

SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN

THERE'S A FIRST TIME for just about everything. There are many baseball fans on the go these days who read something on the sport pages Thursday that they never believed was possible. They scanned the baseball standings and found New York Yankees sole occupants of the American league cellar.

They naturally could hardly believe what they saw and undoubtedly many of them went over those standings a second and third time. It was a terrific job to find the champions of the baseball world in 1958 lodged in such dismal quarters so early in this 1959 season.

YOU HAD TO GO BACK 19 years to find a similar situation and there are a lot of keen baseball fans on the rounds today who have no recollection of what happened in 1940. Many of today's fans were too young to read newspapers then and many others weren't even born.

Yes, May 25, 1940 found New York Yankees occupying the basement even though the Yankees of that date were the defending world champions. Nineteen years minus five days later another Yankee team and another crown defender was "enjoying" a similar fate.

MOST OF THE FOLKS who chat with me are amazed at what's taking place. New York trailing by 8½ games is something that just doesn't seem possible. Yet it is a fact—a fact that is most disturbing to Casey Stengel, his ballplayers and their followers. Back in 1940 when the New Yorkers sank in May into the depths of the cellar, folks were amazed and were scratching their heads for the answer. At that time many baseball experts were predicting the Yankees would rebound sufficiently to win again the American league flag. But it didn't turn out that way.

Detroit Tigers went on to represent the junior circuit in the world series against the Cincinnati Redlegs. Yankees did try hard but they could do no better than a third place finish.

YANKEES have just finished a two-game set with Detroit Tigers. Tigers won the pair, making the score read 4-0 so far this season. Tonight they are in Baltimore to open a four-game series with the ambitious Orioles who have been giving Chicago White Sox and Cleveland Indians a merry chase.

Anyone who thinks this series should be a soft touch for the Bombers certainly hasn't been following the antics of Paul Richards' crew this year. They've been playing heads up ball and already own three decisions over the Stengeltites in 1959. The two teams came together on April 14, 15 and 16 and the Birds ran away with all three contests.

PAUL RICHARDS will be out to sink the Bombers deeper when he puts his Orioles against them. Paul wants to keep his team flying and he could think of no better way to do that than by dropping those Yankees again.

You can bet that Baltimore's Memorial Stadium will have a near-capacity crowd when action starts there tonight. The place has accommodation for 47,778 and there shouldn't be too many empty spaces around the ball park tonight. Casey may lead his team out of the cellar while they are on this jaunt to Baltimore but if he does he has a big order on his hands. These Birds are flying high and don't intend to have their wings clipped by any cellar dwellers.

This could be the time for the New York team to put these upstart Orioles in their proper place. But, then, Richards thinks the proper place for his boys is right up among those leaders. It's shaping up like a most interesting weekend in Baltimore.

ANOTHER FLOCK of birds are showing much improved form over in the National League. They are the St. Louis Cardinals and these Red Birds are getting some timely hitting, combined with good pitching, and the result has been victories.

While Baltimore was winning the majority of one-run ball games they were engaged in, the Cardinals were losing just about everyone of these kind of tussles in their league.

The law of averages should certainly favor the St. Louis gang from here on and although they have a lot of ground to make up, they can yet make things interesting for the best of them. Our advice is to watch these Cardinals. They may have plenty of gas left to burn.

BOB FRIEND, the hurler that many had figured might lead Pittsburgh Pirates to the pennant this season has done nothing but lose ball games.

Friend took his seventh loss without a win Wednesday when the Cardinals climbed all over the Bucs for an 11-1 triumph. However, Pittsburgh is getting a great performance from Elroy Face, their fancy relief artist. Face has six victories this season and has yet to taste defeat. But Face ran into a bit of rough luck the other day in the simplest of ways. Elroy was drinking a glass of water and the glass broke and cut two fingers on his pitching hand. Five stitches were needed to close the cuts.

He will be out about a week but the injury might bring about quite a change in his pitching feats.

HERE'S A BIT of nonsense about those American league standings. In Florence, North Carolina, the Morning News published the American league standings upside down Thursday. The paper explained there was "something unreal and improper" about the Yanks occupying the bottom spot.

By reversing the standings, the News claims the Bombers will be taking the normal position they "no doubt will occupy before the end of the season."

Did we hear somebody snickering?



SPORT ECHOES

BY NORMAN MACDONALD

Junior baseball players in Summerside have come to life at last, more than three months earlier than they came out of their shell last year. The boys will hold a meeting at Civic Auditorium tonight in an endeavour to organize a baseball team, and if the turnout is at all encouraging they will go ahead with preparations for a full season's play. The boys claim they have sponsorship, and there seems to be a lot of baseball talent in Summerside this spring. Hopes have been expressed that they will be able to get into a league with the Charlottetown junior clubs, but if this is not possible, they will content themselves with exhibition games.

The turnout for the first game of the Prince County softball league was certainly encouraging. A lot of new faces appeared in the line-ups of the two teams, and some of the strangers showed a real attitude for the softball pastime. This boy Gillespie showed up very well. Holding the Legion bluejean welders to one hit in six innings is no mean feat. He showed no over-pitching speed, and was a trifle wild at times, but seemed to have the happy faculty of being able to bear down in the clutches.

Jordan, who caught Gillespie, also showed a lot of promise. He got one single and on two other occasions hit the ball with a lot of authority, but unfortunately straight into the hands of Legion fielders. Soicer who hails from the RCAF station, and played pretty good hockey for them last winter, was a leading hitter, getting a single and double in three attempts. R. Stewart, the lone stranger who played for Legion, also looked good. We believe he played some softball in the Charlottetown league last year.

Ed Harrison, who also played some hockey for RCAF teams, was unfortunate enough to have to take that first loss for Pontiacs.

BASEBALL RESULTS

American League

Kansas City	000 000 000—0 9 1
Boston	100 001 03x—5 9 0
Garver (3-2), Tomaneck (7) and House; Brewer (2-3), Kiehl (8) and Daley. HRS: Bos-Busby (1), Jensen (10), Gernert (5).	

National League

Phila	000 000 021—3 7 0
Chicago	000 000 000—4 1 1
Gomez (1-2) and Hegar; R. Anderson (2-3) Buzhardt (9) and S. Taylor.	

International League

Havana	200 002 001—5 9 0
Richmond	000 003 000—3 10 3
Amor, Arroyo (6), and Izquierdo Wiesler, James (6), Grba (7) and Johnson.	

National League

Miami	000 000 015—6 14 3
Columbus	011 300 002—7 14 2
Anderson, Kay (4), Valentinetti (7), McDermott (9) and Bucha; Lines, O'Donnell (9) and Hall.	

American League

Detroit	at Cleveland (N)—Foytack (1-5) vs Bell (3-2).
Chicago	at Kansas City (N)—Shaw (3-0) vs Grim (4-3).
New York	at Baltimore (N)—Turley (3-4) vs Wilhelm (5-0).
Washington	at Boston (N)—Pascual (3-3) vs Delock (4-1).

National League

Milwaukee	at Philadelphia (N)—Burdette (6-2) vs Roberts (2-2).
San Francisco	at Los Angeles (N)—Antonelli (5-2) vs Drysdale (3-4).
St. Louis	at Chicago—Blaylock (2-1) vs Hobbie (5-3).
Cincinnati	at Pittsburgh (N)—Purkey (4-4) vs Law (3-1).

Would Do Same As Stengel Says Joe McCarthy

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—If Joe McCarthy was managing New York Yankees today, he'd do just what he knows Casey Stengel is doing.

"Sit and wait—be patient." The man who led the Yankees to six world championships and eight American League pennants in 15 years said Thursday he knows "just what Casey is going through."

Joe. 72, said he went through a similar experience in 1940.

That is a personal opinion. The club owners, at a hastily-called session here, also authorized Frick to explore the possibility of holding a second all star game each year; authorized a fund of up to \$1,000,000 to finance a player training and development program with the minors, and sanctioned the purchase of Chicago White Sox stock by Bill Veeck.

Frick said no clubs or alignments were mentioned during the new league discussion, but that one qualification was that "the population of each city of the proposed league shall not be less than the population of the smallest city in the present major leagues."

According to the 1950 census, Kansas City with a population of 465,822 is the smallest in the majors. There has been no def-

inition, however, from Frick or others as to whether "smallest city in the present major leagues" means actual incorporated city limits, metropolitan areas or a combination of two cities such as has been proposed for Dallas-Ft. Worth and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Those combinations have been mentioned as possible sites for major league teams along with New York, Buffalo, New Orleans, Seattle, Mexico City, Montreal and Toronto.

The owners also stipulated that any new league would be responsible for all territorial provisions and financial obligations necessary to set it up.

Frick said there was no talk of a "share the player" plan under which any new league would receive talent from the established circuits.

HUNTERS CORNER

Nostalgic Memories Come Crowding Back To Writer

Over the week-end, while doing a little snooping around, I was intrigued by a small wooden box tucked away in a corner of the barn. On examination I found it held wooden plover decoys. They had been painstakingly carved by hand and painted in the colours of blackbellied plover. Several bore the indents of No. 6 shot. Fifty odd years rolled away like a flash and nostalgic memories came crowding back. Haggerty's Wharf, East River, quiet in the August heat, the outgoing tide whispering amid its piles... long skeins of plover moving up-river their under-wing coverts shining like polished marble and their flute-like calls causing one's pulse to quicken... the hills of Auburn lying mellow and serene in the evening dusk, the pasture fields of Lake Verde enveloped in a screen of black powder smoke... beetle-heads like snow flurries over Jardines Bar... Ram Island momentarily obscured by flights of shore birds. BEETLE HEADS

Old time plover hunters referred to the late flight of juvenile black-bellies as Beetle Heads. They had local names for most everything that flew and were quite the characters to boot. Uncle Will used to tease father a lot. He never got used to his ribbing. A favourite comment of Uncle's was: "You could have saved your shot Rob" and it never failed to draw sparks. As I stood for a moment with the decoys in hand in my mind's eye they seemed to pass in review. Sam Gage, cool, calculating, who seldom missed a shot. Nat and his House Boat. Seymour McLennan with his slow, unburied swing that always appeared to be too late but more often than not wasn't. J.H. King, the Yank from Mahomet, Massachusetts, who always claimed he never missed with his second barrel until one morning in the late Henry Jones field at Hazelbrook a flight of black-bellies nearly swept him out of the blind.

I was with him that morning. Just a young whipper snapper cutting my eye teeth with a 10 Gauge. We had our blind in the crook of a pole fence. One second all was clear and the next we were blotted out in a swarm of plover. I shot blindly in self-defence a doublet up two. I beat him to the draw. When the pair of beauties pounced on the ground he exclaimed: "Oh" and promptly blew a hole in his eye ground in front of him with his

first barrel and another hole, not quite so noticeable, in the air with his 2nd. No longer could he boast: "King's second barrel never fails" Father was in the blind with us and he also was beaten to the draw. He was non-committal as to whether he fired or not but in any event I was given my walking ticket. I was relegated to the position of "walker upper" putting up plover in adjoining fields. It was my first and last time in the blind with them.

In the old days plover shooting was top sport. It was a lazy man's game I'll admit. All one had to do was snuggle down at the base of a haystack or rustle up a hide in the crook of a "Worm" fence. In the years overseas I received my plover shoots. There were times when the mud and filth of the Ypres Salient or the rain swept plains of Picardy were replaced by a sandbar lapped by sun dimpled waters or, a back country pasture with the drone of harvest beetles an ever present symphony interspersed with the wild-plaintive notes of plover away.

NO LONGER SPORT When I returned to P.E.I. in May 1919 I was told that plover shooting was no longer a legal sport... the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1917 had placed shore birds, with the exception of Wilson's Snipe and Woodcock, on the protected list. I was not to be denied. In those days game law enforcement was on paper, at least 99 per cent could be relegated to that category, and early on an August morning I sallied forth. Mortar had packed a hamper with food, including a whole roast chicken, enough to last a week. Along the edge of a back pasture field at Lake Verde, I found a worm fence with a southern exposure and dug in. Like the French at Verdun I took for my motto: "They shall not pass". For the full day I ate, slept, shot and dozed. The evening shadows were lengthening when I pulled out.

It was a day long to be remembered. There wasn't much grub left. The chicken was reduced to a skeleton and discarded. It was just as well for I had to have room for the 18 lovely, hog fat black-bellied plover I lugged home in the hamper. Today plover shooting is out but we have the introduced Hungarian partridge and pheasants to take their place. Its memories that keep an old time hunter going at times.

Lions Slaughter Junior BYC 17-3

Barry's Lions, in their first game of the season last evening, went all out, walloping Junior B.Y.C. 17-3. This was the second win for the Danny McCormack-coached squad in as many starts. The Lions got eight of their runs in the first frame. They picked up two in the 3rd, one in the 4th, and the remainder in the sixth.

John Hughes, making his first start this season on the mound for B.Y.C., had trouble controlling the ball, walking 14 players. "Bull" Dunn was called in to relieve him in the top of the sixth and he gave up three walks and a double. The Lions got a total of four hits of the B.Y.C. moundsmen.

Vince Bradley, doing the pitching chores for the Parkdale squad, showed great form, giving up only six hits in clubbing the B.Y.C. team. He sent three down swinging and walked two. Mark Ladner was top batter for the losers, connecting twice in three times up, with a double and a single. For the Lions, Kip Ready had a 500 average, with two base hits in four times at bat. Both these hits were singles.

Action resumes on Sunday afternoon with a doubleheader on schedule. The opener will see Garrison and Rollaway Aces tangle, with action slated to get underway at 1:30. Junior BYC will entertain B.I.S. Shamrocks in the bottom half of the bill.

Bruins Blast Rangers 8-2

BERLIN (AP)—Boston Bruins defeated New York Rangers 8-2 Thursday night in the final match of their three-game hockey exhibition series in West Berlin before 1,000 fans.

In the 20 games of their European tour to date Rangers led 11-8 with one game tied.

MAY BE STRIPPED TODAY

Supreme Court Is Next If Robinson Loses Title

NEW YORK (AP)—Sugar Ray Robinson said Thursday he would go all the way to the United States Supreme Court if New York Athletic Commission takes away his middleweight boxing title today.

"I've done everything in my power to make a title defence against Carmen Basilio. I got him a guarantee of a minimum of \$225,000 to fight me in Philadelphia, Sept. 21. I've signed a Pennsylvania commission form of contract. What more can anyone want?" said the 39-year-old New Yorker.

The National Boxing Association stripped Robinson of the middleweight crown May 4 and the New York State Athletic Commission may follow suit today when it is expected to wind up its hearing on the Robinson case.

NO DEFENCE The NBA vacated the title because Robinson hasn't fought since he regained the crown from Basilio March 25, 1958. Both the NBA and the New York Commission have rules calling for title defences every six months.

On reported talks of a light heavyweight champion Archie Moore, Robinson said Thursday: "I'll never fight him. I don't want anything to do with Moore. When he was in New York last December to get the fighter of the year award he came to my house. He begged me to get the fight. It would be a big payday for both of us."

"I got us a million and a half dollar deal with Matky Fox of Skiatron. Archie told me fine. The next thing you know he signed for \$175,000 to fight (Yvon) Durelle again in Montreal, July 15.

Bo Sox Shut Out Athletics; Phillies Snap Losing Streak

The cracking home run power of Boston Red Sox gave the club a spiritlifting 5-0 win over Kansas City Athletics in the lone American League game scheduled Thursday.

Two games were carded in the National League, with Philadelphia snapping an eight-game losing streak with a 3-0 conquest of Chicago Cubs. The other contest was a night affair with Pittsburgh at St. Louis.

Jim Busby, Jackie Jensen and Dick Gernert supplied the push for the Red Sox in their win. Right a r a r t Tom Brewer, bolstered by a sore pitching hand, needed relief help from lefty Leo Kiely as the slumping Sox clicked for their second win in nine games.

Busby and Jensen hit solo blasts, while Gernert, Boston's forgotten man who has lifted his batting average to .321 despite the team's ill fortune, socked a three-run drive.

Brewer was hit by a stringing smash off the bat of Ray Boone in the fourth. He weakened steadily thereafter.

Over in Chicago, the Phils used a different weapon to down the Cubs. With them it was a seccrifice fly that worked. Three drove in all their runs.

Ruben Gomez limited the Cubs to four hits to earn his first win of the season.

The Phils pushed over two runs in the eighth to tag Bob Anderson with his thirtieth d r s s o e son with his third loss in five decisions.

Only one Cub reached third base, Moose Moroy turned the trick when he and Dale Long hit successive singles in the second. Gomez, however, bagged the next three Cubs to end the threat.

Softball Practice This Evening

Coach Moe Goodwin has called a practice for his Garrison team tonight at 6 o'clock at the Old Diamond. A full turnout is requested.

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Fishing Is Good For Leonard's Golf

By JIM PEACOCK

Canadian Press Staff Writer VANCOUVER (CP)—As far as golf's gold trail is concerned at the moment Stan Leonard has gone fishing.

That may be indifferent news for the fish, but it is noteworthy for the veteran Vancouver golfer's competitors in the Canadian Open in Montreal June 18-21.

Fishing, you see, is good for Stan's golf.

"I've never been one who could play more than four or five weeks at a time on the tour without losing interest in my game," Leonard said on return from a recent fishing trip to interior British Columbia.

"With too much golf you go punchy after a while."

NEEDS PERIODIC RESTS That's the reason, Leonard said, for his periodic interruptions in his campaigning on golf's big-time money trail—and fishing gives him a break in which to renew his interest.

"I don't think it's age," he added. "I don't think anybody can play week after week without a break and keep his interest up."

Stan's age—he now is 44—has been a major topic of golf discussion in Canada, and elsewhere, since he announced in May, 1955, that he was giving up a job as professional at Vancouver's Marine Drive Golf Club where he had been 13 years to gamble on tournament golf.

He was 40 then, an age when many pro golfers retire from tournament competition and take a club job.

Leonard's gamble paid dividends from the beginning and it still is paying off. He's made two trips into the United States this year, played in 10 tournaments including the Crosby Open, the Masters and the Las Vegas Tournament of Champions, and he's picked up more than \$6,000 in prize money.

He also has a two-year contract to continue taking part in the all-star golf series on television.

Last year was Stan's most successful on tour. He had \$26,200 for 15 tournaments, including the \$10,000 jackpot as Tournament-of-

Champions winner in Las Vegas but not including \$15,000 in bonuses he picked up at that competition.

EYES CANADIAN TITLE "I don't know just how many more tournaments I'll play this year," Leonard said as he awaited the Canadian Open. "Probably another 10."

He has passed up the U.S. Open in order to be well rested and in top shape for the Canadian tournament.

A six-time winner of the Canadian Professional Golfers' Association title, Tournament-of-Champions winner and one-time Greensboro Open winner in the U.S., Leonard has missed the Canadian Open title in each of his eight or nine tries for it.

Last year in Edmonton he finished in a tie for fourth place, three strokes behind winner Wes Ellis, Jr.

BASEBALL PRACTICE Baseball practice is called for the Junior Abbies this afternoon at 5:15 at Memorial Field.

All interested players of junior age in the city are invited to attend this practice.

Club Owners in Majors Will Consider Third League

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Major league baseball club owners agreed Thursday they will "favorably consider" an application for establishment of a third major league within the present baseball structure.

And commissioner Ford Frick said: "I firmly believe we will have a third league within five years."

That is a personal opinion. The club owners, at a hastily-called session here, also authorized Frick to explore the possibility of holding a second all star game each year; authorized a fund of up to \$1,000,000 to finance a player training and development program with the minors, and sanctioned the purchase of Chicago White Sox stock by Bill Veeck.

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