

# YANKEE PITCHER OVERCAME LEG INJURY WHEN IN COLLEGE

New York, Jan. 4 --(AP)--If basketball hasn't done anything else, it made a great athlete out of Oral Hildebrand. The New York Yankee pitcher, who won 10 and lost four for the world champions, and whose earned run average was 3.05 this past season, was a cripple when he reported for basketball at Butler university, his coach, Tony Hinkle, told the Metropolitan Basketball Writers' association today.

"Hildebrand had a brace on his leg because of a bad knee and ankle and he wasn't much good as a freshman athlete. So when he came to me his sophomore year and asked to have the brace fixed--it would have cost \$35--I tried to discourage him from competing in athletics. I told him to go out and practice starts and stops by himself.

"I was just trying to get rid of the kid, but he worked so hard that his leg grew strong, and he turned out to be one of the best basketball players we ever had at Butler," Hinkle recalled. Hildebrand, who was with St. Louis and Cleveland in the American league before joining the Yanks, still holds the Butler individual one-game scoring record, 16 field goals.

The coach, whose team dropped a 46-to-44 thriller to Long Island university in the Garden last night, believes Indiana is the nation's basketball incubator because of the numerous small communities. "Most of our towns--and their schools--are so small that the logical sport, because of the lack of big squads, is basketball. For example, there are more than 800 schools that play basketball in the state--and only 100 that play football," he said.

Hinkle added that the state championship final this year was to be played on the Saturday of holy week, but that the ministerial alliance in the state asked the cage fathers to change the date--because it might interfere with church services.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our Madison Square Garden scout tells us that Southern California played aggressive, heads-up basketball. The men were unusually clever ball-handlers, they invariably recovered the ball off the backboard, and they had ample speed when it was needed. They had a great change of pace for a fast break. Most of the shots were one-handers, especially the more distant ones. Vaughn, the right forward, scored nine goals, all from well out. The Men of Troy left Bill King, L.I.U.'s clever Negro centre who is used in the bucket play, strictly alone when he wasn't in the bucket. Both teams passed short and accurately. The Trojans used a man-to-man defence, Long Island a zone defence until the final moments when it took up a man-to-man set-up.

Southern California scored on 12 of 36 field goal shots in the first half and 10 of 33 in the second for a total of 22 of 69. Long Island gathered 19 of 75, with a record of 22 of 39 in the first half and eight of 36 in the second. Southern California got 13 of 19 fouls and Long Island gathered 11 of 16.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nat Holman, former teammate of opponent George Haggerty, saw him holding ball with score tied in last few seconds.

"Here, George!" yelled Nat. Haggerty passed, Holman sank it, beat Haggerty's team, the "Palace Big Five."

\* \* \* \* \*