

Jimmy Austin, Old Brownie Player, Coach and Manager

James P. (Jimmy) Austin, third baseman, coach and three times the temporary manager of the old St. Louis Browns, died recently at Laguna Beach, Calif., at the age of 85.

Born in Swansea, Wales, Austin was brought to this country when he was eight years old. "I came to America to show the boys how to play rugby," he once said, "and instead they taught me how to play baseball."

Jimmy grew up in Cleveland and was 24 years old before he got his first chance to break into Organized Ball as a shortstop for Dayton (Central) in 1904.

He spent three years with Dayton, switching to third base in 1905, and then was with Omaha (Western) for two seasons. His feat of stealing 97 bases in 1908 attracted the attention of the Highlanders (now the Yankees), who drafted Austin and installed him as their regular third baseman in 1909.

"Pepper" Tag From Stallings

Austin was a battler at third base, knocking down hot shots with his body in the same style that later made Pepper Martin famous. Austin, in fact, was known as "Pepper Jimmy" before Martin came along. The nickname was pinned on him by Manager George Stallings of the Highlanders.

After hitting .231 as a rookie, Jimmy dropped to .213 in 1910, leading New York to trade him to the Browns. He was with the St. Louis club for the rest of his active ca-



Jimmy Austin

reer, playing regularly through 1920. He appeared in only 27 games in 1921 and was in just 15 in 1922, when the Browns engaged in their historic, but losing, fight with the Yankees for the American League pennant.

In answering a questionnaire from THE SPORTING NEWS, Austin mentioned three highlights of his career: "Starting a triple play on a ground ball batted by Herb Pennock of Boston; getting eight hits in one afternoon at New York in a double-header, and making a put-out at first base in a game at Washington while I was playing third base."

Rarity in Triple Killings

The triple play was a rare around-the-horn affair. Austin grabbed Pennock's grounder with the bases loaded, stepped on third and threw to second baseman Del Pratt, whose relay to first caught the slow-running Red Sox pitcher for the third out.

Austin first served as temporary manager of the Browns in 1913 after George Stovall was fired late in the season. He had another interim spell when Fielder Jones resigned before the close of the 1918 campaign.

Lee Fohl's departure in 1923 gave Austin, then a coach, his third shot as a stand-in manager. That year, George Sisler was out with sinus trouble and Owner Phil Ball wanted the berth kept available for his star first baseman. Sisler took over the reins in 1924 and retained Austin as one of his coaches.

Jimmy made one-game appearances at third base in 1923, '25, '26 and '29. For a total of 1,580 games during his major league career, the switch-hitter batted .245.

Speedy and Busy Player

An adept bunter, he led the A. L. in sacrifices in 1911 with 34 and was among the leaders in several other seasons.

At one time, Austin was credited with the record time for the bunt and run to first base—3½ seconds.

Jimmy was by no means a butcher defensively, although he led the A. L. third basemen in errors in 1911, with 42, and in 1912, with 50. In 1911, he topped all rivals at his position in assists (337) and putouts (228). He again was the leader in putouts in 1912, with 219, and led the way in assists in 1913 with 288.

A peppercorn both as a player and coach, Austin remained with the Browns through 1932, when he was let go in an economy move. He wasted no time landing another job as a coach with the White Sox and kept it until 1938, when he retired because of his wife's ill health. However, he continued to help the White Sox as a coach in spring training at Pasadena, Calif., for a couple of years before quitting the game for good.

His wife, the former Josie Shipman, died about 15 years ago. He is survived by his second wife, Esther. A resident of Laguna Beach since 1913, he was acting mayor of the city in 1944 while serving on the city council. He was one of the founders of the Laguna Beach Masonic Lodge in 1914.

Mike McNally, Former Player, Manager, Exec

Michael J. (Mike) McNally, former major league infielder and minor league manager and club executive, who also served as farm director and scout for the Indians, died at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa., May 29.

The 73-year-old native of Minooka, Pa., became ill while visiting his niece, Mrs. Hugh O'Connor, and was admitted to the hospital on April 9. His physician said he was suffering from a lung and heart ailment.

McNally, Steve O'Neill, Jimmy O'Neill and Chick Shorten played ball together as youngsters on a team called the Minooka Blues and all four reached the major leagues.

Mike made his professional start as a shortstop with Utica (New York State) in 1913. The Red Sox acquired his contract for \$900 and left him in the minors for two years with St. Paul (American Association) and Providence (International) before bringing him up at the end of the 1915 season.

The youngster found major league pitching difficult to fathom, hitting .151 in 23 games in 1915 and .171 in



Mike McNally

87 games in 1916 when the Red Sox won the American League pennant. He appeared only as a pinch-runner in the World Series against the Brooklyn Dodgers.

In 1917, McNally suddenly blossomed out as a batter, achieving a .300 average in 42 games before going into the Navy for World War II service. After his return, he remained with the Red Sox for two seasons before being traded to the Yankees in 1921.

Although acquired as a utility infielder, Mike was given a chance to play regularly when Home Run Baker was injured and he hit .260 to help the Yankees win their first pennant.

Stole Home in '21 Series

In the 1921 Series against the Giants, McNally doubled to open the fifth inning of the first game, reached third on a sacrifice by Wally Schang and remained there when Carl Mays struck out. With Elmer Miller at bat, Mike, running on his own, suddenly broke for the plate and stole home.

Only three players in World Series history had stolen home previously—George Davis of the White Sox in 1906, Ty Cobb of the Tigers in 1909 and Charles (Butch) Schmidt of the Braves in 1914.

McNally hit .200 in the Series, playing in seven of the eight games. He continued with the Yankees until 1925 when he was sold to the Senators, but he performed only briefly in Washington and ended his major league career with an average of .238 for 483 games.

After dropping out of baseball for a year, Mike returned as the playing manager of Binghamton (NYP) in 1927. He managed from the bench in 1928 and '29, took over the helm at Wilkes-Barre for three years, shifted to Williamsport for four seasons and then was back as the manager of Wilkes-Barre in 1937 and '38.

In 1939, Mike moved into Wilkes-Barre's front office as business

Mrs. Anna Israel, Mother Of Sportscaster Mel Allen

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Mrs. Anna Israel, mother of former Yankee sportscaster Mel Allen, who now airs Milwaukee games into Atlanta, died at Flushing Hospital, May 28.

Mrs. Israel is survived by her husband, Julius; two sons, Mel and Larry Allen, and a daughter, Mrs. Esther Kaufmann.

manager. He was elected president and treasurer of the club in 1949, serving at the same time as Eastern supervisor of Cleveland's scouts.

The Indians brought him to Cleveland as their farm director in 1962. He continued at that post until 1958 and then served under Hoot Evers as an advisor and scout, remaining active until his recent illness.

McNally was instrumental in signing many of the players now on the Indians' roster. One of his prizes was Rocky Colavito.

He is survived by two sons, Dr. Michael McNally of Colorado Springs, Colo., and John, who is living in California.

Harry L. Biemiller

Harry L. Biemiller, Sr., 67, who started in baseball as a shortstop, but converted to the mound and pitched for the Senators and the Reds, died at Orlando, Fla., May 25.

Biemiller began his career with Macon (Sally) in 1916. After playing at Charlotte (North Carolina), he first tried his hand as a pitcher at Jersey City (International) in 1919. Appearing in 19 games, Biemiller won six and lost six. He also played 64 games at shortstop, but batted only .154.

His pitching record brought him a trial with the Senators in 1920 and he won his only decision in five games before being sent to Jersey City (International).

After going to Portland (Coast) and Buffalo (International), Biemiller was acquired by the Reds and spent the 1925 season as a relief pitcher with the major league club. He had an 0-1 record in 23 appearances.

He pitched the next two seasons for Columbus (American Association) and then wound up his career at Chattanooga (Southern) in 1928.

James Ben Lady, 48, former minor league catcher and manager, died at his home in Beech Grove, Ind., May 26.

He started his career with Birmingham (Southern) and Utica (Eastern) in 1943, played with Louisville (American Association) and Toronto (International) in 1944 and remained with Toronto in 1945.

Lady hit .278 in 28 games in his rookie fling with Birmingham, but his average fell off and he batted only .217 and .236 with Toronto.

However, he was known for his savvy behind the plate and Toronto released him to Kingston to serve as manager in 1946. He piloted the Border League club for three seasons before retiring from the game.

Philip Schenkel, 81, father of ABC-TV sportscaster Chris Schenkel, died in Huntington (Ind.) County Hospital, May 30.

A resident of Bippus, Ind., he had been the manager of the Mayer Grain Co.'s branch elevator for 30 years. He also had served as president of the Bippus State Bank for several years.

Survivors include his wife, Theresa; three other sons and two daughters.

Matthew L. Kijenski, 55, Metropolitan Stadium press box attendant for the Twins and the Minnesota football Vikings, died following a heart attack at his home in St. Paul, May 28.

Alf I. Dahl, father-in-law of Twins' pitcher Lee Stange, died in Minneapolis, May 27. Death was attributed to a heart ailment.

Eastern Excerpts

(Continued From Page 37)

METS MAKE LIGHT GIFT

THREE softball leagues which play at Sweets Steel Field in Williamsport are having brighter nights as the result of the gift of 130 surplus sealed beam lights by Jerry Waring, general manager of Williamsport's Mets. In appreciation, the Williamsport Area Softball Boosters' Association is sponsoring "Amateur Sports Day" for the Mets' double-header with York, June 27.

George Scott, Pittsfield third baseman, collected three hits in a game for the seventh time this season when the Red Sox defeated Springfield, 5-4, in 12 innings, May 26. After hitting a homer and double earlier in the game, Scott singled in the twelfth and Owen Johnson, who had doubled, scored the winning run.

Reading threw the Wolves at York in a double-header, May 31, and chewed up the White Roses, 6-1 and 4-0. Bill Wolfe pitched a four-hitter in the opener and Bob Wolfe followed with a three-hitter.

MATCHING ROLES AT BAT

LEE GREEN and Sherwin Minster were the key hitters, matching RBI accomplishments, when Elmira and Williamsport split a double-header, May 27. Elmira won the opener, 2-1, as Green knocked in both the Pioneers' runs with a single and homer. Minster was Green's counterpart in the nightcap, accounting for Williamsport's 2-0 victory by driving in both runs with a sacrifice fly and single. Jerry Craft pitched the Mets' shutout.

Rankin Johnson V, 18-year-old son of league President Rankin Johnson, made a rapid recovery after an appendectomy and was able to return home from Williamsport Hospital, May 30. Young Johnson formerly served as a bat-boy for the visiting teams in Williamsport.

A double steal by Williamsport, with Shaun Fitzmaurice on first base and Sherwin Minster on third, worked to perfection to give the Mets a 5-4 victory over Elmira in 11 innings, May 27. When Fitzmaurice broke for second, drawing a throw by catcher Larry Haney, Minster dashed for the plate. Second baseman Don Nichols' return throw was high and Minster slid across with the winning run.

WATT DRAWS DEFEAT

ED WATT, who had pitched two no-hitters among his four victories, suffered his first defeat of the season, May 29, when Williamsport edged Elmira, 3-2. Watt gave up five hits and two runs, one of them unearned, before departing for a pinch-hitter in the seventh inning. The Mets, who were leading, 2-1, added what proved to be the winning run when Bernie Smith connected for a homer off Fred Beene in the eighth.

Although Pittsfield has its share of extra-base hitters, the Red Sox settled for 16 singles while defeating Springfield, 6-2, May 25. Bill MacLeod, turning in his second straight complete game for Pittsfield, saved himself from disaster with the bases loaded in the ninth inning by grabbing a one-bounce shot to the mound to start a home-to-first double play.

Weaver Draws Suspension After Fracas With Umpire

ELMIRA, N. Y. — Earl Weaver, Elmira's feisty manager, drew a two-day suspension and a \$50 fine from Eastern League President Rankin Johnson after a "run-in" with umpire Andy Olson in a game with Williamsport, May 29.

Weaver, who leads the league in the "thumbed-from-games" department, had an unhappy three days.

Williamsport beat Elmira in the May 29 contest, 3-2. Then, with Weaver sitting in the stands for his suspension, May 30-31, the Mets knocked off the Pioneers in two of three more meetings.

Pitcher John Hogg served as acting manager during Weaver's layoff. RAY KEYES

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