

Cards Move Into First With Power Hitting

Pitching Possible Problem

By BEN PILEGAR
AP Sports Writer

Can the St. Louis Cardinals keep up their tremendous hitting long enough for Eddie Blanton to long out if he finally has solved his pitching problems?

If they can, the skin-tight National League pennant race may soon start coming apart at the seams.

The Cardinals arrived home from the East today, a game and a half in front of the nearest of the closely bunched contenders. On the road they won 9 of 14 games, including a 17-4 runaway at Pittsburgh last night.

Of even more importance to the Cards was the blossoming of Tom Poholsky as a starting pitcher. The big right-hander was used twice on the trip. He lost a 1-0 heartbreaker in Brooklyn, where he allowed only three hits. And he went the distance again last night against the last-place Pirates.

St. Louis pitching, the club's biggest question mark from the very start of spring training, has left a lot to be desired. Manager Stankey has been using Harvey Haddix, Gerry Staley and Vic Raschi. Then he closes his eyes, pulls a name out of the hat and hopes.

At one time or another everybody except Raschi, the \$75,000 acquisition from the New York Yankees, has been blasted. Seven times the Cardinals' rivals have scored 10 or more runs.

No wonder Poholsky, fresh from two years in the Army, looks good. While the pitching has been shaky, the hitting has been amazing. The team batting average is .295 and five of the regulars are over .300, topped by Ray Jablonski at .374 and Stan Musial at .367, top men in the league.

Even Poholsky got into the hitting act last night. He singled three times in three official times at bat, sacrificed once and drove in four runs. Musial drove in four with his 13th home run and a triple.

The Cardinals scored six runs in the first inning, one in the fourth, seven in the seventh and three in the eighth for their highest total of the season.

Even though they lead the league by a game and a half, the Cardinals are all even in the "games lost" column with the seventh-place Chicago Cubs. The Cubs have lost 14 of 28, the Cardinals 14 of 23.

Jammed in between are Brooklyn and Philadelphia, tied for second; Milwaukee in fourth; New York, fifth; and Cincinnati, sixth.

No other games were played in the majors yesterday. The Giants were scheduled in Philadelphia but were rained out.

The Friday action, as usual is almost entirely at night. The only day game matches Milwaukee against the Cubs in Chicago. St. Louis entertains Cincinnati. New York is at Philadelphia and the Pirates limp into Brooklyn.

In the American League the Yankees play their first home night game, with Boston furnishing the opposition. Baltimore goes to Cleveland, Chicago to Detroit and Philadelphia to Washington.

Giardello Meets Pierre Langlois

NEW YORK (AP) — Joey Giardello's reaction to the Bobo Olson-Rocky Castellani title fight announcement is the key to his midweight bout with Pierre Langlois Friday night at Madison Square Garden.

If Giardello, the No. 1 contender, decides to take out his disappointment on Langlois, the Frenchman could be his fourth straight knockout victim. If Joey still is deeply disturbed about being bypassed by the champ, he may not be in the mood for a top effort.

Although Giardello has been promised an October shot at the champ, there are two big "ifs": 1. Olson must not lose to Castellani; 2. Giardello must not lose to anybody.

Giardello is a solid 1 to 5 favorite in the 10-round televised match.

Notre Dame not only produces outstanding football and basketball teams but also topnotch track squads. This year the tracksters won the indoor Central Collegiate Conference championship.



THURSDAY'S BASEBALL

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	19	4	.76	
Philadelphia	16	14	.533	1 1/2
Brooklyn	16	14	.533	1 1/2
Milwaukee	15	14	.517	2
New York	16	15	.516	2
Cincinnati	17	16	.515	2
Chicago	14	14	.500	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	11	23	.324	8 1/2

Thursday's Results
St. Louis 17, Pittsburgh 4
New York at Philadelphia, rain
Only games scheduled

American League standings unchanged. No games Thursday.

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Hollywood	25	19	.568	
Sacramento	25	20	.556	1/2
Oakland	24	22	.522	2
San Diego	23	22	.511	2 1/2
Seattle	22	23	.489	3
Los Angeles	22	24	.478	4
Portland	20	24	.455	5
San Francisco	19	26	.422	6 1/2

Thursday's Results
Los Angeles 8, Seattle 3
Oakland 6, San Diego 3
Hollywood 6, Sacramento 1
San Francisco 5, Portland 3

Western International League

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Vancouver	15	8	.652	
Edmonton	19	8	.556	2 1/2
Lewiston	12	10	.545	2 1/2
Victoria	12	10	.545	2 1/2
Spokane	12	10	.545	2 1/2
Yakima	12	11	.522	3
Wenatchee	10	12	.455	4 1/2
Salem	10	13	.435	5
Calgary	7	11	.389	8 1/2
Tri-City	8	15	.343	7

Thursday's Results
Vancouver 10, Victoria 9 (10 innings)
Edmonton 5, Wenatchee 4 (10 innings)
Calgary 9, Yakima 8
Spokane 1, Lewiston 0
Salem and Tri-City not scheduled

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
Montreal 4, Buffalo 3
Havana 7, Ottawa 2
Richmond 3, Syracuse 1
Only games scheduled

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Minneapolis 1, Kansas City 0
St. Paul 3, Indianapolis 0
Other games postponed

TEXAS LEAGUE

Tulsa 3-6, Fort Worth 2-4
Shreveport 3, Beaumont 1
Oklahoma City 4, Dallas 3
San Antonio 6, Houston 1

PIONEER LEAGUE

Hillings 9, Great Falls 1
Only game

THURSDAY'S FIGHTS

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEWARK, N.J.—Harold Carter, 187 1/2, Linden, N.J., outpointed Bobby Slaughter, 174, Philadelphia 8.

LIVERPOOL — Pat McAteer, England, stopped Francois Wahl, Belgium, 3 (middleweights).

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Len Walters, 127, Vancouver, outpointed Rueben Smith, 126, Los Angeles 10.



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ND Pressure Lies On Ducks

NORTHERN DIVISION
The standings, opening the final meet of the pressure was on the Oregon Ducks.

Team	W	L	Pct.
Oregon State	19	4	.714
Oregon	9	5	.643
Washington	7	5	.583
Washington State	7	7	.500
Idaho	1	13	.071

Northern Division baseball teams opened the final weekend of the 1954 campaign Friday and most of the pressure was on the Oregon Ducks.

Oregon State held a one-game edge going into the last two contests with Oregon and a Friday victory would put the league title out of the reach of the Ducks.

An Oregon win, however, would tie the teams on top the standings and leave the championship to be settled in the finale Saturday.

It also would leave the door open for Washington to creep in to tie the Ducks for the crown, still a mathematical possibility. The Huskies have four games left, two with Idaho and two with Washington State.

They could deadlock the race, but that would require a sweep of the games at Moscow and Pullman plus a double victory by Oregon.

At stake in the weekend competition, beside the league title, is a berth in the Far West NCAA playoff May 29-31. The winner will compete against Southern California, the Southern Division winner, and Seattle University and Fresno State, two at-large teams, for a berth in the national NCAA finals at Omaha, Neb.

BALTIMORE — Bob Toski of Northampton, Mass., took the first round lead in the Eastern Open with a 6-under-par 66.

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BALTIMORE — "Saturday doubtful" said the forecaster about the weather and it applied very well to tomorrow's Preakness, in which 11 young horses will whirl around old Pimlico for \$140,150 in prize money.

Although the supposedly well informed lean heavily toward either Robert S. Lytle's Correlation or Hasty House Farm's Hasty Road as the likely winner, this is a year so far in which it's a wide-open race for the best 3-year-old.

It began when such highly touted prospects as Turn To and Porterhouse were put out of action with injuries early. Then Determine came along to win the May 1 Kentucky Derby, first of the triple-crown classics which bear heavily on selection of the 3-year-old champ. Determine's owner, Andy Crevalin, has left the door open now by keeping him out of the Preakness, saying he didn't want "to press his luck."

So tomorrow's winner of the 78th Preakness will be a strong claimant to the year's honor until the Belmont, last leg of the triple crown on June 12.

Correlation probably will be made the 8-5 betting favorite of the expected crowd of 35,000 tomorrow. This is despite his disappointing sixth in the Derby in the same role. Hasty Road was second in the Derby. But since then, Correlation headed off Hasty Road in the Preakness Prep Monday.

Expectations also are likely to be roused up if the rain of yesterday should be repeated Saturday. No one speaking for the 11 entries expressed concern over a slow track, but several admitted they weren't sure how their charges would react to one.

The race will be broadcast over KFLW, the CBS station in Klamath Falls, starting at 1:30 p.m.

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Preakness Race Weather Doubtful

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