



sports round-up

by
C. Buck West

Now that the "big fight" is over and the basketball season fast coming to a close, baseball soon will hold the center of the sports stage again. With sandlot baseball as we oldtimers knew it on the wane -- practically non-existent in some parts of the country, in fact -- and the minor leagues struggling to stay alive, the diamond sport is having a difficult time maintaining its once dominant position as our "national pastime." But major league ball still commands a lot of interest and is mighty "big business" in some of our larger cities.

Fast-growing Las Vegas, continually drawing new residents from all sections of the country, has solid groups of rooters for most of the clubs in both the National and American leagues. Most of the local support, however, goes to the teams representing the Far West cities closest to us -- the Dodgers and the Angels of Los Angeles and the Giants of San Francisco. Las Vegas bookmakers, for instance, will tell you that 80 percent of their action is derived from games in which these three teams are involved.

The Dodgers, who amazed even their most ardent well-wishers by strangling the once awesome New York Yankees in four straight World Series games last fall, appear headed for another great season -- both artistically and financially. Bulwarked by a formidable pitching staff headed by Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale, you can expect the Dodgers to be even-money favorites to repeat as National League champions. It also is a safe bet that Walter Alston's crew will again attract more than two million dollars in paid admissions to Chavez Ravine in 1964.

It should be remembered that even the Dodgers cannot win ball games -- and thus hold their financially-potent patronage -- without producing runs to support the great pitching of Koufax, Drysdale and their other fine hurlers. It was with satisfaction, therefore, that we noted that general manager Buzzie Bavasi presented Tommy Davis with a contract for \$42,000 last weekend.

That represents a raise of about \$15,000 for the Dodger outfielder who led the National League in hitting for two straight years. Not bad, we'd say, for a 24-year-old lad who was cavorting for Reno in the Class C California League a few short years ago.

"Tommy richly deserves all he will receive this season," Bavasi told reporters in revealing the approximate terms of Tommy's new contract. This column wholeheartedly agrees.

Tommy's signing left only four of the club's more important players outside the fold -- Koufax, Drysdale, shortstop Maury Wills and outfielder Frank Howard. We suspect that Bavasi and owner Walter O'Malley already have "understandings" with these stalwarts and are merely awaiting a propitious time to announce that each will be back in a Dodger uniform this year.

Local basketball fans will get a chance to see some of the best amateur teams in the Far West in action this weekend at Dula Center when the regional AAU tournament is conducted. The winner will earn the right to compete in the National AAU championship at Denver next month.

Slated for action in the Bonanza Road gym are such outstanding West Coast quintets as the Long Beach Lockyers and Pasadena Mirror-Glaze. Area entries include the local title-winning Leavit Insurance combine and Nevada Test Site. Fred Martin, Southern Nevada AAU basketball commissioner, has been working hard to whip together a real good tournament. His efforts deserve your support.

Next week will wind up the basketball season with state high school tournament here in Las Vegas. Competition has been exceptionally keen this winter among the schoolboys and the state event is certain to generate plenty of excitement.

This is being written before the "big fight" in Miami Beach between heavyweight champion Sonny Liston and his loquacious challenger, Cassius Clay. You readers now know the result -- we can only guess at it. But if the Louisville Lip is the new champion of world, we can only agree with former light heavyweight king Billy Conn -- now a resident of our town:

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POLITICAL SPOTLIGHT

By ANDERSON & WEST

Nevada Republicans like Woodrow Wilson, Clyde Matthews, and Bill Deutsch instead of crying over Lt. Governor Laxalt's John Birchleanings should take advantage of the Rockefeller Campaign to promote a republican position in this state. The Republican's performance in support of the House Civil Rights Bill and the importance of the Republican Senate Minority in the Civil Right Filibuster, expected to start next week in the U.S. Senate, offer a cleaner choice for those who are truly dedicated to the principles of the party of Abraham Lincoln to challenge Goldwater and the hysterical reaction of conservatism sweeping Nevada Republicans.

Helen Crozier, State Board of Education member, Nevada's lone Negro elected Representative, should seek identification with the Negro community. Mrs. Crozier, should make a report to the various Negro organizations of her activities as a member of the State Board of Education. She should determine what needs there are within the Negro community, and lay those needs before the State Board of Education. She should become the articulate voice of this community demanding re-

vision of adult educational rules and a reduction in fees for adult courses. Nevada has the highest adult education rate of any state in the Western part of the U.S. De facto segregation is the burning issue which should demand the attention of all Negro leaders, and all organizations. Las Vegas, Westside, with 99% of Negro students attending all Negro Elementary schools, is a disease that Clark County School Officials should alleviate. The Negro community must recognize the disadvantage of its children being segregated during elementary school years. Many of the problems of adjustment of white and Negro students in their social relationships, as reflected at Junior and High School levels, are the result of this elementary school segregation. The matter of de facto segregation has been discussed with the local school board, and with Supt. Leland Newcomer. Mr. Newcomer, is surprisingly silent on matters affecting racial discrimination, as well as on appeals of NAACP for

changes in racial patterns of employment and pupil assignment.

Jake Von Tobel, the democrat from Clark County who out republicaned Republican lawmakers during the 1963 session, is rumored to be a candidate for the state Board of Regents. Jake opposed civil rights, and every piece of legislation within the '63 session designed to broaden and expand opportunities for Nevadans. The election of a person of his narrow, biased attitude would definitely hinder the existing University program to expand, and offer greater education opportunities to all students of our state. Negro voters have an opportunity to express themselves where Von Tobel is concerned. Every effort should be made to say loudly, and clear enough, what the Negro thinks of Von Tobel as a politician.

We spotlight "Togetherness", and Mrs. Stella Fears for this week. Mrs. Fears, a member of the Women's Democratic Club, West, spent several days last week serving as a Deputy Registrar in the Voter's League Headquarters, 1309 North "D" St. Those citizens who believe that a united community would take some of the local pudding, should take note. Just as Mrs. Fears and the Democratic Club, West, and

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CRAPPIE AT GRAND WASH

All fishermen have reported big catches of crappie in the Iceberg Canyon and Grand Wash areas. The fish are there, you need only to get there for the taking. Bass are also biting right along with the crappie. The bass are hitting crappie minnows, and you will need no other bait.

The very best bait you can use is the natural bait that abounds in Lake Mead -- SHINERS. Shiners can be caught, in sufficient quantities to serve your needs. They are easily caught with triple snag hooks. Fasten about ten or twelve of these treble hooks directly to a monofilament line, by passing a loop of the line through the eye of the hook, and looping the line around the shank of the hook, and pulling the line up snug. Place the hooks about 2 or 3 inches apart. Use at least six. Twelve will do the job twice as effectively.

Attach a heavy lead, 2 oz., to bottom of your snag line. Let your line down below the school of surfacing shiners. The bait size ones are always deeper down than the small thread shad shiners that come right up under your gasoline lanterns.

With your snag rig down about 5 or 6 feet below the surface, give it a quick upward lift, let it drop back, pause for a couple of seconds, give it another quick lift, and then lift it into the boat. Remove the shiners caught on the treble hooks, and repeat the operation, until you have enough of the shiners.

Put your shiners in a pail of cold water. Add a piece of ice to the water. The cold water will keep the bait alive for a longer period of time than cool or warm water. However, as long as the shiner is still fresh, it makes no difference whether it is alive or dead. The fish will hit the dead ones just as fast as they will hit the live ones. The bass, however, will take the live bait better, but they will also hit the dead shiners.

You will have to take a few dozen minnows along with you to get started. Sometimes it takes an hour or more of fishing before you will get the shiners schooling around your boat. If you don't see any shiners, try deep snagging. Sometimes they stay deep and you can't see them.

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