

BROOKLYN NATIONAL LEAGUE BASEBALL CLUB

215 MONTAGUE STREET
BROOKLYN 1, N. Y.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE _____ AUGUST 17, 1955 _____

During the 1956 season the Brooklyn Dodgers plan to play 7 of their "home" games at Roosevelt Stadium, Jersey City, - one game with each of the remaining 7 National League Clubs. Necessary permission has been granted by all National League Clubs. In addition, at least one exhibition game with an American League Club will be played. Details have not as yet been worked out.

Mayor Bernard J. Berry of Jersey City stated that Roosevelt Stadium would be in major league condition and will seat about 30,000 fans and park 4000 cars.

In announcing this split schedule, Walter F. O'Malley, President of the Brooklyn Dodgers, said he was preparing for the day when Ebbets Field would have to be sold. Said O'Malley: "We plan to play almost all our "home" games at Ebbets Field in 1956 and 1957 but will have to have a new stadium shortly thereafter."

With the support of Brooklyn Borough President John Cashmore, the Dodgers have been trying to get a suitable site in Brooklyn since 1948 and particularly in the last 4 years have been in the plan drawing stage.

The matter has progressed to the point where a final engineering and legal study will be made. The result will determine the future of the Dodgers."

In explaining why the Dodgers need a new stadium, Mr. O'Malley stated:

"Our present attendance studies show the need for greater parking. The public used to come to Ebbets Field by trolley cars, now they come by automobile. We can only park 700 cars. A new stadium in Brooklyn with accessible rapid transit could get by with a 2000 car capacity. To build in Queens for example, on Horace Harding Blvd., or in the Nassau-Suffolk area facilities for 15,000 cars would be needed."

"Our fans require a modern stadium - one with greater comforts, short walks, no posts, absolute protection from inclement weather, convenient rest rooms and a self selection first come, first served, method of buying tickets."

"Baseball, with its heavy night schedule is now competing with many



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attractions for the consumer's dollar and it ^{had} better spend some money if it expects to hold its fans. Racing has found a way to get State legislation and financing for a super-colossal proposed race track. I shudder to think of this future competition if we do not produce something modern for our fans."

"We will consider other locations only if we are finally unsuccessful in our ambition to build in Brooklyn. In that event, we would want to keep the franchise close to our fans. In Jersey City, in Queens, and further out on Long Island, are sites within 30 minutes from our Brooklyn fans but our stockholders are prepared to build in Brooklyn and not elsewhere."

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