

Sport Gambling Grows Into Tough, \$50 Billion Point Spread Racket

NEW YORK (UPI) — It isn't so much whether you win or lose any longer; it's how you play the point spread.

That's the thing the gamblers—amateur and professional—are interested in these days and the stakes have become monumental. From penny ante private wagers among friends, gambling on sports has grown into an annual business estimated at \$50 billion by Rep. Paul Fino, R., N.Y.

The point spread is the reason for the vast growth.

Most of that money is not bet on teams to win or lose. It's bet on a team to win by a certain number of points or a team to lose by a given number of points.

That's why: —Thousands in Yankee Stadium packed with 64,892 freezing persons howled for the New York Giants to score a touchdown in the dying seconds of their championship game against the Green Bay Packers last month although victory was out of the Giants' reach.

—Fans in Madison Square Garden vigorously booed Bob Cousy of the professional basketball champion Boston Celtics when he dribbled away the closing seconds of a game which the Celtics already had safely won.

—Book makers in New York and Boston took the Packers off the betting boards after heavy betting gamblers beat the point spread on their games on successive Sundays.

The point spread is the name of the game all right and it's bred a new type of fan who isn't concerned with victory or defeat for a team, only the point margin by which the team wins or loses.

So those who cheered for a last minute Giant touchdown were giving vocal support for the bets they had made on the Giants—not to win, but to lose by not less than six and a half points. That was the point spread.

The Packers, in the gathering dusk of that December Sunday

afternoon, had just kicked a field goal to put the game on ice, 16-7, with only one minute and 30 seconds remaining. But when the Giants took the ensuing kickoff on their 27-yard line, you would think from the cheers which rent the frosty stadium that the Giants had a final drive chance for victory.

That wasn't the case. Those cheering thousands who had bet on the Giants would have won a

booming," said Cousy later. When told, he shrugged:

"I never pay any attention to the point spread."

But the fans—and the bookmakers—do. The latter took the Packers off the board—refused to accept any more bets on them—after the Packers beat the Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings on successive Sundays in October.

Against the Lions, the Packers were seven point favorites and the "smart money" was bet on the Packers to win by less than seven points. They bet right, for the Packers won by only two, 9-7.

In the Vikings game, the Packers were favored to win by 16 points and this time those same bettors who had won a bundle on the Lions game went the other way, wagering that the Packers would win by more than 16 points. They did, by 24.

Figuring this gambling clique had some inside information, the bookies took the Packers off the board until their Thanksgiving game against the Lions. Incidentally, the Packers lost that one.

Betting on sports today is a far cry from the old days. Then you simply bet on a team to win, regardless of the victory margin. Of course, there were odds—just as there still are in some sports such as the major league baseball pennant races and boxing.

Now in football, basketball, baseball and hockey, it's the point

spread which governs gambling. It works like this:

Team A is a seven point favorite over Team B. If you bet on Team A and it wins by eight points or more, you win; if it wins by less than seven points, you lose; if it wins by exactly seven points, there is no bet and you get your money back.

However, if you bet with a bookie, you have to lay odds. No matter which way you go—on Team A to win by more than seven points or Team B to lose by less than seven—you have to lay \$11 to win \$10.

Because they are sure of getting their "take" from that odds percentage, the bookies are the last persons in the world who want to see a game fixed—unless they are in on it.

The point spreads are set by a central headquarters, which shift from city to city. During the last season, the football and basketball spreads were set in Milwaukee and Houston—it used to be in St. Louis and Minneapolis. In baseball, the spread was set in New York and Louisville—it used to be in St. Louis.

In the baseball point spread, the betting is based on runs scored. A team is favored by how many runs and that's what you have to spot the opposing team. If you want to be on the favorite, you bet on the underdog; you are spotted that number of runs.

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Famed Author Now 89 Years Old

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Jan. 25 one of the world's best known and most successful popular writers, Somerset Maugham, will be 89 years old. His works are legion, many have become legend.

"Of Human Bondage," "The Painted Veil," "The Moon and Sixpence," "The Razor's Edge," "The Constant Wife," "Cakes and Ale," to list just a few. As Maugham approaches

his 90th year, here is a closeup of him by a reporter who observed his activities in Europe for many years.

By ROBERT MUSEL, United Press International



OBSERVES BIRTHDAY — W. Somerset Maugham last week observed his 89th birthday. In a reflective mood, the famed author is taking a "sentimental journey" to the many places on the globe he once lived and worked. —UPI Telephoto

of an autobiography—originally intended to be published only after his death—in which he frankly dissected the character of his late wife, Syrie.

Trustees for Lady Elizabeth—daughter of Syrie—filed suit blocking the transfer to New York of 229,581 pounds sterling (\$642,928) which Maugham obtained by the auction last April of nine works from his celebrated collection of modern art.

Today, as every day, Maugham will wander after breakfast in the beautiful gardens of his moorish-style villa, "La Mauresque," at Cap Ferrat near Monte Carlo, listening to the song of hundreds of exotic game birds, tending the prize roses which are his special pride.

But, according to Searle, he is a broken man.

"He is far from well," Searle said recently. "It's old age. You have a lot of bad days when you get to his age. And, of course, he feels badly about this business. How sad it is that in the last years of Mr. Maugham's life that he should be made absolutely miserable."

Searle, who looks far younger than his years, met Maugham in 1929 when he was asked to fill in at a dinner party for someone who had cancelled out at the last moment. He was seated, by chance next to the guest of honor who was Maugham.

He denied that he is the father of his daughter, Lady Elizabeth Hope, 47, and attempted to disinherit her.

He sued her for the return of various gifts totaling more than \$1 million.

He adopted his secretary, Alan Searle, 58, as his son and heir. He permitted publication of part

of the Salvation Army and in prisons as a visitor. Before he took up writing as a career Maugham was an obstetrician and delivered more than 60 babies, many of them free cases. Despite the difference in age they were perfect companions as I noted myself when I last visited Maugham at "La Mauresque."

Destined For Charity — If Maugham recovers any property from Lady Elizabeth—and Searle says the Nice suit is mainly to get back ownership of "La Mauresque"—it will eventually go into a charity he has set up in his will to help writers who are in trouble or sick or old.

Searle estimates his own inheritance from the estate at 500,000 sterling (\$1,400,000) but it is only a life interest and after his death it goes to charity.

"Lady John Hope inherits the bulk of Mr. Maugham's fortune whatever happens," he said. "That is irrevocable."

Maugham says he does not come from a particularly long-lived family yet his brother, Lord Maugham, lived to 92. His appetite is good and his cook, Irene, prepares dishes from her native Italian cuisine as well as French and English food. He long ago cultivated the habit of afternoon lunch which his good friend Sir Winston Churchill, 83, also practices.

When I asked him about his long life some years ago Maugham used a phrase worth repeating as he reaches his 89th birthday. Looking down at his slight figure, he said:

"If you are small, death may quite likely overlook you."



CONVICTED FIXER — Jack Molinas, New York attorney and one time star cager, has been convicted as the master fixer of 25 basketball games. —UPI Telephoto

WORLD HORIZONS

Christmas Eve Brink's Robbery Nets \$250,000 In Five Minutes

EDITOR'S NOTE: A gang of highly professional crooks last month pulled one of Chicago's slickest holdups in years—the precision-planned looting of a Brink's armored truck. The loot was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and the gang escaped. Following is report of the mechanics of a grand larceny.

By MORT J. SULLIVAN, United Press International

CHICAGO (UPI) — At 3:45 p.m. Christmas Eve, a Brink's armored truck pulled up in front of a suburban bowling alley on its last minute pickup of the day. At 5:50, the truck was looted of \$250,000 in Christmas Eve collections.

What happened in those five minutes? The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Brink's, the Cook County sheriff's police and the Chicago Police Department are still trying to find out.

Who did it? Police don't know—except that the hooded bandits who commandeered the armored truck, handcuffed veteran driver Frank Neuberger, 57, and whisked 37 money bags into a waiting car were "all stars."

They were the top men in their chosen field of crime, investigators said—the one-shot-for-a-big-score breed. And investigators fear their gamble may have paid off.

The Christmas Eve heist ranked as Chicago's biggest larceny in recent years. In precision and planning, investigators compared it to the \$1.5 million Plymouth, Mass., mail truck robbery last Aug. 14 and the historic \$1.2 million Boston Brink's robbery in 1938.

Christmas Eve around Chicago last month was a snowy, blustery

day. It was a busy one for Neuberger, a Chicagoan, and his partner, William Link, 46, of suburban prospect heights.

Their armored truck wound methodically through northwest Cook County suburbs and the northern fringe of Chicago, stopping at at least two banks and 40 business places.

Neuberger, with Brink's 19 years, pulled the steel plated, bullet-proof truck to a stop in front of the River Rand Bowling Alley in Des Plaines. Neuberger settled back in the driver's seat and scanned the passing throng of last minute Christmas shoppers while Link, his gun drawn, left the truck.

All three doors of the vehicle

opened suddenly. Too suddenly. "All in a flash," Neuberger told investigators later, some men grabbed him, pushed him to the floor, handcuffed his arms behind his back and put a gunny sack over his head.

The next thing he realized was that it was quiet. After some squirming, he managed to get the sack off his head. He was in a brickyard, a mile from the bowling alley.

"It took less than three minutes," he said.

Link tests administered to both Neuberger and Link confirmed their accounts of the robbery.

Neither of them had ever been robbed before, nor ever fired a gun in anger.

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EMPTY TRUCK — Brink's guard William Link looks into his empty armored truck after it was robbed of \$250,000 near suburban Des Plaines last December. —UPI Telephoto

New Pennsylvania Governor Inherits Task Groaning Under Spoils System

HARRISBURG, Pa. (UPI) — Appearing in offices throughout Pennsylvania's ornate Capitol after the November election was a poorly printed card which said on its cover: "A message from Gov. elect William W. Scranton."

State employees who opened it read: "You're fired."

The greeting was unofficial and the work of practical jesters but its message was a sharp reminder to thousands of state workers that because their party lost the gubernatorial election they would probably lose their jobs.

When Scranton is inaugurated as Pennsylvania's 103rd governor Tuesday (Jan. 15) he will inherit a host of problems—but perhaps none as politically volatile as the question of what to do with 55,000 state jobs which have traditionally been filled through the patronage system.

In contrast to Pennsylvania's vast "spoils system," only 1,233 of California's fulltime state employees are unprotected by civil service. In New York, more than 104,000 state payrollers are protected from political dismissal, leaving only 8,289 jobholders—commissioners and deputies at one end of the scale and common laborers at the other—vulnerable to firing with a change of administration.

"Almost every other major state in the nation has long since adopted an effective system of civil service," Scranton said during the campaign which was to catapult him to national political prominence.

"We can have bigger and bolder political machines or we can have better state services—we cannot have both," he added.

"Pennsylvania state government groans beneath the worst spoils system in American political history."

Harsh Facts, Figures — The words were harsh, but behind them were these equally harsh facts and figures: —Almost three out of every

four state employees—many of them professionally trained career workers—have no merit system protection of any kind.

—Those who are protected come under a checkerboard pattern of no less than five different civil service systems.

—The Pennsylvania State Council of Public Employees (AFL-CIO), which claims to represent 25,000 commonwealth workers, places a price tag of \$50 to \$60 million on the lost services and retraining necessary to replace each politically sponsored Democrat with a Republican.

The problem has become so acute that 19 statewide organizations—ranging in their political views from the state Chamber of Commerce to Americans for Democratic action—recently banded together to present a program of civil service reform to the incoming administration.

But on the other side of the issue are powerful elements of the Republican party who believe—as did Democrats when they came into power eight years ago—that the right to fill those thousands of jobs belongs to the victorious party.

Scranton, in his post-election statements, has insisted that he intends to carry out his campaign pledge that "at the end of my administration, Pennsylvania will no longer provide the worst example of the spoils system in the United States."

He has designated two high-ranking aides to work with citizens groups in planning a comprehensive reform and has others working on legislation which he plans to submit to the current general assembly.

Lower Boom — Last month he declared that Republican county chairmen who wished to hold major state positions would have to give up their political jobs. More than half of the Democratic county chairmen are currently on the state payroll.

The announcement came after



JOB TO FILL — When William W. Scranton, above, was inaugurated as Pennsylvania's 103rd governor he inherited a host of problems, chief of which is the question of what to do with the 55,000 state jobs which traditionally have been filled through the patronage system. —UPI Telephoto

Allegheny County GOP Chairman Paul Huges reportedly asked Scranton to consider him for the post of insurance commissioner. Huges had delivered the traditionally Democratic County—which includes Pittsburgh and many of its suburbs—into the Scranton column in November, but the governor-elect refused to be swayed.

Huges remained as county chairman and the insurance post went to another man.

Definite figures are difficult to obtain, but because of the political consolidations involved and the complexities of the system, but according to best estimates, here is what currently makes Pennsylvania state government run:

Of the approximately 62,000 persons on the payroll, only 27,000 are covered by some form of civil service, according to the state Civil Service Commission.

Some 12,000 employees enjoy "legislative civil service" under terms of a law enacted in 1941 which provides the firmest protection.

Another 3,000 employees are under "contractual civil service." Most of them are working on federal projects or with federal funds and are given the protection because the federal law requires it.

The state Executive Board has the power to place positions under civil service and has thus designated some 10,000 jobs. But the Executive Board is headed by the governor and controlled by the party in power. Under the provisions of the law a new Executive Board may remove coverage from previously designated positions.



SILENT STAR — French pantomimist Marcel Marceau appears in new sketch, "The Cage," during his current tour at New York City. Marceau said in an interview that such silent screen stars as Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton were his inspiration to make silence a profession. —UPI Telephoto

Pantomimist Talks In Five Languages

NEW YORK (UPI) — French pantomimist Marcel Marceau opened his mouth—and spoke!

It wasn't so much what he said as the fact that he spoke at all. For the image of Marceau's silent eloquence seems to eliminate the need for speech. After all, he has entertained audiences in 40 countries without uttering a single word.

But there is nothing wrong with the Marceau vocal chords. In fact, he speaks extremely well about mime, one of the oldest yet least practiced of the theatrical arts and of which he is the undisputed master.

Marcel Marceau's one man show is currently at New York's City Center.

A "New Dimension"

One of the pantomimes in the new show is "Contrasts" in which Marceau runs the gamut of human experience from life to death, switching from the gaiety of the fairground to the horrors of war, the delights of love and finality of the firing squad with an amazing facility. It is difficult for the spectator to keep track of the conflicting emotions which the mime inspires.

"Contrasts," says Marceau, is

part of the "new dimension" which he has added to the world of silence.

"Throughout history," he said, "the mime has used puppets and sets to assist his actions. I do not. I rely solely on gesture to bring to life the concrete and the abstract at the same time."

"I can make the visible invisible and the invisible visible and create for an audience the illusions of time and space, surrounding them with familiar objects and experiences."

Speaks Five Languages — Marceau is a small, spare man and his expressive face is framed by an unruly mop of wavy, dark brown hair. He speaks softly and his English (one of five languages he speaks) is only slightly accented. Even more unusual—in a Frenchman and pantomimist—is the fact that in conversation his use of hand gestures is minimal.

Mime is Marceau's life. He believes it to be the most eloquent theatrical form.

"Anyone can understand it, no matter how young, how old or what language they speak," he said, "because it's gestures deal with life—not of one man, but of every man."



HIJACKED — This is the Brink's armored truck that was hijacked by a gang of masked gunmen near Chicago, robbed of \$250,000 and abandoned in a brickyard. F. Neuberger, one of the Brink's guards was found handcuffed in the back seat of the truck. —UPI Telephoto

Good Name Of Castro Embarrassed By Castro

NEW YORK (UPI) — This is the saga of a man named Castro. Not Fidel, but Bernard, president of the Castro Convertible Couch Co., a long-established furniture chain in the northeastern United States.

"Everyone knows that this is the good Castro," said the balding Sicilian of 58. "The less I see his name, the better I like it."

The good name of Castro has been advertised for 32 years, Bernard said, and business today "43 states in 15 states; is better than ever. But he revealed the coincidence in names has been embarrassing "to a certain degree."

Always A Pause —

Castro no longer dares refer to himself as plain "Mr. Castro" when talking to a stranger on the phone. "There's always a pause," he said. "After all, it couldn't be that Mr. Castro."

"This is Bernard Castro of Castro Convertibles," he is careful to say.

called, a group of anti-Fidel women paraded near his Times Square store here and "our people were afraid they might break a window."

"Instead they stopped and yelled: 'This is the good Castro.'"

Business Not Hurt — Bernard started his company with a total capital of \$300 in 1951 and built it into an organization annually grossing more than \$20 million today. But a lot of people feel sorry for him now, he said. "They say they bet that guy has hurt us a lot."

That Castro has not hurt business, Bernard emphasized and "if he did, we'd take some steps to do something about it."

"When you struggle for years to build up a name, you're not going to let a guy like Castro knock you down."



GOOD AMERICAN NAME — Castro is a good American as well as Cuban name, and Bernard Castro, 58, president of the Castro Convertible Couch Co., is naturally anxious to let people know. The balding Sicilian, whose good name has been advertised for 32 years, says the Castro south of the U.S. has not hurt his business. —UPI Telephoto