

Manager Mel Ott Could Make A Return To The Majors With A Pennant Winner

By HAL WOOD
(U. P. Sports Writer)

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—If he follows in the footsteps of his predecessors, look for Mel Ott to be back managing in the major leagues in 1953.

The Oakland A's, managed by Mel, are one of the pre-season favorites to win the Pacific Coast League pennant in 1953—and it was a pennant-winning managerial job with this same club that catapulted Casey Stengel into the post as boss of the New York Yankees; and Chuck Dressen, two years later, to the Brooklyn Dodgers.

"Mel is just as much a big league manager as Stengel or Dressen," says owner C. L. Brick Laws of the A's. "Maybe Mel just needed the seasoning down here, too."

This is Ott's second season at the helm of the A's. His not-too-kind team finished in the first division in 1951, but Laws is the type of owner who demands a winner. He'll get Ott whatever help he wants—or finds necessary—to make a tough pennant contender.

Ott, who managed the New York Giants for a few years before being let out in 1950, figures he has learned a lot with his first experience in a minor league.

"Among other things, I've learned to do some public speaking,"

he says. "I still don't like speaking, but I've done more of it for the A's in the last year than I had done in all my life before."

Ott is a capable representative on the banquet circuit for the A's, and wins a lot of friends for his team and his owners.

Now a greying 43 years of age and with a married daughter, Mel still is as active as the rawest rookie in spring training camp.

He not only instructs the youngsters on their hitting and fielding, but takes a turn in the batting cage himself and just the other day pitched four innings in an intrasquad game.

He is very popular with his players, and bends over backwards to give them all the help he can to make them satisfied.

A good example came up recently when the A's acquired Danny Litwhiler, veteran major league outfielder.

Since Ott joined the Giants under John McGraw at the age of 16, he always has worn No. 4 on his uniform. It so happens that Litwhiler always has worn No. 4, too.

So this season, for the first time in his career, Ott will wear No. 30.

"I believe the active players should have the small numbers," he says. "Anyway, maybe a new number will change my luck."

PRE-SEASON BASEBALL

By UNITED PRESS

WILLIAMS ON SECOND
PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP)—It's official from Manager Leo Durocher today that 23-year-old Davey Williams is the successor to Eddie Stanky as the New York Giant's second baseman.

"He'll open in Stanky's old job and there's nobody close to him," Durocher said. "I believe he'll hit .300 and if he does that'll be enough."

Durocher had tabbed Williams as his No. 1 candidate to succeed Stanky when spring training opened. He seemed to be losing some confidence in the slick-fielding native of Dallas, Tex., about a week ago but insisted today that Davey would be able to handle the job.

Williams, a \$65,000 purchase from Atlanta in 1948, played in 30 games for the Giants last season and did not commit an error. He hit .306 and batted safely in eight straight games during one stretch.

Bob Hofman and Ronnie Sanford, who were in the running with Williams until today, are believed up for trade now. The Giants are reported to be dickering for outfielder George Metkovich of the Pittsburgh Pirates, who are in dire need of infielders.

The Giants meet the Chicago Cubs, who beat the Cleveland Indians, 6-5, and ran their victory string to four straight games yesterday, in an exhibition game this afternoon.

SCHOEDIENST-STANKY
BRADENTON, Fla. (AP)—Al "Red" Schoendienst probably will team with Manager Eddie Stanky as the St. Louis Cardinals' keystone combination when they open the National League season.

That long-predicted move appeared more likely than ever today after Schoendienst and Stanky paired for the first time in yesterday's 1-0 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Schoendienst had played in the outfield and at first base this year before Stanky finally shifted him to shortstop—the position he played at Rochester in the International League before he went to the majors.

Rookie Willard Schmidt starred in yesterday's game, shutting out the Phils with one hit in five innings. He has not allowed an earned run in 20 innings.

The Boston Braves, who play the Cardinals today, lost to the New York Yankees, 3-1, yesterday.

CERV SHOWS POWER
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Bob Cerv, the powerful right-handed slugger who hit .344 for Kansas

TODAY'S SPORT PARADE

By OSCAR FRALEY
(United Press Sports Writer)

NEW YORK (AP)—Major league baseball scouts are missing the boat. The boat to Africa, that is.

"Where are the baseball moderns who can hit, throw, field and run the bases like the stalwarts of a generation ago?" the immortal Ty Cobb recently asked.

Nobody knows, although the big league "ivory hunters" have been doing what appeared to be a capable job. All you have to do is take a peek at the major league rosters and you understand how much ground they have covered.

For instance there are 24 guys from eight foreign countries in the majors this season. That includes 14 from Cuba, four from Canada and one each from Scotland, Australia, Venezuela, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and France.

There are 38 players from 13 foreign countries if you want to count the 10 from Brooklyn and one from Chattahoochee, Ga.; Couchatta, La.; Marmaduke, Ark., and Holland, Mich.

But the National Geographic Society has come up with a tip that may send the scouts storming into Africa, and don't think that's too far fetched considering that Bill Veeck is having the Japanese scouted for his St. Louis Browns.

Anyhow, for the benefit of some enterprising ball club, the National Geographic in a special news bulleting tip off the "ivory hunters" to the fuzzy-wuzzies of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

These are the same fighting men lauded by Rudyard Kipling and who could be immortalized in the future by our dashing baseball writers.

The Fuzzy-Wuzzies, the National Geographic tips, have a way of settling minor differences which fits Cobb's prescription for coming up to the big leagues "the hard way."

For instance, when two men quarrel they strip to the waist and each takes a place in a small circle about as far as it is from home plate to the pitcher's mound.

At hand are piles of rocks the size of baseballs. At a starting signal, they let fly at each other.

Control is a necessity in this sport, because there just ain't gonna be anybody running in from the bull pen.

The characters at odds may dodge or catch the flying stones. But the lad who cringes out of his circle is branded a coward.

So from now on I'll laugh at anybody who says a pitcher-with no-bow-throwing back at him-is the epitome of courage. Pitchers who throw infield liners expected.

Stone duels can be serious, the National Geographic admits, but adds that they can be deadly when two entire tribes start pitching as it was the final game of the World Series. Then it is assumed, the situation assumes the aspect of the Boston Red Sox infield.

Buy, anyhow, it looks like it's worth investigation. These warriors are natural-born athletes. Their courage is unquestioned. There is no doubt about their ability to throw and, as for their running, they chase mountain goats into the crags and bean them with these same baseball sized stones.

Only one question remains unanswered. Can they hit?

City in 1951, appeared today to be winning a regular berth in the New York Yankees' outfield on the power of his lusty bat.

Cerv hammered his fourth home run of the spring, high for the club, as the Yankees defeated the Boston Braves, 3-1, yesterday and it came off 3-game winner Warren Spahn.

Herman Wehmeier, Floyd Bevens and Frank Smith shut out the Detroit Tigers, 7-0, yesterday. It was Cincinnati's third straight victory and second shutout over the Tigers this spring.

LITTLE HOPE FOR HAL
LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—The odds still appeared to be against Hal Newhouser in his bid for a comeback with the Detroit Tigers today.

The once-brilliant lefthander, out of action most of last season, was

hammered for four runs in five innings as the Cincinnati Reds walloped the Tigers, 7-0, yesterday.

LEMON GOING STRONG
TUCON, Ariz. (AP)—Bob Lemon of the Cleveland Indians hoping to break back into the 20-victory club this season after a year's absence, sported a stunning record of having allowed only two runs in 20 exhibition innings today.

Lemon's string of 14 consecutive scoreless frames was broken when Eddie Miksis of the Chicago Cubs homered yesterday. But the big Cleveland ace allowed only one more run in the next five innings, although the Indians lost, 6-5.

A typical example is that of Glen Thompson, near Charlotte, who says water is running over his spillway for the first time since his pond was built four years ago.

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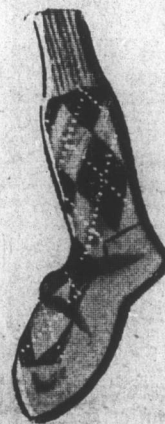
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