

Bird Boss Realizes Orioles Not In Race

MIAMI, Fla. (UPI)—Manager Paul Richards will be satisfied with a first division finish for his Baltimore Orioles in 1959.

He realizes that may be shooting too high.

"We definitely are not in the contending class," said Richards frankly. "We are at least a year away, maybe two or even three before we can start thinking about winning pennants."

He likes his pitching, has a top-draw catcher in Gus Triandos, has high hopes for rookie Willie Tasby in centerfield, but otherwise will have to get along largely on players discarded by other clubs.

Richards also is high on his youngsters, such as rookie shortstop Ron Hansen and outfielder Dave Nicholson. But Nicholson already has been sent back to the minors for more seasoning and the chances are that Hansen will be sent down, too.

"NOT UNTIL THEN"
Even in his pitching, Richards is going along with discards—such as Billy Loes (3-9), Arnie Portocarrero (15-11), Hoyt Wilhelm (3-10), and Jack Harshman (12-15).

Then in the other departments he has such as Gene Woodling, Whitey Lockman, Billy Gardner, Billy Klaus, Bobby Avila and Chico Carrasquel.

Most of them will be regulars—Woodling perhaps in right field, Gardner at second, Klaus at third and Carrasquel at short. Lockman will back up Bob Boyd at first and also can play the outfield. Avila, who has changed his mind about retiring, can play second or third base.

"We know we aren't going to win pennants with players like that," explained Richards. "But they are the best available. We're getting the best stop-gaps we can until our kids grow up."

HOW ABOUT MIRANDA?
Brooks Robinson will report in another week and could beat Klaus out of the third base job. And if Willie Miranda, the unpredictable Cuban, ever decides to report, he may take over for Carrasquel at short. Jim Finigan, who couldn't make it with the lowly Athletics and the Giants, is also on hand as a reserve infielder.

Bob Nieman, who hit .325 last season, will be in left field with Tasby in center. Tasby, who is .25, hit .322 at Louisville in 1958 and Richards feels that he is ready.

"I'll go with him a long way," said Richards. "He'll be in center on opening day—you can bet on that."

Richards has Al Pkarek, another discard, competing with Woodling in right. Woodling at 36 doesn't figure to be able to play in 154 games although he told Richards he wanted to play every day.

Len Green, who hit .261 at Rochester and only .213 with the Orioles, probably will be kept as a utility outfielder.

TRIANDOS WILL CATCH
Triandos, who also can play first base, will do most of the catching chores with the veteran Joe Ginsberg behind him. Charley (Sugar) White, who hit .291 at Vancouver, also is bidding for a catching berth but Richards usually carries only two receivers.

Billy O'Dell, whom any club would take and who won 14 while losing 11 last season. Portocarrero, Harshman, and Milt Pappas (10-10), will be the regular starters with Hector (Skinny) Brown (7-5) and Wilhelm, the knuckle ball artist, available for spot assignments.

Loes may get into the starting rotation, too. The top relief man will be George Zuverink (2-2).

Other pitching candidates include the much travelled southpaw, Lou Sleater; Ernie Johnson, a Milwaukee cast-off; George Bamberger, a 15-game winner at Vancouver; 20-year-old John Fisher, up from Wilson, N.C., where he won 14 and Jerry Walker, with an 18-4 record at Knoxville.

Richards puts Fisher in the same class as Nicholson and Hansen. They all may make it some day, but not in time to help the Orioles in 1959.

Mike Fetchick Leads Greensboro Tourney

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Mike Fetchick, who says he'd like to settle down to a good club job in the New York area may have to delay his plans to go into semi-retirement from tournament golf.

Going into today's second round of the \$15,000 Greater Greensboro Open, Mike held a one-shot lead after a five-under par 35-31-66 initial effort.

He's been fighting a three-year slump that overtook him after he had won three 1956 tournaments and placed 13th on the money list with nearly \$20,000 in earnings.

Playing in 12 previous tournaments this year, he has been in the money only three times and won less than \$1,500.

His fine round gave him a one-shot edge over Billy Maxwell, former National Amateur champion from Odessa, Tex.

A traffic jam was shaping up at their heels. Four men had opening 68s, five had 69 and five more had 70s.

A combination of ideal weather and good course conditions resulted in 16 subpar scores among the 122 starters.

PGA champion Dow Finsterwald of Tequesta, Fla.; Stan Leonard of Vancouver, British Columbia; Tony Lema of San Leandro, Calif.; and Joe Campbell of Knoxville were the 68 shooters.

Art Wall Jr., Pocono Manor, Pa., still in the groove after winning the Masters at Augusta, Ga., last Sunday, turned in a card without a five, to get a place in the 69 bracket. With him were husky Dave Thomas of London; George Bernardin, young Miami Beach, Fla.; pro; host pro Charles Farlow and Doug Ford of Paradise, Fla.

Fetchick's score was remarkable inasmuch as he took the 6,600-yard Starmount Forest Country Club course just a couple of

hours after flying here from New York. He slept about five hours the night before. After failing to qualify for the last 36 holes at Wilmington, N.C., two weeks ago, Mike went home and virtually abandoned golf. In 10 days prior to coming here he played only nine holes.



WEED ENTRANT — Louis Gonzales, 160 pound welter-weight from Weed, will take on Lakeview's Frankie Lightle, also 160, in the main event of the 14-bout fight card which begins at 8 o'clock tonight in the Weed High School Auditorium. The show is being sponsored by the Weed Auxiliary Police Department with all proceeds going to the auxiliary welfare and operations fund. Local boxers appearing on the card are Phil Myrick, John Whitley and Eddie Daniels of the Klamath Boxing Club, Mike Marek and Ronald Scott of Kingsley Field and Stan Smith of Oregon Tech.

Beavers Downed By Sacs, 4-2; Kansas City Sends 2 Pitchers

BRAWLEY, Calif. (AP)—The Kansas City A's have sent two more pitchers to the Portland Beavers. From the looks of things, the Beavers can use them.

Portland bowed to Sacramento 4-2 Thursday, and that was the fifth straight exhibition baseball defeat suffered by the Beavers.

Sacramento won the game in the eighth inning.

Al Heist looped a single over first base, driving in Buddy Peterson with the run that snapped a 2-2 tie. Nippy Jones then drove another one-run single into center field.

Gilberto Valentin, the young shortstop sent here by the A's, singled home both of Portland's runs.

The new pitchers sent to the Beavers are both right-handers—Ken Johnson and Howard Reed. Johnson last season was 11-17.

Bradshaw Leads OSC's 9-6 Win

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP)—Kim Bradshaw Thursday again displayed the hitting that has helped Oregon State win 11 straight baseball games this season.

Bradshaw drove in four runs as the Beavers clipped Portland State 9-6.

The first hit of the game for Bradshaw came in the opening inning, as he slammed a 360-foot homer over the right field fence that drove in Dan Luby and Jim Mason ahead of him.

Another run also scored as Bradshaw singled later in the game.

In pacing Oregon State to its 11-0 record, Bradshaw thus far has collected 22 hits at 40 times at bat.

Portland State 000 101 112—6 14 3 Oregon State 300 400 20x—9 10 2 Stambaugh, Miller (5) and Hanson; Goeding, Wells (9), Lundy (9) and Luby.

Thieves Steal Beaver Ducats

PORTLAND (AP)—Officials of the Portland Beavers plan to keep a special watch on 597 seats when the Pacific Coast League baseball team opens its home season here May 1.

But there's a good chance the seats will be empty.

Officials of the club told police Thursday that thieves broke into the team's office here and stole 397 reserve and box seat tickets.

The thieves were very selective, officials said. The tickets stolen were for seats scattered throughout Multnomah Stadium.

And, added assistant general manager Bill Sayles, "We know what tickets were stolen."

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