

Joe's Delayed-Action Bombs Exploding

Marks His Return With Home Runs

Clipper's Blasts Beat Bosox Three Games in Row in Fenway Park

By DAN DANIEL
BOSTON, Mass.

A two-run homer to beat the Red Sox in his 1949 American League debut, 5 to 4, on the night of June 28.

Two home runs, one of them with two runners ahead of him, to humble the local contenders the following afternoon, 9 to 7, after they had taken a 7 to 1 lead in four innings.

Another homer, with two on, June 30, for the margin in the Yanks' 6 to 3 victory and giving Joe nine runs batted in during the three games here.

That is how Joseph Paul DiMaggio broke into the pennant doings after having missed the first 65 games.

As he sat in the clubhouse after the second game here, DiMaggio was asked by a Boston writer, "Could you have come back sooner?"

Joe laughed, "Young man, I am no lake. Remember that. I came back two weeks ahead of my schedule. Now that I am back, I hope I don't have to return to the dugout with a new flare-up in that right heel."

"Just Go Up and Swing"

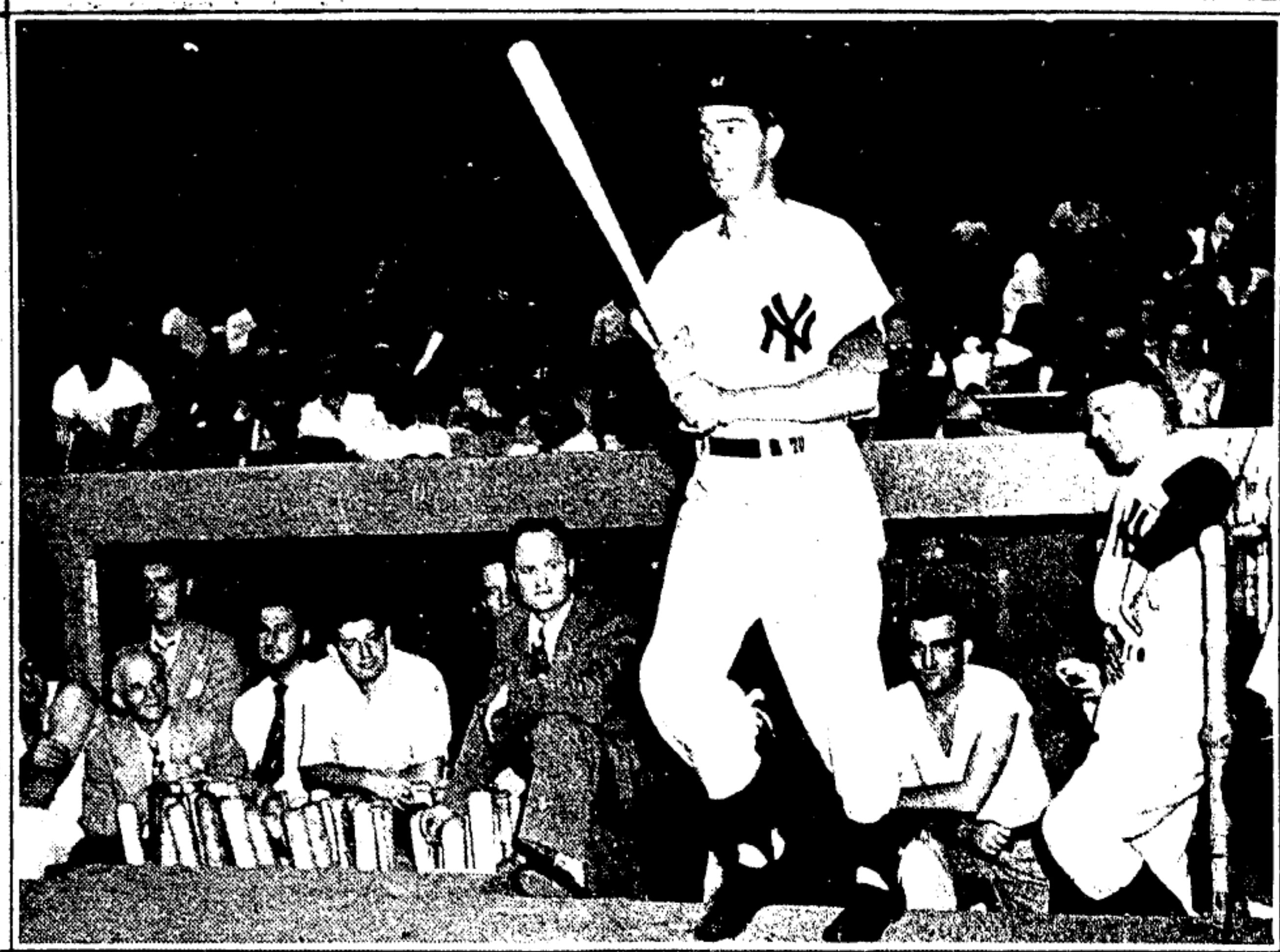
"You say you had only eight workouts, then you rip our boys to pieces," said another Boston Boswell. "How do you do it?"

Joe replied, "Just go up and swing, and manage to hit the ball. There is, of course, no skill involved."

Does the heel still hurt? Yes, a little now and then. A lot sometimes. Joe limps perceptibly. But he believes he is back to stay. Perhaps he will have to take an occasional day off, or leave when the score permits. But, "I feel fine. I think I am going to make it."

DiMaggio looked good enough in the field. But not superlative. He had a little trouble with a double by Bobby Doerr in the second game. But, every-

Crashing the Pennant Party



JOE DIMAGGIO . . . stepping out for smashing comeback.

thing considered, he has been doing a great job.

"I don't have that drive in the legs which I need out there to make quick starts," Joe explained. "I certainly was glad that the first game wasn't tied up in the ninth and sent into overtime, because I would have been forced to quit. The legs would not have carried me into the tenth."

"New shoes? Yes. I ordered them in New York on June 28. They will be lighter than my present shoes. Rubber cushioned, with spikes on the right heel."

"But the way I am going, I will not change shoes. Ball players are superstitious."

Casey Stengel watched Joe those three days with something more than delight.

As the manager exulted over the big

show Joe put on in the second game, a Boston writer asked, "Where would the Yankees be if Joe had been able to start the season with them, and had played those 65 games he missed?"

"I don't like to speculate about such things," replied Casey. "I am more interested in what Joe's return means from now on."

"Don't you believe the Yankees would be ten games out in front if you had had Joe all the way?" the writer persisted.

"Well, what interests me is this—how are the other contenders going to take Joe's return?" said Stengel. "They won't like it too much, will they?"

"Babe Ruth alone could match Joe's flair for drama, for putting on a show and responding to an occasion. And not even Ruth would have put on the kind of demonstration DiMaggio staged

here. Eight workouts, and then socked four homers. The answer is thus: the man is a pro."

The room quickly filled with Boston writers. DiMaggio explained that his two homers of the second game, against Ellis Kinder and Earl Johnson, had been hit off curve balls.

Ten feet away, Casey was on a new tack. "Rizzuto is the greatest short-stop I ever have seen. Miracles every day. The guy belongs on top for the All-Star Game."

Joe laughed. "Casey isn't kidding. That Rizzuto is terrific. And a strong boost to Joe Page for his great relief pitching today, and on all other occasions."

DiMaggio's spectacular pennant debut served notice on the rest of the American League that the Yankees were very much in the pennant fight. They

Still Limp, But Believes He Can Stay

Only Ruth Could Match His Flair for the Dramatic, Declares Stengel

were up there minus Joe, they are going to be so much tougher with DiMaggio in action.

Previously, there had been another important Yankee development.

On the night of June 23, when the lineup of the Yankees was announced for the opener of a series with Detroit, the Stadium crier shouted, "Tommy Henrich, first base."

This shift of the American League's standout right fielder to the position in which he had played the last 46 games of the 1948 season had been predicted by many, but I had not expected it just yet.

In fact, only the day before, Casey Stengel had said, "I believe we need a shakeup very badly. Sure, we are four games in front. But I think we are about to slip."

"I may send Billy Johnson to first base during the series with Detroit. I may use him at second."

Casey Changes His Mind

"Henrich at first base." I don't want to make that change. Tommy is the greatest right fielder in the game. No, not Henrich at first, unless an emergency develops."

Yet, the next evening, Casey shifted Henrich to first base, and Thomas celebrated with his fifteenth homer and two singles and drove in five runs in support of Tommy Byrne, one hit shutout over the Bengals, 12 to 0.

"What happened over night?" Casey repeated the query and lambled. "I told you yesterday that I would not shift Henrich. Well, I got here today with a hunch."

I told Stengel that I had suspected all along he would make his big fight with Henrich in the infield. I wrote that back in March and again in April, and I was convinced there would be a change even when Dick Kuylenstierna and Jack Phillips were giving the bag a .330 average between them.

The Baffling Case of Bombers' Tommy Byrne

NEW YORK, N. Y.

The date was Thursday, June 23. In the cool of the evening, Robert Abial (Red) Rolfe, manager of the Detroit Tigers, sat in his cubicle in the visitors' clubhouse and talked about pitchers.

"As the June 15 deadline on trading approached, I had in mind a proposition to the Yankees for Tommy Byrne," Rolfe revealed.

"I went over his record and was not impressed. I knew he had terrific stuff. But his control was not good. So I decided not to go ahead with what I had in mind."

At midnight, when Red was leaving the park, he looked at me and laughed. "Who knows anything about that erratic, unpredictable sect known as pitchers?" he exclaimed. "I guess I should have gone ahead with that trade notion."

Byrne had shut out the Bengals with one hit, a daffy single. Opening the eighth inning, Johnny Lipon had landed on the first pitch and shot it just inside the left field line for one base.

There was a touch of nemesis in Lipon's kill-joy hit: On May 8 in Detroit, a precisely similar thing had happened.

Opening the seventh inning, with Byrne hurling a no-hitter, Lipon had landed on a shoulder-high fast ball and singled into left field.

On that occasion, however, two other hits followed. Tommy got a 12 to 0 shutout.

On June 23, the Bombers once more collected 17 blows; again Trucks absorbed the defeat. Just as Ed Popat has made a spe-

Weiss Strong Believer

NEW YORK, N. Y.—George Weiss, general manager of the Yanks, never has quit on Tommy Byrne.

In Byrne's darkest hours, George has insisted, "Okay. Tough today. But he can't miss making the grade. A guy with his stuff and his gameness just won't be a failure."

cially of beating Cleveland, so has Byrne fastened a hex on the Bengals, from whom he has won six out of seven.

This season, his score against Detroit is three and one. In 1948, Byrne landed three straight successes against Detroit.

Bucky Took a Chance

June 27, 1948, found the southpaw hidden away in the bullpen, seldom called on because of his penchant for bases on balls. Frank Shea had failed Bucky Harris in Cleveland, Red Embree had failed in Detroit. A series with the Red Sox was in the offing, and Harris was eager to save his front-line mound experts for those three games.

"I am going to start Byrne today," said Bucky on the morning of June 27. "I know it is a big risk, but I have got to find out about Byrne." Harris continued.

Harris added, "I want Lopat and Raschi for the Red Sox, so it has got to be Byrne today."

The dramatist of the New York

In-and-Out



Tommy Byrne

staff pitched a two-hit shutout, winning by 7 to 0, with Dizzy Trout his victim. Byrne issued eight walks that day. But he spun that left-handed fast ball of his with speed and legerdemain which amazed the press box, and astonished Harris.

"Byrne has made it, at last," shouted the ecstatic Boswells in the New York sports pages.

"Maybe he has, and maybe he hasn't," said the cautious, too-often disappointed Bucky. "Let's wait and see what happens."

On July 3, in a night encounter

Cost Yanks \$12,000

NEW YORK, N. Y. Tommy Byrne cost the Yankees only \$12,000. Hailed as the outstanding lefthander in the collegiate ranks in his sophomore year at Wake Forest, Byrne fought off a host of bidders for his services, with the Yanks being the most persistent and the winner in the bidding.

with Washington, Byrne continued his dazzling pitching. But he lost. The Yankees got only three hits and one run for him off Walter Masterson in the Stadium, and the Senators nosed him out, 2 to 1, in 12 innings. Thomas allowed just five blows.

The next time out, Byrne lost again, 4 to 3, to the Athletics, even though they got only four hits. Walks, walks, walks.

Washington later drove him to cover and then came a breather for Byrne. The Yankees, who have a mystic love for the number 12 whenever the southpaw pitches for them, rang up a 12 to 4 victory over the Tigers.

When Tommy registered his third victory of the season against Detroit, it was 13 to 5.

And so it went, up and down, bases on balls and strikeouts, as Byrne rang up an eight-five record for the season.

"I believe Tommy has arrived, and I look forward to bigger achievements by him in 1949," said Harris.

But Bucky did not stay, and it was Casey Stengel who took over

the task of making a winner of Byrne.

Tommy has a tremendous lot of stuff. He is exceedingly fast. His curve ball is deadly. But, oh, those bases on balls.

In 1948, Byrne worked in 31 games, for a total of 134 innings. He walked 101 men, fanned 49.

In 1947, with Kansas City, he struck out 138 and walked 106 in 149 innings.

The Byrnes are the trials and tribulations of major league managers. Pitchers of that type give their pilots sleepless nights.

Fear Kickback on Trades

"I am going to trade that so and so the first time anybody offers me a lame bird dog for him," says the harried manager after he has sweated through one of those base on balls carnivals, and seen his problem child lose, even though he had allowed just four hits.

But when a proposition is made for the Man of Borneo, your hither-to aroused pilot will say, "I don't dare trade this bird. He could make me look like a sucker. If he can curb his wildness, he will be a \$200,000 hurler. I will have to go along with him a little longer."

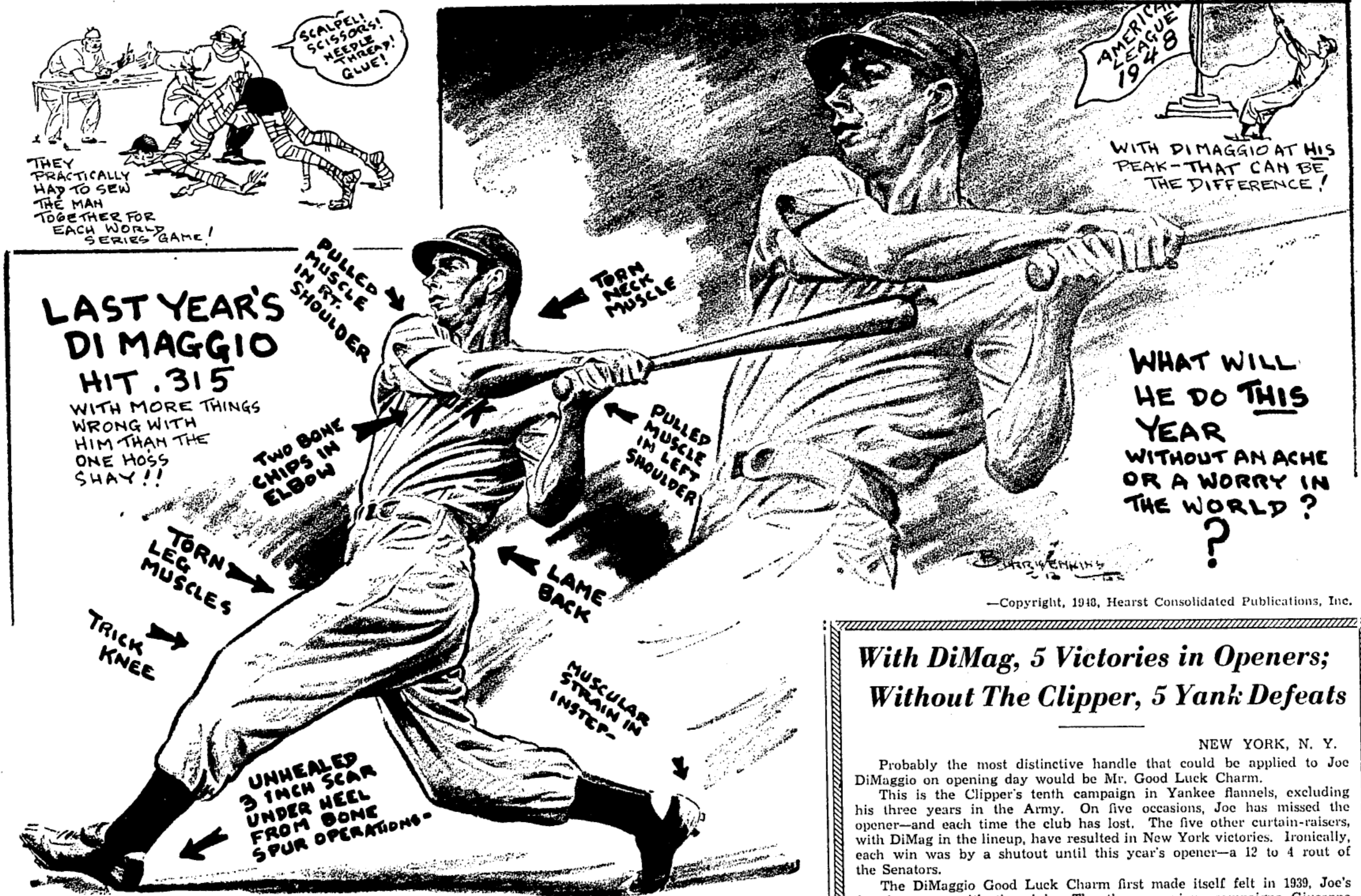
Tommy is a student on the mound. He watches what he throws and how his hitters react to his stuff. And he learns.

That is the tabloid story of Tommy the lefthander, the joy of the Yankees one day, the despair of his pilot the next time out, and always a grand guy to know and to have around.

DiMaggio... Everybody's Ball Player

The Human Side of a Great Hitting Machine

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Quiet Star a Big Favorite of Fans, Writers, Players

Press Box Portrait of Yankee Clipper Sketched by Daniel, Chronicler of Career Since Rookie Days

By DAN DANIEL

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Among the many ceremonies listed for opening day in Yankee Stadium was the presentation of the 1947 Most Valuable Player award of the American League, the Landis Memorial plaque, to Joseph Paul DiMaggio, center fielder of the Bombers.

For Giuseppe, this was in the nature of old stuff, and yet, more thrilling an experience than ever. He had achieved the most valuable citation for 1939, but that was when he was only 25, in his fourth season with New York.

In 1941, DiMaggio won the accolade a second time. Now he had it again, at the age of 34, after three years of Army service had hit him at the peak of his remarkable career. To gain the grand acknowledgment at this time was summa cum laude, with palms and laurels.

Not a very great deal actually has been written about this brightest member of the DiMaggio constellation. In fact, not a great deal really has been written about any of our baseball heroes with the exception of George Herman Ruth.

The tendency in baseball writing is toward recognition of the evidences in arithmetic. There is powerful worship of the almighty batting average, the spectacular home run total, the runs driven in figure, the won and lost and earned run figures in the pitching histories.

About the men behind the arithmetical evidences, comparatively little has been done.

It seems to me that this is a weakness—understandable and inevitable though it may be, but a weakness just the same—of our system of baseball writing.

There is a trend toward the creation of pictures of automata. The baseball star is made out to be a puppet. But he has his sensations and his feelings, he has his ills and his hopes and fears, he has his stomach aches and

DiMag, With \$65,000 Pact, 'Going All-Out This Season'

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Very important in the brighter psychology, keener determination and generally pleasant outlook of Joe DiMaggio is his new contract, for \$65,000.

Said Joe when the Yankees opened their drive in Washington on April 19, "I am going all-out this season."

He got two hits in the opening victory, 12 to 4. He made a throw reminiscent of his early days with the Yankees, and he made a first to third dash on a medium single, which showed there was nothing wrong with his speed.

DiMaggio I have been close to since 1936, in the clubhouse, on the field before games, in the railroad car.

My introduction to Joe, my first experiences with him, make an interesting and significant story.

Joe's closest friend among the baseball writers in San Francisco was Tom Laird, now a real estate tycoon in Sacramento.

"Just See My Friend Dan"

Laird said to Joe, "You are going to St. Petersburg, Fla., to join the Yankees. Don't make any mistakes. Don't do what Myril Hoag did, for example."

"Myril walked into the Yankee camp and found Dan Daniel waiting for him. Dan said, 'Suppose we sit down over here and talk things over.'"

"Hoag replied, 'I want to go out and play golf. How about six o'clock?' To which Dan replied, 'By six o'clock, Mr. Hoag, my interest in you will have vanished.' Hoag did not play golf."

"Now, you go to Dan and whatever he suggests, you do. He is a close friend of mine, and you will find that he will be a good friend of yours."

Joe called on me as soon as he arrived in St. Petersburg and my first word of advice was: "Don't be suspicious of the writers. Don't be too talkative, but don't crawl into a shell and stay there. As I size you up, you have a level noggin and a sense of humor. Those are the two main es-

Joe's Arm Sound

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Joe DiMaggio gave fair warning to American League base-runners that his arm is again sound in the opening game of the season here, April 19, when he made his most sensational throw of the spring against the Senators. From an off-balance position in the first inning, DiMaggio, who underwent an operation on his arm last winter, almost nipped Al Kozar at the plate after grabbing Mickey Vernon's fly. Even the Yankees were dazzled.

his nights of walking the baby, he has his scraps with the Missus or his courting misunderstandings with the Miss.

A diamond hero fans thrice in a row, and your man in the stands says, "Chumley looks like a bum today." What he doesn't know is that Chumley's father died at three in the morning.

This is an effort to give you a picture of the Joe DiMaggio we of the New York press box know. The Joe

With DiMag, 5 Victories in Opener; Without The Clipper, 5 Yank Defeats

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Probably the most distinctive handle that could be applied to Joe DiMaggio on opening day would be Mr. Good Luck Charm.

This is the Clipper's tenth campaign in Yankee flannels, excluding his three years in the Army. On five occasions, Joe has missed the opener—and each time the club has lost. The five other curtain-raisers, with DiMag in the lineup, have resulted in New York victories. Ironically, each win was by a shutout until this year's opener—a 12 to 4 rout of the Senators.

The DiMaggio Good Luck Charm first made itself felt in 1939, Joe's fourth season with the club. The three previous campaigns Giuseppe witnessed the inaugural from the sidelines. In 1936, his freshman year, an ankle injury and subsequent diathermy burn benched him and the Yanks lost the opener to Washington and Bobo Newson, 1 to 0. The next year, 1937, Joe was convalescing from a tonsillectomy and missed the inaugural, which saw the Bombers again succumb to the Nats, 3 to 2. A holdout campaign kept DiMag out of the first 12 games of the 1938 season, and once more, in his absence, the club blew the inaugural, losing to Boston, 8 to 4.

But The Charm changed it all in 1939. With the Jolter on hand and contributing one single in two trips, the Yankees blanked the Red Sox, 2 to 0, behind Red Ruffing's seven-hit tossing.

Another mishap tripped DiMag in 1940. An injury to his right knee late in the exhibition season kept him under wraps when the pennant race opened. As on previous occasions, it meant a Yankee loss, with Ruffing being edged in ten frames by the A's, 2 to 1.

The Bomber star was on hand for the 1941 opener and, chipping in with two hits in four appearances, helped the club to a 3 to 0 triumph over the Senators. Marius Russo authored the calcimining with a three-hitter.

In 1942, the story was the same. The Jolter, carrying a \$42,500 contract in his pocket, cavorted in center field in the inaugural as Ruffing threw a three-hitter to blank the Nats, 7 to 0.

The 1943-44-45 campaigns found Joe in the Army. But with him back for the 1946 curtain-raiser, the Yankees once more annexed an opening-day shutout. While Spud Chandler held the A's to five safeties, the Clipper made one in four chances to aid in a 5 to 0 victory.

Last spring a skin graft on his left heel, following an earlier operation to remove a bone spur, put Joe on the hospital list when the campaign got under way. Again the Yankees ran true to type and Philadelphia's Phil Marchildon collared them, 6 to 1.

This year the magic influence of The Charm again exercised itself. Batting in the clean-up spot for the Yankees in the inaugural at Washington, April 19, was Joe DiMaggio. Although his contribution of a double and single in four trips played only a minor role, the Bombers rolled to an easy victory. Unlike the earlier inaugurals in which DiMag participated, the opposition did score. However, with seven Yankee runs across in the first inning, topped by his own home run, Allie Reynolds probably cared little that the Nats garnered four runs in the 12 to 4 rout.

entials in relations with the press. This dough from the other paper. What just be yourself."

It took about three days to note that in DiMaggio the Yankees had one of the greatest players in their history.

The sports editor of the New York World-Telegram—Joe Williams, at that time—telegraphed, "Get DiMaggio to do his life story."

I put the matter to Giuseppe and he said he would be delighted to collaborate with me. We sat around for a few hours and he told me how he had got into baseball, how he had yearned for a place in the Yankee outfield.

No sooner had the World-Telegram advertised the DiMaggio yarn than our opposition got after Joe. One organization offered him \$3,000 to do the story exclusively for it.

DiMaggio said to me, "I can get

I replied, "Joe, the series is in type. I can offer you no compensation. But we have advertised the Life Story of Joe DiMaggio."

"Now, you have signed no release. If you choose to sell the story to our opposition, we have no hold on you. It's up to you. Sign the release to the World-Telegram, or sign up with the other paper."

DiMaggio's contract with the Yankees called for \$7,500 for the season, and \$3,000 was a lot of dough to Joe. He said, "Make out the release and I will sign it. You got there first, and you are entitled to the story."

That gives you a pretty fair pic-

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