

Husker Trackmen To Battle Kansas

Strictly Kushner

By MARSH KUSHNER
Sports Editor

Here is a little article we clipped from the sport page of the Kansas City Star. Ernest Mehl, sports editor of the Kansas City newspaper, comments on Bob Cerv and the story which tells of his success:

At the moment there are six outfielders in the training camp of the Yankees, not counting the veteran Johnny Hopp who may by now not be certain where he is supposed to exert.

Of the six, Hank Bauer and Gene Wooding are fixtures. Mickey Mantle, who has had comparatively little experience in the fly chasing art, is counted on strongly to improve.

Jackie Jensen, who has suffered since his pro debut from an exaggerated opinion of his own ability, is among those considered but perhaps the rookie who has attracted the most attention is BOB CERV.

BOB, who is a serious sober-minded athlete who can pout with the best when conditions don't satisfy him, has had a rather spectacular rise in baseball, thanks largely to his own persistence.

Some observers believe that Casey Stengel may discover what Manager George Selkirk found to be true last year: That Cerv even though he lacks a powerful throwing arm and has no rare speed, will be his most competent centerfielder.

It is just possible that the man who will replace Joe DiMaggio in the ample center pasture at Yankee stadium will be this robust, broad-shouldered Nebraskan who evoked so little enthusiasm back in June of 1950 that the Kansas City club hesitated a long time before it agreed to pay the bonus Cerv wanted.

'Cerv's Success A Strange Story'

Cerv's case illustrates the extreme vagaries of baseball. The most promising buds quite often fail to produce the most luxuriant flowers while on the other hand one unnoticed develops into the blue ribbon winner.

Yankee scouts, in particular Joe McDermott, who gets credit for signing Bob, had watched the Nebraskan for several years, but had cooled off on him until his senior year at the University when he led the Big Seven conference hitters with a very imposing average.

Upon McDermott's advice Cerv was called to Kansas City to work out with the Blues under the eyes of Manager Joe Kuhel and his coach, Jimmy Gleeson.

The story that Cerv couldn't throw had preceded him and no special attention was paid to this phase. It developed Bob lacked a strong arm, but his heaves were accurate.

After the workout the manager, his coach and Parke Carroll, general manager, held a conference.

The question was thrown at Kuhel and Gleeson: Was the boy worth taking a chance on? Did he have any major league possibilities?

It was Kuhel's opinion that Cerv was worth a gamble and Gleeson was equally positive.

"I believe he would in a very short time become the most valuable player on the club," he opined.

'Wins His \$500 Differences'

As the result of this meeting the organization set a sum which it would be willing to give Cerv, who was being briefed by the University of Nebraska baseball coach, who was primarily interested in advising the player of the best course to take.

The organization and Cerv finally reached a point where there remained only a \$500 difference between what the player wanted and what the organization had set as its maximum bonus figure.

Finally Carroll decided to yield.

"All right," he told Cerv over the telephone, "you wire your acceptance and we'll give you the extra \$500. You can join us in Minneapolis."

The wire of confirmation came and Cerv joined the Blues in Minneapolis. Within a short time he had established himself and by the end of the season he had justified the predictions Kuhel, Gleeson and McDermott had made for him.

Last year Bob was called during the season to the Yankees but in a very brief trial, he failed to distinguish himself. He returned to the Blues understandably disgruntled and then came an injury. Even so he was second in the league in batting and held many of the slugging marks.

This spring the Nebraskan, starting from scratch, has done some of the lushest swatting in the Yankee camp. He has proved he can hit for distance against major league pitching and while it is far too early to pass judgment on him, the fact remains he could very well be the team's centerfielder when the season opens.

'Cerv Has Spirit Yankees Like'

There probably are some points about Cerv which have enhanced his chances. There is a certain tradition among the Yankees and the players who wear the uniform are expected to conform to it.

There is the story of one promising youngster in the organization who so far has failed to make the grade and whose conduct and temperament evoked a stinging letter from one of the scouts last winter.

"You don't act like a Yankee," he flailed the boy. "So far you haven't shown that you have the spirit to become a Yankee. You are wondering why you haven't been advanced and I'm going to tell you."

They say this youngster is quite chastened this spring and it may be the words of the scout have had their effect.

Cerv from the start had the spirit, the determination and this resoluteness which the Yankee heads like.

They agree Bob has a very fine chance to achieve his ambitions.

Iranians Drop Phi Psi's For All-U Volleyball Title

By BILL MUNDELL
Intramural Sports Columnist

The Iranians reached the heights of the volleyball world Tuesday night as they romped to the All-University volleyball championship. As was expected, they captured the big one by downing a hard-fighting Phi Kappa Psi outfit in two straight games and ran their season record to 25-1.

Although the Phi Psi's could not hand the Iranians their second defeat of the year, they came within a whisker in the second game before the champions pulled an amazing about-face.

In winning the All-U title, the men from Iran will be awarded the official intramural medals denoting their sweep of the volleyball laurels. The Phi Psi's will be awarded the volleyball trophy as fraternity champion of 1952. In each sport, the trophy goes to the highest ranking independent outfit.

The champions were never headed in the first game of the title match as they won by a 15-11 count. The Phi Psi's made it close all the way, however, and appeared at one time ready to overcome a big Iranian lead. The winners were coasting along on a 12-5 margin when the Phi Psi's cut loose and six minutes later they trailed by only one marker, 11-12.

That was all she wrote, however, as the victors mustered their forces and tallied the all-important three points and the victory.

The second game was practically the opposite. The Phi Psi's held command throughout the first ten minutes as they broke a 2-2 tie and roared to a 9-2 lead.

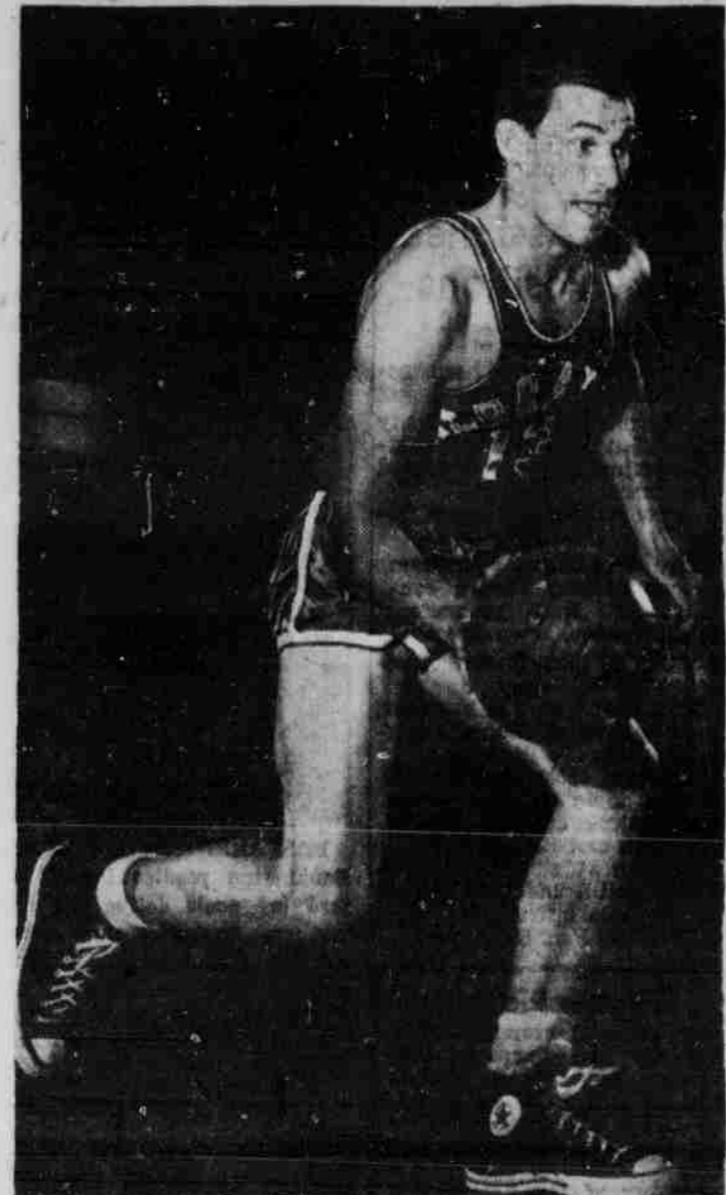
The Iranians took time and talked the situation over and apparently found the solution because the next six points were recorded in their favor and the Phi Psi's lead had dwindled to one point.

From 9-8, the losers managed to up the margin to 10-8, watched the Iranians collect their ninth point, and then shot to a 13-9 lead.

The pressure was on, but good, and both teams played inspired ball. The next point seemed ages in the making, but after ten unsuccessful serves, the Iranians cashed in on the eleventh and the tie was broken. From there it was only a matter of two minutes and the Iran smashers forged into the lead for the first time at 14-13.

Still the Phi Psi's were not beaten and forced the champions into a 14-14 duce game.

Phi Psi's were not beaten and forced the champions into a 14-14 duce game.



MOST VALUABLE PLAYER . . . Jim Buchanan has been named the winner of the most valuable player award given to a University of Nebraska basketball player. Claude Retherford, Bus Whitehead and Bob Pierce are the other recipients of the award.

Husker Squads Evade Storm; Head For Southland's Warmth

Although the calendar says it's Spring, you would have a tough time convincing any Nebraska athletic team of that right now.

For wind, snow and slush descended upon the campus Tuesday night with the result that spring sports are stymied on the home front.

So the enterprising Huskers are taking off for the warmth and sunshine of the South.

First to head southward were Tony Sharpe's baseballers, who started off on a six-game road trip through Oklahoma and Kansas Tuesday afternoon. When the Sharpens left, the sun was shining, and spring was truly in the air. As it turned out, the 19-man diamond squad got out of Nebraska just in time to miss the storm.

Thursday morning at 7:30, Ed Weir's track team left for Kansas. The Scarlet thinclads have a dual meet with the Jayhawks today.

Also bound for greener pastures are the NU tennis and golf aggregations, who have southern road trips scheduled for April 12 through April 14. The golfers and netters will go as far south as Texas, where they will meet North Texas State.

Hampered by bad weather, Sunflower cindersmen have gotten off to slow starts over the state. As a result, outstanding performances to date have been few and only four Relays marks appear threatened on the basis of competition to date.

The meet record in the low hurdles has been equalled and the marks in the shot put, javelin, and 880-yard run have all been closely approached.

Top high jump to date is by Perry High's Junior Carder who hopped 6 feet 1 1/2 inches at Ottawa. But neither he nor Topeka's Bill Reichert who sailed 6-1 offer any threat to the Relays mark of 6-5 3/4.

Main Feature Clock

Esquire: "Alice in Wonderland," 7:24, 8:58.
Varsity: "Vatican," 2:37, 4:55, 7:13, 9:31. "The Big Trees," 1:00, 3:18, 5:36, 7:54, 10:12.
State: "Snow White," 1:37, 3:37, 5:37, 7:37, 9:37, 11:00.

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Renewed DeVinney-Bedker Rivalry Expected To Highlight Cinder Carnival

A measles-stricken University of Nebraska track team heads for their toughest dual meet of the outdoor season against the Kansas university cindersmen.

The Jayhawks, indoor champions, will be taking advantage of the fact that the Huskers will be without the services of high jumper Bob Sand and distance man Clayton Scott.

Bob DeVinney, KU's flying track captain, renews his pursuit of Nebraska's Don Bedker Thursday when the Jayhawks entertain the Cornhuskers in the first outdoor dual meet of the 1952 season.

The spare Kansan can pull abreast of the picture-running Husker in their season's hurdles series by whipping him in both the 120-yard highs and the 220 lows. Bedker will go into the meet owning a 3-1 edge in the vendetta forced on the strength of his double conquest in both flights of indoor timbers March 1.

He unwound winning efforts of :07.5 and :06.9 in these 60 yard hauls, as DeVinney ran second in the lows and third in the highs. Bedker also measured the determined Jayhawk in the highs in the KU-NU indoor dual at Lincoln. DeVinney notched his lone victory in the lows at :06.9.

Bob figures to be better over the longer outdoor hauls. He ran second in the 220 yard lows in last May's conference derby and went on to bag the runner-up slot behind Cornell's Charles Moore in the National AAU 400-meter barriers. He won the National Jr. AAU crown at that distance in 1950 and will shoot for that title in both the Kansas and Drake Relays.

He'll face a tougher time with his Scarlet foes in the highs. DeVinney has worked only briefly at the timbers since the outdoor season began, concentrating instead on the quarter, where he is employed as leadoff man in Jayhawk Distance Medley and Mile relay foursomes. He turned a :49.9 in helping Kansas to the latter title at Texas in a record-shattering 10:06.0.

In addition to Bedker, Nebraska will present another capable veteran in Dan Tolman, who missed most of the indoor season because of injury.

Kansas lost the services of a fine freshman prospect this week when Adolph Mueller, Leavenworth double state class AA prep king last year, turned up with a back injury. He may be through for the season. However, the Hawkers hope to get some points out of Don Woodson, improving junior, and Bill Biberstein, Attica, frosh who won the class B state title in the highs last spring.

The DeVinney-Bedker duels likely will stick the winner close to the respective meet records of :14.7 and :23.8. Greenwood hung up the former time in 1949

and 1950. He shares the lows with two other Jayhawkers, Harry Wiles, 1937, and Lee Schloesser, 1948.

More likely to topple are the 440 and Mile Relay standards of :49.0 and 3:22.0. KU's Don Smith is a good bet to stow away the former record erected two years ago by NU's Loyal Hurlburt. He ran :48.6 in the anchor carry of the Mile Relay at Texas, and has rambled as low as :48.1.

KU's Mile Relay foursome scorched 3:14.7 at Austin, getting second place when Oklahoma's second were disqualified. Nebraska's 1949 unit of Don Vollertson, Jim Martin, Fritz Ware and Hurlburt hold the current record.

Every one of 15 University and division winners crowned Saturday at the Texas Relays will go after more spiked-shoe glory at Lawrence, April 19 in the 27th running of the Kansas Relays.

Three of the most intriguing winners will be drawn from the Big Seven: KU's two distance relay teams, and Oklahoma Broad-jumper Neville Price.

The latter notched a stunning comeback in Austin by winning his specialty at 25-2 1/4. Just a month ago in Kansas he was being counted out of action for the season after pulling a muscle on his second jump in the Big Seven Indoor preliminaries. His leap Saturday is the best of the early 1952 campaign and just two inches below the aging Mt. Oread standard. Iowa's Ed Gordon has held this at 25-4 3/4 since 1931.

Bill Easton's leather-lunged steeds would have smashed their home course records to tiny bits Saturday had they been running in their own Games instead of at Austin. As it was they erected a new Texas Distance Medley mark at 10:06.0 and missed their own Four-Mile standard by less than two seconds in 17:21.2.

The Distance Medley time was :05.9 under Texas' five-year-old mark, and is :03.7 below Michigan's Kansas Relays standard of 10:09.7, which Don McEwen anchored two years ago.

The Four-Mile unit's effort was :13.1 below the current Mt. Oread mark of 17:34.2 which the Cliff Abel-Herb Semper-Pat Bowers-Bob Karnes foursome erected in 1950 on its way to a grand slam.

Typically, for Eastern-coached clubs, three men doubled on the two winning combinations. These include Semper, who anchored both and Sophomores Wes Santee and Art Dalzell. Dist. Bob DeVinney led off the Distance Medley. Lloyd Kobay, another soph, ran second in the Four-Mile ensemble.

With this brace of excellent times in their first 1952 outdoor start, these two Jayhawk units pose severe threats to American and Intercollegiate records in both relays.

The Jayhawkers were off the

pace only :05.1 in the Four-Mile at Texas and only :06.6 above the twin marks in his Distance Medley. An Indiana quartet of Mel Trutt, Jimmy Smith, Tom Deckard, and Don Lash have owned the 17:16.1 Four-Mile banner since '37. North Texas State's Al Christman, Henry Morgan, Wayne Rideout and Blaine Rideout erected the 9:59.4 Medley record in 1938. Both marks were established at the Penn Relays.

Easton frankly expects both units to improve even if they are forced to run against the clock. Kobay trotted no better than 4:33.7 in the second carry of the Four-Mile. Semper ran only 4:17.5 in anchoring the Four-Mile. Under pressure Semper and Santee both are likely to reach as low as 4:11.6 in the Mile and the latter close to 3:00 flat for the 1320 carry of the Distance Medley.

The performances of Oklahoma, Texas A & M and Kansas also furnished an eyebrow lifter in the Mile Relay at Austin. The Sooners ran 3:13.1 only to be disqualified.

The Cadets scorched 3:13.5 and the Jayhawkers had to be content with second even though they established a new school record of 3:14.7. All three times are under the present Kansas Relays mark of 3:15.0 set by Rice in 1950.

Relays notes: Kansas Coach Bill Easton will be obliged to find a new leadoff man for his Distance Medley and Mile Relay teams since Bob DeVinney, the old reliable, will be playing his legs in the 400-meter hurdles at both the Kansas and Drake Games.

A Jayhawk unit of DeVinney, Frank Clinch, John Reidner and Don Smith rambled 3:14.7 in the Mile relay at Texas to establish a new University record even though the blistering performance was only good enough for second place. . . . The old mark of 3:16.5 had stood since 1934 when Bob Schroeder, Themo Graves, Ed Hall and Glenn Cunningham etched the figure. . . .

Arlene Christian's new freshman sensation, George Adrian, spun a blazing :47.8 anchor lap as the Wildcats whizzed 3:17.8 in winning the college class Mile Relay at Austin last Saturday. . . . An early line on the Glenn Cunningham Mile here April 19th shows Javier Montez, of Texas Western and Dewey Johnson, Drake, as early favorites. . . . The former whipped his Bulldog rival at Austin in the 1500 meters, a distance which will prevail here since it is an Olympic year, in the good time of 3:52.6. . . . However Dewey ran 4:10.0 in the Bankers' Mile at Chicago to beat Don Gehrman, although finishing second behind Warren Druetzler.

Small, secretary of the Smith Hawk Club here, hustled to the Smith center football banquet during the Christmas holidays from Gadsden, Ala., his home town.

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