



# sports round-up

COACH ALEX HANNUM of the San Francisco Warriors is hotter than a two buck pistol because the National Basketball Association has widened the free-throw lane from 12 to 16 feet. Alex claims the NBA board of governors legislated against "one man and one team only" in making the change, the "one man" being 7 foot, 1 and 1/16th inch tall Wilt Chamberlain of you know what "one team."

"It's going to require a bigger adjustment for Wilt than anyone else in the league," Hannum continued. "This rule has been discussed by the owners every year for the past five or six and nothing ever came of it. Then all of a sudden they pop up voting for it."

"I think it was because we were so successful last year when we upset all the dope by winning the Western Division," he fumed. "Somebody was afraid we were going to become too powerful and sold the board a bill of goods."

The effect of the rule will be to move Chamberlain and other big men playing the low post two feet farther from the basket, since they can't remain in the lane without the ball for more than three seconds.

Most of Chamberlain's points come off two moves—a wheel-back to the inside for a dunk or drop-shop over the reach of the man guarding him and a fadeaway to the outside for a bank shot from 15 to 18 feet.

"This new rule will move Wilt back on his fadeaway to a spot where the guards should be shooting," Hannum said.

NBA president Walter Kennedy claims the new rule was passed "to open up the middle more, help do away with cluttering up the lane and to enable the smaller man to drive toward the basket."

"I'm not against any move that helps the average-sized player," Hannum said. "If this benefits the little guy, all well and good, but I still think the rule was passed to cut us down to size."

"Besides," he went on heatedly, "if they're going to legislate against one man and one team, why don't they enforce the rule against the zone defense. I haven't brought it up before, but now I'm really going to holler. Teams consistently use two and three men on Wilt and if that isn't zone defense, I'd like to know what they call it. Let's make them play one man against Wilt and see what happens."

Hannum took a deep breath.

"Another thing," he said. "I'm going to protest all that leaning and tugging they let other teams use against Chamberlain. Let them pressure him the same way they do Johnny Kerr of Philadelphia, for instance, no more, no less."

The Warriors meet the U.S. Olympic team on Sept. 21 and since the game will be played under Olympic rules with a wide lane, the Warriors will get a taste of what it will mean during the regular season—or at least until the mid-December meeting when the owners will take another look at the new rule.

WE HAVE LEARNED that there were "extenuating circumstances" about that 34-6 loss the AFL champion San Diego Chargers suffered at the hands of the New York Jets in Atlanta, Ga., recently.

It seems that the night before the game, several of the Chargers' Negro stars were asked to leave the plush billiard room of the Hilton Inn. No reason was given, but it was obvious. When the boys protested, Coach Sid Gilman intervened and persuaded them to comply with the request. This didn't set too well with the colored players, naturally, and they claim they just didn't feel in the right frame of mind to do their best against the Jets. Little wonder.

The strangest part of the deal, perhaps, is that Barron Hilton is one of the owners of the Hilton Inn. And Barron Hilton also happens to own the San Diego Chargers!

# LAS VEGAS Voice

SECOND SECTION

(Another fine feature article from the 'Bible of Baseball', THE SPORTING NEWS)

## Dodgers Lost a Whopper When Clemente Got Away

By LES BIEDERMAN  
PITTSBURGH, Pa.

If the Dodgers had kept Roberto Clemente instead of allowing him to be drafted by the Pirates at the end of the 1954 season, the course of baseball might have been drastically changed.

For years and years the Dodgers looked for a left fielder to pair up with Duke Snider and Carl Furillo. What an outfield Clemente would have formed! Or what an outfield he would have made in Brooklyn!

Imagine Clemente hitting in Ebbets Field for four years and getting shots at the comfortable left field screen in the Los Angeles Coliseum for three extra years?

The Dodgers won pennants in 1955 and 1956, missed the next two years, won in a playoff in 1959 and again in 1963. It is reasonable to assume Clemente may have helped them win in the intervening years.

The Dodgers gave Clemente a \$10,000 bonus in 1953 when he was an 18-year-old youngster in Puerto Rico, then tried to hide him at Montreal (International) in 1954 rather than keep him on the bench for two years.

### Bucs Landed Gem for \$4,000

By virtue of finishing last in 1954, the Pirates had first claim on Clemente and they quickly snapped him up at the bargain price of \$4,000.

Clemente grinned at the prospect of how he might have fared with the Dodgers in Ebbets Field and in Los Angeles.

"I wasn't ready for the majors when I joined the Pirates in 1955," Clemente pointed out. "I was too young and I didn't know my way around. But in 1956, yes, I was ready for the majors then."

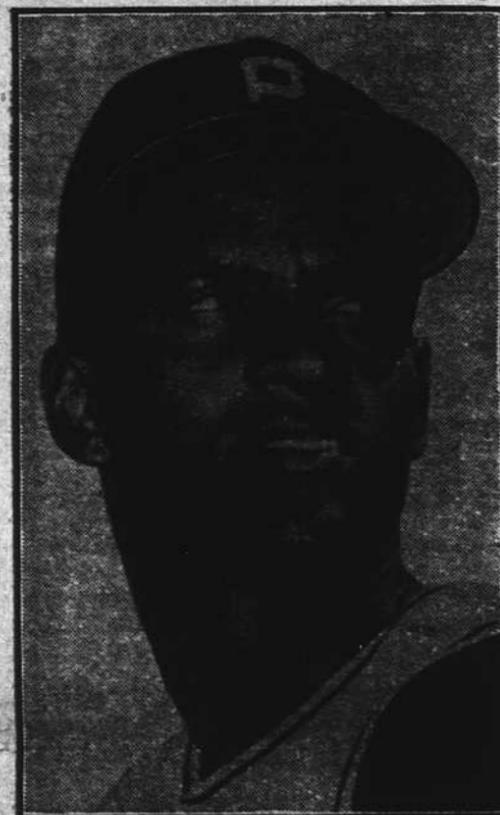
"I quickly acquired confidence in 1956. I was batting .336 in July and finished with .311. I just turned 29 that year in August. I usually hit well in Brooklyn and I would have liked it there. But I did all right with the Pirates. Maybe not enough pennant winners."

Mays usually wins all the polls as the most exciting player in baseball, but Pittsburgh fans cast their votes for Clemente.

They like the way Clemente catches fly balls, the way he throws and sometimes tests that rifle arm by trying to trick the runner at first base.

They like the way Clemente swings his bat, the way he changes bats on various pitchers and the way he runs the bases, losing his cap en route.

The secret of Clemente's strong bat might be found



ROBERTO CLEMENTE... Hot-Hitting Buc

in the confidence Clemente has in himself as a hitter. He doesn't believe there's a pitcher alive who can get him out—when he's right physically.

Once upon a time, Clemente went to bat 17 times without a hit and still refused to concede he was in a slump.

"I'm just not feeling well," he said. "When I don't feel good, I just don't hit."

Clemente's health so far in 1964 is perfect. There have been a few times when he didn't get his eight hours' sleep and this worried him. But he has no aches or pains.

Clemente keeps a bottle of honey in his locker and when he feels the need of a "pick-me-up," he takes a swig.

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