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All-Boston Series Frenzy Sweeps Hub

Ashburn Acclaimed Rookie of Year

**Phil Outfielder
Steady Batter,
Flash on Paths**

**Richie, 21, Was Hitting .330
With 32 Thefts at Time
of August Injury**

By J. G. TAYLOR SPINK
ST. LOUIS, Mo.

For the second time in three years a product of the Phillies' farm system has been named the Rookie of the Year by THE SPORTING NEWS.

Richie Ashburn, sensational 21-year-old blond outfield flash whose exploits have thrilled thousands of fans in National League cities, who leads the league in stolen bases, who is third in the circuit in batting, and who is regarded as the fastest player in the majors, was selected for the distinction.

Two years ago, Del Ennis, home-run hitting outfielder of the Phillies, who had 17 circuit clouts in his freshman year, was named. Both Ennis and Ashburn made the National League all-star team in their initial seasons. Last season Jackie Robinson of Brooklyn was accorded the Rookie of the Year award.

Late in August, Ashburn suffered a fracture of his left hand while stealing his thirty-first base with his characteristic head-first slide. However, the Phillies' young flash already had clinched the Rookie of the Year distinction by his skilful work in the field, his thrilling catches, fast thinking, strong throwing and fine batting—his colorful all-round play. He was batting .330 when he was sidelined by his injury.

Joined Phils from Utica

Like Ennis, Ashburn made a quick jump from the minors to the big leagues. Ennis played only with Trenton in the Inter-State League before he went to the Phillies. Ashburn jumped to the Phils from Utica in the Eastern League.

Ashburn not only demonstrated the ability, but also the courage that goes to make great ball players. His fractured hand was the result of a slide into second base in the fourth inning of the first game of a double-header, yet he said nothing about the seriousness of his injury and stole his thirty-second base in the eighth inning. It was not until the final half of the eighth frame that a low line drive knocked the glove off his numbed hand and Eddie Sawyer, manager of the Phillies, realized the nature of the injury.

Even then, Ashburn asked to remain in the lineup. "Just tape up the hand and I can play the second game," he said. "Gosh, I can beat out bunts and help to win."

It was the second time in his career that Ashburn had been seriously hurt and insisted on playing. A year ago at Utica, he twisted his ankle sliding into second base. Sawyer, who was managing Utica, went out to see what had happened. Ashburn took off his shoe. The ankle instantly swelled so much he could not get the shoe back on.

Ashburn looked up at Sawyer, and asked: "Is there any rule in this league

Cream of the Crop

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By Mullin



Pilot Changes Rumored; Mack May Decide to Quit

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Among persistent reports that several managerial changes will be made in the major leagues for 1949, the most interesting was the rumored possibility that Connie Mack would decide to retire. This was linked with a report that a newspaper publisher has been angling for the purchase of the Athletics.

If Mack should retire and the club remains in the hands of the Mack and Shibe families, Earle Brucker, now a coach of the A's, was expected to move in as Mack's successor.

Some observers doubt whether Steve O'Neill will return as Detroit manager, with Dizzy Trout and Doc Cramer mentioned as possible successors. Jack Onslow, who did a good job at Memphis for the Chicago White Sox, has been reported as Chicago bound.

It is considered improbable that Eddie Dyer will be dismissed by the Cardinals, but he may decide to quit. Indications are that Coaches Wares and Kaufmann, holdovers from the Bredon ownership, may not return.

With the Yankees not doing so well in the stretch, reports about Bucky Harris losing out may be more than mere rumor.

Dodgers Drop Olean Farm, Will Lop Off Others for '49

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Reports out of Olean, N. Y., revealing that the Brooklyn Dodgers would sever their connections with the Class D Pony League club there next season, also indicated that Olean was one of eight clubs in the Dodger chain that would be eliminated. Spencer F. Harris, Olean club president, said Johnstown of the Class C Middle Atlantic League and five other Class D clubs, as well as a Class A affiliate, would be dropped by the Dodgers.

This report, following the recent disclosure by the Pittsburgh Pirates that they would lop off 12 in their chain next season, and the uncertainties of the military draft caused considerable concern in other cities with teams sponsored by major league clubs.

Harold Roettger, director of the Brooklyn farm system, confirmed that the Dodgers would not operate the outright-owned Olean club in 1949, but added: "We have no plans to drop other ownership affiliations, nor is it likely that we will drop five working agreements." However, it is understood that Johnstown, which had a working agreement with Brooklyn, will not be a member of the Dodger system next year.

"It is entirely possible that we may go next year with three or four fewer clubs than we now have," Roettger added, "but we do not contemplate any radical reduction program and, as a matter of fact, will consider desirable new affiliations, if and when offered."

The Dodgers now have 28 clubs in their system. The Olean franchise, it is said, will be offered to a local group there.

With 58 minor leagues operating in 1948, most of them composed of farm clubs, young talent was thinly distributed. Farm operators are frankly worried over inroads the military draft will make on this material, for it includes the bulk of players they control in the minors, from 19 to 25 years old.

Marse Joe, Billy the Kid Kings of City

**Hotels Already Swamped
by Flood of Requests
for Reservations**

By DAN DANIEL
BOSTON, Mass.

Pennant fever is raging as never before in old St. Botolph's town. What with the Red Sox leading the American and the Braves setting the pace in the National, the "Hub of the Universe" feels confident that for the first time in its history it will have the World's Series all to itself.

Not without utter chagrin did Boston see New York steal the whole show on so many occasions, the latest in 1947, when the Yankees and the Dodgers put on the classic.

Now Boston is very much inclined to thumb its classic nose at Pop Knickerbocker, and Joe McCarthy and Billy Southworth are the kings of the civilized world and adjoining territories.

Boston is convinced that the fates arranged things for a Hub classic on a ten-cent fare.

Otherwise, how would Tom Yawkey have been able to lure McCarthy out of retirement on his farm at Amherst, N. Y.?

Otherwise, how would Lou Perini have been able to lure Southworth away from St. Louis in the face of Billy's manifest success with the Cardinals?

\$40 for Night Game Seat

Precisely how things shape up around here may be indicated from a conversation I had with a furtive gent on the evening of September 8. He accosted me as I stepped out of the Kenmore Hotel, where the Yankees stop here.

"Two fine seats on the third base line?" the F. G. said.

I inquired about the tariff. "I will sell them for \$40. And one hour from now, \$50," he replied.

That's what is going on in the Hub—\$40 for a pair of seats for a night game between the Yankees and the Red Sox. Can you possibly imagine what will develop around Boston if the Red Sox and the Braves tangle in the best out of seven?

Of course, New York is the ideal place for a World's Series. Its transportation facilities swallow up classic crowds, both inside the city and coming into and out of it. Its hotels make no ado about a World's Series—just another bunch of people to be taken care of. Its after-dark entertainments are varied and many.

However, since New York can't have the classic, Boston will be a fine spot for it. Yes, for the whole competition. Boston came into the National League back in 1876. It won the pennant in 1877 and repeated in 1878. It got the flag again in 1883, and in 1891 started on a sequence of three consecutive pennant triumphs. It won again in 1897 and 1898.

However, after that, drought set in and not until 1914, when George Stalings and his Miracle Braves not only took the pennant, but whipped the



Lou Perini

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2, COL. 1)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2, COL. 2)

Phils' Hitters Fail to Follow **Richie's** Hot Leadoff Pace

Ashburn Reverses His Slow Start of Last Season; Vet. Meeting Ball Solidly and Drawing More Walks

By ALLEN LEWIS

LOS ANGELES, Calif.

In both 1957 and 1958 the Phillies stumbled through April trying to climb over the .500 mark. Last year the pitching, which carried the club later on, got off to a slow start, but the reverse was true this season. The batters knocked home the fewest runs in the National League and the pitchers allowed fewer tallies than any staff except the Braves' gilt-edged crew in the first two weeks of the new season.

One of the few regulars who failed to hit well at the start of 1957 was making up for it this season, and his April stickwork presaged a bright year for the Phils' **Richie Ashburn**.

The veteran center fielder, beginning his eleventh season with the Phils, fell under the .300 mark last year for only the third time in his career. His .297 final average dropped him to third place among National League veterans, his .312 lifetime mark being surpassed by Stan Musial's .340 and Hank Aaron's .313. **Ashburn**, who seldom hits well during April, went to spring training ten days early this year, and he has been hitting ever since the start of the exhibition season at the end of the first week in March. After ten games of the regular season, he was second only to Musial with a .429 average.

Last year at the same stage, **Richie** was batting .250 and he played the first 145 games without ever reaching the .300 mark. Not since 1953 had **Ashburn** batted over .300 during April and his average for that month had not been above .255 in the last four seasons.

Ashburn hit safely in all but one of the Phils' first ten games. In that one he drew three walks. His best day came at Milwaukee, April 27, when he helped break the team's three-game losing streak by drawing one walk, hitting two singles and a two-run homer in five trips to the plate. The homer was his first in almost exactly two years and was his first in Milwaukee.

Richie "Never Swings for Fence" The four-bagger was hit off the Braves' Lew Burdette and drove in the last two runs of a three-run fourth inning to give the Phils a 4 to 1 lead. It was the first homer **Richie** ever hit in Milwaukee.

"I was trying to pull the ball and hit it in the hole between first and second," **Ashburn** said after the game. "I never consciously swing for the fence."

His early start in the spring was the only answer **Ashburn** could supply for his fast getaway, but the figures show the biggest single factor was in the number of walks the speedy leadoff batter collected.

In his first 47 trips to the plate, **Ashburn** had reached base safely 27 times on 15 hits and 12 walks. One year ago he had 11 hits but had been issued only five free tickets, and it took him 25 games in 1957 to accumulate 12 walks.

That **Ashburn** was meeting the ball solidly was demonstrated by the fact that only one of his safeties could be labeled a "leg" hit and that he had not beaten out one bunt. In his earlier days, when he was probably a step faster than he is today, he bunted regularly and beat out numerous infield grounders for hits.

Resumes Normal Leadoff Role **Ashburn** opened the season hitting in the second spot behind Chico Fernandez, but the experiment was abandoned after three games and **Richie** returned to his normal leadoff position. He hit well in either spot.

If the rest of the Phillies' hitters had followed **Ashburn's** example, the club would have had few worries, but only Second Baseman Ted Kazanski was hitting well behind **Ashburn**.

Manager Mayo Smith made several lineup switches in an attempt to pull the Phils out of their plate doldrums, but nothing seemed to work. Rip Repulski and Bob Bowman were inserted in the outfield in place of Rookie Chuck Essegian and Wally Post; Harry Anderson was switched from first base to his old left field job, Dave Philley inserted at first, and Post sent back to right. Still the Phils were losing games their pitching should have enabled them to win.

The first three times Robin Roberts, Jack Sanford and Rookie Ray Semproch pitched they hurled well enough to win, and Curt Simmons was effective in one of his first two starting assignments. But Sanford was the only mem-



Richie Ashburn

Sanford's Scholastic Coach Finally Sees Jack in Majors

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Jack Sanford's high school coach, Harold Goodnough, now sales promotion director for the Braves, saw his former Wellesley (Mass.) High School charge pitch in the major leagues for the first time, April 27, when the Phils' righthander beat the Braves, 6 to 2.

Goodnough, who had a happy reunion with Sanford the night before, revealed that contrary to reports he did take Sanford to Braves Field, Boston, to be looked over, but club officials thought the righthander was too small at the time.

"I'm very happy to see Jack's success," Goodnough said. "After all the years he spent in the minors he's an example to every boy in the nation to stick to it." LEWIS.

ber of the starting quartet to gain more than one victory in the first ten games. All told, the pitchers were allowing the opposition one run a game less than they did at the same point a year ago, but the hitters were producing two runs per game less.

Power Hitters Muffled

Biggest offenders were Anderson, Stan Lopata, Gran Hamner and Post, who were collectively averaging only one RBI a game, and half of them were produced by Anderson despite a sub-.200 batting average. The quartet, usually in the middle of the batting order, had produced only one homer and that was the Phils' biggest need. They hit just four in the first ten games as a team, less than half their total at this time a year ago.

The Phils were still hopeful of swinging a deal for an infielder, preferably a second baseman, as they journeyed to the West Coast for the first time in history. Kazanski, despite his over-.300 average for the first two weeks, was not covering too much ground. His lack of speed appeared certain to hurt the Phils later on if the pitching fell off a bit.

Phillie Fodder: Manager Mayo Smith was ready to give Rookie Frank Herrera a shot at the first base job, but the husky Cuban contracted a sore throat and was feeling so poorly he did not suit up for two of the games at Milwaukee. . . . Willie Jones, who did not play an inning the first two weeks of the season, was chafing at the bit for some action. He even took to catching part of batting practice to break the monotony. . . . Robin Roberts turned in his third well-pitched game, but the Phils gave him no support in the field or at the plate, April 25, when Bob Rush blanked them, 4 to 0. Two of the Braves' runs were unearned and a third was tainted because of an outfielder's misjudgment. The win was only Rush's eighth over the Phils in a career that has seen him lose 25 to them. . . . Southpaw Seth Morehead was hit on the foot by a batted ball in batting practice but sustained only a bruise and was ready to go by the time the Phils headed west, April 25. . . . When Harry Anderson hit a two-run homer in the first inning at Milwaukee, April 26, it marked not only the first four-bagger but the first extra-base hit the rangy slugger had collected in his career off Braves' pitching. . . . The Phils lost that game, 4 to 2, as Righthander Bob Buhl maintained his amazing jinx over them. It was the Phils' ninth straight loss to Buhl.

Twirlers Tote Big Share of Braves' Load

Spahn and Buhl Set Speedy Mound Pace; Aaron Only Steady Socker in Outfield

By BOB WOLF

CHICAGO, Ill.

The Braves got away to a good enough start in defense of their National League pennant, winning eight of their first 14 games, but they could not help but wonder what might have happened if their left and right fielders had done any hitting.

Henry Aaron, playing center, was the only outfielder hitting at all and even he was below his usual pace with a .241 average and seven runs batted in through May 1. The three others who had played more or less regularly—Bob Hazle, Harry Hanebrink and Andy Pafko—had a composite average of .138 and a total of eight runs batted in.

Mel Roach played one game in right and hit a home run and a single. This, added to his single as a first baseman on opening day, gave him a .500 mark on three hits in his first six times at bat. But he was used only against lefthanded pitching and the opposition had not started a southpaw since April 19.

Hurricane Hazle Now Zephyr

Hazle, whose .403 hitting meant so much to the Braves' pennant effort last year, was down to .143 and had knocked in exactly two runs. It was still too early to say that the skeptics were right, but certainly there was reason to doubt that the young Carolinian would hit enough to stay in the lineup.

Hanebrink failed to capitalize on the golden opportunity he got when Wes Covington was unable to start the season because of a knee injury. He made only four hits in 35 swings for the sickly average of .114. The first two were home runs—with 17 hitless trips sandwiched between—and another a double. He had three runs batted in through April 29.

Pafko, who was used primarily to alternate with Hanebrink but who saw some extra service when the latter had a pulled thigh muscle, compiled a



Hank Aaron

Ashburn's First Milwaukee Homer Aids in Phil Victory

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—A home run by the Phillies' **Richie Ashburn** is a rare event, but the blond center fielder usually makes it count. His two-run homer off the Braves' Lew Burdette here, April 27, accounted for the winning runs in a 6 to 2 victory and marked his first in two seasons. It also was his first ever at Milwaukee.

Ashburn, now in his eleventh season with the Phillies, has hit 20 four-baggers in his career with a season high of four in 1951. He had played 309 consecutive games without a homer before his clout off Burdette in the fourth inning.

The 1955 National League batting champion hit his last prior homer off the Giants' Ruben Gomez in the Polo Grounds, April 29, 1956, and it was an inside-the-park affair. His last over-the-fence homer occurred the day previously when he rapped two into the Polo Grounds' right field seats off Southpaw Johnny Antonelli.

In 1955, **Ashburn** hit two homers in a night game at St. Louis on June 24 off Harvey Haddix and Paul LaPalme. Both were hit into the right field seats at Busch Stadium after the present wire screen was taken down by the Cardinals in an effort to aid Stan Musial and Red Schoendienst. The move backfired and the screen was re-erected.

Only once in Mayo Smith's term as manager (1955 to present) has **Ashburn** homered in a game the Phils lost. That occurred July 7, 1955, at New York when the Giants won, 8 to 5.

The distant right field wall with its 32-foot high fence in Connie Mack Stadium, **Ashburn's** home park, has been cleared only once by the speedy outfielder. LEWIS.

Bow to Haney's Big Guns



WARREN SPAHN (left) and **Hank Aaron**, the No. 1 pitcher and regular, respectively, in the National League last season, received plaques emblematic of their honor prior to the Braves' game with the Phillies at County Stadium, April 26. Spahn was presented the Cy Young Award and Aaron the Kenesaw Mountain Landis Award from Commissioner Ford Frick.

.167 average on four hits in 24 tries. He also drove in three runs.

Chances were, of course, that business would pick up once Covington got back in the lineup. But the big slugger did not make the nine-day trip which began on April 28 and there was no definite indication when he would be ready. The knee ailment he suffered on April 8 was healing far more slowly than indicated by early communiques from the front office.

With Covington still inactive and the others not hitting a lick, the Braves doubled their efforts to wangle **Richie Ashburn** away from the Phillies. General Manager John Quinn conferred with his Philadelphia counterpart, Roy Hamey, when the clubs played a three-game series at Milwaukee, April 25-27. Both said their conversation was limited to social amenities, but Mayo Smith, the Phillies' manager, admitted that the Braves were still after **Ashburn** and could have him at the proper price.

Phillies Want Keystoner

Just what the right price would be was not easily determined, but Smith said the Phillies specifically wanted a second baseman and would consider accepting Roach and Felix Mantilla. It was safe to say that the Braves would think twice before parting with either. Sensational pitching, meanwhile, continued to carry the major share of the load for the world's champions. With Bob Buhl and Warren Spahn each reeling off three straight victories, the Milwaukee staff compiled an earned-run average of 2.37 in the first 14 games. Buhl had an ERA of 2.03, Spahn 2.25 and Bob Rush, who blanked the Phillies in his starting debut, 0.82 for 11 innings of work.

Only Lew Burdette and Bob Trowbridge also had earned-run marks over 2.00 with 3.11 and 4.50, respectively—and one bad inning had made the difference for each. Burdette turned in two fine performances, although losing one to the Reds and Bob Purkey, 2 to 0, before running afoul of **Ashburn's** first home run in two years in the April 27 game with the Phillies. **Ashburn** connected with one aboard in the fourth and Burdette was gone an inning later.

Rush's three-hit shutout, April 25, was the best pitching job by a Brave in the first two weeks and clinched a regular berth for the former Cub. But Haney preferred to work Spahn, Buhl and Burdette on three days' rest and it wasn't until a week later that Rush received another starting assignment.

Braves Bunts: Cold weather limited the Braves' attendance for their first five home dates to a modest 105,883. The games with the Phillies, April 25 and 26, were played with the temperature at 39 and 40 degrees, respectively. . . . The Braves hit 16 home runs in the first 11 games and the enemy only two, but only one in the next three to eight by their foes, the Cubs. They also

Frick Presents 24 Braves With World's Series Rings

CHICAGO, Ill.—Manager Fred Haney and 23 of his Braves were presented with world's championship rings by Commissioner Ford Frick before the game with the Phillies at Milwaukee County Stadium, April 26.

The rings were of diamond and oriental rubies, with the words "world's championship" and each individual's name engraved.

In addition, Henry Aaron received the Kenesaw Mountain Landis award as the National League's most valuable player and Warren Spahn the Cy Young award as the outstanding pitcher in the major leagues. Warren Giles, president of the National League, made the presentation to Aaron and Chuck Capaldo, president of the Milwaukee chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, to Spahn.

had a big edge in double plays, 25-15. . . . Warren Spahn's 8 to 4 victory over the Cubs, April 29, was the 227th of his major league career. . . . Eddie Haas, young outfielder acquired from the Cubs in the Bob Rush deal last December, reported to the club here, April 30, after completing his six-month tour of Army duty at Fort Knox, Ky. He then was sent to Milwaukee to work out with Covington and Bill Bruton. . . . Bruton out since last July 11 with a knee injury, rejoined the club at Milwaukee, April 26, and said he expected to be back in action by June 1. He must remain on the disabled list at least until May 15. . . . Hazle was benched on May 1.

Hanebrink Finds Robin Easy, But Phil Hurler Doesn't Mind

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Harry Hanebrink of the Braves, who hit his first two major league home runs off Robin Roberts at Connie Mack Stadium, will be warmly remembered as the Phillie righthander's good luck omen.

Hanebrink connected for his first round-tripper on June 6, 1953, as Roberts won the 100th game of his career with a three-hitter. Roberts, who did not allow a hit until Hanebrink's pinch blast in the sixth inning, went on to win, 6 to 2.

On April 20, Roberts defeated the Braves for his first victory of the season and tied Grover Cleveland Alexander's all-time record of 190 club wins. And once again Hanebrink smashed a fast ball over the right field light tower. Roberts won, 3 to 2. BOB LYONS.

Throneberry Eases Bosox' Yen for Ted

Faye, Filling Left Field Spot,
Regarded by Higgins as
'No. 1 Surprise of Spring'

By HY HURWITZ

BOSTON, Mass.

As Manager Mike Higgins of the Red Sox prepared to make his major league debut as a pilot, he felt somewhat comfortable about his left field situation.

This spot had been one of Mike's question marks. It could have been erased in one in-



RED SOX

stant by a telephone call from Ted Williams notifying General Manager Joe Cronin that Ted had settled his personal affairs and was ready to end his "retirement."

When the Red Sox broke camp on April 1, Higgins was a bit disappointed that he didn't get to see Ted in Sarasota, as he had expected.

"We'll have to go along on the assumption that Williams won't be with us," Higgins declared at his final Florida press conference. "Like you fellows, I really expected to see Ted down here. But now I don't know what he's going to do. Unfortunately, he doesn't seem to know, either, and I can no longer count on him for the first month of the season, anyway."

Compensating for Ted's failure to start conditioning in Florida was the excellent play of Outfielder Faye Throneberry.

"Throneberry's performance," said Higgins, "has been the most pleasant development of our spring training. He has taken well to his switch from right field to left field. He has looked good at bat. I'd have to rate him as the No. 1 surprise of the spring."

Faye Looks Better Than in '52
"When we started training, I had no idea what Throneberry could do. He just came back to the team after two years of Army service. It has been hard to gauge what players will do when they come back from the service. In most cases thus far, it has taken players a full season to regain their touch. Williams, of course, was an exception."

During the first 20 exhibition games of the Hose, Throneberry appeared to be better than he was in 1952. Higgins had Faye for a brief period in Louisville that season in between Throneberry's two hitches with the Red Sox. "He has definitely improved," Higgins observed.

In those 20 contests, Throneberry made the most hits on the club and led the team in RBIs. In the first game of the trip north, against the Phillies, Faye lined a sixth-inning single to center off Robin Roberts to set the stage for a two-run, tie-breaking rally which gave the Red Sox a 4 to 2 triumph.

Williams had been the team's chief run producer over a long period of years. If Faye can continue this role as he did in the exhibitions, it will ease Higgins' worries.

Counted on Ted for 100 Games

Actually, Mike had counted on playing Ted in just 100 games this year. "And there's still time for him to get into shape to play those 100 games," Higgins said, "if he can straighten out his affairs. Like everyone else, I sure hope he does."

Ted was slated to play only one game in double-headers, to be rested when a day game followed a night game and to be out of the lineup in bad weather.

There is no doubt that Higgins felt sure Ted would be in spring training and with the team from the start of the season. Mike even went so far as to say that, in double-headers, Williams was slated to face the best pitcher the opposition planned to throw against the Red Sox.

"If we were playing two with Cleveland," Higgins disclosed, "and the Indians were going to pitch Bob Lemon and say Art Houtteman against us, I would use Williams in the game that Lemon would pitch."

But Throneberry's surprising showing has balanced the situation to some extent. Faye was in competition with Karl Olson, Sam Mele and Gene Stephens for the post in left field. He has outdistanced the field in the battle

Yost Eyes 1,000-Game Goal; Richie Would Go On and On

But Gehrig's Mark Will Never Be Broken, Iron Men Agree



EDDIE YOST . . . Wants 187 More



RICHIE ASHBURN . . . For "Years and Years"

By ART MORROW

CLEARWATER, Fla.

The iron men of the major leagues look like ordinary mortals, neither standing six feet, each weighing about 175; not like supermen at all. Off the diamond they might be taken for salesmen or school teachers—which, in point of fact, they are.

But blond **Richie Ashburn**, the perennial center fielder, has figured in 730 consecutive games for the Phillies, and brown-haired **Eddie Yost**, the Tennyson's brook of third basemen, in 813 straight for the Washington Senators. No other player extant can match these records.

How much can a ball player endure? How long do **Ashburn** and Yost expect to continue?

"My goal is 1,000 in a row," says Yost.

"I hope to go on for years and years," says **Ashburn**. "Not because of any streak or record, but just because I want to go on playing. You play so much of this game, and then you're not happy doing anything else."

But neither entertains any illusions about breaking the late Lou Gehrig's phenomenal record of 2,130 games in succession, a streak that ran from June 1, 1925, until April 30, 1939. "I don't think anyone ever will match that," **Ashburn** commented. "I'll consider myself mighty lucky if I make 1,000," Yost added.

Remote as it may seem, the possibility that either may surpass the immortal Yankee first baseman's criterion nevertheless does exist, and before the impending campaign is two-thirds over, **Ashburn** will have cracked the National League record established in the Thirties by Pittsburgh's Gus Suhr.

Oddly enough, if the wheel of fortune had spun only a little longer, **Ashburn** and Yost today probably would have been teammates. Fate must have meant **Richie** for Philadelphia, because the first baseball contract he signed—with the Cleveland Indians—was voided due to his age and **Eddie Krajnik** was the first to reach him a year later when he graduated from American Legion Junior baseball.

Not long before that the Phillies had set not one, but two scouts on the trail of Yost.

Played Under Assumed Name

Chuck Ward, who was one of them, recalled the incident only the other day.

"I spotted Yost playing shortstop for an independent team in East Orange, N. J.," the former infielder related. "I liked his looks so much that I came back and watched him for several Saturday afternoons. But he was playing for a team managed by Nig Niebergall, a Red Sox scout, and I knew I had to play it cozy."

"Learning that he was a student at New York University, I went there to talk to him—only I couldn't find any record of him—not under the name he used in East Orange. I deduced that he'd been using another handle in order to protect his college eligibility and remembered that someone in the stands had said he lived in Long Island."

"It wasn't much to go on, but I got hold of Joe Labate, our Brooklyn scout—and you know Joe. I guess everyone in Brooklyn knows Joe. When I told him my problem, he said it would be easy."

"I know a lot of detectives," he said,

Hit on the Head With Brick, But Richie Continued in Game

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Frank Wiechec, Phillies' trainer, is proud that he's played a small part in **Richie Ashburn's** 730-game streak. Wiechec's treatment and taping kept **Ashburn** going for four days last June after the outfielder's ankle was severely sprained in Chicago. "The ankle was so bad **Richie** shouldn't have been walking," Wiechec said. "But he managed to limp through a few innings of each game until the ankle was in pretty good shape."

"That record means a lot to **Richie**. I think it would take a broken leg to stop him from playing. Heck, a Brooklyn fan couldn't stop **Richie** when he hit him in the head with a brick."

Wiechec referred to a game at Ebbets Field. **Ashburn** was going deep for a fly ball when a fan in the bleachers tossed a brick at him. The brick hit **Ashburn** on the side of the face. His eyeglasses were shattered and he was cut badly around the eyes. But he caught the ball and remained in the game.

steering me into a taproom. 'We'll let skein with any idea it would stretch them find your man.'

"Well, Joe got on the 'phone and called his friends, and we settled down in that saloon. The detectives finally came in with a report: They found out who Yost was and where he lived all right—but Labate and I were in that taproom until closing. It was 5 in the morning before I got home."

Ward reported on Yost to Joe Reardon, then the Phillies' farm director, and the two took off for Brooklyn with a \$3,500 bank roll burning their pockets. But they were too late.

"I'd turned down a Class D contract Paul Krichell offered me in the Yankee chain the year before, figuring that I'd be better attending New York University," Yost himself took up the tale. "But when Washington gave me a major league contract, I grabbed it."

"The very day I left to join the club, my mother told me later, a couple of scouts arrived at the house. They wanted to sign me for the Phillies, they said, and they were ready to give me quite a little money."

"No doubt they would have got me if they'd arrived only a little earlier. I signed with Washington for nothing."

If a pal of Yost's named Julie Lavarán had not known Joe Cambria's brother, the Senators might never have heard of the durable third baseman, and the Phillies now would have had two individual streaks under way.

Neither **Ashburn** nor Yost started his

Eddie Not First to Save Streak by Brief Stints

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Eddie Yost admitted that his conscience was troubled when he made token appearances in the lineup during the final 13 games last season to keep his endurance streak alive after he was hit in the head by a pitched ball tossed by Boston's Russ Kemmerer on September 17.

Yost, however, was not the first player to make brief appearances in games to keep streaks alive.

Lou Gehrig, for instance, was forced to make several one-inning appearances to keep his record streak of 2,130 games alive.

At Detroit in 1934, after he had played 1,425 games in a row, Gehrig had such a painful attack of lumbago that he could not get out of bed without assistance. Lou quit after one play in the last half of the first inning.

On another occasion, the Yankee Iron Man's streak was saved after he had been summoned to appear in court following an automobile accident. The Yankees advanced the starting time of the game so Gehrig could play before going to court.

Everett Scott, whose record of 1,307 games was broken by Gehrig, had narrow escapes. One day, because of a boil near his eye, he did not even go to Fenway Park. The game was postponed because of rain.

Another day, a wreck delayed him getting from his home in Auburn, Ind., to Chicago for a double-header. He had to race the 60 miles by taxi, and arrived only in time to play the last inning of the first game.

Laughing at a pitcher who had been hit on the shins by a line drive in batting practice at Philadelphia, Scott was hit on the head by a ball thrown by Waite Hoyt, who was warming up on the sidelines. Scott was unconscious for ten minutes, but the Red Sox shortstop played the game.

Gus Suhr, holder of the National League mark of 822 consecutive games, ended his streak when his mother died. Scott ended his in 1925 when Yankee pitchers complained that his legs were as dead as a pair of stilts.

Pee Wee Wanninger, who replaced Scott that day, was the same player for whom Gehrig pinch hit when he began an endurance record which was to span 14 seasons.

appreciation of his consecutive-games string, and now he knows all about it. "I feel fine," he answered the inevitable question.

Richie, fastest of the Ashburns, also is ready, with no trace of the pulled thigh muscle that almost put him on the sidelines last summer.

"It happened in Chicago," **Richie** related, "and then we went to Milwaukee. I thought I could go right on playing, and Steve O'Neill sympathized with me."

"We had two games in Milwaukee, and he let me start them both. I found out right away I couldn't run with that leg, but Steve let me go to bat in each of the games, and that kept the streak alive."

Started String in 1950

"I hadn't thought much about it before then. I think I played in all our games in 1949, but in 1950 I was pulled out for three days because of a batting slump. When I got back in, that's when it started."

"Fortunately, the schedule was with me last year. We finished with a day game in Milwaukee, then came home and had a day off. A night game followed, so I had practically three days to rest up, and by then I was able to move around well enough to stay in there."

So many misfortunes can occur in addition to batting slumps that **Ashburn**, like Yost, fully realizes luck has to be on his side if he is to continue. But he's not laying his whole future in the laps of the baseball gods. In the off-season he's the star insurance salesman of Tilden, Neb.

Yost? He used his Washington salary to complete his studies at NYU—now holds his master's degree in physical education. Until last winter he taught school.

The iron men are equipped to carry on after their muscles have turned to mush.