

Pittsburgh Mourns Early-Star Fred Clarke

Hall of Fame Picket Skippered Buccos to Four Pennants

Socked .406 First Year as Player-Pilot

Fiery Leader Once Stole 66 Bases in Season, Played for 21 Years in Big Time

By FREDERICK G. LIEB ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

Just as Pirate fans were exulting over a double-header victory over the second-place Cardinals, August 14, Pittsburgh was saddened by the news from a Winfield (Kan.) hospital of the passing of Fred Clarke, one of the greatest Pirates of all time.

The following evening, almost 20,000 fans at Forbes Field arose in the seventh inning of the Pirates' game with the Phillies and, with bowed heads, observed a moment of silence out of respect to the memory of the 87-year-old Hall of Fame immortal.

Fearless Fred led the Pirates to pennants in 1901, '02, '03 and '09 and was associated with the 1925 world's champions. How he would have loved to live for another two months. Almost to his dying breath, he was rooting for the club he once had led with such distinction to bring in its first championship since 1927.

"This year we are going to do it; I can feel it," Clarke said recently.

The once fiery Clarke, whom many regard as the foremost National League outfielder of all time, had been ailing for the last five years. He broke a hip in a fall some years ago and had had several falls since then. He had to get about with a cane, but he retained his good humor and once commented, "I don't get around like a man who once stole 66 bases a season."

Teamed Up With Wagner

Even the prospect of a long-awaited pennant cannot dim Pittsburgh's memory of Clarke. Honus Wagner, who died in 1955, and Fred were Pittsburgh's most illustrious baseball pair.

Clarke, five feet, ten inches and a fighting bobcat of 165 pounds, got his name in National League box scores for 21 seasons between 1894 and 1915. He did not play in 1912. He had a lifetime batting average of .315, with a high of .406 in 1897, his first season as playing manager.

Fred participated in 2,204 games and cracked out 2,703 hits. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1945.

Often we speak today of a player being a "grand competitor." With the possible exception of Cobb and John McGraw, baseball never knew a sturdier competitor than Clarke. As a player and manager, he gave the fans and his employer, Barney Dreyfuss, everything he had every hour of the day.

What's more, Fred was the original

Battling Bobcat of Swashbuckling Crew



FRED CLARKE . . . When he was boldest of battling Buccos.

"boy manager." He was only 24 years old when shrewd Dreyfuss, recognizing genius in the rough, appointed Clarke playing manager of the National League's Louisville Colonels in 1897.

Three years later, Clarke moved with Dreyfuss to Pittsburgh, where he helped Barney win his proud distinction as "the first-division club owner." The years from 1900 to 1913 were the golden era of Pittsburgh baseball. In those 14 seasons, Clarke produced four winners, five runners-up, three third-placers, two fourth-placers.

It was the period when the "Big

Three" — Clarke of the Pirates, McGraw of the Giants and Frank Chance of the Cubs — completely dominated the National League.

Clarke played regularly through 1911, when he gave up active play at the age of 39. After laying off entirely for the 1912 season, he appeared in a few games in 1913, 1914 and 1915.

Fred never was as successful as a bench manager as when he drove the Pirates from left field. "I found it easier to say, 'Come on, gang,' than 'Go on,'" he once observed.

Refused to Take Pay Cut

After Clarke's 1914 and 1915 teams fell into the second division during the Federal League fight, Dreyfuss sought to cut Clarke's salary, which had reached \$15,000 in 1910, saying, "Fred's now a second-division manager, and he's got to take second-division pay."

Fred wouldn't take the cut, and retired to his ranch in Kansas. Later he made an unhappy return to the Pirates in the middle 1920s.

Fred Clarke was born on a farm in Madison County, Ia. on October 3, 1872. When Fred was still a small boy, the Clarke family moved to Des Moines, where Fred early came into contact with Ed Barrow, the former famous baseball executive, who later was to sell Honus Wagner to Barney Dreyfuss.

In the late '80s, Barrow was circulation manager of the Des Moines Leader. To create interest among his 17 carrier boys, Ed entered a team

called the Stars in the Des Moines City League. The manager, first baseman and part-time pitcher of the Stars was the already-aggressive Fred Clarke. It gave Fred the yen to play ball, and acquainted him with the impor-

Formed Great Corsairs' Pair With Wagner

87-Year-Old Former Whiz Rooted Hard for Current Pirates to Grab Pennant

tance of newspaper advertising. In the spring of 1892, he inserted an ad in THE SPORTING NEWS, offering his services as a player. The Hastings club of the Nebraska State League answered the ad and offered Fred a job at \$40 a month, which he quickly accepted.

"I still wonder why they kept me," Clarke said later. "They stuck me in the outfield, then a new position for me, and I was lucky to catch half of the drives they hit to me."

"An old-timer told me I could improve my fielding with practice, so I went out to the ball park at 8 o'clock in the morning and practiced until game time. Eventually I reached a point where I could catch fly balls pretty well."

Served Under McCloskey

Actually, he became one of the best. Clarke's early career was studded with league and team collapses. Hastings blew in midseason of 1892; Fred started 1893 with St. Joe, but left in midseason for a better job with Montgomery, Ala., of the Southern League.

At Montgomery, Clarke worked for John McCloskey, later a National League managerial rival.

Play in the Southern was curtailed because of a yellow fever epidemic, and by the time the Cherokee strip was opened on September 16, 1893, Fred had enough of uncertain minor league ball and was on hand early to make his run into the strip.

But, others had faster horses and beat him to the choice land. Fred later termed this failure to stake a claim as "one of my real lucky breaks in life. I would have had to remain in Oklahoma to prove my claim, and would have missed the great opportunity which major league baseball later gave me."

The Southern League was reorganized in 1894, with McCloskey taking over at Savannah. Fred reported to him in the Georgia seaport and hit .311 for 54 games, when the league again ran into difficulties. The Sa-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22, COL. 1)

Clarke's Signposts to Shrine

Born, Madison County, Ia., October 3, 1872. Height, 5.10. Weight, 165. Batted and threw righthanded. Manager, Louisville National League, 1897-98-99; manager, Pittsburgh National League, 1900-15; coach, part of 1925; vice-president and assistant manager, 1928.

Outstanding performances—Hit safely in 31 consecutive tilts in 1895; runner-up to Willie Keeler in batting table, 1897. Named to Hall of Fame in 1945.

Year	Club	League	G.	AB.	R.	H.	HR.	SB.	B.A.	F.A.
1892	Hastings	Neb. St.								
1893	St. Joseph	West. Assn.								
1893	Montgomery	Southern	32	120	21	35	0	1	.292	.942
1894	Savannah	Southern	54	219	60	68	2	20	.311	.927
1894	Louisville	Nat.	76	316	55	87	7	24	.275	.886
1895	Louisville	Nat.	132	556	94	197	3	36	.354	.899
1895	Louisville	Nat.	131	517	93	169	9	32	.327	.904
1897	Louisville	Nat.	129	525	122	213	5	60	.406	.927
1898	Louisville	Nat.	147	598	115	190	3	66	.318	.963
1898	Louisville	Nat.	147	601	124	209	5	47	.348	.963
1900	Pittsburgh	Nat.	103	398	85	112	3	18	.281	.944
1901	Pittsburgh	Nat.	128	525	118	166	6	22	.316	.967
1902	Pittsburgh	Nat.	114	461	104	148	2	34	.321	.962
1903	Pittsburgh	Nat.	102	427	88	150	5	21	.351	.962
1904	Pittsburgh	Nat.	70	278	51	85	0	11	.306	.979
1905	Pittsburgh	Nat.	137	525	95	157	2	24	.299	.976
1906	Pittsburgh	Nat.	110	417	69	129	1	18	.309	.974
1907	Pittsburgh	Nat.	144	501	97	145	2	37	.289	.987
1908	Pittsburgh	Nat.	151	551	85	146	2	24	.265	.973
1909	Pittsburgh	Nat.	152	550	97	158	3	31	.287	.987
1910	Pittsburgh	Nat.	118	429	57	113	2	12	.263	.967
1911	Pittsburgh	Nat.	101	392	73	127	5	10	.324	.970
1912	Pittsburgh	Nat.	9	13	0	1	0	0	.077	1.000
1914	Pittsburgh	Nat.	2	2	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1915	Pittsburgh	Nat.	1	2	0	1	0	0	.500	.000
Major League Totals			2204	8534	1620	2703	65	527	.315	.955

WORLD'S SERIES RECORD

Year	Club	League	G.	AB.	R.	H.	HR.	SB.	B.A.	F.A.
1903	Pittsburgh	Nat.	3	34	3	9	0	1	.265	.944
1909	Pittsburgh	Nat.	7	19	7	4	2	3	.211	.952
World's Series Totals			15	53	10	13	2	4	.245	.949

Youngster Clarke Thankful for Dreyfuss' Wise Counsel

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — When Fred Clarke first joined the Louisville National League club in 1894, he was a 21-year-old on a team of older players, most of them hearty tipplers. Fred first felt that to belong to the crowd he had to sit around after games and drink, and pay for his round of drinks. He soon realized it wasn't helping his play. His boss, Barney Dreyfuss, also noticed it and called Clarke to his office.

Dreyfuss didn't lecture, but merely said, "Fred, you know if a man goes into any kind of business and neglects it, it will surely go to the dogs." Dreyfuss left without another word.

Clarke was awake all of the following night trying to get the full meaning of Dreyfuss' remark. Then the idea dawned on him. He called on Dreyfuss the next morning and said, "From now on, Mr. Dreyfuss, it will be all business."

Discussing this interview, Clarke remarked, "From that time on, I never again neglected business, whether in baseball or any later activity. No employer ever gave a young employe better counsel."

Clarke Rushed to Join Colonels for \$100 Bonus

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

vannah club experienced a terrible trip and was in such financial trouble in Memphis that McCloskey was at his wit's end to find a way of getting his team back to Savannah.

Barney Dreyfuss, owner of the Louisville club in the N. L., was in Memphis on business when he heard of McCloskey's predicament.

"I'll try to help out, Mac," said Dreyfuss. "They tell me you've got a pretty good youngster on the team named Clarke. Let me have this Clarke, and I'll pay the fare of your entire team back to Savannah."

McCloskey snatched at the offer, and overnight Fred Clarke became a National leaguer.

However, Clarke would take no chances with his new employers. Dreyfuss promised him a \$100 bonus if he would report to Louisville within five days. Fred saw to it that he was in Louisville long before the five-day deadline.

Refused to Accept Check

Bill Barnie, the Louisville manager, handed young Clarke a uniform which fit like an oversized Mother Hubbard, and gave him a \$100 check. The Savannah recruit said he had found paper and promises worthless, and insisted the advance must be in greenbacks before he would wear the uniform.

Despite Barnie's protest that Barney Dreyfuss' signature was on the check, the youngster from Des Moines was unimpressed. Barnie dug up \$100 in bills from the box office, which Clarke pinned inside his uniform.

Clarke played his first National League game on June 30, 1894. Gus Weyhing, one of the Philadelphia club's better pitchers, was on the mound for the opposition. Fred brought along a small bat from Savannah, and some of the older Colonels kidded him, "What you going to do with that little peashooter, son? Gus'll knock it right out of your hands."

However, few big league stars ever broke in with greater gusto. The 21-year-old former carrier boy collected five hits off Weyhing—a triple and four singles. When Clarke returned to the clubhouse, he threw his bat to the floor with a resounding crash and then called out for all to hear, "You don't need a big bat to hit those bushers."

In Clarke's first National League season, he hit .275 in 76 games. He raised that to .354 in 1895, hit a satisfactory .327 in 1896, and then soared to .406 in 1897, his first season as Dreyfuss' young playing manager.

Wagner Joined Colonels

That was the same year that Honus Wagner joined the Louisville Colonels, and Fred and Honus were to be co-stars on Dreyfuss' clubs for 15 seasons.

Following the 1899 season, the National League voted to cut down from 12 to eight clubs, lopping Louisville and Cleveland in the West and Baltimore and Washington in the East. It proved a great break for both Dreyfuss and Clarke. Barney bought a half interest in the Pirates (he later acquired full control), retained the best players of the 1899 Louisville and Pittsburgh clubs and put the aggressive Clarke in command of the merged team.

From Louisville, Clarke brought along Wagner, Tommie Leach, Deacon Phillippe, Claude Ritchey, Rube Waddell and Chief Zimmer. From the Pirates, Fred retained Pitchers Jack Chesbro, Jesse Tannehill and Sam Leever, Infielders Fred Ely, Jimmy Williams and Frank Dillon, Outfielder Ginger Beaumont and lesser players.

Almost overnight, the Pirates were converted from a chronic second-division club into a strong fighting contender. After the Steel City's dismal seventh-place club in 1899, Clarke delighted all Pittsburgh when he led the refurbished 1900 Pirates to second

Niche Among Game's Elite Performers



FRED CLARKE

THE FIRST OF THE SUCCESSFUL "BOY MANAGERS," AT TWENTY-FOUR HE PILOTED LOUISVILLE'S COLONELS IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE, WON 4 PENNANTS FOR PITTSBURGH AND A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1909. STARRED AS AN OUTFIELDER FOR 22 SEASONS.

FRED CLARKE'S PLAQUE IN HALL OF FAME.

place behind the champion Brooklyn Dodgers.

Even better things were in store for Pittsburgh fans. During the American-National League war in the early 1900s, Clarke's Pirates ran roughshod over the National League, bunching pennants in 1901-02-03. The 1902 team won 103 games in a 140-game schedule, finishing with a percentage of .741 and 27½ games ahead of the second-place Dodgers.

One of the reasons for Pittsburgh's great success in those years was the loyalty of Clarke and Wagner to Dreyfuss and the National League. The pair repeatedly turned down choice offers by American League raiders. Clarke cultivated such a high morale on the club that most of the players remained loyal.

Lost Two Top Twirlers

Clarke did lose Pitchers Chesbro and Tannehill late in the inter-league war, and it cost Fred the first World's Series played between the National and American League champions after the peace pact of 1903.

In the 1903 Series with Jimmy Collins' Boston Red Sox, Clarke saw his team get off to a three-games-to-one lead, only to lose the Series, five games to three, when his lone winning hurler, Deacon Phillippe, could not carry the pitching burden alone.

Clarke won only one other pennant, in 1909, the first season the Pirates played at Forbes field.

Though the Cubs won 104 games that year in their efforts to make it four straight, Clarke's terrific Pirates soared to 110 victories to edge Chicago by six games. In the 1909 Series, Clarke's gladiators wore down the snarling Detroit Tigers in seven bruising, no-holds-barred games.

It was the Series in which Clarke pitched young Babe Adams three times, and each time Babe rewarded him with a victory. Clarke, who hit .265 in the 1903 Series with Boston, batted only .211 against Detroit, but made it go a long way. Two of his seven hits were homers.

Fred's strong 1909 world's champions were expected to hold sway for some time, but they slipped to third in 1910 and 1911, advanced to second in 1912 and fell back to fourth in 1913. Then, during the Federal League years of 1914-15, Clarke's clubs slipped to seventh and fifth.

It ended with the "second-division manager" pay controversy with Drey-

fuss. Clarke retired to his Little Pirate ranch near Winfield, Kan.

Dreyfuss called Fred back to the Pirates during the 1925 season as a coach under Bill McKechnie. It was the year the Pirates won their first pennant since Clarke's flag of 1909 and topped it with a world's championship.

Fred acquired a block of Pirate stock in 1926, and Dreyfuss appointed him a vice-president and assistant manager. This engagement ended with the so-called "Pirate mutiny" of August, 1926, undoubtedly one of Fred's unhappiest experiences in baseball.

The Pirates were strong favorites to repeat in 1926, and led during a good part of the season, but were challenged by the Cardinals and Reds.

Games that the Pirates should have

Catcher With 1915 Pirates Dies 2 Days Before Clarke

RACINE, Wis.—Leo J. Murphy, a catcher for Fred Clarke's 1915 Pirates, died here, August 12, two days before his former skipper passed away at Winfield, Kan.

Murphy, 71, a third-string catcher behind George Gibson and Bob Schang, appeared in 31 games with the 1915 Pirates and hit .098 in 41 times at bat. A native of Terre Haute, Ind., Murphy was with Champaign-Urbana (Illinois-Missouri), Columbus (American Association) and Sioux City (Western) before he joined Pittsburgh. He retired from the game in 1920 following service with Muskegon (Central), Milwaukee (American Association) and Springfield (Eastern).

won were slipping away, and Clarke, in uniform, used some of the salty language of the '90s. One of the men whose play he criticized sharply was Max Carey, captain and center fielder.

Rumors of Player Strike

There was some wild talk of a strike unless Clarke took himself off the bench. Jack Onslow, the other coach, supposedly was in Carey's camp.

While the club was playing in Brooklyn, a meeting of the team's personnel was held in Carey's hotel room to vote on whether to request the Pittsburgh club to remove Clarke from the bench. The players, however, voted in favor of Clarke, 8 to 6.

Dreyfuss was in Europe at the time, but the so-called "mutiny" had quick reverberations. Carey was sold to Brooklyn, and the Pirates released two of his supporters, Babe Adams and Carson Bigbee.

After the club blew the pennant to St. Louis, Dreyfuss cleaned out all the principals in the feud. Stuffey McInnis, who supposedly talked on both sides, was released late in September; Manager Bill McKechnie was fired and on October 26, Clarke resigned all of his Pirate offices and disposed of his stock.

It ended Clarke's career as a major league figure, but Fred always retained his great love for, and interest in, baseball. He became especially interested in sandlot ball around Winfield. He was elected president of a sandlot league, and for years youngsters in the Winfield area vied to be entered on the "Fred Clarke Honor Roll."

Clarke is survived by two married daughters, Mrs. Helen Donohoe and Mrs. Muriel Sullivan. Both live within 35 miles of their distinguished father's ranch.

Obituary

James T. (Tim) Gallagher, the only son of James Gallagher, director of scouts for the Phillies, was fatally injured in the crash of his automobile and a truck on the Ohio Turnpike near Wauseon, O., August 17.

Tim, 18, who also is survived by his mother, was driving from Chicago, where he had been vacationing for three weeks, to Cleveland at the time of the accident. He planned to stop in Cleveland that evening for the Indians' game with the White Sox before starting the final leg of the trip to his home in Philadelphia the following day.

Young Tim had many friends among players and officials of the game. Before and after graduating from Our Lady of Mount Carmel grade school in Chicago, he worked with both the grounds crew and the concessions department for the Cubs at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

His father, formerly a sports writer for the Chicago American and in more recent years general manager of the Cubs, is chairman of the game's Playing Rules Committee.

Funeral services were held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Chicago, August 20, with burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery there.

Willis B. (Frosty) McCabe, a minor league catcher from 1925 to 1931 and a well-known athlete in the Memphis (Tenn.) area for many years, died at St. Joseph's Hospital in Memphis, August 14, following a six-month illness. He was 63.

During his O. B. career he was with Dyersburg (Tri-States), Wilkes-Barre (NYP), Memphis and Knoxville (Southern) and Vicksburg (Cotton States).

Robert Leighton Rutledge, a former member of the sport staff of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, died at his home in St. Louis, August 13, at the age of 57.

Rutledge was with the Globe-Democrat from 1923 to 1927 and from 1932 to 1951.

He is survived by a brother and a sister.

Leo (Brick) Kane, an outfielder and third baseman in the Eastern League during the early 1920s, died at Hartford, Conn., August 11, following a long illness. He was 59.

Kane was with Hartford, Waterbury and Bridgeport in the Eastern.

He is survived by his wife, a son, five daughters, two sisters and three brothers.

He Told 'The Kids' of Good Old Days



UNTIL INJURIES hampered Fred Clarke's activities in recent years, the old Pirate was a popular figure at reunions and old-timer affairs. In 1950, he was photographed with other Hall of Famers, Charley Gehring, Ty Cobb and Rogers Hornsby, at the National League's seventy-fifth anniversary celebration in New York.