

A Lady (Mrs. Maskin) Covers The Tigers All But Freehan Ready

By ELAINE MASKIN

MIAMI—I saw the Tigers loose to the Baltimore Orioles, 4-0, Saturday night.

Take heart, friends. You may have been digging out of snow, but we had to bundle up with heavy coats and blankets to try and keep warm.

It couldn't have been 40 degrees down here. But, don't worry about the Tigers. At least, that's what those who have been watching the Tigers, like Dr. Russell Wright, the team physician, told me.

Everybody figures the Tigers will be ready for opening day (a week from next Tuesday) at Tiger Stadium against the Boston Red Sox.

If there's a slight worry, it's Catcher Bill Freehan. You know, he hurt his shoulder diving for a foul fly several days ago, and he hasn't been able to do any work behind the

Dayton Triumphs In NIT

IT WAS DAYTON over Kansas, 61-48, in the finals of the NIT basketball tournament in New York.

All American Don May was the holshooter for the winners with 22 points, 17 in the second half when Dayton broke a 25-25 halftime count.

May will be among the first to go in the professional basketball draft in May. He stands 6-4.

FAVORABLE TURN, the favorite, wrote a tragic story last Saturday in the \$100,000 Gulfstream Handicap in Miami.

The horse broke down on the first turn, suffered what appeared an ankle injury and had to be destroyed as Gentleman Jim came on to win.

Favorable Turn had won over \$100,000 this winter as he scored victories in the Sentinel and Donn Handicaps and placed in a dead heat for second in the Rich Widener Handicap.

THE PORSCHEs ran 1-2 in the 12-hour Sebring auto endurance race at Sebring, Fla., and two lady drivers were accused of hampering a Ford entry. Jo Sifferent of Switzerland was first across as Australian Paul Hawkins, driving a Ford GT40 screamed.

He insisted that in the ninth hour of the race, he was creeping up on the Porsche, his car was weakened in an accident because two women in an American Motors Javelin were driving like "they were going to a bloody funeral."

ARTHUR ASHE, the U.S. tennis star, was upset in the semifinals of 26th annual Mexico City International tournament. He lost to Loyo Mayo of Mexico, 7-5, 6-4.

JEAN-CLAUDE KILLY, France's triple winner in the Olympics, and Nancy Greene of Canada, another Olympic champ, won the slalom events in the American International ski meet Saturday.

Alfred Matt of Austria was second and Rick Chaffee of Rutland, Vt., third behind Killy. Gertrude Cabl of Austria was second in the women's action.

ELVIN (THE BIG E) Hayes of Houston is the latest college star to announce he'll pass up the 1968 Olympic basketball trials.

He joins Lew Alcindor of UCLA and Westley Unseld of Louisville, two other All-Americans, also Mike Warren and Lucius Allen of UCLA's NCAA champs in announcing they'll by-pass the games.

Hayes, meantime, has announced he'll demand at least \$200,000 to turn professional.

The San Diego Rockets have won a flip from the Baltimore Bullets for the right to draft first in the NBA pick and have said they'll now make a concentrated bid to lure Hayes, who also has been drafted by Houston of the American League.

DETROITER LEN Hutchins has won the national Golden Gloves light heavyweight boxing title. He beat Formus White of Las Vegas for the crown. Meantime, Detroit's Leroy Gilmore lost to Earl Large of Rosewell, N. Mex., in the 119-pound finale.

DALE ANDERSON (137 pounds) and Mike Bradley (167) of Michigan State and heavyweight Dave Porter of Michigan have been named to wrestle in the NCAA East-West meet at Stillwater, Okla., April 6.

Plate.

Dr. Wright admits Freehan could suffer some, at least at the start of the season. But the doctor says Freehan will be ready.

FROM WHAT I could hear about the Tigers at the Miami Stadium, Manager Mayo Smith is satisfied the way the Tiger regulars have been pitching.

Earl Wilson, Denny McLain and Joe Sparna all have looked great. Sparna didn't do a ball job in the loss to Baltimore, but a guy can't win. If his stats don't get any runs for him.

The Tigers are glad that Mickey Lolich has returned

from over two weeks in the Air Force reserves. Mickey didn't look too hot, they said, against Boston the other day in his first pitching work in almost three weeks.

But Manager Smith says that Mickey is in great shape and he isn't worried.

The Tigers don't feel they'll have any problems in the bullpen.

VETERANS LIKE Al Kaline note that the club came up with some excellent rookies like Lasher and Marshall last season and these fellows are a year older and more experienced.

Oh, yes, you'll like Dennis Ribant, the new Tiger pitcher obtained from Pittsburgh. George (my husband) used to tell me about Denny when he pitched on the Detroit aardsits and what a fighter Denny was.

Well, you may have heard how Denny squared off against George Thomas of the Red Sox when Thomas accused him of pitching "spit balls." (What an ugly word for a lady to use.)

One day the Tigers swat the ball well, the next day...they can't connect.

TAKE LAST WEEK. They made one hit in a game, then followed with 10, then four.

And, Manager Smith has been using his regulars.

The outfielders have done a nice job of clouting the ball, especially Jimmy Northrup.

Willie Horton still is being used sparingly. Mayo wants to be sure Willie doesn't re-injure that foot which he had operated on during the winter.

You can bet that Mayo will be using his regulars most of the time in the final 12 days of the training season.



BIG THREE of the Tiger mound staff show they are ready for the season opener. They are: (from left) Mickey Lolich, Joe Sparna and Denny McLain.

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