

Robinson Stir Recalls Earlier 'Strikes'

Tigers' Flareup Over Cobb's Suspension in '12 Only Incident of Kind in Majors

Walkout by Ty's Mates at A's Park

Movement Against Jackie Started on Dodgers as Far Back as '46

By DAN DANIEL
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Nobody in his right senses believes that the aborted movement against Jackie Robinson, Negro infielder of the Dodgers, could have gained any headway.

That there was such a movement had been known for some time. It had started in a small way on the Brooklyn club, as far back as last season. It had flared up again in a small way among the Dodgers this past winter, when Branch Rickey asked his signing athletes if they would have any sentiments, one way or the other, if Robinson were called up from Montreal.

The way I got the story, quite a few Dodgers expressed dislike of the idea—and not all of them came from south of the Mason and Dixon line.

I heard about an anti-Negro movement as far back as last August, when the players of the major leagues were in the midst of conversations about the numerous reforms which they won—wension plan, minimum salary, and the rest.

I was told that some of the players had brought up the Negro question in club meetings, and had got the impression that they could ask the National and American leagues to bar Negroes. Robinson's fine showing with Montreal had brought the matter to the fore.

At the time, I was told that Col. Larry MacPhail had lost no time in effecting the death of the scheme, and warning the proponents of the Jim Crow plan.

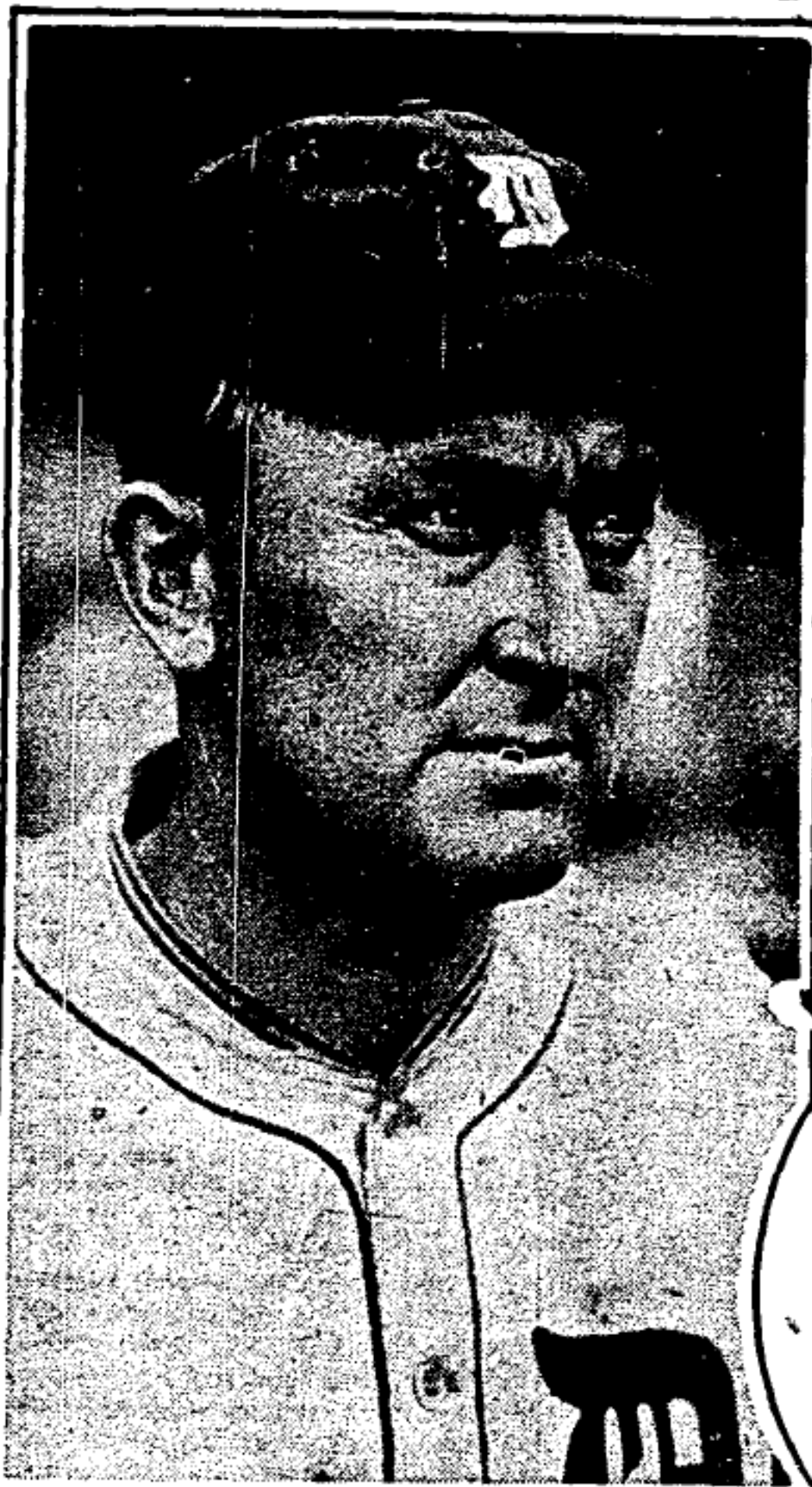
Drinking Cup Incident in Cuba

As for Robinson, he is right in the middle, and getting no great financial return either.

As a matter of fact, but for his belief that he is making a fight for all the Negro ball players and not just for himself, Robinson would have been a holdout last winter.

There were anti-Robinson incidents in the International League, and on the Montreal club, last year. There were incidents in the Junior World's Series games in Louisville. There were fresh incidents with Montreal in Cuba this

Among Figures in Philadelphia Rhubarb



TY COBB
... His suspension started strike.



Ban Johnson (top)
Connie Mack (bottom)



HUGHIE JENNINGS
... Assembled team despite strike.

spring. One in particular, involving a drinking cup.

And there have been incidents on the Brooklyn club, and in the National League.

Actually, these things are not surprising. The subject packs a lot of dynamite and is shoo-shooed plenty. But you cannot quickly make over a man whose parents and forebears before them, and neighbors, have held to certain treatments of the Negro problem.

The Robinson question was reported to have come up late last season, in an alleged meeting of the Brooklyn players. This story has been bandied about for some time, though I never have been able to get official confirmation.

The dope is that, in the thick of the

scrap with the Cardinals, some of the Dodgers said they would rather make the battle without Robinson, then hitting .340 for Montreal.

As a result of the appointment of Dixie Walker and Johnny Murphy as player representatives on the Executive Council, some ball players have the feeling that they can dictate who is, and who is not, to play in the major leagues, and that they would be within their rights in barring Negro players from the majors.

Had there been a strike over the Robinson issue, it would have been the most pronounced failure of all player movements. This one would have resulted in the naming of the ringleaders, their suspension from competition, and their achievement of emphatically un-

enviable places in the dislike of the vast majority of fans.

There was a near strike by the Pirates last June 7. They were to be used as the guinea pigs by the American Baseball Guild. Bob Murphy ordered a walkout before a night game with the Dodgers. The Corsairs walked out on Murphy, instead, and gave tremendous impetus to the magnates' decision to invite all players in for a talk.

It may be that but for the presence of a level-headed guy like Rip Sewell on the Pittsburgh club, there would have been a strike. However, there has been only one actual players' strike in the majors—a walkout of Detroit players on May 18, 1912.

The Tigers' strike was the outgrowth of an incident at New York, when Ty

Cobb went into the grandstand and took a punch at a fan who had been abusive. Ban Johnson, president of the American League, immediately suspended Cobb indefinitely. All the active players on the Detroit club then signed a wire to Johnson stating that unless Ty was reinstated at once they would refuse to take the field against the Athletics at Shibe Park, May 18. They made good their threat and the A's easily defeated Hugh Jennings' team of hastily-recruited semi-pros, 24 to 2.

The following day was Sunday, then an idle day in the East, but Johnson, striking hard, called off the game of May 20 and fined each of the signers of the telegram \$100. He also warned

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Personalities in Ball Park Balks

in Recent Years



WILLIAM D. COX



LESLIE MANN



HARRY HOOPER



PIRATES RETURNING TO FIELD AFTER THREATENED STRIKE IN 1946



BUCK NEWSOM



CLARENCE KRAFT

Limping Sox Take Arnica Along to East

Injuries Handicap Defense, Causing Team to Drop; Pitching Holds Up

By MILT WOODARD
NEW YORK, N. Y.



Mike Tresh

Granted it's a bit early to sing those arnica - and - bandage blues, the White Sox could think of no better tune to accompany their topple from the American League leadership than the complaint that injuries "done 'em wrong."

As the Comiskey keys headed for their first search of eastern fortunes, their defense looked like something patched up with baling wire and adhesive tape. Only their pitching—the Sox' main forte—wasn't directly hit by injuries, but indirectly Ted Lyons' corps of moundsmen probably was hurt the worst.

The hardest blow of all, it now develops, was the torn ankle ligaments incurred by Catcher Mike Tresh on April 26 at St. Louis. The injury robbed the White Sox of their No. 1 catcher for at least a month, and subsequently led to the breakup of the Chicago infield.

Skeeter Dickey, Tresh's replacement, has one major weakness—a foul pop fly. A better hitter than Mike, Dickey's receiving—especially on a foul pop-up—has left him strictly a reserve in the Sox' scheme of catching.

During Boston's lone appearance at Comiskey Park on May 8, Hal Wagner lifted a foul popup within a dozen yards of home plate. While Dickey was attempting to gain his bearings, Third

Sox Drop Three

CHICAGO, Ill.—Manager Ted Lyons of the White Sox beat the May 15 player trim by four days when he dropped First Baseman Joe Kuhel, Outfielder Ralph Hodgins and Pitcher Hi Bithorn from the roster prior to the Sox' departure for the East.

Kuhel, on his eighteenth year in the majors, will remain with the Comiskey organization, probably as a coach. Hodgins will go on the disabled list to shake off the effects of the bean-ball he received on April 21 in Detroit, subject to reinstatement in 60 days. Bithorn was sold to Hollywood.

Baseman Floyd Baker made a diving stab at the ball, missed, and came up with a severely torn ligament in his right shoulder.

Baker's Loss Hurts Infield

Regarded as one of the finest fielders in the majors, Baker's loss was immediately felt along the Chicago defense. During the final three games of the Detroit series, the Sox committed seven errors of record and a half dozen more which failed to get into the books. As a result, the Chicagoans plummeted from first to fifth in two days.

The outfield defense, hampered by loss of Thurman Tucker, will regain full strength for the eastern invasion on the return of the bespectacled Texan to center field. Tucker, back to good health after an attack of ptomaine poisoning and stomach ulcers, will be flanked by speedy Dave Philley on the left and hard-throwing Bob Kennedy in right.

In spite of their loss of three out of four to Detroit, the White Sox still could brag about their pitching. Orval Grove came forth with two of his best performances of his career to save the Chicagoans from a week of complete ruin. Following his shutout of the Athletics, he came back to beat Hal Newhouser and the Tigers on seven hits.

Lopat Cousin of Tigers

CHICAGO, Ill.—Southpaw Ed Lopat of the White Sox continues as the "cousin" of Detroit's home run hitters. After giving up five circuit blows to the Tigers on April 23 at Detroit, including a record-tying three in a row, the Sox southpaw contributed two more to the Bengals on May 11 at Comiskey Park. Hoot Evers and Roy Cullenbine each has touched Lopat for two, while Eddie Lake, Dick Wakefield and Pat Mullin have collected one apiece.

Who's Who? Joe or Thurman



READING FROM LEFT to right, it looks like the guy in the middle. Actually it's Comedian Joe E. Brown and the player who looks like his twin brother, Outfielder Thurman Tucker of the White Sox. Tucker, whose resemblance also to a good ball player is not merely coincidental, is at the right.

Player Strike Nearly Blocked World's Series Game in 1918

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

that if they did not take the field in Washington, May 21, they would not play again in the American League. The players returned, but Cobb's suspension was not lifted until May 26 and he was fined \$50.

Out of this incident grew the Players' Fraternity, headed by Dave Fultz, an attorney who was a former major league outfielder. Formed in the winter of 1912-13, the Fraternity won a number of concessions from the old National Commission, including a ruling that no player could be sent to a low minor league unless clubs in leagues in between had a chance to claim him.

In 1914, Brooklyn assigned Clarence Kraft, a first baseman-outfielder, to Newark, a team in which the Dodgers then had a controlling interest. However, the Nashville club had a claim on Kraft, which was upheld by the National Commission.

Fultz Ordered Walkout

Fultz contended this action breached one of the articles of agreement between the Fraternity and the Commission and ordered a strike of all players in the majors and minors for July 8, 1914. However, two days before the scheduled date of the walkout, Charles Ebbets of the Brooklyn club purchased Nashville's right to the player and Kraft remained in Newark. As this removed the cause of the strike, Fultz promptly called it off.

On September 10, just before the fifth game of the 1918 World's Series between the Red Sox and Cubs at Fenway Park, there was a near-strike by the players of both teams. It was the first time that the other first division clubs of the majors were to be cut in on the World's Series pool, and also the year the War Department curtailed the playing season as the result of the "Work or Fight" order of World War I. As a result, the players' pool was very low, especially as the Boston and Chicago clubs did not raise their regular prices for the World's Series.

The players sent Harry Hooper of Boston and Leslie Mann of the Cubs to ask the National Commission to eliminate any first division cuts in 1918, and as a compromise suggested a \$1,500 share for the winning players and \$1,000 for the losers. When this was turned down, the players balked at taking the field, although 24,694 fans were in the stands.

Ban Johnson, president of the American League, reached the park only five minutes before the game was scheduled to start. He had been delayed at the Copley Plaza bar, swapping fish-

More Owl Contests Sought by Phillies and Athletics

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Shibe Park is to be the scene of more night games this season than at any time in its history, for both the Athletics and Phillies are increasing their nocturnal dates. Originally, each was booked for 14 contests under the lights, but the Phillies are contemplating seven more and the Athletics an increase of six.

The Browns and Senators probably will provide the bulk of the added number for the Athletics. Connie Mack is dickering with other clubs, but is having little success with the Red Sox and Yankees.

ing experiences with a tackle manufacturer, accompanied by brisk elbow exercise at the mahogany.

When Johnson arrived, he found Hooper and Mann awaiting him in the umpires' dressing room. They attempted to explain the situation to him, but the league president, with grave, if unsteady, dignity, waved aside their explanations. Turning to Hooper, he boomed: "Harry, do you realize you are representing one of the greatest organizations in the world—the American League? And do you realize what you will do to its good name if you don't play?"

Before Hooper could answer, Johnson flung a heavy arm across his shoulder and exhorted: "Harry, go out there and play. The crowd is waiting for you."

They Played—and Got Paid

Realizing Johnson was in no condition to talk business, Hooper and Mann shrugged, returned to their respective dugouts and a few minutes later the players of both teams charged onto the field amid the cheers of the crowd. The winning Boston players received only \$1,108.45 apiece, and the losing Cubs \$671.

In July, 1943, there were two near-strikes by the Dodgers and Phillies. After the Dodgers lost to the Pirates, 8 to 7, July 9, there was a battle of words in the Brooklyn clubhouse between Bobo Newsom and Catcher Bobby Bragan. In an important play, Bragan had failed to hold a third strike, due to a misunderstood signal. Manager Leo Durocher came to Bragan's defense and the argument ended with the Lip suspending Bobo. However, the next day Third Baseman Arky Vaughan refused to get into uniform and Dixie Walker also supported Newsom.

Yankees to Get Strategy Lessons From Dressen

Suspension Over, Coach Will Stress Hit-and-Run, Stealing and Other Offensive Tactics Designed to Make Up for Failure to Show Old-Style Home-Run Attack

By DAN DANIEL
NEW YORK, N. Y.

With Chuck Dressen's 30-day suspension by Commissioner Albert B. Chandler ended on May 15, Yankee fans are looking forward to a change in the club's mode of procedure.

Bucky Harris, of course, is in absolute command, and well able to take care of his own chores, and his own decisions. But the dope is that Harris has become convinced that some of the stuff for which Dressen became famous in Brooklyn might work to good advantage with the Bombers.

Up to now, the Yankees have tried very little in the way of the unusual. They came out of the West without being able to show a single stolen base in 17 games. They had done virtually no running for the extra bag.

Dressen is said to have pointed out to Harris that, with his ability to "read" pitchers and catchers, he had spotted two places in which it would not have been too difficult to have stolen home, and very likely won a couple more games* out in the hinterland.

When Harris and Col. Larry MacPhail hired Dressen, it was with the intention of letting him assist in the development of certain Brooklyn tactics on the New York club.

It is conceivable that Harris has become persuaded that he is not endowed with an old style Yankee home run attack. In fact, the way things shape up, the Bombers are not likely to approach the 136 total in homers which they hit last season. As a consequence, there must be compensating moves. The club must hit-and-run more, it will have to stretch hits, it will have to steal and do other things to disturb, and maybe beat, the opposition.

In their first 17 contests, the Bombers belted only seven homers, four of which were contributed by Charlie Keller. King Kong, however, came out of the West hitting .168.

If the Yankees made a poor showing in the frost-bitten and snowy West, they certainly glimpsed nothing over-awing out there. They came back with the conviction that the race would be between the Red Sox and themselves.

White Sox Mostly Out of Place

The Bengals, with all their hurling, did not look like too sound a team. In fact, not any sounder at all than the Yankees—and they still were to show in their true form, for Joe DiMaggio had yet to achieve prime condition.

The Browns impressed us as a hitting club which would have pitching difficulties. The White Sox, with all their early pace-making, were just the same old Sox, with a shortstop at second, a third baseman in right field, a new man in center, and nothing much added to the battery personnel.

We never got a chance to view the Indians in action. We had only two contests scheduled with them and both were snowed and chilblained into double-headers for more seasonable and reasonable weather.

The Yankees will not show at their true pace until DiMaggio is set. He has been getting into shape. Right now he is just about where he would be normally ending the first week of the training season. Joe still is far from fast, but he has been doing far better than had been expected, all around. He is improving in his running day by day, and taking a prewar cut at the ball.

When the Yankees landed in Cleveland, Harris announced a shakeup which he believed would be productive of more runs.

He shifted Phil Rizzuto from the lead-

were in St. Louis, Bill Cox, then owner of the club, called up Road Secretary Jimmy Hagan and instructed him to notify Bucky Harris he was through as manager. Meantime, Freddie Fitzsimmons was sent to St. Louis to succeed Harris.

Resenting Cox' action, the players were inclined to refuse to take the field for the night game at Sportsman's Park. However, it was a Tuberculosis Fund attraction, with 17,883 fans in the park, and, after some delay, the Phillies held a meeting, from which Fitzsimmons was excluded. The players voted to go on the field, after sending an indignant telegram to Cox.

Thus, while there have been strike threats confined to single clubs in the major leagues, no general player movement of that character ever has won anything.

And those who yet may harbor anti-Negro action in their nogginns might as well kill the screw notion right now.



Chuck Dressen

Larry MacPhail Tagged Pro-Brooklyn in Bronx

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Deeply embroiled with the Dodgers and Brooklyn fans following his celebrated complaint against Leo Durocher and Branch Rickey, Larry MacPhail was flabbergasted to find himself labeled as "pro-Brooklyn" by no less a personage than the borough president of the Bronx, where the Yankees play.

President James J. Lyons made the charge in complaining that the Yanks had organized a Knot-Hole Club for youngsters of his borough with Brooklyn men directing its activities.

"You cannot transplant the Yankees from their home in the Bronx, even though you indicate a preference for a Brooklyn Dodger guidance for our youth," he wrote MacPhail. "It seems strange that this new youth organization (the Yankee Juniors) should be formed . . . by Brooklynites . . ."

At a meeting outlining the formation of his organization, MacPhail had George Wildermuth, president of the Dodger Knot-Hole Club, speak, and several other men from across the bridge were also present. PAUL GOULD.

off to No. 8, and lifted Bobby Brown to the top of the batting order. Keller was taken out of No. 5, behind DiMaggio, and made No. 3. Tommy Henrich was shifted from No. 6 to No. 2, where his ability to hit behind the runner could show to greater advantage.

The chief change was the assignment of Yogi Berra to the catching staff, and his location in the fifth slot.

Henrich to Play in All Games

Berra was sent back to the receiving corps for two reasons. First, Aaron Robinson still was out with back injuries he had suffered in slipping in a St. Louis bathtub. Then, there was an urge to take advantage of the Yogi's batting skill against righthanded pitching.

Harris has announced that Henrich will be in the game at all times. That is, unless that right wrist of his suffers a relapse.

In single games, Henrich will be in right field against righthanders. Southpaw hurling for the enemy will place Tommy at first base, vice George McQuinn, with Johnny Lindell in right field.

In double-headers, McQuinn always will be relieved in the second game, with Henrich at first base, and either Yogi or Lindell in right, depending on the type of pitching to be faced. That is, the Yogi will be out there after Robinson again has become available for catching.

There are all sorts of reports about shifts which are filed away in Harris' mind.

In an off-day workout in Boston, Bucky sent Berra to third base. He made no comment. Merely chuckled, "He gets them, doesn't he?"

In Cleveland, Bucky admitted that he had had some notion of trying Bobby Brown at second base—when Billy Johnson, who tore a muscle in his left side, in Chicago, gets back, and the expedient looks wise. Perhaps, at some future time, we may find Brown at second and Yogi around third against righthanders.

Strange notions? Well, we have a manager who is not going to sit around and neglect opportunities to try things.

If certain players can fit into more effective roles, Harris will shift them without any qualms.

Chapman Finds Eye on Ty's Lost Tips

Sam Digs Up Old Letters Useful to Him as Rookie

Instructions, Misplaced by Outfielder When He Entered Navy, Now Serve as Refresher Course in Training; Represent Masterly Advice on Hitting

By ART MORROW

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. Good news in the Athletics' camp is the hitting of Left Fielder Sam Chapman, the jut-jawed former football star who in 1938 leaped from the University of California campus to the big league diamond.

Sam not only has been riding the ball hard and far in batting practice, but he has been punishing rival pitchers at a cruel clip, hitting .407 in the first six games—indicating a complete return to his prewar form, an official average of .322 for 1941.

Responsible for the comeback are two letters Sam received nine years ago from one of the greatest hitters of them all—Ty Cobb.

Chapman came across the letters during the winter while ransacking an old trunk in his Tiburon, Calif., home, and pored over the documents for hours. He still consults them frequently, for to him they have served as a refresher course in how to bat. To thousands of others, young players and old, they would come as a veritable encyclopedia of batting lore from a master who was 12 times the American League champion in the art.

How Chapman originally came into possession of the letters is almost a story in itself. Out of a clear sky in 1938 he received an

Ty One of Few Stars Able to Instruct Others—Mack

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.—Connie Mack considers Ty Cobb a good instructor and approves of Sam Chapman's trying to improve his hitting through the Georgia Peach's correspondence course.

"Few great hitters possess the ability to pass on their skill," Mack says. "They know how themselves, but can't teach others, maybe because they do not completely understand exactly what they do and why they do it."

"But I have always believed that Ty not only knew what he was doing, but also was one of the very few great hitters capable of instructing others."

to help you, and they are sincere, but different minds sometimes muddle things. Relative to batting, listen to no one except Mr. Mack or whomever he delegates to advise you. Get out early and get some extra hitting practice, etc.

"Now, Sam, I am taking the liberty to tell you a few points. Try them out in practice and I believe you will profit, for I do believe I have learned some batting fundamentals in the years I have been in baseball.

1. DON'T GRIP YOUR BAT AT THE VERY END; leave, say, an inch or two. ALSO, LEAVE AT LEAST AN INCH OR MORE SPACE BETWEEN YOUR HANDS; that gives you balance and control of bat, and also keeps hands from interfering with each other during the swing.

"2. Take position at plate, especially against righthand pitchers. BACK OF PLATE, and against a man with a real curve, YOU CAN STAY ON BACK LINE OF BATTING BOX. Now try to hit to right-center. I don't mean you should place the ball in any one spot, but start now practicing to hit your righthanders to the opposite field. An inside ball from a righthand pitcher you will naturally pull, say, to left-center.

"3. DON'T SLUG AT FULL SPEED; LEARN TO MEET THEM FIRMLY, and you will be surprised at the results.

"4. Now, to hit as I ask, to right-center or center. YOU STAND AWAY FROM PLATE the distance you can see with mind's eye that you can hit the ball that curves on inside corner, to cen-

Passes Along Pointers on Punching



THE ONE AND ONLY TY COBB, ONE OF THE GAME'S IMMORTALS

Sam Another Big Leaguer Who Started in Legion Ball

Sam Chapman is another major leaguer who can thank the American Legion and its junior baseball program for getting him started on a diamond career.

Born at Tiburon, Calif., a small town at the base of Mt. Tamalpais, April 11, 1916, Sam received his grammar school education there. He went to high school in Mill Valley and it was there that the local Legion post saw to it that he was given a place on its junior team.

Chapman was an infielder in Legion ball, and at California U., but switched to the outfield late in his college course.

HANDER: DON'T PULL. Use same stance I have given you, and when he throws you his curve, knock him down with it or you will naturally pull it, as the ball is breaking in to you. BUT AGAINST A LEFTHANDER OF FAIR SPEED: Move up in the box, also closer to plate, and PULL THIS STYLE OF PITCHING.

"Now, Sam, some of the points I have outlined may seem uncomfortable at first, but you practice them and stick to it. I predict you will start hitting line drives and be much pleased right from the start. Watch the good hitters and see where their arms, hands and feet are. All this gives freedom of swing and power.

"Get before a mirror, stand and hold your hands and elbow as I have told you and see how you look. Also drop your left elbow below your hands and your right elbow to your side, and you will feel you cannot hit.

"This letter is long and poorly prepared. I have just dashed it off with-

out any form or polish. But drop me a line when you can and let me know your reactions as to batting results. . . .

"Sincerely,
"TY COBB."

Well, sir, Chapman practiced what Cobb preached, and for the next two months he hardly had to write to tell Cobb of his reactions. The averages spoke for him.

"I had never met Ty at the time," Sam says, "but I found a lot of helpful hints in what he had written me." Lines penciled in where certain points have been capitalized bear mute testimony as to how well Chapman studied the document, and within a month he was among baseball's Big Six.

Second Lesson

But then the lessons began to blur, and the rookie slumped again. Came another letter from Cobb, this one dated August 19:

"Dear Sam:
"I hope you will pardon my writing you, and any suggestion is merely my interest in your work. You have over a considerable period proven you can hit, and from .358 or .350 on down to present average shows something besides a lack of hitting ability.

"Now, too much hitting can be bad. When you are meeting the ball good, one after another, stop.
"Don't take strikes. Ask Mr. Mack to let you hit the first good one for awhile. You may unconsciously be using a system of taking a first strike and other teams know that. Never let them figure you out. Cross them up.
"Always keep in an aggressive state of mind.

"One other very important thing: Don't guess what the next ball will be.

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Sam Chapman

from the A's. and as soon as the college season was over, he

stayed to join the club.

"I remember the day he arrived," says Coach Earle Brucker. "He picked us up in Cleveland, and he didn't have a very good

high school and college, Chapman never had played anywhere except at shortstop, but Connie Mack took one look at his solid 190 pounds, spread over five feet one inch, and told him he would play center field. This formula, incidentally, was by no means new to a manager who converted Rube Collins from an infielder, switched Collins from shortstop to the outfield to second base and once had Jimmie Foxx covering third with Jimmie Dykes on first!

It was a wise change to make," says Chapman now, in appraising the shift that converted him from a college pitcher to a major league outfielder. "At the time I was plenty confused, and I had no business even being where I was, anyway."

A long procession of bad days followed that inauspicious debut in Cleveland, and one day as the trip neared its end, Chapman struck out five times in a game at Yankee Stadium. Mack looked at Brucker, sadly shook his head and muttered: "The big town's the boy."

The boy himself, living in a night-club, was convinced that some horrible mistake had been made. He was wondering how the A's had even happened to pull him into such a spot.

The First Course

At last they reached Philadelphia. Here Chapman found a letter waiting for him. It was dated May 18, postmarked Menlo Park, Calif., and at the top of the first sheet was the inscription: "From R. Cobb."

To Sam's surprise, he read:

Dear Sam:
"I tried to get you before you left, but I failed to reach you by phone. . . . I feel responsible, in a way, for your coming with Mr. Mack, as I recommended you to him. This explains my interest in my wanting to see you; also, what I am going to tell you.

"You will be bothered for awhile by the stands and shadows, also sun fields and backgrounds when batting. GET OUTS OF FIELDING PRACTICE WITH YOUR GLASSES, and you will be okay in a short time. You are with the best pitcher to break in under; he is very patient and kindly. Get your advice from him.

"You will have several that will want

Tigers Visualize Vico as Star --But He's a Year or Two Away

Rookie First Baseman Has All Assets for Success, Except Experience

By H. G. SALSINGER
LAKELAND, Fla.

When the Tigers lost eight out of their first 12 games with major league teams in March, no one was greatly surprised. Ever since we can remember, the Tigers have looked bad in pre-season competition and this year's squad has clung close to tradition.



GEORGE VICO TURNING IN IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE FOR TIGERS

Weak hitting is not a permanent ill, but weak fielding may be. Defensively, the Tigers have looked good only on the left side of the infield. George Keli

continues to supply evidence that he is the best third baseman in baseball and while Eddie Lake cannot be rated No. 1 among the shortstops, he is better than the average and measures up as a competent performer.

Eddie Mayo looked as good as ever when he first reported, but his play in exhibition games has been less than adequate. He has failed to measure up to February promises, but that may be only a temporary lapse.

Roy Cullenbine undoubtedly will open the season at first base. George Vico, the Yugoslav recruit from the San Fernando Valley, has been a sensation in Florida this spring and he is potentially a great ball player. Tall and loose, fast and supple, agile and fiery, Vico has all the needed assets to become a top-ranking first baseman. All he lacks is experience. He did little playing before he entered military service and has engaged in only 48 games in Triple A competition. That was with Portland of the Pacific Coast League last season.

Evans Favors Further Polish
In a pinch, Vico could play first base in the big leagues today, but General Manager Billy Evans is opposed to the

No Fear of Feller

LAKELAND, Fla.—Declaring he never ducked meeting Bob Feller, Hal Newhouse, the Tiger ace, asserts he is prepared to meet the Cleveland star as often as his regular pitching turn requires.

"I never ducked a meeting with Feller, or with any other pitcher in my life," said Hal. "I talked it over with O'Neill and told him that I would pitch against Feller every game, if he gave the word. Steve maps out my pitching program."

The two American League aces met twice last year, each gaining one decision.

suggestion. He believes that too many players are brought up before they are ready and some are ruined as a result. In his opinion, one or two more years in the minors will make Vico a finished product, give him the necessary confidence and assure him of being an immediate success. To use him now, Evans contends, would be unfair to Vico.

The outfield presents a more stressing problem. When Dick Wakefield, Hoot Evers and Pat Mullin are out there, opposing teams run wild. Evers and Mullin are weak throwers and each of them takes a hop, skip and jump before releasing the ball. In the meantime, the base-runner is taking five steps. Wakefield has a strong throwing arm, but is inaccurate.

The best throwing outfielder among the ten gardeners in training, with the exception of the veteran Doc Cramer, is Victor Wertz. He is fast and accurate. Also, he is a good hitter. It is quite likely that he will hold one of the outfield positions when the season opens.

The pitching has held up. Outside of wildness by Ted Gray and Rufus Gentry, the hurling has been exceptional. What the Tigers need is hitting and fielding. As Mr. Louis Norman Newsom observed:

"Detroit got the best pitching in baseball, but their pitchers won't drive in many runs and you gotta have runs to win ball games."

Insurance for Bengal Bag



JOHNNY SULLIVAN

Sullivan Kayoes Bluege Infield Woes, Shoving Priddy From Short to Second

Sam Recovers Cobb Bat Tips

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

You will sort of know what is coming by figuring your pitcher and the balls and strikes on you. But never try to guess.

"In your practice, try a little more weight on your forward foot; keep back leg straight. If you will try this, I'm sure you will get results, and weight on forward foot will make you step in correctly.

"Also, do not stride too long, and keep your power in hand at all times—I mean for any kind of pitch—and you won't pull away from any part of the body.

"Decoy the pitcher by trying to convey to him that you aim to take the next pitch. And remember, the catcher is watching you, and gives the signals; so start your decoy work for his benefit as the pitcher starts to get ready—then take your crack at the ball.

"KEEP YOUR ELBOWS AWAY FROM YOUR BODY.

"Best of luck.

"Sincerely,
"TY COBB."

"P.S.—Forget yesterdays; don't worry. Just do your best. You have already made good.—T.R.C."

Originally an Infielder

With this encouragement and advice, Chapman went about his duties with renewed vigor, and though he sent no statisticians into frenzy, he hit well enough—259—for a rookie who had never played any Organized Ball and had only played in the outfield in a few games in college.

At any rate, Sam did well enough to hang on with the A's, and in each succeeding season he improved on his average until he hit .322 in '41. Now, thought A's fans, Chapman was about to come into his own.

But Pearl Harbor erupted, and early in 1942 Sam went into the Navy. He was out of baseball for four years, except for nine games he played on receiving his discharge late in the '45 campaign. Meantime, misfortune had overtaken him—he could not find the Cobb letters, and last year he batted only .261, though this was ascribed to the imminence, arrival and gastronomic difficulties of the Chapman heir.

At eight months, Samuel Blake Chapman, Jr., is thriving lustily, and as a result of a winter spent in the Pandora pursuit of lifting lids, Pop has his letters again. Sam brought them here to camp with him, and will keep them with him all season.

"Everywhere I go," Sam says, "the letters go, too."
Chapman doesn't object to others benefiting from the advice; he just wants to keep at the head of the class.

Johnny Proving Vastly Improved Player on Return From Service; Grace in Thick of Left Field Battle

By SHIRLEY POVICH

ORLANDO, Fla.

Ossie Bluege has turned the clock back to 1943 for a solution of his infield problem. The experiment of Gerry Priddy as a shortstop has ended, the veteran going back to second base, and Johnny Sullivan is now restored to the regular shortstop job he held four years ago when he teamed with Gerry on the Washington club that finished second.

It wasn't Priddy's inability to play shortstop that determined Bluege to give up the idea of Gerry as his shortstop. It was rather the sensational surge of Sullivan, who came out of Army service only this winter as a question mark and immediately demonstrated in the Washington training camp that he's a letter ball player than when he was last with the club.

Acceptable as Priddy might have been at short, he's more acceptable to Bluege as a second baseman. With all due respect to Bobby Doerr and other top second basemen, Bluege never would admit that Priddy has ever been excelled and he rates second base as the most vital position on any club.

Bluege's infield problems are rapidly evaporating now, he hopes. Sullivan is no potent hitter, but he always did work well with Priddy, and Bluege is unworried about the defensive qualities of the pair. At third base, Cecil Travis not only is getting around in a manner positively kittenish in contrast to his heavy-footedness of last season, but he is rapping the ball in the same deadly fashion as the prewar Travis.

Under his present setup, Bluege finds no place for either George Myatt or Rookie Eddie Lyons in his infield plans, but they will move up if Sullivan bogs down. Bluege would not hesitate to move Priddy to shortstop in any emergency, and it would be a battle between Myatt and young Lyons for the vacant second base berth.

A new development has marked recent days in the Senators' camp. Joe Grace, regarded as a surplus outfielder when he reported, is now threatening to take over the left field job. Grace has been hitting lustily and is a more



Johnny Sullivan

Who's So Tough? Bluege Asks

ORLANDO, Fla.—Ossie Bluege, who is worrying along with his share of problems, is taking comfort from the plight of some of the other clubs in the league. Except for the Red Sox, Bluege does not view the competition as very tough.

"All of the other clubs have their troubles, just like us," said Bluege. "I don't see what the Yankees and Tigers have to be so happy about and they're the teams that finished second and third last year. Cleveland is supposed to be improved, and maybe is, but we could stand a lot of improvement. We could do better than last year's fourth place finish."

seasoned performer than young Gil Coan, who also has been hitting the ball, but who has not been impressive on defense. If the need for more righthanded hitters is compelling, however, George Case would move into left field.

And Washington's opening day catcher now threatens to be 40-year-old Rick Ferrell, who has been drafted for active duty again this season after a year on the coaching lines. With the release of the club's knuckleball pitchers, Dutch Leonard and Roger Wolff, Ferrell expressed a desire to return to an active role, and in camp he has been the best of the club's receivers. Al Evans and Frank Mancuso are technically rated ahead of Ferrell, but Bluege is inclining to the idea that the little veteran is still his best catcher.

The disturbing item in the Washington camp is the failure of Ray Scarborough to show any of the form that was expected to move him up to a starting role this season. Scarborough has been pounded hard in his every appearance and is now on the verge of forfeiting his place among the club's Big Five to little Marino Pieretti.

Cubs Quit Pacific Coast, Leaving Excess Baggage

Prim, Bauers, Pawelek and Maddern Sent to Los Angeles With Hanyzewski Being Released Outright to Oakland Roster Cut to 30, With Others Due to Depart

By ED BURNS

LOS ANGELES, Calif.

Warm-hearted Charlie Grimm brought his happy family of Chicago Cubs back to Los Angeles, March 2, from a cold, albeit profitable, three-day visit to Oakland. No sooner had he returned to southern California than he began swishing and slashing his broadsword, with the following casualties:

Released Ray Prim, well-seasoned lefty pitcher, outright to Los Angeles. Prim was with the Angels for seven seasons before spending 1943 with the Cubs. He returned to the Angels in 1944 and won 22 games. In 1945 he contributed 13 victories to the Cub pennant cause and last year won two while losing three. He pitched in two of the 1945 World's Series games.

Released Russ Bauers, signed by the Cubs last May, outright to Los Angeles. Bauers appeared in 15 games for Chicago last year winning two and losing one.

Released Pitcher Eddie Hanyzewski outright to Oakland. In his Cub affiliation at the start of this decade, Eddie promised to become a sensation. He was sent out to Milwaukee, to Nashville and to Tulsa in the hope he would overcome anxiety about sore arm he said affected his pitching arm. He'll not be back this time.

Released Catcher Ted Pawelek and Outfielder Clarence Maddern on option to Los Angeles. Pawelek appeared in 114 games for the Cubs last year and Maddern in 107.

Released Parker, the football star, to Portland. Ace was being tried out as a possible solution of the Cubs' stop problem when he was struck with a sore arm.

Pawelek and Maddern were released from the roster through the final week in California.

The slashing reduced the roster to 30 players and two or three more slated to tumble before the Cubs proceeded very far homeward.

With his squad thus streamlined week before breaking the Los Angeles camp, Grimm was pressed harder than ever against the persistent rumors he will have a new shortstop, in person of Eddie Miller or Bill Riggs or somebody else. It has been



Ray Prim

Coast Hospitality

OAKLAND, Calif.—Cub officials and Chicago writers were lavishly entertained during their brief stay in Oakland by C. L. (Brick) Laws, president of the Oaks. They were guests at an elaborate cocktail party at Laws' home and also entertained at a dinner tendered by the Oakland club. On returning to Los Angeles, the Chicagoans, along with White Sox, Indian and Coast League officials and writers, were guests at a cocktail party and dinner at the Town House.

that some of the Cub pitchers have been awaiting shortstop news as well as have the paid observers, but for different reasons, of course.

One Way Not to Condition
The Cubs' visit to Oakland, March 22 and 23, was memorable, though certainly was a money-grabbing enterprise rather than a phase of preparation for the National League pennant race. This was especially true of a night game played on March 21, when the thermometer in the low 50s, allowing a blustery, sunless day, a three-game series drew a reported 26,565, and the Cubs were accorded a royal welcome in their first visit to the bay district since 1933.

Three regulars, Andy Pafko, Nicholson and Clyde McCullough, were forced from the lineup during the series, but only the incapacitating illness of Nicholson and McCullough was traceable to the wintry setting in which the highly profitable (\$1.75 tops) series was played. Pafko loaded up on barbed ribs after the night game, which certainly was not directly the fault of weather man. Nicholson pulled a muscle but was able to return to action March 26. McCullough went to bed under threat of pneumonia immediately upon his return from the frigid series after appearing in all three games.

While the invasion of Oakland was a financial and artistic success, it is doubtful if the Cub front office in future years will overload the exhibition schedule with minor league games as did with 16 this spring. For instance, in the last game before the Chicagoans went to Oakland, the Cubs drew a handful of customers. The attendance was announced as 491. On the return from Oakland, the Cubs with San Diego again in Wrigley Field drew even fewer persons than San Diego. Oddly enough, the attendance was announced as 491. Some code number, no doubt—491.