Count Fleet Follows Formula Laid Down By Yanks

JOE PALOOKA By HAM FISHER

The Sports Scene

By HUGH FULLERTON

NEW YORK.—(AP)—A Philadelphia story is that Bill Cox already is looking around for someone with a little of the fresh to invest in the Phillies . . . Which may be bad news if somebody hasn't been handing us the main line . . . Undisputed fact: When the Pirates beat the Cubs Sunday, it marked the first time in five seasons that any National League club has been ahead of Pitcher Lon Warneke in the won and lost records . . . Nat Fleischer, who has given out 116 championship belts to boxers in 25 years, plus a bushel or so of other trophies, finally is getting a medal himself—from the Helms Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles in recognition of Nat's contributions to boxing.

DON'T PRINT THIS

Sports Editor Bronke Kuhl of the Borger, Tex., Daily Herald, admits there's some justice to the complaint he received from linotypers who had to set up a lot of major league baseball summaries with such names as Podgajny, Gerheauser, Kurowski, Del Savio, Cescarat, Murtaugh and Wietelmann . . . He should try them on the lineup of the Company "A" softball team at McClellan Field, Calif: Wrobleski, Weslowski, Grichilski, Gaisierowski, Bialkowski, Radziejewski, Kmpinski, Swiderski, Waganski and a few equally hard-to-spell subs.

SHORTS AND SHELLS

Word from the South is that Georgia is the only Southeastern Conference school that brought in any third quarter freshman football players this Spring . . . "The others," says our informant, "are not issuing scholarships at present. They're just trying to keep the ones they have" . . . With the addition of Ernie Lombardi, the Giants have a 107-year-old catching staff: Schnozz is 35, Gus Mancuso 38 and Ray Berres 37 . . . Housing note: Manager Shaky Kain of the Norfolk, Va., Piedmont club, is appealing through the newspapers to fans who may know of some places where his ball players can live . . . Nat Fleischer is flying to Virginia today to referee the Camp Pickett boxing championship bouts tonight . . . Tennis officials are hoping to introduce handicap tournaments, long popular in England, as a means of keeping the game alive here until the war ends.

TODAY'S GUEST STAR

Jim Schlemmer, Akron (O.) Beacon-Journal: "All that is needed now is for Joseph Eastman, the big ODT man, to declare Count Fleet the winner of the Kentucky Derby by official proclamation . . . And be done with it without all the fuss and bother of staging the affair."

By Associated Press

THREE YEARS AGO—Daily Stark, National League umpire, given leave of absence for remainder of 1940 season due to nervous condition.

FIVE YEARS AGO—Tom Sharkey, veteran lightweight and once pretender of $250,000, broke at 65 and admitted to charity home.

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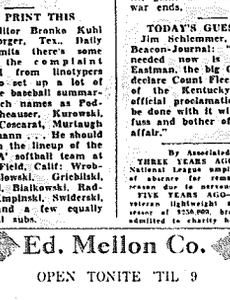

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Scares Foes In Pre-Race Workouts

By SID FEDER

LOUISVILLE — (AP)—The baseball bug busted into the conversation on racing in general and the Derby in particular like a dill pickle popping out of the middle of a chocolate fudge sundae.

Just what a baseball bug was doing in the middle of all the jam-packed hotel lobby and street-corner horse hysteria in Derbyville today will have to remain a major mystery, but you had to admit he had something more than just a vague idea.

"That Count Fleet", he reasoned, "is just like the Yankees used to be in their batting practices before a World Series. The Count's a real fine horse, and everybody else in the race knows it. The Yankees were Murderers' Row in those days, a few years back, and every team they tangled with knew it.

"But when they took their cuts during batting practice, they always made sure the fellows on the other side were watching them. Then they put on their show. Every guy would step up and belt that apple out of the lot. By the time they finished, the other guys were shuddering.

"Now, I'm not saying the other horses in the Kentucky Derby Saturday are scared to death of The Count. But when he took that workout day before yesterday over the full mile and a quarter, he took it right out there between races, where everybody could see him. I'd be willing to bet the rest of the trainers and owners weren't feeling any better at what they saw. And how about that morning blowout he took on the track last week? It was advertised all over the place. Did you see how just about every Derby trainer came over to the grandstand to watch him? They weren't any too happy."

The guy just about hit the bull's-eye. There are going to be nine or ten other horses in the $75,000 scramble Saturday, but only one of them has ever beaten The Count in the seventeen starts of his career. This was Gold Shower last Summer, and that was regarded as an accident.

The closest thing to actual optimism came from plain Ben Jones, trainer of Ocean Wave, who is the only really potential threat to the Hertz hurricane. Although The Wave came out of Tuesday's victorious Derby Trial Mile victory with a cracked heel, Ben saw one hope.

"If The Count and his boy make just one mistake," Jones contended, "we'll win this horse race. And it's awful tough running that Derby mile and a quarter without making a mistake."

Generally however, the second-money complex still was all over the place as Louisville began to get dressed for its big party. Despite the war-time atmosphere individual shops displayed some "Welcome Derby" signs as in other years, but Derbytown, itself, was cutting out all the fuss and hoopla.

Meantime, the stables of all Derby candidates reported "present and accounted for" at the dawn patrol today, although two — Twosies and Bankrupt—still were on the doubtful list, and one other—Burnt Cork—was given the ha-ha.

Jim's Certain It'll Please

A fifteen-minute chat with Jim Crockett, the victory gardener and chicken fancier who sometimes does a bit of sports promoting, leaves one convinced, at least for the time being, that if you miss his mat show Monday night you'll be sorry.

What an insurance salesman the man would have made! He could probably sell shaving soap in Russia. This morning Crockett offered some plausible points in favor of attending his coming mat bill at the Armory which features a joust between Milo Steinborn and Boom-Boom Cannon and with Chief Ben Tabu meeting John Arthur and Al Massey scrapping Jack Dillon in supporting bouts.

Says Mr. Crockett in summing up his attraction:

"Promoters have experimented with every type of match and every mother's son of them will tell you the customers like 'em rough—and the rougher the better. A promoter who persisted in matching two clever wrestlers would starve. Now, all three bouts Monday will be rough and rowdy. Boom-Boom Cannon, John Arthur and Jack Dillon will see to that."

Stimson Nixes Conn vs. Louis

WASHINGTON. —(AP)— Secretary of War Stimson said today there will be no heavyweight championship fight this Summer between Sgt. Joe Lewis and Cpl. Billy Billy Conn.

Asked at his press conference about reports that the War Department was making arrangements for such a fight with purchase of war bonds as the price of admission, the Secretary replied:

"I think I can assure you that the War Department will not sponsor or approve a Louis-Conn fight this Summer."

ELMER RIDDLE, Reds—Limited Pirates to five hits, although needing help to get final out in ninth.

FIGURE IT OUT—It doesn't take a slide rule to figure out that Slide Rule isn't given much chance of winning the Kentucky Derby Saturday, because Count Fleet and Ocean Wave are top-heavy favorites to finish one-two. But Trainer Cecil Wilhelm figures his colt has a pretty good chance.

Ortiz Favored In Title Bout

FORT WORTH, Texas—(AP)—You needed a search warrant today to find a bettor on the outcome of Fort Worth's first world's championship fight—a scheduled fifteen-round battle between Manuel Ortiz, bantamweight king, and his fellow Californian, Lupe Cordoza.

Ortiz ruled a prohibitive favorite and any money that might be put on the line would be at odds of about 8 to 1. But this didn't mean the anticipated 4,000 fans expected a one-sided fight. They were looking for one with plenty of action but with Ortiz winning because of his combination boxer-slugger ability as against Cordoza's straight punching.

Ortiz, a Mexican, met Cordoza, Mexican-Frenchman, two years ago and won on a technical knockout.

Both boys were due to weigh in within a pound of 118.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Rochester 4, Baltimore 0.
Toronto 4, Newark 8.
Buffalo at Syracuse, postponed.
Montreal 9, Jersey City 4.

Here's Howe

Continued from 1st Sports Page

tioning and developing endurance, agility, poise, co-ordination, self-confidence and fighting spirit.

The skeptics may not think that Georgie Stirnweiss is going to make the grade in the major league this year, but the ex-Carolina football star is aces with Manager Joe McCarthy, and that's what counts . . . Dan Daneli of the New York World-Telegram writes: "If you observed Stirnweiss carefully in our three victories in the stadium, you saw him do things a bit more expertly," Marse Joe pointed out. "I never have had a more apt pupil on this club. He not only has picked up defensive pointers quickly, but is in a fair way of becoming a far more valuable hitter than he was with Newark. Every now and then you see a youngster who hits better his first year in the majors than he did in the minors. Johnny Pesky of the Red Sox, in 1942, was one of these. Stirnweiss is going to be another. George has lost ten pounds since we left Asbury."

Last Night's Fight Results

By Associated Press

ELIZABETH, N. J.—Bill Grant, 137, Orange, outpointed Langston Dennis, 143, New York (6).

FORT WORTH, Texas — Manuel Ortiz, 118, Hollywood, knocked out Lupe Cordoza, 118, California (8).

OAKLAND, Calif. — Paul Lepis, 151, Oakland, knocked out Jackie Byrd, 151, Blytheville, Ark. (8).

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