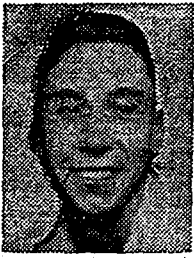


## "Off The Cuff"



### 'The Lip' Gains By Happy's Whippings

By ART BENNING

The wheels of fortune often take strange turns, and one of the most ironical turnabouts of recent times is the situation involving two important baseball men who currently hold down \$65,000 a year jobs.

Baseball's commissioner, A. B. "Happy" Chandler, now finds himself in a rut even greater than that into which he cast Giant

manager Leo Durocher only four short years ago. It was April 9, 1947 when the commissioner began the first of his many tirades against the fiery boss of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who has since vaulted the river to become manager of the Giants.

That morning Chandler announced that Durocher was suspended from organized baseball for one year. This was only one of the acts which through the next three years threatened Leo's very existence in baseball. Chandler has been refused a new contract by the major league club owners. He may even have to retire before his present contract expires in 1952. On the other foot, Durocher has the enviable role of being a \$65,000 a year manager of a red hot pennant contender, with more friends than he could ever boast before Chandler worked his personal havoc.

Let's take a look at the events leading straight to this about face.

First, it seems now that Chandler was getting desperate back in 1947 to display some of the strength that his position was supposed to lend him, but which he had never used fully up until that April morning. So, when "The Lip" sounded off from his spring training quarters with some facts that were contrary to Yankee mogul Larry MacPhail's liking, Chandler saw his chance.

Leo had charged that he had seen MacPhail sitting with known gamblers at an exhibition game. Branch Rickey was right behind him in his accusations. MacPhail demanded that Chandler arraign Leo or charges of conduct unbecoming to a baseball man. Chandler did more—he suspended Durocher.

This move, however, won more friends for Leo than for Happy. The commissioner was openly criticized for being too hasty. He made statements which implied that if he told all he knew about Durocher the public would think he had acted too leniently. Leo invited Happy to open the so-called "Durocher file," but nothing was done about it.

Rickey stood by his manager throughout his year of suspension, and the following year, Leo was back at the Dodger reins. But during Durocher's absence, Burt Shotton had piloted the Bums to the pennant, and Leo was expected to repeat. Injuries, and a break-down of the pitching staff kept the 1948 Dodgers far off the pace, and the wolf began to breathe down Leo's neck. In mid-July Durocher signed to manage

the Giants, an act which numbed many a baseball fan, particularly Giant fans.

As far as pennant chances go, this move put Leo from the frying pan into the fire. The Giants finished a lack-lustre fifth that year, and the fans weren't sure they wanted Leo around which proved golden to Durocher, and probably resulted in his staying on as Giant manager.

The commissioner slapped a \$500 fine on Leo for tampering with Freddie Fitzsimmons in the deal which brought fat Freddie to the Giants' coaching staff from the Braves. No one could quite see Chandler's motive, because it had been the front office which had signed Fitzsimmons, not Leo. For the first time Chandler was openly criticized for making Durocher his "whipping boy." This Chandler denied.

But another event soon removed the doubt from most men's minds that Chandler was using Durocher. When a Puerto Rican fan, Fred Boyesen, charged that Leo had struck and kicked him following a game at the Polo Grounds, Happy immediately suspended Leo from baseball, before hearing the charges formally. The writers clamored for Happy's job even then, positive that Chandler was being unfair to Leo. Durocher's popularity swelled.

In the trial which exonerated Durocher, it seemed that the commissioner was more on trial than the accused. Everyone was pulling for Durocher. The Giants now claimed him as their own. When he finally convinced owner Horace Stoneham that he should sacrifice some vaunted power for more speed and a better defense, Leo was finally on his way back to the top.

For 1951, the experts rate the Giants a good chance of reaching the top. If such should be the case, it will be Durocher who put them there, with the help of course, of commissioner Chandler. For if Chandler had not picked on Leo as the natural guy on whom to show his "power," Leo might never have lasted out those first two years as Giant manager.

So while Leo Durocher basks in the friendly glow of public sentiment, and the glitter of his gilt-edged contract, Happy Chandler sits precariously on his lush perch watching it tumbling fast beneath him. How ironical that the commissioner unwittingly helped the "black sheep" to the top, and at the same time undermined his own security.

### IM Dep't Sets Date For Badminton Entries

Deadline for all entries in the intramural badminton tournament is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Clarence "Dutch" Sykes, assistant director of the intramural department has announced.

Each organization may enter two players. Independent students may enter as unattached individuals. The entrance fee is 25c per man.

Separate single elimination tournaments will be provided for fraternity and independent groups.

### 9 IM Handball Teams Advance

Action continued in the intramural doubles handball tournament with both fraternity and independent teams meeting competition Monday night at Rec hall.

In the fraternity games, Jerry Weisman and Burton Cushman, Sigma Alpha Mu, beat Robert Kolarik and Clifford Hoch, Lambda Chi Alpha, 21-13, 17-21, 21-9; Robert Bunnell and Robert Patton, Phi Gamma Delta, beat Richard Colloidi and Jerry Maurey, Delta Upsilon, 21-12, 21-14; Earl Hower and Vincent O'Bara, Phi Delta Theta, beat Donald Williams and Alfred Wilson, Acacia, by forfeit.

Robert Sundius and John Albarano, Theta Kappa Phi, beat Earl Comfort and Robert Grove, Alpha Zeta, 21-9, 21-14; John McCall and Louis Gomlick, Alpha Tau Omega, beat David Harmon and James Kilgore, Lambda Chi Alpha, 21-9, 21-18; Barr Asplundh and John Hoover, Sigma Chi, beat Donald Schwartz and Stanley Bushkoff, Zeta Beta Tau, 21-4, 21-5.

In the independent action, Albert Fegley and Daniel Rausher beat William Taylor and Richard Hart, 21-19, 21-13; Robert Heidt and Richard Biddle beat Robert Ingram and John Krupczak, by forfeit; Rudolph Ralf and John Simkovich took over first place by winning their second game, beating Robert Smith and Armand Lyken, 21-5, 21-4.

### Lion Stickmen Open '51 Season At Western Maryland Friday

When Coach Nick Thiel's lacrosse team invades Western Maryland this Friday for its opener, the Lions will be seeking a repeat of last year's 17-4 slaughter.

According to Thiel, the Lions should walk off the field with the win. But whether the Lions will have it as easy as last season's match is another matter.

Last year, the Mason-Dixon team wound up the season with a terrible 1-10 log. Not only that, but the Green Terrors lost 10 in succession before they snapped out of the doldrums with a 7-5 triumph over a so-so Franklin and Marshall team. So far this year, the Terrors have dropped their only match, 13-3, to Williams.

The problem, then, for Thiel is to keep his squad from getting too over-confident; if Penn State should get in too cocky a mood, Western Maryland could give State more than its share of trouble.

#### Meet Navy Saturday

Saturday's contest with Navy, however, is another story. The Middies knocked off the Lions last year, 9-6, even though the Lions played their best game of the year. Last year's match was a see-saw battle all the way. The Lions fooled the Middies as they jumped off to a 2-1 first period lead. Navy, however, forged right back into the lead, 5-3, at half.

Penn State still wouldn't call it quits as they rallied for a 5-5 deadlock at the three-quarter mark. Experience began to tell in the last quarter as Navy finally pulled away to win, 9-6.

#### Middies Rate High

The Middies were rated 7th last year nationally as compared to Penn State's better-than-average 19th rating. The Middies' record was not that much better than State's as the Annapolis crew ended up with a 6-4 record while the Lions finished with the exact opposite, 4-6.

This year it looks like the Midshipmen have come up with another formidable club. In their first three outings, the Midshipmen bounced Harvard, 14-2; drubbed Washington college (Md.), 12-8; and took Swarthmore into camp by the rather convincing score of 14-3.

To say the least, Swarthmore

### Eleven Teams Win In IM Volleyball

Action continued in the IM volleyball league Monday night when 11 games were played.

Du-B trounced SAE-B 15-3, 15-1; Sigma Nu-B defeated Chi Phi-B 15-6, 15-7; and Pi Kappa Phi-B took Lambda Chi Alpha-B by 15-9 and 15-8 scores.

The Kappa Sigs beat Kappa Delta Rho-B 15-12; 15-7; Phi Delta Theta-B won over Phi Kappa Sigma-B 15-6, 15-7; and Phi Kappa-B swamped Phi Gamma Delta-B 15-4 and 15-7.

Delta Sigma Phi-B outscored Sigma Phi Alpha-B 15-3 in the third game after dropping the first 14-16. It took Sigma Chi-B and Omega Psi Phi-B the full three games to down Delta Tau Delta-B and Phi Kappa Tau-B.

SAM won in three games from AEPi 15-3, 14-16, and 15-9. Tau Phi Delta took the second and third games after dropping the first.

has one of the better clubs in the east, or for that matter, in the country.

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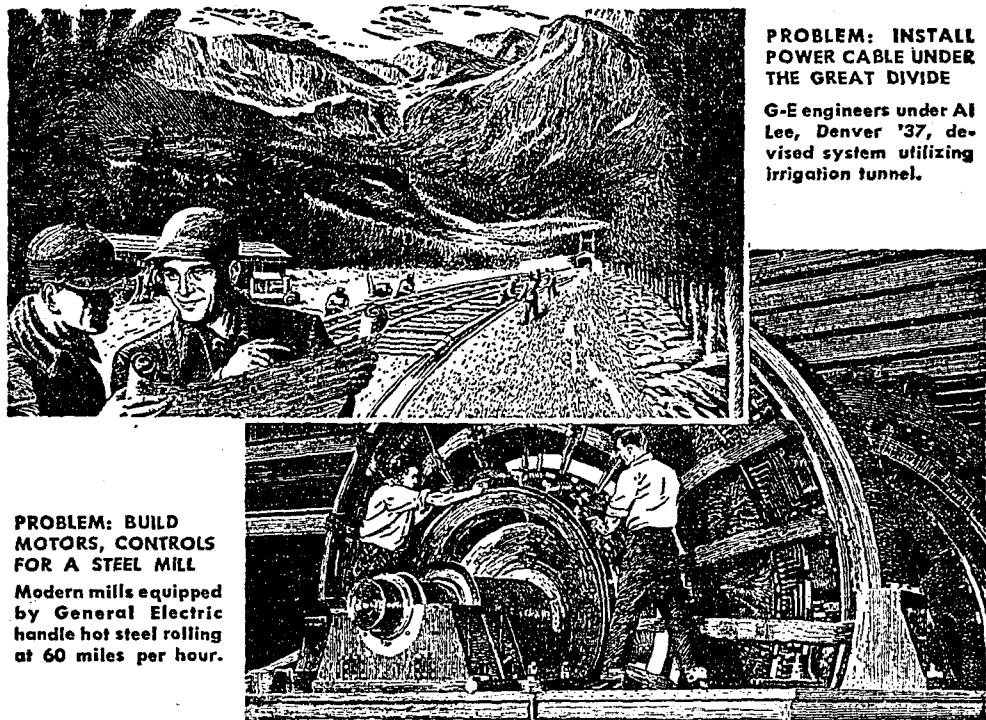
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