

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Today's SPORTS

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Briggs Belts Curves, Lifts Average to .339

By ALLEN LEWIS
Of The Inquirer Staff

JOHN BRIGGS has been an outstanding prospect for almost four years, or since he signed a pro contract upon graduation from high school in Paterson, N. J., in 1962. Despite this, John Briggs never hit 200 in the one year he spent in the minors or in his previous seasons with the Phillies.

At present, the center fielder is leading the Phillies in batting with an average of .339.

What happened to bring about the change?

"I saw so many breaking balls I learned to hit them," says Briggs.

"Primarily, it's confidence," says manager Gene Mauch. "He hit enough breaking balls and now he thinks he can hit them."

That's the difference.

That may be splitting hairs, but the Phillies are happy to have Briggs in the lineup whatever the reason for his improvement.

Until late last month, whenever Briggs was physically able to play, he was used strictly on a platoon basis. The left-handed hitter started some games against right-handed pitchers, but not against left-handers.

An injury to Tony Taylor on the recent road trip gave Briggs the chance to hit against all types of pitching, and the 22-year-old speedster has been a pleasant surprise.

All Briggs has done in the last 14 games before the Phillies' upcoming road trip, which takes them to St. Louis and Atlanta this week, has been to hit at a .421 clip, with 24 hits in 57 official at bats. The only time he failed to hit

was since being put in the lineup on an every-day basis on Aug. 1, when Houston pitchers walked him twice.

In the 14 games, Briggs, who has been used almost exclusively in the leadoff spot, has batted in seven runs, batted out one double, one triple and three home runs.

Almost as important as this show of power is Briggs' ability to wait out a base on balls. He has drawn 11 walks.

"For anyone with his limited experience, he has an amazing knowledge of the strike zone," Mauch said recently.

"The first year I was in pro ball, my manager at Bakerfield, Bob Wellman, kept impressing on me the importance of swinging at strikes," Briggs said, "and that's what I've tried to concentrate on doing."

With his swing, coach peanuts Lowrey said, "there's

no telling how good he can be. He swings at strikes but I'd like to see him keep his head in more. He has a tendency to pull his head away from the plate when he swings at times. He could learn to spray hits to left and all over if he'd learn to keep his head still when he swings."

There is no way of knowing how many more games the Phillies might have won if Briggs had been able to play all season long. A mysterious back ailment made him almost useless from the fourth week of the season until the road trip in late July, when John came back off the disabled list to take the hottest bat on the club once he got a chance to play every day.

Flattened whenever he played in the past, Briggs has

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National League McCovey's 2d HR Beats Baldschun, Giants, Reds Split

From Our Wire Services
CINCINNATI, Aug. 8 — Willie McCovey slammed his second home run of the night in the seventh inning of the second game, sparking the San Francisco Giants to a 7-5 victory over Cincinnati and a split of their doubleheader Monday. The Reds won the opener, 10-6.

Despite the split, the Giants moved into second place in the National League, three points



The cast around Herman Franks (5) in 4th inning at Cincinnati as the similar to San Francisco Giants' manager. On the left is his starter, Ray Sadecki. To his right is reliever Ron Herbel and shortstop Tito Fuentes. Giants' bullpen has been one of the busiest in majors this year.

Besselink Wins Phila. Open on Clutch Birdie

Al Besselink, 6-foot-4 blond from Sunny Jim GC, placed a wedge about 18 inches from the cup for a birdie on the final hole at Sandy Run CC to win the Philadelphia Open golf championship Monday with a four-under-par 140.

Besselink, a veteran of golf warfare in the Philadelphia area and around the country, also regained the lead he won in a playoff at Aronimink in 1965.

A field of 137 pros and amateurs took part in the 36-hole tournament, which was played at Sandy Run and Cedarbrook Country Clubs.

PAIR TIE FOR SECOND

Besselink, last man to finish, was by a stroke over two golfers who tied at 141 — Buzz Weaver, Jr., Mosheim Springs, who earned the amateur prize, and Al Cedarbrook, who finished off on the title bid. On Sandy Run's last hole, he was tied for a birdie.

With an out of bounds to his right, Besselink had to hit a 15-foot wedge to win 18 inches, and he sank it. Later, he conceded, "That putt felt like it was 15 feet away."

Garvin had rounds of 73-70 for his bid, scoring five birdies at Cedarbrook and the same number at Sandy Run. However, three bogeys on the back nine, after a four-under first nine

Frank Dolson Bragan Likes Phils' Experience

PITTSBURGH and Cleveland, they fired him. In Milwaukee, they hated him. And in Atlanta, they boo him. Only in Philadelphia is Bobby Bragan king.

With an unit single in one hand, a ripe peach in the other and an angelic smile on his devilish face, the manager of the Atlanta Braves sat in a corner of the victory clubhouse Sunday. He was surrounded. Whenever Bragan opened his mouth, which was usually, his words were transcribed on a half-donut pad.

"Get a monkey!" shouted third baseman Eddie Mathews, watching the mob close in. "Bring out the oxygen!"

"Where's the trainer?" catcher Joe Torre said. "Somebody just fainted over there."

Frank Dolson

Bragan needs help when he's talking like Bing Crosby needs help crooning. It's after he's talked that the trouble usually occurs.

Bobby has the rare habit of saying what's on his mind. On the record, last year, somebody asked him what he thought of Milwaukee, where he happened to be managing at the time. "It's a two-bit town," he replied. "I wouldn't go back there for all the cheese in Wisconsin."

All too true, talking about the Milwaukee fans he said there were so few in the ball park that a player should get an automatic home run if he hit one of them with a foul ball. It was a funny line, but not a Milwaukee radio station.

I N PHILADELPHIA, though, things are different. So what if Bragan, discussing his playing career, once said: "I was lucky. I spent three years with the Phillies before I came to the major leagues?" The man is a recognized genius here, the National League

Continued on Page 29, Column 2

Baseball Facts
Standings
Statistics

(August 8, 1966)
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Monday's Results
Cincinnati 10, San Francisco 5, 1st, twilight.
San Francisco 7, Cincinnati 5, 2d, night.
Atlanta 10, Los Angeles 9, night.
(Only games scheduled.)
Sunday's Results
Atlanta 5, Phillies 7.
San Francisco 9, Chicago 6.
Los Angeles 11, Houston 2.
St. Louis 4, New York 1, 1st.
New York 4, St. Louis 1, 2d.

Standings
W. L. Pct. G.R.
Pittsburgh 61 44 .582
San Francisco 60 48 .558
Los Angeles 62 46 .578
PHILLIES 60 51 .541 4 1/2
St. Louis 57 53 .518
Cincinnati 57 55 .509 8
Atlanta 52 59 .468 12 1/2
Houston 49 61 .445 15
New York 49 61 .445 15
Chicago 36 70 .339 27 1/2

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Monday's Results
Detroit 5, Cleveland 1, night.
Boston 5, Washington 2, 1st.
Kansas City 6, Minnesota 1, night.
(Only games scheduled.)
Sunday's Results
Cleveland 6, New York 4, 1st.
Cleveland 6, Baltimore 2, 2nd.
Detroit 3, Boston 2, 1st.
Boston 1, Detroit 6, 10 innings, 2d.
Minnesota 1, Kansas City 1, 1st.
Kansas City 4, Minnesota 2, 2d.
Chicago 9, California 8, 10 innings.

Standings
W. L. Pct. G.R.
Baltimore 51 39 .565
Detroit 50 38 .565 11
Cleveland 49 37 .568 15
California 47 39 .547 19
Chicago 46 40 .530 23
New York 46 41 .524 23 1/2
Kansas City 46 41 .524 23 1/2
Washington 46 41 .524 23 1/2
Boston 46 41 .524 23 1/2

Tuesday's games, pitchers and their records are on page 29.

Atlantic City Opens With 'Big Q' Flavor, Small Purse Schedule

By BILL HALL
Of The Inquirer Staff

MAYS LANDING, N. J., Aug. 8.—The Atlantic City Race course story, 1966, was ready to be told before the race set foot on the strip Monday to open the 59-day season which ends Oct. 11. Purse has been dropped from \$3000 to \$2500. It's a move that will dishearten the owners and trainers even more.

For a concrete example, the money scattered on opening day last year added up to \$48,320. This year, opening-day purses total \$31,200.

The \$10,000 purse, a record, was won by Portsmouth in the American race. The loss was dropped to \$10,000. This year, the feature event was pegged with a modest \$4500 purse.

The 10-horse race was a hand-watched band of so-so fillies and mares aged four and five, race under allowance conditions. But only four of the 11 starters had run in a stakes race in 1966.

One of the 11 starters had run in a stakes race in 1966. There was a total of 90 starters.

The Middle States players (from Pennsylvania and Delaware) failed to win more than three games in a set against their Southern California rivals. Phil Hogan, who performed impressively in the Pennsylvania lawn tennis championships at Merion Cricket, Julie Anthony, Stanford University student who was runner-up for the 1965 U. S. Girls' championship, Valerie Ziegenfuss, Margaret Michel and Stephanie Grant, a strong group.

S. Calif. Ousts Middle States In Girls' Tennis

By MAYER BRANDSCHMIDT
Southern California, the 1966 also had a chance for top honors, reached the semifinals, but a hot ball at Cedarbrook was costly. Second amateur at 79-80-12 with a great comeback was Jim King of Cedarbrook's city champion.

For his effort in winning, Besselink collected \$750.

Northern California, the defending champion, gained the semifinals by defeating N. England, who had been in the first round.

The two California teams, which had byes in the first round, are a round-robin in the field and do not play again until Wednesday.

PENCILEASE DISQUALIFIED

Another winner, Gumbler, who had rounds of 60 and 72, also had a chance for top honors, reached the semifinals, but a hot ball at Cedarbrook was costly. Second amateur at 79-80-12 with a great comeback was Jim King of Cedarbrook's city champion.

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Drop In 3d Place, Dodgers Bow in 9th

ATLANTA — Denis Menke's run-scoring single climaxed a Valley and beyond. And it introduced in the Dodgers' lineup the ninth Dodger who had been in the National hit list. But what first and foremost was that they weren't worth the effort.

The loss, coming after they staked out an opening day record three runs in the top of something which every big track the ninth, dropped the Dodgers' record of the season.

And it didn't help them that they weren't worth the effort.

Ty Cline ignited the Braves' other staves were scrubbed from winning rally when he singled the list, and that the United and continued to third on Lou Nation's Handicap, which used Johnson's two-base error. Mack to carry a \$125,000 prize tag.

Stages joined in Cline, went to was dropped to \$100,000. The loss here was dropped to \$100,000. The loss here was dropped to \$100,000.

Red Smith Fabled Irish Fish Still Won't Bite

COUNTY GALWAY, Ireland, Aug. 8.

OUT OF consideration for the Irish Tourist Board, the Irish International Airlines and all citizens of this hospitable land, it should be made clear that what's been happening here is not the fault of the fish or the horses.

The fish are here, as advertised. Under the Salmon Weir Bridge in Galway City, great silver brookies lie by the hundreds, resting up for the journey to their spawning waters. There are lakes stiff with brown trout and rivers matted with sea trout.

The horses have been running as always, at Galway, Killybegs, Leopardstown, the Currah, and even at the Donkey Derby on the beach at Renvyle. The bookmakers chalk their slates and cry their odds and no man with shillings in his pants wants for action.

So where must the blame be placed if one visiting Yank can go scouring up and down across this land, fishing for the good of his soul, playing the races for his bankroll's sake, without ever harming a fish or looking a bookie?

There had been a soft evening on the River Suir in Tipperary and a long gray afternoon at Costelloe's famous fishery in Connemara.

Then the rains came, and the second day at Costelloe is not to be described in polite company. The rain didn't fall in drops. So fine it literally like hissing smoke on a wind that whooped and howled.

Twins Double At Brandywine

Monday night's Twin Double at Brandywine Raceway insured the following horses, drivers, numbers and payouts:

SIXTH: Lucky Luck (F. Safford) No. 2 for \$12.00.
SEVENTH: Myte Ann (J. McVey) No. 2 for \$12.00.
EIGHTH: Anna Apollo (H. Hubbard) No. 1 for \$12.00.
NINTH: Jethro Hammer (D. Dancer) No. 5 for \$12.00.

The payout was \$301.30 each of 9 tickets.

Twins Double At Brandywine

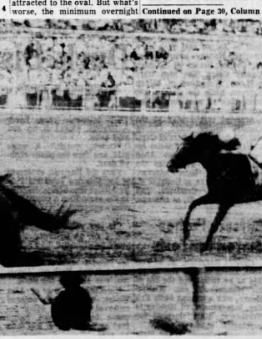
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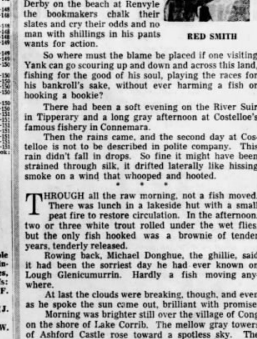
Night Rhythm (10), with Jackie Vasquez up, night first race of meet Monday at Atlantic City Race Course. On outside, Wind Blush, piloted by Donald



Brumfield, runs second. Third went to Adveron (right), with Willie Zakora in thirds. Winner ran six furlongs in 1:12 2/5 and paid \$8, 94 and \$3.



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