

TIME OUT! Bosox Vault Into Second Spot



By BEN PHLEGAR
AP Sports Writer

If the Boston Red Sox can figure out some way to beat the other Eastern teams they will be a real pennant threat in the American League. They've got the Western clubs solved for sure.

The Sox finished up a profitable home stand against the West in sensational fashion yesterday. With two out in the 14th inning—Wilbur blasted his third pinch-hit home run of the year to give them a 3-2 triumph over the St. Louis Browns.

Wilbur's blow off Don Larsen propelled Boston all the way from fourth place to second in the standings, three games behind the pace-setting New York Yankees.

The Red Sox have the best inter-sectional record in either league. They burned up the West early this month on a 6-2 road trip and then won six more and lost only two when the Western teams came in to visit Fenway Park.

5-6 RECORD

Against the Eastern clubs, however, the Sox have won just five while losing eight. They have a chance to correct this immediately since Philadelphia comes to Boston for a three-game series starting today. Then the Sox take the

road in the East.

The Eastern American League clubs as a whole were downright inhospitable to their Western visitors during the inter-sectional series and all four of them ended with victories. The Athletics defeated Chicago, 2-1. Washington whipped Cleveland, 8-3, and New York trimmed Detroit, 9-8. All in all the Eastern teams won 20 and lost 11 during the West-East meetings which began May 12.

In the National League the Western teams, playing at home, managed to gain the upper hand, but only by a margin of 16 games to 13. In yesterday's finales Cincinnati thumped the league-leading Philadelphia Phillies, 14-5. Milwaukee bowed for the second straight day to Brooklyn, 7-2. Chicago took a 16-6 lacing from the New York Giants and St. Louis won an 11-6 slugfest from the Pittsburgh Pirates.

31 HITS

Yesterday's action provided a little of everything, from the 14-inning duel in Boston to the 31-run explosions in Chicago and St. Louis.

The Giants collected 21 hits, a season's record, good for 39 bases, in smothering the Cubs. Monte Irvin, Al Dark and Davey Williams hammered for New York and the attack also included three doubles

Durocher Optimistic

CHICAGO (AP) — After watching his New York Giants slam 21 hits and pump eight runs into one inning against the Chicago Cubs, Manager Leo Durocher thinks his club finally has caught fire and soon will roll into the first division.

Both the number of hits—good for 39 bases—and the eight-run eighth inning in yesterday's 16-6 massacre of the Cubs were season-highs for the fifth-place Giants. They now have won eight of their last 11 games and four in a row.

332 AVERAGE

During the four-game winning streak, which goes on the line tonight against the Brooklyn Dodgers in New York, the Giants have scored 39 runs and collected 57 hits in 162 turns for a .352 team average.

Eight home runs have been jammed into the victory march with Monte Irvin contributing three in as many successive days.

In addition to Irvin, Al Dark and Davey Williams had bleacher shots in the Cubs' debacle yesterday.

Irvin has driven home 10 runs in the last four games and he and Dark have collected eight hits each in 19 trips. Whitey Lockman has 11 safeties in his last 19 times at bat.

"In our poor start this season we lost six games by one run and that disproves the theory that my pitching has been real bad," said Durocher.

"Our big trouble has been lack of timely hitting. It has thrown some of the pitchers off stride. I'm confident guys like Sal Maglie, Larry Jansen, Dave Koslo and Jim Hearn will straighten out. I think maybe we have started to get those big hits now."

Travel Lodge Wins Opener

Travel Lodge clubbed out a 14-2 decision over Midland in the opening game in the Women's City Softball League last night while Malin and Oregon Wool were fanned out after three innings of play in a "no contest" game.

Malin was leading Oregon Wool, 4-2, when stormy weather stopped the game.

Friday night Midland meets Oregon Wool and Malin faces Travel Lodge in games at 7 p.m. and 8:30 on Conger Field.

LIEUTENANT NOW
EL PASO, Tex. (AP) — J. D. Kimmel, All-America tackle at the University of Houston last season, is now a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army. He reported to Fort Bliss here recently. Kimmel was a former West Point Cadet and star of the Army line.

Tacoma Feels Serious Depression in Sports

By FRANK WETZEL
TACOMA (AP) — Tacoma, a city of almost 150,000 people, took a look at its professional sports scene here this week, blinked, and then looked again. There was nothing on view but wrestling and an occasional boxing card.

During the past half dozen years, professional football, basketball, baseball and hockey have given up the ghost here. The first two died all over and there was nothing unusual in their Tacoma demise.

Perhaps, the hardest blow fell last week when the Rockets withdrew from the Western Hockey League—at least for the 1953-54 season.

Sports figures in Tacoma give these reasons for the decline and fall of Tacoma's sports empire:

1. Television.
2. Proximity of Seattle.
3. Strong trend toward active participation in sports.

NOT UNIQUE

Points 1 and 3 above are hardly unique to Tacoma. And they have hurt sports in other cities. Tacomans are quick to point out.

But Muzz Patrick, general manager of the hockey team, said his sport wasn't hurt by the closeness of Seattle.

"We gave fans the same thing here so it wasn't necessary to go the 32 miles to Seattle to see hockey. But I believe it was a big factor in the loss of the baseball team 18 months ago."

Robert Abel, Tacoma attorney who was president of baseball's from 1941 to 1952 and is now its secretary, agreed that Seattle baseball cut into Tacoma gates.

"There's only one pro baseball team left in Western Washington. In my opinion, there's no doubt but what the Rainiers have overshadowed the other pro ball clubs in this area," said Abel.

TELEVISION

But he put the finger chiefly on television.

"Did you see what happened the night of the Marciano - Walcott fight? Three of the strongest minor leagues in baseball—the Southern and American Associations and International League—either postponed games or played

in the afternoon so there wouldn't be a conflict in time.

Both Abel and Patrick expressed confidence that pro sports would perk up again, not only in Tacoma but across the nation.

Abel thought the novelty of television would wear off, and said that civic pride and the desire of fans to see home teams in action would breathe life back into play-for-pay sports.

Patrick pointed out that participation sports slashed attendance, but wouldn't condemn them.

"It's healthy for the country. It may hurt us, but still it's a good thing," he commented.

Certainly golf, bowling, hunting and fishing have attracted more and more people and turned them into participants here. An estimated 10,000 people play golf regularly on Tacoma's two private and five public courses.

LONG LOOK

Taking a long look at the situation, Danny Walton, sports editor of the News Tribune, summed up the situation thusly:

"Television is blamed for many of the ills which have befallen professional sports; but it is not the entire answer, more the 'last straw.' Excessive taxes, increased competition from the participant sports and several other factors could be cited for the decline in spectator sports. Such is the trend of the times; such is the changing sports show. There is little that can be done to change the course of progress—although there is a feeling of nostalgia."

At least some Tacoma fans feel something can be done to change the course of progress. Members of a hockey boosters organization here have started to work out a plan whereby the sport might be retained.

Some observers think they may be able to do it, too.

Hogan Says Field Strong

FORT WORTH, Tex. (AP) — Ben Hogan, the talented Texan, led a field of 48 into the opening round of the \$25,000 Colonial National Invitation tournament Thursday with the laconic observation that "anybody can win this one."

Hogan, defending champion who thrice in six years of the Colonial has taken down the winner's purse, agrees that it's the strongest field the tournament ever knew.

Lloyd Mangrum, long one of the game's best money-winners and runner-up here last year, showed Wednesday he again was a man to be reckoned with as he blazed a three-under-par 67 over Colonial Country Club's 7,035 yards. His was the feature tune-up round.

Frank Shea Throttled the Indians

Frank Shea throttled the Indians on two hits for seven innings but had to withdraw with a stiff neck.

The Indians picked up five hits and three runs on his successor, Johnny Schmitz, but the Senators had sewed it up with six runs in the seventh off Bob Hooper and Steve Gromek. Bobby Feller, who worked the first six for Cleveland, was the loser for the third time this season. He has won once.

Philadelphia's winning run against the White Sox came in the ninth when Billy Pierce, trying for his sixth victory, walked three men, uncorked a wild pitch and then watched light-hitting Joe As-troth deliver a run-scoring single.



TOURING REAMES' course is a cinch for Dr. Charles Rugh in this gas-driven buggy, now in widespread use throughout the country. This rig seats four players and has room for their clubs. The handy machine can climb hills with ease, covers 18 holes on one gallon of fuel. There's two in use at Reames. Ralph Macartney owns the other one. They're great for golfers who like the game but not the leg-weary exercise that goes with it.

BOWLS 807 had been 698, scored two weeks earlier. This is his fourth season of bowling and he carried a 175 average.

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Don Osep, 16-year-old lad bowling in the Lutheran Center Men's League, recently registered an amazing 807 total in league play. Don's previous high

Kalpine Leads Loop With Second Straight

Kalpine leads the Men's City Softball League after registering its second straight victory last night on Conger Field, a 12-4 wallop of the Elks.

Suburban Tavern wrecked Southern Pacific, 10-2, in the first game for both clubs.

Kalpine's Barnes poled a three-run home run in the third inning as Kalpine erased a 0-2 deficit with four runs and went on to pile up five in the fourth and three in the fifth.

Gene Pavell, Elks pitcher, gave up nine hits; Chet Ashby yielded seven.

Suburban jumped into a first-inning 5-2 lead over Southern Pacific with Young belting a two-run home run. Then Gus Gustvang settled

down to blank the Southern Pacific the rest of the way as the Tavern nine added three runs in the second and one in each the third and fifth.

Both were live-inning games. Friday night Suburban meets Kiernits in the 6:30 opener; Bill's Place and Southern Pacific tangle in the afterpiece.

Line scores:
Suburban 531 01-10 6 1
So. Pacific 200 00-2 2 7
Gustvang and Harris; Hafar and Rummblehart.

Elks 020 20-4 7 3
Kalpine 004 53-12 -9 3
Pavell and Hunter; Ashby and Barnes.

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