

HUSKER HIGHLIGHTS

By George Miller

We will leave the local sports front for today, turning to the opening of the major league baseball season which has crept into the sports news since the beginning of spring training early in February.

The situation this year is considerably different than that of the past few seasons. Prewar stars are back, fit and ready after one of the most intensive spring training grinds in the history of the game. These players will be anxious to prove to themselves as well as to the fans that they have lost none of the prowess at the plate, on the basepaths and in the field.

Baseball experts have named the St. Louis Cardinals as the team to beat in the National league, neaving new Redbird boss, Eddie Dyer, in an uncomfortable position. If the Cards win it will be nothing unusual, but woe to Dyer if they should falter and fail to recapture the national league flag.

The Redbirds have disposed of several of their standbys, including catcher Walter Cooper, outfielder and first baseman Johnny Hopp, and first baseman Ray Sanders. Sanders is the latest Cardinal to leave the flock, for he joins Hopp, pitcher Morton Cooper and last year's St. Louis manager Billy Southworth in Boston with the rejuvenated Braves.

Leading threats to the Cards are the Chicago Cubs who copped the pennant last season, the unpredictable Brooklyn Dodgers and the Pirates. Only the Phillies and the Cincinnati Reds seem to be out of the race, with the Giants and Braves lurking on the outside to step in if one of the leaders falters.

Our own prediction as to the outcome of the National League is:

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|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. St. Louis | 5. Brooklyn |
| 2. Chicago | 6. Boston |
| 3. Pittsburgh | 7. Cincinnati |
| 4. New York | 8. Philadelphia |

The ranking of the Giants may be a surprise, but Bel Ott's team has plenty of hitting power, and with the short Polo Grounds right field as a target the New York club may be able to outslug opponents possessing more defensive skill. If pitcher Voiselle and rookie Bob Joyce live up to expectations a fourth place spot for the Giants is not impossible.

The junior circuit is a different story. The Yanks look the best, but unsteady pitching will hamper the Bronx Bombers. With the Tigers, Indians, Red Sox and Senators all priming pennant contenders, the race should be close all the way.

No one can discount the excellence of the Yankee hitting and fielding, but their mound staff is not up to the standards of other days.

Detroit can parade a capable array of pitchers to the mound, however the Tigers fall down when the infield is considered. Eddie Mayo and Eddie Lake are not in the class with Phil Rizzuto and Joe Gordon, Lou Boudreau and Ray Mack or Johnny Pesky and Bobby Doerr, others American League keystone combinations.

The 1946 season could be the year for the Boston Red Sox. Joe Cronin's aggregation has the best balance of power, with both pitching and hitting on a par with other contenders. This lack of weak spots may be the factor that will bring the Red Sox home in front of the pack.

Cleveland and Washington are two more stout candidates for

first place. Both have fine pitching staffs, the Indians claiming Bob Feller, Red Embree, Steve Gromek and Allie Reynolds as a quartet of starting hurlers as good as any in the league.

The Browns can cause trouble, and with shortstop Vern Stephens back in the lineup, the St. Louis outfit is not out of the title scramble.

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Kinnamon Leads Hitters On UN Team

Bill Kinnamon leads the batters on the Nebraska baseball team with an average of .333, after four games. The husky catcher has collected four safe hits in twelve appearance at bat to pace Coach Frank Smagcz's team.

Shortstop Wes Maser moved into second place with an average of .312, after getting two of the five hits the entire Nebraska team managed to gather in the two-game Minnesota series.

The team average dropped over 100 points as a result of the Huskers' weak showing at the plate in last week's series. Taking a mark of .292 to Minneapolis, the

Nebraska hitters came home with a team average of .190.

Husker batting averages:

	AB	R	H	Pct.
Dick Lebbs, p.	1	0	1	1000
Jim Weiss, p.	1	0	1	1000
Bill Kinnamon, c.	12	3	4	.333
Wes Maser, ss.	16	2	5	.312
Truck Williams, of.	14	0	4	.285
Bob Bolen, of.	7	1	2	.285
Frank Brown, of.	16	3	3	.187
Bob Rubino, 2b.	15	2	2	.133
Dean Jackson, 1b.	13	0	1	.076
Wilbur Baach, 3b.	15	3	1	.066
Jim Sandstedt, p.	6	1	0	.000
Fritz Hegwood, of.	4	0	0	.000
Wally Scheef, p.	3	0	0	.000
Harold Jacob, p.	1	0	0	.000
Gall Petersop, of.	1	0	0	.000
Rog O'Donnel, c.	1	0	0	.000
John Olson, p.	0	1	0	.000
Team Totals	126	16	14	.190

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Sandstedt Leads Pitchers. Jim Sandstedt, husky right hander, is the workhorse of the Husker mound staff. He has toiled 13 1/2 innings, has allowed six hits, fanned 11 opponents and walked three.

Wally Scheef, Gretna pitcher, has worked nine innings, while Harold "Tap" Jacob has appeared in 6 1/2 frames for Nebraska. Sandstedt and Dick Lebbs are credited

Lifesaving Class Begins Tonight

A course in water safety and lifesaving, sponsored by the American Red Cross, will hold its first session in the coliseum tonight. Class periods are scheduled for 7:00 on the evenings of April 17, 19, 22, and 24, with the class meeting first in the N Club on the second floor, and moving to the pool for demonstrations and instruction.

All university men and women are invited to attend the meetings.

with the Nebraska wins over Colorado, with Scheef and Jacob each having one of the Minnesota reverses on his record.

This weekend the Huskers entertain the fast University of Oklahoma nine in a pair of contests. The Friday game gets underway at 4, with Saturday's tilt slated for 2 p. m.



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