

SPORTS

BEFORE YOUR EYES

with Lenny Anderson

A Visiting Phenomenon

HAD any scribe or seer prophesied last March that Hollywood would spend most of the first seven weeks of the season in the Pacific Coast League cellar, he would have been ripe for a curt front-office directive to turn in his tea-leaves.

Nonetheless, as most P. C. L. followers are aware, he would have been right. Unemployed maybe, but right.

The Stars broke out of the league dungeon for a couple of weeks during the latter part of April, but returned. They came to Seattle yesterday sharing seventh place with Sacramento but fell back to eighth as they lost to the Rainiers while the Solons wisely remained idle.

All of this constitutes a major phenomenon in recent Coast League history.

Over the past half-dozen seasons, Hollywood has won three pennants, come in second twice and as far back as third only once. Last season's runner-up finish was the result of the loss of a sudden-death playoff game after the Stars ended the regular season in a dead heat with San Diego at the top of the league.

A Scapegoat Is Found

THIS is not the sort of apprenticeship calculated to prepare either players or fans for the grim reality of life in the league Bastille. It comes as a shock.

During the Rainiers' recent visit to Los Angeles, considerable dismay over the unaccustomed plight of the Stars was evident in the sports pages, along with some casting-about for a scapegoat. One was found, in the person of Branch Rickey, a Hollywood stockholder and general manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

One published rumor charged that Rickey, in selling the Pirates' New Orleans' franchise, had committed to that club several players who might have helped the Stars.

Hollywood supporters can find a much simpler escape from their troubles than blaming Rickey's Schedule all their games at home. To date, the Stars have won three series and lost four. They have won every series on the home lot and lost every one on the road.

A Remarkable Explanation

BOB COBB, the Hollywood president, explains his team's present status in a way that is remarkable for an executive—he blames himself and his fellow policy-makers.

"We made a mistake," Cobb was quoted as saying the other day. "We decided to go with young players and we went too far. We let go of several seasoned players who could have helped us."

Bobby Bragan acknowledged much of the essential truth of that observation in discussing his club last night.

"We're young," he said, "young and green."

Whatever the reasons for Hollywood's ailing condition, Rickey has heard of it, and he paid a personal visit last week to Gilmore Field to attempt a diagnosis.

"I don't know what the trouble is," he said, "whether it's cancer or leukemia."

In either case, the mere fact that he took the time to make a housecall should be reason enough to believe that the serum may be on its way out shortly, in the person of sound baseball talent.

If so, the familiar patter of Hollywood spikes around the upper levels of the league is likely to be heard once more, ere long.


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All Sorts of Sports: Old-Timers Best—Tunney; Wrestling Fan Stops Show

CHICAGO, May 24.—(UP)—Tommy Gibbons, Harry Greb and Jack Dempsey would have beaten Rocky Marciano, heavyweight champion, Gene Tunney said yesterday.

Tunney, who retired as heavyweight king in 1926, did some reminiscing while in Chicago for Armed Forces Day.

"Gibbons was a wonderful boxer—he would have knocked Rocky out," said Tunney. "He would have slipped inside Rocky and taken charge. I don't believe Rocky would have laid a glove on Greb. Dempsey had everything Marciano has in strength and power."

Tunney, who beat Dempsey twice, Greb once, and knocked out Gibbons in 1926, refused to be drawn into a comparison of what his chances would have been against Marciano.

"Rocky can lick anybody in the world today," Tunney added. "If Archie Moore gets a crack at him, he will give the champion a fine battle, but Rocky is bound to hit Archie on the head, and that will make the difference. Rocky can miss with a punch wider than anybody I ever saw. But he gets his power from those overhand blows which Dempsey used to throw."

• **SUMO ENTHUSIAST**—TOKYO, May 24.—(UP)—A man saw his first sumo wrestling match today and thousands cheered when he entered the amphitheater.

Even the portly, top-knotted wrestlers bowed in greeting.

Emperor Hirohito jotted down careful notes of every match.

• **SEATTLE HIGH TIED**—OMAHA, May 23.—(UP)—The single-game total ever shot in the 39-year history of



WILLIAMS SPECIAL: In Boston last night—Ted Williams, who made his return to baseball in an exhibition game for the Boston Red Sox, hit a towering 395-foot homer his second time of bat. The slugger was congratulated by Norm Zauchin (3), a teammate. Umpire Bill Summers was in the background. Boston won, 4-3.—A. P. wirephoto.

the Women's International Bowling Congress tournament was equaled last night when Ethel Sale of St. Louis posted a 289.

The total tied scores posted in 1948 by Irene Schramm, Erie, Pa., at Dallas and in 1951 by

Tout Service Tripped Up By Fishing-in-Coin-Box Tactics

Chicago Tribune Press Service

CHICAGO, May 24.—Former Racetrack Jockeys, Inc., an unincorporated tout service operating from a telephone booth, struck a barrier yesterday because of the use of a piece of fishing tackle.

Frank Truschka, 28, of Blue Island, and Francis T. (Jack London) Sullivan, 33, both disbarred jockeys, were arrested in the booth for tampering with a telephone.

Telephone-company officials had complained that, although several dozen telephone calls were made from the booth each day to such cities as Cleveland, Philadelphia, New York, Atlanta, Columbus, Miami, Indianapolis and St. Louis, and although the operators handling the calls reported hearing coins dropped into the machine, no such money was found there by the collectors.

The booth was placed under observation by detectives of the robbery detail. Truschka and Sullivan entered the booth and took turns using the phone and reading from a scratch sheet while the other held a newspaper to shield the phoner from view.

After watching for an hour, detectives eavesdropped on one call and heard Truschka telling a person in Cleveland: "This one can't lose. Bet the rent money on it. Former Racetrack Jockeys, Inc., will call you back tomorrow."

When the call was completed, police said, Truschka began dropping quarters into the slot while Sullivan worked a piece of fishing tackle in a way to allow the coins to fall into the return box.

Prepsters In Relay Prelims Tomorrow

Franklin High School's powerful and undefeated track squad is expected to trot off with Relay Carnival honors this week at the University of Washington.

Qualifying events for Friday's finals of the Relay Carnival will be run off tomorrow afternoon.

Led by their two pole-vault stars, John Chatales and Vito LaBellarte, the Quakers stand an excellent chance of bettering the relay record of 34 feet 6 inches. Chatales had gone as high as 129 this spring, and LaBellarte does right around 12 feet.

The Quakers' three broad jumpers, Tony Softli, Paul Aleinikoff and Willie Lewis, also could exceed the 63-9 mark in that event. Softli jumped 22 feet 1/2 inch and Aleinikoff went out 21-3 1/2 last week-end, both bettering the West Seattle Stadium standard of 21-3.

Hogan, Steiger, Greer Land On P. G. A. Team

PORTLAND, Ore., May 24.—(UP)—Eddie Hogan of Portland paced the field in qualifying trials for the Professional Golfers' Association tournament yesterday. He solved the tough Waverley Country Club course for a three-under-par 70-71-141 in Northwest sectional play.

Two strokes off the pace and winner of second place on the three-man team to represent the Pacific Northwest at the P. G. A. championship in Detroit July 20-26 was Joe Steiger of Spokane. Steiger carded 72 and 71.

Bob Litton, Vancouver, Wash., won the third spot with 75-70-145 but declined the berth. Third spot then was taken by Joe Greer of Yakima, who won a playoff after tying at 146 with four others.

Bunny Mason, Salem, Ore., 146, and Dick Haskell, Seattle, 146, were named as alternates for the Northwest P. G. A. squad. The others to wind up with 146s were Al Williams, Medford, and Dave Killen, Portland.

Monroe Slates Auto Racing

MONROE, May 24.—(Special)—Three days of auto racing at the Evergreen State Fair grounds will feature the Memorial Day week-end here.

Cars from the Washington Roadster Racing Association will roll Saturday and Sunday, with members of the Washington Hard-top Racing Association taking over Memorial Day.

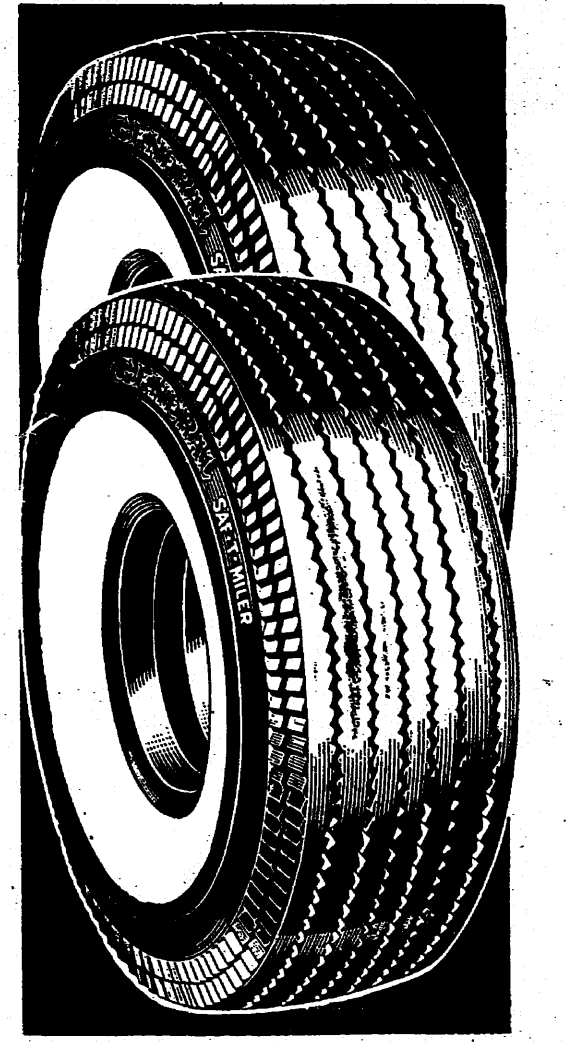
Time trials Saturday and Sunday will start at 1 o'clock, with Monday's trials to get under way at 3 o'clock.

Tuesday, May 24, 1955 The Seattle Times 3

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