

West Nine Seeks Upset Today

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The Fearless Spectator

By

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As you may be aware, the New York Yankees, a baseball team now in spring training in Florida, are waging a desperate fight against respectability.

The Yanks are just about the finest team in baseball. They are also the dullest, just about. The players read the U. S. News and World Report, wear thin black ties, and pay \$35 for alligator loafers with tassels on 'em. You know the type. And you couldn't care less, I hope.

This dullness didn't bother the Yanks much until a couple of years ago, when the biggest collection of bums in baseball, the New York Mets, came to the Polo Grounds.

Aided by their own enormous incompetence (no team in the history of baseball has been so bad) and the comic antics of Mr. Casey Stengel, who derives from the same general branch of the human family as Mr. Cassius M. Clay, the Mets have become the hottest thing in New York baseball.

They have, incredibly, almost overcome the Yanks in attendance, surely one of the most heart-warming fantasies-come-true of our time.

The Yankee management wasn't born yesterday. One of the owners is a rich man's son, who is smart in spite of it. The other is one of the leading figures around Las Vegas, Nev., where you are either smart or dead.

These two worthies, the Messrs. Topping and Webb, are masterminding the war against respectability. They are trying to downgrade the Yankee public image, to use that lovely phrase. To do this, they are fighting fire with fire.

Or more precisely, clown with clown. They have named Mr. Yogi Berra to manage their team, on the theory that he is funnier than Mr. Stengel, and, because of his age, will last longer. The Yanks are great for looking ahead.

It matters very little which team either of these lads manage. With Yogi at the helm of the Yanks, they will win pennants. With Yogi at the helm of the Mets, they would land in the cellar. The same for Mr. Stengel; except that, in his case, it has been proved.

All of which leads us, in an immensely roundabout way, to what at first blush seems a minor flurry in the Yanks' war on respectability.

This is the Yogi Berra Pitcher trainer, a special thing for the kiddies, which is soon to be marketed coast-to-coast at under five bucks.

Kids set up the trainer, which is an inflatable, vinyl catcher effigy of the Yankee manager, who used to be a receiver of some renown. The kids then fling away, doubtless doing a great deal of good for their aggressions, or something.

If you look beneath the surface of this maneuver, and I suggest you do this with everything connected with the Yankees, and baseball for that matter, you will see more than meets the eye. A sinister conspiracy in fact.

The Yogi Berra pitcher trainer is, I suggest, nothing more than a plot to turn every kid in the United States into a member of the Yankees farm organization.

After a busy day of throwing 300 or 400 baseballs at the vinyl effigy of the Yankee manager (the Yanks have always been inflatable, now they're vinyl too) what clean-limbed American kid can do anything more than go to bed, and dream of \$35 alligator loafers with tassels, and thin black ties?

Carson Thinclads Eye Revenge Win

Revenge-minded Carson High will open its Marine League track campaign at 3 p.m. today, traveling to meet cross-town rival Banning.

Last year, in the first season of competition for the Colts, Banning waltzed off with a 99-5 victory.

Carson has shown considerable improvement in its second season and will be coming off a 91-13 victory over Fernan Lasuen.

Topping the Colt cindermen should be Dennis Johnson in the century, Bill Fern in the broad jump and Don Roney,

Bob Bunson and Mike McMahon in the shot put.

Eight new school records highlighted the Carson win over Lasuen. Don Miller set a new mark in the mile with a 4:41 performance to break Javier Jaramillo's standard.

Jaramillo dropped down to the half mile and wound up with a new record at 2:03.6. Dennis Sena claimed a new quarter mile standard, stopping the clock at 53.8 seconds.

Rich Harshaw earned a high jump record, clearing 5 ft. 10 in., while Gil Becerill went over at 11 ft. 6 in. to set a new pole vault record.

Saxons To Face Culver

Two upset-minded prep baseball squads, North and Culver City, will tangle this afternoon in an early-season Sky League crucial.

North opened the league season on Tuesday with a 4-3 upset over favored Morningside. Meanwhile, Culver was putting the skids to Leuzinger, co-favorite with MHS to capture the circuit pennant.

The main North weakness is supposedly its pitching, but the handicap was not in evidence on Tuesday.

YOUNG SOPHOMORE Ron Olguin flipped five innings of two-hit ball before giving way to another soph, Paul Romero, and picked up his first regular-season varsity victory.

Olguin limited the veteran Monarchs to a pair of walks and fanned three while allowing three earned runs. Romero no-hit the Monarchs for two stanzas while walking two and striking out one.

Morningside ace Eric Young sent 10 Saxons down swinging, but he allowed 7 hits and his mates committed 4 bingles as he absorbed the loss.

THE MONARCHS picked up a two-run lead in the second frame on a walk and a freak home run by Cliff Schopf. Schopf hit a hard grounder 10 yards inside the third base line and it eluded outfielder Dennis Irelan and rolled under the fence for a four-bagger.

North waited until the fifth frame before countering, and then the Saxons exploded.

Dave Rance singled and went all the way to third base on an error. Jeff Osborne brought Rance around with another single to leave North trailing, 2-1.

OLGUIN THEN bunted and Osborne was thrown out at second. Brent Nickoloff doubled to move Olguin to third. Both runners came around on a two-bagger by Irelan.

Irelan attempted to reach third base and the throw was wild, allowing him to come across with the fourth and winning Saxon tally.

Morningside came up with one more run in the sixth stanza.

THE MONARCHS threatened in the seventh inning, but two key plays by North Nickoloff at third and a first base pick-off by catcher Andy Carter ruined the rally.

First-year North coach Jim O'Brien has slated either sophomore Mike McCormick or Daryl Masuyama to open against Culver City.



POOR START . . . West High lead-off man Roy Hubecek arrives at first base too late to beat a throw to Torrance High's Rod White Tuesday afternoon. West picked up four runs, mainly on the basis of five consecutive walks, in the

first innings and went on to a 6-2 Pioneer League triumph. Torrance will tangle with El Segundo today while West will face defending league champ Aviation. (Herald Photo)

FOUR CHAMPIONS

Anderson Leads El Camino To State Wrestling Crown

Former South High grappler Bob Anderson was named California's top jaycee wrestler over the weekend as he led El Camino College to the state mat championship.

Anderson retained his 167-pound title as El Camino turned in the finest performance in the history of the state finals.

Camino placed men in 7 of 10 categories and brought back four championships from Diablo Valley College. The Warriors chalked up 88 points while second-place Fresno City College could master only 54. San Bernardino Valley College recorded 48 points for third.

TOM McCANN, 123 pounds; Paul Steinel, 137 pounds; and Dennis Albright, 157 pounds, joined Anderson as state champions. Anderson, the only returning state champ for the Warriors, was also tabbed as the outstanding wrestler in the Metropolitan Conference Tournament.

Anderson won his first three matches by pins in the two-day event and triumphed in the finals by a 4-0 decision.

McCANN GAINED his final victory by an easy pin in 1:53

of the first period. He started the match with a takedown and his opponent stood up. But McCann still had a grip on his foot and simply pulled his man back down for the pin.

Steinel gained sweet revenge while earning his crown. He faced Bob Munger of Imperial Valley College, the man who beat him 3-0 a week earlier in the qualifying tourney.

In the words of Camino wrestling coach Dave Hengstler, Steinel simply "crushed Munger" and came out with a 5-0 verdict.

Albright, from Torrance

High, rebounded from a second place in the qualifying tournament to become the new 157-pound state champ.

Sam Garcia, a former North High grappler, won second place in the 130-pound class for the second straight year. Rich Tamble, formerly of South High, picked up a third place in the 115-pound class as did Larry Wolfe in the 117-pound division.

Hengstler attributed the Warrior success to sheer talent. "They won because they are good wrestlers. It was a tremendous team effort."

Pioneer Spikers To Open Season

Cinder squads from Torrance and West high schools will meet their first league opponents of the year tomorrow afternoon while spikers from North and South continue their circuit campaigns.

West, given the best chance of any Pioneer League school of knocking over favored Aviation, will journey to Lawndale. The primary Warrior strength will be offered by Tom Jurco, Ron Pettigrew and Lindy Nuzzo.

JURCO won the 220 and finished second in the 880 and broad jump last week as West ripped Bishop Montgomery. Pettigrew won the half mile in 2:04.9 while Nuzzo was clearing 11 ft. 6 in. in the pole vault.

Torrance will tangle with El Segundo tomorrow on the Tartar field. This enjoyed a bye last week but Coach Duane Lemon was impressed with several time trial performances.

Mike Hatter clocked 15.8 in the high hurdles and Bob

Brennan toured the 1320 in 3:34.0. Freshman Tom Schemenauer gave notice of things to come by clearing 5 ft. 8 in. in the high jump.

South will seek its second Bay League victory tomorrow, journeying to Redondo. The Spartans edged Hawthorne last Friday in the circuit opener.

Spartan coach Dick Scully will depend on versatile Wes Fox, miler Dave Ledford and distance ace Doug Hall to pull off an upset. Fox won both the 220 and 880 against Hawthorne while Ledford has gone under 4:30 in the mile this season.

HALL, normally a half-miler switched to the 440 last week and won in 51.8 seconds.

North dropped its initial Sky League decision last week to Morningside and will travel to Culver City tomorrow in quest of victory number one.

The Saxons will depend on sprinter Alan Johnson and half-miler Bob Hansen.

METRO LEADERS

Camino to Test Title Hopes

What chance does El Camino College have in the 1964 Metropolitan baseball championship title race?

The question could well be answered this weekend when the Warriors face Santa Monica and Long Beach in three crucial conference contests.

Tomorrow El Camino hosts Santa Monica and Saturday travels to Blair Field for a doubleheader against Coach Bill Hatch's Vikings, defending conference titlists and second place finishers in the 1963 state tournament.

The Warriors sport a perfect

3-0 conference record after disposing of East Los Angeles, 3-0, and Bakersfield, 4-1 and 11-1, this past weekend. Santa Monica and Long Beach are each 2-1 for the conference.

In Friday's game at East LA, burly righthander Jon Beck scattered four hits and struck out nine Huskies while his teammates were collecting 14 safeties.

CENTERFIELDER Steve Woody and leftfielder Dick Grossman led the offensive charge with three hits each. Beck threw 142 pitches and

following the game explained why 135 were fast balls: "My curve gave me some trouble in the early innings so I stuck with the fast ball the rest of the way. I felt better as I went along and think that will be my pattern for this season."

Saturday, pitchers Bob Delzell and Larry Chastain continued to shake the opposition by allowing only six hits and striking out 31.

Delzell gave up five hits and fanned 15 while Chastain was touched for one hit and struck out 16. The only hit off Chastain was

Tribe 'Walks' By THS

Defending CIF "AA" division baseball champ Aviation will receive its first stiff Pioneer League test of the season against visiting West High tomorrow afternoon.

West, considered the club most likely to knock the Falcons out of the Pioneer championship, warmed up for the contest by "walking" to a 6-2 victory over cross-town rival Torrance High on Tuesday.

Warrior coach Max Lomas will open with junior righthander John Marsden on the hill. Marsden went two innings against Torrance before giving way to sophomore Dave LaRoche.

IN HIS short stint, Marsden was touched for one run on three hits.

Walks were the difference between Torrance and West. The Warriors pushed four runs across in the opening stanza on only one hit.

Veteran chucker Bob Battaglia, unable to find the dish, allowed walks to Dick Buchanan, Gary Loyd, Marsden, LaRoche, and Dennis Dodds and a single to Bob Gadohis before being relieved.

Steady Mike Blankenship came in to relieve Battaglia and allowed seven hits, five walks and two earned runs in 6 2/3 innings of toil. He struck out three men.

La Roche was the key man for West, sparkling in his relief role and earning his initial varsity triumph after four losses as a freshman last year. A lefty, LaRoche allowed only three hits and two walks while fanning five.

West gave La Roches added support in the third stanza on two walks and a single by Mike Donahue.

IN THE FIFTH frame, West struck out again. Marsden, who had retired to third base, led off the frame with a 340-foot home run into right field.

Torrance tightened up the score in the second frame when Les Dutcher singled, stole second and came across on a single by Phil Hull.

The Tartars were unable to score again until the bottom of the seventh when Hull walked, stole second, and came around on consecutive fielder's choices from Jim Malone and Lloyd Gilstrap.

Next in line for Torrance will be a league contest with El Segundo this afternoon.

Tartar boss Dale Walker has selected Dutcher to open on the mound.

City Finals Tonight Will Decide Title

The Jack Kramer Club, champions of the Industrial League, and the Tolson-Vaughn Realtors, champs of the Thursday Open Loop, will meet head-on tonight at Torrance High in the first game of the city basketball championships.

Winners of the first game, to be played at 7 p.m., will meet Church League champs Resurrection Lutheran Church for the city title.

The winners of the final game will get the perpetual trophy, symbolic of supremacy in the Recreation Department leagues. The names of all players on the championship team will be added to a list which covers the past 18 years.