

Today's Sports Parade

By OSCAR FRALEY
United Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Reaction ranged from raised eyebrows to outright guffaws today over a potent pitching prediction made by Fresco Thompson, Brooklyn Dodger vice president in charge of hits, runs and fewer errors. Fresco didn't quiver an eyelash when he asserted that Dodgers Carl Erskine and Don Newcombe would "win eight or 10 more games" this season than the Phillies' Robin Roberts and Curt Simmons. This disregards the accepted theory that Roberts and Simmons are the National League's greatest one-two punch.

But it's just possible that friend Fresco may have the final chuckle.

You need go no farther back than last season for substantiating figures. And supporting them are statistics culled during the current spring training season.

Leading Winner
Last season, for instance, Roberts was the leading winner in the league with 23 victories against 16 defeats. Simmons had 16 wins against 13 losses. That's a 39-29 total.

Meanwhile, Erskine started to live up to expectations with a league-leading percentage of .769 on 20 triumphs and only six defeats. To get a 39-29 total, Newcombe would have needed a 19-23 record — and if he ever goes to the pitching post 42 times you can bet your bottom bob that he'll get more than 20 wins.

Big Newk comes marching back to Dodgertown this season after two years in service. His last time out, in 1951, he was a 20-game winner and reports are that he looks better than ever. This is supported partially by spring training appearances in which he has given up only four hits in 10 innings.

Yet the big man of the duo could be a "new" Erskine. This is Indiana Carl's fourth full season in a Brooklyn uniform but it is the first time in which he has been able to relax from worry and admit that he is a regular. It has helped a great deal.

Ordinarily the collar ad kid has had to knock himself out every spring in an attempt to win a job. By the time the campaign got under way he was worn to a nervous nubb and all season long was burdened by that initial handicap.

This year he has it "made" after that 20-game season of 1953 and a new World Series strikeout mark of 14 in one game. It has made a big difference.

Erskine this time is bringing himself along slowly and carefully, working patiently on his control. Without bearing down he has been the first pitcher to go nine full innings and in 19 innings of work has permitted only three runs. His nine innings performance, a 10-2 win which could have been a shutout, was over the A's, who have been the red-hot terror of the Grapefruit League.

"I didn't cut loose against them either," he beamed, "because I still need plenty of work."

Which means that the quiet, modest 27-year-old ex-Asst. to get much better. With his "restful" start, he should have a terrific year. And, if Newcombe comes through as he should, it will make a faultless seer of Fresco.

Carolina Caravan

BY JAKE WADE

CHAPEL HILL — There was something wholesome, down to earth and definitely from the heart in Dr. Foy Roberson's talk to the University of North Carolina basketball squad the other night.

Dr. Roberson is from the old school of athletes. He was captain of the 1905 Tar Heel football team. For many years thereafter he was a member of the University Athletic Council. Now he is a distinguished Durham surgeon, raises cattle on his farm between Durham and Chapel Hill, attends Carolina sports events as an old grad with the fervor of his youth.

He reminisced in his talk about the way of life in his undergraduate days. In those times, he pointed out, a student of "ringer" could skip from one school to another for the purpose of bolstering athletic fortunes. There were no scholastic requirements except that a fellow pass enough work to stay in college. There were, indeed, no restrictions. May those who pine for the good old days never forget it.

All that has been changed now, Dr. Foy pointed out, and for the better. In these days of college athletics are strictly supervised — definitely in the hands of the faculty and college administration, rumors to the contrary notwithstanding — and, therefore, he could not understand why campus editors and even some members of the faculty peeped at and leaders of crusades to liquidate what to him is something rather fine and wonderful.

SO DO WE ALL! — At this meeting Foy Roberson Jr., memorial award for "contribution to team play and general excellence" was voted to Skippy Winstead, the thin man from Roxboro, a University senior. This is the school's highest basketball award, donated by Dr. and Mrs. Roberson in memory of their son, a Carolina basketball player lost while serving in the armed forces during World War II.

At the same affair the Carrington Smith trophy to the team's "most valuable" player was awarded to Jerry Vayda, the scintillating Tar Heel sophomore who led the team in scoring this year.

It was a pleasant and festive party at which Kay Kyser, the old maestro, put in his appearance and spoke eloquently and convincingly to the young men present. All hands voiced optimism for the future. Coaches Frank McGuire and Buck Freeman were sure that basketball at Chapel Hill is on the way up, after something that might be called a relapse. A good time was had by all.

The sinners would wonder only at the reminder, through Dr. Roberson's remarks, that in the opinion of the crusading Daily Tar Heel, the campus newspapers, there is something evil and out of line about college sports as conducted by the University of North Carolina and its colleagues in the Atlantic Coast Conference and the nation-enveloping stern and conscientious

Benefit Basketball Game Is Scheduled

A benefit basketball game, with amusing half-time stunts, will be played on Friday, March 26 at 7:30 p. m. in the Lillington High School gymnasium.

All funds realized from the night's entertainment will go toward the Fine Carolina Contest fund. The Harnett County seat is now engaged in a series of civic improvements which it hopes will win for the town a top prize in the Carolina Power and Light Company's civic improvement contest in the two Carolinas.

Co-operation and strict adherence to an over-all planning program are the keys Lillington expects to give the town a good showing in the contest. This applies to finances as well as projects. All funds, contributed or raised by public entertainment, will be funneled through the contest steering committee headed by John H. Blackman.

The steering committee has estimated that \$1,700 cash is needed National Collegiate Athletic Association.

WONDERFUL YOUTH! — Everyone was noticeably moved by Dr. Roberson's stirring talk. We experienced a similar reaction day after day when Dr. W. P. Jacobs, also of the medical profession but retired, a fine Carolina football player of the same vintage as Dr. Roberson, attends practice sessions of virtually all Carolina sports teams and shows more interest and enthusiasm than even the college's cheerleaders.

Dr. Roberson spoke for the old school, the middle age school, and we feel sure, even the bulk of the undergraduates, excluding only the crusading idealistic "intellectuals." He spoke for the human and the realistic with the wisdom of age if not the sharpness of youth.

The editor of the DTH recently assailed our literacy with a smart lead editorial challenging that we did not know the meaning of the very commonplace word "prosaic." This came about because we used the word somewhat loosely in appending the adjective to such as Dr. Roberson, Dr. Jacobs and others who have been through the college athletic mill and now, as alumni, oddly view constant beatings by Duke, State, etc., with distaste and occasionally would like to win such teams.

The editor, of course, was only being a cutie. He is completely aware that we are fully acquainted with the definition of "prosaic." If he doesn't, then we'd like to get him in a scrabble game some time and spring "sax" on him. That means "a tool" for trimming and puncturing roofing slates. We could give him a few others to deflate his own literacy.

He also knows that in our town there is no more vociferous proponent for free speech and opinion, even among student editors, than this old sinner. Whenever the offended express opposition to such we go into something of a tirade. After all, we, too, were once veloping stern and conscientious a crusading student editor.

SPORTS SHORTS

CHICAGO (AP) — Carl "Bobo" Olson figured today he would best welterweight champion Ed Gaviland and retain his middleweight title April 2 simply because "I fight all the time." Gaviland, he said, "he's a now and then fighter. He fights for a while, then he backs away and rests for a while."

Two sisters, Mrs. Cad Kelly and Mrs. M. D. Lanier will take off "grandma and grandpa" and Andy Yarborough will impersonate "Digger," the friendly undertaker of radio fame.

Cheer leaders, clowns, fashion models and other surprises are promised the audience. Soft drinks will be sold by the P. and F. W. Club.

Meantime, residents of the town already are vowing with pride many new shrubs planted on residential properties. Improvements at the school and teachers' grounds, new walks at the community center and a complete "face lifting" at the courthouse square.

The Syracuse Nationals and the Boston Celtics square off tonight in the opening game of their services for the National Basketball Association's Eastern Division title, each hoping to match the fast start made by the Minneapolis Lakers. The Lakers, defending league champions, opened the best-of-three series for the Western Division playoff title Wednesday night with an 89-76 conquest of the Rochester Royals at Minneapolis, as veterans George Hiskan and Jim Pollard led the way.

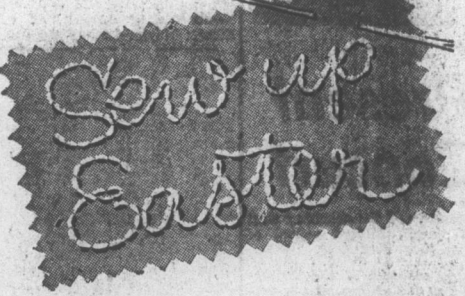
The Pittsburgh Hornets, 4-3 overtime victors over the Hershey Bears in the opening game of their best-of-five semi-final series, met the Bears on home ice tonight in a position to strengthen their chances for a final series berth in the American Hockey League's Calder Cup playoffs. Willie Marshall's goal at 7:38 of the overtime period on Tuesday night gave the Hornets a well-earned come-from-behind triumph and a victory tonight would all but eliminate the Bears, who finished the regular season in second place.

The Montreal Canadiens and Detroit Red Wings are both heavily favored to take commanding leads in the Stanley Cup hockey semifinals by scoring victories tonight, but the coaches of both squads warned their men against over-confidence. The cup-defending Canadiens were told by Coach Dick Irvin that they'll have to be "much improved" tonight at Montreal if they want to duplicate their opening game, 2-0 triumph over Boston's battling Bruins.

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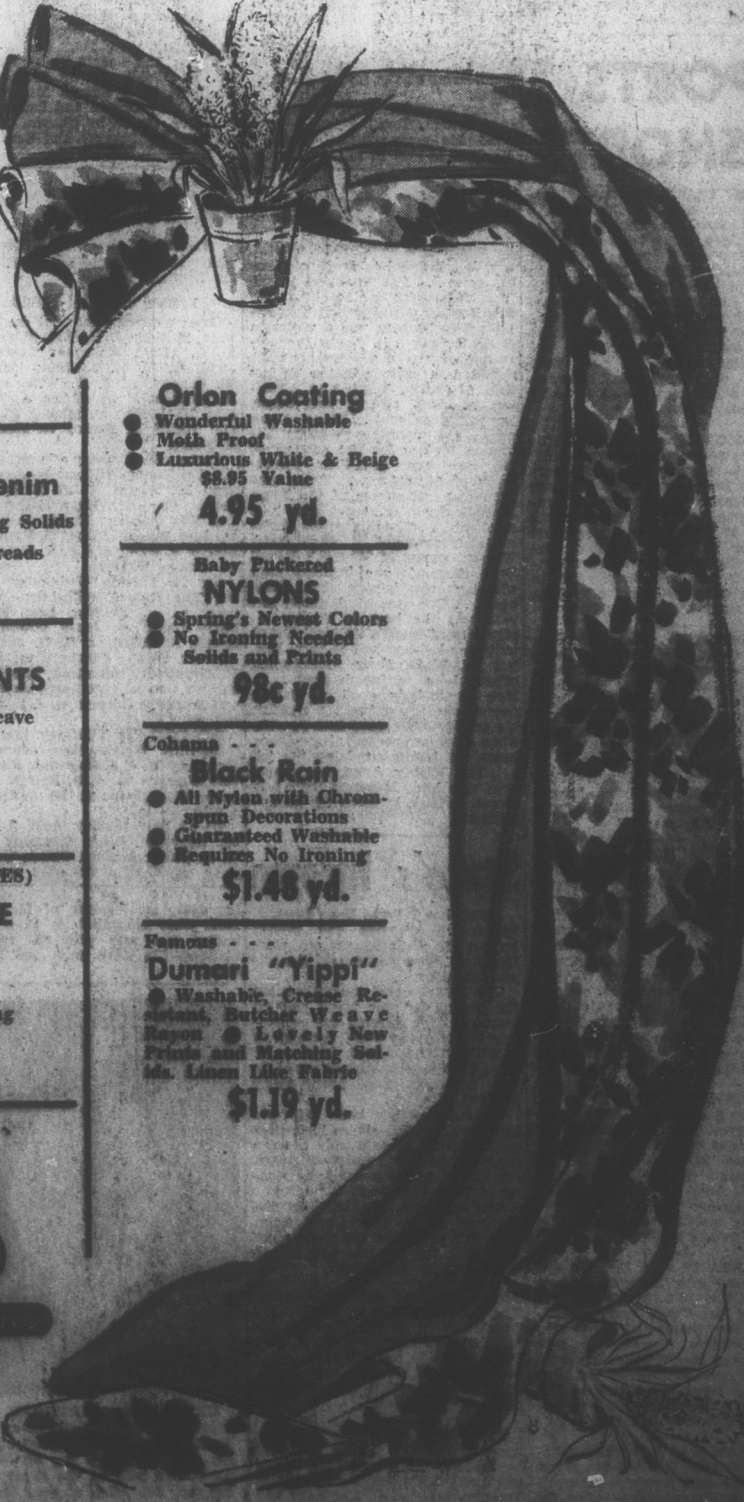
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St. Louis Cardinals Out To Win Pennant

St. Petersburg, Fla (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals are going all out to win the 1954 National League pennant, but Manager Eddie Stanky is afraid that he might not have enough pitching to do it.

Otherwise, he feels his club will be a top contender all the way. "Pitching will tell our story in 1954," Stanky said. "Right now means I'm going to have to come up with a lot of pitching strength, and I frankly don't know whether the talent is there."

It may be that the Cardinals will try to deal for a hurler before the season opens for Stanky could well be loaded with good trading material if two rookies come through for him—Tom Alston at first base and Alex Grammas at short. That would mean he could deal such players as Solly Hemus, who is being sought by several clubs, and Steve Bilko, the heavy hitting but poor fielding first baseman.

Harvey Haddix, the 20-game winning left hander; Gerry Staley who won 18 last season, and Vic Raschi, the \$75,000 purchase from the Yankees, are the only starters Stanky is counting upon now with the spring opening. Al Braska, the No. 1 bullpen pitcher.

All in all, the pitching picture is not bright, but so long as owner Gus Busch keeps on pouring money in his ball club there is always the chance that they will strengthen that department.

The outfield is all set with Star Musial in left, Rip Repulisti in center and Enos Slaughter in right. A rookie, Wally Moon, has looked and may win the No. 1 utility spot with peanuts Lowrey also in the picture.

Only Red Schoendienst at second and sophomores Ray Jablonski at third are set in the infield. Alston and Bilko are fighting for the first base job with Grammas. Hemus and Dick Schofield in the battle for the shortstop post. Schofield is a bonus player who will have to stay with the club. The veteran Pete Castiglione will be around for utility duty.

Del Rice, one of the best defensive receivers in the business, will be the No. 1 catcher, with rookie Dick Rand, who hit .284 in Houston last season, having the inside track for the No. 2 job ahead of Sal Yvars and another rookie, Bill Sarni, a .277 hitter at Columbus.

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