

Strictly Kushner

By MARSHALL KUSHNER
Sports Editor
Spring has Sprunged
Falls has Fallen
Baseball is Here
And the Cubs'll get Mauled.

First a look at the American league. Here are our selections for the final standings come September:

1. New York Yankees
2. Cleveland Indians
3. Boston Red Sox
4. Chicago White Sox
5. Detroit Tigers
6. St. Louis Browns
7. Philadelphia Athletics
8. Washington Senators

It's gonna be a plenty warm race in the junior circuit this season between the Yanks and the Tribesmen, but per-usual Stengel's boys will come through when the chips are down and the pressure is on.

Casey can count on his sturdy, but rapidly aging, pitching staff, headed by stalwarts Eddie Lopat, Alie Reynolds and Vic Raschi.

The Yanks will be losing Jerry Coleman, their invaluable keystone play-maker during the world series last year. Coleman's off to the Marines and Gil McDougald will take over the second-sack duties.

Al Lopez, Cleveland manager will be pushing the Yankees right down to the wire with the classic pitching staff in the loop.

The American league batters will be facing the slants of Bobby Feller (if he can hold up like last season—a sure 20-game winner), Bob Lemon (ailing, but still potent), Mike Garcia, Early Wynn, Lou Brissie and Steve Gronck.

Although some scribes are picking the Red Sox to limp in ninth (there are only eight teams to those who don't follow our national pastime too closely), but we're rock-ribbed Red Sox rooters and we'll pick 'em to nip the nippy White Sox of Chicago for third place.

The Pale Hose thus complete our first division finishers. Paul Richards's youngsters will be holding his breath and praying that his pitchers don't fall through as badly as they did during the short-lived period of Chicago's first place domination.

The rest of the league doesn't seem to present too much of a threat to breaking into the upper bracket. The Tigers could sneak into fourth if the Red Sox fall apart as predicted by the experts. In this case, the White Sox move to third.

There isn't too much of a problem in the senior circuit this season. Ebbetts Field radicals will be watching their Bums walk to the league pennant with no fear of any uprisings such as occurred in 1951.

The Diggers have everything! Their batboy even hit .350 for Montreal last year. Chuck Drensen will have the league sewed up, even without Don Newcombe.

So, here are the final standings in the National league:

1. Brooklyn Dodgers
2. Philadelphia Phillies
3. St. Louis Cardinals
4. New York Giants
5. Pittsburgh Pirates
6. Boston Braves
7. Cincinnati Reds
8. Chicago Cubs

The Phils will be the surprise of the league, but Sawyer's "whiz kids" will run out of stuff to halt the Dodger surge. Curt Simmons will aid Bubba Church, Robin Roberts and Jim Konstanty. Steve Riddick fired a no-hitter in spring training camp and might come up with a repeat performance.

Eddie Stanky's spirited St. Louis gang will hustle themselves right to third place in the league. The big question is: Where will Schoendienst play when Stanky takes over second base.

Stanky has a fairly nifty pitching staff and have a well distributed amount of hitting power with a concentration of long range blasters in the outfield (Musial, Slaughter and Westlake).

With Monte Irvin coming back for diamond duty about September 1 and the Giants not expected to be up in the standings too high, Leo Durocher is singing the blues.

The loss of Willie Mays certainly isn't consoling the Lip in these trying times. The French say "C'est la vie," and the race track rats say "that's turf," and we say the Giants will land the fourth spot in the final standings.

The Pirates, spearheaded by Ralph Kiner (blasted a homer the opening day) will give Forbes field followers a lift with their rise to fame and fortune and fifth place.

The Braves (they've really hit the skids), Reds and Cubs will finish in that order.

For another pre-season analysis of what's going to happen during the '52 season, check over Bob Reichenbach's column, "What Am I Doing Here," on Page 3.

Husker Baseballers Face Jayhawkers

With two home games and five road contests under its belts, the Nebraska baseball team meets tough Kansas in a pair of home conference games Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19.

The busy Huskers have just returned from a southern road trip, where they played five of six scheduled games. One clash with Oklahoma A. & M. was washed out.

Playing against two highly-rated clubs, Tulsa and Oklahoma A. & M., the Scarlet nine came out with one win and two losses. A late rally by the Aggies cost Nebraska a win in the A. & M. game.

Added too a pair of early triumphs over Drake and two wins over Kansas State, these losses give Nebraska a 5-2 record going into the Kansas games.

Huskers Nip Wildcats

A vigorous hitting attack, led by Bob Reynolds and Ray Novak, started the Nebraska baseball team on the road to the Big Seven Championship by giving the Huskers a 12-1 win over Kansas State at Manhattan.

The contest was the first of a two-game series with the Wildcats, and the first conference game of the year for Tony Sharpe's charges. The Huskers and the Wildcats met again Wednesday.

Nebraska racked up 16 hits including ten doubles as they pounced on three K-State hurlers for the win. Reynolds led the attack with three doubles in five at bats, while Novak hammered out a pair of two-baggers and a single in five trips.

Nebraska got off to a four-run start in the first inning and were never topped.

Fran Hofmaier, freshman left-hander, received credit for the win. It was his second of the season against one loss.

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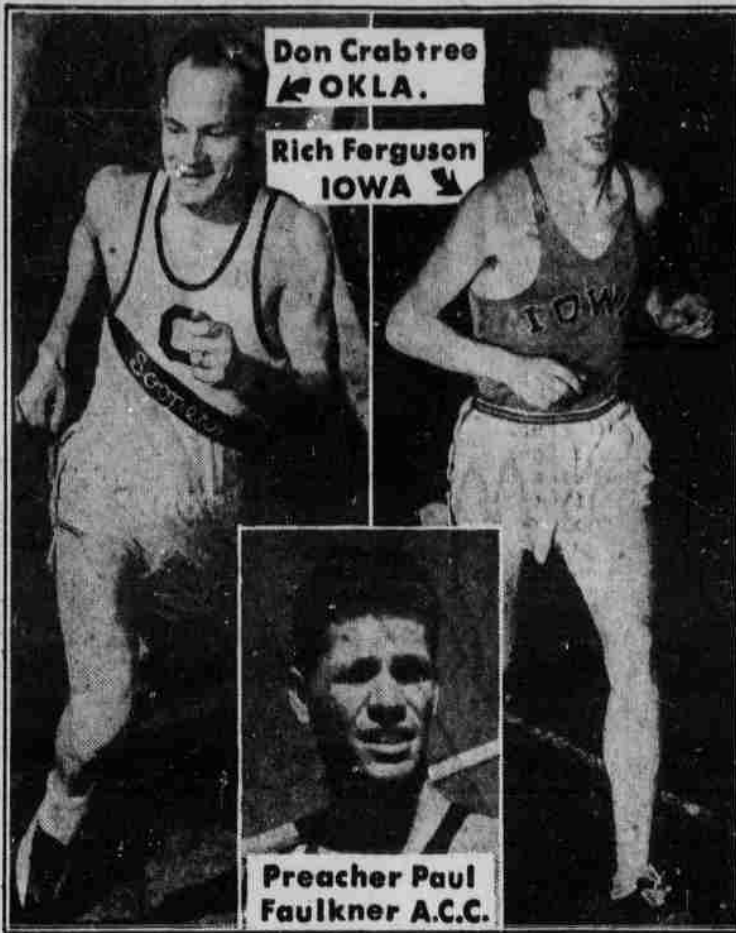
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1952 KANSAS RELAYS



KANSAS RELAY CHALLENGERS . . . Don Crabtree, Oklahoma's Big Seven half-mile champion, and Rich Ferguson, Iowa, are expected to anchor the two-mile relay bid for their respective teams in the 27th annual Kansas Relays this Saturday. Paul Faulkner of Abilene Christian is set to defend his relays javelin title.

Thane Baker Relaxes; Now Olympic Threat

Be cause he learned to relax, Thane Baker, Kansas State's great sprinter, has jumped from a high school "also ran" to a 1952 Olympic prospect. And, he has done it almost over night.

K-State track coach, Ward Haylett, says Baker's learning to relax is the major reason why the Wildcat star is smashing records nearly everytime he toes the mark.

Baker, who could do no better than sixth in the state Class B 100 and 220 dashes during his high school competition at Elkhart, Kansas, came to Kansas State without the benefit of an athletic scholarship. He was immediately tabbed by Haylett as a "kid you're going to hear about."

It was Haylett's observation of Baker that folks first started to watch the Elkhart boy's progress. After all, they reasoned, Haylett has been an Olympic team coach and is a consistent developer of individual champions. He is a sprinter to their marks, Baker man who should know a potential champ when he sees one.

Baker now a junior, spent his freshman year at Kansas State learning how to relax both before and when he runs. Haylett

had noted that the young runner was tense before a race and never let his long, lithe muscles roll with the relaxed rhythm necessary for record-breaking performances.

"Your first assignment is to learn to relax," Haylett reminded Baker. "If you do, you can become a great sprinter."

But how do you learn to relax? Many an ulcer-laden businessman would like to know. Well, here's how Thane Baker does it.

Before a race, Baker seeks a quiet spot away from the track and just sits and stares at the ground. He lets his mind wander. He may think of classroom assignments which one of his economics professors has discussed.

He may recall a movie he has seen or the fun he has had on track trips. He even thinks some of the race he is about to run and why he wants to win it.

When the starter calls the sprinter to their marks, Baker begins dancing up and down, tossing his head, shaking his wrists and dangling his arms. He does it to keep himself relaxed until the gun sends him speeding down the track.

Nebraska Tracksters To Missouri, Relays

By MARSHALL KUSHNER
That was the skepticism Coach Ed Weir showed as his Nebraska track team left this morning for their dual meet with Missouri Friday and the Kansas Relays Saturday.

The crippled Cornhuskers will rough as they met last week not being facing competition as against the University of Kan-

sas cindermen, but "we're not in very good condition for this meet," said Weir.

The Husker workouts have been seriously hampered by the inclement weather and sickness. Also spring vacation saw many tracksters returning tardy for workouts and so Coach Weir has reason to be skeptical.

Clayton Scott will be out, Bobby Fairchild is very doubtful, Bob Sand is questionable. Fairchild was to try a 220 yard dash in Wednesday's drills to see how his ailing leg felt.

Coach Weir felt a definite necessity for "two millers, sprinters and javelin men." With Nebraska not entering a participant in the javelin throw it gives the Tigers three free places and points.

Weir had words of praise for Cliff Dale and his improvement in the discus-throwing event. "Cliff has been heaving it about 140-feet and has been very consistent," said Weir with a note of cheer in his voice.

Weir was not sure of his traveling roster because he was waiting further word on some of his athletes conditions. The team will travel to Columbia, Mo., for their meet with the Tigers and then travel to Lawrence, Kas., for the sunflower state's relays.

Tentative travelling squad: Don Wilcox, Gene Yelkin, Dan Tolman, Irving Thode, Hyle Thibault, Buele Baiderson, Glenn Beerline, Don Bedker, Blake Cathro, Cliff Dale, Paul Grimm, Phil Heidelk, Brien Hendrickson, Jim Hofstetter, Jim Hurley, Hoppy McCue, Lee Moore, Darrell Moreland, Bob Sel-don, Jim Sommers, Gaylord Smith and Tom Stoup.

In the American league, Sherm Lollar won the "goat" honors for the day. Lollar was picked off first base on a "pop" fly to the catcher. It seems Lollar wasn't watching the game too closely and was 20 feet off the first base sack.

The Pale Hose were in the midst of rallying to overcome a Cleveland lead, but the play put the White Sox fire out. The Indians won, 3-2.

Brooklyn bumped Boston, 3-2, and the Chicago Cubs tripped the Cincinnati Reds, 6-5.

The Boston Red Sox downed Washington, 3-0, and the St. Louis Browns shut out Detroit, 3-0.

Major League Season Begins; Favorites Win

The favorites to win the American and National league pennants got off to a flying start as they won their opening day games Tuesday.

In the National league, the Cardinals of Eddie Stanky tripped the Pittsburgh Pirates, 3-2. Ralph Kiner and Red Schoendienst smacked homers for the Bucs and Redbirds, respectively.

Brooklyn bumped Boston, 3-2, and the Chicago Cubs tripped the Cincinnati Reds, 6-5.

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