

Kiner Blasts 'Branch' 2d Time

PALM SPRINGS, Calif., March 13 (AP)—Homerun slugger Ralph Kiner let go another verbal blast today in his long distance exchange with his Pittsburgh Pirate boss, Branch Rickey.

"I certainly do not go along with his (Rickey's) statement that I am bigger than my team," Kiner declared in a statement telephoned by his wife, the former Nancy Chaffee. The statement made no mention of a new offer telegraphed by Rickey yesterday.

"This to me is very incongruous. I have always been a team man and always will be one. I will do anything that will help the team or the players.

"Other players have held out without going through this criticism. In fact, others have held out throughout spring training and have never taken the verbal blasting that I have been subject to.

"This whole situation could be terminated by Mr. Rickey if he would offer the terms he offered me in our Feb. 13 conference in Palm Springs. I am ready to play as I have been working out daily and consider myself to be in my best physical shape."

Mrs. Kiner added that Ralph now weighs 196 and his normal playing weight is 194.

Rickey said in Havana yesterday, "no player is greater than his team."

Neither has disclosed just what new terms they are dickering over.

Kiner has said he would take a cut from his reported \$90,000 salary but not as much as the 25 per cent Rickey wanted.

Before Kiner's latest blast, Rickey said in Havana today that unless the big slugger is at training camp by Sunday he will be considered "a confirmed hold-out." Rickey did not elaborate the designation. He had called Kiner a holdout when he failed to report March 1.

Patty Berg Keeps Lead In Tourney

AUGUSTA, Ga., March 13 (AP)—Patty Berg played steady, routing golf and took a two-over-par 74 this Friday, the 13th, but still managed to pick up another stroke on the Women's Titleholders Championship field.

The chunky veteran professional from St. Andrews, Ill., took an extra stroke on two holes but it was par, par, par the rest of the way.

Her 74 was low for the day and gave her a 36-hole total of 146. Betsy Rawls, the Phi Beta Kappa swinger from Spartanburg, S. C. carded a 75 to hold second place with 149.

Bee McWane, the Birmingham, Ala., amateur who was tied for second after the first round, short-putted all day and took an 81. Her 155 total was good for fifth place.

Atlanta's Louise Suggs matched her first round 75 for 150 and third place. Wichita's Marilyn Smith was fourth with 76-77—153.

Majors Call Meetings To Discuss Transfers

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 13 (AP)—President Will Harridge of the American League said today he has called a special meeting of club owners for Monday to consider the transfer of the St. Louis Browns' franchise to Baltimore.

At the same time, Harridge said he understood President Warren Giles of the National League has called a meeting of club owners Monday to discuss the reported shift of the Boston Braves to Milwaukee.

Potential Great

Jean Cronstedt, youthful Finn and Penn State sophomore, looms as the class of Eastern college gymnasts for the year 1953.

Phi Sigs Take IM Hoop Title

Phi Sigma Delta defeated Sigma Phi Sigma in its successful bid for the interfraternity basketball championship at Rec Hall Thursday night, 43-42.

The Sigma Phi's took a slim

lead early in the game and came out of the first quarter ahead by one point, 8-7.

The second quarter opened with a quick three goals by SPS. Phi Sig was behind until midway

through the period when it opened up with enough force to forge ahead at the end of the half, 18-17.

After the third quarter, Sigma Phi Sigma had a commanding lead for that late in the game, 33-28. In the last period, however, Phi Sig came on strong and was trailing by only one point, when

the Sigma Phi's called time out. It was discovered that they had already taken their allotted amount of timeouts, so Phi Sig was given one free shot on a technical foul. The shot was good and the score was tied, after which Phi Sig went on to win the game and the crown.

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