

Opening Day Bad For Champions

Dodgers, Yankees Beaten

By JOE REICHLER
AP Sports Writer

It's a long, long way to the end of the major league baseball season but for opening day at least, the champs looked like champs.

The proud champion New York Yankees bit the dust in Washington 5-3. The National League champion Brooklyn Dodgers tasted defeat at the hands of the Giants 4-3.

The highly rated Milwaukee Braves also were dumped in Cincinnati 9-8. The well-regarded Boston Red Sox were knocked off by the lowly Philadelphia Athletics 6-4. The high-flying St. Louis Cardinals were soundly thrashed by the Chicago Cubs 13-4. The hustling Chicago White Sox were stilled by Cleveland 8-2. And the fighting Philadelphia Phillies were upset by the upstart Pittsburgh Pirates 4-2.

Otherwise everything went according to script. Well, nearly everything. Eddie Mathews, whose 47 home runs made him king of the majors in 1953, whacked two out of the park for the Braves. Roy Campanella, the majors' runs-batted-in champion last year, cracked two homers for the Dodgers. Mickey Vernon, AL batting champion, homered for Washington to beat the Yankees in a 10-inning tussle. Sal Maglie, who has made a living out of whipping the Dodgers, beat 'em again. And the old St. Louis Browns, who are now the new Baltimore Orioles, lost again—absorbing a 3-0 shutout in Detroit.

Crowds totaling 236,414 turned out in generally cool, sunny weather to watch the 16 teams get under way. It was the first time in 16 years that every club began the season simultaneously.

Home runs—clusters of them—provided the boisterous keynote to the full-scale opening. The noisiest and most dramatic four-baggers were slammed by the Giants' Willie Mays and the Senators' Vernon.

Mays, the wonder boy, lived up to his buildup, smashing a tremendous 425-foot shot into the upper seats in left center in the sixth inning to snap a 3-3 deadlock and give the Giants their triumph. Mary Grissom relieved Maglie with the bases loaded and only one out in the seventh. He retired the side and permitted only one hit the rest of the way. Carl Erskine was the loser.

Vernon's game-winning homer came with one out and a runner on base in the last of the 10th to break a 3-3 tie. Allie Reynolds, fifth Yankee pitcher and 18th player used by Manager Casey Stengel, was the victim of the blow. President Eisenhower, who threw out the first ball, stayed right to the end.

Jim Greenwag cracked four doubles, tying a major league record, in Cincinnati's first opening-day victory since 1949. The Redlegs clouted 13 hits against four Braves' hurlers. Mathews' two home runs were solo shots.

Philadelphia's triumph over the Red Sox was dimmed by a recurrence of the arm injury to Bobby Shantz that had sidelined the little Athletics' southpaw most of the 1963 season. Shantz was ahead 5-2 when he suddenly stopped the game in the top of the sixth and complained of an aching arm. He was sent to a hospital for examination. Gus Zernial's two-run homer and ex-Yankee Bill Renna's first-inning double with the bases loaded paced Shantz to victory.

Held runless by Robin Roberts through seven innings, the Pirates pounced on the Philly ace and Jim Konstanty, his reliever, for four runs in the eighth to pull the game out of the fire. After rookie Bob Skinner's pinch-hit single tied the score, Hal Rice doubled to drive in the winning run.

Successive fourth-inning home runs by Wally Westlake and George Strickland opened the gates for the Indians, who staged a 15-hit assault on Billy Pierce and three relievers to gain their one-sided victory in Chicago.

Stan Hack's managerial debut was a marked success as his cub shelled starter Harvey Haddix and four other St. Louis hurlers for 16 hits while southpaw Paul Minner was handcuffing the rookie-sprinkled Cardinals to six safeties.

The day's largest crowd—46,894—watched Baltimore make an ignominious return to the American League after 32 years. Detroit's Steve Gromek shut them out with seven hits and fanned nine.

Herald and News SPORTS

CLAYTON HANNON, Sports Editor

Rickys Take 'A' Lead In Men's Pin Tourney

Rickys took over undisputed possession of first place in the 19th annual Men's City Bowling tournament at Lucky Lanes last night.

The jewelry team led by Jim Crismon completely dropped the previous high teams out of the top three spots with their 2973 total for last night's action.

All three top places were changed by last evening's alley warfare. VFW moved into the number two spot with a 2881 score and Elks slipped into third place ahead of Stone's Signal with their 2846 pins.

In class B action, Consolidated continues to hold the lead, and with only a few more teams to roll in class B, it looks as if the Freightways team has the inside track for the B team championship if one of these teams doesn't upset them tonight.

Summers Lane Tavern and Mac's Store hold down the second and third place positions in tourney play for B teams with scores of 2868 and 2844.

In individual play last night, Crismon, of Rickys, turned in a 559 total to take high series with lines of 180-177-202. Joe Cox was second to Crismon with a 554 score for the evenings action.

In class B individual action, Robert Rutter put together lines of 178-155-211 for a top series score of 544. Bill McKelg was second with a series total of 530.

Reg Ashworth led the individual game scoring with a 213 line and Rutter came in second with his 211.

Tenent action will finish tonight at Lucky Lanes and the A and B

LaMotta Returns To Ring

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (U-P)—More than a year after a brutal beating by Danny Nardico sent him into retirement, former middleweight champion Jake LaMotta will be seen on television tonight in a comeback effort against Billy Kilgore of Miami.

The Bronx Bull has been made a 3-1 favorite over the unrated Kilgore in 10-round main event which will be telecast by the Columbia Broadcasting System.

It starts at 10 p.m., EST. Nardico stopped LaMotta in Miami on New Year's Eve, 1952. The Tampa toughie knocked Jake down for the first time in his career, then beat the helpless ex-champ so badly he was unable to come out for the eighth round.

"I felt sick and washed up after that," LaMotta said. "I could have kept on fighting. I turned down some good offers to fight Nardico again and to meet Bobo Olson and Randy Turpin. I didn't feel like fighting any more."

"Then my weight crawled up to 195 and I felt lousy. I went back to training and got down to 168 and began feeling great again."

"In the gym, I flattened some pretty good guys who're still fighting. That convinced me I had enough left to come back. I'm only 32 and I think I'll do all right against the middleweights and the light heavies they're not now."

LaMotta lifted the middleweight crown from Marcel Cerdan in 1949 and lost it to Sugar Ray Robinson in 1951.

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Pelicans Meet Medford

The Klamath Union High School Pelicans will journey to Medford tomorrow afternoon to meet the Tornado baseball team in what is a must for both teams.

Both the Pelis and Medford have dropped two games to league leading Grants Pass, and if either team expects to come through with the district title they must win both games tomorrow.

The Pelicans, under John McGinnis, will send Gary Williams and



DAVE D'OLIVO

Dave D'Olivo against the Medford ball club and Modesto Jimenez will probably get the nod for the catching assignment for the Klamath squad.

The infield will consist of Bill Hamblin at first, Gene Metter or Ron Conner at second, Don Dexter at short, and Eddie Bigby at third. Larry Yarnell, Dave Leeling,

Just as the basketball season ended, Jim McDermott switched his attention to baseball. He coaches both sports at Iona College, New Rochelle, N.Y.

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Vernon Takes Home Run Blow In Stride

WASHINGTON (U-P)—Mickey Vernon took it like the old pro he is, the dramatic 10th inning home run and the handshake from the President of the United States.

But, Vernon conceded Wednesday, "It was just about the biggest thrill I ever had."

That takes in a lot of territory, for Vernon, the 35-year-old first baseman for the Washington Senators, has won the American League batting championship twice and broken up more than his share of ball games with game-winning hits.

His 10th inning blast Tuesday gave the Senators a 5-3 victory over the New York Yankees.

And after Mickey had trotted around the bases to the cheers of

27,160 spectators, President Eisenhower called him over to shake his hand.

What did Eisenhower say?

"He said he was glad to see me come through," Vernon said, "I don't remember his exact words."

The ball Vernon hit was delivered by Allie Reynolds, the great Yankee veteran and the fifth New York pitcher. Eddie Yost was

he dropped a throw. But all was forgotten in the 10th inning.

Vernon connected.

The blast shot over the scoreboard in right centerfield. That's a distance of about 450 feet.

Vernon, who won the American League batting championship last season, had failed to hit safely in his first four times at bat, although three of those outs were well tagged. And he had come up with one of his rare errors when

Bickle KO's Al Moore

SALT LAKE CITY (U-P)—Bobby Bickle, 132, Kansas City, knocked out Al Moore, 133, Oakland, Calif., in the ninth round of their scheduled 10-round main event Tuesday night.

In preliminary bouts, Roger Ritchie, 179, Oakland, gained a split decision over Max Chris, 183,

Toole, Utah; Don Ernsen, 133, Salt Lake City, outpointed Bobby Doll, 137, Spokane; Willie Price, Salt Lake City, 128, decisioned Warren Culver, 129, Boise, Idaho, and Tony Salazar, 134, Salt Lake City, knocked out George Mocabey, 139, Boise, in the second round.

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