



ON THE SPOT—Yankee Mickey McDermott fires to Cards' Wally Moon at St. Petersburg. Both McDermott, traded from Senators, and Moon, shifted from outfield to first, carry a lot of their teams' hopes.

Dayton, Cards Sweep Into NIT Final Fray

NEW YORK (UP)—It's David vs. Goliath in both ends of the National Invitation Basketball Tournament semi-finals tonight and both Goliaths — top-seeded Louisville — are solid favorites. Dayton and its 7-foot center, Bill Uhl, looked tense and jittery in the quarter-finals, but the Flyers are expected to down scrappy little

Pettit Leads Hawk Triumph

By UNITED PRESS

Scoring champion Bob Pettit led the surprising St. Louis Hawks into the Western Division playoff finals of the National Basketball Assn., today against the Fort Wayne Pistons.

The Hawks qualified for tonight's opening game in "Port Wayne" by nipping the Minneapolis Lakers, 116-115, in Minneapolis.

At the same time, the Syracuse Nationals upset the Boston Celtics, 102-7, in Boston to reach the eastern finals. The Nationals will clash with the Philadelphia Warriors in the first game of that series Friday night at Philadelphia. Each series will be best-of-five.

Pettit was the big man in every way for the Hawks, who came back after taking a record 133-75 drubbing in the second game of the series. Big Bob loomed in 41 points to take scoring honors and to atone for his 14-point showing in the second game.

The Nationals, defending playoff champs who only made it this time because they won a special playoff game for third place, rolled to a 74-48 halftime lead at Boston and never fell behind again.

Adolph Schayes starred for Syracuse with 27 points, including key baskets, and 17 rebounds, while Bill Sharman had 22 points for Boston.

Bob Habenicht, a pitcher for the Richmond Virginians the past two years, has retired from baseball and set up a law office in Richmond.

Lane Says So

Senior Circuit Said Stronger

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There may or may not be something in Frank Lane's recent observation that "the National League is a stronger league than the American."

The senior circuit has captured the last two World Series—by the Dodgers last year and the Giants in 1954—and five of the last six All-Star Games.

And the National League has the statistics going for them in the grapefruit-cactus competition this spring. In 53 interleague exhibition games, NL teams are out in front 28-24 with one tie.

Lane, who took over as St. Louis Cardinals' general manager this year after a similar tenure with the Chicago White Sox, said, "If the Cards were in the American League they'd finish ahead of the White Sox." Considering that St. Louis wound up in seventh place and the White Sox in third a year ago, that's quite a statement.

EXHIBITION
And Mr. Lane's Redbirds are carrying the National League banner in fine style in the exhibition games. They've beaten American League clubs five times and lost only twice.

But it's been the Pittsburgh Pirates who've done best against American League opponents. They're 5-1. The Dodgers are 3-3. The Chicago Cubs 5-4. The Giants 4-4. Cincinnati 2-4. Philadelphia 1-3 and Milwaukee 1-3 with a tie.

The Boston Red Sox have put together the best American League mark. They've won four, lost one with one deadlock. The other records are: New York Yankees 4-2, the White Sox 3-2, Cleveland 5-4, Washington 2-3, Kansas City 2-4, Baltimore 2-6 and Detroit 1-6.

The Red Sox, however, may have lost their No. 1 slugger, Ted Williams, for the remainder of the exhibition season.

The Boston Post reported Ted pulled a leg muscle in a workout and has been advised by team trainer Jack Fadden that at Williams' age, 37, the injury won't heal as quickly as in his younger days.

SKIRMISHES
The National won both interleague skirmishes yesterday. The champion Dodgers edged the Detroit Tigers 3-2 on Randy Jackson's 10th-inning single and Pittsburgh downed Washington 6-3 behind the effective pitching of Vernon Law and Ronnie Kline.

Montreal, Wings Stanley Choices
By UNITED PRESS

The Montreal Canadiens and the Detroit Red Wings were favored to take commanding leads today in the semi-finals of the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup playoffs.

The Canadiens, who drubbed the New York Rangers, 7-1, in the opening game of their best-of-seven series on Tuesday, have too many guns for the youthful Rangers on Montreal ice, where the Rangers have won only one game in the last five years.

The Red Wings, shooting for a third straight cup title, defeated the "jinxed" Maple Leafs, 3-2, Tuesday in their opening game.

The Leafs haven't defeated the Red Wings in playoff competition since the second game of the 1944 semi-finals, having dropped eight straight to Detroit.

Sports Cont'd From Page 11

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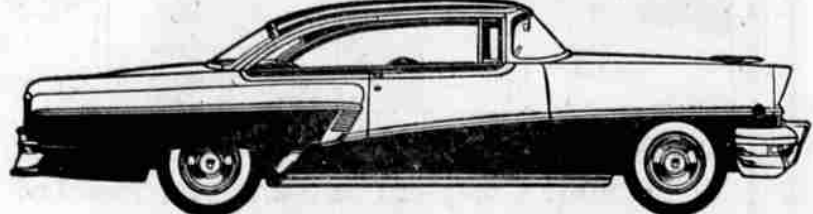
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