

# Homers Increase Rapidly But Total Runs Go Down

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Home runs thrill the crowds, but a check of baseball records indicate that as the number of home runs have increased, the number of runs scored have dropped.

Post-Dispatch Sports Editor Bob Broeg checked the records back to 1919 and reports that "major league ball clubs scored runs at a more rapid rate in the past when they were hitting fewer homers."

IN 1920, American League teams scored 5,980 runs, although getting only 370 homers.

Two years ago, the last time it was an eight-team league, the American League scored 5,414 runs but hit 1,086 homers.

National League teams a year ago scored 5,600 runs with 1,196 homers. In 1921, the league scored 307 fewer runs with 985 fewer homers.

A big factor in the American League runs surge in 1920 was speed. In that year, runners stole

750 bases compared to 422 in 1960. The National League in 1920 stole 963 bases and by 1961 only 468 were stolen.

THE AMERICAN League scored its greatest number of runs—7,009 in 1936 when batters slammed 758 homers. In 1960, batters got 328 more homers than in 1936 but teams scored 1,595 fewer runs.

The figures are just as dramatic for the National League. That league scored its greatest number of home runs in 1955 when it collected 1,263 but it scored 1,447 fewer runs than it did in 1930. A major reason for the tremendous runs surge in 1930 was the league batting average of .303—everybody was getting hits—not homers.

Broeg said the backbone of the offense still is the base hit, the base on balls, the stolen base, and the willingness to hit behind the runner to move him up and to avoid the inning-crippling double play.

# IM Softball Teams Stage Close Race

Competition remains keen in both recreation softball leagues with four teams tied for the lead in league A and three teams tied for the leadership of league B. Standings include games played up to and including last Friday.

With four games completed on a 14 game schedule, the P. E. Grads, Red Birds, Metros and Rejects top league A with perfect slates. League A games are played every Monday and Wednesday.

There are no teams with perfect slates in league B, but with five games completed Fuel Tech, the Gooches and U-Clubs lead with four wins against a single setback. League B games are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday.

A golf tournament is now in progress with about forty players still remaining. The original entrants played 18 holes and the top qualifying scores were placed in flight A, with the rest in flight B in order to assure equal competition.

### Phillips Top Batter

Shortstop and captain John Phillips set the hitting pace for Penn State's 1962 baseball squad with a .388 average.

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# NL Flag Race Still Undecided; Five Teams Qualify, Says Dark

HOUSTON (AP) — Alvin Dark said yesterday the National League still is a five-team race.

"Before the season, I thought it would be a six-team race," said the manager of the second-place San Francisco Giants.

"But the Milwaukee club hasn't been quite the club I thought it would be and it has too many losses to climb over now."

IN ADDITION to the front-running Los Angeles Dodgers, Dark said Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and St. Louis still figure in the pennant race.

"I think Cincinnati will close some ground because of its pitching," he said. "Pittsburgh may not have top starters, but the Pirates have pitching depth and great relief men. For its pitching, St. Louis still is a threat." Dark said a team goes up or down with pitching.

"I don't care how many runs you get," he said. "You need pitching to go on an eight or 10-game winning streak and that makes all the difference in the world."

LOOK AT PITTSBURGH. The Pirates had a streak and are back in the middle of the race. Cincinnati has 10 or 11 more games

with the New York Mets. Those things count in this race."

Dark said the loss of pitcher Sandy Koufax hurts Los Angeles.

"But have you noticed that since they lost Sandy, the Dodgers have been getting more runs?" he asked. "Good clubs respond like that."

The Giants have a day off Thursday and then move into Los Angeles for three games.

"If the pitching holds up, we'll be in there," Dark said. "We have 29 games at home and 31 on the road. It's a 50-50 deal, but this doesn't have too much to do with the outcome."

### Injured Koufax Returns

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dodger pitcher Sandy Koufax will be back in uniform for tomorrow's game against San Francisco, a team spokesman said yesterday.

Koufax, sidelined with a sore finger since July 17, will be allowed to run with the pitchers but is not expected to throw until toward the end of the Dodgers' August home stand.

Dr. Robert Woods, Dodger physician, said the ailment in Koufax' left index finger has improved much more rapidly than expected.

# Bears Claw Collegian All-Stars

RENSSELAER, Ind. (AP)—The Chicago Bears, using first string-ers only sparingly, smashed the Collegian All-Stars 24-7 yesterday. The game served as a tune-up for the collegians in their All-Star clash at Soldier Field Aug. 3 against the Green Bay Packers, National Football League champions.

The Bears had a fairly easy time and the All-Stars did not score until the final seconds.

It was then that they moved 80 yards in 18 plays with John Hadl of Kansas drilling the first of his 7 for the touchdown. Greg Mather of Navy booted the point just as

the gun ended the game. It was only the third sustained drive that Coach Otto Graham's squad could pull off. Hadl's pass- es to Lance Alworth, Arkansas; Ernie Davis, Syracuse and Charles Bryant, Ohio State, carried the scoring attack along.

The Bears scored in the early first period, with Charlie Bevins hammering the final 6 yards for the first of his two touchdowns. The drive covered 36 yards in seven plays with Bevins and Bill Brown the main gainers. Roger Leclerc booted the first of his three extra points. He also added a 45-yard field goal.

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