

BEFORE THE BALL IS OVER



BoSox Top NY, Tribe Jumps To 2nd

By FRED DOWN

United Press Sports Writer

They're calling Willard Nixon the New York Yankees' No. 1 nemesis today but they'd be more accurate if they called the Boston Red Sox' 27-year old right-hander "Mr. Clutch" and let it go at that.

For the big sinker - baller is shaping up as the key pitcher of the torrid American League race because of his uncanny ability to beat the other first division teams.

Nixon's fine 12-5 overall record is enhanced by the fact that he has a composite showing of 10-3 against the other four contenders and owns 19 of the 23 wins the Red Sox have scored against the Yankees, Chicago White Sox, and Detroit Tigers.

Nixon turned in a neat six-hitter during Tuesday night's duel with White Sox and struck it out to gain his sixth straight triumph since June 30. Billy Klaus hammered a two run homer in the first inning. Grady Hatton homered in the fourth and Nixon himself drove in the Red Sox' final run with a double. Willard walked four and struck out four.

The loss, combined with victories by the White Sox and Indians, dropped the Yankees into third place only a half game ahead of the Red Sox. The Red Sox trail the White Sox by a game-and-a-half and Cleveland by one game.

LOSING STREAK In the National League, the runaway Brooklyn Dodgers overcame Willie Mays' two-run first-inning homer to edge out the New York Giants, 3-2, when Marv Grissom walked Don Hoak with the bases filled and two out in the 10th in-

Scortichini, Basilio Meet In Ring Bout

NEW YORK (AP)—Welterweight champion Carmen Basilio swaps his fishing rod for boxing gloves tonight when he faces Italy's Italo Scortichini in a non-title 10-rounder at Madison Square Garden.

The 28-year-old 147-pound king, who since he lifted the crown from Tony DeMarco two months ago, is a 3-1 favorite to whip the stocky middleweight in their third meeting.

BBC will broadcast and telecast at 9 p.m. EST. Basilio has been taking blows and losing since he stopped the hard-hitting DeMarco in the 12th round of a dramatic scrap in Syracuse June 10.

Now fully rested and recovered from that blistering battle, Basilio begins cashing in on his laurels. He'll probably have another couple of non-title tilts before he risks his crown against either Johnny Saxton or DeMarco in October or November.

Craggy-faced Carmen will be out to run his unbeaten streak of 23 months to 13 fights. Included in the skein are a draw with Scortichini and a 16-round decision over the 25-year-old Italian.

Moore Says Rocky Has Lost Punch

NOPH ADAMS, Mass. (UP)—Challenger Archie Moore quietly defied the kyo lightning to strike him today as he observed that "Rocky Marciano has lost his punch."

Champion Marciano, meanwhile was hard at work at his training camp in Grossinger, N.Y., trying to sweat off the extra poundage he picked up during a weekend off from training to attend his sister's wedding.

"I think Marciano has lost his punch," said Moore at his camp here. "In his last fight he hit Don Cockerill with everything but the ring posts and Cockerill finally collapsed rather than being knocked out. Jimmy Slade knocked out Cockerill in four rounds and it took Marciano eight rounds to do it."

Moore sparred one round each Tuesday with Johnny Jenkins, Clint Bacon and Joe Baksi. The 250-pound former heavyweight contender.

Marciano isn't anything close to 250 pounds, but he did tip the scales at an even 200 Tuesday, when he returned from his "week-end off." Manager Al Weill said he expects the champion to weigh about 187 for the title fight at Yankee Stadium, Sept. 26.

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Boston Red Sox Seem Set With Deep Catching, Pitching Staffs

By HARRY GRAYSON NEA Sports Editor

BOSTON — (NEA) — The Red Sox point to the depth and quality of their pitching as something in the way of an advantage in the race down the stretch.

The Boston Americans have a dozen able bodied pitchers, eight of them young and strong and eager for work. "Everybody writes about our pitching," said Johnny Murphy, the old Yankee relief worker who superintends the Sox farm team. "I believe it's an even more unusual story that we are nearly as deep in catchers."

Director Murphy ran down the list. "We could field a team of good catchers," he added. "This is indeed extraordinary at a time when scouts of other clubs couldn't find a bright prospect behind a mask with a Geiger counter and a diving rod. The resourceful Brooklyn club is a striking example. Loaded elsewhere, this season the Dodgers had to fall back on 25-year-old Dixie Howell.

Owner Yawkey went that high for Pagliaroni despite the fact that he practically has a corner on catchers and no one else is going to do much catching for the Red Sox for several years or while Sammy White is healthy.

With youngsters shunning "the tools of ignorance" because they spell too hard work, the Sox' oversupply of backstops puts them in an advantageous position to trade for infielders and outfielders, where they could use a little help.

Pete Daley, another bonus baby out of Grass Valley, hard by Sacramento, is the second string catcher behind White. Murphy insists that Hayward Sullivan, who collected \$50,000 to quit quarterbacking the Flor-J football team, is ready for the majors now. He has also played a bit of outfield for Louisville after having been out for a month with a spiked hand.

The Milwaukee Braves solidified their hold on second place with a 6-2 win over the St. Louis Cardinals behind Warren Spahn's seven - hitter. Hank Aaron hit his 24th homer for the Braves and Stan Musial No. 24 for the Cardinals.

Herman Wehmeier raised his career record to 22-7 against the Pittsburgh Pirates when his five - hitter paced the Philadelphia Phillies to a 9-1 triumph and the Chicago Cubs, squeezed out a 4-3 victory over the Cincinnati Redlegs in other games. It was the Cubs' sixth straight win.

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