

# SPORT SLANTS

Inter-City Ball  
Blues Favored  
Three Reasons  
We Pick 'Em

By HARVEY ROCKWELL

San Mateo and Burlingame get together tomorrow afternoon and as is usually the case when the two meet on the baseball diamond, San Mateo is expected to finish out in front.

For San Mateo, it will be the Blues, while for our cross-town cousins, the Merchants will take the field.

Three schools of thought are to be found in the two communities as game time nears. The questions they are arguing include:

1. By how large a score will the Blues defeat the Merchants?
2. What chance has the Merchants of keeping down the score?
3. Is there a possibility that the Merchants can upset a heavily-favored San Mateo team?

## MERCHANTS CAN DEFEAT BLUES

Baseball is one game in which form usually proves itself throughout the season with the best team winning the league championship, world series or whatever else one has to offer.

But, there is no game in which an underdog outfit has a better chance of turning in a victory in a single encounter. In other words, taking the questions in reverse, we answer No. 3—for whatever our opinion is worth—with the assertion that as long as the Merchants are in the ball game they have a chance of winning.

True, they will be facing a team that, on paper at least, holds an impressive advantage in hitting, fielding and pitching, but with a fighting spirit, a few breaks and their share of the base hits, the Merchants can win. Whether or not they will remain to be seen.

## BLUES SHOULD WIN BY LARGE SCORE

We can answer No. 2 in the same words. They can keep the score close if—as we stated above—they have a fighting spirit, gain enough breaks and enough base hits to do so.

For what our opinion is worth, the Blues will win by a large margin. We qualify this only with an explanation that our opinion is derived only from paper. We have seen the Blues play because it is our job to record their activities each Sunday afternoon and Wednesday night. Because we cannot be in two places at once, we have not seen the Merchants in action, so are judging them only on what the papers say and on cold figures.

Those figures, add them up as you will, do not compare with those of the Blues in any department. It is on that and that only that we pick the Blues, and if form means a thing, we should be borne out tomorrow.

## Inter-City Rivalry

# BLUES HEAVY FAVORITES TO DEFEAT MERCHANTS

By HARVEY ROCKWELL  
The Times' Sports Editor

A rivalry as ancient as history permits and as intense as anything that can be settled with runs and hits flares forth here tomorrow afternoon when the San Mateo Blues engage an ambitious bunch of Burlingame Merchants on the diamond of San Mateo City park at 2:30 o'clock.

With a season record of eleven victories in thirteen starts, a team batting average of .352 and a lineup rated second to none in the bay area, the Blues are an odds-on favorite over a Burlingame team that must depend principally upon a fighting spirit and the "Breaks" that San Mateo seldom allows.

Burlingame boasts four victories in five starts and a team batting average of .295, a good percentage for any outfit but not very much when compared to what San Mateo offers in that line.

Figures Favor Blues  
Cold, practical figures give Burlingame not a chance against a red-hot team of Blues, but often before the set-up has been the same before the game and the boys from north of Peninsula avenue have walked home with the bacon.

Because the Merchants—then the Cardinals—were feared too "slow" for San Mateo last year, the series was not played. In 1938, the two got together and the hot-and-cold Blues just did come through to cop three of five games.

Then, as now, they were heavy favorites to do their will with a supposedly weaker opponent but that intangible something passes off as "fighting spirit" and the breaks—kept Burlingame in there all the way.

Five-Game Series  
The intercity rivalry this year will be carried through five games. The first was originally scheduled a month ago, but was indefinitely postponed because the Merchants had just started their season and were not yet organized.

But, they are organized now after winning their last four games and have every hope of turning the tables on a San Mateo team they admit is probably tops in the bay area.

Burlingame is asking no favors of San Mateo. They come to town with their regular lineup changed only because of injury. Billy Cooks, catcher, has suffered an injured finger and gives way to Frank Bettencourt of the Pacific Greyhounds.

Cunningham vs. Botto  
And on the hill, Burlingame will depend entirely upon Don Cunningham, the former San Mateo High school star who has hurled all their games.

Cunningham must match slants with a tough foe, for Stan Botto, the Belmont police officer, will handle San Mateo's hurling chores.

Botto has not looked too good of late, but blame for that must be put on the competition. Stan stands up to what the batters have to offer, giving out just enough to put them away and otherwise not worrying overly much.

Stan tomorrow must be careful—very careful—of two men in particular, Frank Talcott, first baseman, and Fred Caviglia, right fielder. Fred is currently leading Burlingame batters at a .474 clip while Frank is hitting at .444.

## He's Confident



The San Mateo Blues will win tomorrow when they meet their arch rivals from Burlingame here, in the opinion of Genial Gene Camozzi, manager and formerly star pitcher of the local outfit. Camozzi is not picking any score, but he indicates it will be a large one with San Mateo on the long end.

Batting Rivalry  
Cunningham's toughest opponents will be Roy Wetmore, left fielder, at .577, and George Hailer, right fielder who boasts a .489 average. Nough said.

As a sidelight to the always-attractive intercity rivalry, the Blues offer their own bit of competition with Wetmore and Hailer expected to continue their battle for batting supremacy. In the last two weeks, Hailer has gained over 150 percentage points to threaten the once "untouchable" Wetmore.

Here is how the boys lineup:  
San Mateo: Hal Stovey, Carl Severs, Dutch Anderson, Larry Webber, Roy Wetmore, Logan Hooper, George Hailer, Joe Bogle, Jack Santori, Stan Botto.  
Burlingame: Frank Talcott, Chas. McDonnell, Ray Altman, Jack Numan, Al Orsini, H. Stunker, Alex Corchino, Stan Walker, Fred Caviglia, F. Bettencourt, Don Cunningham.

# BASER

# Blues