



SPORTS...

By Eddie Ash

GIVING THE Boston Bees the once-over, Maurice Shevin of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat dwells upon what he suspects is another "noble experiment" by Bee Prexy Bob Quinn and his astute manager, Casey Stengel.

Covering the St. Louis Browns' camp at San Antonio, Shevin took time off to observe the maneuvers in the Boston Beehive. ... The Bees transferred their training base from Florida to Texas this year and are sharing San Antonio's hospitality with the Browns.

Incidentally, for the first time since several years ago, the Browns have major league company in San Antonio. ... Two years ago the Phillips trained at New Braunfels, Tex., a few miles away, but they moved back to Florida at Miami Beach.

As far as little has been said about the Bees, it is worth noting. Shevin points out, that they are trying a new building program, one which will be watched with interest and one that may help the club considerably.

After a survey of the Boston roster and camp, Shevin says, in part:

"In camp with the Bees at the present time are three American League castoffs—Babe Dahlgren, first base; Wes Ferrell, pitcher, and Earl Averill, outfielder. Their presence has caused one and all to wonder whether the Bees are changing a policy they inaugurated two years ago, whether they are grasping at straws, or whether the performance of one player last year gave them ideas."

"Some seasons ago Bill McKechnie sparked a hapless Boston outfit by producing two veteran minor league hurlers, Lou Fette of St. Paul and Jim Turner of Indianapolis. They boosted the club in the race and made it one of the most troublesome outfits in the National League."

Haul In Youngsters By Carload

"AFTER McKECHNIE departed Boston and Stengel took over, Fette and Turner slipped. Fette faded out of the picture completely, McKechnie rescued Turner, who was of considerable service to the Cincinnati Reds last season."

"After vainly trying to find more Fettes and Turners for a couple of more seasons, Manager Stengel and President Quinn went to the opposite extreme. They began hauling in youngsters by the carload."

"Some few of them have come through, notably Carver Rowell and Chet Ross, but in the main the rookies have indicated all too prominently that they need more minor league work. The team lacked polish."

"THE NUCLEUS of an excellent pitching staff, led by Bill Posey, Jim Tobin, Manny Salvo, Dick Erickson and Nick Strainovich, is there, but the club has long lacked a punch. Max West has provided the slugging with Buddy Hassett, Eddie Miller, Rowell and Ross to help out."

"But the surprise hitter last year was 40-year-old Johnny Cooney who hammered out enough singles and doubles to produce an excellent 318 batting average. That may have given Quinn and Stengel ideas."

"At any rate, without putting out much cash they have come up with two players who can give the squad additional punch and stamina."

Couple of Long Distance Swingers

"Dahlgren, who made the mistake of holding out with the Yankees, was obtained presumably for \$7500, the waiver price. Ferrell, out of baseball after a brief trial with the Dodgers last spring, and Averill, released by the Tigers to make room for Walter Evers, were obtained for train fare."

"Both Dahlgren and Averill may add punch. Both are long distance hitters. Ferrell, of course, is a distinct question mark, but he may be of some help."

"Dahlgren's presence, naturally, makes the Bees top heavy as they have West and Hassett available for first base duty. Babe, however, has demonstrated in the past that he can play third base with equal facility and he may fill the gap that exists there. Otherwise a trade may be arranged."

"PHIL RIZZUTO, up from Kansas City, is a fixture at shortstop for the Yankees, says Manager Joe McCarthy. ... The New York World-Tel, which rehired Frank Crosetti, the incumbent for nine years, is battalions valiantly to recover his job, but the manager is letting him do all his fighting on the sidelines in training camp."

Quoting McCarthy: "I expected a lot of Rizzuto and he hasn't disappointed me in any particular. His disposition is wonderful. Just watch him come through for the autograph fiends. He'll stand there for an hour."

"Speed around short and in dashing back after fly balls, punch at the plate, a fine arm and co-ordination with Gerald Priddy at second have impressed me most so far. He just cannot miss."

Cage Badgers Are Favorites

MADISON, Wis., March 12 (U.P.)—Wisconsin, undisputed ruler of Big Ten basketball, became an early favorite today to capture the National Collegiate Athletic Association's eastern tournament to which it will play next March 21 and 22.

The high-scoring Badgers, with 11 consecutive conference victories behind them; Dartmouth, No. 1 team of the eastern "Ivy" League; North Carolina, of the Southern Conference, and the University of Pittsburgh will battle for the right to represent the East in the NCAA play-off March 28 at Kansas City, Mo.

The Home-Floor Issue

Indiana won the Big Ten title last year and went on to sweep the NCAA championship. Wisconsin, winners in 17 of 20 games, has put the brakes on Hoosier "fire-wagon" basketball this year, whipping Indiana, Purdue (twice), Notre Dame and Butler.

Furthermore, in clinching its first clear Big Ten title in 23 years, Wisconsin's smooth, deliberate offense piled up 530 points, 17 more than the 1940 record set by Indiana.

Then there's the question of Wisconsin's home-floor advantage. Forrest "Phog" Allen, outspoken coach of the Kent University, said it's an "unfair" one. Harold G. Olsen of Ohio State, chairman of the NCAA tournament committee, disagrees with Allen. Wisconsin officials aren't taking Allen's charge seriously.

With playing conditions standard today, Olsen said, "there wouldn't be much advantage when all competing are good teams." Allen also denounced the NCAA as an "outfit of money grabbers," willing to sell its fair play rights for gate receipts."

Stars Are Plentiful

Whatever advantage goes with playing on the home floor, the favored Badgers will face stern competition in the tourney. Although Pittsburgh has won only 12 of 18 games this year, it is the only team which has beaten Wisconsin here. The game was played early in the season and the Panthers won, 36 to 34.

Dartmouth is "Ivy" League champion for the fourth straight year. North Carolina's Tar Heels won 14 of 15 regular season games, losing the Southern Conference tournament to Duke by one point.

Some of the midwest collegiate basketball players will be here for the two-day tournament. Wisconsin's big Ten scorer, and Johnny Kots, brilliant sophomore forward; Pitt has Capt. Eddie Strasnicki, sharpshooting forward; North Carolina's big gun is George Glamack, all-American center; Dartmouth is sparked by Gus Broberg.

Flat Feet

LAKELAND, Fla., March 12 (U.P.)—Hank Greenberg, the Detroit Tiger slugging outfielder, has flat feet. Dr. Grover C. Freeman, retired U.S. Navy lieutenant commander, gave Greenberg a physical examination for selective service yesterday and reported the ball player passed the test in "fine shape" except for second degree flat feet. Whether the feet will keep Hank out of the draft Army remains to be seen.

\$700 Purse Goes To Horton Smith

BELLEAIR, Fla., March 12 (U.P.)—Horton Smith, lanky Missouri professional, came back into the front ranks of the golfers for the first time this winter today after netting \$700 first prize in the annual Belleair Open Championship.

Smith, one of the leaders several years ago, shot 33-35-68 to defeat Byron Nelson by a stroke yesterday in an 18-hole playoff. Nelson, former National Open champion from Toledo, O., carded 32-37-69 and collected \$450 second money.

Midget Race Meeting To Be Held at Muncie

Promoters and drivers of midget racing cars will hold a meeting Sunday afternoon in the Roberts hotel in Muncie to discuss the racing season.

Harold Hurst, Muncie, president of the Mutual Benefit Racing Association for midget drivers, said that the cars would compete on five tracks this season. They are at Muncie, Hamilton, O., Greenfield, Charlottesville and Columbus.

Organization of the five-track circuit was completed at a meeting in Indianapolis last Sunday. Ted Everroade, Indianapolis, is vice president of the Association.

Ft. Wayne Catholic Accepts Turney Bid

CHICAGO, March 12 (U.P.)—Four schools have accepted invitations to the 18th annual National Catholic Basketball Tournament, which begins March 26, athletic director John Connely of Loyola University announced today.

Entrants are Central Catholic of Ft. Wayne, Ind., the defending champion; Leo of Chicago, St. George of Evanston, and St. John's of Paterson, N. J. Twenty-eight other contestants will complete the tournament field.

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Blue Point DE LAWARE MADISON

Hey, Jedge, They're a-Throwing That Spitter

By JOE WILLIAMS
Times Special Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 12.—We don't know what old Judge Landis and his Gestapo agents are going to do about it but it develops the boys are still throwing the spit ball, and this dummie little thing was legislated out of baseball years ago.

True, they don't make a practice of it but every once in awhile the "salvia slant," as the word painters of 1915 used to describe it, makes its appearance. A notable and historic instance was the last World Series when let us tell you the story.

The Series was over and Del Baker, the Tigers' manager, none too jubilant, was splitting a beaker of suds with Jimmy Wil-

son, who had been drafted from the coaching line to catch for the Reds.

"You know I can't understand it," said Baker. "We called every pitch Derringer threw out there today and yet we couldn't beat him."

"I won't say you didn't call most of 'em," answered Wilson, "but there was one you didn't, and I'm going to let you find that one out for yourself."

Baker is quite capable of calling every pitch before it is thrown, because he is generally accepted as the most gifted signal stealer in the game. In the light of what happened, however, he can be excused for not calling the pitch in question. How could he know that Paul Derringer was going to throw

a spitter to Earl Averill for the last out in the World Series.

It's just what the reliable giant of the Reds would have done to put the clincher. How many others he may have thrown he isn't saying. As a matter of fact, he isn't saying he threw the classic one to Averill.

"If it was a spitter," he told us today, "then my hand must have been sweaty or something." The wince which followed was significant. Of course, it was a spitter and everybody in the Cincinnati club house laughed about it after the game. And they got another laugh when he heard what Baker had said to Wilson.

Johnny Murphy, the Yankees' fireman, was listening on the conversation. "There's no telling how many spit balls are still being thrown," he commented. "It's

my notion that a fellow could pitch a whole game throwing nothing but a spitter and get away with it, provided he was clever enough."

"And the catcher was helping him out," supplemented Derringer.

"That's right, you'd have to have the catcher working with you. He'd have to snap the ball back to you before the umpire could ask to examine it and by that time the air would have absorbed all the moisture." Mr. Murphy blandly denied he had ever thrown a spitter in his life.

Whether many of the young men cheat with the spitter or not, it must be fairly obvious that it's form of larceny which offers few difficulties. Just a dab of moisture is all that is needed to make the ball jump and sail and dive.

and that can be easily and secretly applied during the upward or downward motion of the wind-up. By the time the umpire calls for the ball, especially if it has been shot back to the pitcher immediately, all the incriminating evidence has disappeared.

For years Johnny Allen, now with the Browns, and Claude Passeau of the Cubs have been suspected but gradually the protests have ceased. It is now agreed Allen's baffler (if he still has it) is of authentic origin and that Passeau throws what is called a slider. The fight against the spitter was based on two objections:

(1) It just wasn't gentlemanlike; (2) it made handling of the ball by infielders uncertain. Neither objection carried devastating weight. The batters were

happy to see it eliminated. The pitchers weren't.

There's an old-timer down here, Frank Shellenbach, coach of the Boston Red Sox, who is leading a one-man crusade for restoration of the spitter. He contends the offense in baseball is too heavy and a return to the spitter would effect a better balance. What makes Shellenbach's crusade noteworthy is that the spitter taboo kept him from being an outstanding big league star. He had developed the best spitter in the game working in the minors and was poised for a brilliant big league career when the ban was applied. He never did get a chance to show it in fast company where he might have been another Ed Walsh, or a reasonable facsimile.

Radiant Red Recruit



Londos Takes Everything For 'Granite', Including Gino

By ROBERT FLEETWOOD

THIS IS THE tale of the follies in flesh and how an Italian with initiative was outmaneuvered by a Greek with a grip 5421 miles west of Salona.

And the moral that hangs thereby is never monkey with a wrestler—they take too much for "granite." Only a department store clerk could withstand their beatings, for they fall like blocks from the pyramids but live to converse with friends in Section A intermittently with their groans.

The aging Jim Londos, who looks like he just stepped down from a Pericles pedestal, is still no "bust." Last night the Athens Apollo defeated Gino Garibaldi at the Armory before a packed house of "stop that bloody battle" shouters.

They hit each other with everything but a vendor's coke case and punched all but second base as Londos, the wily wimp in the ring—a field of acrons banting, and Gino, the villain with his Academy Award dramatics, finally became tied in a knot with our hero atop after 35 minutes of muscle maneuvers.

THE DRAMA BEGAN with locked horns and 10 minutes of solo ballet with only the referee in the stag line and he refused to cut in.

During this time both boys dropped each other to the floor a couple of times, spinning a few wrists and biting an ankle for diversion. Which you can't tell us doesn't hurt.

The tempo suddenly changed when Gino managed to shake hands with Jim, only Gino's hand was in the small of his back and James became rather angry.

Pulling his head from between the Italian's legs, the Greek planted his leg in his opponent's Adam's apple and proceeded to pull his arm in the general direction of the floodlight. The boys proved very distasteful to Mr. Gino, and he countered with a few quick lefts to unscheduled spots.

After another intermission for patrons' discussion Gino scrambled toward the ropes and tied Londos' right arm in the best Boy Scout fashion. The ref intervened and managed to make a good bowling loop out of his own upper appendages.

During this time both boys were at each other's throats, and as we noticed the regular cus-

tomers donning coats and hats we followed suit and the match was over in 15 seconds. Londos put some kind of a press on Gino. So it was uncle or else.

The trick of the evening went to Machaiwelly Bucky Weaver. Faking a broken wrist following a sojourn in the peanut row, he called the referee and Whitey Wahlberg to witness. Whitey looked and Bucky jumped—it was curtains for the sleeping Wahlberg.

In the other bouts Harry Kent, Portland, Ore., out-grappled Irish Kennedy, Dallas, Tex., and Jack Hader, Omaha, downed Cal Reese of Tulsa.

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Infelders and outfielders are not due in camp until Monday, but Prichard, Parrett and Pettit were permitted to report with the batmen.

Contained on the Indians' roster are 15 pitchers, three catchers, eight infielders and six outfielders.

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Tribe Pitchers And Catchers Go to Work

Boys to Get Noonday Snacks at Bartow

Times Special

BARTOW, Fla., March 12.—Opening drills were to be held today in the Indianapolis Indians' spring training camp as Manager Wade Killefer assembled his pitchers and catchers and commanded the boys to get going.

Workouts each day, except Sunday, will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 1 p.m. or later