

# How Could Thomson Miss?

By JOHN McCALLUM  
NEA Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK (NEA)—Ball players and managers practice more yoodoo than an African witch doctor on a binge.

Every day is Halloween. Give Leo Durocher a winning streak and the Dandy Little Manager will go days without changing his street clothes.

The Giants' martini also has another magic gimmick—Ben Freeman, alias McDougald McPherson McTavish.

Durocher considers the Super Hot the slickest innovation since the invention of the home run.

Mention McTavish's name to The Lip and an air of reverence fills the clubhouse.

As the story goes, Bengali McTavish wrote Durocher a letter last



LEO DUROCHER ... his job ends early

off to win the pennant."

Durocher brushed the note off as a gag, went about his business. But when the race grew hotter, he dug it out again. As the Giants completed the miracle run with a victory in Boston, and went into the play-off, Durocher never let the missive out of his sight.

"It grew in importance daily," confides Leo.

Only Laraine Day and a few players knew about the strange letter. Thomson didn't know about it until stepping plateward in that historic ninth inning of the final game in the play-off. Before moving into the box, Durocher stopped him, pulled out the crumpled letter and

told him to read it. From the stands it appeared as nothing more than the manager giving the player last-minute instructions.

"It says here," said the loquacious Leo, "that you're going to hit a home run."

The docile Thomson, a scholarly young man who could read, promptly crowded the plate and did you-know-what.

After the World Series, Durocher searched two months for Swami McTavish, finally found him employed as a supervisor in a Long Island biscuit factory. Leo wanted to know how McTavish did it.

"With science," McTavish said, "but I ain't tellin'."

"What about 1952?" Durocher asked.

"It's too early yet," McTavish said. "My system doesn't start movin' till along in the season. But don't worry, Leo."

"You get the Giants to September and I'll take 'em the rest of the way."

While Leo Durocher is dead serious about his discovery, Luke Sewell debunks the man's special powers. The Cincinnati generalissimo cites the case of a Reds' fan who swamped him with mail.

"The bird kept writing me post-cards saying the stars ordained that I should use Bud Byerly as a starting pitcher," Sewell related. "Byerly, at the time, had such a sore arm he couldn't throw the ball to the plate on one bounce."

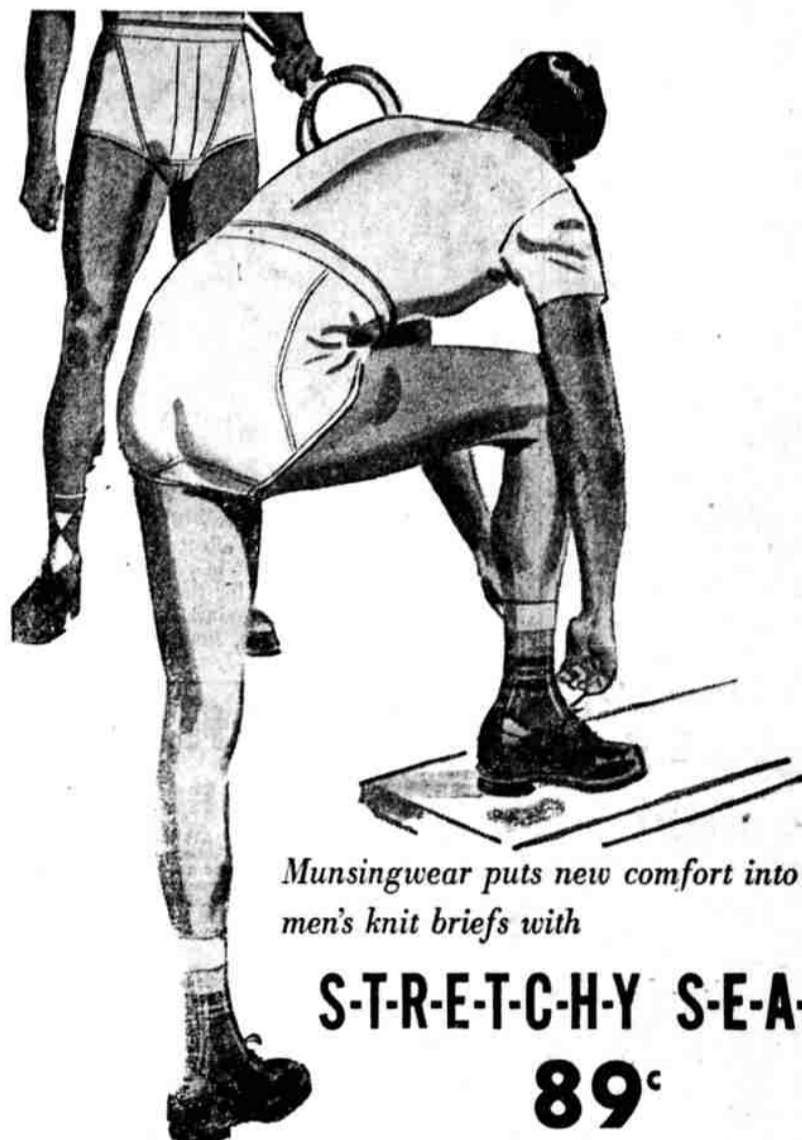
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## PGA Golf Field Full

CHICAGO (AP)—The 150-man field for the 1952 Professional Golfers' Association tournament at Louisville June 18-24 was complete Wednesday with the addition of 104 sectional qualifiers.

PGA Headquarters assembled names of the leaders in 59 sectional tournaments and announced that 44-year-old Dick Metz, one-time tourney regular who's been missing recently, had the top score. Metz, of Arkansas City, Kan., shot 66-66-132 in the Oklahoma sectional meet at Enid. That was one stroke more than Rod Munday of York, Pa., recorded last year for the all-time low qualifying mark, 131.

The 104 sectional qualifiers will join at Louisville 46 well-known tourney stars who were exempted from qualifying play. Qualifying rounds there will knock the total down to 63. These survivors, plus defending champion Sam Snead, then will enter match play leading to the 192 crown.

### TOP SCORER TWICE

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Rick Casares of Tampa, Fla., bids a unique distinction in the University of Florida sports picture. He led the Gator football team in scoring with 25 points and the basketball squad with 344 points.

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September as the National League race galloped into the final week.

"We were in Philadelphia when it arrived," Leo recalls. "The letter stated simply that the Giants and Dodgers would finish in a tie."

"It also said that Bobby Thomson would hit a homer in the play-



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DREAM BOY Toi Yamato works on his sixth victim (Frenchy Roy) last week at the Armory. His chore tonight may come somewhat tougher. The Jap sleeper-expert faces Frankie Stojack, Pacific Coast junior heavyweight champion.

## Interest High For Mat Show

A large throng of mat-goers is expected to jam the Armory tonight to see something new in Judo training and the expected competence of Toi Yamato.

The tag team match—pitting Masa Kimura and Shibuswa Yamachi against Buck Weaver and Kurt Von Poppenheim—will feature both Judo and catch-as-catch-can wrestling.

Yamato has won six straight bouts here with his much-discussed sleeper hold.

But unofficial odds say the Jap's luck has run its course. All Yamato's foe, Frankie Stojack, has to do is stay away from Yamato's sleeper hold, because that's the only department in which the Japanese has shown any talent.

Stojack is fast enough to turn the trick—and has forgotten more mat tricks than Yamato ever knew.

In addition to anticipating Toi's downfall, the fans are anxious to see Weaver and Von Poppenheim decked out in Judo jackets.

The winner of a coin-flip will choose the style for the first fall. The second fall changes.

If a third fall is necessary, the choice of the third-best style will go to the team that scores the speediest of the first two falls.

The tag team opener starts at 8:45, one hour after opening of the Armory box-office.

HEARING AIDS  
CENTRALIA, Ill. (AP)—To get the drop on coon, fox and squirrel, some southern Illinois hunters are reported using hearing aids. An Eidorado, Ill. dealer, C. B. Hopkins, says he has sold aids to seven hunters with normal hearing. He quotes them as saying the gadgets pick up sounds of their quarry's movements more quickly.

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