

Cleveland Stretches American League Lead

Clubs On Road Again

By BEN PHILGAR

AP Sports Writer

The major league ball clubs were on the move again today wondering what ever became of home sweet home.

Back in the Old Days — that elusive period when everything was better — the teams counted on building up a nice bulge on the opposition during long home stands as protection against the ravages of Pullman jumps.

But home isn't like that any more, especially in the National League.

Seven of the eight senior circuit teams can't win for losing in their own parks this year. The single exception is the New York Giants.

The Giants have won 13 and lost 8 in the Polo Grounds. Next best home record is Brooklyn's 9-10.

If things continue to go as they have so far, the immediate future looks bright for Giant fans. Both the Dodgers and Giants open long home stands tonight—The Dodgers a 14th and the Giants a 15th.

Who's 14th mark is the best record in the league, and the Giants against the Cincinnati Redlegs, who are 11-11 away from home.

In the American League, Cleveland, Chicago and New York, 1-2-3 in the standings, own winning records both at home and away. Of the other five, Philadelphia is even at home and the others haven't been able to keep on the plus side regardless of where they've played.

Just as the Giants' prospects look bright, so do the immediate hopes of the league-leading Indians. Cleveland has the best home record in either league—16 victories and 6 defeats—and opens a 13-game home stand tonight, against Washington.

Cleveland stretched its lead to two games over Chicago yesterday by beating Boston for the fifth straight time. The score was 13-5 with the Indians unloading 22 hits against Bill Henry, Tom Herrin and Tom Brewer. The game was the only action in the American League.

In the National League's single contest, the Chicago Cubs defeated the Pirates at Pittsburgh 6-0. Hank Sauer's 20th home run, with Ralph Kiner on base, gave the Cubs the deciding run.

The road clubs took the honors in the inter-sectional battles just completed. In the National League the East, led by New York and Brooklyn, mopped up in the West. 31 games to 17. The touring Western teams beat the East 30-27 in the American.

Ted Williams Confined To Hotel Suite

BOSTON (AP)—Ted Williams, Boston's power-hitting outfielder, was still confined to his hotel suite today with a virus infection that will keep him from joining the Red Sox for an indefinite period of time.

Williams has been out of action for nine days but only yesterday, when the team explained for Detroit for the start of a Western trip, was the seriousness of his ailment revealed.

"Williams has a viral infection of the right lung, bordering on pneumonia," said team physician Dr. Timothy Lamphier.



TIED UP . . . Trainer Jimmy Brown, left, says Ezzard Charles "won't be standing around smiling" when his fighter and Rocky Marciano meet June 17 for the world's championship. The challenger's sparring partner is Al Smith.

Majors Looking At Late Trades

NEW YORK (AP)—Max Surkont and Vern Law, the only Pittsburgh pitchers who have won more than two games, appeared to be the players most sought after today in the hours before the midnight deadline on major league baseball trades.

The St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs both have talked deals with the Pirates involving the pitchers but so far nothing concrete has developed.

The Cubs, 11 games out of first place, probably could not be considered strong pennant contenders unless they could land both men, but the Cardinals, 6½ behind, might still be dangerous with the addition of only one consistent pitcher.

Chicago beat Surkont last night.

Solons Meet In Ball Game

WASHINGTON (AP)—Politics and baseball mix Tuesday night as a picked team of Democrats sets out to defend a six-year winning streak against an up-and-coming Republican team in the annual congressional baseball game.

The game — it's for charity — is billed for five innings under the lights at Griffith Stadium. Vice President Nixon will throw out the first ball.

Three Pacific Northwest congressmen will be playing for the Republicans. Rep. Tolleson of Washington is scheduled to hold down third base, with Reps. Coon of Oregon working behind the plate and Budge of Idaho as shortstop.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
PITCHING—Paul Minner, Cubs — His relief pitching checked Pirates' late inning rally as Chicago won 6-0.

BATTING — George Strickland, Indians—Drove in three runs with homer in Cleveland's 13-5 victory over the Red Sox.

Marciano Powerful Despite Faults

By JIMMY BRESLIN
NEA Staff Correspondent
GROSSINGER, N.Y. — (NEA)

There are few frills attached to getting Rocky Marciano ready for his scheduled 15-round fight with Ezzard Charles at Yankee Stadium June 17.

Marciano has had only 10½ rounds of actual fighting in defense of the world heavyweight championship since winning it by beating Jersey Joe Walcott to a right hand lead in September, 1952, but Charley Goldman still prepares him in the same way.

This is not the type of fighter who needs prodding or a dose of reshaping. He does things on his own, from the moment he downs a glass of hot water and lemon

juice at 6:30 a.m. until his day ends at 10 at night.

Unlike his opponent for this, his third title defense, Marciano understands the meaning of viciousness. He knows a wicked pressing attack is what a puncher needs.

He knows what prize fighting has meant to him. It has brought him from a laborer's job in Brockton, Mass. He does not like the thought of anybody taking his championship.

You can see that when he and Al Colombo, his closest friend, walk out of the little white frame cottage on the fringes of Grossinger's mountain-top airport and begin to run.

Marciano runs with a purpose. His daily routine calls for five

rules and he follows it, jogging along the hilly roads which surround his huge resort. Every 15 minutes or so, Rocky will cut down his stride and begin firing punches into the morning air, snorting and growling.

Sparring sessions follow the same pattern. He keeps his feet flat on the floor, advances in a weaving crouch. His thick legs do almost a complete kneed bend when he wants to get under a punch.

He still has the same faults. He still hooks with his left instead of jabbing. Reminded by his corner, he begins to shoot straight, wicked jabs.

When Rocky fires that damaging left hook, his right hand still drops. On the credit side, he hurts with

every punch he lands. His punches, when blocked, knot a man's arms up. Rocky begins to get mean as his sessions drag on. He turns every round into a war.

His every move is designed to get his body and jaw to the point where they can soak up punishment for any amount of time — and still leave him with the vitality to throw a punch at any time, a punch calculated to end the fight.

Even Marciano's exercises are far from relaxed. Rocky goes about his callisthenics for a solid hour.

Rocky talks about a fight as intensely as he trains. Carefully choosing his words, the mild-talking champ says:

"This could be as tough as the first Walcott fight. Charles is a good fighter and certainly won't be in there just for a pay night. This could easily be another Walcott. And that was tough."

Against Jersey Joe Walcott, Rocky Marciano still had that punch in the 13th round.

That's what he's getting ready for now.

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