Mrs. Petrasek.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Jehinek left last week-end for Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Williamson spent last week-end in Portland. Jane Gordon, senior at San Jose college, is spending the holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gordon.

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Refreshments were served at the close of the party followed by a gift exchange.

Mr. and Mrs. McHenry will spend Christmas at the home of Mrs. McHenry's parents near Grants Pass.

The Malin Helping Hand society held its Christmas party with a pot-luck dinner and Polynesian gift exchange December 17 at the church.

Members present were, Mrs. Earl McVey, Mrs. Perry Haley, Mrs. John Matliff, Mrs. Eva Hundley, Mrs. Charles Hamilton, Mrs. George Fabianek, Mrs. James Ottoman, Mrs. Elsie Johnson, Mrs. Elmer McCollum, Mrs. Jesse Lindsey, Mrs. A. E. Street, Mrs. Noah Nyhart, Mrs. Hubert Schreiner, Mrs. Ben Hengel, Mrs. Hubert Morelock, Mrs. Harry Wilson, Mrs. Halbert Wilson, Mrs. Everett Jones, Mrs. John McCulley, Mrs. Hazel Handley, Mrs. Jesse Smith, Mrs. Austin Terry and Mrs. John Bailey. The next meeting will be at Mrs. Morelock's home in January.

A Christmas bridge and luncheon was held December 19, at the home of Mrs. Charles Hamilton. High score went to Mrs. Charles Johnson, second to Mrs. W. C. Dalton, and traveling to Mrs. George Retherick. Other guests were, Mrs. P. G. Willson, Mrs. Bonnie Stephens, Mrs. Lester Schreiner, Mrs. A. E. Street, Mrs. Perry Haley, Mrs. Jesse Smith. A gift exchange took place at the close of the party.

Gas Plant Damage Set At \$200,000

OLEUM, Calif., Dec. 23 (AP)—Unofficial estimates of damage caused by yesterday's dangerous fire at the Union Oil company gasoline refinery here ranged from \$200,000 to as high as \$500,000 today.

A 50-foot vacuum distilling tower was damaged extensively and two 70-foot towers burned superficially as flames swept over part of the 400-acre plant, Manager G. H. Hennan said. He added that no loss in production would result.

Hennan blamed a line rupture in the thermal cracking unit manufacturing gasoline.

HORNETS DROP FROM COAST PRO LOOP LEAD

By The Associated Press

Either Vancouver's Hornets have lost their sting or the Pacific Coast Professional Basketball League has begun to assume the balanced proportions that make for a nip-and-tuck campaign.

The Hornets dropped their second one-point decision in as many starts last night and fell from the league lead for the first time this year in so doing.

Bellingham's fast-breaking Firecrackers squeezed out a 61-60 decision after overcoming a Hornet lead that once boasted a 40-28 margin. Bob Dorr made what proved to be the winning goal with less than a minute remaining and Bellingham sailed out the game after Kenny Lawn

pulled the Canadians to within a point at the 20-second mark.

Seattle had no such difficulty with Astoria, romping to an 80-67 majority that was in doubt only in the first half.

Even in losing, however, Vancouver's Norm Baker continued to dominate the scoring parade. Baker picked up 28 points, 19 in the first half, to edge Bellingham's Gale Bishop who potted 24. Seattle's win was paced by Bernie Price, the ex-Harlem Globetrotter ace, with 23, followed closely by Wally Leask with 20. Ken Hays, Astoria center, led the Columbia river contingent with 16.

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