

Teal, Second Choice, Wins Grand National; Two U. S. Horses Fall

Evening Star Sports

Washington, D. C., Saturday, April 5, 1952—A-12

Win, Lose, or Draw

By GRANTLAND RICE

NEW YORK, APRIL 5.—Branch Rickey, who still knows his way around without a flashlight, has been quoted as saying the Dodgers could almost win the pennant without a pitching staff. The Pirates' general manager thinks the Dodgers have all the pitching arms they need, left or right.

What about this angle? The Dodgers probably have the best team in baseball—outside of pitching. This includes catching, infield and outfield blended into one cast.

But the main matter still gets back to the pitching. Few seem to recall the fact that Preacher Roe of Ash Flat, Ark., is now in his 35th year. The pride of Ash Flat is no longer young. He is one of the oldest pitchers left.

Roe was with Rochester and Columbus for five years and with Pittsburgh four. Then the Dodgers grabbed him. But oddly enough, in all these years, looking back to 1938, Roe had his first 20-game season last year when he made it 22 and 3.

Yet this is the lone winner of any real capacity Chuck Dressen can look to. And the Preacher has never been rated among the stamina kings. He needs his rest—his open days—badly.

ROE WILL WIN his share of games this new season. It may be 18 or it may be 21 or 22. But he can't be overworked. Last year he worked around 250 innings, his limit. Robin Roberts of the Phillies pitched 315.

With Don Newcombe missing for some time, through 1952 at least, the Dodgers' pennant gamble then spreads to many arms—Branca, Erskine, Van Cuyk, Labine, King, Loes, Schmitz, Poddien, Rutherford, Black, Wade and possibly others.

All of these are better than promising—but none belongs to the Maglie-Hearn-Jansen-Lanier-Koslo brand or to the Roberts-Simmons-Church breed. The Dodgers' pitching list might also fall before those of the Cardinals and Braves, who have more proven stuff.

Last season, with fine support, Carl Erskine won 16 games and lost 12. Clyde King won 14 and blew 7. Ralph Branca won 13 and dropped 12.

This has all been written before, but memories are brief. Johnny Schmitz won one and lost four. Clem Labine won five and lost one. Bud Poddien won six and lost three. Other records are even more vague.

From this big but uncertain crop it is quite possible that Dressen may find four first-class starters and at least three or four supporters.

THERE IS QUITE a collection of raw class in this Brooklyn group that could suddenly give Dressen what he needs. If this happens, he can beat the Giants in spite of their star pitching staff, especially if Willie Mays is removed to Army life and with Monte Irvin's broken ankle laying him up for possibly a full season.

The Giants have full reason to believe they can lean on their Big Five and others. The Phillies can trust Roberts, possibly the best pitcher in baseball; Curt Simmons, Bubba Church, and they should get much more from Russ Meyer, Howie Fox, Ken Heintzelman, Jim Konstanty and one or two others. The Cardinals and Braves have more proved men in the box than the Dodgers have.

But from some 10 or a dozen uncertainties the Dodgers must get at least five first-class pitchers. We seldom like to disagree with Branch Rickey. But today you can't win pennants without the despised pitchers to help—a few who can win at least from 15 to 22 games.

(North American Newspaper Alliance)

New Masters Record Likely for Snead if He Holds Off Hogan

By Merrell Whittlesey

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 5.—All Sam Snead needs is a 70 and 71 today and tomorrow to break the record for the Masters' tournament and, paradoxically, that might not be good enough to win this 16th edition of the gathering of golf's elite.

Everything points to Snead's smashing the 279 totals of Ralph Guldahl in 1939 and Claude Harmon in 1948, but Ben Hogan is only three shots behind Slammin' Sam going into the third round today and Hogan hasn't had that one real good round you can always expect of him.

With 70-67-137 for the first 36 holes, Snead is 11 shots ahead of his halfway mark standing in 1949, the year he won his only Masters' crown. Sam started with a 73 and 75 that year, then finished with a pair of blazing 67s. However, Hogan did not play in the 1949 Masters, staged only two months after his near-fatal automobile accident near El Paso, Tex.

Since Hogan returned to action following that accident, he has finished higher than Snead in every major tournament except two. Sam won a playoff between the two in the 1950 Los Angeles Open and finished third to Hogan's fourth in the 1950 Masters.

Day Ideal for Scoring.

The weather has helped make the Augusta National course more susceptible for Snead's purposes.

A tremendous downpour last night further softened the course to the point where the greens cannot be made too slick. Today was cool and bright and ideal for scoring.

And in addition Snead is exuding confidence. He is not tired out due to the rigors of the winter tour, as he spent most of his time the last few months fishing and resting in Florida. He joined the touring pros only three weeks ago, and won one tournament and tied for first in another before slipping slightly last week.

After his 5-under-par round yesterday, Sam said that if one can drive and putt he can play this golf course. Snead is driving to perfection and putting well enough to make 12 birdies in his first 36 holes.

Sam Lists Four Mistakes.

But Snead also said this is a course that does not permit too many mistakes. Thus far he figures he has made only four, three during the first round and one yesterday on the 220-yard par 3 fourth hole, where he overclubbed.

Hogan, who plays golf under the assumption that even the perfect shot could be better, is breezing along in second place with 70-70-140, four under par. In contrast to Snead's 12 birdies, Hogan has only half that number. He had to sink a 22-foot putt on the 18th green yesterday to get one of those.

But in 36 holes Hogan has been over par only twice. He missed his fifth green on his first round and took a 5 on that testy par 4, and yesterday he drove into the woods while trying to cut a corner on the second hole, winding up with a 6 on a par 5 hole that he figured to birdie.

The strange part of his 6 on that hole yesterday was that Ben had watched Byron Nelson drive into the first round and remarked later that, in all the years he has been playing this course, he didn't think it possible to miss the wide second fairway. So the next day he missed it.

Three Tied at 142.

Snead is five strokes better than anybody but Hogan. The 142 bracket is made up of Jim Ferrier, Tommy Bolt and Johnny Revolta, Ferrier with 72-70 and the others, with consistent 71's. This is the tournament Ferrier apparently had locked up in 1950 before he lost seven strokes to Jimmy Demaret on the last six holes.

Revolta, who was 41 today, is the 1935 PGA champion and is making a stand reminiscent of Veteran Paul Runyan's unexpected bid for the National Open last year. Both are great putters. Bolt, the fast-swinging newcomer to the upper brackets, has done nothing to maintain his reputation as a bad-tempered player.

(See MASTERS, Page A-13.)

Masters Scores

Sam Snead	70-67-137
Ben Hogan	73-75-148
Tommy Bolt	71-71-142
Johnny Revolta	72-70-142
Jim Ferrier	72-70-142
John Palmer	69-74-143
Bob Locke	72-71-143
George Fazio	72-71-143
Charles Swain	72-71-143
Ray Finsterwald	72-71-143
Ed Oliver	72-71-143
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