

The Fearless Spectator

By

Charles McCabe, Esquire



As you may have heard, people are staying away from baseball games in droves, right in the midst of the greatest sports boom in our history. Especially, they are staying away in droves in the American League, or junior loop, as us authors call it.

The reason, conceivably, is that most baseball contests are about as dramatic as a performance of Parsifal in the dark, what with managers nipping out to the mound for profound conferences with pitchers and calling in chaps from the bullpen, and similar time-consuming dodges.

An outfit that is not taking this economic setback lying down is the New York Mets, which last year lost 111 baseball games and won the distinction of being the worst team in the history of the National Pastime.

Oddly, they did all right at the gate, and almost overtook the Yankees in New York, a situation without parallel in the long history of winners and losers.

But like they say, you lose 111 games and you gotta do something, even if you have a loyal following. The thing that immediately suggests itself is that the Mets go out and buy some good ballplayers, but this is easier said than done.

Nobody in baseball parts with anything he really wants, which is why the good teams stay good and the bad ones tend to stay bad. And which, incidentally, is one main reason for the drop in attendance.

If you can't beg, borrow, or steal good ballplayers, what can you do. Give away green stamps?

Yes. That is precisely what the Mets are about to do. Give away trading stamps to hype their gate.

Supermarket customers in the New York area are going to get 2.5 million trading stamps in a big drawing in connection with the Mets opening at their new stadium on April 17.

Another 5,000 customers in the New York area will get free tickets for the opening game. And 24 will get season passes.

If this stunning economic breakthrough has you slightly reeling, be assured you are in good company. It could only have been thought up by a club that in 1962 lost 120 games and last year lost 22 straight on the road.

The splendid insouciance behind the idea that watching a Mets game is somehow a REWARD is the most marvelous exhibition of brass I've heard of in a long time.

This is rather like offering a bottle of Old Popskull to a temperance worker as a reward for activity above and beyond the call of duty.

But I fear the Mets know their man. As the greatest losers in sport, they have a natural affinity for the losers who support them.

By brassily pretending that a ticket to a Mets game is some sort of a prize, the management will doubtless make it become some sort of prize. In the days of Mr. Hitler, this used to be called the technique of the Large Falsehood.

The typical Mets fan has been much talked about, but little has been told about him that is true.

All you have to do is walk across the length of the Polo Grounds on the nights of a Mets game and you will see the secret answer to the elan which sustains them in times of the utmost misfortune. Two thirds of 'em are stewed to the eyeballs.

They feel sorry for themselves, and then they think of the Mets, who are worse off than they are, and springs of love and affection are opened, and next thing you know the guy is out in the ball park with his bottle, feeling sorry for everybody on the field. Great.

This kind of fella is precisely the kind of fella who will think a Mets trading stamp is a prize beyond compare. And there are millions such around New York, believe you me.

Mongtomery Falls To Crespi Nine

Once-beaten Bishop Montgomery will seek its third Camino Real League baseball win tomorrow at 3 p.m. against St. John Vianney.

The Knights suffered their first circuit loss of the year on Tuesday when Pat McLaughlin hurled league-leading Crespi to a 3-2 decision. McLaughlin went the entire route and spread six hits without giving up an earned run.

Irl Davis, who threw a no-hitter in his first league start, was saddled with the loss although he allowed only three hits in seven frames. Davis struck out 10, and walked only

2 while giving up one earned run.

Crespi countered twice in the second inning and once in the third to clinch the win.

Montgomery opened its scoring in the first frame when Pete Maccarrone singled and came home on Jerry Leininger's single and an error.

In the fifth, BMHS tallied again when Davis reached second base on a hard hit ball to shortstop and a throwing error, went to third on Maccarrone's single, and came home on a delayed double steal.

Maccarrone went 2 for 3 at the dish and pilfered two of the four bases Montgomery stole.

Inglewood Relays Lure Spikers

Twenty-two of the Southland's finest track teams, including four Torrance high school squads, will compete today and tomorrow in the 25th annual Inglewood Relays at Sentinel Field.

North, South, Torrance and West will compete against a huge aggregation of teams led by Aviation, Mira Costa, Palos Verdes, Inglewood and Santa Monica.

Finals in the Bee and Cee field events will begin at 3 p.m. today on the Inglewood High School track. Running events will begin tomorrow at 7:45 p.m. with varsity field event finals beginning at 6:30.

None of the local varsity squads figure in the relay championship, but the South Cee team, winner of its division in the Mira Costa Relays, is favored to pick off a similar plum at Inglewood.

South may field the strongest varsity team. Topping the Spartan entries will be a two-mile combine of Dennis Kirby, Dave Ledford, Wes Fox and Doug

Hall. SHS will also enter a strong mile-relay team of Randy Siller, Ron Marra, Jim Culp and Bruce Boyers.

Steve Jones, Bob Palmer, Harry Leonard and John Thomas will be entered in the shuttle hurdles for South and Harry Ruitterman, John Daugherty, Scott Christensen and Randy Lee will compete in the shot put.

North's sprinters will provide it with varsity push. The Saxons will go with John Rance, Bruce Allen, Alan Kimbel and Alan Johnson in the 440 relay, and Allen, Kimbel, Johnson and Bob Hansen in the 880 relay. The 440 team ran 43.5 seconds in the recent Bellflower Relays.

John Mizer, Gene Hobdy, Allen and Hansen will comprise a mile relay squad and Johnson, Dale Foth and Hansen will compete in the broad jump.

Foth, Mizer and Hansen will go in the high jump

and Len Damerow, Craig Dearden and Charles Liore will comprise North's shot put squad.

Torrance's main varsity strength will come in the broad jump where Ed Watson, Bob Romero and John Grim will compete. Grim, Watson, Bob Meadows and Pat Lewandowski will also go in the 440 relay.

West, competing in only its second season, will not enter a varsity team. The Warriors will field a strong Bee shuttle hurdle team of Mark Knox, Bill Huddleston, Bill Jones and Joel Hons.

Hons, Jones, Jim Marshall and Tom Jurco will also enter the Bee 400 and Jones, Ron Corliss, Marshall and Jurco will run in the 880 relay. Keith Nestor, Howard McVey, Jurco and Lou Bisou, or Bill Franz or John Smith will compete in the two-mile relay.

Steve Mandel, John Black and Tom Mays will team in the Cee shot put for West.

Hard Luck Hits Young North Nine

North High will attempt to end a two-game losing streak and a string of bad luck against Morningside today at 3 p.m. in a Sky League horsehide engagement on the Saxon diamond.

On Tuesday, North's sophomore righthander Dave McCormick threw 8 1/3 innings of no-hit ball and still the Saxons dropped a 1-0 decision to Inglewood.

McCormick and Rick Meneccazi hooked up in the finest pitching duel of the prep season, and although he gave up a total of only four hits, McCormick was saddled with the defeat.

MENECAZZI went the full nine innings and gave up only five hits while fanning ten and walking three. McCormick struck out eight and walked five in his 8 1/3 innings of toil.

A walk, a single and Bill Hall's base hit cost McCormick the decision.

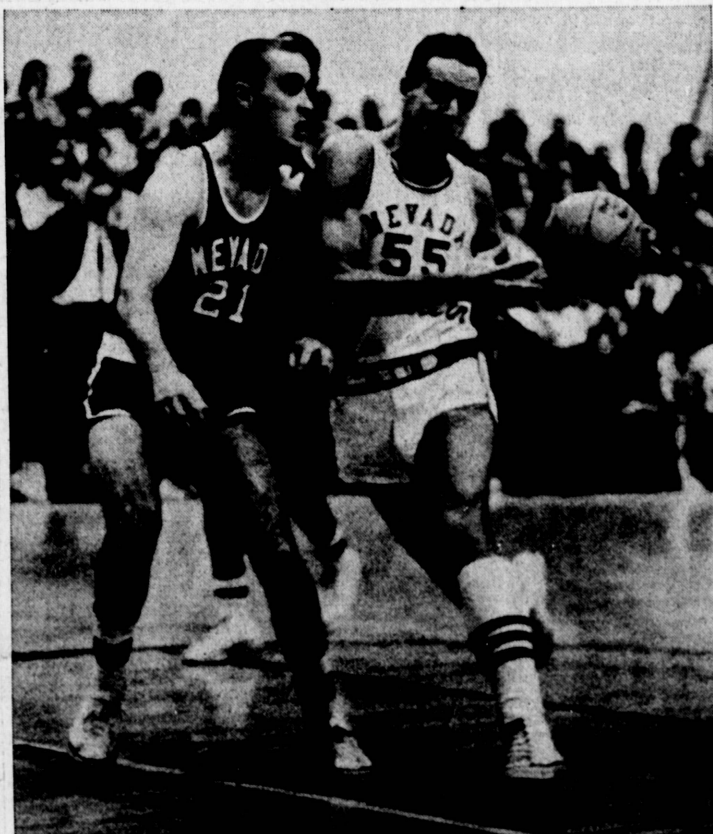
Until the fifth inning, when he walked three men, McCormick had a perfect game under his belt, but he failed to receive any hitting support.

North almost won the game in regulation innings. With the bases loaded and two out in the seventh, McCormick fanned to give Inglewood another chance. In the ninth inning, North again almost pulled it out, putting men on second and third with only one away before Meneccazi took control.

BRENT NICKOLOFF, Bill Cucerty, Joe DeLuca, Rudy Suarez and McCormick each hit safely off Meneccazi, but North could not bunt its safeties.

The loss was North's second in a row and left it with a 2-2 record. Inglewood now stands at 3-2. North opened the year with a bang and recorded two straight wins before disaster hit.

Despite its standing, North has received top pitching performances from its young mound corps. McCormick, a sophomore, Olguin, a soph., and Masuyama, a freshman, are the bulwarks of O'Brien's throwing staff.



OFFENSIVE THREAT . . . Former Torrance High and El Camino College great Bob Moon, now playing for Nevada Southern University, roars past Robert Donlan of Nevada University for an easy score. Moon scored 29 points, only five below the NSU single-game mark, to lead a 95-68 upset win.

BEGAN IN 1945

Family Athletic Tradition Continues With Bob Moon

By GREGG PETERSON
Herald Sports Editor

Sports and the name "Moon" have been synonymous in Torrance for almost 20 years.

In June, 1945, Elmer "Red" Moon was hired by the Torrance Recreation Department. Today he is still an integral part of the city's athletic program as head of adult recreation activities.

During the 1952 prep basketball season, another Moon, this time Bob, stepped into the athletic spotlight — and he has yet to exit.

A story that began on the Torrance High hardwood

reached its climax this year at Nevada Southern University, where Bob Moon has matriculated after spending a hitch in the service and a year at El Camino College.

The younger Moon was nothing less than sensational for Nevada Southern during the early part of its season, until a flu virus knocked him flat. Bob popped in 109 points for the Rebels in the opening four games of the year. A 29-point effort against the University of Nevada was only five points shy of the NSU single game scoring record.

With Moon leading the way,

the Rebels quickly ran up an 8-1 record and moved into the finals of the local Holiday Classic Tournament. Several hours before the championship game, Bob was hit by a virus and Nevada Southern lost a 44-41 nod to Cal Western without Moon in the lineup.

Bob sat out the next three games and upon his return, he had partially lost his shooting touch. He finished the year with a 10.7 average and currently ranks 12th in NSU's all-time scoring race.

Everywhere Bob Moon has played, the story has been the same. At El Camino in 1962, he was named to the first string All-Metropolitan Conference quintet despite a weak circuit showing by the Warriors.

BUT HIS REAL fame came at Torrance High where, in 1952, as a junior, he was named an All-Bay league member. During his first year of varsity competition, the 15-year-old Moon set a new school scoring record of 33 points.

In his senior year, things really started to pop for Bob and he graduated from Torrance with 10 new basketball records. He averaged 18 points per game in his final year, led the Bay League in scoring, and was given a guard berth on the All-CIF squad.

A Torrance-Redondo game during the 1953-54 season symbolizes Moon's cage career. With a minute and one-half gone in the final quarter, Redondo held a 49-29 bulge.

IN THE NEXT 6½ minutes Torrance tied the game and won in overtime, 55-53. And it was Moon who sent the game into the extra period with a half-court shot just as the buzzer sounded.

Between Bob and his dad, there is nearly 40 years of basketball experience and the name Moon will always remain high on the list of Torrance's great sporting families.

West Falls Short In Upset Attempt

El Segundo maintained its share of the Pioneer League horsehide lead Tuesday afternoon with a 3-2, eight-inning triumph over West High.

West, which had been tied with El Segundo and Lennox for the circuit lead, dropped into second place by virtue of the defeat. It was the third 3-2 ball game for the Warriors and the second they have lost.

Junior John Marsden, tabbed as the Southland's finest major league pitching prospect, suffered his second straight loss although he gave up only five hits.

KER BRETT, a sophomore, also gave up five safeties and allowed one earned run in his eight innings of work. Brett struck out three and walked six.

Marsden, who struck out seven, walked five and gave up one earned run, is now 1-2 in Pioneer play and 3-2 for the season.

El Segundo opened with single runs in the first and second innings and tagged on one more in the bottom of the eighth frame to bring its circuit record to 3-1.

West countered in the opening stanza when Dave LaRoche reached first on an error, went to second on a ground out and eventually came home on a throwing error when Dennis Dodd hit to second base.

THE WARRIORS countered again in the fifth inning when Dick Buchanan belted a 325-foot bases-empty home run into center field.

Marsden, who teams with Gary Loyd to form West's power combination at the plate, was walked three times, twice intentionally. The El Segundo diamond measures only 310 feet down the line and Buchanan's bomb easily cleared the center field fence.

West will attempt to get back in the Pioneer pennant chase on its own field at 3 p.m. today against cross-town rival Torrance High.

WARRIOR BOSS Max Lomas will start Dave LaRoche, who gained his only varsity win at the hands of Torrance when the clubs met earlier in the season. LaRoche, a sophomore, normally holds down the first base slot.

Torrance Will Meet Warriors

Crosstown rivals West and Torrance high schools will clash today at 3 p.m. on the Warrior diamond to open the second round of Pioneer League baseball action.

Torrance will carry a four-game league losing streak into the contest. Tartar boss Dale Walker will probably open with Narbonne High transfer Les Dutcher, who is 0-1 against Pioneer opposition.

In his last appearance, Dutcher was beaten by league-leading El Segundo.

WEST WILL CART a 2-2 mark and a two-game loss skein into the game. Warrior boss Max Lomas has indicated he will go with Dave LaRoche, who gained a win over Torrance in the opening round of play.

Lennox maintained a share of the Pioneer lead on Tuesday with a 5-0 triumph over Torrance. Bob Harvey went the full seven frames and gave up only three hits while striking out four and walking one to shutout the Tartars.

Mike Blankenship was almost as effective for Torrance. He went five innings and was touched for three hits and two walks while striking out one.

SENIOR NORM Korchensky made his first league appearance in relief of Blankenship, coming in after five innings. Korchensky allowed one run and one hit. He fanned two and walked one.

Lennox did most of its damage in the opening frame, pushing over three runs. The Lancers added one more in the second and another in the sixth.

South Seeks End To Loss Streak

South and Hawthorne will tangle for the third time in six days this afternoon in a Bay League horsehide tussle on the Cougar diamond.

Dan Bigelow flipped a six-hitter Tuesday afternoon to lead Hawthorne in a 3-2 league win over the Spartans. Saturday, South picked up an 8-5, eight-inning decision over the Cougars in the confused Hawthorne Tournament.

Bigelow struck out nine, walked three and allowed only

one earned run to knock South out of the circuit lead.

Prior to Tuesday's game, South was tied for the Bay lead. Now Redondo, with a 4-2 record, heads the loop, while Hawthorne, 3-2; Palos Verdes, 3-3; Mira Costa, 3-3; South, 2-3; and Santa Monica, 2-4, trail.

South mentor Jerry McIlvaine will open with Dale St. John today. St. John has a 1-2 league record and a 3-2 mark overall. He picked up the loss against Hawthorne on Tuesday after relieving Ray Allen.

Enoch to End Economy Run

C. K. Enoch, 2415 Grand Summit Road, will wind up the 3,100 mile Mobil Economy Run today when he arrives at the New York World's Fair.

Although it is Enoch's first Mobil Economy Run, he has an extensive background in automotive competition. He has been driving and navigating in Southern California sports car rallies since 1954. In 1957 and again in 1963 he won the Lockheed 24-hour Rally and he placed fifth in the recent American International Rally.

ALLEN STARTED and went 5-2/3 innings, fanning nine, walking five, and allowing two earned runs on five hits. St. John gave up only one hit and two walks while whiffing four in 1 1/3 innings of work.

The Spartans opened their scoring in the first frame as Chuck Hrehor reached second base in a two-base error and came home on a single by Paul Vojtecky.

In the sixth inning, South scored again. Dave Ferber walked, went to third on Craig Moore's single, and came across on a wild pitch.



DEFENSIVE STAR . . . Bob Moon of Torrance is shown attempting to stop San Diego Navy PHIBPAC's Bill Salisbury in his first game for Nevada Southern University. Moon led all scorers with 23 points and broke a university record by sinking 13 of 16 free throws as NSU registered a 66-54 upset. (Photos Courtesy Las Vegas Review-Journal)