

# SPORTS

## Senators And Orioles Open Season Today

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Vice President Richard M. Nixon came out of the bullpen today to throw out the first ball of the 1956 big league baseball season.

Today he was pitching relief for President Eisenhower, who is on a golfing vacation in Georgia.

But after the 1956 presidential elections, he hopes to get the starting assignment on his own.

From the presidential box at Griffith Stadium, Nixon was set to make the ceremonial first pitch five minutes before the Baltimore Orioles and Washington Senators launch the American League on its 59th season at 1:30 p.m., e.s.t. before an expected crowd of 25,000.

Another right-hander, Washington's Pedro Ramos (14-18), and southpaw Jack Harshman (12-15) of Baltimore drew the professional pitching assignments.

**Rain Likely**

Only one other game was scheduled in the big leagues today—at Cincinnati where the Reds open the National League season as host to the Pittsburgh Pirates. All other teams start Friday.

A forecast of "cloudy and colder with rain likely" may ruin the vice president's big chance as a starter—just as it did in 1953. But, unlike the situation six years ago, if today's game is washed out, Nixon will still get his chance. The game would be rescheduled for Friday—before Eisenhower gets back from Augusta.

This was the first time a vice president has had the ceremonial pitching chore since 1944, when Henry A. Wallace substituted for war-busy President Roosevelt. It

## Billy Loes Back To Baltimore Orioles

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Temperamental Billy Loes was back with the Baltimore Orioles today—sore arm and all.

Traded to the Washington Senators last Wednesday for pitcher Vito Valentinetti, Loes complained of a sore arm as soon as he showed up at the Nats' training camp. The veteran right-hander was examined by a doctor, who diagnosed Loes had "an incomplete rupture of a right shoulder muscle."

When the Senators threatened to ask Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick to cancel the deal, Baltimore officials voluntarily reclaimed their problem pitcher Wednesday and returned Valentinetti to Washington.

will be the first time since 1945 that a president has missed the opener.

**Declares Holiday**

Most of the capital's big names made it a point to go out to the ball game. Members of the Supreme Court were prepared to deliver some informal opinions about the umpiring. And by sheer coincidence, Congress—which just returned from an 11-day Easter recess—declared itself a holiday today.

Joe Cronin, the man who gave Washington its last pennant 26 years ago, came back today in a new role—president of the American League. Washington and Baltimore lineups were studied with new faces. Notable newcomers to Baltimore were Bobby Avila, obtained from Cleveland in a winter trade; Billy Klaus, formerly of the Boston Red Sox, and rookie Willie Tasby. Making their bow with Washington were infielders Reno Bertoia and Rof Samford, who came here from Detroit, and rookie Bob Allison.

## Pittsburgh At Cincinnati In N. L. Opener

CINCINNATI, Ohio (UPI)—The pennant-hungry Pittsburgh Pirates and the power-hitting Cincinnati Reds open the 1956 National League baseball season today with a former baseball commissioner, Gov. A. B. (Happy) Chandler of Kentucky, tossing out the first ball.

The Reds, who always open at home in tribute to their history as baseball's first professional team, are getting one day's head start on the rest of the league, which begins action Friday.

Chandler, baseball czar before present Commissioner Ford Frick, was to make the ceremonial first pitch at 2:30 p.m., e.s.t., assisted by Mayor Donald Clancy and City Manager C. A. Harrell.

But then Bob Purkey, a sinker ball specialist who won 17 games last year, and lost 11, steps to the mound to pitch for the Reds. A half-inning later, fastballing Ronnie Kline, who had a 13-16 record last season, was slated to hurl for Pittsburgh.

**New Faces**

Pirate fans are hopeful that 1959 will see the Pirates win the National League pennant for the first time in 32 years.

But both Pirate and Red fans in the anticipated crowd of 33,000 buy a scorecard because this will be one time when you really "can't tell the players without a scorecard."

Thanks to the big winter player swap between these two teams, both clubs will present vastly different lineups from the end of the 1958 season.

Ex-Redleg Don Hoak will be a third base for Pittsburgh and batting third. In reserve for the Pirates are ex-Reds Smokey Burgess and Harvey Haddix. For Cincinnati, ex-Pirate slugger Frank Thomas is at third base, rookie

## Opening Schedule

United Press International

**Thursday**  
American League  
Baltimore at Washington—Harshman (12-15) vs. Ramos (14-18), 1:30 p.m., e.s.t. Cloudy, cold and likely rain, 25,000.  
National League  
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati—Kline (13-16) vs. Purkey (17-11), 2:30 p.m., e.s.t. Clear and cool, 23,000.

**Friday**  
American League  
Boston at New York — Brewer (12-12) vs. Turley (21-7), 2 p.m., e.s.t. Clear and cool, 25,000.  
Cleveland at Kansas City—Bell (12-10) vs. Grim (7-7), 2:30 p.m., e.s.t. Rain or snow, 25,000.  
Chicago at Detroit—Pierce (17-11) vs. Bunning (14-12), 1:30 p.m., e.s.t. Partly cloudy and possible showers, 40,000.

**National League**  
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, night —Lawrence (8-13) or Newcombe (7-13) vs. Roberts (17-14), 8:05 p.m., e.s.t. Cool and possible rain, 25,000.  
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh—Spahn (22-11) vs. Friend (22-14), 1:30 p.m., e.s.t. Clear, 34,000.  
Los Angeles at Chicago — Drysdale (12-13) vs. Anderson (3-3), 3 p.m., e.s.t. Cool and clear, 25,000.  
San Francisco at St. Louis (night) — Antonelli (16-13) vs. Jackson (13-13), 9 p.m., e.s.t. Cloudy and cool, 25,000.

Vada Pinson is in center field, and converted outfielder Frank Robinson is at third base.

**Pitching vs. Power**

But basically the Pirates play the same style ball as the '58 crew, which finished second in the league race. Lacking great slugging power, Manager Danny Murtaugh is banking on stout pitching and a brilliant defense to carry the day.

The Reds are almost exactly the opposite. Outside of the brilliant double play combination of Johnny Temple and Roy McMillan, the Reds are short on defense but long on slugging with such clouters as Thomas, Pinson, Robinson, Gus Bell, Jerry Lynch, and Ed Bailey.

## Decatur Reserves, Junior High Win

The Decatur Yellow Jacket reserves and Decatur junior high defeated Adams Central teams in a track double header Wednesday afternoon at Worthman field.

The Jacket reserves were the winners, 77-32, and Junior high won by a 57-43 score.

The summaries of the meets follow:

**Reserve Meet**  
100-yard dash — Parrish (AC) first; Poling (D) second; Heyerly (AC) third. Time—11.3.  
220-yard dash — Parrish (AC) first; Poling (D) second; Heyerly (AC) third. Time—22.2.  
440-yard run—Bollenbacher (D) first; Strickler (AC) second; Knitler (AC) third. Time—59.  
880-yard run—Yager (AC) first; Ahr (D) second; Macklin (D) third. Time — 2:31.  
1.6-mile run—Cowan (D) first; Elliott (D) second; Clark (D) third. Time—5:20.6.  
High hurdles — Frauhiger (D) first; W. Snyder (D) second; Strickler (AC) third. Time—20.2.  
Low hurdles — Frauhiger (D) first; Snyder (D) second; Owens (AC) third. Time—24.8.  
Pole vault—T. Snyder (D) first; Owens (AC) second; Dick (AC) third. Height—8 ft. 3 in.  
High jump—W. Snyder (D) first; Arnold (AC) and Magley (D) tied for second. Height—4 ft. 10 in.

**Shot put—T. Snyder (D) first; Hirschy (AC) second; Fuelling (D) third. Distance—33 ft. 7 in.**  
**Broad jump—W. Snyder (D) first; Poling (D) second; Clark (D) third. Distance—15 ft. 11 in.**  
**1.6-mile relay—Won by Decatur (Bollenbacher, August, Elliott, Banning). Time—4:30.**  
**Half-mile relay—Won by Decatur (Poling, Ahr, W. Snyder, Clark). No time available.**

**Junior High Meet**  
50-yard dash—Hilyard (D) first; Hill (AC) second; Fravel (D) third. Time—6.5.  
100-yard dash—Magley (D) first; Hill (AC) second; Hilyard (D) third. Time—12.2.  
220-yard dash—Hill (AC) first; Magley (D) second; Conrad (D) third. Time—24.  
440-yard run — Swygart (AC) first; Conrad (D) second; Heller (D) third. Time—64.8.  
880-yard run—Gause (D) first; Swygart (AC) second; Dellinger (D) third. Time—2:34.3.  
1.6-mile — Hill (D) first; Hirschy (AC) second; Beery (D) third. Time—20.3.  
High jump—Martin (D) first; Dellinger (D) second; Swygart (AC) and Bixler (D) tied for third. Height—4 ft. 7 in.  
Shot put—Hill (AC) first; Gause (D) second; Whetstone (D) third. Distance—36 ft.  
Pole vault—Decker (AC) first; Egly (AC) and Hirschy (AC) tied for second. Height—6 ft. 3 in.  
Broad jump—Conrad (D) first; Swygart (AC) second; Bixler (D) third. Distance—14 ft. 1 in.  
440-yard relay—Won by Decatur (Hilyard, Martin, Whetstone, Conrad). Time—56.4.  
Half-mile relay—Won by Decatur (Gause, Dellinger, Heller, Magley). Time—2:02.2.

**Decatur High School Golfers Win Easily**

Decatur high school golfers shut out Monroeville, 18-0, in a match held at the Decatur Golf course Wednesday afternoon. All nine Decatur players won both match and medal play points.

The winners and their scores: Edwards 41, Conrad 44, Dailey 44, Cravens 44, Beery 45, Ratliffe 49, Burk 52, Affolder 52, Hoffman 59.

**Eddie Perkins Wins By Split Decision**

CHICAGO (UPI) — Paulie Armstead, the lightweight champion of California, had no excuses today for losing Wednesday night's television fight to Chicago Eddie Perkins but he said frankly, "I was lousy."

It was a split decision, giving Perkins his 23rd win in 28 pro fights and handing Armstead his 5th defeat in 47 bouts. It was the first appearance of Armstead in the United States outside of California.

**Soaking Clothes**

If clothes are soaked too long, an ugly color is imparted to the clothes because the dirt is distributed. When soaking over night, be sure that the water is cold, otherwise the clothes will be a poor color.

## Sign TV Pact For Indianapolis Fight

NEW YORK (UPI) — The last major obstacle in the way of holding the Floyd Patterson-Brian London heavyweight title fight at Indianapolis May 1 has been removed, promoter Cecil Rhodes, Jr., announced Wednesday night.

He said the National Broadcasting Co. signed a new contract to televise the fight at Indianapolis. A new contract was drawn up because the fight was shifted earlier this week from Las Vegas, Nev., to Indianapolis.

Rebels qualified for the Turner Cup playoffs, by shading the Bruins Wednesday night, 4-3. Indianapolis won the Turner Cup last year.

## Fort Wayne To Meet Louisville In Finals

FORT WAYNE (UPI) — The Fort Wayne Komets outlasted Indianapolis 6-4, Wednesday to win the International Hockey League semifinal playoffs for the first time in six years.

Indianapolis, the defending play-off champion, was on the bottom end of a three and one split in the best of seven series and just couldn't get past the fired-up Fort Wayne team.

The Komets got off to a roaring start and ran up a 4-1 lead in the first period. But the Chiefs fired right back and tied the score, 4-4 at the half.

Then, mid-way in the third period, Billy Mitchell got hold of a loose puck about 20 feet from the net and slammed it home to break the tie. After that, the Komets contented themselves with staving off Indianapolis rallies.

Fort Wayne rookie Norm (Wiz) Waslowski made the final score of the game on a close-in pass from Roger Mason. Waslowski is the Komets' leading scorer with 40 goals.

Fort Wayne is now scheduled to

play Louisville in the first round of the playoff finals. Louisville, IHL pennant winner, also won its semi-final playoff series from Troy in 5 games. The last year.

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