

Huskies Take Coast Crown

NCAA Crosses Nichols Off

BERKELEY, Calif., March 16 (AP)—The University of Washington Huskies, champion of the Pacific Coast conference, are going to the NCAA western regional basketball tournament without their scoring kingpin, Jack Nichols.

The Huskies dumped California's Bears 59-49 last night in a rough, 45 fouls were called, deciding game of their PCC title series.

But that was the last tilt in which Nichols can help his teammates toward an NCAA title, or an Olympics berth. He set both single game and season scoring records for Washington.

The ace playmaker has had five seasons of varsity ball—two of them at Southern California in a navy uniform. That was all right under PCC rules—but not with the NCAA.

His team is eligible for the NCAA, however.

At Los Angeles, Prof. Hugh Willett, NCAA eligibility chairman, explained Nichols' case:

"The NCAA is divided into eight sections. Each has its own eligibility rules. However, when the teams play in the national tournament, they must play under national rules. Therefore, it would be unfair to other districts to permit Nichols to play. His ineligibility, however, does not affect the team as a whole."

In a similar case, Brigham Young, champion of the Skyline Six, recently decided not to compete in the NCAA western regional after its scoring ace was ruled ineligible because of too many years varsity play.

HUSKIES ARE GOING

However, Washington Coach Art McLarney declared the Huskies are going to the western regional at Kansas City this week-end.

In last night's game, Jim Smith, substituting at center for the injured Chuck Hanger, held Nichols to three field goals, but the big Husky played one of the best games of his career, feeding the ball to teammates for layups.

California nursed a small lead most of the first half and led 30-24 at the rest period.

Then the Huskies struck. They scored 18 points in 10 minutes to take a 42-36 lead.

Bill Taylor opened Washington's second half drive with a one-handed push shot from near the center line. Andy Opatech slipped in a pair of free throws and Sammy White followed with a bucket from the key to tie the count after two minutes play.

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CHARITY TOSS LEADS

Washington took its first lead of the game on Bill Vandenberg's goal but George Walker knotted the count again at 32-all. A second later Taylor dropped in a free throw to give Washington a lead it never relinquished.

Opatech paced the second half drive with 14 points. He led the Husky scorers with a game total of 16.

Twenty-four fouls were called on Washington and 21 on California. Sam White and Bill Vandenberg of the Huskies and George Walker of California were sidelined on personal fouls.

Washington's victory earned its fourth conference title. It was the first time since 1934 that a northern division team has won the series on a southern division court. A Husky five turned the trick that time, too, against Southern California.

Warren Calls Cinder Vets

EUGENE, Ore., March 16 (AP)—Oregon Track Coach John Warren counted 11 lettermen in his lineup of 1948 track candidates scheduled today for the opening workout Friday.

Headliners are Dave Henthorne, sophomore sprinter who turned in crack 100 and 200 yard performances last season, and George Rasmussen, another sophomore. Rasmussen cleared the high bar at 14 feet, 2 inches in vaulting last season. Warren expects he will do better this season.

The Ducks will meet Oregon State here in the first meet of the year April 3. It will be the first time in 44 years the Oregon track stars have not been running under Bill Hayward's direction.

Citrus Loop Redbirds Develop Slugger

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 16 (AP)—Terry Moore, veteran center-fielder of the St. Louis Cardinals, may be able to rest more often this season now that his understudy, Chuck Diering, is showing signs of becoming a hitter.

Diering, who can run and throw with the best of them, had trouble hitting National league pitching last season, his first in the majors.

Yesterday, Diering starred in the Cards' 4-0 conquest of the Detroit Tigers. He started a three-run rally with a triple and in addition banged out two singles.

Murray Dickson and Rookie Clarence Beers blanked the Tigers on six hits. Dickson was especially impressive, yielding but one single in five innings.

Only Fain Lacking

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., March 16 (AP)—The Philadelphia Athletics' roster was complete today with the exception of Ferris Fain, recovering from a knee injury.

Catcher Mike Guerra arrived from Cuba yesterday. He may see action in an intra-squad game today.

Chapman Matching

SARASOTA, Fla., March 16 (AP)—Manager Ben Chapman concentrated today on patching up the Philadelphia Phillies' weak spots which enabled the New York Yankees to collect a 10-5 win yesterday. The Phils tangle with the Boston Red Sox here today.

Lefty Curves 'Em

FULLERTON, Calif., March 16 (AP)—Cliff Chambers, who had a 34-9 record for Los Angeles last year, is pleasing Manager Charley Grimm of the Chicago Cubs with the development of a curve ball.

"Last year when we looked at him," recalled Grimm, "he had everything—everything but a curve. When he couldn't come up with the twister we had to send him out."

Possession Deadline

The 90-day possession limit on waterfowl ends April 4. Federal game officers here said, and persons with ducks and geese in their lockers are asked to get rid of them by that date.

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It's A Smart Dodger Who Knows Where And When He's Going To Play This Season

CIUDAD TRUJILLO, Dominican Republic, March 16 (NEA)—Visiting the Dodgers in this oldest city in the new world spoils a camp follower headed for other major league training bases.

There is so much talent.

With the Montreal farm hands at San Cristobal, 20 miles away, there are close to 100 ballplayers on the island of Santo Domingo. Many more are toiling at Vero Beach, Fla., and elsewhere, and the great bulk of them are big and swift.

Running over the tremendous Brooklyn roster with Leo Durocher, the best equipped of the other big league outfits seem short-handed.

A Superba has to be a whiz, and then some, to know where he stands—a Reese, Reiser, Robinson, Edwards, Branca or a Casey.

Branch Rickey has so many of them, and brings 'em in overnight totally unheralded—Bruce Edwards with the season well along in 1948

and Spider Jorgensen on opening day last year, for examples.

Commenting on Eddie Stanky moving to the Braves for Ray Sanders, "Bama Rowell and cash, Durocher said: "When we can let a regular like Stanky go, I know we have a corking club."

Jackie Robinson has switched to his natural position, second base, of course, with the swift Sanders taking over at first.

The Brooklyn camp feels that the Bums have been greatly improved, and that the ring-wise Muggsy Stanky will be of immeasurable assistance to the light-footed, but rather inexperienced Boston shortstop, Alvin Dark, which is precisely why Billy Southworth made the deal.

If Blackie Dark stands up, and most baseball men are confident the Louisiana State alumnus will the Braves may have gained more in the transaction than the Broods. Lippy Leo Durocher says he

wouldn't swap Pres Ward, not yet 21, and six feet 2½ inches tall, for three Earl Torgensons, and that young man was something in the way of a mild sensation in his freshman year with the Braves.

Ward batted 325 for Pueblo last year, led the Western League in runs-batted-in with 121 in 125 games, and also triples, total bases and runs scored.

The Lip asked Jake Pittler, who managed one of the four minor league outfits with which Ward performed, how the youngster handled Public Enemy No. 1, alias the curve ball.

"He murders him," replied Coach Pittler.

Ward still may be a year or two away, as the baseball people say, but definitely he is ticketed as the Broods' first baseman.

Durocher, more enthusiastic than ever after a year in exile, goes into ecstasies hopping from one Dodger to another.

Duke Snider, the large and young outfielder, will be great as quickly as he locates the strike zone and acquires confidence.

By his actions, Gene Hermanski is saying to all in sight: "Bud, I'm a major leaguer." The Newark Night Stick is studying his faults, practicing to overcome them.

Light-footed Dick Whitman, back from Montreal, has the fiery Stanky's hustle.

A pitcher named Hall, whose name doesn't appear on the roster, turned in 10 shutouts for Mobile.

Jack Banta appears ready. Last season with Montreal the tall right-hander hurled seven shutouts, recorded 29 consecutive scoreless innings, struck out 199.

Durocher compares Phil Hougstad, who came up from St. Paul last fall, with Kewell Blackwell of the Reds—wicked.

Joe DiMaggio told Durocher that

no pitcher has shown him more stuff than Rex Barney.

Durocher is nuts about John Van Cuyk's little brother, Chris, who stands six-feet five and comes in at 220. No one seems to know where Chris, left-handed and rapid like his brother, has been, and Durocher wonders why, John, recalled from Montreal, was the Texas league strikeout king in 1946.

Brooklyn has so much pitching that no one appears unduly concerned about the precious arm of Harry Taylor, the slickest in the National league last term.

In addition to the Terr Haute Terrell, there are Branca, Roe, Barney, Hatten, Casey, Hougstad, Behrman, Banta, Hall, the Van Cuyks, Eddie Chandler, King, Minsner, Heuser, Ramsdell and Bankhead, with several young phenoms likely to be trotted out when the party returns to the States.

Any other club would make good

use of the fleet infielders, Eddie Mikals and Gene Mauch, the former so versatile and dependable that he played the outfield in the World Series. Catcher Bobby Bragan formerly was a shortstop.

With the strong-armed Furillo in center and Reiser in left, that leaves Snider, Hermanski, Whitman, Ruckley, Lund, Gianfriddo and Cal Abrams for right and extra outfield duty; where old Arky Vaughan is no slouch. Bunting 345 for Mobile last season, the home-grown Abrams manufactured what was said to have been the longest drive ever fashioned in a Southern Association park.

As in the case of Lighthouse Harry Taylor and the pitching, such an old standby as the remarkable Dixie Walker isn't missed in the outfield.

Analyzing the Brooklyn club even Branch Rickey and Leo Durocher hardly know where to begin.

Scorer Sidelined

EUGENE, March 16 (AP)—Scoring specialists by the dozen will be in action at the state class A high school tournament at Eugene, but the hottest of them all will be on the sidelines.

He is Bob Ball, Rainier high six-footer, who claims the state record of 607 points for the season just concluded.

A 175-pound senior, Ball averaged 21.67 points in 28 games this winter, edging the state record of 536 points he claimed last year after 37 games.

His mark last year was considered phenomenal, but he far outdid it this winter, running up his 607 points in nine fewer games.

The high point was reached in the third game of the season, when he tallied 45 points against a strong Vancouver, Wash., quintet.

He normally was guarded by two, sometimes three opponents, and on three occasions was held to 10 points, low mark for any single game.

This was no indication that opponents had solved his style of play. In his first game against Jefferson of Portland he was held to 10 points. In a later contest, however, he banged in 26.

Astoria held him to 10 in a first meeting, but saw him tally 31 in a second contest.

In 16 of the 28 games he scored 20 points or more.

Ball showed his talent at the state tournament last year, but despite a 25-point performance by Ball, his team was eliminated in a crucial district 14 game this year by St. Helens, which should serve as a warning to St. Helens' opponents in the Eugene tourney.

FRITZ CRISLER ENDS HIS COACHING CAREER

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 16 (AP)—H. O. (Fritz) Crisler, who guided Michigan to the apex of football glory, today ended his coaching career.

Even as he announced his retirement from the football bench, the handsome, greying, 49-year-old mentor named as his immediate successor Benny G. Oosterbaan, his backfield assistant.

Crisler will remain the university's athletic director.

He startled the sports world with his announcement shortly before midnight, attributing his decision to "the exacting demands" of his position as head of the department of physical education, athletic director and head football coach.

The Michigan coach discounted the suddenness of the announcement by saying he had been considering the move "for some time."

His withdrawal as head coach and the appointment of Oosterbaan was discussed and approved, he said, by the Michigan athletic board in control just prior to his announcement.

The shrewd and canny chief stepped down in the year of his greatest triumph.

His 1947 squad rolled over nine opponents like no Michigan club

Hemsley Back In Suds Suit

BAKERSFIELD, Calif., March 16 (AP)—Seattle's Rainiers will resume their spring exhibition series today against the University of Southern California but with their No. 1 catcher back in the fold.

Rollie Hemsley, veteran major league receiver, signed a contract yesterday Terms of the contract, not revealed, will make him one of the Pacific Coast league's highest paid players. General Manager Earl Sheely said.

Still another backstopper—probably Harvey Kliebe or Joe Erault

Early Departure

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., March 16 (AP)—Manager Ted Lyons of the Chicago White Sox says he plans to lop off four or five rookies this week. This means a rookie exodus almost two weeks earlier than the usual squad trimming. Lyons says he isn't ready to give names yet.

of the Detroit Tigers—will be added to the Rainier staff, Sheely said.

ONLY ONE NORTHWEST SQUAD LEFT IN AAU

DENVER, March 16 (AP)—All but one Pacific Northwest entry in the national AAU basketball tournament has been eliminated today.

The Portland, Ore., Semmler Yanks, still untested in tourney

Stiner Transfer Rumor Quashed

CORVALLIS, Ore., March 16 (AP)—Rumors that Oregon State Football Coach Lon Stiner is considering a bid for Nebraska, his alma mater, were denied today.

After returning from a national collegiate football rules committee session in Chicago, Stiner said he does not plan to leave the Beaver post.

R. S. Keene, OSC athletic director, also said Stiner would continue at Oregon State "indefinitely."

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