

SPORT PAGE

STARS AND SEALS WIN IN OPENERS

Portland Loses 8 to 0 in San Francisco's New \$1,250,000 Stadium

SAN FRANCISCO, April 7. (UP)—Favored by excellent weather and record crowds, the Pacific Coast league baseball season opened today.

Hollywood's Stars and the San Francisco Seals, joint favorites to win the pennant, scored impressive victories in their first games. The Stars defeated Sacramento, 6 to 3, and the Seals overwhelmed Portland, 8 to 0.

SEATTLE WINS—The Seattle Mariners beat the San Francisco Seals, 2 to 0, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Los Angeles Angels, 3 to 1, in the other opening games.

Sam Gibson, Seals' pitcher, and Pete Daglia, Oaks' hurler, were the first to twist shut-out ball. Hank Severid, Hollywood catcher, hit the first home run. In the fifth inning at Sacramento, the Senators went to the credit for the first ninth inning rally but it fell three runs short.

More than 55,000 persons attended the inaugural contests. **DEDICATE STADIUM**—The new \$1,250,000 Seals stadium here, which was dedicated just before the umpires yelled "play ball," was solemnly packed with a crowd of 25,000. Tyrus Raymond Cobb hit the first ball pitched by Mayor Angelo Rossi of San Francisco.

Then the Seals began to hit the offerings of Keating and House, Portland pitchers. They drove Keating from the mound in the third inning, making four runs off five hits and an error. Five singles—by Flagstead, Williams, Woodall, Hale and Pennington—were all that the Beavers could get with Gibson pitching, and these all came in the first four innings.

STARS STOP SACS—Sacramento used three pitchers—Fretas, Hubbell and Hamilton, in a vain effort to stop Hollywood. The Stars were five runs ahead in the sixth inning, when Hollersson, their pitcher, eased down.

"Dutch" Reuther of Seattle held the Angels to five hits. Cox, his catcher, also played a big part in the victory, getting three hits out of four trips to the plate, one a double.

The best performance on the mound, however, was by Daglia, who held the Missions to two hits as a single by Cole in the third inning and a double by Welsh in the ninth. Doubles by Moore, shortstop, in the sixth and eighth innings, drove in Oakland's two runs.

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The upset was the more startling because Dado had been fighting main events here for several years, while Zuniga's only appearance at the Olympic previously was as a curtain raiser. The Glendale lad recently won the southern California bantam title two weeks ago by knocking out Johnny Granone, but had never faced an opponent of Dado's caliber.

Zuniga's victory puts him in line for a bout with Newsboy Brown for the state 115-pound crown.

ROCKNE, GATE-CRASHING KID, IDOLIZED ECKERSALL

Knute, Spindly-Legged Boy in Chicago, Saw in "Eckie," High School Quarterback, His Ideal

Editor's Note: This is the second of five stories on the life of Knute Rockne, written by William Brancher, sports editor of NEA Service, who was intimately acquainted with the famous coach.

All his life Knute Rockne had a soft spot in his heart for gate-crashing kids. He never forgot that once he had been a gate-crashing kid himself, and it was because he crashed the gate at a football game that he dreamed his great life dream that finally came true.

The visionary gleam of heroism broke into Rockne's soul like the sun suddenly flaming from behind a cloud—30 years ago in Chicago. "Rock," a skinny kid from the Logan Square neighborhood, sneaked in at the gate through the "new-fangled" horseless carriages of that distant day.

A high school team from Brooklyn, N. Y., had come to the west to play Hyde Park High, Chicago champions. Walter Eckersall was quarterback for the Hyde Park team. Above all others he was the man "Rock" wanted to see.

"Rock" waited patiently at the motor gate until the guards were on the other side of the line of cars, then pulled an end run with the vehicles running the interference. "Rock" was something of a blocking strategist at gate-crashing, too.

Eckersall's play that day was a revelation. The man who was to become one of the greatest quarterbacks the world ever knew guided his team unerringly to a 105 to 0 victory over the flock from Flatbush.

"Rock" saw and idolized the keen-eyed signal-caller, who with not much more than four plays, upset the heavier Brooklyn team time after time. Up to that time Rockne had played his football in the neighborhood games in which the Irish and the Swedes—as all boys of Scandinavian descent were called—battled for blood on the vacant lots of Logan Square. As an end on the "Tiger" team, young Rockne's spindly legs and flying feet carried him to some local renown.

But Eckersall, that day against Brooklyn, brought to the mind of the Norwegian boy a picture and a lesson that he never forgot. Even in that period when brute strength prevailed over the sly strategem, Eckersall was a master player.

Over and over again Eckie's correct prediction and timing caught the bumbling Brooklynites off balance and brought long gains for the Hyde Park eleven. Rockne caught the rhythm of that clocked attack, and years later it was that same timing that made his teams at Notre Dame marvelous to watch and hard to stop.

Eckersall awakened in the young Knute the desire to become a football player. Previously Rockne had held up before himself the heroes of basketball of the period as worthy of following. Nordella Brown was one of his youthful yearnings. Rube Waddell was another. It was in playing baseball, by the way, that Eckersall had inspired



The later Walter Eckersall, famous quarterback of the University of Chicago, whose wonderful playing inspired Knute Rockne with the dream of gridiron greatness, is pictured to the right. Rockne, as a gate-crashing kid in Chicago, saw Eckersall play, fought with a crowd of boys to get near him after the game, and decided to make football his career. Above, left, are shown Rockne with Gus Dorais of the famous old Dorais-Rockne-football-forward pass combination of 17 years ago. Dorais is now coach at the University of Detroit.

way, that "Rock" had his nose splattered all over his face, being smashed with a bat in a free-for-all.

After seeing Eckersall Rockne definitely determined what he wanted to do, and his baseball hopes faded before the great desire that Eckersall's playing aroused.

In 1901 Rockne entered high school in Chicago. At football he was not an immediate success. He toiled faithfully as a scrub player, later adding pole-vaulting to his athletic line. It was because he was a promising track athlete that he remained out of school for four years after being graduated from high school. He competed in all sorts of track meets, finally being taken under the colors of the Illinois Athletic club.

The dream of football greatness that Eckersall had inspired in him was still retained by Rockne, however, but the way was hard for him. With the goal set of saving \$1000 so he might enter the University of Illinois, he took a civil service examination and was appointed a mail dispatcher. Top salary for such a job was \$109 a month.

Rockne saved. How he must have saved! By 1910—Rockne was 22 then—he had put by his \$1000 and had enough left over to buy a suitcase. His goal was Illinois, but two friends, Johnny Plant and Johnny Devine, persuaded him to come with them to Notre Dame.

Rockne was a Protestant, then, but his friends convinced him he could live more cheaply and stood a better chance of getting a job at the Catholic school.

Frank Longman was coach the year Rockne arrived. Freshmen played in that football era, and someone recommended Rockne to Longman.

Longman stuck him in a full-back in a scrimmage between regulars and scrubs. Rockne himself often told the story of how

he failed miserably in that first game. The coach sent him back to the Brownson Hall team. Rockne went out for track.

In the following year Notre Dame hired a new coach, Jack Marks from Dartmouth. Rockne tried again. This time he had a little better success, and in 1912 Marks gave him a steady assignment at end.

Toward the end of the 1912 season, Rockne, constantly improving, became the subject of all-American team selectors. The goal drew nearer.

In 1913 it was realized. Rockne was elected captain. One afternoon the Notre Dame squad invaded Chicago for a game at which Eckersall was to referee. Captain Knute Rockne ran over to the man in white and shook his hand.

"You are the reason why I am here," said "Rock."

And he told "Eckie" the story of the kid who crashed the gate 13 years before just to see the great Eckersall play.

NEXT: Rockne's Gifts to the Gridiron.

WHITE SOX TO IMPROVE STANDING

May Make First Division With Strong Staff Of Pitchers

By DIXON STEWART
Called Press Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, April 7. (UP)—President C. A. Mott's dream of seeing another of his Chicago White Sox teams play in world series competition appears nearer to realization than at any time since the infamous 1919 "Black Sox" were disbanded.

However, there is little possibility that Mott's dream will be realized this season. Manager Donie Bush has a club which is considerably improved over last season's seventh place outfit, and with a share of luck it might even win a first division berth. Even Bush admits that fourth place is the best the Sox can hope for, and achieving such a rank would mean a scrappy little manager rating as a modern miracle man.

GOOD PITCHERS—Bush's pitching staff, headed by Ted Lyons, is one of the best in either league. It was handicapped last season by weak fielding, and even weaker batting—the Sox finishing sixth in team batting with a mark of .276 and last in fielding with a .362 average.

Acquisition of Lu Blue, former St. Louis Browns first baseman, has simplified the Sox infield problem and it now appears that Bush will open the championship season with Blue on first, B. J. Ciesell at second, Luke Appling at short and Willie Kamm on third.

TATE TO CATCH—Carl Reynolds, one of the finest young outfielders of the 1929 season, Johnny Watwood and Smead Jolley are billed for regular berths in the garden. Watwood spent much of last season on first base and his return to the outfield will strengthen this department. Jolley can hit and throw and is showing steady improvement in his fielding.

Henry Tate is slated to do most of the catching with the rejuvenated Butch Henline and Frank Grube helping out.

HURLING STAFF—Ted Lyons, who worked 29 games last year, and Pat Caraway, who finished his first season in the majors with an earned run record second only to Lyons, will head the pitching staff. Tommy Thomas, Hal McKain, Garland Braxton, Vic Frazier and the venerable spitballer, Red Faber, will round out the staff.

John Kerr and Irving Jeffries give Bush capable infield reserves while Fothergill, Mel Simon, Finlator and Elchrodt constitute the outfield substitutes.

THE DALLAS. (UP)—Sheriff Severson, advised a householder locked out in the rain by an irate wife, to "go ahead and kick in the door." He was first assured there would be no wife beating, neighbor awakening.

Coast League Results of Yesterday

Portland 0 5 1
Seals 8 16 0
Batteries: Keating, House and Woodall; Gibson and Baldwin.

Hollywood 6 13 0
Sacramento 3 11 1
Batteries: Hollersson and Severid; Freitas, Hubbell, Hamilton and Koehler.

Missions 0 2 1
Oakland 2 6 0
Batteries: Cole and Brenzel; Daglia and Read.

Seattle 3 12 0
Los Angeles 1 5 0
Batteries: Reuther and Cox; Petty and Schulte.

EXHIBITION GAME SCORES OF YESTERDAY

Brooklyn (N) 6; Hartford 1.
New York (A) 5; Asheville 2.
Boston (A) 20; Columbus 8.
Rochester 9; Boston (N) 7.
Chicago (A) 7; N. Y. (N) 3.
Washington (A) 17; Chattanooga 2.
Birmingham 9; St. Louis 7.
Cleveland (A) 11; New Orleans 3.
Port Worth 9; Chicago 6.
Cincinnati (N) 5; Louisville 2.
St. Louis (A) 4; Kansas City (AA) 2.
Mobile (SA) 9; New York (N) Second 2.

Billy Evans Is Not Candidate For President

NEW YORK, April 7. (UP)—The announcement of William G. (Billy) Evans, general manager of the Cleveland Indians, that he is not a candidate for the American league presidency to succeed the late E. S. Barnard, eliminates one of the men who have been prominently mentioned for the post.

It is not expected that an election will be held until well into the summer. Until that time, F. J. Navin, president of the Detroit Tigers and vice-president of the American league, will continue as acting league president.

Active baseball men who have been mentioned for the position include Ed Barrow, New York Yankees official; Robert Quinn, president of the Boston Red Sox, and Will Harridge, American league secretary.

MEDFORD. (UP)—City ordinance restricts dogs from running at large during gardening season.

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Fight Results

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Jimmy Hanna lost a six-round decision to Don Petrin in the semi-final despite a fast finish in which he dropped Petrin to his knees.

Willie Pellegrina nosed out Tommy McGough in the six-round special event; Al Wolcott took a decision from Joe Ruis in four rounds; Wildman O'Hannigan whaled Manuel Devis to take an easy four-round decision, and Frankie Diaz was too much for Cooke Graham and won on a technical knockout in the first round.

SHARKEY VS. CARNERA BOUT IS FORECAST

'For Heavyweight Title' Predicts Chairman Of Gotham Commission

By J. S. CAMERON
Unit Press Sports Editor

NEW YORK, April 7. (UP)—Jack Sharkey vs. Primo Carnera at Brooklyn on June 19 "for the heavyweight championship of the world." This is a prediction based on a statement made by James J. Farley, chairman of the New York State Boxing commission, and upon information from sources as authoritative as they are anonymous.

Until today there was just one obstacle in the path of the fight. That was Carnera's suspension in this state. Today, however, Farley said that "sooner or later we will reinstate Carnera."

DRAW BIG GATE—It's almost certain a Sharkey-Carnera fight would attract a gate of \$300,000, maybe more. It will be a charity affair and that will help the intake.

If the match is made and held the New York commission may come in for a lot of criticism because of it.

EXPECT CRITICISM—1. The manner in which the commission bestowed the world's title upon Max Schmeling for winning on a foul over Sharkey, only to declare the heavyweight throne vacant when Schmeling thrice agreed to meet Sharkey on the commission's order.

2. The fact that Carnera was suspended for participation in an allegedly "fixed" fight in California. It may be held that since he was banned on a charge of evil-doing the suspension should remain until the charge is disproved.

MISSION BOTTOM. (UP)—Robert Jones' automobile struck a piece of dry wood. The car was sent spinning down an embankment.

COAST LEAGUE SHOWS GREAT GROWTH IN 28 YEARS; IS BEST EVER

By HARRY A. WILLIAMS
President Pacific Coast Baseball League

Writer for NEA Service and The Klamath News

It is a far cry from the freshly-fashioned and rather unsteady Pacific Coast league of 28 years ago to the powerful, well-rounded organization which controls and perpetuates professional baseball in the far west and which now launches its 28th championship race, a span which spells the story of struggle and vicissitude, sacrifice and broken ambitions, deferred hopes, and finally, success and ultimate realization.

The season will be marked by the opening of the second \$1,250,000 baseball plant erected in the past six years, erect a monument to the league's progress—undoubtedly the two finest structures in the minor leagues and superior to some major league stadiums.

BETTER PLAYERS—Meantime, the playing end of the game has not been neglected and many new athletes will be seen in action. Among these are numerous young players of exceptional promise. The clubs, on paper at least, appear better balanced than a year ago. Colleges, high schools, the sandlots and the smaller minors have contributed these future stars to Pacific Coast league ranks.

Never before in the history of spring training camps has there been such a turnout of young talent and in one or two cases the parks were actually stormed by boys seeking to perfect themselves in the healthful, exciting and lucrative profession of baseball. This turnout effectively discredited the ill-founded reports that the youngsters of today are losing interest in this wonderful sport.

Boys are just as much boys as they were 20 years ago. Give them ample opportunity to play this game as an outlet for their energies and more than a partial remedy will have been found for our increasingly complex social and juvenile problems. Unless my

judgment is at fault the coming Pacific Coast league season will see the development of the largest number of sensational young players in its history.

NIGHT BASEBALL—Night baseball, when the weather becomes favorable, will again present a unique and impressive spectacle plus the usual thrills of the game. This season the league will be equipped 100 per cent for nocturnal baseball, every park in the circuit having a modern light plant. True the game played at night is still more or less in the experimental stage, but its success wherever tried points to permanence. Its great advantage to the public is that the man who is employed in the afternoon and has seldom been able to attend, can see a game every evening, and this is equally true of the women.



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