

Mike Callas



JOHNNY PODRES CAPABLE OF WINNING TWENTY

Emil "Buzzie" Bavasi, sometime controversial Los Angeles Dodgers General Manager, announced yesterday that he had signed southpaw hurler Johnny Podres and flashy second baseman Charlie Neal. The two players make it 20 who have pledged their services to the team, leaving 18 players still unsigned. It is noted by L.A. publicist Red Patterson that Bavasi hopes to have the entire roster of ballplayers in the fold by spring training time in Vero Beach, Florida, Feb. 19.

Although Roger Craig is the oldest pitcher on the squad from the standpoint of age, Podres, at the "veteran" birthday of 29, is the senior member of the mound corps. Johnny has seven National League seasons of play with 82 victories on the bright side of Allan Roth's ledger to his credit. The latest press release issued by Patterson tells us that: Podres... "started more games than he ever had, 33; pitched more innings, 228; had more strikeouts, 159; and his victory total of 14 tied his 1959 output." The totals were for the 1960 season of play. The left-handed flinger came up with an earned run average of 2.08, considerably better than the 4.11 he posted in 1959.

TROUBLES WITH BACK

During the last year of baseball action, Podres pitched a total of eight complete games, won seven, and lost a heartbreaking 1-0 decision. You would gather, from this monumental statistic that Johnny is an almost 100 per cent winner if he goes the route.

Patterson explains that Podres would have been able to complete more contests had his back not become sore. For the past few seasons the southpaw has been having so much trouble with the back part of his upper torso that writers, front office and ballplayers have labeled his condition as "chronic." Why the affliction cannot be corrected is a mystery to the numerous close followers of the first major-league team to hit Los Angeles.

Johnny is a single young man who hasn't permitted a woman to take him "down the aisle." Off the field he is one of the more pleasant members of the Dodgers. He "cuts-up" with others on the roster, in the clubhouse and dugout. His jokes are sometimes sarcastic with the punchline aimed at the Dodger front office. What serious troubles he has had with the men who sign his paychecks is always clouded with Stengelese, "those guys" or "that ba . . ."

Once on the field, Podres is no longer the "try-so-hard-to-be" comedian. He works fast, so rapidly in fact that it's only 9 p.m. and the game is in the latter stages of the fourth inning. Once the rest of the National League, not wearing a Dodger uniform, get to him, he slows up like a hunter waiting for the never-appearing ducks to get within range. The blank face he wears on the mound is a classic example of intense study. And if he is shepherded, his only emotion is that of a dejected by compromising twirler headed for the shower. No loud dirty words; no lashing out at the opposing hitters, kicking up the dust around the mound or tossing his glove in the dugout. What thoughts go on in his mind during these moments of lost dignity remain with him.

CAN WIN TWENTY IF PLAYERS HIT

Despite Johnny's once-in-a-while ailing back, he can go on and win the magic twenty, providing the players hit behind him. In so many instances last year Podres was the victim of poor Dodger hitting. The hurler had to work twice as hard to get the victory because Dodger bats were impotent. One sometimes thinks that the Bums don't care whether the southpaw wins or loses. Like any other pitcher on the team, Johnny needs support. In a few games last year errors cost him some runs. Hurlers have been known to give players who err a severe tongue-lashing in the clubhouse after the losing effort. Not so with Podres. He tells the guilty team-mate, "I know you didn't mean to . . . it just got away from you."

Like any other club in the majors, the Dodgers are no different when it comes to pitchers throwing them too close to a batter's head. The hot-heads know who they are. But to this corner's knowledge Podres is not one of them. He wins because he's a much better than average hurler. When the last batter up gets a homer or deciding hit off Johnny, he doesn't come right back to the next hitter and throw the "duster."

Wherever the Dodgers finish this year, the public will know that in Johnny Podres they've seen a devoted pitcher who came up with his share of the victories. Twenty, I hope.

NUMBER 2 FOR LEO

When Leo Durocher joined the Dodgers' coaching staff, a number shuffle resulted. Leo has always worn No. 2 since his playing days and down through his managerial maneuvers. So "Senator" John Griffin, the Dodgers' equipment manager, returned that number to Leo, giving No. 16 to Don Demeter. Clay

ROSES PRUNED

Roses should be pruned during this, their dormant period, and chances are you've already seen to this job. If not, prune as early this month as you get into the garden.

Bryant, another new Dodger coach, took over Bobby Bragan's No. 10.

Olympic Movies Available for Groups on Loan

"Inside Basketball," a series of 10 films featuring the 1960 U.S. Olympic Team, is available for loan to civic, fraternal and school organizations through the 40th Armored Division, California National Guard.

The series of 15-minute shows features tips from Pete Newell, University of California coach who directed the United States team to the Olympic championship.

Demonstrations in ball handling, shooting and defense are given by team members Jerry Lucas (Ohio State), Walt Bellamy (Indiana), Oscar Robertson (Cincinnati), Terry Dischinger (Purdue), Jay Arnett (Texas), Darrall Imhoff (California) and Jerry West (West Virginia).

The first four films in the series are now available on a free loan basis at 40th Division Headquarters, 3440 South Hipe Street, Los Angeles. The remaining six shows may be borrowed after February 15, 1961.

Interested persons may contact Captain Herbert Temple, 40th Division Headquarters Commandant, Richmond 7-9371.

EC Matmen Attend AAU

El Camino College wrestlers will journeyed to San Diego Friday to participate in the Naval Training Center invitational two-day AAU Tournament.

Last year, the Warriors tied for second place in this tournament with Jun Watanabe reigning as 114½ pound champion. This was the first time that an El Camino wrestler had ever captured an AAU-sponsored tournament.

The Warriors won their sixth consecutive wrestling meet by smashing Cerritos 33-2 in a Southern California JC Conference meet on the Warrior's mats last week.

Dave Fiorelli of El Camino won his ninth straight match of the year by decisioning Buddy Cox of Cerritos 11-1.

Co-Captain Frank Dolce of El Camino chalked up his fourteenth victory in 15 junior college matches over a two-year span when he pinned Jim Harrington in 1:15.

Paul Hooper of El Camino scored a smashing upset over last year's California JC 147-pound champ, Chuck Booth, 7-2.

Little League Assisted by Local Groups

The Torrance Central Little League wishes to express its sincere thanks for the assist given by the "Welding Gang" from Chicago Bridge and Iron, and the Youth Committee from Rotary Club in building a backdrop for a new Little League field being constructed at Mobil Park.

The Chicago Bridge employees, Joe Arnold, Bruno Giacomi, Johnny Griffin, Marvin ones, Harold Lewis, Roy Mead and Larry Nagle, after prefabricating the necessary length of pipe at the Company Shop, volunteered their time Saturday morning to erect the backdrop at the field.

Those from Rotary Club who helped were Ralph Jenkins, Bill Moss, Jim Weigel and John Tweedy.

Little League, which is locally operated and receives no aid from National Headquarters, particularly appreciated all assistance given by Local Firms.



Gable House had its usual large class for the ladies last Thursday afternoon. Jack Frybaum gave the girls instructions on throwing a hook ball.

WRIST LOCKED

If a bowler learns how to throw a hook ball and also how to control it, he will get better pin action. The wrist has to be completely locked in position to get the effect. Following through after releasing the ball is also very important. If these two things are done correctly, the thumb will leave the ball first and the fingers will follow enough to put a hook into the ball. If the wrist collapses, your ball will just sail down the lane in a straight line. Try it sometime and see how this method works for you.

Jerry Homel announced that there will be another class same time and day next week. He promises something extra special—the joke was that he didn't even know himself—but don't worry, as usual, Homel will think up something helpful and entertaining.

ROVING REPORTER

Since there were so many ladies who participated in the Low Ball class a week ago Thursday that returned this

week, I thought it would be interesting to find out their opinions on the game. My question was: "How did you enjoy the Low Ball Class?" Here are the replies I received: Pat Harold: "I feel it was the perfect way to get a 300 game—all gutter balls." Brenda Harcourt: "I didn't much care for it. It was too hard for me to bowl in reverse." Shirley Lerman: "It was a real challenge, but I blew my opportunity for a trophy in the ninth frame." Fran Sayer: "I won a trophy, so it was fun and good practice for me. It was amazing to be able to only pick off the 7 and 10 pins with the rest standing." Doris Walton and Marie Percan each agreed and said: "The first game was fun but by the second, it seemed a little boring." Norma Fraser: "Low Ball was fun and so good for corner practice which is generally every bowler's downfall. Also low ball tends to help you on better concentration." Dottie Brown: "It was fun for the day, but I wouldn't want a steady diet of it."

I interviewed many other ladies with approximately the same answers, so I found that most, in general, enjoyed Low Ball as a change of pace for practice. But, all in all, I feel most bowlers want to get as much pin count as possible as that is the true sport of bowling.

LEAGUE OF WEEK

The Tuesday evening Del Amo Mixed Five handicap holds the weekly honor. This enthusiastic group has six teams with 5 bowlers on each. Team 6, the Swingers, is in first place with 31 wins and 21 losses. Team 6 members and averages are: J. Lindeman, 105; M. Porter, 142; D. Davis, 122; R. Schoid, 130; and T. Lansky, 99.

Weekly high scores are held by MHS, N. Morang, 627; MHG, J. Comer, 240; WHS, A. Lappin, 523; and WMG, G. Chraatha, 186.

Seasons highscores to date are held by MHS, D. Peters, 637; MHG, R. Macinnes, 245; WMS, R. Derusha, 602; and WHG, J. Duffey, 262.

HOUSE NEWS

Congratulations to Bill McKechnie and his wife on the birth of their baby daughter Kimberly Jean. The new little miss was born three weeks ago and weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. Bill is the one who sees that all you league bowlers have league sheets on time.

Jerry Homel announced that there will be another Gable House Association meeting this Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock in the banquet room. Members and their friends are welcome.

Ruth Caudle will conduct her free bowling class for anyone 50 years and over this morning at 10 o'clock.

Record Hurdler Makes West Coast Debut at Sports Arena on Feb. 11

Hayes Jones, co-holder of the world's indoor 60-yard hurdle record of 7.0, will take on a field of 11 stick artists, including a Michigan football star, in his pet event during the Los Angeles Indoor Games Feb. 11 at the Sports Arena.

The bulky field will necessitate three heats with each winner and the two fastest second place finishers advancing into the finals of five.

Jones, graduate student of Eastern Michigan and winner of the Los Angeles Invitational at 7.1, goes in the first heat along with Ben McRae, the Wolverine griddy-hurdler, Brian Polkinghorne of Southern Cal and C. K. Yang, UCLA's great all-around trackman.

McRae comes highly recommended by big 10 coaches and ran 14.0 outdoors last year but is regarded as a better indoor man over the shorter distance.

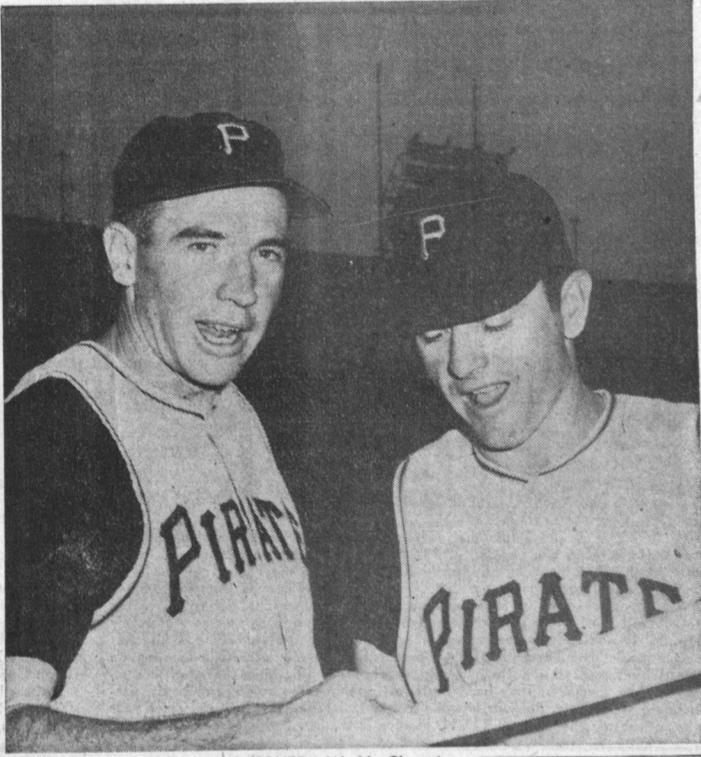
RUNNERS-UP
Rex Cawley of SC, runner-up to the retired Lee Calhoun

in the 1960 Indoor Games, is in the second heat with Jim Johnson of UCLA, Jimmy Tarr of Oregon and Jim Ball of the Air Force. Johnson, Rafer's old brother, won the NCAA high hurdles last June and has a best of 13.9 outdoors.

Don Styron, of the famed Styron twins of Southern Illinois, is listed in the third heat with Gaston Green, Arizona State, Billy Wells of the Bruins and Bob Pierce of SC. Styron was a hurdling sensation last year outdoors with clockings of 13.8, 21.9 and 49.8 for 120 yards, 220 yards and 400 meters respectively over the barriers.

Green is a Los Angeles boy from LACC who last year had the fastest JC times in the country, 14.0 and 23.2. Wells holds victories over teammate Johnson with a best of 14.0, while Trojan soph Pierce has shown well on the boards, gaining the finals in the 1960 Indoor Games with a best of 7.3.

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Ram Ends Its Honor Guest

Gene Brito, defensive end for the Los Angeles Rams and a member of the All-Pro squad for five years, will appear as a guest-of-honor at the annual Father and Son banquet to be presented by the Los Crusados council of the Knights of Columbus tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m.

George Gaunter and Tom Robinson, athletic directors for Bishop Montgomery and Permin-Lasuen high schools, will be the other council guests for the banquet to be held in the council chambers, 214 Avenue L, Redondo Beach. The three athletic figures will participate in the presentation of "most valuable player" awards during the program.

Reservations for the Father and Son banquet must be made before Feb. 2nd. Joseph Piatt, council chancellor, is the program chairman.

Prior to his acquisition by the Rams, Brito played 84 consecutive games over a seven year career with the Washington Redskins. The former Loyola of Los Angeles

SIGNED. World Champions Bob Skinner, left, and Dick Stuart of the Pittsburgh Pirates inked their 1961 contracts, it was announced today by the team's front office. Pair is shown here at Los Angeles Coliseum prior to crucial series with Dodgers last year.

—Press photo

star won the Most Valuable Lineman Award in 1958, and has been selected to play in five Pro Bowl games. He will appear as a courtesy of the Flastaff Brewing Corp. Films of the Rams in action will follow the dinner program.

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