

Are Major League Baseball Contracts Fair To Players?

AP Newsfeatures

NEW YORK—Are major league baseball contracts fair to the player?

This question will be argued a lot on the street and even in the courts between now and the next year.

It is the result of Danny Gardella's \$300,000 suit against the New York Giants for whom he played two years during the war.

The Court of Appeals reversed a dismissal and sent the case back to District Court for trial on Gardella's two principal charges:

1. That baseball is a "monopoly" because the "reserve clause" in contracts of all players under the jurisdiction of organized ball binds him to one club and prevents him from bargaining with another club.

2. That baseball should come under the jurisdiction of the Clayton anti-trust law because teams in organized ball, with the large fees received for broadcasts and telecasts of games, are now engaging in interstate commerce when accounts of games are transmitted across state lines.

The case will take six months to a year to go to trial, says Frederic A. Johnson, Gardella's lawyer. Gardella, 29, is a \$36-a-week hospital orderly in Mount Vernon, N. Y. He hit 272 for the 1945 Giants, driving in 71 runs in 121 games, was subse-

quently suspended by the Giants and "jumped" to the Mexican League. This led to a five-year suspension from organized baseball and made Gardella virtually ineligible to play even semi-pro ball.

Here are two paragraphs taken from the major leagues rules:

"Rule 3: Uniform Contract—(a) To preserve morale and to produce the similarity of conditions necessary to keen competition, the contracts between all clubs and their players in the Major League shall be in a single form which shall be prescribed by the Major League Executive Council. No club shall make a contract different from the uniform contract or a contract containing a non-reserve clause, except with the written approval of the Major League Executive Council. All contracts shall be in duplicate and the player shall retain a counterpart original. The making of any agreement between a club and a player not embodied in the contract shall subject both parties to discipline; and no such agreement, whether written or verbal, shall be recognized or enforced.

It's in paragraph 7 under parentheses (b) and reads:

"The Club may terminate this contract upon written notice to the Player (but only after requesting and obtaining waivers of this contract from all other Major League Clubs) if the Player shall at any time:

"(1) Fail, refuse or neglect to conform his personal conduct to the standards of good citizenship and good sportsmanship or to keep himself in first class physical condition or to obey the Club's training rules; or

"(2) Fail, in the opinion of the Club's management, to exhibit sufficient skill or competitive ability to qualify or continue as a member of the Club's team; or

"(3) Fail, refuse, or neglect to render his services hereunder or in any other manner materially breach this contract."

Sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 7 is a long-winded clause. In part, it says, "if this contract is terminated under sub-paragraph (b) (2) of this paragraph 7 for failure to exhibit sufficient skill or competitive ability, the Player shall be entitled to an additional amount equal to thirty (30) days payment at the rate stipulated in paragraph 2 hereof and the reasonable traveling expenses of the player to his home."

In other words a club can drop a player and the club's only ob-

ver request, any other Major League club may claim assignment of this contract at a waiver price of \$1.00, the priority of claims to be determined in accordance with the Major League Rules."

Some baseball men are surprised that baseball itself failed to alter the reserve or renewal clause after 1946 when a dozen or more players jumped to the Mexican League.

Some contract changes were made, however slight. One was the mailing date of contracts. Contracts formerly were mailed out by Feb. 15. Now they are mailed Feb. 1 or sooner.

A change was made in the termination rule. Clubs could void a contract upon 10 days' written notice to the player. Now a contract can be terminated in less time than it takes a club's general manager to dictate an unconditional release to his secretary.

A number of players have been questioned regarding the reserve clause. Most of them are satisfied as it stands. Some would like to see modifications. Joe Gordon, Cleveland second baseman, feels the players will get together and work out a plan if the court rules the reserve clause illegal.

Are baseball contracts fair? It looks like the courts will have to decide.



Pictured above are members of the A&M basketball team of the 1948-49 season. Seated on the front row from left to right are Syden Hrachovy, Wallace Moon, Truett Mobley, Sam Jenkins, Gene Schriekle, Jackie Miller, Jewell McDowell, and Bill Batey. Standing from left to right are Jim O'Connell, manager; Marvin Martin, Robert Allen, John DeWitt, Ben Evans, Jim Kirkland, Bill Turnbow and Coach Marty Karow.

S BATTALION S SPORTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1949 Page 5

High Champs Prepare For State Basketball Tourney

By The Associated Press

High school district basketball champions—Class AA, A and B—this week bid for places in the state tournament at Austin.

City conference schools — those from Dallas, San Antonio, Houston and Fort Worth — will compete in their own tournament at Houston, March 11-12.

The lineup for bi-district play in Class AA is complete:

Some of the district champions in Class A and B have not yet been certified by the Interscholastic League office. All, however, will be in action in tournaments or series this week which will determine the field for the state tournaments next week.

Brownwood, winner in Class 7-AA, and Texas City, winner in Class 12-AA, are assured spots in the Double A state meet. They drew byes in bi-district play.

The lineup for Class AA bi-district series: (Some series sites not set).

Lubbock (district champion) vs. Childress (2).

Lamesa (3) vs. Bowie of El Paso (4). Three game series starts Thursday at Lamesa.

Bonham (5) vs. Highland Park of Dallas (6). First game of three game series at Dallas tomorrow night.

Texarkana (8) vs. Waco (9). First game of three game series at Texarkana tomorrow.

Nacogdoches (10) vs. Port Arthur (11).

Austin (13) vs. Harlingen (14). First of three game series at Harlingen Tuesday.

Most of these series will be on a home-and-home basis, with the extra game if needed—at the site of the second tilt.

Harlingen won its third district title in as many years, but Cardinals have added problem now.

Center Buddy Caulk broke out with chicken pox Sunday. Team supporters were worrying the ailment.

Some of the Class AA and B champions which have been recorded are:

Class A

District 6, Colorado City; 7, Coleman; 9, Olney; 10, Nocona;

Kentucky Ranks As No. 1 Cage Team of Nation

NEW YORK, Feb. 22 —(AP)—Kentucky continues to convince the basketball experts that it is the best college team in the country with a dozen straight victories since its December loss to St. Louis University.

The fifth weekly Associated Press poll gives the Wildcats (20-1) a wide edge over runner up St. Louis as the season approaches the tournament stage.

Of the 84 writers and sportscasters participating, sixty-four picked Kentucky for the no. 1 spot. Only 13 preferred St. Louis which led the poll for the first two weeks. It is the third straight time Kentucky has been out front.

Last week the first place vote was much closer, 47-13, but Kentucky continues to pick up support by overpowering the opposition. A lopsided 96-50 triumph over Xavier of Cincinnati served to convince the skeptics.

St. Louis bumped off Notre Dame, 61-44, in its only start, last week, but bowed to Ohio State 68 to 60 Monday night.

The Oklahoma Aggies, cling to third place by a slender seven-point margin over Illinois. Okla-

College Station To Hold City Election

The City of College Station will hold a general election, Tuesday, April 5, to fill three city council posts, N. M. McGinnis, city secretary, said today.

A. Mitchell has been named election judge.

The election will be held in the council room of the city building. Polls will open at 8 a. m. and close at 6 p. m.

"Only duly qualified voters who are residents of the City of College Station shall be allowed to vote," McGinnis said.

HOGAN IMPROVING

EL PASO, Feb. 22 —(AP)—Physicians today informed Ben Hogan the golfer, that he may be able to return to his Fort Worth Tex., home in a few days.

Hogan is recovering at a hospital from injuries received in a car-bus collision Feb. 2 near Van Horn, Texas.

College Station To Hold City Election

The City of College Station will hold a general election, Tuesday, April 5, to fill three city council posts, N. M. McGinnis, city secretary, said today.

A. Mitchell has been named election judge.

The election will be held in the council room of the city building. Polls will open at 8 a. m. and close at 6 p. m.

"Only duly qualified voters who are residents of the City of College Station shall be allowed to vote," McGinnis said.

Mississippi's freshman basketball team

hails from seven states — Mississippi, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Florida, Indiana and Georgia.



SPIKE WHITE calls the end of another wrestling match in the Little Gym as he tags MIKESKA the winner.

Razorbacks Defeat TCU Frogs, 67-52

By The Associated Press

Arkansas' Razorbacks last night cleared the first of three hurdles in their path to the Southwest Conference basketball championship. They beat Texas Christian, 67-52.

The victory gave the Porkers eight victories against two defeats. They face Rice Saturday and end the season next week against Texas A&M.

Arkansas scored first early in the initial period and was never behind. However, TCU cut the Razorback lead to three points late in the first half.

Halftime score was Arkansas 28, TCU 23.

Then in the first three minutes of the second half, the Frogs chilled anxious Hog backbones by pulling up to within one point of the Arkansas five, making the score read 32 to 31.

However, the Razorbacks took the hint, sharpened their shooting eyes and walked off and left the Frogs, who never threatened again.

High scorer for the night was Frog center Julius (Daddy) Dolnic with 15 points. Bob Ambler, Hog center, led the Arkansas attack with 14 points.

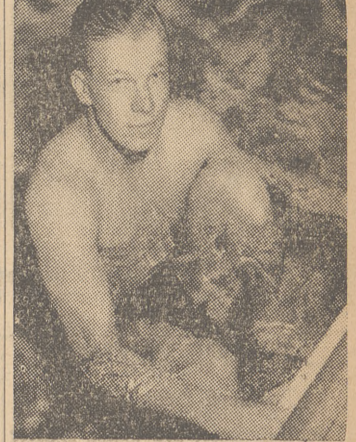
Two games are on tap tomorrow. Texas and Rice tangle at Houston and Southern Methodist and Baylor at Dallas.

The hectic conference race reached some sort of a climax last Saturday night at Waco when a group of fans shoved referee Ziggy Sears after the Texas-Baylor game, which Texas won, 36-31.

James H. Stewart, executive secretary of the conference, yesterday termed the incident an "indictment against the supporters of intercollegiate athletics."

Stewart walloped the action. A group of fans surrounded Sears after the game and shoved him back against the scorers' table. Baylor athletic director Ralph Wolfe and Baylor coach Bill Henderson came to his aid and escorted him to the dressing room.

Stewart said "the athletic authorities at Baylor are to be commended for their prompt control of the situation which averted a possibly more serious incident."



Shown pushing off the bank in the backstroke is Ed Kruse, who thus far this season has two wins to his credit; he will be out for his third against Baylor in Waco this Thursday.

Best Wrestling Action Yet Seen in Quarter Final Bouts

If the quarter finals are any indication of quality matches, then the forthcoming semi-finals in Intramural Wrestling are going to be high class exhibitions.

Twenty bouts of the quarter finals were run off Monday Now it's up to 24 husky contestants to see who gets a further crack at the winner's belt.

There were numerous outstanding instances Monday afternoon. Fastest time of the afternoon was recorded as Dick Mikeška of ATC pinned George Battin of "F" Air Force in 41 seconds. Both lads are in the 149 pound class.

Outfought but not outfused was Bill Parse of "B" Engineers. He lost on a pin to Clarence Trenckmann of Law in 4 minutes and 59 seconds. One second more and the match would have been decided on points.

Trenckmann had Parse nearly pinned but with his hand free. So Parse reached up and tapped Trenckmann on the shoulder and was immediately released. Trenckmann believing that referee Barney Welch had signified a fall. Parse bounced away unpinned but Welch awarded two points to Trenckmann for a near fall.

The 149 pound class found Trammell, C. Field, winner over Bodine of 'A' Flight. Otto Yelton outpointed Monte Currie and Wally Wooten did the same to Max Word. Harold Springfield pinned Cliff McGowen of "C" Air Force in one minute and forty-five seconds.

(See WRESTLING, Page 6)

Famous Edgerton Campus Pacs!

Edgerton builds the moccasin style shoe with a roominess that provides amazing comfort. And the sturdy masculine lines stay put for lasting smartness because the shoes are made right.

Edgerton SHOES FOR MEN

Tonight at 7:30 p. m. in Room 301, Goodwin Hall, movies of the 1948 baseball World Series will be shown. These movies are sponsored by the American and National Leagues of Professional baseball. The public is cordially invited.

The Chicago Cubs finished the 1948 National League season last in the standings and last in home run production. They hit 87.

Addition of the morning line to Hialeah's printed program this season has been enthusiastically received.

homa University smothered the Aggies, 54-41, Friday in a major upset. Illinois chalked up two western conference triumphs over Northwestern and Ohio State to narrow the gap.

So now it's the big four instead of the big three. The point score, with ten for a first place vote, nine for second and so on down to one for tenth, finds Kentucky 805, St. Louis, 741, Oklahoma A&M 578 and Illinois 571.

• RECORDS • RADIOS

School & Office Supplies

ALL YOUR NEEDS

HASWELL'S

Waldrop & Co.

Bryan and College Station

\$13.95

HOLIDAY

An Adventure in Good Smoking



Look What My Wife Saved

You can save a "pretty penny" too by having your clothes cleaned the modern "dry cleaning" way. Three big advantages... garments last longer, retain trim-fit and original color.

Campus Cleaners "Over The Exchange Store"