

51st World Series Opens At Polo Grounds

Al Lopez, NL Prexy Disagree

NEW YORK (AP)—A couple of Ohio's top baseball men couldn't get together today on a favorite to win the 1954 world series.

Warren Giles of Cincinnati, president of the National League, opined that New York's Giants would take it all. Al Lopez, Cleveland manager, said his Indians had it wrapped up.

But Lopez, leading with his ace, 23-game winner Bob Lemon, appeared confident the Tribe would get away on the right foot today.

"And if we win the first one, they'll never catch us," the even-tempered senior predicted.

Bobby Avila, the American League's leading hitter and snappy second sacker, offered a new reason for a Cleveland victory.

"Three of my brothers and my cousin came up from Mexico for the series," he said. "I would be ashamed if we lost while my brothers were here."

Avila, in addition to his batting and second-base chores, is president and general manager of the Mexico City Reds. He also turned author, writing his World Series experiences for Mexico City papers.

"We want to wind up the series in a hurry," Avila said. "My team opens its league season this weekend, and I want to get down there as soon as I can."

LESSONS

The Indians had their chance today to see how well they learned their one-day practice lessons yesterday. They spent almost two hours at bat, trying to pull balls into the stands only 257 feet down the right field line, and 279 down the left.

Lopez said he thought the short foul lines could be the deciding factors in the games here.

Bobby Feller, the erstwhile fireball pitcher, doesn't know yet whether he'll start a game for the Indians, but he's the sentimental favorite of everyone to get a chance.

On the punny side the press box boys were saying: "The Indians go after that early win today. Tomorrow they go with Early Wynn."

Minor League Baseball

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
DIXIE SERIES
Atlanta (SA) 7, Houston (TL) 1 (Atlanta wins 4-3)
INTERNATIONAL FINALS
Syracuse 15, Montreal 1 (Syracuse leads 3-1)

TIME OUT



"Don't worry... with this good of lucky hat of mine, something tells me we're a cinch to take the Series"

Leo Not Impressed By Odds

NEW YORK (AP)—Being the underdog is nothing new with manager Leo Durocher of the New York Giants, so the 18-10 odds favoring the Cleveland Indians to win the World Series don't impress him.

"Odds don't mean a thing to me," snapped Durocher before sending his club against the tribe in the Polo Grounds today. "You win them on the field, not with bets. Naturally, my guys think they're going to win."

That was about as close as Durocher has come to forecasting the result of the series. He has a self-imposed rule that he doesn't make predictions on the outcome of Giants' games.

LOOK GOOD

Durocher's opening day pitching choice—ancient Sal Maglie—produced no eyebrow lifting among the experts. Leo, in fact, explained his decision in a way that made the experts look good. It's just how they figured.

"I'll have two shots with Maglie, which is what I want," he said. "The Barber needs considerable rest between starts. I can still get three shots with Johnny Antonelli if I need them. I'm not saving anyone. That's a cinch. This thing can go only seven games."

As to the rumor that has been circulating that Don Liddle might get the call as a dark horse, the Lip said:

"As far as Liddle is concerned, I'm not pitching anyone just to get him in the series. The pitchers we think can win will be the ones who will do the pitching."

The Liddle rumor started when Boston Red Sox manager Lou Boudreau told some newspapermen that he thought Don, a lefthander, would give the Indians trouble.

SERIOUS

Maglie was his usual serious self. "I learned a lot pitching to the Indians in the spring," he said. Antonelli goes in tomorrow's game and at the rate Durocher is planning, Johnny could win three games. Antonelli, a rubber-armed youngster would be only too happy to pitch every day.

Like Durocher, Captain Al Dark, played it easy when asked his prediction on the series outcome. "Let's see now," grinned Dark, a former college football star,

By JOE REICHLER

NEW YORK (AP)—The 51st World Series opens at the Polo Grounds today with the Cleveland Indians heavy favorites over the New York Giants despite the fact that their two power hitters—Al Rosen and Larry Doby—are suffering minor miseries. They were listed to start, however.

Rosen, the righthanded slugger, missed the final game of the regular season last Sunday because of a pulled right thigh muscle. Doby, the American League's home run and runs batted in leader—and the Indians' chief left-handed strength, pulled a muscle in his right shoulder last Saturday and also sat out the finale Sunday. He still can't swing freely.

RIVAL MANAGERS

On the pitching front, rival managers Leo Durocher of the Giants and Al Lopez of the Indians, a pair of old spring rivals, open with their aces.

No surprises. No gambles. No last minute switches. The opening game pitchers were strictly as advertised with Sal Maglie hurling for the Giants and Bob Lemon for the Indians.

Leading off with Maglie was strictly in character for Durocher. The 37-year-old righthander was Leo's front man in every important series during the regular season stretch drive. Lopez has said all along that if the Giants opened with Maglie, he would pit Lemon against him.

Just as the 18 to 10 odds favored Cleveland to capture the world title, the Indians, who set a record by winning 111 games during the regular season to dethrone the New York Yankees, are undefeated in

"who's Notre Dame playing Saturday?"

Durocher's operatives are in excellent physical shape. Their only casualty is reserve infielder Foster Castleman, whose lame knee hampers his fielding.

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World Series competition. They whipped Brooklyn in 1920 and Boston in 1948. Lemon, a 23-game winner this past season, was in two World Series games in 1948 and won both.

The Giants, on the other hand, have lost more World Series games than any other club. They have appeared in 13 fall classics and have bowed in nine of them. Maglie pitched five innings in the 1951 World Series against the Yankees and lost.

PITCHING CHOICE

"Who else could I pick but Maglie?" Durocher answered when asked to explain his pitching choice. "He's won the big game for me all year. He beat Milwaukee when they threatened to catch us and he beat Brooklyn to clinch the pennant for us. He's the leader. The others follow him."

Lopez said he would follow Lemon with Early Wynn, his other 23-game winner, in the second game and Durocher will use Johnny Antonelli, his 21-game winning lefthander. Leo declined to reveal his third game pitcher but Lopez unhesitatingly named Mike Garcia who just missed giving the Indians three 20-game winners.

Gil Turner, Andrews Meet

CHICAGO (AP)—Philadelphia's piston-punching Gil Turner will risk a second shot at a welterweight title bout in a return 10-round match with Al Andrews of Superior, Wis., at the Chicago Stadium tonight.

The bout will be televised nationally by CBS at 10 p.m., EST. In their last meeting at the stadium Aug. 18, Turner won a close decision from the fast-finishing Andrews.

Turner, backed by a string of 31 straight victories, earned a title bout with welter champ Kid Gavilan two years ago, only to be knocked out by the Cuban hawk after a furious start.

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