

Houston Classic Begins

HOUSTON (UPI) — Its lakes dyed blue, its fairways cemented, its greens thick and verdant, the Memorial Park golf course today began bearing the brunt of 114 pros and 10 amateurs teeing off for the \$50,000 Houston Classic.

This is the year the experts are looking for a new Classic record for 72 holes. The old record of 273 was set by big Mike Souchak in 1953.

The golfers report that the course is in excellent condition this year. This was borne out Wednesday in the pro-am won by Gay Brewer of Crystal City, Fla., who went around in a 66 and picked up \$250 first prize money.

Besides Brewer, eight other pros took the 7,200-yard par-70 course apart with subpar rounds despite a gusty 20-mile an hour wind.

Jumbo Jack Nicklaus and South African Gary Player were the 5-1 co-favorites probably because they stand one-two in the money winnings this year coupled with the fact that Nicklaus' long-hitting game is suited to Memorial's long, hard fairways, and Player's iron and putter play is suited to the course's plush greens.

Bobby Nichols, last year's Classic champ, was listed at 18-1 to repeat the performance. If he does, it would be the first time in the 17-year history of the Classic.

"Arnie's Army," those loyal followers of Arnold Palmer, will be missing from the Classic for the second straight year. Palmer passed up the Classic at the last minute to catch up on dental and optometrist appointments.

Palmer, Tony Lema and Don January are the only big names missing from this year's Classic. The rest of the money winners on the Professional Golfers Association tour this year are in the field.

They are shooting for a "possible" \$100,000 first prize—up \$1,000 from last year. The catch is the winner must do it in the regulation 72-holes. The playoff-sick Houston Golf Association put up the extra grand this year because of four ties in the last four years.



Major League Standings

By United Press International
American League

	W.	L.	Pct.	GB.
Detroit	5	2	.714	
Kansas City	4	2	.667	1/2
New York	4	3	.571	1
Baltimore	4	3	.571	1
Cleveland	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Los Angeles	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Boston	3	4	.429	2
Chicago	2	3	.400	2
Washington	2	4	.333	2 1/2
Minnesota	2	5	.286	3

Wednesday's Games

Detroit 4 New York 2
Baltimore 3 Boston 4
Los Angeles 4 Minnesota 0
Washington at Cleve., ppd, rain.
(Only games scheduled)
Thursday's Probable Pitchers
Los Angeles at Minnesota—McBride (1-0) vs. Stigman (0-1)
Kansas City at Chicago—Rakow (1-0) vs. Herbert (0-0)
(Only games scheduled)
Friday's Games
Los Ang. at K. City (2, two-night)
Minnesota at Chicago (night)
New York at Washington (night)
Cleveland at Baltimore (night)
Detroit at Boston
(2, morning and afternoon)
National League

W. L. Pct. GB.

Milwaukee	6	2	.750	
San Francisco	5	2	.714	1/2
St. Louis	5	2	.714	1/2
Pittsburgh	4	3	.581	1 1/2
Philadelphia	4	3	.581	1 1/2
Los Angeles	4	4	.500	2
Chicago	3	4	.429	2 1/2
Cincinnati	3	5	.375	3
Houston	0	8	.000	6

Wednesday's Results

Cincinnati 5 New York 0 (night)
St. Louis 7 Pittsburgh 3 (night)
Milwaukee 6 Phila. 5 (night)
Los Ang. 1 Chicago 0 (10, night)
Houston 2 S. Fran. 1 (11, night)
Thursday's Probable Pitchers
Philadelphia at Milwaukee—Mahaney (1-1) vs. Hendley (1-1)
Houston at San Francisco—Farrell (1-1) vs. Sanford (2-0)
Pittsburgh at St. Louis (night)
Schwall (0-0) vs. Broglio (1-0)
Chicago at Los Angeles (night)
Hobbie (0-0) vs. Drysdale (2-0)
(Only games scheduled)
Friday's Games
Milwaukee at New York
St. Louis at Phila. (night)
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh (night)
Houston at Los Ang. (night)
Chicago at San Fran. (night)

1ST HEAVY CHAMP

LONDON (UPI)—James Figg, born in Thane, Oxfordshire, in 1895, is recognized as the first person to hold the heavyweight boxing championship.



BATTLE ON BOARDS — Portland Buckaroo, Ken Laufman (23) and San Francisco Seal, Danny Belisle (10) battle for the puck against the guard rail during the first period of play in the Cow Palace. Score at the end of the first period was 0-0 but the Seals won to even the series, 3-3. —UPI Telephoto

Slow Walking Sam Snead May Have Shot At Open

By JACK CUDDY
UPI Sports Writer

NEW YORK (UPI)—Admirers of Samuel Jackson Snead, the millionaire hillbilly, are so pleased with his play this year that they're wondering if his sore left foot will permit him to limp into his first U.S. Open victory in June at Brookline, Mass.

Sam, who will be 51 on May 27, has had a bad and persistent stone-bruise or "spur" on the ball of his left foot since last October; and it causes him to walk more slowly than usual over the golf courses. And that is considered very helpful for the man in the straw hat.

Although Snead leads all golfers with his 112 victories in major tournaments and is the biggest all-time money winner with nearly \$500,000 in prize money, there are some admirers who believe he would have been even greater — had he continued to play more slowly "around the courses" — as he did when he started playing bare footed as a boy from the hills near Hot Springs, Va.

PCL Race Turns Into Dogfight

Pacific Coast League Roundup
By United Press International
Everything is more or less even-steven in the Pacific Coast League today where nobody trails anybody else by more than a game.

The leveling process was most noticeable at Honolulu where Salt Lake, flattened in two shutouts Tuesday, bounced back Wednesday night to sweep a pair as a stream of island errors paved the way.

Elsewhere around the wide-spread loop, it was Seattle 6 Dallas-Ft. Worth 3, San Diego 4 Spokane 3 in 10 innings, Denver 9 Tacoma 8, and Portland 5 Oklahoma City 1.

At Honolulu, four Hawaii errors helped Salt Lake score twice in the first inning of the opener and the Bees went on to take a 4-2 decision. Wayne Carlander and Don Prince Combined on a 3-hit-ter for the Bees with Prince getting the decision.

Salt Lake grabbed the nightcap 5-4 when it pushed three un-

boy from the hills near Hot Springs, Va.

When he was "Shoeless Sam," he walked more carefully than when he later donned stone-shoes and set a pace that sometimes made him breathe too hard at crucial moments, they say.

This year, sore-footed Sam looked unexpectedly good in his latest three tournaments. He finished second in the \$50,000 Doral Open at Miami, Fla.; third in the Masters' tourney at Augusta, Va., and seventh last week at Greensboro, N.C. In those three tourneys he won about \$13,000 — an average of more than \$4,000 each.

But more important, Slammin' Sam beat Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus—the "big three"—in the Doral, and at Augusta he defeated Player and Palmer again but lost out to Nicklaus, the tourney winner.

His next competition in the United States will be the \$100,000 classic Thunderbird Charity tourney at the Westchester Country Club, Rye, N.Y., June 12-16, he said Wednesday night at his Greenbrier Club, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

Snead suffered the bruise under his left foot while hunting last October in West Virginia. It happened when he jumped down from a rock and landed on a sharp projection of another rock.

Friends estimate that Sam has earned more than \$1,000,000 in prize money and from exhibitions and other enterprises and that "he has saved \$2,000,000."

Joe Tedrazzini and Billie Harrell each batted in three runs to account for the Seattle scoring against Dallas-Ft. Worth. Jay Ward hit his sixth homer in as many games for the losers.

Wiltbur Wood grabbed the win, but needed help from George Spencer in the 6th.

Spokane looked like a sure winner over San Diego when it held a 3-0 lead in the 9th behind Phil Ortega, one of the loop's best, but the Pads knotted the score on three hits and a passed ball and took the decision in the 10th when Dan Dobbek doubled in Bud Zipse.

Denver trailed Tacoma 7-3 in the eighth, but then scored five runs after two were down. Ethan Blackaby's two-run pinch hit homer helped spark the rally.

At Oklahoma City, junk-ball pitcher Jim Archer of Portland silenced the other bats, while Hap Ritchie had two singles and a double for the winners.

PCL Standings

Southern Division

	W. L. Pct. GB.
Oklahoma City	3 2 .600
Denver	3 2 .600
San Diego	3 2 .600
Dallas-Ft. Worth	3 3 .500 1/2
Salt Lake City	2 2 .500 1/2

Northern Division

	W. L. Pct. GB.
Hawaii	2 2 .500
Tacoma	2 2 .500
Portland	3 3 .500
Seattle	2 3 .400 1/2
Spokane	2 4 .333 1

Wednesday's results
Salt Lake City 4 Hawaii 2 (1st game, 7 innings)
Salt Lake City 5 Hawaii 4 (2nd game)
Seattle 6 Dallas-Ft. Worth 3
San Diego 4 Spokane 3 (10 ins.)
Denver 9 Tacoma 8
Portland 5 Oklahoma City 1

Thursday's Probable Pitchers
Tacoma (Thomas 0-0) at Denver (Olivo 1-0)
Spokane (Willhite 0-1) at San Diego (Ellis 0-0)
Seattle (Smith 0-0) at Dallas (Dotter 0-0)
Portland (Flynn 0-0) at Oklahoma City (Juist 0-0)

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Buckaroos, Seals Square Playoffs At Three Apiece

By United Press International

The Southern Division playoff finals between the San Francisco Seals and the Portland Buckaroos are going down to the wire, sire—and the wire is in Portland.

The Seals assured that the best-of-seven series would take just that many Wednesday night when they shut out the Buckaroos 3-0 at San Francisco to square matters at 3-3.

It was announced after the game that the deciding contest will be played in the Portland arena next Tuesday, April 23.

The six-day delay should give the Northern Division contenders enough time to decide who will face the Portland-San Francisco winner for the Western Hockey League title. Vancouver moved into a 3-2 lead in the Northern scramble Wednesday night by downing Seattle 3-2.

The Seals played a smooth checking game, keeping the speedy Buckaroos off balance all night. Mo Mantha was the first to score when he hit an 80-footer at 1:23 of the second period.

Larry McNabb, the rookie defenseman who was consistently getting into trouble early in the season, scored on a 55-footer at 8:15 of the period. Ed Panggabeko let fly with the insurance goal at 13:39 of the final period.

Vancouver shaded the Totems on a shot by Bob McCusker with an involuntary assist from a Seattle defenseman. McCusker's shot, with less than two minutes remaining in the final period, bounced off the unhappy Seattle skater and past Totem goalie Al Millar.

The Canucks had taken a 2-1 lead early in the third period on a goal by Bob Kabele. But Jim Powers got the equalizer for Seattle less than a minute later.

The sixth game in the Vancouver-Seattle battle will be played Friday night at Seattle.

WHL Playoff Standings (Semi-finals—best of seven)

Southern Division

	W. L. GF GA
San Francisco	3 3 1 918
Portland	3 3 18 19
	W. L. GF GA

San Francisco 3 Portland 0
Next game: April 23 at Portland

Northern Division

	W. L. GF GA
San Francisco	3 3 19 18
Vancouver	3 2 17 15
Seattle	2 3 15 17

Wednesday's Result
Vancouver 3 Seattle 2
Next game: April 19 at Seattle

Suburban Babe Ruthers Begin

The Suburban Babe Ruth League tryouts will be held this week on Saturday and Sunday at the two diamonds on Madison Avenue, behind Ferguson School. The session begins at noon.

All 13-year-olds who want to who are not already on a Babe Ruth team can play.

The Suburban Area includes east of Washburn Way, Henley and Falcon Heights.

OCE No-Hits Lower Columbia

MONMOUTH (UPI) — No-hit pitching by Rick Read and John Gooding gave Oregon College of Education a 5-0 baseball victory over Lower Columbia Junior College in the first game of a double-header Wednesday.

The second game was called because of darkness after the fifth inning with the score tied 5-5.

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