

Screwball Season Ahead For Majors As First Intersectional Test Arrives

Cleveland Benches .419 Hitter

By JACK HAND
AP Sports Writer

Blame it on the weather, the 11-bomb of the McCarthy bearings, but this looks like one screwball baseball season.

Ransom Jackson hits like the late Shoeless Joe Jackson. The New York Giants win three straight shutouts. Cleveland benches a .419-hitting first baseman. The New York Yankees bat a sour .220 while the Chicago Cubs slug at .326. Rookies Wally Moon of the St. Louis Cardinals and Bill Tuttle of Detroit ride in the 400-plus stratosphere.

Now comes the showdown, the majors first shakedown cruise of the season with the first intersectional tests. It's about time.

The Chicago White Sox come East in first place, winning seven of their last eight and ready to take advantage of the Yankees' spotty spring form.

FORMER YANKEE
Paul Richards, who has contended all along that "the Yanks can be beaten," lists a former Yankee, Don Johnson, to open in Yankee Stadium today. With Nellie Fox and Johnny Groth among the top 10 hitters, Ferris Fain tops in runs batted in and Grady Hatton relieving Minnie Miñoso of his third-base chores, the Sox look like a formidable challenger to the Yanks.

The Yanks haven't been able to hit any kind of pitching, left or right. Although every manager saves up the southpaws for New York, they were shut out Saturday by a rookie right-hander, Bob Trice, of Philadelphia.

Detroit, a real surprise in the first two weeks, opens its first trip in Philadelphia, where the "new look" A's appear tougher than usual. Tuttle, the Tigers' new center fielder, is off to a fine start but it's too early to buy him as a "phenom."

SWITCH
The East will watch with interest Cleveland's switch of Al Rosen to first to make room for rookie Rudy Regalado. The move, of course, sent Bill Glynn (.419) to the bench. The Indians open in Boston today against the Red Sox, who have been hurt badly by the injury to Mel Parrell, following Ted Williams' broken collarbone. Both the Indians and Red Sox have been struggling so far, playing under .500.

It seems odd to call Baltimore a "Western" team, but the Orioles open their tour by coming "East" to Washington tonight. After getting six complete games from the pitching staff in the first eight starts, the Orioles ran into trouble at Chicago over the weekend. To get them back on the right path, the Orioles plan on starting Bob Turley, who lost a toughie to Cleveland in his last start, against the Senators.

REVERSIBLE
Brooklyn goes West, opening tonight at St. Louis, with a half-game lead and a reversible lineup. New Manager Walt Alston shook up the Dodgers for the second game in Pittsburgh Sunday but probably will go back to normal against the Cards' Gerry Staley. Preacher Roe, who hasn't worked in a week, will oppose Staley.

Ruben Gomez, knocked out in his first two starts, will try to extend the New York Giants' string of shutouts to four at Milwaukee against Bob Buhl.

The Phillies, who haven't scored a run since last Wednesday, open at Chicago, where Jackson is hitting .500. Dee Fondy .357, Gene Baker and Hank Bauer each .333. Although Pittsburgh still is in the cellar, the new Pirates continue to surprise everybody. They go into Cincinnati for a night game with Max Surkont ready to oppose rookie Corky Valentine.

Veteran Keger Moves Into Top Ten of Singles

SEATTLE (AP) — A veteran Spokane trundler making his third try for American Bowling Congress honors shouldered into the top ten of the singles division at the 51st ABC tournament Monday.

George Ecker, who has been bowling 51 of his 67 years, rolled a 712 pinfall to take over third place in the singles. His games were 232, 254 and 226.

Earl's total dropped Leo Rollick of Richland, Wash., out of the top ten. Rollick's 681 pushed him in to the upper brackets April 4.

In another standings change, Harry Livesey Jr., of Missoula, Mont., an ice foreman for the Northern Pacific Railway, fired a 1928 total to take over third place in the all-events ladder. Livesey totaled 630 in team competition, 681 in doubles and 617 in singles.

Dr. John Merryman and Dick Miller took top spots in the best ball tournament that was held at Reames Golf and Country Club the past two weekends.

The Merryman-Miller combination shot a 57-69-126 total for low net honors and their 67-79-144 was good enough to take the first spot in the low gross division.

Runnerup spots went to Ed Robison and Andy Toyley who had a 132 low net total and the team of Moon Mullis and Ted Bingham shot a 153 low gross score.

SPORTS

CLAYTON HANNON, Sports Editor

Richards Sees Pennant

NEW YORK (NEA) — Paul Richards agrees with a lot of other people — that the Yankees can be taken.

The question is by whom, but Manager Richards even has the answer to this one. The tall Texan picks his White Sox to win their first pennant in 35 years.

Richards then turns right around and builds a stronger case than ever for the World Champions.

"They can still beat any club in three big ways — batting, fielding and team speed," he stresses. "They have more batting and fielding speed, as a team, than the rest of us put together. In a relay race, they could beat every one of us, without even trying."

Then how in the world does Richards plan to end the New York Yankees' unprecedented run?

"By outpitching them," he says. "That might be Richards' opinion, but his best story has to do with what has made the Bronx party so outstanding."

It long has been accepted that Phil Rizzuto is a key to Yankee supremacy. Richards puts the finger on Yogi Berra as another. In a magazine called Real, Richards gives a real good description of the immitable catcher.

"Yogi is the best catcher in baseball, with all due respect to Roy Campanella," he testifies. "Campanella's only advantage over Berra is that he looks human."

"Yogi has the fascinating knack of throwing the other clubs completely off guard at the most inopportune moments — inopportune for the opposition, that is."

"He loves to hide behind the impression that he just arrived in the majors on a load of pumpkins."

"He runs slowly when it takes



PAUL RICHARDS
... his pennant!!!

no difference, and then pours on fantastic speed when it counts.

"Behind the plate he chatters incessantly at the opposition, but his mind usually is a good step ahead of anybody else's strategy. I find it impossible to get the most out of our running strategy on the bases when Berra is catching."

"He works hard at fooling sports writers into concentrating mostly on his clownish antics, but he's like an Einstein in the baggy pants of the village idiot."

Richards relates how he had nightmares and indigestion and hoped only for the day when he could close his eyes without seeing Philip Rizzuto prancing and jumping all over the place.

"Rizzuto is the smartest player in baseball," he assures you. "He makes managing the Yanks even more simple than it seems. His intelligence pays off in the performance of teammates."

"That guy has managed to beat my club in almost every conceivable fashion: getting a hit; working the pitcher for a crucial walk; stealing; purposely being hit by a pitched ball; pulling a squeeze bunt with a runner on third; and again with men on third and second; and staging a hit-run single with runners moving from first and third. A special headache has been his ability to move in front of what appeared to be sure-fire hits from his position at shortstop."

Paul Richards considers the Yankee outfield head and shoulders the best in baseball.

It has yet to be demonstrated that the pitching is deplorably weak.

So we might as well get used to putting up with the Yankees for another year.

Portland, Suds Meet New Foes

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The bruised and battered Seattle Ramblers take on Sacramento, and San Diego—the team that did most of the battering—visits Portland Tuesday as the Pacific Coast League enters the fourth week of the 1954 season.

Seattle Manager Gerry Priddy tapped Vern Kindsfater to start against Chet Johnson in the opener of the 7-game stand against Sacramento. Red Adams will open for Portland against the Padres Ed Brault.

While Kindsfater was slated to take the mound at Seattle, manager Priddy, with seven injured players on his hands, was uncertain who else would be in the lineup. Priddy himself was nursing a stiff neck, the result of a fight with San Diego catcher Red Mathis last week.

Also on the ailing list was Jackie Toland and Bob Wellman, injured in an outfield collision Sunday. George Schmees, knocked out in a crash against the fence Sunday, Ray Ortega, being treated for a pulled groin muscle; Al Zarilla, recovering from an ankle injury; Tommy Loverich, split finger on pitching hand, and Don Mallott, benched with sore thigh muscle.

San Diego also is showing the effects of the brawling series at Seattle and will open at Portland with a substitute catcher behind the plate. Mathis fractured an arm in the brawl with Priddy and other players last Saturday and doctors said he probably will be out for the season.

In other Tuesday openers, Oakland, now leading the league by half a game, visits Los Angeles, and Hollywood goes after San Francisco.

Jackson Beaten By Jimmy Slade

NEW YORK (AP) — The hurricane season is on the wane in the heavyweight ranks.

Hurricane Tommy Jackson, who climbed from prelim No. 3 to No. 1, was defeated in three rounds by Jimmy Slade.

Slade exposed Jackson's weakness for a well-planned retreat with flashing counter-fists while winning a unanimous 10-round decision Monday night at Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway.

Judge Bert Grant had it 7-3. Judge Americo Schiavone 6-4 and Referee Barney Felix 5-4-1.

It was Jackson's second defeat in his 19-bout career. He zoomed to the top by knocking out Rex Layne in his first main event, whipping Clarence Henry and then stopping Dan Buccerelli, all in 1954. On the strength of those scraps he was an 18-5 favorite and many among the crowd of 3,500 paying \$10,000 went down with him.

There were no knockdowns, although Jackson slipped to the floor three times and Slade fell through the ropes once. Once they even stopped to stick out their tongues at one another.

"Think you're funny, eh," said Jackson, according to Slade.

Slade tore into Jackson's body in the first round, then artfully retreated to make Jackson mites with wild punches. Only in the fifth, eighth and 10th did Jackson burn with his old time hurricane spirit.

BONUS FOR DEER HUNTERS
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Deer hunters are likely to get a bonus in Utah this year because the animals are thriving so mightily in some areas that they're eating themselves out of house and home.

The situation, which arises periodically in nearly all the important deer states, probably will be met here by special early, late and two-deer hunts in overcrowded areas.

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TIME OUT

"Plenty of fellows use an old ball here, but McTavish is the only one I know who uses an old tee!"

GAME POSTPONED

This afternoon's doubleheader between Oregon Tech and Southern Oregon College was postponed because of rain and wet grounds.

OTI coach Art Kirkland told the Herald and News this morning that the game would probably be made up either May 11 or 17.

Armory Wrestling Canceled

Mack Lillard announced yesterday afternoon that there will not be any wrestling this Wednesday night, and probably none a week from now, because of the lack of good wrestlers in this locality.

He stated that he could not supply the fans with a card of good wrestlers so would rather pass these next two weeks by.

Another reason was that the boxing and wrestling commission is going to shut the works on May 7, when they will have one of the best boxing main events ever held in Klamath Falls.

Jarvis Jimmy Byrne, the Portland heavyweight, who hasn't been able to find anyone to stay with him in his last five fights, two of them in Klamath, will meet a tough test in Andy Walker.

Walker has a long list of fights and will have the advantage over Byrne as far as ring experience is concerned.

in BRIEF

BASEBALL
NEW YORK (AP) — Roy Campanella, Brooklyn's all-star catcher, revealed he has been playing the first two weeks of the season with a broken left hand.

BASKETBALL
NEW YORK (AP) — Bevo Francis and New Oliver signed with the Harlem Globetrotters in a package deal calling for approximately \$30,000.

LINCOLN, Neb. — Gerald L. (Jerry) Bush was named head coach at the University of Nebraska succeeding Harry Gold.

PINEHURST, N.C. — Ben Goodes of Reidsville, N.C., had a 68 to win the qualifying medal in the 54th North and South Amateur Tournament.

TENNIS
NEW YORK (AP) — Tony Trabert easily handled Vic Seixas, 6-2, 6-4 in the opening match of the National Round-Robin Championship.

Scoreboard
COLLEGE SPORTS
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
BASEBALL
Washington 18, Oregon 2
Washington State 5, Idaho 3

GOLF
Seattle 13, Oregon 5
Portland State 24 1/2, Pacific 2 1/2

Martin's Discharge Runs Into Opposition

FT. ORD, Calif. (AP) — Army Pvt. Billy Martin, seeking a hardship discharge so the New York Yankees can fatten his assertedly depleted bank account, is encountering opposition from his sports loving commanding general.

Maj. Gen. Robert McClure told a news conference Monday he is recommending that the star second baseman's discharge request be denied.

That isn't all, McClure said

Martin's name—along with those of many other trainees—is being forwarded to Washington Saturday for reassignment, possibly overseas.

McClure, an avowed sports fan, indicated he doesn't feel Martin is a hardship case. Said McClure: "The draft board investigated the situation before they redrafted him. Besides, Martin came to camp driving a baby blue Cadillac. Anyone with a car like that can't be broke."

But Martin, who got out of the Army after five months' service in 1952 on similar grounds, told a different story. The 1953 World Series star said money earned in past years was "not so much and it's all gone."

As a private, he gets \$80 a month and \$135 a month for dependents. But he said in addition to supporting his mother, sister and stepfather he must—by court order—pay \$150 a month to his estranged wife for herself and their infant daughter.

McClure said the final decision on Martin's application will be made by 6th army headquarters in San Francisco.

EX-BIG LEAGUERS
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The starting lineup of the Oakland Oaks in the Pacific Coast League includes many ex-major league performers. Third baseman Johnny Jorgensen was with the Dodgers and Giants. First baseman Sam Chapman is a former star for the Athletics. Outfielder Bill Howerton once played for the Cardinals.

Pitcher Al Gettel hurried for the Charlie Dressen who last season piloted the Dodgers to the National League flag.

Newt Oliver, Bevo Signed By Boston

NEW YORK (AP) — Bevo Francis and Newt Oliver, the combination that put little Rio Grande College on the map, will try to do the same for the Boston Whirlwinds, a professional basketball team.

Francis, who has made headlines the last two years as a high scorer, and Oliver, his coach, were signed Monday in a package deal estimated at \$30,000 by Abe Saperstein, owner of the Harlem Globetrotters.

Saperstein also owns the Whirlwinds. The contract was for one year with a one year option.

Francis was expelled from Rio Grande two weeks ago for not keeping up his classwork and Oliver resigned shortly thereafter.

THREE-TIME CAPTAIN
MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — Jack Daniels will be the 1954 Montana University swimming captain. It is the third straight year that the swimming team has elected Daniels, backstroke swimmer from Helmville. And it is the first time in the school's history that an athlete has been elected captain of a varsity team three consecutive years.

FIGHTS LAST NIGHT

BROOKLYN — Jimmy Slade, 181 1/2, New York, outpointed Tommy (Hurricane) Jackson, 194 1/2, New York, 10.

HOLYOKE, Mass. — Bobby Courchesne, 128, Chicopee, Mass., stopped Johnny Lemmons, 124, Brooklyn, 1.

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — Tony Grasso, 126, New Britain, outpointed Joe Guillelte, 124, Lawrence, Mass., 8.

LEICESTER, England — Uber Bacilieri, 196, Italy, outpointed Edward (Poly) Smith, 181 3/4, Bermuda, 10.

SAN FRANCISCO — Ruben Hernandez, 155 1/2, San Francisco, stopped Jiggs Reed, 149, Oakland, 8.

14 Lettermen Greet Casanova
EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — Coach Len Casanova greeted 52 players including 14 lettermen Monday in the first spring football practice session at the University of Oregon.

Returning lettermen included Capt. Ron Pfeister, tackles Hal Reeve, Harry Johnson, Lon Stiner and Dave Lowe; guards Jack Patena and Jerry Nelson; ends John Reed, Dick Mobley and Chuck Greenley; quarterback Don Holt; halfbacks Walt Gaffney and Lloyd Powell and fullbacks Dean Van Leuven and Larry Rose.

Quarterback George Shaw and four other lettermen are competing in spring sports and will not take part in the football drills.

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Pale Hose, Giants Support Experts

BY GAYLE TALBOT
NEW YORK (AP) — Those experts who had the moral fiber to go against the book and pick either the Chicago White Sox or the New York Giants, or both, to win the pennant in their respective leagues suddenly are in position to point with pride as the first important intersectional tests open today.

The Giants, invading the hostile West, are riding high on the wings of three successive shutout victories from the Phillies, having almost overnight vaulted from their league cellar into hot contending position and demonstrated in the process that their pitching is back at its '51 level. It was good enough that year to win a flag down, the club was riding the clouds when it pulled out for Milwaukee last night. The common thought in the party was that the most important test will come when the veteran Larry Jansen tries his luck, probably in the second game against the Braves. Jansen looked fine in exhibitions out West, but has been handicapped by groin trouble lately.

As for the White Sox, they be-

gan to look exactly like the ball club that their manager, Paul Richards, said they would be. They were in first place as they collided with the team they have to beat, the champion Yankees, at the Stadium here today. The opportunity was there for them to strike a telling blow at Casey Stengel's wobbling forces.

As Richards dreamed all spring, his first baseman, Ferris Fain, appears to have regained his batting eye after an inexplicable lapse into mediocrity last season. Fain is knocking in runs again, and Grady Hatton, obtained recently from Cincinnati, seems to be the nearest thing to an adequate third baseman the Sox have had lately.

One of the most important pieces of news at this stage concerns Mickey Maule and the failure of the Yankee "phenom" to hit, especially when he swings lefty. The kid goes West packing a batting average of .167. He had not made a hit in his past 10 tries against right-hand pitching and had struck out seven times in that stretch.

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WASHED UP EQUIPMENT
TABOR, Iowa (AP) — The Tabor High School track team needed some new equipment. It also needed some money to buy it. So the boys washed 50 cars for a dollar a car—and got their equipment.

WHAT'S THIS?

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