

HEMSLEY NOMINATED FOR SENATORIAL POST

WASHINGTON REPORT SAYS BOLTON WILL MOVE ELSEWHERE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Owner Clark Griffith of the Senators has been saying little concerning prospective off-season activities of the Washington club since the team came back from the World's Series in New York with memories of a powerful Yankee team sweeping over the Giants much in the same manner in which they swept over seven American League flag contenders.

The feat of the Yankees in winning the pennant by 1 1/2 games, plus their impressive showing in the series, is not calculated to create a sense of satisfaction among many of the American League club owners in their own minds. Griffith, however, will be an exception. His Senators missed second place by half a game, but even if they had achieved that goal they hardly would have rated being called serious flag contenders.

Nothing has happened so far to disturb any of the popular trade rumors about town, particularly that which links the name of Rollie Hemsley of the Browns with Washington. Rollie has no reputation as a model of a Y. M. C. A. secretary, but he can catch, hit and run, and when the Senators have needed since Luke Sewell was sold down the river, is an able catcher. Griffith had hoped Cliff Bolton would develop into a backstop capable of filling Sewell's shoes, but somehow the stocky North Carolinian never acquired much polish behind the bat and when he took his "powder" last month, with the club in the thick of the second-place fight, Griffith about gave up on him.

Bolton's Act Hard to Forget. In Bolton's defense it must be stated that he was bothered by the trade rumors, but neither Griffith nor Harris has quite forgiven him for taking French leave when he was ordered to stay in Washington.

It has been rumored in Detroit that Bolton eventually would be traded to the three-cornered deal among the Senators, Browns and Tigers.

Cliff's departure caused the Senators to send for Francis (Shanty) Hogan, the old Giant and Brave who was catching for Albany Shantley. Hogan is a proven catcher, but while there is no doubt about his hitting and backstopping, Hogan is not agile enough to suit the Washington bosses.

Of course, if he can take off 20 or 30 feet in this winter, Griffith and Harris are planning to sign him. Griffith and Harris are fearful of putting too much faith in the staff as it stands.

Deal With White Sox Almost Certain. From the White Sox has come a rumored offer of Pitcher John Whitehead and First Baseman Zeke Bonura for Joe Kuhel, but Earl Whitehill and Buck Newsom won 31 games this winter. Griffith and Harris are fearful of putting too much faith in the staff as it stands.

Ben Chapman and Johnny Stone seem destined to remain in the state of Jess Hill and Carl Reynolds is doubtful if he will be a book of most critics. So is that of Newsom, as well as Bolton, and if the suspicion that Washington will do big business at the winter market is true, it is expected that these names will figure prominently.

Most of the wild rumors circulating hereabout to date link the Browns and the Senators. In addition to Hemsley, rumor mongers have named Griffith and possibly Jack Knott will wear Washington spangles in 1937. Myer Bolton has been advised to go apartment hunting in St. Louis. There has not been confirmation of any of these rumors.

The local off-season golfing club, heretofore composed chiefly of Harris, Griffith and Secretary Eddie Eynon, Jr., has been augmented by Myer's presence in town as well as that of Joe Cronin, who will spend most of the winter here. Griffith and Eynon still can spare the 38,499 spectators, who contributed to a gate receipt total of \$11,920.85. The American Cardinals ranked second with an attendance of 28,862 and receipts of \$9,981.95.

Cardinals' last-hurl championship Redlegs proved a fine replacement for the faltering Panama City, Fla., Pilots, who held the franchise a year ago. The Reds attracted 28,593 customers whose ticket purchases amounted to \$9,945.89 in five first-year-for-the-league with 38,499 spectators, who contributed to a gate receipt total of \$11,920.85.

Exactly 158,158 customers paid \$51,418.35 to see games in the six parks of the league. Last year's report showed only 121,971 tickets sold for a sum of \$40,707.65. Albany's Travelers duplicated their 1935 performance to lead the league with 38,499 spectators, who contributed to a gate receipt total of \$11,920.85.

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Moultrie copped fourth place in the financial standings, while Tallahassee's pennant-winning Capitals ranked fifth with the last-place Thomasville club finishing sixth in attendance. RAYMOND DUNCAN.

Luke Appling 'Fretted Self' Into A. L. Batting Crown

'Just Lucky,' He Says, but Pitchers Have Another Term for His Lusty Hitting

Dykes Kept Sox Star

Keyed Up by Declining to Recognize His Work

The First Shortstop and Only Pale Hose Player Ever to Finish on Top in Averages, Likewise He's the Youngest Leader Since 1926; Poled Six Homers

By DICK FARRINGTON

ONCE again a Tunnyay has outpointed a Dempsey—a whole regiment of Dempseys, gents with a wallop—to gain the American League batting title. Last year, it was Buddy Myer of the Senators who won the decision over such redoubtable sluggers as Joe Vismik, Lou Gehrig, Jimmy Fox, Hank Greenberg, Grayley Gehring, et al., and this time we find the surprising Luke Appling of the equally surprising White Sox riding the airy pinnacle of that tabular stack of numerals which Babe Ruth calls the hitting figures.

Moreover, Appling at 25 is the youngest player to win the league batting title since Heinie Manush, then with Detroit, gained the peak in 1926. And Luke's average of .338 is the highest since Al Simmons hit .390 for the A's in 1923. There is an intimate parallel in the ascendancy of Appling, the 1936 champ, and Myer, who took the honors last year. Neither is a home run swinger. Myer hit five for the round trip in 1935 and Appling only six in getting up his remarkable average. His success generally came from nowhere, considering their previous season's marks, to rise majestically to the top. Myer's 1934 average was .305 and Appling finished the 1935 campaign with .307.

Cheer Leader and Balance Staff—Without Portfolio

BUT make no mistake about the author of the reverse-haired, fanned-out hair, Appling as the king-pin of the swatters in his league, nor the inspirational work he did for the White Sox, whose stumbling in the last two weeks of the season knocked them out of second place. Luke, a young man who credits good fortune for his success this year more than anything else, was, in his own way, the cheer leader and the balancing power of Jimmy Dykes' team. Day after day, when he picked up his lead steam, he helped take the heart out of opposing pitchers. He understood a sizzling line singles over the infielders' heads, and the records show that he personally accounted for 226 runs for the Sox.

Nor was his task an easy one. First, there was Lou Gehrig, whom he had to shake off, then his teammate, Rip Radcliff, and in the end, a determined challenge by Earl Averill. But it was all in a season's work for Appling. "I don't know how to explain my improved hitting," said the whiffing "Libby," who stands a trifle less than five feet 11. "I've been lucky, I guess. But it was about time I did something because there were a couple of years I put in with the Sox when I wouldn't have been surprised if they fired me."

And while the Chicago fans were sizing up Appling as a pretty good hitter this year, they suddenly came to the realization that he was just about the best shortstop in the league, as well. Luke can field with the best of them and his arm, while a trifle off on accuracy for several seasons, is now recognized as one of the best and truest in the business.

These points of excellency, which developed rapidly the past season, support the judgment of the three Sox managers under whom Luke has played. First, Donie Bush, then Lew Fonseca and third, Dykes, who maintained that the Atlanta, Ga., lad would arrive.

Luke got there with a bang. Appling is a rather strange type of athlete as ball players go. He is a fretter, so much so, that his mates have nicknamed him "Libby," after Libby Holman, the famed blues singer. He cannot be driven, the clever handling of him by the Sox. Dykes being credited in no small measure with his 1936 success.

It is claimed that Luke does his best playing when he is worrying and the story goes that Dykes kept him in an uncertain frame of mind throughout the year with his little jabs and jibes at periods when Appling was disposed to show signs of smugness and self-sufficiency.

Luke, who was christened Lucius Benjamin Appling, is a junior, his dad having been a member of the Atlanta detective force before going into the furniture business in the Georgia metropolis. He came into the world at High Point, N. C., April 2, 1909, but was transplanted to Atlanta as a child, and it was there he took to baseball as a kid.

Senior Appling never played ball, but he has always been an enthusiastic fan, and it was his eagerness to have Luke take up the pastime that came near causing Mother Appling to put her foot down on the idea.

One day, when Luke was about six years old, his dad came home with a glove and hard ball. He took Junior out into the

back yard and little Luke caught the first toss right on the nose. There was a lot of yowling around the Appling household for a few minutes and Mother Appling told Papa Appling that she never wanted to see another baseball around the house.

There were other baseballs around the house, and gloves, but by this time Luke had learned that he was supposed to catch the ball before it reached his beazer.

Then, there was that day when Detective Lucius B. Appling gave Junior his orders on what to do around the house in the way of chores after he got home from school. Luke knew what these orders meant, but he got mixed up in a ball game and the head of the house was home before he had time to carry out the chore instructions.

"And was my father sore?" chortled Appling. "He had a razor strop hanging in the kitchen and gave me a good honing with it. But this didn't stop my ball playing, and today Dad is a great fan."

Always Played at Shortstop, Even in High School Days. AFTER getting his credits at Fulton High School, where he played shortstop, Luke went to the University of Georgia, where he played shortstop under the coaching of Byrd Hope, once with the Senators. Appling entered Oglethorpe University. Here Frank Anderson was the coach and Luke quickly made the team. During the summer months he played with the LaCrosse, Ga., semi-pro team to earn his tuition.

His second year at Oglethorpe, in 1930, Appling hit four home runs against Mercer College in the final game of the school schedule. Nap Rucker, who kept an industrious eye on future greats for the Dodgers, wanted to sign him, but he demurred at the terms offered and in June was signed by R. J. Spiller, then owner of the Atlanta club.

Appling had been fairly well coached in the ways of baseball finances and his proposition with Spiller was that he was to receive 25 per cent of his purchase price if he was sold. Before the 1930 season was three months old, his contract was taken over by the White Sox for something like \$52,000. So, Luke cashed in handsomely on the deal and—well, the Sox didn't fare so badly, either.

The youngster was scouted by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Largent—the only man and wife ivory hunting team in captivity—who motored from their home in McKinney, Tex., to Little Rock to get an eye for an eye. Largent was a trifle skeptical of paying so much money for a first-year rookie, just out of university, but the story goes that Mrs. Largent insisted the player had the "goods" and finally talked Roy into recommending him to the Chicago club.

Luke joined the Chicago team late in September and played in the first big league game he ever saw. He was in six contests that fall, making eight hits for a .308 average.

But there were to be some mixings for Appling in the opening game of the 1931 season, Wes Ferrell, then with Cleveland, fanning him the four times he faced him.

Appling married Fay Dodd of Atlanta, with whom he went to high school, February 13, 1932.

There are no children, but Luke is looking ahead, hopeful it'll be a boy and perhaps a future batting champion.

STEPS HIGH ON SHORT SOCKS



HOME SWEET HOME

APPLING PERSONALLY ACCOUNTED FOR 233 RUNS FOR THE SOX

I REALLY OUGHTA BE A PITCHER

—ALWAYS A GOOD FIELDER— HE HAS STEADIED HIS THROWING ARM AND NOW FINDS HIMSELF ONE OF THE BEST SHORT STOPS IN THE BUSINESS

ONLY A DOUBLE— I HOPE JIMMY WON'T BE SORE

HE SEEMS AT HIS BEST WHEN FRETTING— SO DYKES KEEPS HIM ON THE ANKIOUS SEAT

LUKE APPLING THE FIRST SHORT STOP AND THE FIRST WHITE SOX TO WIN THE AMERICAN LEAGUE BATTING CROWN

back yard and little Luke caught the first toss right on the nose. There was a lot of yowling around the Appling household for a few minutes and Mother Appling told Papa Appling that she never wanted to see another baseball around the house. There were other baseballs around the house, and gloves, but by this time Luke had learned that he was supposed to catch the ball before it reached his beazer. Then, there was that day when Detective Lucius B. Appling gave Junior his orders on what to do around the house in the way of chores after he got home from school. Luke knew what these orders meant, but he got mixed up in a ball game and the head of the house was home before he had time to carry out the chore instructions. "And was my father sore?" chortled Appling. "He had a razor strop hanging in the kitchen and gave me a good honing with it. But this didn't stop my ball playing, and today Dad is a great fan."

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BREWERS GET JUNIOR WORLD'S SERIES TROPHY



FOR THE first time in the long history of the Junior World's Series, the victorious club was awarded a trophy when The Sporting News Cup emblematic of the championship, was presented to Manager Al Sotheron of the Milwaukee Brewers, following the last game of the series with the Buffalo Bisons, October 1. The cup became the permanent property of the American Association pennant-winners, who trounced the International League champions. Picture shows Manager Sotheron accepting the trophy from Herman D. White (center), president of the Northern League, representing President W. G. Bramham of the National Association on the board of governors for the series. Looking on, at right, is William J. Manley, secretary-treasurer of the International League, and represented Warren Giles and George Trautman, president of the International League and American Association, respectively.

TERRY DISAPPOINTED AT LOSING COLLINS

GIANTS' PILOT FIGURED HE HAD CARD FIRST BASEMAN IN BAG

Memphis Bill Must Find Third Sacker, Pitcher and Catcher; Yanks Thought Good Enough to Win Again

NEW YORK, N. Y.—This old town by the Hudson already has forgotten the World's Series. It helped to make an eighth million dollar classed in set records galore. And now that the series is in the records and the Yankees have won the title over the Giants by four games to two, as had been expected, New York already is looking toward 1937. And so are the two ball clubs. The very day after the series had closed, Bill Terry tackled the problem of reorganizing the Giants to meet the more stringent requirements of the 1937 race. Terry admitted that his club, despite its great finish in the race, did not suit him. Bill said that during the World's Series he had been approached by Clarence Rowland, an agent for the Cubs, with a trade proposition. Being engrossed in the task of trying to beat the Yankees, Terry accepted Rowland to come back later. It is suspected that Rowland offered Woody English, Phil Cavarretta and Gabby Hartnett as well as an outfielder.

Or perhaps Lon Warneke was included in the proposition. At any rate, Terry told Rowland to return, and the next thing Bill knew, Warneke had been sent to St. Louis for Parmelee and Collins. When we talked with Terry, he said that he planned to start Johnny McCarthy next season. Terry definitely is finished. While Terry talked about McCarthy, he gave the impression that he was thinking about Collins.

In landing Collins, Charley Grimm undoubtedly forestalled Terry. Bill said, "I have read that the Cubs will not let Collins go to New York or Chicago, but at the time that Collins idea was in the back of Terry's head."

There's Plenty in the Air. Now it may be McCarthy at first, or Les Fowers, bought from Baltimore—or Cavarretta. The Giants are going to considerable trading, so watch out for action within a month. Terry will be back in New York in December, then go to the minor league meeting in Montreal next week for the National League session here December 7.

Terry is through, and so is Travis Jackson. In fact, from the interview we had with the manager of the Giants, few of his athletes are safe from the trading bin. "We have plenty of trading material, mainly outfielders and a pitcher," said Memphis Bill.

But soon afterward he said, "I must get a first baseman and a third baseman. Whitehead, at second, and Bartell, at short, are OK. And if they come along with a proposition I would be willing to consider anything which would improve our ball club."

This is taken to mean that Terry has no certainties for 1937, except Carl Hubbell. Bill let the cat out of the bag when he said, "I am finished. The fans in New York want new faces. They are tired of looking at me. Besides, my leg is terrible and I've got to have it operated on, if only for golf and ploughing." And Bill had a good laugh.

New faces! What does that mean? It surely means, for one thing, that if the Cubs come in with a real offer for Hank Leiber, Bill will talk turkey. English won't.

Eddie Mayo, whom Terry bought in mid-season from Baltimore to replace Jackson, won't do, either. Bill said that the young Polish lad from over in Jersey hadn't shown him enough, and that at this would be a serious danger that Mayo would be an abdominal rupture sewed up in camp at Havana, where the Giants start work as early as February 19. They will have to put on a big game with a Havana club on February 24—Cuban independence day.

Danning to Have New Address. Terry wants: 1, a first sacker; 2, a third baseman; 3, another top flight pitcher; 4, another catcher in place of Harry Danner, who was shaky with his manager before the World's Series and lost out on a contract for three or four games in the ninth inning of the play-off series. In the meantime, Terry is making plans for the training season. Hank DeBerry will run a free school for pitchers at the Greenwood, Miss., farm. The Giants will have camp at Havana until March 14, the go to Florida to play three or four games. From Florida they will move to Gulfport, Miss., for a week or so and then join the Indians at New Orleans. They will travel north again with the Cleveland club.

Sam Lesha has gone to St. Louis to help with the Dixie Series in going to stand pat. There will be a new outfielder—Ernie Koy, from Newark. There may be new pitching. Myril Hoag must be set down as doubtful, and so must Roy Johnson and Bob Seeds.

The pitching look as if it could stand considerable tinkering. The club looks grand, otherwise.

Joe DiMaggio, who got eight grand this past season, brought his ma and brother-in-law to see Ed Barrow the other day and it is believed that Joe signed a new contract. Colonel Jack Ruppert is going to French Lick, Indiana, right after election day and Barrow and McCarthy, as well as George Weiss, will go with Jake. In the meantime, Barrow has gone to Hackley, N. Y., to spend some time with Joe McCarthy, a song writer and not the manager—on his farm. DANIEL M. DANIEL.

They'll Watch Their Step Now; Sheriff Heads Clarksdale Club. CLARKSDALE, Miss.—At the annual meeting of stockholders and directors of the Clarksdale Baseball Association, Lee Matthews, sheriff of Coahoma County, was elected president along with four other new directors, J. Lake Roberson, N. D. West, Whitman Johnson and Chauncey Smith. Matthews and Roberson were elected for two-year terms and the others for one year each. The number of directors was reduced from nine to five for the 1937 season. John H. Garmon is the retiring club president.

An audit for the year showed a net profit for the club of \$800. Several players were sold near the end of the season, the deals more than offsetting in profits the weak attendance of the last-placed team. Directors of the club serve without pay. Stockholders are local townspeople who raised funds for purchase of the club two years ago by the popular subscription route. CHAS. M. HILLS.

DIXIE SERIES PRICES STIR PROTEST IN BIRMINGHAM

Newspaper Calls Boost in Ticket Scale 'One Flaw in Otherwise Great Season'

Small Crowd at Second Game

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The Dixie Series as far as Birmingham was concerned, failed to set the woods on fire. The Barons, with one of the largest parks in the Southern Association, drew only 1,000 fans to the best baseball town in minor league territory, did not respond in attendance for the Dixie classic. At the second game of the series on the night of October 5, only a few more than 2,000 persons passed through the turnstiles. The first game, played on Sunday afternoon, October 4, drew slightly more than 8,000 fans.

The Sunday contest produced receipts of \$10,798.21, of which \$5,028.51 went into the players' pool. The National Association received \$258, Texas and Southern leagues, \$2,094.51; Birmingham club \$837.80; other Southern Association clubs \$837.80; Texas League clubs \$1,675.61.

In view of the splendid attendance at games throughout the regular season and at the play-off between Birmingham and Nashville and New Orleans, two conclusions might be drawn. Fans were either disgusted with what some viewed as a trick series for the championship of the south, or the high prices of tickets held down the crowds.

Box seats sold at \$2.25, grandstand seats at \$1.25, and bleacher admissions at \$1.00. In other words, the price was just about double the regular-season tariff and as fans as the prices were advertised, the fans started quawking.

Action Brings Scorching Criticism. The Birmingham Age-Herald ran a scorching editorial, condemning the moguls of the Dixie Series for boosting the prices too high.

"These prices were a great mistake," said the newspaper. "We do not know whether custom, league tradition or rule, or what, is primarily to blame. But let it be hoped that whatever or whoever is to blame clearly sees the light now and gets rid of another Dixie Series comes to town."

"This mistake was the one flaw in what otherwise has been a great baseball season. Its costliness, its short-sightedness, are manifest in many ways."

"It would have been so much better, even in the short view, to have had the near-capacity crowds that probably would have attended at lower prices. The actual money intake would likely have been quite a great one. The greater crowds would have made the game so much more spirited, so much more of a spectacle."

Many fans felt that although they had been attending regular season games of the series, they had not been given a square deal in the Dixie Series. As far as available criticism was heard of the Shaughnessy system, followed in both the Texas League and Southern Association. Instead of a meeting between the regular-season first-place teams in each league, it was pointed out that the Dixie Series brought together the third-place clubs in each loop.

ROBERT H. BROWN. Dwyer and Grace Establish New Marks in Southern Loop. MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Two individual playing records were established, one of long standing tied and one missed by a narrow margin, but various others were not approached in the thirty-sixth annual campaign of the Southern Association.

Joseph Michael Dwyer of Orange, N. J., Nashville's 28-year-old rookie, some came from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., set one batting mark and barely missed another. The left-handed hitting outfielder, who was the outstanding freshman of the league and was sold to Birmingham, drew out 65 doubles to break the record of 53 set by Harry Strohm, second baseman of Little Rock, in 1930. Dwyer made 230 hits, to fall short of the record of 236 made by George C. Beckett, outfielder of Atlanta, in 1925. Dwyer participated in 154 games, all except one played by the Vols. Joe Grace, 20-year-old rookie outfielder of Memphis playing his second season in professional sports, made nine straight hits for a league record, as far as available figures reveal. In 1917, Frank Thrasher, outfielder of Atlanta, made eight in a row. Grace's string was made in three days, with two games in Atlanta and one in Memphis. Thrasher compiled his mark in a double-header. Grace came to Memphis from Paducah of the Kitty League, where he had his coming-out party in 1935.