

Expect Yankees To Repeat As A. L. Champions In '64

Elston Howard, Al Downing Two Reasons For Great Hope

BY BILL BROWER
CHICAGO (ANP)—It will again be the New York Yankees against the field in the American League. Hopefully, the prime contenders—Chicago, Minnesota and Baltimore—feel that the rest of the field is strengthened enough to battle the champions on closer terms this year. This might give one of them—or even some real darkhorse—a chance to spring an upset.

With the American League's most valuable player, Elston Howard, looking for an outstanding season, the Yankees still are odds-on favorites to bag another American League pennant. Howard, of course, is set to do most of the catching. Yogi Berra, in his debut as a manager, is looking for a strong season from Al Downing, the left-hander who surprised with 13 victories on the mound last season after being called up from Richmond. The team thinks that Downing is a potential 20-game winner.

Others in the Yankees' cast include Hector Lopez, one of

the most valuable utility performers in the league, and Pedro Gonzalez, an infielder who would be a regular on almost any other team in the league. He is ready to step in the event he is needed at second, short, or third, or even in the outfield. The team that might make the Yankees run for their money is the Minnesota Twins. Anchored by the veteran Earl Battey, rival to Howard's as baseball's best catcher, the Twins, third-placers last season, have some of the hardest hitters in baseball. But they will have to make room for Tony Oliva, rookie outfielder. This might lead to a trade of Vic Power, the first baseman. Lennie Green, a fine outfielder, also is considered trade bait. Zollo Versalles remains one of the best shortstops in the game.

The Chicago White Sox, a perennial contender under Manager Al Lopez, think that Don Buford, the former Southern California football star, might be the league's rookie-of-the-year. Buford, the most valuable player in the International

League while performing for Indianapolis last year, has been installed at second base. Floyd Robinson, potentially one of the AL's best hitters, is a fixture in right. Juan Pizarro is expected to be a mainstay on the mound. Reserves include Minnie Miñoso, the veteran making a comeback as a pinchhitter and outfielder and Tom McCraw, who was called last year and did well as a rookie on first.

Baltimore looks for Sam Bevens, a rookie outfielder, and Willie Kribbs, a veteran acquired in the trade with Cleveland for Al Smith, to bolster a rather anemic batting attack.

Cleveland believes one of the league's leading home-run producers will be Leon Wagner, acquired in an off-season trade from the Los Angeles Angels. The veteran Al Smith and rookie Chico Salmon and Bob Chance are in the fight for the right field berth while Wagner is set for the left. Jim Grant, the veteran righthander, is ready for what he hopes to be his biggest season.



RECEIVES MVP AWARD — New York Yankees' catcher Elston Howard (right) is presented with the American League's 1963 Most Valuable Player award by league president Joe Cronin April 16th before the Bombers' A. L. opener with the Boston Red Sox. Howard batted .387 with 28 homers and 85 runs batted in last season (UPI PHOTO).



1964 NCC NETTERS — Making a bid for their college's third straight CIAA title are members of the North Carolina College 1964 tennis team, shown above. Seated: Kenneth Montgomery, Charlene Witherspoon, Sterling Holt, Veria Amos, Alfred Poe (Capt.), Dianne Dawkins, and George Logan. Standing: Gilbert Bigsby, Joe Williams, Leon Creed (manager), Wayne Hooker, and Everett Deberry.

BEATING THE GUN

CHICAGO (ANP) — One of the cardinal miscarriages of justice occurred during the selection of the 12 members who will represent the U. S. in basketball at the Olympics in Tokyo. One name was conspicuous by its absence. It was that of Wally Jones, the crafty backcourt player from Villanova.

To accentuate this slight, Jones was not even named as one of the six alternates. He was merely one of the outstanding performers during the trials conducted at St. John's University in New York City.

Members of the selection committee blandly ignored him and offered no good explanation. Perhaps they were ashamed.

One of those most deeply disappointed, besides the player himself, was his coach, Jack Kraft.

"A grave injustice has been done Wally and his basketball ability as such. We were led to believe by what we read of the Olympic trial play that he virtually made the team."

There was some speculation that Jones' tricky passing and mesmerizing ball handling were viewed dimly by some of the less conservative coaches. This irked Kraft.

"The only reason this cost him the job is that some of the men on the Olympic committee don't see that kind of play often. I'm sure that Eastern members of the committee must have voted for Jones because they know he's not clowning and have seen him play this way for three years."

When a tan athlete has a different style from the ones in the book, there is always the temptation to accuse them of showboating. Kraft refutes this point:

"Does anyone say Willie Mays is clowning when he catches the ball he catch in the outfield? Does anyone say Stan Musial clowning when he crouched way over at bat. Certainly not. And Wally isn't clowning."

"When Jones plays one-on-one, for instance, he keeps the ball low and may dribble through his opponent's legs. This maneuver makes the defender commit himself. Once this is done, Wally's off and around the guy."

Kraft received strong support from John Wooden, coach of the UCLA NCAA champions. Wooden, who has a pretty fine fancy hand of the basketball in Walt Hazzard, said:

"I can't understand how in the world Wally Jones of Villanova was left off the squad. I thought he would make it. He plays a lot like Hazzard."

Those who watched Hazzard on television when the Bruins won the Duke for the title, really got a feel for Hazzard, of course, named to the Olympic squad, and Jones would have been a perfect complement to each other with their slick courtship and needle-threading passes.

Incidentally, they would have not been any strangers. They were teammates at Overbrook High School in Philadelphia, and also have played many a summer together as high school and college students on the hard-surfaced West Philadelphia playgrounds.

Hazzard was one of the five tan players to be tapped for the regular squad. Others were Lucious Jackson, the Little All-American college in Texas; Jim (Bad News) Barnes, from Texas Western; Joe Caldwell, from Arizona State, and George Wilson from the University of Cincinnati.

Alternates chosen included Willie Murrell, star of the Kansas State NCAA semi-finalist; Dave Smith, All-American from Wichita, and Burk Adams, former Ohio University captain who is in the army.

Hayes Jones, Top Hurdler, Beats Illness

CHICAGO (ANP) — America's high hurdles track hopeful at the Olympics this fall has a left leg three quarters of an inch shorter than his right, according to a profile of Hayes Jones in the April issue of Ebony magazine.

What's more, the 35-year-old track star, who feels time is running out on him, is said to be too short for high hurdling, at 5-10, and his 160 pounds normally would make him too small to win consistently.

Yet, Ebony points out, Jones has 58 straight wins behind him and either holds or shares the world record for the indoor high at four distances.

Ollie Matson's Trade Value Diminishes In Lions' Deal

DETROIT—(ANP)—The now defunct Chicago Cardinals once obtained almost a whole team of football players for fullback Ollie Matson, then considered the most featured running back in the game.

However, since leaving the Redskins many seasons ago to play with the Los Angeles Rams and then the Detroit Lions, Matson's trade value has diminished tremendously.

In contrast to the nine players

the Cardinals received from the Rams for Matson in their trade, the Lions last week traded the 34-year-old veteran and another player, Floyd Peters, to the Philadelphia Eagles for just one man—J. D. Smith, an offensive tackle.

During his 12-year pro career, Matson, former University of San Francisco star, has picked up 4,543 yards in 1,010 carries for a 4.5 average and 32 touchdowns.

In trading Matson and Peters for Smith, the Lions were said to be seeking line strength. Detroit Coach George Wilson probably will use Smith at right tackle. The spot was left vacant by the death of tan Lucien Reeborg.

Lakers Will Exercise Rights And Sign UCLA's Walt Hazzard

LOS ANGELES (ANP)—The Los Angeles Lakers of the Western Division of the National Basketball Ass'n. last week was reported to be hot on the trail of UCLA's great All-American and playmaker, Walt Hazzard.

The Lakers were reported ready to exercise their territorial rights to Hazzard, who this past season led the Bruins to the National Collegiate Athletic Ass'n championship.

Coach Fred Schaus of the Lakers is believed to be planning to rebuild the Lakers, and perhaps bring in new blood, such as Hazzard, to aid Elgin Baylor, who was hampered with injuries practically throughout the season, and Jerry West, the sharpshooter.

However, Schaus did not disclose

his real plans as he left for the Olympic trials at St. John's university in Brooklyn.

Meantime, it was disclosed that Baylor would continue to receive treatment for his injured knee. Doctors hope to get him back into A-1 shape for next season.

NO BIRTHDAY, BUT HE'S 71
TOKYO—(ANP)—Farmer Tokumatsu Tsuji is about the only man in the world who can say he doesn't have a birthday, but he has lived for 71 years. According to his birth certificate, he was born on Feb. 30, 1893. The date is in accordance with the official lunar calendar once used in Japan. When the lunar calendar was replaced by the present one in vogue throughout the world.

Are Negro Baseball Players Forbidden To Take Part In Rights Demonstrations?

Are Negro baseball players forbidden by their contracts to participate in civil rights demonstrations?

The April issue of Ebony magazine, questions the role that professional ballplayers are playing in the civil rights demonstrations which are sweeping the country.

An Ebony editorial hints that Negro ballplayers have restrictive clauses in their contracts saying "I promise not to participate in any freedom marches."

Under the heading—"Needed: An Abe Lincoln of Baseball"—Ebony suggests editorially that professional baseball is over-privileged today—cites the plight of White Sox pitcher Jim Brosnan, fired for insisting on his right to write during the ball season.

Ebony recalls that a handful of baseball magnates today still have the right to determine who plays pro ball, and notes that Negroes

were barred until 1945. "Even today," the Ebony editorial says, "there seems to be a feeling among some management that Negroes should be forever grateful that they were finally admitted to the majors and should never complain."

While Negroes prominent in the arts and theatre have participated fully in freedom marches in recent months, Ebony notes that no major league ballplayer has publicly joined the crusade.

A&T And Dudley Cagers Honored

GREENSBORO— The basketball teams of A&T College and Dudley High School, and their coaches, were honored last week with a dinner at the Hayes-Taylor YMCA.

Two of their team members were singled out for special awards: Maurice McHartley, star forward with the Argies, who this season was selected to the All-star team in each of the four tournaments in which he participated, and William Gilmer, star center for the Dudley Panthers, received "most valuable player" trophies.

Charlie Harville, sports director of WGHPTV High Point, N. C., who delivered the main address, was also honored. He received a trophy in commendation for "outstanding sportscasting."

"In many ways," he told the young athletes, "you are something special, and because of it, more is expected of you."

He urged the players to stick to the code which their coaches had emphasized "because more than anything else, high moral character will always be expected in you."

The event, sponsored by the Greensboro Athletic Boosters Club, an affiliate of the "Y", featured the presentation of trophies also to Cal Irvin, head basketball coach at A&T and to W. J. Furcron, athletic director and head basketball coach at Dudley.

The group also honored Bert Piggott, head football coach, with a trophy in expression of appreciation for the services rendered in weekly meetings of the organization last fall.

C. W. Thomas, secretary, presented the trophies; E. M. White, Jr., president, gave the purpose of the dinner meeting, and Jimmie I. Barber, presided. Harville was introduced by David W. Morehead, executive secretary of the "Y."

FLIRTING: "optical collusion." Catholic Digest—May

Julius Caesar added the quadrennial leap year day to February because the Roman year started on March 1, the Catholic Digest states.

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LIVING With SPORTS
—By Charles J. Livingston—

IT'LL BE YANKS AND GIANTS AGAIN IN PENNANT RACES
CHICAGO (ANP)—Picking the baseball champs in the American League is really getting to be monotonous with the Yankees bombers walking off with the honor year after year.

However, quite the opposite is true in the senior circuit, better known to those who follow the sports pages as the National League. In that loop, an honest-to-goodness knockdown, dragout fight is usually fought down to the wire between the ex-Fishbush Dodgers, the Giants of harsh Polo Grounds memory, the similarly transplanted Milwaukee Braves, the standpat St. Louis Cardinals, and the Pirates who parade "Hank Greenberg's Garden" in Pittsburgh.

Recently, however, the NL has given signs of slipping into a sort of two-team monopoly between the Dodgers and the Giants. You know a sort of you-win-it-this-year, I-take-it-the-next deal. This narrows the field and makes for greater ease and less nerve racking in predicting the loop's champ-to-be.

For me, the choices in the two loops for the past three years have been the Yanks in the AL, and the Giants in the NL.

I have been completely accurate on the Yanks and the Giants one out of the three times, and have scored three-for-three on the Yanks, so I see no need to change now, particularly with the strengthening of San Francisco.

So I predict it'll be the Yanks and the Giants again this year, with the Dodgers and Maury Wills running closely on Frisco's heels. The Cardinals will be third, and further

than that I will not go in running down the team.

The same applies to the AL. Behind the Yanks will be the sneaky Minneapolis Twins, with the White Sox in the consolation spot.

Now I am free to make a few other spot predictions:

Look for Milwaukee's Hank Aaron or Pittsburgh's Roberto Clemente to wrest the NL batting crown from scrappy Tommy Davis of the Dodgers.

In the AL, it will be between Mickey Mantle and Al Kaline.

A healthy Willie Mays, hitting in robust style, will slug his way to the NL homer king, while Mantle (if he stays healthy) will be the AL homer king.

Al Downing the Yank sophomore will surprise everyone by capturing the won-lost pitching crown in the AL, while high-kicking Juan Marichal of the Giants will top NL hurlers. Don Drysdale will be second.

The Cubs Ernie Banks, provided his health holds, will challenge Frank Robinson of the Redlegs and Mays and Aaron for the RBI crown, and will achieve baseball's comeback of the year.

Mays will also capture the NL's most valuable player award at the end of one of his best seasons, while in the AL, Bombers' catcher Elston Howard will get that honor for the second straight year, despite strong challenges from Mantle and the Twins Earl Battey.

Rookies-of-the-year honors will almost certainly go to Don Buford of the White Sox in the AL, and Richie Allen of the Philadelphia Phillies, in the NL. Do you buy those, bud?

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