

## Today's Sports Parade

By OSCAR FRALEY  
United Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Winding up spring training a bit early, Fearless Fraley can tell you today that it figures to be the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Yankees in the World Series — again — next fall.

With this kiss of death, you should be let in on a little secret.

I haven't seen a baseball player in action since Billy Martin broke up the World Series last fall. My spring training was done on the Bear Mountain ski slope with orange juice hot toddies. And the first time I got in the sun I'll peel quicker than a 52nd Street stripper.

But you could live two miles from the Goose Bay Airport, which is a close to nowhere as possible, and see this much with your eyes closed. Barring failure to show up, the Yanks and Dodgers are "in."

The Brooks should win in a Gowanus gallop, probably as easy as their 13-game margin of last season. On the other hand, it's difficult to see how the Yankees can make it six in a row — or to find anybody to stop 'em.

League by League

— League by league, here's how the end stacks up from here:

National League: 1, Brooklyn; 2, St. Louis; 3, Milwaukee; 4, Giants; 5, Phillies; 6, Cincinnati; 7, Cubs, and 8, Pittsburgh.

American League: 1, Yankees; 2, Cleveland; 3, White Sox; 4, Red Sox; 5, Washington; 6, Athletics; 7, Detroit, and 8, Baltimore.

Sure, you're tired of seeing the Yankees and Dodgers win. So is everybody else but the Yanks and Dodgers. Yet the balance of power has not been disturbed appreciably. The Yanks may not make it by their 8½ game margin of last season, still that too is quite a gap to close.

In the National League, the Cardinals appear to have the pitching to oust Milwaukee from second place. The sudsy surprises of '53 worked on all cylinders last season and if a few things go wrong they may have to hustle to hold off the resurgents Giants. The Giants "may" go pretty good.

Anybody's Race

From there it's anybody's boat race in the second division with the Phils challenging for the first division. I am unimpressed by Cincinnati claims that it could go "all the way." The gentlemen who made that statement undoubtedly insinuating that they'll appear for all 154 ball games. The Cubs and the Pirates are, well, the Cubs and Pirates.

Cleveland, Chicago and Boston all should make valiant runs at the Yankees during the season. But once the shakedown cruise is over they figure to trail on home in that order.

Downstairs, Washington will be passing, punting and praying that it beats out the hopeful Athletics for fifth place. Detroit has no delusions and Baltimore will discover that enthusiasm is no substitute for a well-rounded ball club.

It's a sports truism that you can't win 'em all. But Joe Louis, the Cleveland Browns, Native Dancer and a lot of other champs have proved that you can make an amazing number of winning passes before you blow the dice.

Until somebody stops them, that's the way it is with the Yanks and Dodgers.

# Cubs Are Counting On Rookies To Win

BY SCOTT BAILLE  
(UP Sports Writer)

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — Phil Cavarretta's hopes of leading the Chicago Cubs out of seventh place hinge on a rookie second base combination, the expected long-ball hitting of Ralph Kiner and Hank Sauer, and an uncertain pitching staff.

And even with the Cubs dropping nine of their first 10 exhibition games, Cavarretta saw better times ahead.

"Our defense wrecked us almost as much last season as injuries to Kiner and Sauer," Cavarretta said today. "We trailed the league in double plays, for instance. But I think we'll get that strength down the middle with Ernie Banks at shortstop and Gene Baker at second."

Both played with the club for a brief period in the closing days of the 1953 season after Baker, the first Negro to sign a Cub contract, was called up from Los Angeles and Banks was purchased from the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro American League.

Baker starred as a shortstop with the Angels for four seasons but Cavarretta is converting him into a second baseman.

"And the kid looks better every day," Phil said.

Banks, who batted 380 with the Monarchs last year while Baker hit .284 at L. A., is rated by Cavarretta as having the best chance of staying around.

MIKISIS IN BACKGROUND

Meantime, Eddie Mikis of last year's second base combination has

been shoved into the background at least temporarily.

Kiner and Sauer reported in tip-top shape. Ralph is bustling around the camp like an eager rookie and often heads for the sliding pits during a lull. The strained Achilles tendon, which slowed him up one week after he joined the Cubs from Pittsburgh last year, no longer bothers him.

Sauer would just as soon not talk about 1953, in which he suffered three hand fractures and slid far down the ladder from his most valuable player perch of the previous season. He feels he is all set to bounce back.

So with two of the league's top home run producers in the outfield, Cavarretta said he figured on giving rookie Bob Talbot the nod over Frankie Baumholtz for center.

"Talbot is fast—and just what I've been looking for to spot between Kiner and Sauer," Cavarretta said. "His hitting is a question mark but in this case I might sacrifice some power for added defense."

Talbot also was brought up from the Angels late last year where he batted .287 and was generally considered the best center fielder in the Pacific Coast League for three seasons.

Comes to pitching and Cavarretta just sighs.

"Let's face it—right now it's not so good," he said. However, he is going right back with his 1953 starters: Warren Hacker, whose 19 losses topped the league last year; Bob Rush, Johnny Klippstein and either Bubba Church or Paul Miner.

"I'm counting on Turk Lown to do the same good job he did for us last year in relief," Cavarretta said. And he may also figure on using Bill Moisan, bespectacled "junk" pitcher from Los Angeles who also hits a long ball. The only southpaw in the bunch is Minner Jackson or Bill Serota, both yet untried.

At third will be either Randy Bruce or Edwards, who made an early season bid for third, may be retained as a third-string catcher because of his pinch-hitting.

Dee Fondy has first all to himself for the third straight year.

"There's no depth at first at all," Phil said. "Maybe I could handle 75 games myself if an emergency came up but I want to run the club from the bench."

CHICAGO (AP) — Kid Gavilan's theme song Friday night will be "Don't Fence Me In." To put the song over, he will do his own drumming with left hooks aimed at Bob Olson, the ring's greatest corral artist. During the 82 rounds welterweight champion Gavilan has sparred in preparation for Friday's shot at Olson's middleweight crown, he concentrated on tactics featuring the left hook to prevent stalker Olson from penning him in corners or against the ropes.

CAMDEN, S. C. (AP) — Australia's Pete Thomson, who's traveled for long years without success for longer than he cares to admit, had his first 1954 victory today. Thomson collected the winner's share of \$500 Monday when he fired a five-under-par 67 to win the second annual one-day Pro-Am golf tournament at the Camden Country Club.

LONDON (AP) — In a baffling fluctuation of odds, Don Cockell, British heavyweight champion, may enter the ring at Earl's Court Arena tonight an 11-10 favorite to beat Roland LeStarza of New York in their 10-round "world's heavyweight title elimination" bout. Cockell, who has been training vigorously for the bout, was pronounced fit and well conditioned by his handlers Monday as he completed preparations. Meanwhile, Britons have been taking a dim view of LeStarza's training which has consisted mostly of short jobs through Hyde Park and brief workouts in Jack Solomon's gymnasium.

The Minneapolis Lakers were being quoted at top-heavy odds today to win the National Basketball Association playoffs against the badly-crippled Syracuse Nationals. The best-of-seven games series opens Wednesday with the Lakers enjoying the added advantage of playing the first two games in Minneapolis where they are virtually invincible. The next three games are scheduled for Syracuse with the final two, if necessary, at Minneapolis.

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DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — Phil Cavarretta got his walking papers as manager of the Chicago Cubs today, ostensibly for failure to lift the team out of the second division, but he implied Stan Hack, his successor, wouldn't do any bet-

ter. Hack was promoted from the Cubs' Los Angeles farm club in the Pacific Coast League to be the major league's first spring training managerial switch.

NEW YORK (AP) — Handlers of Tommy (Hurricane) Jackson, boxing's sensational new slugger star, laid plans today for a drive they hope will carry him to the heavy-weight championship by September. That's mighty big dreaming for a lad who only three months ago was fighting in preliminary bouts, but Monday night's spectacular second round technical knockout of Dan Bonacuti gave Jackson's pilots the right to dream just as big as they want.

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## Robert E. Lee Dies In Toccoa

Robert E. Lee, 77, of Miami, Fla., formerly of Dunn, died Tuesday morning at 2:30 o'clock in Toccoa, Georgia. He had been in ill health for several months.

Funeral services will be held at the Culbreth Memorial Pentecostal Holiness Church in Falcon Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Burial will be in the Falcon cemetery.

Mr. Lee was a native of Harnett County, son of the late Erasmus Lee and Lucinda Allen Lee. He was a member of a pioneer family of this section.

He had retired from business, but was still active in the Pentecostal Church. He was a familiar figure at the annual Falcon Camp Meeting.

He moved to Miami after his retirement.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Nellie Eckard Lee, of Miami; six sons, Fred and Hobart Lee, both of Miami; the Rev. William B. Lee of Atlanta, Ga.; Joe K. Lee and Allie Lee, both of Toccoa, Ga.; John Lee of Greenville, S. C. and the Rev. Don Lee of Mt. Olive; and two daughters, Mrs. Mildred Carroll of Toccoa and Mrs. Carolyn Rozier of Dillon, S. C.; one sister, Mrs. J. Luther Davis of Dunn, also several grandchildren.

## Strother Funeral Held On Saturday

Charles H. Strother, manager of the Lillington Theatre, was called to Ashley Heights, near Aberdeen, on Thursday morning by the death of his father, John Wesley Strother, 77, who died at his home following a long illness.

The Lillington man is the youngest of 12 children who survive with their mother, the former Winnie Lou Long, Mr. Strother, who was a native of Montgomery County, was a prominent farmer of the Ashley Heights community where he had lived for over 38 years. Funeral services were held Saturday morning from the Ashley Heights Baptist Church and burial followed in the cemetery there.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Strother and baby returned to Lillington on Monday. They have an apartment at the home of Mrs. Frank Stewart.

## Winnie Defends U. S. Bomb Tests

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Winston Churchill told angry Labor critics today that an overwhelming build-up of United States hydrogen-bomb strength "provides the greatest possible deterrent against the outbreak of a third world war."

Churchill, speaking in the House of Commons, staunchly defended U. S. hydrogen bomb tests in the Pacific as an "essential part" of a defense policy without which "Europe would be in mortal peril."

WASHINGTON (AP) — Official sources hinted today that the H-bomb tests in the Pacific this month established that the catalytic super-weapon can be made both simpler and cheaper than had been supposed.

BONN, Germany (AP) — West German federal President Theodor Heuss today signed three amendments to the Bonn constitution which legalize rearmament.

ATU agent C. S. Coats of Smithfield and State Patrolman Joe Whitaker in a raid on the "honkytonk" place he operates on Dunn, Route 2, in Johnston County.

Coats said they found two and a half jars of moonshine at the honkytonk, which is located near the home of Minson Webb.

Commissioner Jackson found probable cause and ordered Wood held for the next term of Federal Court at Raleigh under bond of \$500.

## At Least 21

(Continued From Page One)

cago traffic with 7.7 inches piled up 8 inches in much of Iowa, 6 inches in South Dakota and an even foot at Wayne, Neb.

While northern states shivered, moist warm air bathed Dixie and kept temperatures high.

New England and New York enjoyed the same kind of springlike weather Monday—until the fast-moving storm front slammed into those areas. Lunchtime strollers shed their coats and lolled in New York parks soaking up sunshine Monday afternoon as the mercury hit a high of 66.1. The temperature started dropping overnight, bringing warning of today's forecast rain and sleet.

## Wood Arrested

(Continued From Page One)

removing and concealing bootleg whiskey.

Wood was arrested by Federal

## It's Here!

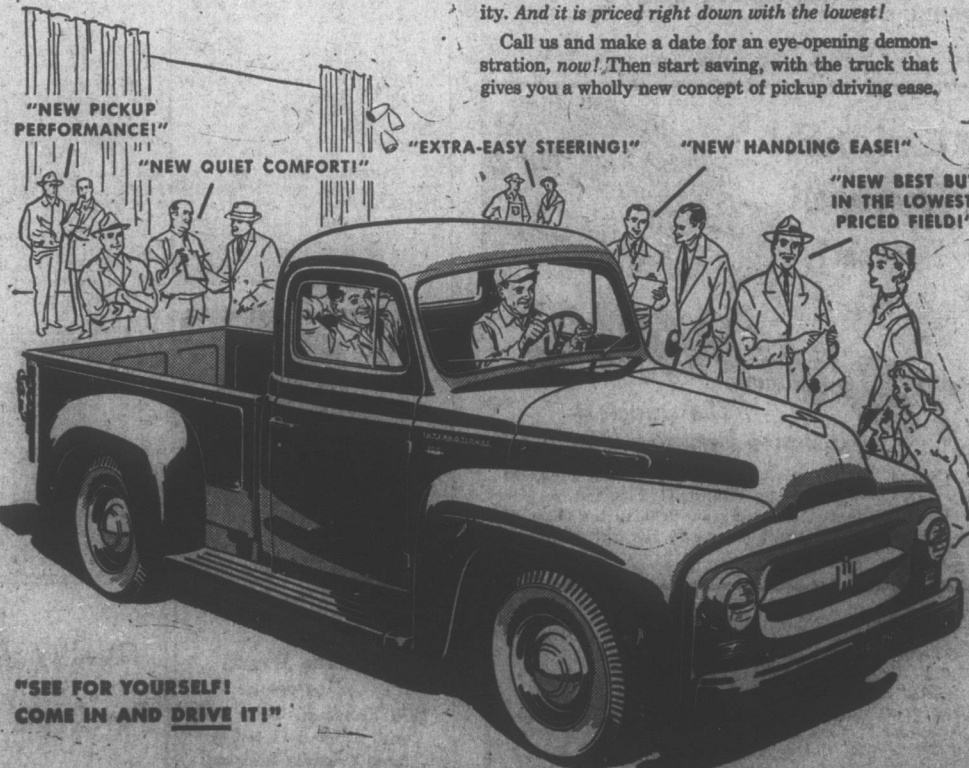
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