#### PLAYS That Satisfy

Cal McVey, old-time star, set all-time record with 12 hits in two consecutive games for Chicago N.L. in July, 1876.

## The Sporting News

**VOLUME 137** 

ST. LOUIS, FEBRUARY 24, 1954

NUMBER 4

# WITH RUSS HODGES CHESTERFIELD'S ACE SPORTS BROADCASTER

#### Cap Anson's Great Record NEW YORK, N. Y.

I received an interesting letter from Carroll E. Cherry of Chicago, who brought to my attention an oversight in one of my recent columns. So, with apologies, I think it best that you read this information just as I received it. She wrote:

"Dear Russ Hodges:

"In your column in a recent issue of The Sporting News I was an interested reader of your article, 'Player-Pilots a Vanishing Race.' Russ, how could you have overlooked the greatest of all player-managers from 1876 to the present day—that grand old man of baseball, Captain Adrian Constantine Anson?

"I am enclosing herein some pertinent facts concerning the Captain's career. The Cap passed on when the Great Umpire counted him out some 30 years ago. His 100th anniversary occurred on April 16, 1952. You, of course, are too young to have known the Cap personally, but you certainly must know of his great baseball prowess. After all of these years, the sports writers still write about him.

"I have several very nice letters from sports columnists of many of the metropolitan dailies. Among them are J. G. Taylor Spink of The Sporting News, Grantland Rice and many others. A network devoted an entire broadcast to Captain Anson's career on his anniversary—quite a tribute to an old ball player who played his last game in 1897, after 22 years with the Chicago Cubs.

#### Five Flags as Player-Pilot

"As a player-manager, take a gander at this:

"1879 Chicago finished third, Anson batted .407 (led league). "1880 Chicago finished first, Anson batted .338.

"1881 Chicago finished first, Anson batted .399 (led league).
"1882 Chicago finished first, Anson batted .367.

"1883 Chicago finished second, Anson batted .307.

"1884 Chicago finished fourth, Anson batted .337.

"1885 Chicago finished first, Anson batted .322.
"1886 Chicago finished first, Anson bat-

ted .371.
"1887 Chicago finished third, Anson batted .421 (led league).

"1888 Chicago finished second, Anson batted .344 (led league). "1889 Chicago finished third, Anson batted .341.

"1890 Chicago finished second, Anson batted .311.
"1891 Chicago finished second, Anson

batted .294.

"All in all, during 13 years as player-manager, he won five pennants, led

the league in batting four times and had a lifetime batting average of .350 for those 13 years.

"Anson, during his 22 years of baseball, finished with a batting average

"Anson, during his 22 years of base-ball, finished with a batting average of .339, certainly ranking him with the all-time greats.

"On a visit with Clark Griffith in Washington, Griff said that unquestionably Cap was the greatest batter of all time. He believes that if, in his prime, the Cap had batted against our rabbit ball, there would have been years when he would have hit .500.

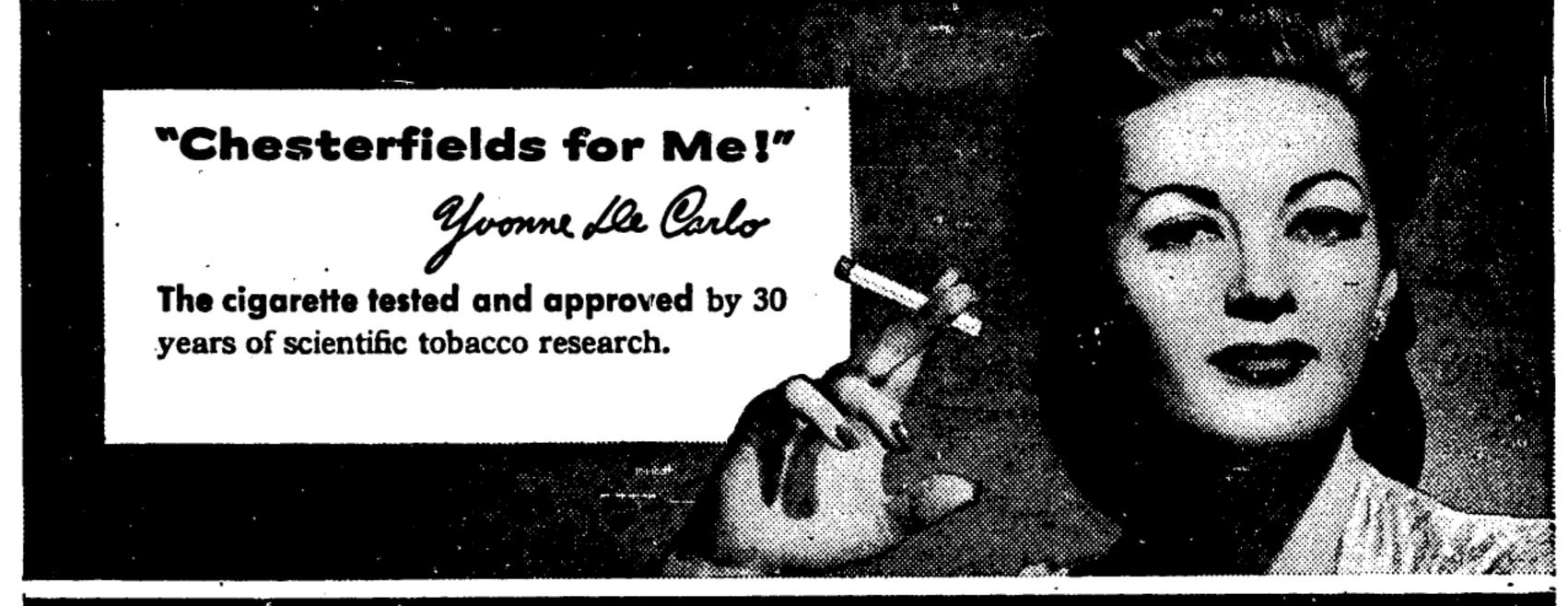
"I enjoy your column and your broadcasts, and I also smoke Chester-fields.

"With kindest regards,

CARROLL E. CHERRY."

P. S.—Mrs. Cherry was Adele Anson, a daughter of the Captain.

## Today's Chesterfield is the Best Cigarette Ever Made!





"Chesterfields for Me!"

John Payne

The cigarette with a proven good record with smokers. Here is the record. Bi-monthly examinations of a group of smokers show no adverse effects to nose, throat and sinuses from smoking Chesterfield.

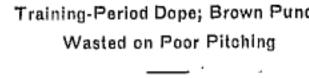


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## BLADES STILL TRYING

TO SECOND ON ROAD TRIP

Return of Orengo to Sacramento Upsets Training-Period Dope; Brown Punch





Cardinals zig-zag in the

switched the outfield, has tried all sorts of keystone set-ups and has probed the pitching staff from one end to the other in efforts to find stable starters. No one can say that the little guy with the big load isn't in there swinging.

Blades swung over to Jimmy Brown as shortstop and Stu Martin as second baseman during the series with the Giants at the Polo Grounds. This would not have shocked the scribes who "did" the training trip with the Cards, but on the very same day it was announced that Joe Orengo had been returned to the Sacramento farm in the Pacific Coast League. It surprised the war correspondents because they had been led to believe that Orengo, the most-talked-of rookie of the condi-

if the two lads couldn't play short and second, respectively, any better than they did last summer on a hit-and-miss ar-

It's All Up to Stu's Stamina. There is no question that Stu Martin can be the best second sacker the Cards have had since early in 1936, when Stuhimself was on the job, if his health holds up. Brown, sound of arm, of course, can give ample shortstop protection and has

and Stu Martin went to second, Pepper the outfield in place of Enos Slaughter, who wasn't hitting. The old Wild Horse, who incidentally bears the title of captain of the Cards this year, was as frisky as a yearling and took a leading hand in subjugating the Giants that day. But he saved his real heroics for May 8 when he stole home in the sixth, after working around on a single, to give the Cards a 1 to ling to Cleveland in 11 Innings, drop to sec-0 win over the Dodgers. Bob Weiland

Terry Moore continues to play a spark- and Dodgers for runner-up position. ling game in center field for the Birds and it is easy to overlook the true value of this polished savant of the diamond. Terry for his long-distance clouting, but he has a way of cutting down runs of the

changes he is likely to make from day to Schott on waivers from Cincinnati, which day or in a tight uphill fight, it is nothing changes Catcher Jim Wilson from coach for Ray to use 18 or 20 players. He has to actual player, options Pitcher Earl Cook to Columbus and sells Infielder Nolen Richno consideration for official scorers what- ardson to Indianapolis in American Assosoever. Nor does he take unwarranted ciation. . . . Cardinals transfer Shortstop for 22 years in big time. . . . Hit above .300, chances on his pitchers. In Boston on May Joe Orengo to Sacramento, Outfielder Elvin in 20 out of 22 campaigns, . . . Above .400 2, Bob Bowman went into the ninth inning with a 2 to 1 advantage. The ex-Rochester hurler had retired two batters Al Lopez on third.

Bowman had unleashed a wild pitch tims. . . . a moment before and when the count was worked to three-and-two on Cooney, against Bees, for Pitcher Lou Fette's first Ray waved in Lon Warneke, who had been warming up. Warneke pitched one

some encouragement from Morton Cooper as a starting pitcher candidate, although the former Texas leaguer was beaten taking heavy-hitting finale. . . . Harry Gumchiefly because Harry Danning took a crush bert tabs his third conquest for Giants, subon his offerings. Cooper stepped aside for a pinch-hitter after six innings, but fanned seven during his incumbency. He got Mel Ott on strikes three times. Hancy Sees Power Wasted.

The Browns continue to hit the ball hard, but it's the same old story-uncertain pitching. In the May 3 game, Fred Haney's outfit, which was leading the league with the stick at the end of last week, with a mark of .305, piled up a 105 to 4 lead over the Senators, but neither Ruck Newsom nor Johnny Margum could be and American League contests grawing 105,100 being first hurler to throw curve ball. . . . Late Fred Goldsmith claimed same distinction. . . Cummings' first club, Excelsions of New York, 1866, 1867, . . . Also Tribute to throw curve ball. . . . Yankees bombard three Chicago pitching and the could be some and steady neighing to 105,100 and 105, hold it and the Browns eventually lost, 11 to 10.

The Athletics whipped them, May 5, 10 to 5, with Bill Trotter, Harry Kimberlin and Fred Johnson being hammered. In this game, Sam Chapman, young outfielder of the A's, made a grand slam, with a homer, triple, double and single. On May 6, Marcum managed to get the verdict over the Athletics, despite 11 hits, three of which were home runs, two by

Newsom atoned in a measure for his failures, after winning the opening game of the season, by turning back the Red Sox, May 7. The Boston Hose had won seven in a row. On the Athletic series, young Jack Kramer notched his second win of the season with a neatly-pitched knocking Cronin's men off the top perch.

Mel Mazzera has been a sensation with the bat and latest figures show him leading the league. The little-regarded outfielder socked two for the circuit in the May 4 game against the A's. An injured leg sidetracked Mel in the May 7 game. . . . George McQuinn and Myril Hoag also have been banging the ball and Rupert Thompson, outfielder, recently obtained on waivers, likewise is giving a good ac- Missouri Pacific lines the day before, died Providence against Detroit, August 27, such setting as the present one. count of himself. Hancy has Thompson at a hospital in St. Louis, May 2. Hollen- 1882. . . . Score, 1 to 0. . . . Won 310 doing the lead-off trick.

of games last week, but Haney went right National Association and major league back to Johnny Berardino, the kid from meetings and also arranged special trains Ill., September 2, 1850. . . . Pitcher, . . . ed on the team which has been the centhe Texas League, who can hit. . . . The and other accommodations for them. He Started with Rockford, Ill., 1870. . . . Cards sent Outfielder Harold Epps to Hous- began work at 19 in the Indianapolis Boston Red Stockings, 1871 through 1875, kind or another. ton, Southpaw Ken Raffensberger to Roch- office of the Big Four railroad and was . . . Chicago Nationals, 1876, 1877, retiring The pitching, aside from a great hurl- champ in 1932, reeled off a ten-game winester and Outfielder Buster Adams to connected with the I. D. & S. Florida East as player in latter season to become secre- ing and hitting performance in Brooklyn, ning streak at the start of the Florida Columbus. . . . The Browns optioned Right- Coast and the Louisville and Nashville hander Bill Cox and Outfielder Eddie Sil- before joining the Missouri Pacific. The 1877, began sporting goods business in tory over the Giants, May 8, has not been first contest to the Palatka Azaleas. DICK FARRINGTON.



 We don't say you're sure to bat .500, BUT-if constipation has dragged down your average, why not try FEEN-A-MINT, the delicious chewing gum way to relief. See how good-tasting, easy, and effective FEEN-A-MINT really is. You simply chew it to get all its splendid benefits. No wonder folks say: seems just like magic." Get a package today!

#### HIGHLIGHTS

TO KEY UP KEYSTONE

MAY 1—Bees take over National League
Meadership when they win fifth game
in a row, at expense of Giants, behind
four-hit pitching of Bill Posedel.
Pittsburgh snaps eight-game losing streak,
defeating Reds as Pitcher Truett (Rip) Sewell notches his initial major league conquest
for Bues.
Phillies tab seven runs in ell notches his initial major league conquest for Bucs. . . . Phillies tab seven runs in ninth inning, but are nosed out by Dodgers in free-hitting contest. . . . White Sox defeat Cubs in Monty Stratton benefit exhibition, which draws 25,592 spectators, with all receipts going to Pale Hose coach and crippled pitcher, who nets \$29,845.25, . . . Athletics release Pitcher Luther Thomas to Washington and Hurler David Smith on option to Dallas in Texas League.

May 2-First Baseman Lou Gehrlg of Yankees voluntarily retires from New York line-up, for "good of the team," ending LOUIS, Mo.—As the can League contests, which began June 1, ardinals zig-zag in the 1925. Ellsworth (Babe) Dahlgren, who re-Cardinals zig-zag in the percentage column, one item continues to manifest itself. This is the fact that Ray Blades will not stand still any longer than a jitter-bug on a line-up that is not producing. Since the season opened, Blades has made all manner of changes. He has switched the outfield, has tried all sorts of keystone set-ups and has probed the

they had been led to believe that Orengo, the most-talked-of rookie of the conditioning period, was to be THE shortstop and they had gone far out on a limb for him.

At any rate, Blades shifted Brown from second to short and installed Stu Martin at second during the New York series and this arrangement appeared to have been the best thus far hit upon. Yet, some of the boys with good memories recalled that Rickey said, just before the schedule opened, that if Blades was obliged to use Brown and Martin at the two positions, it meant seventh place for the Cardinals.

Brough willed no number when he said. Branch pulled no punches when he said dians sell Shortstop Lyn Lary to Dodgers that. But it is suspected that he meant the Cards wouldn't amount to anything Pitcher Fred Hutchinson to Toledo in American Association.

> May 4-Bob Feller routed in tenth in ning by Yankees, who maintain league leadership by handing Cleveland fire-baller his first setback of season. . . Dodgers defeat nals and Cincinnati for second place, Van Mungo, Brooklyn right-hander, achieving his initial conquest of season in relief role. Browns blast four Athletic pitchers for

14 safeties, including two round-trippers by The same day Brown shifted to short Mel Mazzera, for Haneymen's first win of Louis. . . , Manuel Salvo tabs his first ma- | memorating their service to the game will Phail, executive vice-president of Brooklyn Dodgers since January, 1938, elected president and member of board of direc-

May 5-Rookie Woodrow Rich pitches Red Sox into American League lead with threeond place. . . . Bees retain first place, al-though defeated by Cincinnati in 13 innings, Reds remaining tied with Cardinals ed with old-time players and writers in Whit Wyatt, veteran Broklyn righthander, Lillard, reformed Cub infielder, suffers his may not get his name in the paper often Chicago seventh defeat in eight games. ... Sam Chapman, A's outfielder, hits single Bob Seeds. Giant outfielder, makes pair Getting back to Blades and the many Redbirds. . . Phillies acquire Pitcher Gene ford, 1871; Philadelphia Athletics, 1872, Adams to Columbus in American Associativice, .421 in 1887, .407 in 1879. . . . Total tion and Pitcher Ken Raffensberger to

and was pitching to Johnny Cooney with veteran Bob Grove goes route for his iniin National League, when Righthander In New York, May 6, Blades received Monte Pearson, Yankee right-hander, limits Indians to three safeties, in notching Louis Browns, American Association, 1882. his second triumph of year. . . White Sox sweep three-game series with Washington, duing Cardinals with nine hits, . . . Vance ager, Cincinnati, 1892-1894. . . . Owner-Page pitches Cubs to six-hit decision over

> May 7-Eight major league games attract National League contests drawing 102,700 Comiskey Park, . . . Frank McCormick New York, 1872; Baltimore, 1873; Philadel-Righthander Paul Derringer turns in his Mass., and Cincinnati, 1877; Albany, 1878. third straight triumph for Cincinnati, at expense of Phillies. . . Pinch-Hitter Odell Hale's single drives in two runs in tenth inning and Indians edge out Washington, in game that marks initial 1939 start for Pitcher Johnny Allen, who is removed after seven innings, Bob Feller racking up his fourth conquest in relief role. . . . Catcher Brucker's four-bagger, loaded, helps Pitcher George Caster tab his Nationals, 1893, 1894; Cincinnati, manager, hird win for Athletics, against Detroit, . . Giants defeat Cubs behind six-hit pitching of Southpaw Cliff Melton. . . . only four safeties off Rookie Hurler Bob

Necrology

second place. . . Buck Newsom, Brownie righthander, limits Red Sox to seven blows

and halts Boston winning string at seven,

Jacob G. Hollenbeck, who retired as as- July 25, 1883. . . . Hit home run as out- has been discussed before anent Bill, sistant passenger traffic manager of the fielder, in eighteenth inning to win for though usually in whispers, and with no Missouri Pacific lines the day before died Providence against Detroit. August 27, such setting as the present one.

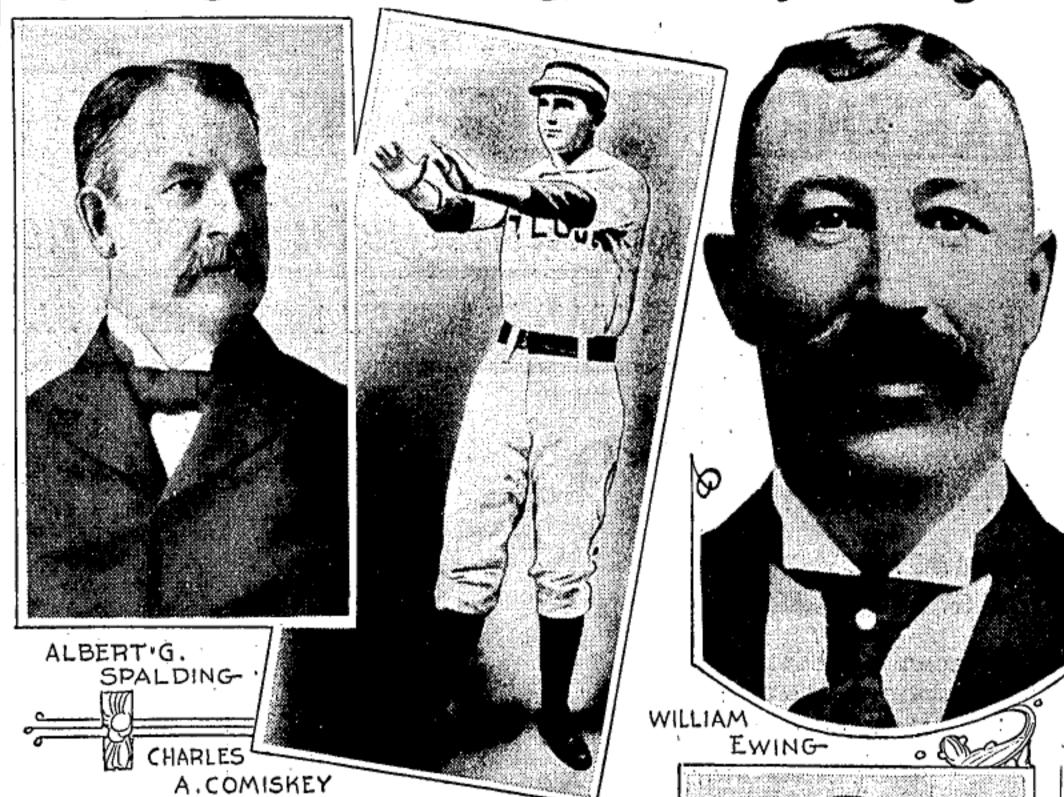
Sanford Clicks Off Ten Wins beck, 72 years old, was known to many games, lost 191 during major career. . . Don Heffner played second in a couple baseball men, as he had attended numerous Died, February 6, 1897, Bloomington, Ill.

> George Stokes and Sterling Neblett (Ted) Northington, Jr., of The Commercial Appeal. Memphis, Tenn., died in an air crash, May 2, at Grenada, Miss. Stokes, pilot of the plane, was photographer and Northington a reporter for the newspaper, and both were well known in baseball circles. Northington recently moved to the news side from the sports department. Stokes was 34 years old, Northington 31. Stokes was buried in his home town, Covington, Tenn.. and Northington at Nashville, Tenn. May 4.

Mrs. Josephine Downs Lewis, mother of State, clashed on Doubleday Field, Man- which is a net nothing. Lloyd Lewis, sports editor of the Chicago lius winning, 9 to 2. Preceding the game, Things are, indeed, very, very hot on The infield includes Manager Alexander after a successful season at Thomasville, 26 players. If he makes the deal he includes Manager Alexander after a successful season at Thomasville, 26 players. If he makes the deal he includes Manager Alexander after a successful season at Thomasville, 26 players. Daily News, died from a heart ailment at the cadet corps of both schools paraded the luxurious Cubs. The season is young on first; Barnett, second; Red Marion, was expected to be a regular this season. trying to swing for a pitcher, two or three lands are the cadet corps of both schools paraded the luxurious Cubs.

#### Six Early 'Greats' Enter Game's Hall of Fame

Spalding, Anson, Ewing, Comiskey Among Pioneers Honored



#### Plaques at Cooperstown Also Will Commemorate Names of Radbourne, Cummings; All Latest Honorees Dead



IX more players, whose active service on the diamond ended before the turn of the century -Adrian Constantine (Pop) Anson, Charles A. (The Oid Roman) Comiskey, William Arthur Cummings, William B. (Buck) Ewing, Charles (Old

Hoss) Radbourne and Albert G. Spalding -have been added to baseball's Hall of Fame. Announcement of their selection was made, May 2, and the plaques combe placed in the shrine at Cooperstown N. Y., in time for the formal observance of the game's one hundredth anniversary there, June 12.

The six were chosen for immortalization by a committee consisting of Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis, President Ford C. Frick of the National League and President William Harridge of the American League, who, it was announced, collaboratarriving at their conclusions. In each case, the honor comes posthumously to the recipient, some having passed on many

Following is a brief sketch of each: ANSON-Born, Marshalltown, Ia., April 17. 1852. . . . Noted as first baseman, slugthrough 1875; Chicago Nationals, 1876; became manager, 1877 and continued through 1897. . . . Managed New York part of 1898. . . Retired. . . . Averaged .339 with bat hits for career, 3,081. . . . Led National League batters four times—1879, .407; 1881.

COMISKEY-Born, Chicago, Ill., August 15, 1859. . . . First Baseman noted for fielding skill and intuition. . . . Credited with loss after three wins. . . . Pinch-Hitter Le- being first to abandon custom of remaining Grant Scott's line single with two out, in glued to first base, Comiskey established ball and fanned Cooney to end the game last of ninth, gives Phillies run the precedence of bag. . . . First club, Elgin, Ill., 1877. . . last of ninth, gives Phillies run that beats precedence by roaming to right and rear Dubuque, Ia., 1878, through 1881. . . . St.

.399; 1887, .421; 1888, .343. . . Died, April

.. Manager, Browns, 1883, through 1889. . . Manager Chicago Brotherhood team, 1890. . . . St. Louis A. A., 1891. . . . Man- old Henry Martinez,

death, October 26, 1931.

. . Died, May 17, 1924.

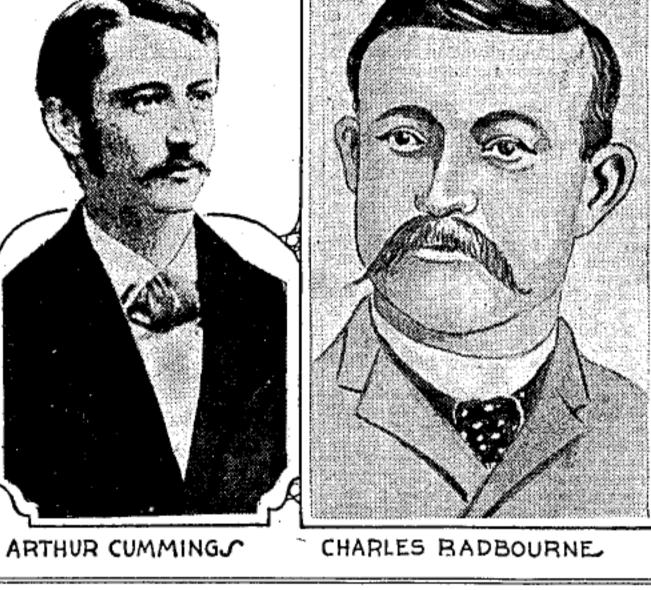
A Tribute to the Curve Ball.

EWING-Celebrated catcher, Born, Cincinnati, O., October 27, 1859. . . . Mohawk Browns, Cincinnati, 1878. . . . Troy, N. L., 1881, 1882. . . . New York Nationals, 1883, through 1889; New York Brotherhood, 1890. . . New York Nationals, 1892; Cleveland 1895, through 1899; manager New York, part of 1900. . . . Lifetime major batting average, .311. . . . Died November 20, 1906. RADBOURNE-Born, Rochester, N. Y. December 9, 1854. . . . Early pitching "great." . . . Also played in outfield. . ; Peoria, 1878; Dubuque, 1879; Buffalo, N. L., 1880. . . . Providence, N. L., 1881, through 1889. . . . Boston Brotherhood, 1890. . . Cincinnati, 1891, retiring in mid-season.

. . Won 57 games for Providence, 1884, including 18 straight, August 7 to September 6, some of early records crediting him with 60 victories that year. . . . Hurled no-hit game for Providence against Cleve-

before joining the Missouri Pacific. The 1877, began sporting goods business in tory over the Giants, May 8, has not been first contest to the Palatka Azaleas. came nationally known as A. G. Spalding come from a sort of minor feud that has play showed Manager Alexander leading & Bros. . . . Spalding also owned and oper- sprung up between the hard-pressed fling- the league hitters with a robust .429. ated Chicago Nationals, 1882-1891. . . . cago in 1876 against 13 defeats. . . . Died, a game as their average for the season. but also by heavy hitting, having averaged

Game Between Military Schools



#### Martinez, as Makeshift, Makes Good at Third Sack for Seattle

Youngster Fills Bill Expertly After Bad Breaks Twice Knock Club Out of Regular Hot Corner Men; Barrett, Gregory and Turpin Help Keep Rainiers Near Top



club's most fervent well-wishers didn't bases, but his hitting has been light. reckon with the potentialities of 22-year-

carart relegated Martinez to the bench. but, when Coffee Joe was injured. Hank CUMMINGS-Pitcher. . . . Credited with stepped back into the breach and his Late Fred Goldsmith claimed same dis- been important factors in keeping the club to enable Pitcher Red Ruffing to notch his Brooklyn Stars, 1868, 1871. . . . Mutuals, in the win column, particularly the in-

Barrett Leads With Six Wins,

in the club's early showing, with both has been using Joe Ondako at second, Gilly Campbell and Bud Hancken turning Stan Tilko at short and Jim Stanislow in fine work. Campbell is leading the at third. Behind the bat is Ted Bosciak, Rainier regulars with the stick. The most lavish praise, however, has Lutz, and Harry Nesselrode.

#### WHIP-CRACKING GABBY SHOWS CUBS HE'S BOSS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

his first disciplining in history. It may His father and mother hurried here when out the same statement that Jock Suthmean a deal of great magnitude-such as advised of his illness. W. C. FAUST. The one certain thing about the whole situation is that the Cubs, hailed in March as an unprecedented "happy family," were SPALDING-Born, Byron, Ogle County, left in an uproar such as rarely has exist-

ers and the Cubs' coterie of .100 and .200

salary tag has not served to oil troubled per game. waters. Last year, Dizzy was a novelty and, after all, had seven victories and Opens Cooperstown Celebration lost only one game. This year he hasn't special events to be held at Cooperstown four losing innings in the Monty Stratton

her home in Chicago, April 30. She was 77 to Doubleday Field, where WPA officials and maybe everything will be all right third, and Whitey Campbell, short. Pee- However, throughout the training season of these will go in the trade and thus years old and is survived also by a turned over the remodeled field to Mayor later on. Currently, though, hell truly is Gee Souter, Willie Skeen and Mayo Lang- he was handicapped by a sore arm.

R. D. Spraker of Cooperstown. a poppin, ED BURNS. ston are the outfielders. BUD FORD. WARREN BORNSCHEUER.

EATTLE, Wash. - When Dick gone to George Archie at first base. The Gyselman, the league's best big redhead has been dubbed "the Hal third baseman, was forced to Chase of the Coast League," not only be- they will hear a lot of comforting things the sidelines this spring with cause he's a fancy Dan with the glove, for the majority of the fans appear to gall bladder trouble, and Joe but he has shown he can bunt, drag, hit think that the Pirates, despite their in-Coscarart fractured his left behind runners, and clout for distance, juries, et cetera, will show up the knockankle three weeks after being besides being a nifty on the base paths. purchased from Hollywood, The most publicized member of the the moans emanating from the Rainier Rainiers, Jo-Jo White, has shown plenty camp were long and loud, for even the of fielding class and lots of zip on the

Attendance pacemakers of the minor leagues in 1938, when 437,000 paid to see The fleet-winged Spaniard, loaned to the Rainiers in action, the club gave manager, St. Paul, Western League, 1895- Seattle by Spokane of the Western Inter- tangible evidence of another banner sea-Dodgers for Luke Hamlin's initial defeat 1900. . . . Moved club to Chicago to enter national League, was thrust into the son by the large turnouts during the first their home stay, they feel they can make The club's southpaw department of Grisafter three victories. . . . Athletics option new American League as owner, 1901. . . . Seattle line-up opening day and showed two weeks at home, showing a sizable dinals release Outfielder Harold Epps to Continued as owner of White Sox until lack of steadiness. The purchase of Cos-LOUIS KARNOFSKY.

#### being first hurler to throw curve ball. . . . stepped back into the breach and his timely stickwork and steady fielding have Kain Shaping Up Baby Yanks

BUTLER, Pa. - The Butler Yankees, ability of Bill Walker to maintain the twice champions of the Pennsylvania poles round-tripper with bases full as phia, 1874; Hartford, 1875, 1876; Lynn, winning stride he struck at the start of State Association, open the season the the campaign. The smooth-styled left- night of May 12 with McKeesport, the hander has been hit hard his last four club they defeated in the play-offs for the championship last year.

> The Yanks, a green team, have been Kewpie Dick Barrett, with six wins at drilling under Manager Tom Kain for the this writing. Paul Gregory with five, and past two weeks and he has his talent well Hal Turpin have borne the brunt of the assorted. Mike Bell, a Long Island sand- The clever right-hander should have had son just because that young man haplot product, seems to have the call to a victory in the first game of the season pened to yield two singles and then pitch The catching staff has been a bright spot start at first. In exhibition games, Kain in Pittsburgh, a fluke hit to the infield a home run ball to Mel Ott at the Polo while in the outfield are John Kozel, Fred Charley Badger and Paul Slaninka, hold-

> > over pitchers, have been showing well in the drills, as has Karl Drews. Alfred Nickerson, six - foot - four - inch pitcher from Orleans, Mass., is in the But- eastern station to the effect that Pie before long. ler County Memorial Cospital in a serious Traynor was to be dismissed. When Bill condition, due to a gangrenous appendix. heard about the broadcast report, he gave

#### In Row for Dale Alexander

SANFORD, Fla.—The Sanford Lookouts, ter of so many sizzling situations of one under the leadership of Playing-Manager Chicago, with \$800 cash. . . . Business be- up to expectations, but this perhaps has The averages for the first two weeks of

> The club has held the No. 1 spot in The status of Dizzy Dean and his \$20,000 slightly less than 12 hits and ten runs The mound staff includes Sid Hudson,

COOPERSTOWN, N. Y.—The first of the been asked to do anything, except pitch two shut-outs in three starts; Dean, large righthander: Joe / Pinder, Cleo Jeter Juthis season, in observance of the game's game. And the snippy remarks from gents centennial, was staged May 6, when teams who get considerably less than \$20,000 Behind the plate, Red Lane, optioned representing Manlius and Albany acad- per annum aren't so guarded, although here by the Chattanooga Lookouts, is the Kerr, local boy, had been farmed out to continuously since the spring of 1935, next emies, military schools of New York no one has done much more than Diz, first-stringer, with Ward Byrnes as his DeLand of the Florida State League on a was sold to the Phillies at the waiver understudy.



ADRIAN C. ANSON

### COMEBACK OF CORSAIRS

Rally Follows Loss of Eight Tilts in Row, Longest String Under Pie; Sewell Gets Credit as Life-Saver



ITTSBURGH, Pa.-Pirate fans to a slow start. After his first 14 games Oldtimer, who said "It is al-

ways darkest before dawn," or words to that effect, was a real big-leaguer who had something on his fast one. It's been pretty black and dark in the National League cellar, but just when the gloom was at its worst depth, the Pittsburgh much promise for the future.

The Pittsburgh pilot and his club were scraping bottom with no helping hands being extended, after the Buccos had dropped eight games in a row, to register the longest losing streak charged against the club since Traynor took over the managerial reins in 1934, but when the outlook was darkest, Truett (Rip) Sewell came along with a beautiful hair-line decision over the Cincy Reds, as he comcame along with a beautiful hair-line de-cision over the Cincy Reds, as he com-pleted the first full game accredited any Pirate pitcher up to that date.

Heading eastward the same day, the Buccos proceeded to run their winning streak to four games as they measured the Dodgers and then took two at the expense of the Quakers. Unfortunately, they lost a bitter 1 to 0 duel to the Phillies, but in that contest, Joe Bowman, ailing for almost two years, proved to Boss Pie that he was the same Bowman who jumped off here two years ago by May 5 and 6, to help the Reds win bot winning five contests in succession.

The Pirates are due back in Pittsburgh for a long home stand beginning May 13, and even if they return in last place, ers and be in the race before long.

Chance to Get Acquainted at Home. And Forbes Field will look good to the Pirates. Aside from a couple of brief stopovers, the Pirates have been traveling almost continually since they left their California camp. Naturally, they are fed up on among them, Moore, Derringer and Wal-Pullman cars, and inasmuch as they are to meet all four of the eastern clubs in enough hay to show some profit, both from an artistic and a financial stand-

That the "soft" clubs-if there be any about them being able to hold up their n the senior loop-are in the East is the end in the long run. contention of the Pirates, who bucked Vander Meer Handicapped by Late Start. the Reds, Cubs and Cardinals with little Grissom has pitched ably in his two out-At Butler for Penn Campaign the Reds, Cubs and Cardinals the race. ings, allowing exactly two earned runs success in the first ten days of the race. ings, allowing exactly two earned runs in 11 innings. Vander Meer missed so Pep Young has been laid up for more in 11 innings. Vander Meer missed than a week with a bad leg, which is not much time from spring training, because so nice to ponder when one figures that of illness while in Tampa, and then ran friends and enemies declare that Pep is into so much bad weather after he rethe best fielding keystone tender in the joined his club in Greensboro, N. C. National League. However, Lee Hand- April 8, that he simply is not yet ready ley is back, and the Jeeper has been to hurl at top speed. And both he and doing a great job in the field, at bat and Grissom have had more than their share

> the best pitchers in the National League. nor has he weakened any on Gene Thompand a bad throw by Rizzo turning the Grounds, May 2, to give the Giants an game toward the Cardinals. Bob held the to 7 winner when the Reds seemingly had Dodgers to three hits as the Buccos jumped the game won, 7 to 5. authored a beautiful five-hit win.

> Prexy Bill Benswanger was peeved over a wild rumor put on the air waves by an to his staff. This deal may come to a head erland voiced when the air waves carried the Reds or some one of their chief penthe wild announcement he would manage the Detroit Lions, to wit: "I would not wants him as much for the good he bedignify the report with a denial." CHARLES J. DOYLE.

#### Baltimore Welcomes Return of J. Reninger from Athletics

BALTIMORE, Md. - The Baltimore mound corps received a much-needed acquisition in the return of Jim Reninger, the six-foot-three-inch hurler, on option from the Philadelphia Athletics. The Orioles, near the tail-end of the

1938 campaign, sold Reninger to Connie Credited with pitching 47 wins for Chi- hitters, who appear to have set one run standing not only through fine pitching. Mack for \$20,000, the outright release of one player and the promise of five on option, one of whom is Shortstop Bill

> place Birds. At the close of the year, he optioned to Columbus. Pitcher Gene joined Mack and started four times, being Schott, only home-grown Red who has bounced from three.

#### QUICK-STEP OF REDS DUE TO FASTER RUNS

MAY 11

CLUB 20 TALLIES AHEAD OF TOTAL AT SAME TIME LAST YEAR

Three Righthanders Share Team's First Nine Victories; McKechnie Dickering for Another Classy Hurler



NCINNATI, O. —Despite the fact that they started

the fact that they started the past week with a three-game losing streak and played a lot of poor ball while winning the three games which followed, this town's Reds wound up the week ending May 7 in first place in the National League race. And that seems to be where they belong. The Rhinelanders now have played all their foes except the Brooklyn Dodgers and have not yet seen a team which they are willing to admit is superior to themselves, or even as good. And that goes for the Giants, even though the Reds lost the only two games they have played with Bill Terry's entry in the flag chase.

The Giants didn't beat the Reds those two games. Bill McKechnie's men beat themselves.

The Reds have seen no other team so far with as much good pitching or as

far with as much good pitching or as much batting power as they possess, while the fielding end of their defense is at least the equal of what any team has shown against them and would be superior if Third Baseman Bill Werber would steady down and play the defensive ball of which he has shown he is capable. Werber has made numerous dandy plays. But he also has made more than his share of errors

than his share of errors.

An odd thing about the great offense displayed by the Reds in their first 14 games is that the big man of their attack PUTS CARPERS ON FENCE so far has not done much with the bat. But despite Ernie Lombardi's failure to hit up to anything approaching his normal spring gait, the club is going ahead at a better winning percentage than last year and also is scoring oftener, although hitting for a slightly smaller team percentage. Last year, the Reds won six and lost eight of their first 14 games. This year it was nine and five.

> and backers, including a cou- last season, he was hitting at a .362 clip. ple of gentlemen named Pie In his first 14 games this year, he hit for the same figures, but transposed to read 20 Runs Ahead of Last Year. In 1938, the Reds scored 60 runs in their first 14 games, in which they made 24 dou-

Lombardi usually is a demon with the

bat in the spring, but this year he is off

bles, six triples, nine homers and hit for a team average of .291. This year, they scored 80 runs in the first 14 and hit 24 doubles, eight triples and 12 homers while

compiling a team mark of .286. It's runs that win games and the Red bosses caught flashes of sunshine that held are making them. Their defense has no been quite as good in some respects a at the getaway last spring, but in other it has been superior. Their pitchers held the enemy to a .263 batting mark in th first 14 games last year. This season, th opposition hit .273 in the Reds' first contests. But whereas the Cincinnat pitchers fanned only 36 and walked 4

allowed only 53 runs, fanned 72 (twice a many as last year) and walked 49. More self assurance is among the factors which have made the Reds a bette team so far this spring than last. Whe they need a double play to take them or of an inning, they frequently make it. the stage of the game seems to require strike-out, their pitcher appears equal the job, this being especially true of Buck Walters and Whitey Moore, Between them, that pair fanned 17 of Boston's Bees games and regain first place from Case Stengel's hirelings. And most of the

whiffs came with runners in a position

Moore pitched the last nine innings the 5 to 4, 13-inning game, May 5, finish ing up after two errors by Werber had helped the Bees get three unearned run off Lefty Grissom's flinging. That wa Whitey's third victory of the year. The next day. Walters pitched his third suc cess. And the following afternoon, Pau Derringer coasted to a 13 to 4 victory over the Phillies for his third triumph. So ters, all righthanders, landed the Reds nine victories in the club's first 14 games som, Johnny Vander Meer and Pete Naktenis, has yet to bag a decision, but no one connected with the club is worrying

of bad pitching luck, too.

Bob Klinger is shaping up like one of McKechnie has not weakened on either

off with a victory in Brooklyn, and a few | Although the Reds' pitching staff now days later he made the Bees eat out of seemingly shapes up as the best in the his hand. In Boston, Jimmy Tobin also league because McKechnie has more capable hurlers than any other manager, he is trying to add another high-class flinger

The pitcher he seeks-and he is not naming the man or his club-is pretty certain to be transferred before long to nant rivals. And McKechnie not only lieves he can do Cincinnati's team as to keep a strong rival from strengthening by adding him. Bill believes he can offer a more attractive trade than any other manager who is participating in the bidding, but whether his offer will be ac-

cepted remains to be seen. McKechnie wants another pitcher of class, because 18 double-headers already are on his club's schedule, with the prospect of more to come.

Four changes were made in the Reds playing roster last week as McKechnie began getting ready for the 25-player limit to go into effect, May 18. Jimmy Wilson former manager of the Phillies, first was transferred from the status of coach to that of player, and signed a new contract, giving McKechnie three catchers Shortstop Nolen Richardson, a great player for the Reds last year when Billy Myers Reninger last season won six games and was disabled, was released outright to the hold-over from last year, who pitched dropped eight with the hopeless eighth- Indianapolis club. Pitcher Earl Cook was been the Cincinnati club's property all The Orioles also announced that Don his professional baseball life, and a Red 24-hour recall basis. The young hurler, price. These changes left McKechnie with

bring him down to or under the limit.

TOM SWOPE