

# Slugging Foursome Said Tops

By JACK CUDDY  
United Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK (UP)—Who's the hardest hitter in baseball today? Toughest consensus indicates a toss-up between Ted Kluszewski of the Redlegs, Mickey Mantle of the Yankees, Duke Snider of the Dodgers and Larry Doby of the Indians.

"The only man I've ever seen hit a ball with as much power as Kluszewski," says Cincinnati Manager Birdie Tebbetts, "was Lou Gehrig. Kluszewski hits a ball so hard that he leaves the imprint on his bat."

This is no idle statement by Tebbetts, inasmuch as the last part of it is verified by batboys around the National League.

Big Johnny Mize, another extraordinary power hitter during his prime, agrees with Tebbetts. "I haven't seen anyone in the National League who hits a ball harder than Kluszewski," he says. "A lot of his 'smash' travel farther than most fellows' home runs."

SOME NATIONAL LEAGUE observers however, insist Snider hits a ball just as hard and as far as Kluszewski "when he gets a hold of it."

"Duke has hit some balls that actually appeared to jump off his bat," offers teammate Peeewe Reese. "I'll admit you have to have plenty of muscle to rip a ball like Kluszewski does, but if anyone can give him competition, Duke certainly can."

Over in the American League, Mantle wins the majority of votes while Doby ranks a fairly close second. It is significant that Mantle and Doby both love to swing from the heels and invariably are high up on the strike list as well as in the home run department.

Yankee Coach Bill Dickey says no man in the majors hits a ball harder than Mantle "when Mickey hits it clean." Dickey, who played on the same clubs as Babe Ruth and Gehrig, insists Mantle hits with the same power they did.

Like Mantle, Doby has hit his share of 400-foot wallops and even one or two balls that reportedly traveled more than 500 feet.

"There are times when the ball leaves Doby's bat like a rocket," says Cleveland Manager Al Lopez. "On some of his drives, I honestly don't see how it is possible for anyone to get more power into his swing than Doby does."

REGARDED Even though Kluszewski, Mantle, Snider and Doby are regarded just about the hardest hitters in the game, there are a number of other sluggers around who get more than average mileage out of their blows.

Jim Rivera of the White Sox, for example, isn't a big home run threat but rival infielders will tell you his grounders come at them as if shot from a cannon. One of the reasons Rivera doesn't hit more homers is that he doesn't pull the ball consistently.

Wally Post of Cincinnati and Frank Thomas of Pittsburgh are another pair who get plenty of muscle behind their smashes. Like wise Ted Williams hasn't yet lost the knack and Gus Zernial of Kansas City can still pole a ball into the next precinct.

Others who are harder hitters than average include Willie Mays of the Giants, Hank Sauer and Ernie Banks of the Cubs, Del Ennis of the Phils, Norm Zaehin of the Red Sox, Al Rosen of the Indians and Wall Droop of the White Sox.

But when it comes to the question of who is the No. 1 power hitter in the majors today it still boils down to Kluszewski, Mantle, Snider and Doby.



AGONY TRAIL—Cary Middlecoff shows that professional golf's tournament trail isn't all smiles and winner's checks. The Memphis swinger goes through the agony of a guy in a dental chair when he misses a putt or tries body English.

# Musial Nears Mark, But Cardinals Lose

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Stan Musial had just belted a home run—the 999th extra base hit of his sparkling 13-year career in the National League—but it didn't make much difference to him. St. Louis lost the ball game.

The only runs the floundering Redbirds got in a 6-2 loss to Warren Spain and the Milwaukee Braves Tuesday night came across on Musial's 24th circuit blast in the eighth inning.

The blow meant little to Stan, on his first visit to County Stadium since besting the American League with a 12th inning homer in the All-Star game July 12.

"Thanks," he said with little enthusiasm as he was congratulated after the game. "Yeah, I'm getting there slowly," he added, referring to the 1,000th extra base hit mark.

But that was all he had to say. The Cards had lost their 10th game in 11 starts and were firmly entrenched in seventh place.

Musial leads all other active major leaguers in the extra base hit column. Babe Ruth holds the all-time record of 1,356. Mel Ott is second with 1,071. Both Ruth and Ott played 22 years.

When he gets his 1,000th, Musial will become the ninth player to turn the trick. His predecessors beside Ruth and Ott were Lou Gehrig, Ty Cobb, Jimmy Fox, Tris Speaker, Rogers Hornsby, and Honus Wagner.

NEWPORT, R. I. — Dick Gaines, Lawrenceville, N. J., upset unseeded Emmy Giannimava, Houston, Tex., 6-3, 6-4 in the second round of the Newport Invitation Tournament.

RACING ATLANTA CITY, N. J. — Craigwood (\$11.40) upset the favored Boston Doge in the Boardwalk Handicap, Atlantic City's opening day feature.

DEF. MAR. Calif. — Danocles (\$16.20) captured Del Mar's feature by a neck.

PORTLAND (AP)—The Portland Area and State All-Star teams began their third day of practice Wednesday for the annual Shrine football game here Aug. 20.

Coach Tom DeSylvia of Portland said he hopes to have his players ready for their first contact work Thursday. State does not expect to get into scrimmages until later in the week.

Tuesday the teams worked on passing with Herb Juran of South Salem and Tony Arana of Vale throwing for State and Ted Miller of Milwaukie and Gene McMullen of Lincoln pitching for Portland.

The players, graduating standouts from 1954 high school football teams, visited the Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children. Proceeds of the game go to the hospital.

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# Portland, Hollywood Divide; Seattle Wins

By PETER HAYES  
United Press Sports Writer

The surging Hollywood Stars took over second place in the Pacific Coast League last night although the best they could do was gain a standoff in a doubleheader with Portland.

The Stars crushed the Beavers, 14-0 in the first game and dropped the nightcap, 1-0.

But the lowly Oakland Oaks came to the rescue by hanging a 2-1 and 5-4 defeat on San Diego that dropped the defending champions into third place, a half-game behind Hollywood.

Perched higher in the standings than ever before this season, the Stars trailed front-running Seattle by 3 1/2 games. The Rainiers pulled one out of the fire with a two-run rally in the ninth inning to beat San Francisco, 2-1.

Sacramento squeezed past Los Angeles, 2-1, as Marino Pieretti, with ninth inning help from Roger Osenbaugh, tossed a neat three-hitter.

ITH WIN In Portland, Red Munger blanked the Beavers on four hits and was backed by a 16-hit attack that gave him his 17th win against four defeats. The Stars settled it in the first inning by putting together five hits, a walk and two errors for seven runs.

In the second game, another rookie, Portland's Red Adamsy blanked Roger Brownman in a tight duel. Adamsy gave up seven hits to Brownman's four. However, Brownman let Ed Mickelsen tag him for a double in the second inning which, along with a wild pitch and Don Egert's sacrifice fly, resulted in the winning run.

Oakland's George Melkovich broke up the scheduled seventh-inning first game in Emeryville when he lined a single to center scoring Al Van Alstyne in the eighth inning. Chris Van Cuyt pitched a four-hitter to beat John Carmichael who gave up six hits, one a homer by Joe Brovia playing his first game with Oakland since returning from a six-week tour with Cincinnati.

BREAKS TIE Brovia was the hero of the nightcap, breaking a 4-4 tie with a pinch-single in the eighth inning. Johnny Jorgensen clouted a three-run homer in the third inning. George Bamberger drew the win.

In Seattle, Seal right-hander Don Fracchia's bad throw to second on a sacrifice bunt in the ninth inning led to his downfall after he had blanked the Rainiers on three hits. The error put Carmen Mauro in scoring position and he later

blasted on Bill Glynn's single to tie the score. Joe Ginsberg singled in the winning run.

Sacramento's Pieretti had a one-hitter going until the ninth when he began to tire, apparently as the result of a leg cramp suffered in the eighth. The Angels scored a run in the ninth on Tom Glaviano's error and two singles but Osenbaugh came on with two out and got Ed Wincenski to hit into a force play.

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