

SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN

CHICAGO CUBS or Philadelphia Phillies are going to win the National League pennant—either the Milwaukee Braves or the Los Angeles Dodgers.

With three days left in regular season play, that's exactly the way things shape up. Bob Scheffing's Cubs entertain the ambitious Dodgers in single contests Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons and on the same dates the 1958 champions, the Milwaukee Braves, are host to the lowly Philadelphia Phillies.

THE MILWAUKEE CLUB appears to have much the rosier situation. The Phillies are mired deep in the league basement and actually have no license to cause the men of Fred Haney any grief. They should prove easy opposition for Matthews, Aaron and company who are determined to repeat as bosses of the senior circuit. Dodgers' fans are thinking along these lines and they believe the best Los Angeles team can hope for is that Chicago drops all three games to the Dodgers. Even at that, the experts claim the Dodgers will do no better than tie the Braves. If that happens, the two teams play a best of three series with the first game at Milwaukee on Monday and remaining games at the big Los Angeles Coliseum on Tuesday and Wednesday. If this came about the world series opener would be pushed back to October 3.

HOWEVER, this columnist doesn't expect the Braves to sweep the three-game set from the Phillies. The boys from the city of brotherly love are under no tension whatsoever and they could come up with their best ball of the entire season. If the Dodgers and their supporters think the Phillies will be a pushover for the Haneymen, that belief is not shared by the Milwaukee crew who expect the sternest kind of arguments in all three battles. The San Francisco Giants, all but out of the league race, can tell you a few facts about the Philadelphia club. The Rigney outfit lost a twin bill to the Phillies not too long ago and then right in Seals Stadium, San Francisco, Robin Roberts bested young Mike McCormick 1-0 in a great pitching duel. These three losses look huge right now to the Giants who a week ago appeared almost certain world series competitors.

SURE the Giants have lost five straight games. The trouble all started last Saturday afternoon with the Dodgers. Los Angeles swept the three-game series and then the Giants proceeded to lose one-run decisions to the Chicago Cubs.

DESPITE these five reverses, the Giants would be right in the thick of the race had not the Phillies decided to take those three games from them a short time ago.

AND SO these are the same Phillies that invade County Stadium for the final three games of the regular season. It will be a battle of a cellar team against a front runner. The front runner has every license to escape unhurt but very often these cellar-dwellers rise up and knock your brains out. Dodgers are hoping that the Phillies will give the Braves a first-class mauling, thereby increasing Los Angeles hopes of meeting Chicago White Sox in the great fall classic.

BUT THE DODGERS must worry about themselves as well as the Braves. The Altonites are at Wrigley Field for three games and that Windy City ball park can indeed be a most unfriendly place. Again we refer you to those San Francisco Giants who have just experienced two heart-breaking defeats at the hands of the hard-hitting Cubs.

BOB SCHEFFING certainly isn't pulling any punches with his outfit in this pennant fight. He used every trick at his command to beat those Giants and he had enough of them to do the job twice. The honesty of baseball is proved every time there is a hot pennant race. Scheffing played that series with the Giants as though his Cubs had a chance for the flag. He spared nothing in his attempt to check the San Francisco boys and he was indeed successful.

NOW it's the Dodgers turn to taste of Chicago's "hospitality." The Walter Alston managed gang is hoping that the Cubs got their best ball out of their system when the Giants were in town. The Dodgers figure after a two-game win streak by the Cubs, there would be nothing disgraceful about Bob Scheffing's men losing three in a row. Alston and his followers are hoping along these lines but they realize they have a terrific job on their hands winning three in a row at Wrigley Field.

HOWEVER, the Dodgers' pitching corps enters this crucial series in good shape. It's likely that Drysdale, Podres and Craig will be the three starters with Craig who blanked the Cardinals Wednesday night the man to hurl that final game Sunday afternoon.

ONCE again the Cubs will reply with the best available and the Dodgers will have their work cut out for them in each of the three battles. The pressure will be terrific and a world series berth will be riding on every pitch of those three games. It will be exactly the same situation in Milwaukee where the Braves and Phillies will be going at each other.

OF COURSE, the Giants still have a gasp left in them but their chances no longer depend on their own abilities. Now the Braves and Dodgers must go into a complete collapse if the Giant are to get home in front. The chance of one of the top teams cooling off is not unlikely but to expect both to crumble in these final three days is asking a bit too much.

AND so it looks like the great bid of the Giants to bring a pennant to San Francisco has failed. A week ago the picture was excellent but Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago Cubs spoiled everything from Seals' Stadium patrons.

THE NEW stadium that was to be used for world series will have to wait until next April to welcome the baseball fans. Everything seemed ready for the big opening at world series time but five baseball games and the joy had turned to sorrow.

THE BRAVES and Dodgers played 151 ball games to date but all that matters now is two best-of-three series with the Phillies and Cubs as opponents. Which team can come out of these battles with the best percentage? Will the Braves make it three pennants in a row or will the Dodgers bring the flag to Los Angeles?

WE will soon know the answer.

Cubs Can Break Bums' Title Bid

CHICAGO (AP)—Will the pennant-panting Los Angeles Dodgers prove another fly walking into the spider's parlor which is Wrigley Field?

The host Chicago Cubs, fresh from wrecking the flag chances of the San Francisco Giants, can make or break Los Angeles' championship bid in a three-game set beginning today.

Meanwhile, the Milwaukee Braves—now tied with the Dodgers for first in the hectic chase which ends Sunday—entertain the lowly Philadelphia Phils.

Manager Walt Alston will send his 17-game winner, Don Drysdale, against the Cubs' Glen Hobbie (16-13) in the opener. Hobbie has never beaten the Dodgers, having an 0-4 lifetime mark against them—and 0-2 this season.

Alston guessed Johnny Podres and Roger Craig would hurl for Los Angeles in the semi-final and final games of the season.

KEYED UP

"We're keyed up and ready to go," said Alston Thursday as the Dodgers arrived in time for an afternoon workout at Wrigley Field.

Reds' Slugger Is Sidelined

CINCINNATI (AP)—Frank Robinson, Cincinnati Reds' slugging outfielder-infielder, is finished for the season, general manager Gabe Paul said Thursday.

Robby injured his right knee on Sept. 14 and has been out of several games. It finally was decided to take no more chances, so Robinson was excused from the final two games against Pittsburgh Saturday and Sunday.

Braves Are Favored To Cop National League Pennant

By MURRAY ROSE

Milwaukee's champion Braves, back home for their final three games against last place Philadelphia Phillies, today were rated 5-8 favorites to win the sizzling National League race.

The home park edge and an extra day of rest for the cripples were some of the factors that made the Braves the favorites over the travelling Los Angeles Dodgers and the reeling, all but dead San Francisco Giants.

GIANTS WRITTEN OFF

The Giants, trailing the co-leaders by two games with three left to play and losers of five straight, were all but written off at 20-1 odds. (Las Vegas odds quoted the Braves at 5-8 and the Dodgers at 6-5.)

All of the major league clubs had Thursday off. This gave the cripples a chance to heal and all players another 24 hours to feel the mounting pressure of the pulse-pounding pennant race.

JONES VS MIZELL

The Giants close out their final three contests against the Cards at St. Louis. In the opener to night, San Francisco's workhorse, Sam Jones (20-15) will oppose Vinegar Bend Mizell (13-9).

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PHILLIES' HURLER IS OFFERED BRIBE

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—John Quinn, general manager of the Philadelphia Phillies, disclosed Thursday that pitcher Umberto Robinson, by his own report, had been offered money to throw a game earlier this week against Cincinnati.

PROBABLE PITCHERS

NEW YORK (AP)—Probable pitchers for today's major league games (won-lost records in parentheses):

National League
Los Angeles at Chicago—Drysdale (17-13) vs Hobbie (16-13)
Philadelphia at Milwaukee (N)—Cardwell (9-10) vs Burdette (14-14)
San Francisco at St. Louis (N)—S. Jones (20-15) vs Mizell (13-9)

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O'BRIEN TAKES FIRST DASH

Adios Butler Wins 'Jug' Sets New World Record

DELAWARE, Ohio (AP)—Adios Butler won the \$76,532 Little Brown Jug Thursday to sweep paces' triple crown and to become the biggest money winning three-year-old pacer in history.

The bay colt driven by Canadian Clint Hodgins picked up \$28,335.34 by winning to run his 1959 bankroll to \$150,033.34.

Adios Butler added the Jug conquest to his victories in the Cane Futurity and Messenger Stakes in record breaking style. He won his opening heat in the divided field in 1:59.2 over Delaware County Fair's half-mile track and came back to win the deciding heat in a whipping finish by about a length over Meadow Al in 2:00.4.

Meadow Al driven by Californian Joe O'Brien, who triumphed a year ago with Shadow Wave, captured the first division heat in 2:00.2 after coming from eighth place in the last quarter mile.

WORLD RECORD

The winner's opening heat time set a new world record for three-year-old sidewheelers on a twice-around oval erasing the two-minute flat mark set in this same race by Tarheel in 1951 and tied by Dottie's Pick in 1955 and Torpid in 1957. It also bettered the track record of 1:59.3 set by Sampson Hanover in 1951.

Both Adios Butler and Meadow Al are bay sons of Adios. Adios Butler is owned by Angelo Pellillo of Scarsdale, N. Y., and Page H. West, 26-year-old trainer of the champion, Meadow Al is the property of the S.A. Camp Farms of Shafter, Calif.

The 52-year-old Hodgins who has been around the harness tracks a long time was making his first start in the 14th annual Jug.

In running this year's earnings to \$150,033.34, Adios Butler bettered the old money winning mark for three-year-old pacers by plenty. The best previous payoff was \$124,562 to O'Brien Hanover last year.

PLACE BLAME ON PLAYERS

Phillies Rehire Eddie Sawyer

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia Phillies contributed a refreshing note to the major league baseball scene Thursday. They re-hired Eddie Sawyer for another year. Terms of the new contract were not disclosed.

General manager John Quinn said weak hitting, poor fielding and playing mistakes mired the Phils in last place in the National League, not the 49-year-old Sawyer.

Asked if he wanted to be congratulated or consoled in his re-appointment, Sawyer laughed and joked, "ask me that next September." Then, turning serious, the former college professor who in his first term as Phillies manager (1948-1952) led the club to a pennant in 1950, observed:

"We should be improved next season. We played much better ball over the last half of this year in spite of some crippling injuries. We played almost 500 ball the last half."

Both Sawyer and Quinn agree that while the team may be improved by off season deals, the basic help, the long haul help, has got to come from the farm system. The champion Buffalo team of the International League and playoff finalist Williamsport of the Eastern League have some "live" prospects.

Sawyer will have in the spring from Buffalo Frank (Pancho) Herrera, International League triple crown champion, who can play first or third base. Herrera, a right hand power hitter, batted .327, hit 37 home runs and drove home 129.

Sawyer, who at one time managed Toronto in the International League, is satisfied with his starting pitchers, Robin Roberts, Gene Cooley, Don Cardwell and Jim Owens. He is looking for bullpen help.

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Sept. 15th and Sept. 30th, two very important dates, next year the fishing season will close on one of these dates, it is up to you to decide which one, you will have a chance to voice your opinions on this very important matter on Monday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A. Don't leave it up to the other fellow, "YOU" be there. Now is the time, NOT LATER. Other matters also to be discussed.

Queens County Fish & Game Association.



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