Crafty Casey Feels Five Games At Most Needed For Yankees' 17th Series Win

BROOKLYN (AP)— Crafty old Casey Stengel led his New York Yankees into Ebbets Field today prepared to polish off the frustrated Brooklyn Dodgers in quick order.

Despite the disability of Mickey Mantle and Hank Bauer, two of his leading guns, the grizzled manager was confident his American League champions would sweep the series in four straight or at worst, in five games. That means Casey doesn't expect the series to return to the stadium where Yankees took Dodgers into camp in the first two games.

The odds-makers apparently agree with Stengel, making Yankees prohibitive 5-to-2 favorites to win their 17th series and sixth straight against Dodgers. Not since 1921 has a team, after losing the first two games, come on to win the title. That year New York Giants did it, defeating Yankees. But that was in a best-of-nine series.

"I know these fellows have a good club," Stengel said Thursday night, several hours after Yankees had whipped Dodgers 4-2 following their 6-5 first-game victory. "But we got a better one. I also know that two of my power guys will be missing—maybe for the rest of the series but I've got some pretty good fellows on the bench, too."

TURNS TO RIGHTY

Having turned back the winless Brooks with two lefthanders in Yankee Stadium, Stengel gave the third-game assignment to righthander Bob Turley, the righthanded ace who never has appeared in a series game.

Walt Alston switched to lefthander Johnny Podres. By coincidence, today happens to be Podres' 23rd birthday. The youngster made one world-series appearance and yielded five runs in less than three innings, losing to Yankees in 1953.

Podres finished the season with a 10-10 record but failed to finish his last 12 straight starts. Turley, the big man in the trade with Baltimore Orioles last winter, wound up with a 17-13 record.

Largely because they are the home team, the Dodgers have been made slight 11-to-10 favorites to win their first game.

The weatherman, exceedingly co-operative so far, has forecast occasional showers in the morning, clearing during the early afternoon.

Because of the small seating capacity, a sellout crowd of some 34,000 was expected. Thursday's game drew 64,707 fans.

BAUER OUT

Bauer's injury--a pulled thigh muscle in the first inning—forced Stengel to make a lineup change. Bob Cerv, who replaced Bauer Thursday, was scheduled as the new starting centrefielder with Elston Howard in Bauer's place in right and Irv Noren in left. Against a lefthander, Bill Skowron replaced Joe Collins at first.

Alston also made a change, starting Sandy Amoros in left and shifting Junior Gilliam to second base, supplanting Don Zimmer.

Tommy Byrne, who held Brooklyn's fearsome righthanded power to five hits, became the first left-hander in more than a year to go the distance and beat Dodgers.

"We must be a lousy ball club," blurted out Jackie Robinson, the Dodgers' most fiery competitor. As if realizing the implication of his remark, he amended it by adding:

"Tomorrow's (Friday's) game will prove whether we're a good ball club or not. "If we can come back and beat 'em, then we got it. If they beat us again, we're not a good club."

Representatives Named To Algoma Advisory Board

Prince Rupert [illegible] last night appointed [illegible] representative to act with [illegible] from the city schools and [illegible] leagues [illegible] committee on Algoma Park to the Parks Board of Park Commissioners.

Named [illegible] were Ernie [illegible] Jim Foster, [illegible] They join Alex [illegible] Lewis, senior [illegible] representative [illegible] Scott and Harold [illegible] Pony League.

The committee will advise the Parks Board on [illegible] of diamonds, league [illegible] ments for playing allotment and [illegible] playing times in connection with [illegible]

NOT COMMISSIONERS

[illegible] representative [illegible] that they [illegible] an advisory [illegible] committee [illegible] 24 [illegible] the Park [illegible] to the Park [illegible]

PLANS OUTLINED

[illegible] named [illegible] of the Pony League [illegible] Parks Board [illegible] for Algoma Park this coming year. Plans include a [illegible] central [illegible] of Algoma Park [illegible] extending [illegible]

Mr Thom [illegible] told the meeting that the Pony and senior leagues were faced with a problem of players leaving Pony League, because of the age limit, yet not being ready to play senior ball.

This would leave 16-year-old boys without an immediate baseball future, Mr Thom said.

FORM NEW TEAM

This could be overcome, the meeting felt, if senior players stepped aside, leaving room for younger players, or by absorbing the 16 and 17 year old players and forming another team in the league.

In other Little League business, a [illegible] meeting on [illegible] players brought from [illegible] teams will be held between team managers and Archie Bowen, player's agent.

Application for renewal of franchise will be considered at the annual general meeting set for October 27. Banquet for Little League players has been scheduled for either October 19 or 21. Art Williamson and Alex Sader were appointed to organize banquet committee.

Byrne Wishes He'd Followed Sultan's Switch To Outfield

BROOKLYN (AP) — Tommy Byrne is a frustrated pitcher who wishes he'd followed Babe Ruth's example and changed to an outfielder.

"I've always had ambitions to be a hitter," the wiry North Carolinian said after pitching and batting New York Yankees to a 4-2 victory over Brooklyn Dodgers in the second game of the world series.

"If I had it all to do over again but it's too late now—I'd have been an outfielder."

Byrne, uncorking a strikeout-laden stint in the clutch, became the first lefthander in a year to go the full distance and beat the great-hand-power Dodgers.

Also it was his slashing single over short in the fourth which scored Elston Howard and Billy Martin with the runs which proved the final margin of victory.

"That was a good wallop," the 35 - year - old castoff beamed proudly. "I liked it."

It's hard to draw out Byrne on his pitching prowess without being escorted down another lane dealing with bat work.

"I remember I batted .597 my last year at Wake Forest College, led the Southern Conference in hitting," he said. "I hit seven home runs at Seattle last year and batted in 49 runs, I think. Not bad for a pitcher."

Byrne is a lean, hollow-cheeked college graduate with a gift of gab on and off the diamond and a unique approach to his profession.

Shunted down to Charleston, W. Va., in 1953 after being discarded by four American League clubs, he thought his baseball days had ended.

"It was then I took stock of myself," Byrne recalls. "I told myself I was a man who could solve intricate problems in calculus but who hadn't mastered the simple dimensions of home plate.

"I was terribly wild. I was trying to blow the batters down with sheer power. So I got smart. I changed my pitching technique, mixed in sliders, curves and change-up stuff. And I learned I could help myself by using psychology in needling the batters."

As a result, Byrne was a winter sensation in the South American league in late 1953, winning 13, and a 20-game winner in 1954 with Seattle of the Pacific Coast League.

COACH DICK IRVIN (extreme left) talks to his first-string forward line as Chicago Black Hawks train at Welland, Ont. Players are: (left to right) Ed Litzenberger, Harry Watson and George (Red) Sullivan. This is Irvin's first season with the Hawks. He previously had been with Montreal Canadiens. He expects the line to score 75 goals this season. (CP Photo)

Dick Irvin Sets Sights High For Black Hawks This Season

By T. N. MORRISON
Canadian Press Correspondent

WELLAND, Ont. (CP) — Dick Irvin, newly-acquired Chicago Black Hawk coach, returns to the National Hockey League site where he began his NHL coaching career 25 years ago.

But the situation facing Irvin as he leads his Black Hawks into the 1955-56 season is entirely different to the one in 1930-31 when he kept the Hawks in second place of the American section - the league was divided into two sections, a Canadian and American — for the second straight year.

Last season Chicago finished in the cellar for the second year in a row with only 13 wins in 70 games. The 1953-54 campaign saw Black Hawks win 12 verdicts.

SETS SIGHTS HIGH

When Irvin was lured to Celcago from Montreal Canadians last May after completing 14 years with Habs, preceded by nine years with Toronto Maple Leafs, he said he would settle for no worse than third place in the coming season.

But with the Hawks' first game less than a week away, Irvin has changed his tune.

"I have seen statements to the effect that Boston, Canadiens, and Detroit are all first-place clubs. Since it appears as though there'll be crowding at the top, I'll settle for second place."

Acquisition of Irvin was only one of several moves made by Black Hawk owner James Norris to restore Chicago's badly-battered hockey fortunes.

MORE PLAYER STRENGTH

Other changes were the purchase of Buffalo Bisons of the American League as a farm club, a transaction that netted some 50 players, and the trade with Detroit Red Wings which sent Tony Leswick, Benny Wolt, Glen Skov and Johnny Wilson to Chicago in exchange for Bucky Hollingworth, Dave Creighton, Jerry Toppazzini and Johnny McCormack.

"The talent we are viewing at the training camp here and obvious improvements in the play of a number of players makes me believe we are going to cause plenty of trouble in the coming campaign," Irvin says.

"We can count 15 proven NHL players and will have five defencemen, one more than the club carried last year. All the boys are honest workers and while we started out here as a tribe of many colors, we're gradually working into a cohesive unit."

ROLLINS FOR GOAL

It looks as though Al Rollins is going to win the goaltender's position, according to Irvin.

"He has been playing well and, our scouts tell me, is showing a marked improvement over his work of last season's camp," the coach said.

Irvin's first line will have George Sullivan at centre with Harry Watson at left and Eddie Litzenberger, last year's rookie-of-the-year, at right. Irvin has set a target of 75 goals for this combination.

Metro Prystai will centre the proposed "second line." At right wing will be Jack McIntyre and Johnny Wilson will be the left winger.

OTHER CENTRE MEN

Any of three prospects could centre the third line which will have Leswick at right and Nick Mickoski on left wing.

Skov, Larry Wilson or rookie Hank Ciesla, who joined Hawks from St. Catharines TeePees of the Ontario Hockey Association Junior A league where he led the league last season, could wind up in that centre spot.

Gus Mortson, captain of the squad, Allan Stanley, Frank Martin and Wolt are almost assured of defence roles. Elmer Vasco, up from St. Catharines, has impressed Irvin at his blueline position but he still has another year of junior hockey left. Whether he will stay with Hawks or go back to St. Catharines is not certain.

Irvin, who is not used to piloting a last-place team, sends his rejuvenated Black Hawks against Red Wings at Detroit Oct. 6 in the league opener.

Maybe someone should remind Dick that it's a long way from sixth to second place in the NHL.

SPORTSMAN'S DIGEST By hal sharp

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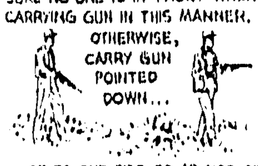

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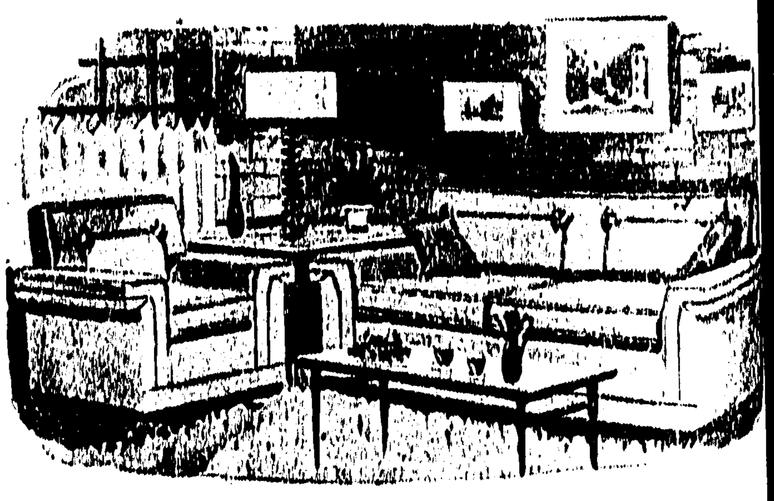

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