

Tribe to Let Returning Vets Decide on Playing

Boudreau Believes Mental Attitude Counts as Much as Physical Condition in Stars Getting Back in Game

By ED McAULEY

CLEVELAND, O.



Jim Bagby, Jr.

Definite decision of the baseball big-wigs on recommendations pertaining to returning servicemen was not known at the time these lines were written, but whatever the program adopted in New York, Manager Lou Boudreau hopes to keep his own veterans of combat duty out of the lineup until they themselves decide they're ready to play.

"No doubt," said the Tribe's boy manager, in discussing proposed legislation, "some of the players now in the armed forces will be ready to play big league ball a few weeks after they're discharged. Others will require a longer period of readjustment. Condition, in a big league baseball sense, isn't entirely a physical matter. The player's mental attitude must be in good shape, too. He must feel that for the duration of the game, at least, nothing is more important than getting those hits and stopping those grounders. I'm afraid that some of the fellows who have been in a lot of combat action will find it difficult to feel that way until they have had plenty of time to get back into the routine of civilian life."

Boudreau said he hoped to be able to tell every one of the Indians' war veterans to condition himself in his own way and in his own good time, even if the conditioning period takes a full season.

"I'm not going to subject any of our servicemen to a 'test' in championship competition to see if he's ready to play," concluded Boudreau. "So far as I'm concerned, he'll be ready only when he tells me so."

Many Feelers for Bagby

Boudreau and his fellow-executives went to New York confident that they would conclude some kind of trade before the big swap and talk sessions

Porter Back on Payroll

CLEVELAND, O.—Dick Porter, popular outfielder for the Cleveland Indians from 1928 to 1934, returned to the organization last week as manager of the Tribe's Class A farm at Wilkes-Barre in the Eastern League.

Porter recently received his honorable discharge from the Coast Guard. He succeeds Jack Sanford, last year's playing-manager, who now is in the armed forces.

closed, but if they had specific ideas on the subject, they kept them to themselves.

Boudreau and Vice-President Roger Peckinpaugh attended the minor league meeting in Buffalo, talked with representatives of all their American League rivals, but gave no indication they were close to agreement with any of them.

So far as is known, all but one of the deals discussed involved Jim Bagby, the dissatisfied pitcher whom the Tribesmen will trade if they can get a player who even approximates the tall righthander's value. The single exception was proposed by Detroit. The Tigers aren't interested in Bagby, but they'd gamble on Jeff Heath, in spite of his recent operation. Officials declined to disclose the names mentioned by Jack Zeller of the Tigers. Peckinpaugh said he could not consider the offer, though he was sure Zeller thought it was a fair one.

Jimmie Dykes of the White Sox was not seen in serious conversation with Tribal bosses at Buffalo, but unofficial trade guessers suspect that Jimmie yet may make the most attractive bid for Bagby or for Heath, or both.

Criscola Landed in Padre Buildup

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—President Bill Starr's dealings at the Buffalo sessions resulted in the acquisition by San Diego of four new players at the cost of two Padres.

Heading the list of new players acquired by the San Diego club is Tony Criscola from the Cincinnati Reds. Tony, who can play first base, in addition to the outfield, and formerly played with the St. Louis Browns, should prove a valuable addition to San Diego.

In San Diego's only Buffalo trade, Starr sent First Baseman George McDonald and Outfielder Jack Whipple to Seattle for Third Baseman Dick Gyselman and Pitchers Ben Tincup and Jack McClure.

McDonald's trade came as a big surprise, although Starr said before departing for the East all the Padres were on the market. McDonald, a .310 hitter last season, recently received a medical discharge from the Army, as did Whipple from the Marines.

EARL KELLER.

Roger Bresnahan, Kids' Friend, Gave Ted Williams Tips

By BOB FRENCH
In the Toledo (O.) Blade



Roger Bresnahan

The death of Roger Bresnahan ended the career of Toledo's greatest personage in the world of sport. Born in this city, he learned to play baseball on Toledo's sandlots, and always made his home here, save during those summers when he was the game's greatest catcher and greatest all-round ball player. He was known and admired by countless thousands of Toledoans, which was natural, for he was active in all moves to interest the public, especially the youngsters, in baseball, almost to the day he died.

Not only in Toledo was Bresnahan a great personage. His fame has endured in New York, and the manner in which baseball fans of the metropolis have been lauding his deeds of many years ago is a remarkable tribute to his ability.

Bresnahan was at the top of his fame as a ball player in the first decade of this century. It was during this era that baseball probably reached its heights, so far as the number of great players is concerned.

No greater testimonial to Roger's ability can be cited than to say that in that age of super players he ranked at the very top, and his fame has remained fresh in the minds of those old-timers who saw him play, and the minds of a younger generation which knew of him only as a legend.

Always Blunt, But Sincere

Bresnahan not only was a great player; he was a great character. His outstanding characteristic was unswerving honesty, a blunt refusal ever to compromise with facts. Tact and diplomacy never figured in his baseball dealings. His success was due entirely to his knowledge of the game, his tremendous energy and skill, and his relentless zeal in driving for any objective.

Many believe his bluntness and impatience with any sort of appeasement policies prevented him from becoming as great a manager or league executive in later life as he was a ball player in his prime.

Bresnahan was sensitive. He felt rebuffs even when they were not intended. He could have remained one of the most popular men in the national sports scene up to the day of his death, but the aggressiveness of his athletic days was not the sort which made him desire to take part in the discussions and disputes of the debating group.

So Roger went his way rather quietly, except that he was always

eager to help youngsters who wanted to play baseball, always ready to help out in any effort to promote sport or merely to accommodate a fellow townsman.

He was a great outdoor man and a hunter, but many believed his love of hunting was secondary to his love of the dogs which accompanied him.

Another contradiction in his nature was that, with all his earnestness and his dislike of laughter at anyone's misfortunes, he was a great kidder, a past master of the "dead pan" technique.

Once he was walking along a street in St. Paul when a wild-eyed citizen saw him, charged wildly across the walk to intercept him, seized his hand and began pumping it violently up and down, shouting all the while: "Well, if it isn't good old Roger Bresnahan. Am I glad to see you! Good ol' Roger, you're lookin' fine..." and so forth ad lib.

Roger allowed his hand to be shaken for a long time without saying a word or expressing the slightest sign of recognition. Then the enthusiastic boy suddenly paused, assumed an expression of astonishment, and shouted:

"Why, Roger, I'll bet you ten bucks you don't remember me!"

"Bet ten bucks for me, too," said Bresnahan, soberly. "You've got a sure thing."

Helped Ted Williams

A striking proof of his standing with younger players took place in Toledo in the summer of 1938, when Ted Williams was playing with Minneapolis.

Bresnahan was walking down Superior street, when he was approached by a tall youngster who said:

"You're Roger Bresnahan, aren't you?"

"Yes," replied Roger.

"I'm Ted Williams; I'm playing ball with Minneapolis. I'd like to have you give me some advice on how to play."

Bresnahan invited the boy into his car, drove him out in the residence district, and sat with him for two hours, telling him how to develop as a ball player.

One thing Bresnahan impressed on the harum-scarum youngster: "From the moment you put on your uniform until the game is over, never do anything you wouldn't do in a World's Series game," said Roger. "Never be careless when tossing the ball around, never be careless in batting practice; never hit at a bad ball; never take things easy, even when chasing fly balls in fielding practice; bear down all the time; imagine every motion you make is part of a World's Series game, or the deciding game in a pennant race."

And Williams, inside of two years, was the greatest young ball player in the world.

Game Compared to Life

at Services for Bresnahan

TOLEDO, O.—Comparing life to a baseball diamond, the Rev. Francis X. Gosser eulogized Roger Bresnahan, former catching great of the New York Giants who died here December 4, at the Requiem High Mass in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament where the old-time star had worshipped.

"'Roger Bresnahan deserved a niche in the Hall of Fame as a great baseball player, and in the Hall of Life as a nobleman and a thoroughbred," Father Gosser said.

"He could be as hard as nails, and he could be as tender as a woman.

"He was sincere and honest in everything he did. We honor him as much for his contribution to life as for the contribution he made to baseball.

"Life is a baseball game," the priest continued, "with the diamond and the rules laid out by the Great Coach. Each player must follow all the rules, or he is out. The main object is to get to the home plate safely."

The church was filled with public figures, friends and old-time players who had known Bresnahan through the years, not only as a great diamond performer but as a long-time resident of Toledo.

Elmira New Link in Browns' Chain

ELMIRA, N. Y.—Elmira became a farm for the St. Louis Browns when the Pioneers' delegates to the National Association convention completed a working agreement that was described as highly satisfactory by President Bill Lande.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Browns will pay the Pioneers \$3,000 for the privilege of selecting any player owned outright by the Elmira club at the end of the season. If the Browns desire to take a second player, they may have him for \$2,500. If they wish to acquire more than two players owned by the Pioneers, they will have to negotiate with the club to determine the purchase price.

The Browns, it was announced, are to have a voice in selecting a manager for the Elmira club. Bill DeWitt, Brownie general manager, suggested two managerial prospects that were satisfactory to the Elmira delegation and Business Manager J. Roy Clunk was instructed to start negotiations with them at once. The Elmira club did not identify the two prospects.

Rumors persisted that Ralph Winegarner, former manager of the Browns' San Antonio farm club in the Texas League, was under consideration, but the Elmira club made no statements to substantiate this report.

GLENN O. SHERWOOD.

Bucco Changes Wait on Return of Boss Frisch

Pittsburgh Did Okay in '44 After Manager Missed December Meetings

By CHARLES J. DOYLE
PITTSBURGH, Pa.

The winter meetings completed, Pirate officials are back on the job, but the executive lads in the back-room are working under a bit of a handicap, inasmuch as the Fordham Flash is "somewhere in France" entertaining our fighting forces.



Jim Russell

This December, marks the second successive time that Frankie Frisch has been far from the hotel lobby infields while the magnate pondered weighty questions in the interest of the sport, or tried to negotiate deals. Completing deals with your pilot more than 3,000 miles away from the scene is not an easy matter, and it is likely that the pennant-dreaming Pittsburgh owners will be unable to do anything in the way of big swaps until another month has passed.

In his last word to the home office, Frisch—who doubtless is meeting scores of major leaguers in action in France—said he expected to be back home January 15. At least that was the understanding he had with USO officials when he and his pals took off for Europe. One year ago, The Flash, with

Ex-Batboy on Front

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Allen Stutzman, a quiet kid out of The Strip district of Pittsburgh, who became the Pirate batboy almost 20 years ago, is in action against the Germans with one of the several combat armies operating currently in the vast western front.

Allen was promoted to custodian of the Pirate clubhouse some time before he went to Fort Benning for training. He was manager of his outfit's baseball team, which made a fine record last summer.

several other major leaguers, did his stuff in the Aleutians in the interest of servicemen's morale. It is an open secret that the Pittsburgh pilot, despite his fondness for flying, was more than thrilled on several occasions—he was plum scared while sailing or flying around the mine-strewn waters. His present assignment is a much more comfortable one, in that he seems to be working out of Paris, which is admitted to be quite a city, war or no war.

Wanted: One More Clicker

When the Flash returns, it is likely that he will lose little time in attempting to get his house in order. For one thing, Frankie would like to grab off another pitcher who could go along in the pace flashed last season by Rip Sewell, Nick Strincevich and Fred Ostermueller. No one knows better than Frisch that the World's Champion Cardinals are the club to be reckoned with in the 1945 flag fight, and there is no doubt that Billy Southworth has an ambition to equal the four-pennants-in-a-row feat achieved by John McGraw and Joe McCarthy. The Little Napoleon of pleasant memory started his record drive back in 1921, the Giants coming from behind in August to overcome the Pirates of the quartette-good-time era. The Giants went on to two World's Series triumphs in succession, losing in 1923 to the Yankees and in 1924 to the Senators.

The Yanks are the only team in the game's history to cop four World's Series honors in a row, Marse Joe leading his aces to their great achievement in '36, '37, '38 and '39. They humbled the Giants twice and then teed off against the Cubs and Reds. So the Cardinals won't be able to equal the feats of the Ruppert Rifles next year even if they cop the flag again, as they were trimmed by the Yanks in '43.

Pirate fans are hopeful that their pennant dreams may be realized when they consider that youngsters like Jim Russell, Jack Barrett, Frank Colman, Frankie Gustine and Strincevich should be more capable performers. Russell, for example, had a hard time getting started at the plate in his sophomore season, yet when he found himself, he proved to be one of the best hitters in the league. He wound up well over the .300 mark as he led Bob Elliott and the other Pittsburgh sock artists.

Matty's Old Batterymate, Bresnahan, Dies in Toledo

Duke of Tralee, Giants' Greatest Catcher, Started as Pitcher, Piloted Cardinals, Cubs



Roger Bresnahan

Baseball's famous Duke of Tralee, Roger Bresnahan, one of the great catchers of all-time, has joined his former manager, John McGraw, and his famous batterymate, Christy Mathewson, in the Valhalla for America's sports heroes. The great catcher and former manager of the Cardinals and Cubs died in his home town, Toledo, O., December 4, of a heart ailment. The old Duke also had been troubled with arthritis, and had been in impaired health for some time.

While Bresnahan won his greatest fame as a player in the catcher's position, he was so fast afoot and versatile that he probably could have developed as well in any other position. When he was only 17, he broke in with the old Washington National League club as a pitcher; later he played second base and the outfield and caught for McGraw's Baltimore American League club. After accompanying McGraw to New York in 1902, he divided his early years with the Giants between the catcher's box and the outfield. Bresnahan was so fast that while catching all five games of the 1905 Giant-Athletic World's Series, he was placed in the leadoff spot by McGraw. He stole 25 bases in that season.

During Bresnahan's playing and managerial career, he always was believed to be Irish-born, and his birthplace was given as Tralee, on the west coast of Ireland, and the date of birth as June 14, 1880. His baptismal name appears in all record books as Roger Patrick Bresnahan. However, in answer to a questionnaire from THE SPORTING NEWS, which Bresnahan filled out March 18, 1944, he gave his name as Roger Phillip Bresnahan, his birthplace, Toledo, O., and the date June 11, 1879.

Prior to the market crash of 1929, Bresnahan was one of the most opulent of baseball men, with a personal fortune of over a quarter of a million dollars. At one time, he was owner-manager of his home town Toledo club. However, he was hit so bad by the Wall Street crash and subsequent depression, that some Toledo friends got him a job as turnkey at the Toledo Workhouse and when things were at their worst, he did manual labor for the CWA, a forerunner of WPA. After playing school and semi-pro ball around Toledo, the chunky young Irish kid found he could get money for playing with Manistee, Mich., in 1895. He then was only 16. The next

Mead Proposes Landis' Name for Hall of Fame

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The name of Commissioner K. M. Landis should be inscribed in Baseball's Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N. Y., declared James M. Mead, senator from New York, in commenting on the death of the head of the game. "Judge Landis brought to baseball the same vision, rugged honesty and courage which marked his career on the bench," the senator said. "Under his leadership as commissioner, this great American sport attained its present high standard. He has earned a place in Baseball's Hall of Fame."

the cream of the Baltimore club, Catcher Bresnahan, Pitchers McGinnity and Cronin, First Baseman Dan McGann and Second Baseman Billy Gilbert.

Under McGraw, the Giants shot up from eighth to second in 1903 and Bresnahan was one of the reasons. The Duke took part in 111 games, and hit 250, the best average of his career. At that time, Frank Bowerman was Matty's regular catcher, so Bresnahan played the outfield when the Mathewson-Bowerman battery worked.

The Duke of Tralee was McGraw's first-string catcher on his champions of 1904 and 1905; by the latter season, Roger was coupled with Mathewson because he was a much stronger hitter than Bowerman.

Duke Traded to Cards

After a seventh-place club and two tail-enders in John McCloskey's three years as Cardinal manager, Stanley Robison, the St. Louis owner, was desperate. He threw himself on the mercy of the league, and asked it to help him find a manager. Bresnahan was keenly ambitious to emulate his manager, McGraw, and direct a team of his own. So McGraw agreed to a deal which practically broke up St. Louis' fine pitching staff of that time in the trade for Bresnahan. In exchange for the catcher-manager, the Giants obtained the big spitball pitcher, Bugs Raymond, Outfielder Jack Murray and Catcher George Schlei for Roger. In order to get Schlei from Cincinnati for delivery to New York, the Cards had to send Pitchers Art Fromme and Eddie Karger to the Reds.

The appointment of Bresnahan produced quite a sensation in St. Louis. In his first season, he lifted the club only one notch, but in 1911, he had the Cardinals in the thick of the race for the better part of the season. Even though he eventually finished fifth, the new owner, Mrs. Helene Robison Britton, was so pleased with his work that she gave Roger a new five-year baseball contract for \$10,000 a year, and a civil contract, calling for ten per cent of the club's profits.

Bresnahan's 1912 club fell back to a poor sixth; the result was a series of arguments with Mrs. Britton, which resulted in the firing of Bresnahan, despite his two contracts. Four clubs, including the Cubs, refused to waive, and there was a merry mix-up, which wasn't settled until a special meeting of the National League was held. And Bresnahan came out of it handsomely. The league made him a free agent, and he got a \$25,000 bonus for signing with the Cubs. Charles Taft of the Chicago club also took over his unfinished player contract, and Bresnahan made a side settlement with Mrs. Britton's attorneys for \$20,000.

Managed Cubs in 1915

After two years as a high-salaried private with the Cubs, Roger was made manager in 1915 as successor to Hank O'Day. However, after the Federal League peace, Charley Weeghman of the Chicago Whales bought the Cubs, and put them in charge of his Federal League manager, Joe Tinker.

Bresnahan put \$40,000 of his baseball bonuses on the line to buy the Toledo club, which Charles Somers had moved into Cleveland as a Federal League war measure. The Duke returned the club to Toledo, and served as player-manager. He maintained control until 1923, when he sold out his interests.

Roger went back to his old Giant manager, John McGraw, in 1925, and served as coach for four seasons.

His last baseball job was as coach of the Detroit Tigers in 1930 and 1931. In more recent years, he was employed as contact man for the Buckeye Brewing Company of Toledo.

Bresnahan was married November 29, 1924, to Miss Gertrude Norenberg; he had one adopted daughter, Marian Patricia Bresnahan, aged 11.

Elmer Miller, former outfielder of the New York Yankees, died at Beloit, Wis., November 28, of a heart attack. He was born in Sandusky, O., July 23, 1890, and started his professional career with Duluth in 1911, from which club he was drafted by Cincinnati on waivers at the end of the season.

The Reds released Miller on waivers to the Cardinals in 1912 and he was sent first to Syracuse and then to Du-



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luth that season. Mobile purchased him in 1913 and sold him to the Yankees late in the 1915 season. The Yanks sent Elmer to Baltimore in 1916 and on recall, retained him until April, 1919, when he was transferred to St. Paul. Returning to the Yankees again in the middle of the 1921 season, Miller played center field in all World's Series games that fall, hitting only .161, and was traded to the Red Sox in July, 1922.

Jumping to the Beloit Fairies of the outlaw Mid-West League in 1923, Miller played with that team until 1927, and later managed a team at Fremont, Mont. He returned to Beloit in 1942 to work for the Fairbanks-Morse Co.

Ed Frayne, former sports editor of the New York American and of the consolidated New York Journal-American, died of a heart attack at his home in Van Nuys, Calif., November 26, following an illness of three years. Born in Brooklyn 51 years ago, he is survived by his widow, a son, Edward J., Jr., of the Army Signal Corps, and two brothers.

Frayne began his newspaper career as a city reporter in California. He quit for a venture in cotton growing, but returned to the newspaper field as a sports writer. He became sports editor of the Los Angeles Record and went to the East in December, 1926. Retiring from newspaper work in 1938, Frayne was named vice-president and general manager of the Twentieth Century Sporting Club under Mike Jacobs. The call of printers' ink was too strong, however, and in 1939 he returned to California and bought the Turlock Journal, which he owned and published for a year.

Frank Schultz, one of six ball-playing brothers and a former third base-

man, died in Pittsburgh, Pa., November 23. Hans Lobert, coach of the Reds the past season, was a cousin. The late Joe Schultz, Sr., was the only one of the six brothers to reach the majors, and young Joe Schultz, his son and catcher of the Browns, is a nephew.

Frank played in the Texas, Cotton States, Ohio-Pennsylvania and independent leagues and also established a reputation as a boxer. He was 56 years old.

John W. Welmer, former outfielder with the Chicago Cubs and several minor league clubs, died of a heart ailment, November 30, at York, Pa. At the time of his death, Welmer was director of physical education and health in the York public schools, a post he had held since 1922.

He was also secretary of the Big 18 High School Football Conference. Welmer was 62 years old.

Prior to going to York, he was coach of athletics at Allentown High School and previously at Bloomsburg, Pa., State Teachers College. He played football and baseball at Gettysburg College. Later he broke into Organized Ball with Harrisburg in the old Tri-State League, later playing with Shreveport, La., and Chicago Cubs.

Earl E. Brady, former sports editor of the East St. Louis (Ill.) Journal and a member of the sports staff for 25 years, died at his home in that city, December 2. The widow and two stepchildren survive.

Born 45 years ago, Brady had been a member of the Baseball Writers' Association of America since 1924 and had covered many sports. He began his newspaper career in the classified advertising department and moved to the sports page 25 years ago last May. He caught cold ten days before his death.

THE FAVORITE IN ANY LEAGUE



UNION MADE
PLAIN ENDS OR TIPPED

BUY WAR STAMPS AND BONDS