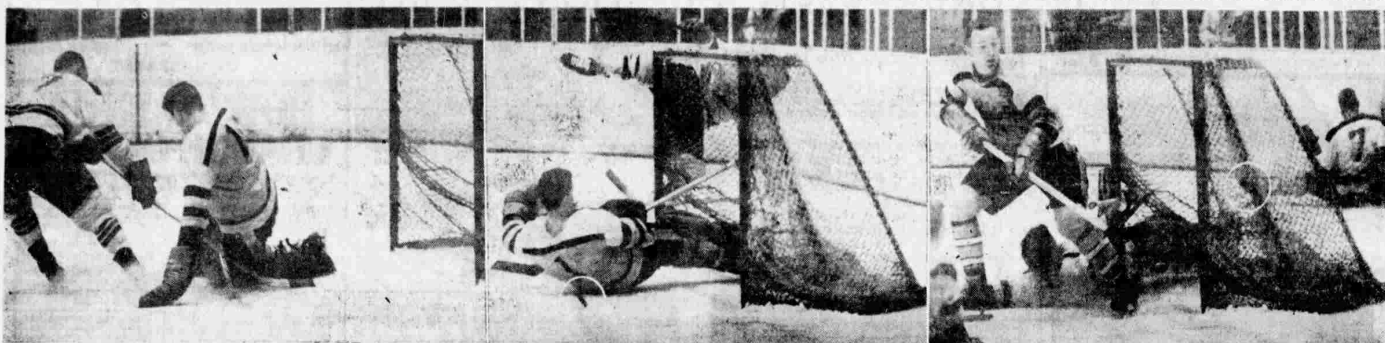


HE FOOLED WALMSLEY ONCE, BUT IVAN PAID HIM BACK IN FULL



Gordy Stratton (7) of the New Haven Blades fooled Charlotte Clipper substitute Goalie Ivan Walmsley on

Friday night when he got loose on a clean break. Saturday night Stratton got another break and a clear shot,

but as the above pictures show, Walmsley blocked the puck. Bill Sinnett (last picture) of the Clippers blasted

it out of the danger zone. (News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Kelly)

Ronald Green

Charlotte News Sports Writer

There Are Baseball Optimists

BERNARDINA BEACH, Fla. — All over the country, grey, skeletal fences with missing boards and infields choked with crab grass stand as tombstones of minor league baseball.

Teams have gone under like shipwreck victims in heavy seas.

The brush fire of poor attendance and financial distress has wiped out one league after another until it has reached the point where the major leagues will soon start wondering where their next third baseman is coming from if it is not quenched.

But, while the country asks, "What's to become of baseball?" Sherry Robertson, farm director of the Washington Senators, holds up a quieting hand and soothes, "Baseball is going to come back and it is going to come back strong."

TO FIND the light of hope here, in an organization not noted for producing major league talent, may take you back for a moment but listen to what the man has to say.

Before Clark Griffith died," Robertson recalled, "he told me, 'Sherry, everything runs in cycles and that includes baseball attendance. The crowds will start coming back someday and baseball will be as strong as ever.' "I believe that," said Robertson, who once played infield for the Hornets. "I see many, many reasons why minor league baseball should take a turn for the better within the next few years."

—Kids' Baseball Is Helping Out

HE elaborated . . . the post-war population boom, which is flooding the schools today, will increase the number of potential baseball fans within a few years; the tremendous growth of kid baseball—Little League, Babe Ruth League, Pony League—and the large number of Legion Junior and high school teams—are making a lot of future baseball fans; the American male is becoming bigger and stronger and this is going to produce better players and better performances to attract the fans.

"And," he added, "the only thing you have to have to pull people through that gate is a good performance. Look at hockey in Charlotte. You get a good performance there and the people go to it. Well, that's what we have in mind. We are getting better boys all the time and we are going to give the people better performances."

WHAT IS BEHIND this recession that is eroding baseball's spanning grounds?

"First," said Sherry, "you've got to mention television. That's what everybody is blaming it on but that isn't the whole story."

"Television is still a fairly new thing but I feel that its great hold on the public is beginning to wane a little. There are many other things. To demonstrate just how many things are responsible for this problem, I will mention better highways and better cars. You think that is far-fetched? It isn't."

"It's easy for a family to get to another city now. Faster cars, good roads. So, they travel more."

"They take bigger vacations during the summer, too, and that cuts into attendance two ways—money and the time spent on vacation."

"Those are just some of the things that have hurt us." DESPITE HIS optimism, Robertson does not attempt to hide his concern for minor league baseball's ills. He said he was upset when the Sally League was forced to go with only six teams this season.

—Charlotte Ranked Ninth In 1958

"THAT'S one of the soundest leagues in baseball," he pointed out. "Why couldn't we get eight teams? I wish I knew. That's one I can't answer, although I think the threat of Georgia's outlawing participation of whites and Negroes on the same team may have scared out some major league teams that would have offered working agreements."

"The six teams now in the league are sound baseball towns. I think Charlotte is an excellent baseball city. I do wonder why attendance is not a little higher there but the fact is, Charlotte had the ninth highest attendance figure in Class A baseball last season. That's good."

ROBERTSON said the recession of minor ball has forced the parent clubs to accept the cost of backing a franchise as operational expenses.

"We don't expect to make any money out of our minor league clubs," he said. "In fact, we spent well over \$400,000 on those in our system last season."

"What we want out of those teams is major league baseball players. We want our system to start showing dividends on the major league field and we'll be willing to accept the expense of operating the teams."

"Now, I think that is beginning to happen. Look, we've got Harmon Killebrew up there and he has a good chance of making our club at third base. And there's Dick Hyde, a pitcher who has come up through our system. And Ralph Lummi. They say he's catching some great ball down there at Orlando. All of those are products of our farm system."

"That's what we want. Ball players. When we get enough of those in our system, then those people who have been hauled away from us are going to start coming back."

Clippers Must Tackle Washington

The 'Old Men' Showed They Still Can Skate

SPORTS

BOB QUINCY, Sports Editor

Ronald Green — Max Muhleman — Larry Harris

4-B — THE CHARLOTTE (N. C.) NEWS — MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1958



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Kelly)

AN INVASION OF GAETON PLACE and faked New Haven Goalie Gaeton Desreault all the way out of his cage, then fired a shot around him into the goal.

No Choke For Warner

Spec Was Right—There Is A Lot Of Dirt On The Ground

By RONALD GREEN

Charlotte News Sports Writer

PERNANDINA BEACH, Fla.—

A handful of fans had already drifted into the park for the Hornets' first intra-squad game yesterday but several veterans of last year's club—Glenn Zimmerman, John Kropf, Gene Verble, Harry Warner and Jack Faller—were still hovering around the batting cage.

Spec Padgett, the best-faced 34-year-old veteran with the Good-year arm, came on to pitch the last round of batting practice.

"Spec," who had been slugging balls behind the pitcher before but then he rarely does.

He twirled his arm around four or five times, smiled and said, "got to warm up."

VERBLE MOVED in to hit. Padgett delivered and Verble took a half-swing, fouling the ball off.

"I wasn't ready," apologized Gene.

Padgett tossed again and Verble blooped a lazy one down to second base.

"He was ready then, Spec," needed Kropf. "See the difference?"

"Okay, Gene," yelled Padgett. "Here come five strikes."

"Five base hits," answered Verble.

"I lied first," said Spec.

PADGETT FED Verble a steady diet of sliders. After half a dozen, Kropf chimed, "Now throw your slider, Spec."

Warner moved in and lashed several towering flies to the outfield. "Trouble with you, kid," Kropf told the veteran Padgett, "you're not following through."

Zimmerman took his cuts. One lifted a soft fly out behind second base. Kropf cheered, "Good

one, get the tape measure."

Falls drilled a bullet back at Padgett. Spec narrowly ducking in time, "I would of had that one," Spec grinned, "but I didn't get the jump on it."

The last man finished up his hitting. As he walked off the field, Padgett made one of his many astute observations. "You know," he said without a smile, "There's

an awful lot of dirt on the ground this time of year."

BEE LINES: Warner, who had a disappointing 239 mark in Charlotte last season, has abandoned his idea of choking up on the bat and has lengthened his stride. He's hitting the ball harder than any.

Continued On Second Sports Page



THE KING AND THREE ACES . . . Hornet Manager Gene Verble (l), with John Kropf, Glenn Zimmerman and Harry Warner

Walmsley A Workhorse In 8-2 Victory

By LARRY HARRIS

The Clipper dressing room was a madhouse Saturday night after a madhouse Saturday night after Coach Andy Brown's men had humiliated New Haven's Blades 8-2. Congratulations were exchanged, well-wishers swarmed through the door and there weren't many serious thoughts. But Clipper Goalie Les Binkley, who sat out the last two games, came up with a dilly. "They called us a bunch of old men," said Bink, "but we showed 'em, didn't we?"

IT WAS A tremendous win in front of the 5,306 fans in the Coliseum. The final score marked the end of a tremendous comeback by the Clips. At one time New Haven led the best-of-seven series by three games to one, but the Clippers won three straight to wrap it up.

The Clips now face an obstacle perhaps tougher than the Blades of Coach Don Perry. There'll be a few days of rest for the Clips, but on Friday they go into the final playoff series against Washington, winner over Johnston in the other semifinals games.

Gaeton Desreault, the New Haven goalie, could hardly do anything but watch the pucks go by Saturday night. From the opening minute the Clippers skated at the speed. Ironically Freddy Weaver, a defenseman, blasted the first goal by Desreault, the Eastern Hockey League's leading goalie.

WEAVER SCORED on a beautiful screen shot with hardly a minute gone in the game, and that was the beginning.

Before the night was over, Stan Warecki, Chuck Stuart, Bibber O'Hearn, John Muckler and Red Murphy had all sneaked or blasted red-lighters.

Ivan Walmsley, the villain-turned-hero for local fans, was a half of fire subbing for Binkley between the pipes. He recorded six saves and let only Ivan Chasle and Nick Donalesien fire shots past him.

The game was halted a little more than halfway through the second period Saturday when Walmsley was hit by a New Haven player. The mouth cut re-



'THE SHOE FIT' . . . says Goalie Les Binkley to sub Ivan Walmsley

—Praises NCAA—

Quit? Rupp Says He Has A Long Time

By DON WEISS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (P)—No, friends. Adolph Rupp's not planning to retire as Kentucky's basketball coach just because he got that "next" national collegiate title he begrudgingly vowed to get six years ago.

For one thing, Rupp is a healthy vigorous 56.

"Hell, I'm as young as you guys," he blurted out when the question of retirement was put to him.

For another, time apparently has healed the hurt he felt when the National Collegiate Athletic Assn. suspended the Wildcats from competition for the full 1952-53 season as an aftermath of the infamous basketball scandal.

Rupp now says he was misquoted in reported statements that received wide circulation at the time. In fact, after his fourth National Athletic 84-72 for his winning National championship Saturday night, he took special care to praise the NCAA.

"They've treated me and Kentucky very well," he said.

He did, however, vow back in 1952 to bring his Wildcats back to the top of the nation's basketball powers before calling it a career. Now he has done it with a club he didn't think had much of a chance even as late as two weeks ago. Already he is looking ahead to No. 5.

"I have no intention of quitting. Maybe sometime we can win an other," he said.

For his 29th Kentucky season, Rupp will have to draw heavily on a new sophomore crop to make up for the loss of nine of this year's 13-man squad. Hot-shooting Johnny Cox, a junior, is the only regular back, but the Baron also has a dandy in 6-7 Don Mills, a sophomore who played extremely well in the second half Saturday.

His new champions are unlike the star-studded Wildcats who won NCAA titles in 1948, 1949 and 1951, making up with scrap and clutch play what they lacked in over-all talent.

"Folks who are supposed to know thought so little of us," Rupp said, "we figured we could just come up here to sell programs."

Temple won third place, defeating Kansas State 67-57.

Fight Results

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
LUNNON ALBES—Paralel Perez, Argentina, knocked out Ricardo Valdes, Argentina, (4 rounds), a (weight) un-



ADOLPH RUPP

REMATCH AT PARK CENTER

The Great Bolo, who has swept everything in sight off local wrestling rings, is rematched tonight against Elephant Boy in the feature event at Park Center. It's a two-of-three falls, one liner affair between Chicks Garibaldi and nephew Leo, against Johnny Hedmann and Jack O'Reilly. Melenko took up in the corner, and gal trappers Slave Girl Moola angles with Rita Cortez in a feature.

Mummer's Knot In Sandhills Win

SOUTHERN PINES (P)—Fallen heroes and favorites in her wake, Mummer's Knot, six-year-old chestnut mare, came home the winner Saturday in record time in the \$1,000 Sandhills Cup, her first start over timber. Sixteen-year-old Tommy Walsh, who got his license as a rider only last year, brought home Mummer's Knot a length ahead of Grand Chal. No. 2 steeplechase horse of the 1957 season. Three of the eight starters took spills and did not finish.