

The Man Who Runs The Dodgers

By FRANK ECK
AP Newsfeatures Sports Editor
It has been said that Walter Alston runs the Los Angeles Dodgers. That's just a figure of speech because Smoky Alston is the manager of the team that plays in a baseball park Walter O'Malley had designed for pitchers.

Actually, a little fellow named Maurice Morning Wills — he's only 5-foot-10 and 165 pounds in sharp spikes, runs the Dodgers. He stole 104 bases in 165 games in 1962 and he's doing it again. When Maury Wills runs all the Dodgers run.

"They run you crazy," says Casey Stengel who should know how it feels because he manages the New York Mets. The Mets never steal except that sometimes it seems they're going for a steal when a batter misses the pitch on a hit and run play.

Wills, who is well ahead of his phenomenal 1962 record, needs no such gimmicks as the hit and run to steal a base. He runs on his own and when a day comes that he plays a game with a

clean uniform it only means that some smart pitcher wouldn't let him reach first base.

Wills couldn't make a living in the major leagues with his glove, bat or throwing arm. His legs are his livelihood—legs that are sending him on his way to a sixth National League stolen base championship.

It is not easy to hit home runs in Dodger Stadium because the fences not only are far away but are painted a turquoise color (light blue green) which makes the pitched ball hard to follow. The Dodgers have no home run hitters a n y w a y. Furthermore, Wills is their big offensive weapon.

"When Maury gets on first," says director of scouting Al Campanis, "it's almost a foregone conclusion that he will be on second."

Wills, who is 32 and spent almost nine years in the minor leagues, is so fast on the bases that he runs away from his mistakes. On the other hand, his mistakes lead to errors by the opposition.

"If I can make them throw the

ball," Maury once said, "I've accomplished something."

Wills often takes a big lead at first base. He invites the pitcher to throw over to first because some throws get away from the first baseman.

In the opening game of the season in New York's Shea Stadium, Wills took such a big lead off first that Al Jackson, a southpaw, had no trouble picking him off. But by the time Met first baseman Ed Kranepool looked for Wills he was off for second base. Kranepool's hurried throw was a bouncer and rather than give Kranepool an error the official scorer gave Wills a stolen base.

Wills never has said it was one stolen base he didn't deserve. Why should he? He worked for it.

Dressen Recalls 1933 Series As Though It Were Yesterday

By CHUCK DRESSEN
Manager of the Detroit Tigers
Written for AP Newsfeatures
I never threw a ball, never batted a ball, never fielded a ball, never ran for a ball or a base, yet my greatest thrill in baseball came in such a state of physical passivity.

It occurred during the fourth game of the 1933 World Series at Washington. I was with the New York Giants but riding the bench because Travis Jackson was doing the job at third base.

Bill Terry was our manager and he was not averse to suggestions from any of the coaches and players whenever we were at the crossroads and the common cause stood to benefit. So, when we found ourselves in position of a 2-1 lead in the last half of the 11th inning there was the feeling among all of us that it should be protected at all cost. We had won two of the first three games from the Senators and in this one Carl Hubbell was shooting for his second series victory.

After we broke the 1-1 tie in the top of the 11th the Senators came out swinging. Schulte singled, Kuhel beat out a bunt, and Bluege moved them over with a sacrifice. Luke Sewell was purposely passed to fill the bases. It was relief pitcher Jack Russell's turn to bat but Cliff Bolton was sent up to hit for him.

Swimmers coached by George Haines of the Santa Clara Swim Club have won 20 gold medals in the past two Olympic Games.

This was a critical situation. I had played against Bolton in the Southern Association and knew he was not fast afoot. So, with time called I took the liberty of going to the mound for a conference with Terry, Hubbell and Gus Mancuso, our catcher. I passed on what I knew about Bolton and suggested that the infield play deep.

This meant the Senators could tie it with a slow ground ball as well as a fly ball to the outfield, but Terry decided to stake everything on the double play and instructed Hubbell to pitch Bolton accordingly.

Hubbell did just that. He made Bolton, a lefthanded hitter, go for a pitch low and away. Bolton ripped a ground ball to Blondy Ryan at shortstop. Ryan came up throwing, cut down Sewell at second, and Critz whipped the ball to Terry to complete the double play that preserved Hubbell's victory, gave us a 3-1 edge and we closed it out with the fourth win the next day.

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Intramurals got under way this past week with a new director at the reins. Raymond Lee Fletcher came to A&M from Huntsville where he served as intramural director of the Texas Prisons for two years.

Initial activity saw one record fall in Tuesday night's swimming finals. The Maroon Band's 400-foot freestyle relay team set a new record of 1:08.1.

Winners in the swimming competition were: 400-foot freestyle relay, Class B — Sq. 1; Class A — Maroon Band; 100-foot butterfly, Class B — Ragsdale of Sq. 10; Class A — Henthone of E-2; 300-foot freestyle, Class B — McWilliams of Sq. 3; Class A — Tayler of Sq. 7.

100-foot backstroke, Class B — Ledbetter of Sq. 1; Class C&A — Arrelano of Pan. Am. and F-2; 200-foot breaststroke, Class B — Britton of Sq. 5; Class A — Jarrell, Maroon Band; 400-foot medley relay, Class B — Sq. 2; Class A — Maroon Band; diving, Class B — Nida of F-1; Class C&A — McKerley of Law Hall and Pet-rash of Sq. 12.

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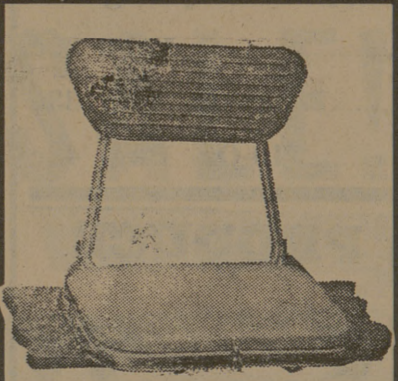
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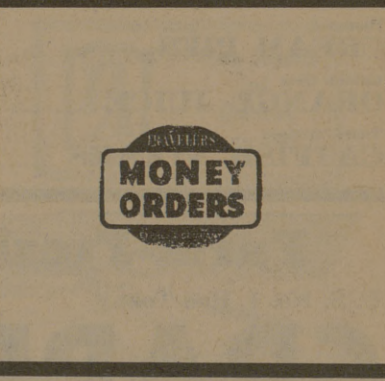


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