



SPIKIT TO BURN ... Tommy Hurbert, 8, of Cleveland lost both hands under a switch engine when an infant. It hasn't bothered this youngster, however, who shows he can handle a fishing rod and reel and play golf a step ahead of kids his age. Despite his handicap, he has learned to hit a golf ball over 100 yards.

Lopez Finally Inherits Some Of Stengel's Luck

By HARRY GRAYSON
NEA Sports Editor

NEW YORK — (NEA) — Someone remarked to Al Lopez that he had caught up with Casey Stengel on platooning.

"I haven't platooned," said the manager of the Indians. "I've just had a lot of success with a little move here and there."

"Such as?"

"Switching (Bobby) Avila to shortstop and using (Heinie) Majeski at second base to get more hitting. That was the case when Majeski hit the three-run homer to give us a clean sweep of the season's series in Boston and a four-and-a-half game lead coming into Yankee Stadium."

"I used (Wally) Westlake in right field at Fenway Park because he was more likely to take advantage of that short left field wall than switch-hitting (Dave) Philley."

"(Bill) Glynn goes to first base in place of (Vic) Wertz for defensive purposes when we are ahead. 'Little things like that, but I wouldn't call it platooning.'"

"Maybe you finally have inherited some of Casey Stengel's luck," said one of the writers.

"Could be," beamed Senor Lopez.

Hank Greenberg cut in to remind you that with a little help from the outside and a break here and there, the Tribe easily could have won three of the last five pennants.

"We were due for a few breaks," said General Manager Greenberg. "For four years it was mighty frustrating to see the Yankees mop up the Red Sox in the closing days to beat us out. The Red Sox at last gave us a lift by beating the Yankees three straight on their last trip to Boston."

"I don't have to tell any baseball man that everything comes your way when you're winning. A club can't do anything right when it's losing."

"We have won numerous games this season under unusual circumstances that in another season easily might have gone the other way and left us in the rack. Coming into Yankee Stadium for the last time, we had won 28 games by one run."

There was the time Allie Reynolds and the Yankees had us beaten, 7-0, in the first inning. Then three relief pitchers pitched no hit ball for us until we won in the 10th, 8-7.

"Bob Lemon had an eight-run lead over the Yankees in the first inning. The first eight men scored, Lemon making the first out, but we had to struggle to win that one, 8-7."

When a club wins games like that, Greenberg, the old pro, admits he has to suspect it's the Indians' year, but he won't believe it until the last shot has been fired.

"No pennant is a cinch," he stressed, "when you have games left with the Yankees and White Sox."

It was recalled that Lopez, now riding the crest, wanted to quit a year ago.

The Indians were going badly in August, attendance was off. It appeared as though Lopez would finish third, instead of second for the third straight year. There was no word from Greenberg about next year.

Cincinnati beckoned Lopez and the Tampa Tactician, thinking he could be the savior.

Lewiston, B. C. — Lewiston and Vancouver meet here Wednesday night in the first game of their best-of-seven series for the Class A Western International League baseball pennant.

The WIL again played a split schedule this year with Vancouver winning the first half and Lewiston the second.

Pete Hernandez will pitch the opener for the home team, George Nicholas will start for the Idahoans.

The first three games of the series will be played at Capilano Stadium here Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The remaining games are scheduled for Lewiston.

The correct name of Kid Gavilan, world's welterweight champion, is Gerardo Gonzalez.

Women's Ball Teams Advance In Tournament

ORANGE, Calif. — The women's championship tournament of the American Softball Assn. moves into the quarter-final stages Wednesday with top games pitting St. Louis vs. Berkeley, Calif., and Orange vs. Buena Park, Calif.

The other quarterfinals in the winners' bracket of this double elimination tournament will be played Thursday.

The Olympia Canneries advanced Tuesday without even suiting up. The Canneries' opponents, a Detroit team, failed to make the trip so Olympia won by default (recorded as winning 7-0).

The Canneries next play Thursday against the winner of the Linden, N.J.-Minneapolis game.

Ira Hanford was the first apprentice jockey ever to win the Kentucky Derby. He won with Bold Venture in 1936.

AL Set For 'Casey's Last Stand'

College Grid Briefs

CORVALLIS — Wes Ediger, 6-foot-2 end, was singled out for praise by Oregon State coach Kip Taylor after Tuesday's football practice session.

Ediger, one of the team's co-captains, looked better than ever, Taylor said, in the scrimmage devoted mostly to passing and pass receiving.

Throwing to Ediger were quarterbacks Jim Withrow and Bob Clark. Ray Westfall, the Beavers' only other quarterback, missed Tuesday's drill because of a hand injury suffered Monday.

EUGENE — Coach Len Casanova held a "closed practice" session Tuesday as the University of Oregon football team prepared for its Northern Division opener against Idaho.

"Idaho has a new coach in Skip Staley and that means a new offense and a new defense about which we know nothing. That makes it a lot tougher to make plans for the game," Casanova said.

Backfield Coach John McKay praised his ball carriers but said there still were a few weak spots that needed work.

SEATTLE — Washington's Huskies polished up their kicking game as a major share of Tuesday's football drill was spent on punts, punt returns and tries-for-point.

The rest of the workout was devoted to a series of pass plays and some interception drills.

Two sophomore tackles scheduled for first-string duty were on the sidelines, and Coach Johnny Cherberg moved Ray Michanczyk, 230-pound end from Olympic Junior College at Bremerton, into a tackle berth to help take up the slack.

On the injured list were sophomores George Strugar of Renton and Bill Till of Walla Walla.

By BE PHLEGAR
AP Sports Writer

The world champion New York Yankees go West today. Barring miracles, they will be ex-champs by the time they get home.

Not since the last century has a band of Yankees headed into Indian territory with such a faint chance of survival.

The Yankees play 11 of their remaining 17 games on this tour of Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and Philadelphia. They now trail Cleveland by 4½ lengths.

While the Yankee covered wagon grinds around the circuit for the last time, the Indians will be happily ensconced in their wigwam on the banks of the sky blue waters, clipping off their foes one by one.

Ted Williams Has Chance To Top Hitters

NEW YORK — Ted Williams probably will win the American League batting championship this season, despite his injury-interrupted start and the prospect he will bat fewer than 400 times.

Williams, the "People's Choice," as he seeks his fifth title, currently is hitting .358 after 321 at bats. He is well ahead of Cleveland's Bobby Avila, who at 337 is the league leader on the basis of 350 at bats.

Always a strong September hitter, the Boston Red Sox slugger is surging at a .410 pace this month with 13 hits in 31 trips.

At his 1954 rate of 3.3 times at bat and 1.2 hits per game, Ted will finish with 380 at bats and 136 hits.

But here's the rub. The rule covering batting titles specifies that a player must bat at least 400 times officially to be considered as the leader. This holds true unless he still has the highest percentage after enough hitless at bats have been tacked onto his total to make 400.

In Williams' case, it would mean he would be charged with 20 times at bat, making his year's record read: "at bats—400; hits—136; average—.340." Of course, there is the possibility that Avila or Irv Noren of the New York Yankees, in third place at .333, will beat him out.

The big battle, which might go down in history as Casey's Last Stand, is set for Sunday when the Yankee caravan reaches Cleveland for a double-header.

The Yankees can't be eliminated positively until after that engagement.

Manager Stengel is gambling right at the start with Tommy Byrne tonight in Baltimore, which according to American League geography is West.

A wild man in his previous stints in the majors, Byrne was bought from Seattle last week in a desperation move. Tonight is his first start.

While the Cleveland Tribe stays home, that other bunch of wild Indians, the Milwaukee Braves, heads East in a lightning foray after the National League title.

The best road club in either league, the Braves open their 12-game tour in Pittsburgh trailing the league-leading New York Giants by 4½ games with 19 to play.

The trip includes Friday and Saturday games against the Brooklyn Dodgers, who are in third place and still are trying to find out how it happened, and a three-game set next week in the Polo Grounds starting Tuesday night.

The Giants picked up an important half game last night in an 11-inning thriller at Philadelphia, where they shaded the Phillies 3-1.

Only one other game was played in the majors. Washington edged Philadelphia 5-4 before a gathering of 460 fans, the smallest crowd ever to attend a game at Washington's Griffith Stadium.

Monte Irvin followed two walks with a double to the right field fence for two New York runs in the 11th. Davey Williams walked to start the inning and moved to second on a sacrifice. Curt Simmons struck out pinch hitter Eric Roden and walked Willie Mays intentionally, bringing up Irvin.

The Giants had scored a run in the second and Granny Hamner tied it with his 13th homer in the eighth. Simmons gave up only six hits in losing. Ruben Gomez, with help from Hoyt Wilhelm when the Phillies loaded the bases in the 11th, picked up his 14th victory.

The Dodgers, at home for 15 of their remaining 17 games, entertain St. Louis tonight in the first of two games.

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EASY ANGLING
DANIELSVILLE, Pa. — Everett Marsh won the presidency of the Danielsville Isaac Walton club the easy way.

Marsh was the only man to catch a legal fish in the Lappawinzo fishing contest here. He hooked a 12-inch rainbow trout by the tail.

He was named president of the club shortly thereafter on the basis of his catch.

Ring Program Slated Tonight By Moose Lodge

The local members of the Moose will put on their second smoker of the season tonight at the Moose Lodge, with a feature in a combatting Sheriff Murray "Red" Britton against Lew Jones, police chief of Chiloquin.

Several outstanding boxers from over the Basin have agreed to meet in tonight's program including a bout between Billy Sunday and Monty Montgomery. Other boxers who will be matched for the ring show are Duane McDaniels, Bobby Barney, Freddie Miller and several others.

Starting time is 8:00 and all members and their wives will be admitted free, according to a club spokesman.

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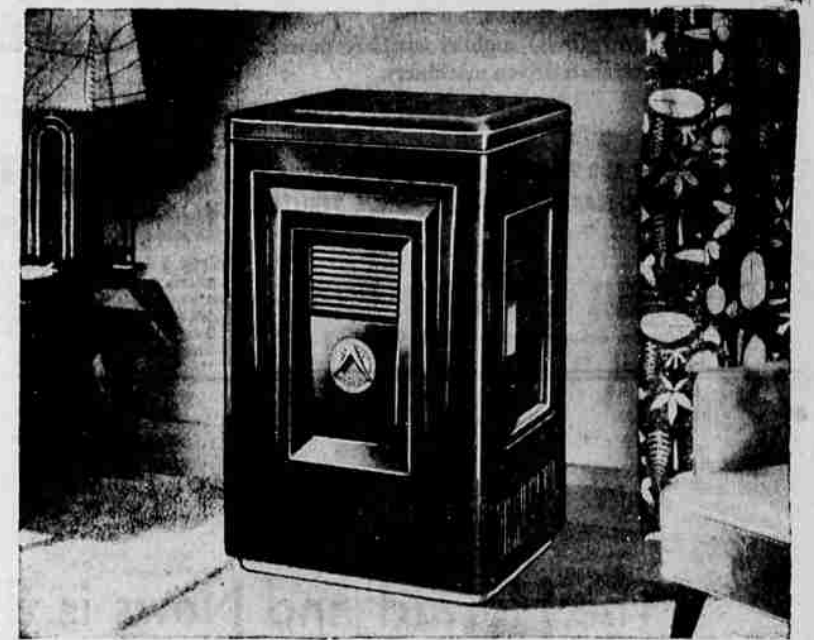


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