

Spikers Set for Loop Prelims

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The Fearless Spectator

By Charles McCabe, Esquire



Now that the Annual Lunacy is upon us, it might be fit to dwell on the pennant race in New York City this year. This one has to be the nuttiest in the glorious history of the game.

If everything was pour le sport in baseball, there would be no story in the New York City race. But the name of the game is loot. From this depends the tale.

New Yorkers, who understand money, are going to be watching a gate attendance contest between the worst team in baseball, the National League Mets, and the best team in baseball, the American League Yankees, with the Mets at the moment odds-on favorites to win the cash sweepstakes.

The Mets went over a million at the gate last year, in the raunchy Polo Grounds, which is situated in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the city. They finished only 228,812 behind the Yanks, after winning a runaway victory for the cellar by finishing 15 solid games behind the Houston Colts.

This year the Mets have a new stadium. Furthermore, the new stadium, Shea Stadium, is hard-by the World's Fair. As Casey Stengel, the Met manager, tells everyone:

"When you get tired of walkin' around those World Fair grounds in New York, come on over to Shea Stadium and sit down to watch our Mets." There will be plenty of room in which to rest the old frame—55,000 seats, to be exact.

The new stadium is likely to prove seductive, at least once, to the Yankee fans, who would like to see what the competition has to offer.

Now I need hardly tell you that baseball has little to do with Yankee-Met fight for the gate, although the visits of the Giants and Dodgers to Shea will unquestionably help things out.

No, it's Casey Stengel v. Yogi Berra on the one hand; and the new-found Cult of the Loser on the other.

Yogi and Casey are the leading local television attractions in the city. With their varying kinds of illiteracy, they make announcements about their tigers which make guys in bars feel they have just won a Ph. D. from Columbia.

As is well-known, the greatest salesmen are those guys who make you feel sorry for them, and hence superior to them.

"Great old kid, that Case," the boys say. "Great old kid, that Yogi," they also say. What they are saying is, "Thank God, there's somebody worse off than me." It's an ingenious approach, and ties in closely with the Cult of the Loser, which is responsible for the Mets' staggering success.

It's entirely possible, for example, that when and if the Giants go on the skids, Willie Mays will be named manager because he is colorful. (He might not be a bad manager because it's unlikely he would interfere with the players.)

It's said of the Mets that they appeal to those who think of baseball as a game of chance, rather than of skill, and that their fans—the so-called "new breed"—don't care whether their tigers lose, so long as they lose in style, and with class.

This the Mets have been managing to do. Their ineptitude is classic, like the poetic skills of the late Eddie Guest, or the athletic scholarship of announcer Bill Stern, or the strength of the Maginot Line.

THIS FALLS, 2-1

West Needs Victory Today To Keep in Pioneer Race

Downtrodden Torrance High gave Pioneer League contender and cross-town rival West High all the baseball it wanted Tuesday afternoon.

But a clutch double and an error gave West a 2-1 victory and left the Warriors in second place, two games behind El Segundo, in the Pioneer chase.

Today, West will tangle with always dangerous Aviation on the Falcon diamond and Torrance will get a chance to do the Warriors a favor.

Torrance will journey to El Segundo to meet the league leaders and Tartar boss Dale Walker is hopeful his cellar-dwelling club can pull an upset. The last time the two clubs met, Gundo managed only a one-run victory.



MULTI-PURPOSE . . . North High's Dave Hubert will run the hurdles and pole vault tomorrow afternoon at Inglewood's Sentinel Field in the Sky League track preliminaries. Hubert has a best of 13 ft. 1 in. in the pole vault, the second best mark in the area. (Herald Photo)

Crespi Will Host Knight Sluggers

Bouyed by two consecutive extra-inning wins, Bishop Montgomery will put its Camino Real League title hopes on the line tomorrow afternoon against unbeaten Crespi.

Crespi, with a two-game bulge over the Knights, will host the 3 p.m. contest.

Three-plus innings of no-hit relief by Tom Jamison and a key single by Tony Guggiana propelled Montgomery to a 4-3 win over Pater Noster Tuesday.

Guggiana's clutch blow came in the 12th inning and forced Pete Maccarrone over with the winning run.

Jamison came to the rescue of starter John Wojcik after 8½ innings and did not allow a hit, a run or a walk the remainder of the game. He struck out six and boosted his loop record to 3-0.

Rick Shatzel absorbed a heartbreaking loss after going the full 12 innings. Shatzel allowed nine hits, three walks and four earned runs while fanning nine.

Wojcik was touched for seven hits, two earned runs and three walks. He struck out 10 men.

Montgomery came back from a 3-0 deficit in the sixth inning with three runs of its own as Maccarrone, freshman Dan Graham and Dennis Blackburn collected RBIs.

The Warriors snapped an eight-game, month-long losing streak Friday when they shocked second-place Long Beach, 10-5, on the Warrior field.

However, Saturday, fifth-place Santa Monica called the Warriors' "bluff" by dumping the locals twice, 14-6 and 12-3.

Area Thinclads Run Tomorrow In Preliminaries

League track preliminaries are in store for four Torrance prep teams tomorrow afternoon.

West and Torrance will compete in the Pioneer League prelims at Aviation High while South will go in the Bay League meet at Redondo High and North will encounter its Sky League opponents at Inglewood High.

None of the local varsity squads appear capable of qualifying enough men to make a run for the league championship in next Friday's finals. But South is favored to take the Bay League Cee crown and North could snare the Sky League Bee title.

Despite a lack of team strength, all four area schools could wind up with individual champions in the varsity.

SOUTH'S BEST bet is junior shot putter John Daugherty, who last Friday heaved the 12-pound ball 54-ft. 6-in. to record the best distance in the area.

Another shot putter, sophomore Scott Steele, pole vaulter Lindy Nuzzo and miler Ron Pettigrew give West its best chances for a varsity championship.

Steele slipped the shot 49-ft. 11¼-in. last week to up his previous best by six feet. Nuzzo has a best of 12-ft. 6-in. in the pole vault and Pettigrew has yet to be tested in the mile. Pettigrew may go under 4:30.0 if he is pressed.

For North sprinter Alan Johnson, pole vaulter Dave Hubert and half-miler Bob Hansen loom formidably in the championship picture.

JOHNSON HAS a best of 10.0 in the century and is consistently around 22 feet in the long jump. Hubert cleared 13-ft. 1-in. last week against Inglewood in the pole vault.

Hansen, only a junior, has yet to be beaten in league action in the 880, and he has met several of the area's top half-mile men.

Torrance may be set for a rare league accomplishment—a one-two-three sweep of a varsity event. Long jumpers John Grim, Ed Watson and Bob Romero figure as the Pioneer League's top three men.

A Tartar surprise could come in the form of freshman high jumper Tom Schmenauer, who has cleared 5-ft. 10-in. to date.

SOPHOMORE sprinter Ted Pettipiece holds South's hopes of a Cee championship. Pettipiece has a 10.2 clocking in the 100-yard dash and an 18.0 effort in the 180-yard sprint. Both times are South school records.

North's Bee chances rest with sprinter Jim Tsako and Dave Rance and the long jumping of Norm Sanwo.



YOUNG BUT QUICK . . . Cee sprinter Ted Pettipiece, who holds South High records in the 100 and 180-yard dashes, will lead the Spartans in search of the Bay League Cee championship tomorrow afternoon at Redondo in the loop preliminaries. (Herald Photo)

Sky Title Hopes End for Saxons

Morningside's Eric Young almost singlehandedly vanquished North High's dream of a Sky League baseball pennant Tuesday as he cut the Saxons down, 1-0, on only three hits.

Prior to the contest, North was in third place with a 5-5 record while Morningside topped the circuit at 5-3. Now the Monarchs appear to have an insurmountable first-place edge while North will have to battle for third place with Leuzinger. Inglewood is currently entrenched in second.

Young walked six and struck out seven as he picked up Morningside's first win of the year over North. Previously the Saxons had coasted to a pair of easy triumphs.

North had a man as far as second base in every inning, but was unable to score. The only run of the contest came in the fourth frame on a double, a walk and a single by Fred Itzel.

Daryl Masuyama picked up the defeat, his second in five league decisions. The North freshman allowed four walks, five hits and struck out one in five innings.

It was Young's fourth victory against one defeat. Prior to Tuesday's game, Young led the Sky League in strikeouts with 35, and innings pitched with 34. He also topped the loop in earned runs with four.

NORTH, WHICH has won only one of its past five games after a good start, will travel to Culver City this afternoon. Saxon mentor Jim O'Brien will probably go with sophomore Dave McCormick on the mound.

Despite its recent poor showing, North will have several league leaders in action. Shortstop Joe DeLuca is currently hitting at a near .400 clip and has two triples. Brant Nickoloff has three doubles, three home runs, and 10 RBIs.

	R	H	E	R	R	B	S	O
North	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Morningside	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	3
IP H R ER BB SO								
Young, M (4-1)	7	3	0	0	0	0	7	

Brown Whiffs 17 White Sox

Larry Brown opened the Torrondo Little League season with a bang Saturday afternoon as he struck out 17 batters and belted a home run to lead the Cubs to an 8-0 triumph over the White Sox.

Brown defeated White Sox chucker Gerald Arneson in the Major League contest.

Mike Weatherman fanned 14 batters as the Indians romped to a 9-1 decision over the Yankees. Weatherman also doubled and singled off Yankee pitchers Lanny Weissman and Keith Rodenhauer.



SECOND TIME AROUND . . . South High first baseman Dick White took a tumble Tuesday afternoon attempting to tag Fred Cummings of Palos Verdes. Cummings led off the third inning with a bloop fly down the right field line. He started towards second base, changed his mind, and barely made it back safely at first. South stunned the Bay League co-leaders with a 6-2 victory. (Herald Photo)

	R	H	E	R	R	B	S	O
West	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torrance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IP H R ER BB SO								
Wojcik, J (3-2)	7	3	0	0	0	0	1	5
LaRoche	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marsden	3	3	0	0	1	1	5	
Foster	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
Blankenship	7	6	2	1	2	5		