

# Harridge Sets Mass Record for Brawl Fines

*Fight of the Year*

*and It Wasn't Even on TV*



**FURIOUS ACTION** marked the tenth-inning free-for-all between the Browns and Yankees at St. Louis the night of April 28. Umpire John Stevens (left) calls for assistance of Browns' trainer for his dislocated shoulder, injured when a player he was holding was torn from his arms by another belligerent.

At left end of mob, Clint Courtney, a key figure in the scrap, staggers away, with left sleeve of uniform torn. Behind him, facing camera, is Allie Reynolds. Yogi Berra (8) wisely kept on his catching gear, including mask. No. 18 is Browns' Dick Littlefield, with Les Moss, also of the Browns,

at his right. Facing Moss is Umpire Grover Froese with breast protector, then Bob Scheffing, Browns' coach and two Yanks. That's Umpire Bill Summers at extreme right, admonishing the boys, but wasting his 25,000-watt voice. Picture by Buel White, staff photographer of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

## Four Yanks, Two Browns Clipped in \$850 Penalties

League President Slaps \$250 Plaster on Courtney, Castigates Him for 'Violating Sportsmanship Rules'

By DAN DANIEL

CHICAGO, Ill.

In fining six players—four Yankees and two Browns—for the riot which took place at Busch Stadium in St. Louis on the night of April 28, William Harridge, president of the American League, issued a record order. Insofar as could be ascertained by rifling through the league books, Harridge never before had fined six players who had been involved in one incident. The total of the imposts came to \$850.

The fines were: Catcher Clint Courtney, St. Louis, \$250; Shortstop Bill Hunter, St. Louis, \$150; Second Baseman Billy Martin, Yankees, \$150; First Baseman Joe Collins, Yankees, \$100; Pitcher Allie Reynolds, Yankees, \$100, and Third Baseman Gil McDougald, Yankees, \$100.

That Bill Veck of the Browns expected Courtney to be fined, along with others of both clubs, even though no player had been expelled from the game, appeared quite certain.

However, Harridge's castigation of Courtney, who, he said in his decision, had "violated all the rules of sportsmanship by going extremely high into Phil Rizzuto at second base," aroused the ire of the president of the St. Louis club. The little shortstop had suffered three spike wounds on his right leg.

Veck told New York baseball writers, April 29, that he doubted if Rizzuto had been cut by Courtney, and added that he believed that Phil had been spiked by others in the melee on the field.

### Courtney Singled Out

In singling out Courtney and holding him up as the instigator of the riot, Harridge virtually issued a sharp warning to the catcher to play more rational, if not less enthusiastic, baseball.

Veteran New York writers who had witnessed the brawl felt that, in suspending no participant, the president of the league had taken a just and fair attitude.

The official communique from Harridge, after naming the players fined and the amounts, continued:

"All reports show that Courtney was mainly responsible for the brawl. He violated all the rules of sportsmanship by going extremely high into Phil Rizzuto at second base. Hunter had no business on the field at the time and he went out of his way to fight with Martin, continuing the fight after some semblance of order had been restored.

"Martin, while he had a right to be on the field, shares an equal blame with Hunter for continuing the brawl when it appeared it might be over.

"While undoubtedly other players were involved, umpire reports all indicate that Reynolds, Collins and McDougald, by their impulsive actions,



William Harridge

### 'He Got What Was Coming,' Says Ex-Teammate of Clint

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Clint Courtney, the belligerent Brownie, obviously is not beloved by the Yankees, with whom he has had two battles in two seasons. And some of his teammates are not fond of him, either, it develops.

The news that Courtney was mauled by the Yankees after booming into Phil Rizzuto didn't evoke a unanimous sympathy around the league. "He got what was coming to him," said one of the catcher's former St. Louis teammates. "It could have happened to a nicer fellow."

Courtney has been "a fresh bush-er" ever since he broke into the majors last season, the player added. "Rogers Hornsby said a lot of nice things about him, when he was managing the Browns, and, unfortunately, Courtney believed them."

must share some of the responsibility for the outbreak.

"While there has been much comment about the previous play in the first half of the tenth inning, in which Catcher Courtney dropped the ball as McDougald scored standing up, the plate umpire reports are definite that these two players had no altercation or exchange of words over this incident."

After he had announced his decision, based on the written reports of Umpires Grover Froese, Bill Summers, Johnny Stevens and Scotty Robb, Harridge expressed the hope that the American League, in summer session at

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## Round Two, Same Opponents-- and Clint Again Loses Specs

Veck's Fiery Catcher, Goat of Deciding Run, Dunked After Slide Into Scooter

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS, Mo.

St. Louis fans, who had been waiting for Round Two of the Kid Courtney vs. Yankees bout ever since the big slugging match at Yankee Stadium last July 12, got their wish here, April 28.

This time, however, Clint Courtney was on the defensive when the first blows were struck, although the catcher set off the fireworks with a spikes-high slide into Phil Rizzuto at second base. In the New York melee last summer, Scrap Iron charged Second Baseman Billy Martin after the Yankee made a high, hard tag on Courtney going into second, knocking off the catcher's glasses.

The fist-swinging at Busch Stadium

Courtney Regrets It Was Rizzuto Instead of Martin

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—"I'm sorry it happened—particularly sorry it was Rizzuto I ran into instead of that Martin," Clint Courtney said after the riotous Yankee-Brown game. "I didn't mind them having hold of me while some of them hit me. I'm just looking forward to the time they try it one at a time."

before 13,463 paying customers and about 1,500 servicemen far exceeded the Yankee Stadium free-for-all. In fact, rotund Bill Summers, the umpire who was bowled over in last year's ruckus, said that in his 20 years in blue he had never seen so much fist-swinging.

Players swarmed out of both dugouts and there were fights from first to third base and from the outfield grass to the pitcher's mound.

"One of our objectives," said Umpire

Backstop Tangled in N. Y. With Martin Last Season, Winding Up Second Best

Summers, "was to get the game completed without a forfeiture." He was referring to the shower of beer and pop bottles, chiefly in Gene Woodling's left-field territory.

Courtney's upper lip was puffed, Rizzuto's right leg was bruised, players' uniforms were torn, but the chief casualty was a non-combatant—Umpire John Stevens—who also served during the Yankee Stadium incident.

Stevens suffered a dislocation of his left shoulder when a player he was holding was torn from his arms. He yelled to Browns' Trainer Bob Bauman, who put the shoulder in place while the scuffling went on.

Injured Ump Completes Game  
Stevens completed the game, won by the Yankees, 7 to 6, in ten innings, and the next day said he would be ready to work the scheduled afternoon contest between the same clubs. Rain prevented that game, which was to have been on television. Extra police protection had been requested by the Browns.

Courtney, who had a big hand in four of the Browns' eight victories over the Bombers in 1952, needs only a small excuse to tear into his former employers. But two big circumstances got him into a belligerent mood.

First, the Little Bulldog sprouted goat horns in the tenth inning when Gil McDougald, taking a seemingly foolish chance of scoring from second base during a force play at that bag, crashed into Courtney, who dropped the ball. The run on the error turned out to be the deciding one. McDougald, who didn't try to slide because the play wasn't even close, hit Clint with his shoulder, knocking the catcher's spectacles off his face. (In the fight later, Courtney lost one shoe and his glasses again. The spectacles weren't broken.)

Second item was Courtney's time at bat in the tenth. Leading off against Allie Reynolds, Courtney whacked a pitch against the short right field screen. Hank Bauer played the ball well and made a perfect throw to Rizzuto standing on second.

Realizing he would be an easy out, Courtney took the only chance left—a high slide into Rizzuto in hopes of kicking the ball out of The Scooter's hands, as did Eddie Stanky in the 1951 World's Series, or causing Rizzuto to drop the ball. Courtney was called out.

The moment Courtney dived at Rizzuto, Reynolds and the Yankee infielders rushed upon Clint, who agreed with several teammates that Reynolds was

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### 'They Can't Push ME Around'



# Courtney Throwback to Old Fightin' Days

## 'Scraps' Puts Out All Way, Demands Mates Do the Same

### Son of Soil, He Makes Hay in Stocks, Too

**Clint**, Farmer in Louisiana, Owns 400 Acres, Leases More; Cattle Total 800

By BOB ADDIE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
Clinton Dawson Courtney, the pride of Coushatta, La., (Pop. 2,501), could have been born 32 years too late this past March 16, which was his birthday.

**Courtney**, variously known as "Scrap Iron" and "Ol' Scraps," hardly belongs to this era of unimaginative sports chroniclers who haven't thought up a colorful nickname since Joe DiMaggio was dubbed "The Yankee Clipper." (And even then a Washington sports announcer, the popular Arch McDonald, gave Joe that tag.)

Anyway, **Courtney** belongs to that delightful era of nonsense when giants of the sports world like Ring Lardner, Sid Mercer, Boze Bulger, Bill Slocum, Bill Phelon, Bill Corum, Damon Runyon, Charlie Dryden, George E. Phair and Grantland Rice covered the wonderful world of fun and games.

What a character **Clint Courtney** would have made for the wonderfully satirical pen of a Ring Lardner! **Clint** is the swashbuckling farm boy—the man who has never been to sea but has the rolling gait of a sailor on shore.

#### Another Will Rogers

He's the homespun philosopher who would have given Will Rogers a tussle. He's the epitome of the rookie who came to camp with the store-boughten clothes, a celluloid collar, high-button shoes, a clip-on tie and a vast impertinence for the prosaic world. He is the type once described as the man who went on a trip with a \$5 bill and one shirt and never changed either.

**Courtney**, of course, has a few more bills than a fin and a few more shirts than one. Like Harry Truman, another ex-farm boy, Ol' Scraps has a fondness for garish sports shirts and, like Bill Veeck, who has made the sport shirt famous, **Courtney** never likes to wear a tie.

His idea of being well-dressed is to put on a pair of clean glasses.

**Clint Courtney** has one distinction. He's the first major league catcher ever to wear glasses behind the plate and his pioneering has opened up a new world for near-sighted backstops.

**Scraps** at present is gainfully employed as a catcher for the Washington Senators—and gainfully is the right word. Since coming to the Nats in 1955, **Clint** has never failed to get a raise.

#### He's Good Businessman

**Courtney** is part baseball player and part businessman. You can bet that there never will be any benefits held for the little iron man—(he's 5-8 and weighs 180) who first squawked at the world at a place called Hall Summit, La. Since then, of course, **Clint** has gone up in the world and lives in the metropolis of Coushatta, about which Washington Coach Ellis Clary once remarked: "I heard they had a forest fire in the heart of the downtown theater district there."

**Scraps** is no idle man during the off season. Perhaps there are still many ball players who loll in unaccustomed ease, hunting and fishing during the fall and winter. But not **Courtney**.

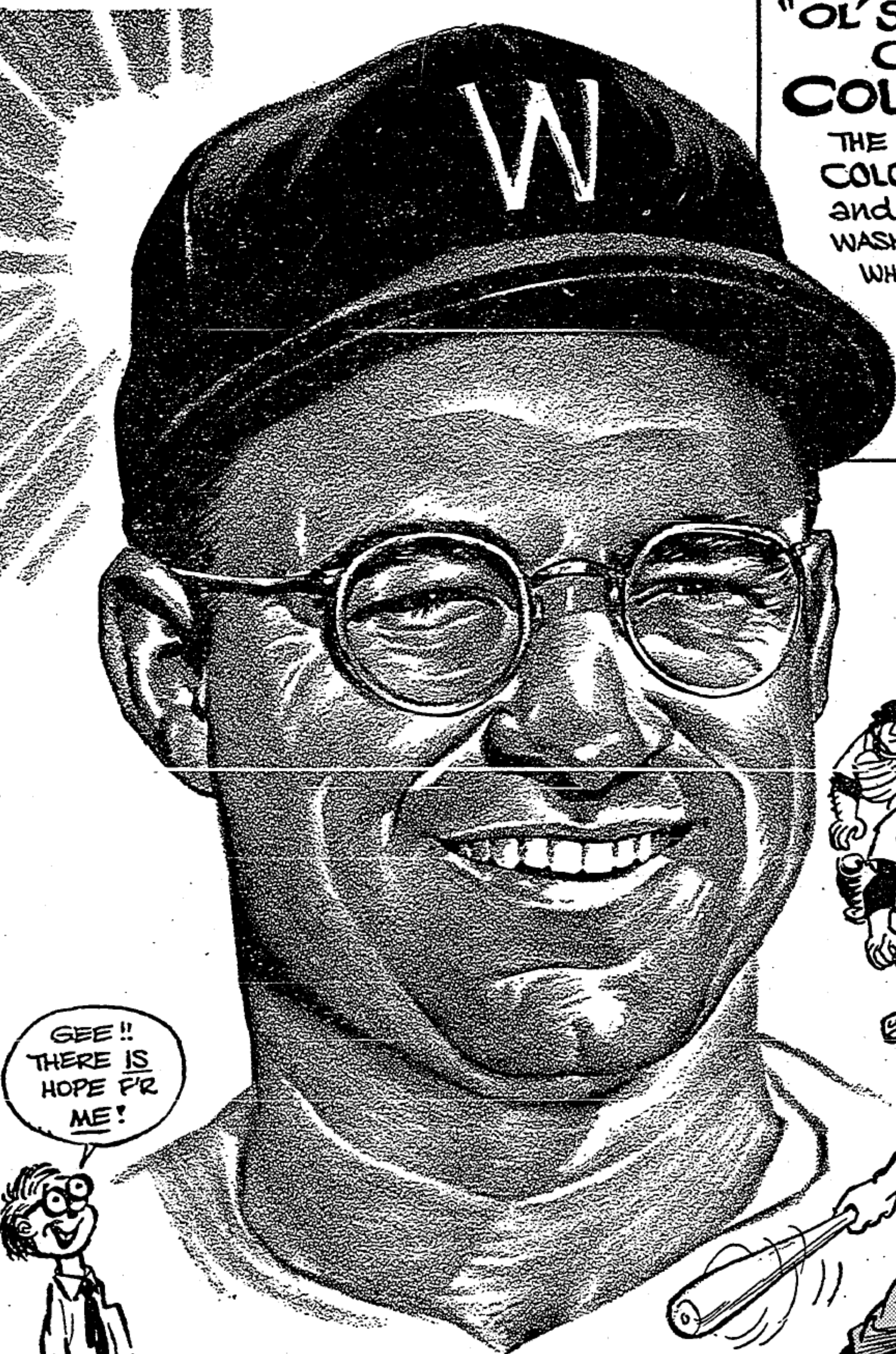
He owns 400 acres of fine land and leases 3,000 more acres which some day will be his. He started out as a tenant farmer but through his acumen and drive bought his own land and is adding more each year.

He has 800 head of cattle and 32 horses he owns either wholly or in part with Bob Wiesler, ex-Yankee pitcher. Only some of his horses are in partnership—the land belongs to **Courtney**. The horses may not have won any prizes yet but they could some day.

**Clint** has them running at various half-mile tracks and constantly is adding to his string. He's a shrewd manipulator in the stock market and last year

Nats' Hardy Hustler

He's Sparkplug in Specs



"OL' SCRAP IRON"  
**CLINT COURTNEY**,  
THE AGGRESSIVE,  
COLORFUL, SHREWD  
and GULLIBLE  
WASHINGTON CATCHER,  
WHO'LL GIVE YOU  
YOUR MONEY'S  
WORTH—  
HOLLER  
FOR  
DOLLAR

HE WAS THE TYPE  
OF ROOKIE RING  
LARDNER ONCE  
WROTE ABOUT



HE IS UNIQUE  
AMONG CATCHERS  
IN THAT HE WEARS  
GLASSES BEHIND  
THE PLATE!



OWNS AND/OR LEASES OVER 3000 ACRES  
OF FARM LAND—800 HEAD OF CATTLE  
AND 32 RACE HORSES!!

THE SQUAT MAN  
HAS TRADED  
KNUCKLES WITH  
THE BEST OF  
THEM—ONCE  
CHALLENGED  
THE ENTIRE  
YANKEE TEAM!

#### Grid Game 'Lot of Big Guys Piling on Little Guys'—Clint

WASHINGTON, D. C.—**Clint Courtney** admits he was quite an athlete when he was in high school. He played football, too.

"But, you know," he says, "I gave it up, that football. I could never see the point of a lot of big guys beating up on a lot of little guys."

turned a tidy profit in some steel shares.

What kind of a farmer is he? A few years ago, when George Kell was with the White Sox, he and **Courtney** were on Bob Elson's TV show in Chicago.

#### Kell a "Windshield Farmer"

Seeking a common ground, outside of baseball, Bob remarked that **Courtney** and Kell both were farmers.

"Yeah, but there's a difference," stubbornly insisted **Clint**. "The difference is I'm a working farmer and Kell heah is a windshield farmer."

"What," asked the puzzled Elson, "is a windshield farmer?"

"I'll tell you," **Clint** replied. "A working man like me goes over his land hisself. A windshield farmer like Kell heah rides around in his air-conditioned Cadillac with the windows closed. When that dust gets too thick, ol' George turns on them windshield wipers."

**Courtney** is a product of the Yankee farm system and he's never forgiven the Bronx Bombers for letting him go. But **Clint** is a realist, too. When people kid him about not being good enough for the Yankees, he says: "They had a

pretty good catcher up there then and he's still the best around—Yogi Berra. They ain't no better."

A man who is lavish in his praise, **Courtney** is a mercurial type who can also hate in a hurry. He's a perfectionist who demands top performance from himself as well as from his teammates.

A couple of years ago, the Senators had played a particularly sloppy game against the Athletics in West Palm Beach. **Courtney** caught that day but he hardly distinguished himself.

#### Realistic Self-Appraisal

Later, in the evening, he ran into a couple of sports writers and said: "If you boys had any guts, you'd rip me apart." He was assured that something of the sort had suggested itself that afternoon and the proof would be in the morning dispatches.

**Courtney's** idol always has been Rogers Hornsby. He played under the great Rajah at Beaumont in 1950 and later played for Hornsby again when Rog managed the ill-fated Browns.

"I never sassed him," says **Clint**. "His word was law. You couldn't get away with anything with him. Why, I'd be

#### Courtney's Simple Formula For Making Birdie on Links

WASHINGTON, D. C.—**Clint Courtney**, a recent convert to golf, has a simple explanation for making a birdie. "All you got to do," he says, "is hit that ball next to that flagpole and then hit it another lick in the hole."

five minutes late to practice and he'd work me till my tongue rolled out. But I always called Hornsby 'sir.' I gave him that respect."

It's typical of **Courtney** that while he called his manager "sir," he always called his skipper by his last name, "Hornsby," even to his face. After all, a man can be just so polite.

**Courtney** owns a career batting average of .274, which isn't bad in these times. He fancies himself as a hitter but will concede that a few other southpaw batters (he swings lefty) could be better.

Ted Williams, for instance, is **Courtney's** idea of how **Courtney** should hit.

#### Tossed, Crutch Away 3 Days After Bone in Leg Was Broken

WASHINGTON, D. C.—**Clint Courtney**, probably had the fastest recovery in history from a broken leg. He was catching at West Palm Beach against the A's, March 21, and was blocking the plate when Hal Smith slid home. **Clint** suffered a fracture of the right fibula and at first it was said he would be out at least a month, maybe six weeks.

**Courtney** was put on crutches but refused to wear a cast. Three days later he threw away the crutches and played golf until forbidden by Manager Cookie Lavagetto. A week after his injury he was back working out. Doctors said the fracture was so hairline as to be almost non-existent.

Still, they said his recovery was remarkable because he didn't "baby himself." **Courtney** was available for opening day in Washington.

Then there's his boy, Yogi, and Mickey Mantle, when Mickey swings left-handed. But don't ring in any more boys on **Clint** because he would be plumb run out of generosity. He thinks maybe Stan Musial is a pretty good left-handed hitter, but then, he says: "I don't see too much of that other league, so I don't know."

#### Sent to Browns in '51

**Courtney** wore the spangles of the New York Yankees only briefly. He was in the class of '51 which saw his old Beaumont teammate, Gil McDougald, come up at the same time. **Courtney** got in one game with the Yanks and went 0-for-2.

The Yankees traded him to the Browns in November of 1951 for Pitcher Jim McDonald.

Then he was traded to the White Sox

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