

SPORTS

World's Top Golfers Open Masters Meet

AUGUSTA, Ga. (UPI) — The world's masters of the fairways started out today after the first of 1960's major golf titles — the Masters — with Arnold Palmer the betting choice and Sammy Snead and Ben Hogan the sentimental favorites.

A field of 84-17 amateurs and 67 professionals — was scheduled to tee off at 10 a.m. e.s.t. over the 6,980-yard Augusta National golf course with fair and mild weather forecast.

By dusk on Sunday — barring a playoff — one of them will wear the green jacket which symbolizes one of the most coveted championships in the game.

Suffers Flu Attack

Despite a slight attack of the flu, which was shrugged off as "nothing serious," Palmer still remained the betting favorite. But the odds on the year's leading money winner lengthened from 3-1 to 5-1, with Snead the second choice in the revised betting list at 6-1. Ken Venturi was next in line at 7-1 followed by burly Mike Souchak at 8-1.

Palmer, who has cashed in \$26,700 thus far, said he went to see a doctor purely as a precautionary measure "and he told me the congestion was breaking up."

"It doesn't bother me," he insisted, adding that the odds didn't bother him either.

"At least I try to make them no concern," he said.

Palmer played only a few holes on the back nine of the championship course Wednesday and then shot a two under par 25 over the nine-hole par three course in the afternoon. The contestants played this one for silverware prizes. Palmer missed four greens, but had seven one-putt greens.

Snead won the competition when he birdied the ninth hole for a 23. Lew Worsham and Dick Knight tied for second with 24's. Doug Sanders and Ted Kroll each had holes in one. Snead considered his par three triumph a good omen.

"I have as good a chance as anybody," he insisted. Earlier in the day, he fired a final practice round 72, even par, with five birdies and five bogeys. It was the first time he had failed to break par in his Masters tuneups.

DCHS Rifle Team Divides Matches

By SCOTT BAILIE
United Press International

MESA, Ariz. (UPI) — Charlie Grimm's Chicago Cubs opened the exhibition season by losing five straight but bounced back to be one of the spring's "surprise" teams.

"This team has improved all the way over last year's," Grimm says. "I feel that we'll finish in the first division this season."

Last year the Cubs wound up tied with Cincinnati for fifth and played a key role late in September in smashing the San Francisco Giants' pennant dreams. But it hasn't finished in the first division since 1946.

Most of the players who ganged up on the San Francisco front runners are back with the exception of outfielder Bobby Thomson and pitcher Dave Hillman. Both were traded to the Boston Red Sox.

Old-New Faces

There are some old-new faces around, however, to go with such proven workmen as shortstop Ernie Banks and outfielder George Altman.

The biggest name player to join the club is center fielder Richie Ashburn, for 12 years a fixture with the Philadelphia Phillies. Ashburn, who is confident he'll shake off the slump which dropped his batting average to .266 last year, will have another veteran newcomer beside him in left field — Frank Thomas. Richie was acquired in a deal that sent third baseman Alvin Dark to the Phils while Thomas arrived from Cincinnati as part of a swap in which Lee Walls went to the Reds.

Dick Gernert, veteran first baseman-outfielder, also is on hand from the Boston Red Sox. Then there's Del Rice, 37-year-old catcher who was picked up after being let go by Milwaukee. Once a solid receiver for the Cardinals, Rice's assignment will be to help the young pitching corps.

"We've eliminated some weak spots with off-season deals and have acquired power and speed," Grimm maintains. "We've improved all the way."

Pitching Question Mark

A big question mark is the pitching staff. Can Moe Drabowsky (5-10) and Dick Drott (1-2) bounce back to the earlier form which stamped them as fine prospects? Both have been "humming" the ball well and apparently are free of the sore arms which bothered them last year.

Glen Hobbie, who came through with a 16-13 record and 3.69 earned run average last season, looks like Grimm's staff leader and may be of all-star caliber.

Charlie Root, Grimm's pitching teammate when the Cubs knew palmer days, is working with other young hurlers and predicts they'll be some surprises.

Ernie Banks, of course, is set at shortstop and is the team's outstanding attribute. The two straight National League MVPs have been hitting at a .450 clip this spring and looks ready for one of his best seasons. He'll team with Tony Taylor to form the double play combination.

Altman, Chicago's rookie of the year in 1959, has been nudged over to right field by Ashburn and responded to treatment.

Kerwin, who weighed 142½ pounds to the 23-year-old Fullmer's 138, said he thought he knocked his opponent down with a left hook to the jaw late in the sixth round. Marciano ruled it a slip.

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Newcombe Sent Home From Training Camp

CINCINNATI (UPI) — The Cincinnati Reds have sent pitcher Don Newcombe home from their Jacksonville, Fla., training camp for examination of a leg injury. Newcombe pulled a muscle in his right thigh during a game two weeks ago and the injury has not responded to treatment.

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