

## CROSSFIRE

### By LOU CHIESI The Yanks Still Are 'The' Pros

Lou Chiesi is a former sports editor of the Saginaw News and a former member of the Detroit Free Press editorial staff. While at Saginaw he won several awards in the annual Associated Press writing contest and has written several magazine articles during recent years. This is the first time he has written for The Evening Star. He is a resident of the Royal Oak area and is in the process of moving into Beverly Hills.

To the resident professors of practical mathematics presiding on the campuses of the Desert Inn and Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, the quality of sentiment is not twice blessed.

At first it appeared only habit, or reflex action, which prompted the desert realists to select the New York Yankees as pre-season favorites in the American League pennant race. The fact that the Yankees had not even lost a game in the first 100 games of the season, and that they had won 100 games, was a factor in their selection.

Downgraded were the Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians, and the Cleveland Indians, clubs which finished ahead of the Yankees. The Detroit Tigers remained the Tigers to Las Vegas, a team that once again looked strong on paper but an aggregation of athletes still inexperienced at finding new ways to win.

**BASEBALL PEOPLE** generally distinguish between the Yankees and the Yankees. The Yankees, they contend, are slipping badly and the Yankees are slipping badly and the Yankees are slipping badly.

There is evidence appeared to back their estimate. Not enough bright young men, strong of arm and smooth of stroke with a baseball bat, were romping through the House that the Yankees. The Yankees, they contend, are slipping badly and the Yankees are slipping badly.

And suddenly Casey Stengel did sound funny any more, asyntax and all. You must finish first to be a funnyman, Casey discovered. Finish third and you're a clown, not a comedian.

**NEWS REPORTERS** from the Florida spring training grounds were distinguished by the absence of cute quips by Master Stengel. Apparently the baseball writers no longer sat on the dugout steps, pen in hand, to record Master's words.

From the Yankee camp came one word that jogged Barry's memory. Looking older and older, that Gil McDougald had faded considerably, that Casey Stengel definitely was lacking as a major league shortstop, that Bill Skowron was a big man with a big backache. And the Yankee pitching... terrible.

The off-season acquisition of Roger Maris, the long-ball slugger from Kansas City would help, but not enough. Well, the Yankees suddenly have justified the odium of Las Vegas. They are unfounded, most of their learned critics. For the Yankees have started strongly, in step with the surprising Tigers, who suddenly have discovered the home run.

**ONLY FOOLS** sniff April flowers too strongly. Certainly, the Yankees have yet to rated serious pennant contenders despite the heady adjectives squirted their way. But Detroit's so furnished for a winner that it's extremely hazardous to advise caution in the corner bar or in the beauty parlor.

It matters not to elated Tiger fans that the Yankees apparently have reorganized sufficiently to regain warrant the favorite's role. Who cares if Stengel gambles with a corps of young pitchers may pay off.

To Detroit fans, the Yankees also will succumb to the bats of Colavito, Steve Bilko, Al Kaline, Charley Maxwell and Lou Berberet. It is so very pleasing this enthusiasm after so many years of disappointment.

**BUT THOSE YANKS** are winning again, nevertheless. In any day now, Casey Stengel may be quoted saying funny things again, an indication that 1960 will not be 1959 as The Year The Yankees Lost The Pennant. And the Yankee Haters of America may be forced into silence again.

The White Sox still appear formidable, despite an elderly pitching staff, and do not dismiss Cleveland despite a poor start and the uncertainty of life in the race with Medicine Man Frank Lane.

Not that Tiger success isn't welcome. But it's sorrowful to see laughter turn to tears, especially among friends. But for the hard of heart this may be the opportune time to seek out the most starry-eyed of Tiger fans. April's odds may reap a beautiful September harvest for a man inclined to wager.

**COLAVITO, Bilko** and Bill De Witt unwillingly, the Tigers still look very much the part of a fourth-place club. Just as Las Vegas insists.

And those Yankees. Obviously, the gentlemen of Las Vegas did not select the Yankees merely to quote Casey Stengel's ego mania or in homage to the House That Ruth Built. The radiation fallout from Frankham's Flats did not penetrate the green eyeshades after all.

Old pros always like old pros, it seems.

Whit Conrad serves a sizzler.

## Babe Ruth Tryouts To Close

The final tryouts for the Birmingham Babe Ruth League will be held Saturday, April 30, on St. James Field, directly behind the YMCA on E. Lincoln.

All 11 year-olds are asked to be at the field at 9:30 a.m. The 14-15 year-olds are to report to the field at 1:00 p.m.

If there should be inclement weather, an additional tryout day will be held on May 7.

## Prepare To Take Survey

**LANSHING** — Conservation Department men are making preparations for their combined deer and rabbit count survey scheduled to start next week, depending upon snow conditions, in Baldwin and Gladwin districts of the northern lower peninsula.

Conservation officers, foresters and many other Department men will cooperate in the survey supervised by the game division.

The survey forms a segment of the Department's year-long research program upon which special seasons, areas and kill quotas for the fall hunting season are chiefly based.

Counts of flushed grouse will also be recorded by surveying teams.

**BY ADDING FINDINGS** from the deer survey which measures winter losses with hunting season take and illegal kill and subtracting this total from the pellet count figure, Department game men are able to determine, quite accurately, the herd's spring population.

Mainly because of the generally moderate weather during the past winter, starvation losses are expected to represent only a small fraction of Michigan's wintering herd, estimated between 500,000 and 600,000 deer.

Approximately 69,000 whitetails perished in the woods during the 1958-59 winter, including 16,000 who starved.

**FROM ITS starting point** in Baldwin and Gladwin districts, the survey will move northward as the spring months advance. Surveying crews will make their tallies in approximately 550 randomly selected plots covering about 35,000 square miles of deer country in both peninsulas.

Two-man teams will survey some 60 standard 24-acre plots in each district. Pellet count check-in points will be set up at approximately 20-rod intervals on these plots.

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## Crane Netters Lead Way

Although Cranbrook has always boasted a good tennis team, this year's squad has proven itself to be a strong contender for league honors.

Against Hamtramck the second, third and fourth singles events were taken by Steve Brown, Whit Conrad and Norm Franco.

Whit Conrad, a freshman, hoisted decisions of 6-4, 3-6, 8-6, in what proved to be the deciding factor in the 4-3 Cranbrook victory.

**THE DOUBLES** team of Larry Weiss and Dick Gidelsee won their event in the Cranbrook victory.

In other games during the week, the Cranbrook team, a clean sweep against Royal Oak Kimball, winning 7-0.

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Conrad returns during a volley.

ter O'Connor's superlative skill, O'Connor, who has held the world title since January, 1959, is indexed as one of the all-time greats of the sport.

In his second professional bout, O'Connor wrestled the main event. He has been a headline ever since.

Now 32 years old, he has been rated among the world's top heavyweights without a break for the past ten years.

He has a rare combination of skill and superior physical endowment. He is fast and knowledgeable and he has been called one of the most versatile grapplers of all time.

As an expert explains: "O'Connor knows holds that the ordinary wrestler has never heard about. He is an unusual student of the sport. But that's not all. O'Connor knows how to counter every hold that was ever devised. He is rough, too, and recklessly courageous."

**NOBODY HAS EVER** accused the Bruiser of being a brainy wrestler. Compared to O'Connor, he is a crude brawler. He has no finesse, and he never bothers about defense. He knows only one way to go—to move constantly to the attack and cut down his foe with anything that comes to hand.

He is however, a man of amazing raw physical power and limitless stamina. Whether he can prevail against a master such as O'Connor is a matter of lively speculation. The Bruiser is the underdog but many think he will wear the champion down with his perpetual motion assault.

**THE PUBLIC** is cordially invited to attend the show, long one of the finest amateur figure-skating revues in the Midwest.

Timmy was five years old when he began taking his figure skating seriously, and he has been working hard at it ever since. Long years of hard and faithful practice have put a high gloss on the polish of his skating skill.

Not yet in his teens, Tim is recognized as one of the foremost young prospects in the highly competitive world of figure skating.

**IN THE PAST** winter, Tim has won two titles, the bronze crown in the Midwest meet and the novice men's title in the highly selective Lake Erie Invitational.

"Timmy has really found himself this year," says former skater, the former Ice Canada star and now the senior professional at the DS.

"His victories this winter have shown him just what he can do. He has gained confidence and poise. He has really come a long way in the past year. He is a boy with tremendous potential."

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# Cranes Shutout Opponents, Display Championship Form

## The Birmingham Eccentric

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## Cranbrook Blankets Kimball, Win 10-0

In a complete reverse from last week's game with Flint Central in which Cranbrook dropped a tough one 6-4, the Cranbrook defeated Royal Oak Kimball 10-0 last Wednesday afternoon.

Taking charge of the game in the first inning, the Cranbrook lashed out for 10 runs on eight hits in the first four innings of play.

Although Kimball tried desperately to get into the ball game they were held to only three hits behind the masterful pitching of Roger Rothmeyer, who went the limit for the Cranbrook.

**CRANBROOK'S** third baseman Bill Mosher was the "big gun" for the day when he smacked a double and two singles, knocking in two runs and demoralizing the Kimball pitching staff in the process.

Crane rightfielder Tom Demrick also had two runs batted in, getting two singles for the day. The Cranbrook won in one run in the first inning, four in the second, two in the third and three in the fourth.

In Thursday's game, the Cranbrook matched suzzing power and pitching to win the score, Cranbrook 5, Hamtramck 1.

The first inning saw most of the action, with Hamtramck jumping to a 2-0 lead, but was reversed, three runs led.

THE CRANBROOKS were not to be deterred, and came back to the bottom of the first inning with four runs scored on a booming hit by Tom Demrick and pitching to win the score, Cranbrook 5, Hamtramck 1.

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