Tech Vs. Bucs: Benefit to Both

By Bob Teitlebaum

Oddly, Cook doesn't think the Class A farms will all go to Florida and play out of major league spring training sites.

"I'm not for complex baseball," said Cook, when asked what would happen if the Carolina League folded. Would the present Salem outfit join the Florida State League and play home games in the Pittsburgh spring training site at Bradenton?

All this, of course, is based on economics. If teams lose money, the cheapest way out is complex baseball and the next method to save the dollar is by using college baseball as the farm system.

As for the Sunday game, it should be an interesting one. Humphreys and other college coaches believe certain college teams can stay with pro outfits on a given day.

If asked to play in a league, they couldn’t because of a lack of pitching depth. Tech itself has several pro prospects and some players who are capable of hitting it out of Salem Municipal Field.

If the game draws, the Pirates would do well to consider making it an annual contest prior to the opening of the season. Pittsburgh has no objections. Indeed, Shreveport, the Bucs' Double A farm, always plays Centenary as a warmup.

If nothing else, there is one safe bet provided the weather is decent. The game will draw more than the average attendance for the Bucs' two Sunday home games.

That, my dear friends, is an embarrassing 251.

• What's in the future for Virginia Tech after the school was refused admission by the ACC Monday?

That's a hard question to answer. At least one insider at Tech feel the Hokies might form a new conference. They say West Virginia would be interested as well as South Carolina and Florida State.

Florida State, it's said, would leave the Metro Seven for a strong alliance.

Still, this is speculative. The same source even says Pittsburgh might be interested. That's hard to imagine.

Spring sports and minor winter events would be played in divisions. No matter, the Hokies are likely to look around for some kind of a group—though it won’t be an association with Virginia independents such as Richmond, William and Mary, Madison and Old Dominion.

There is a good reason for that. If and when the NCAA does reclassify, Tech wants to be associated only with schools put in the top group. The Virginia independents won't fall in that category.

• Did you know that Salem's Charlton Webb is doing well at Tennessee? He's running first string guard in the Vols' spring drills and is on his way toward complete reinstatement into the UT program.

• If Salem makes the Carolina League playoffs, the Pirates won't be able to play at home. The field will be in the process of being converted for football as the new Salem High School has its home opener set the first week in September.

• Oakland's Mitchell Page, dubbed the "Rage" by owner Charlie Finley, who has an affinity for nicknames, isn't a weak link defensively.

"We heard he wasn't much of a ballplayer without a bat in his hands," said Oakland Coach Red Schoendienst. "But

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he's worked hard. He's not bad now. In fact, he's pretty good. That poor fielding talk is a bum rap."

• Television has gotten into the Heisman Award act. It will be televised live next Dec. 8 by CBS. To make the evening complete, there will be six lesser awards to other top college players.

An academy awards, it won't be. But can't you just see Woody Hayes standing at the podium, in a tuxedo no less, and reading the names of the Heisman nominees.

Finally, Woody will say, "The winner is Hubert Touchdown of State U. Accepting for Hubert is agent Mike Moneybags."

Forget it.

• University of Texas basketball Coach Abe Lemons, also the sport's resident wit, says it's important now for a coach to develop name defenses such as "California Super Slag."

Then he added, "I saw a guy the other day who had 10 defenses. He'd call out, 'Give me No. 1.' No matter what he called out, his team never changed. He had 10 defenses; his team only had one."