

First Base Red Hot Corner for Casey in Yankee Lineup

Segrist Fails to Impress and Spiking Delays Collins; \$65,000 Bonus Beauty Carey Nails Down Third

By DAN DANIEL

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

Meet Andrew Carey, the new third baseman of the Yankees. The kid is in. True, he got an assist from Dame Fortune, in the ankle fracture which sidelined Billy Martin for six weeks. But Carey very likely would have made it even if Martin had remained in the fight.

Every opposition manager who has seen Carey in action has gone ga-ga over the 20-year-old from Alameda, Calif.

He has size and strength, can run, is endowed with a strong arm, and he can hit. Andy makes plays which third basemen master only after several years' experience in the majors, and which too many never do achieve.

Best of all, this kid is a scrapper. If he should make an error, he doesn't go sheepish about it, but rants around his position, pulling up grass in anger at Andy Carey.

After seeing him for the first time, Eddie Sawyer, manager of the Phillies, called Carey the best-looking third base rookie he had glimpsed in years. He called Willie Jones, of his own club, Carey's only rival among freshman third sackers of his experience.

Red Rolfe of the Tigers, Eddie Stanky of the Cardinals, Tommy Holmes of the Braves, Luke Sewell of the Reds—all have joined in the peacemaking for the lad who will open the season at the position handled so adroitly in the Stadium by Rolfe, Joe Dugan and Gil McDougald.

Carey's success is especially noteworthy as he is one high-bracket bonus boy who has not been spoiled by his sudden wealth. The Yankees gave him \$65,000 in real money. He is a tremendous bargain.

The late Joe Devine, who okayed the bonus, and who rarely approved fancy gifts to kids, would have delighted in the brilliant demonstration of his last infield find.

Carey's spectacular showing has helped to compensate for the loss of Martin, which now stands out as a much more serious blow for Billy than it does for the ball club.

Tough Problem at First Base

At first base, Casey Stengel appears to be confronted with a really tough problem. At the moment, it is especially rugged because Joe Collins, the man who will play the bag when the pennant race gets under way, has been on crutches with a spike wound in his left foot. He got it at the plate from Ebba St. Claire of the Braves, and it certainly was not Ebba's fault.

Kal Segrist, the \$50,000 bonus boy who has had only one year of pro experience, with Kansas City, and who made so brilliant a start here, has slowed down considerably.

In fact, before he was sidelined with a heel injury, the former University of Texas star suffered the ignominious experience of having failed to hit safely in 19 efforts.

Of course, Kal may rally strongly, and re-establish himself as Collins' replacement against lefthanded pitching, which Joe has not been able to hit with success.

Sawyer Tabs Yanks' Carey as Majors' Rookie of Year

CLEARWATER, Fla.—If the well-rounded ears of Andy Carey, young third sacker of the Yankees, are burning these days, it is because of Eddie Sawyer, manager of the Phillies.

Sawyer, a former pilot in the Yanks' farm system, rates Carey as the rookie of the year and one of the two best players to come into the majors in the past ten years.

After a recent Yankee game against the Phils, Sawyer said, "I have seen Carey play only one game, but he does everything right. He has everything to make him a great player. Willie Jones (of the Phils) has always been what I considered the best third baseman in baseball, but Willie doesn't have Carey's drive. He succeeds Jones in my book as the best."

"In my 13 years of managing I have seen only two players who I considered had everything a ball player should have—Richie Ashburn and now Carey."

"Carey has the ideal build for a player—good legs, thin waist, plenty of heart. He can throw and hit and is always thinking. Ashburn beat out a bunt against the Yanks and when he got around to third, Carey said, 'You taught me something about bunting a moment ago.'"

"Running for a foul fly, he fell headlong almost into our dugout and must have been considerably shaken up, but he got up smiling and went right on playing. You got to like a guy like that—he's great."
BAUMGARTNER.

placement against lefthanded pitching, which Joe has not been able to hit with success.

However, if, as now seems likely, Segrist does not make the club, Casey will be up against a serious situation.

Johnny Mize, at 39, is not being counted on to do any playing. His role is that of pinch-hitter. Don Bollweg, former Cardinal, has not impressed around first, nor has Fenton Mole, whose hitch at the plate is as pronounced as ever.

Rookies May Ruin Shea's Comeback Bid

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—Frank Shea, veteran righthander of the Yankees, is finding himself rather uncomfortably situated. In fact, Spec is being crowded by a few newcomers who are after his locker, his uniform and his salary. Unless he is able to throw more than grit and determination into the arena, Kansas City rather than the Bronx is bound to be his 1952 address.

Shea's precarious position was emphasized by sharply contrasted performances by Frank and Lefthander Bill Miller, who is one of his more formidable rivals, in the 3 to 1 setback the Bombers suffered at the hands of the Tigers in Lakeland recently. It was the Yankees' first defeat of the year by an American League club.

Gaining the distinction of being the first New York hurler with a six-inning stint to his credit, Miller shut out the Bengals with five hits.

In the seventh round, Miller turned over a one-run lead to Shea. Johnny Groth rified Spec's first pitch into left for two bases. Vic Wertz slammed Shea's second delivery off the right-field wall for a double. But for a most remarkable throw by Mickey Mantle, Groth would have scored.

Spec's third pitch went wild. Soon he walked Hoot Evers, and eventually Cliff Mapes doubled and Johnny Lipon singled, and the Bengals had three runs and the game.

Shea's first outing against the Cardinals developed three runless and hitless innings. His next appearance, against the Dodgers, produced four blows and two tallies in a couple of rounds and the game was lost. His third performance was his worst.

Miller, who won 16 for Syracuse last season, pitched 16 innings in his first four appearances. Altogether Bill had yielded two runs and a dozen blows.
DANIEL.

Balked at Third, Klaus Battles for Shortstop Berth on Braves

Rookie Likely to Win Job on Superior Hitting; Holmes Experiments With Marshall at Hot Corner

By ROGER BIRTWELL

BRADENTON, Fla.

Billy Klaus, a frustrated third baseman, has moved into contention for the shortstop job on the Braves.

Third baseman on last year's junior world's champions at Milwaukee, Klaus did beautiful work in the field when tried out at third base on the Braves. But he lacked the power at bat that is expected from major league third basemen. So his test at third base was confined to three games.

A few days later he was tried at shortstop and impressed Manager Tommy Holmes so much that he became a rival of Jack Cusick for the job.

Klaus' hitting, which handicapped him in his quest of the third base assignment, may help him in his battle for the job at shortstop. For, though his hitting is too weak for third base, Klaus appears to be the best hitter—by a considerable margin—of the players in Manager Holmes' shortstop squad. Cusick, who is the man Klaus must beat for the position, hit .177 last year for the Cubs. Johnny Logan batted .219 for the Braves and Leo Righetti .202 at Sacramento.

Klaus hit .285 for Milwaukee last season, belting 31 doubles, 14 triples and three home runs and driving in 55 runs.

So Klaus, spanking out one-base hits during a stretch of several days at shortstop in Braves exhibition games, became almost a "wood" man when he brought up his average over the .300 mark.

Klaus is a lefthanded hitter. When he came to the Braves' camp, he was slapping the ball into left field. But Manager Holmes devoted time to teaching Klaus to pull and, in the March 22 game against the Reds at Tampa, Klaus drove in a tying run with a line single to right.

Draws Hand With Glove Work

But shortstop is primarily a fielding position and it was by his glove work principally that Klaus established himself as a rival to Cusick. It will take time to reveal whether there are flaws that will hamper Klaus in pursuit of the job. Cusick has experience and some class at the position. With the Brewers last year, Klaus fielded .962 as a third baseman, ranking third among regular players at that position in the American Association.

Klaus received his shortstopping opportunity at a time when both Cusick and Logan were sidelined with minor ailments.

Another striking move in the Braves' camp was the sudden appearance—for a series of games—of Right Fielder Willard Marshall at third base.

Marshall moved in to third base when Ed Mathews, promising rookie hitter, was kept out of action by back trouble. This ailment of the sacroiliac type was understood to be the result of an old football injury.

Marshall brought a deadly, accurate throwing arm to third base and he also gave a demonstration of clean fielding.

"It's the first time I've played third since I was in semi-pro ball," Marshall recalled. "I played some third base as a youngster, but I never have played the position before in Organized Ball."

Manager Holmes explained the Marshall move by saying:

"Marshall's still my right fielder, but now he is showing us he has another ability that might come in handy some time. I already knew what Sid Gordon could do at third base. Now I'm looking at Marshall."

Reed Clamping Down on Keystone

While all these moves were being made, Bill Reed—last year's Milwaukee second baseman—was strengthening his hold on the keystone job with the Braves.

Reed was playing a steady game in the field, working well as middle man on double plays and picking up enough hits to qualify for the job. A lefthanded hitter, he didn't seem to be bothered to any extent by lefthanded pitchers.

Meanwhile, George Crowe was making further moves to menace Earl Torgerson's hold on the first base assignment. Crowe twice made game-winning hits, both of which bore out his own statement that, "The balls I hit best don't go out of the park."

With the score 0 to 0 in the fourteenth inning against the Yankees, March 18, and with Bill Bruton of the Braves on second base, Crowe smashed a double to left that won the game. And on March 22 at Bradenton, he broke a 3 to 3 tie against the Phils with a single to left that almost burrowed its way into the ground. It scored Pete Whiscnant from third base with the winning run.

Stengel Playing Mantle in Right to Protect Knee

By DAN DANIEL

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

As the Yankees' stay in Florida neared its close, it became virtually certain that Mickey Mantle would remain in right field and not, as had been scheduled by Casey Stengel, compete for the job in center left open by Joe DiMaggio's retirement. Mantle has been playing right field, with Jackie Jensen appearing often in center, and Bob Cerv in left. Gene Woodling also has played center and Hank Bauer has been in left.

What with one thing and another, the outfield situation has been rather scrambled.

Last December, Casey announced that he expected Mantle to be DiMaggio's successor.

Later, Stengel threw Jensen into the center field fight. On arrival here on March 1, the manager announced that his impression that Cerv would fight for the job in right had been dissipated in the preliminary camp, at Lake Wales, and he added that Bob was either a left or center fielder.

Lately, Archie Wilson, up from Buffalo, and 1951 most valuable player of the International League, also became involved in a couple of locations.

After Mantle had started five straight games in right, Stengel was asked what was going on.

Casey replied, "I am afraid to use Mantle in center. That right knee of his, ripped in the World's Series, has to be treated with care.

"In right field, Mickey runs mostly back or forward. In center, he would have to do a lot of twisting and turning, and the knee might not take it."

"Playing center involves certain special techniques. It seems too late now to start teaching them to Mickey, especially in view of the condition of his knee. He runs well, and he throws well off that knee. But I don't want to risk trying anything that might take Mantle away from me for a while. He is too valuable.

"Would I platoon Mantle with the righthanded-batting Bauer in right? I don't know. The league season does not open until April 15.

"Perhaps we have, in Mickey, a right fielder who could play against both lefthanded and righthanded pitching. As you know, he is a switch hitter."

Robin Roberts, the Phillies' ace hurler, can attest to Mickey's batting prowess. "That kid is a hitter," said Roberts after the Phils' 8 to 1 victory over the Yanks. "Just before he tagged me for a home run I fanned him. And the homer pitch was the duplicate of the one I used to strike him out."

placement against lefthanded pitching, which Joe has not been able to hit with success.

However, if, as now seems likely, Segrist does not make the club, Casey will be up against a serious situation.

Johnny Mize, at 39, is not being counted on to do any playing. His role is that of pinch-hitter. Don Bollweg, former Cardinal, has not impressed around first, nor has Fenton Mole, whose hitch at the plate is as pronounced as ever.



Andy Carey



Mickey Mantle



Billy Klaus

It's Not Right, But Lefties Socked Southpaw Hardest

BRADENTON, Fla.—How are your batting theories today?

On March 23 at Tampa, a lefthanded pitcher—Harry Perkowski—was on the mound for Cincinnati against the Braves.

In the second inning, the lefthanded Perkowski faced two righthanded Brave batters—and they provided three outs.

In between, the southpaw pitched to four lefthy hitters—and they belted him for four hits and three runs.

The inning: Cooper, righty, flied to left. Marshall, lefty, homered. Reed, lefty, singled. Pitcher Dick Donovan, who hurls righthanded but bats lefthanded, hit a home run over the center field fence. Klaus, lefty, singled. Thorpe, righty, hit into a double play. BIRTWELL.

Braves' Speedster Bruton Gives Phils and Fans a Show

By ROGER BIRTWELL

BRADENTON, Fla.



Bill Bruton

The speed of Bill Bruton, 22-year-old Milwaukee farmhand of the Boston Braves, thrilled spectators at an exhibition game between the Braves and Phils here, March 22.

In the fourth inning, Bruton practically stole first base. Against the pitching of Steve

Ridzik of the Phils, Bruton hit a grounder to Second Baseman Dick Young. Young took a few steps toward second base, fielded the ball cleanly and flicked it to first base. But Bruton was there ahead of the ball.

Roy Hartsfield then hit a wind-blown fly to short right—and Bruton scored from first base. The ball was in the air long enough for Hartsfield to be credited with a double.

In the sixth, Bruton hit the ball to short center. Jackie Mayo fielded it on the first hop, but Bruton was in ahead of Mayo's throw for a two-bagger.

Bruton looks like one of the fastest base-runners ever to enter pro baseball. He gets down to first base faster than Sam Jethroe, and he stole 66 bases two years ago at Eau Claire.

Bruton is expected to get a couple of more years of seasoning before having a good chance for a regular job with the Braves. He thus far has played a season each at Eau Claire and Denver and needs more experience at the plate.

Spahn Slated for Opener

BRADENTON, Fla.—Despite the fact that the Dodgers are over-loaded with righthanded hitters—Duke Snider is the only lefty among their regulars—the Braves are expected to open the season at Boston, April 15, by sending a southpaw pitcher, Warren Spahn, against the Dodger club. BIRTWELL.

Brown to Rejoin Yankees; Internship to End April 15

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Dr. Bobby Brown, whose period of internship ends at the Southern Pacific Hospital here on April 15, said he planned to join the Yankees immediately. How long he can stay with the Yanks Brown can't say. He is in the Army Medical Reserve and subject to call the day his internship is completed.

"The Army has given me no indication as to when I will be called up," Brown told THE SPORTING NEWS. "After April 15 I'll just be waiting and I might as well be playing ball while I am waiting. I could get in a whole season or just part of one, depending on how badly the Army needs doctors."

Brown thinks he will be able to join the Yanks a day or two after the season starts.

Brown has been working out in a local recreation park and says he is in good physical condition. He has not signed a 1952 contract, but anticipates no difficulty. He would attend to that upon arrival in the East.
McDONALD.