

# Ennis' Oil-Soaked Bats Kindle Blaze Under Opposing Pitchers

# Spec Gives Casey Rosier Outlook on Yankees' Pitching

## Relief Pearl Werle Among Early Gems Flashed by Buccos

Del, in Finer Physical Trim Than Ever, Gets Off to Fast Start at the Plate

By STAN BAUMGARTNER  
PHILADELPHIA, Pa.



Del Ennis

The Phillies were not exactly balls of fire for the first week of the pennant race. The unexpected strength of the opposition, combined with the inability of the Whiz Kids to find the proper combination of good pitching and good hitting in the same game, sent them to

several defeats in early series. But there were three young men who more than carried their share of the burden—Del Ennis, Willie Jones and Dick Sisler.

Ennis, who led the league in RBIs with 126 in 1950, started the schedule like a prairie fire and banged home seven tallies in the first five games.

Usually a slow starter, the burly Philadelphian was hitting .300 after the series with the Braves and had two homers to his credit. Stronger, broader of chest and slimmer of waist line, Del easily could lead the league in hitting. He is still using the oil-soaked bats—immersed in oil a year ago—and the ball rings off them like a bell.

Jones' work was even more spectacular. The slim third sacker hit three home runs in the first five games, batted above the .300 mark and played exceptionally well in the field. "Old Aches and Pains," as his Terre Haute, Ind., friends call him, is like Luke Appling. He complained about his stomach the early days of the season—and then rapped the ball to all corners. He rocked Preacher Roe for two homers and Johnny Sain for one.

### Sisler Hits When It Counts

Sisler was another of the "slow starters" in spring training who began playing magnificently when the curtain went up. His hitting was so ineffective on one or two occasions at Clearwater that Manager Eddie Sawyer gave him a "rest." But as with the two other men, Sisler began clouting as soon as the hits counted.

Sawyer was disappointed at the showing of the Phils in the initial contests. When Mike Goliat—a spring sensation, hitting .450—went into a tailspin and made only two hits in his first 14 times at bat, Sawyer replaced him with Ed Pellagrini.

There were several encouraging factors in the pitching. Emory (Bubba) Church showed that he can wear Curt Simmons' shoes as the No. 2 pitcher. The stocky young righthander with the excellent curve ball, pitched eight splendid innings against the Dodgers and followed by outlasting Johnny Sain in a free-hitting game with the Braves to hang up his initial victory.

Ken Heintzelman also turned in an excellent performance against the Braves, but ran into powerful Max Surkont at his best and dropped a 2 to 1 decision—typical Heintzelman luck. In nine games last season, the Phils made only 17 runs for the veteran southpaw. Ken's luck took a turn for the better on April 25, however. He scattered eight hits against the Giants and won, 2 to 1.

### Waitkus Hitting in Better Luck

Eddie Waitkus is going along at his usual spring pace, but he has not been afflicted with the atrocious luck that knocked his average below normal a year ago. At this time last season, the first sacker was sending one line drive after the other into the hands of opposing fielders. This spring he has been more fortunate. Gran Hamner is not yet up to hitting stride, and neither was Andy Seminick before he was sent to the bench for a few days with a split little finger. Robin Roberts has not been as sharp as usual on the mound.

Philly Puffs: Infielder Clarence (Buddy) Hicks, purchased from Hollywood of the Brooklyn farm organization, and who suffered a pulled muscle his third day at Clearwater, was sent to Baltimore (International) on option. . . . Blix Donnelly, who was sold to the Braves, should find the Boston weather (nine months of slush and three months of snow and ice) just to his liking. Blix lives in Olivia, Minn., during the winter and throws snowballs to keep in shape. . . . Waitkus calls everybody "sweetheart"—including the opposing hitters who reach first base. His greeting is "Hello, sweetheart, how did you get here?"

### Kids Seeking Autographs Tell Goetz He's Murtaugh

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Several youngsters stopped Umpire Larry Goetz in the lobby of the Stevens Hotel in Chicago recently and asked for his autograph.

"I'm not a ball player," Goetz told the kids.

"Aw, you're kidding," one of the boys said. "We know you. You're Danny Murtaugh!"

season gave him the most satisfaction out of the 1951 Pirates.

"Werle looked like the pitcher for whom I offered \$200,000 in cash a year ago when I was with Brooklyn," the Pittsburgh Mahatma declared. "I made the offer to John Galbreath and Frank McKinney and they were so surprised they asked me to put it in writing."

"The only piece of paper available was a scorecard and I think either McKinney or Galbreath has that slip of paper now."

Queen was a particularly bright spot in his first assignment, although losing a tough luck 2 to 1 decision to Frank Hiller. Mel fanned nine Cubs and nailed the first out in the first six innings by whiffings. If he can deliver this year and proves that his ailing back of 1950 has recovered, Meyer will have a valuable starter.

### Bell Finds Blackie a Cousin

Bell subjected Ewell Blackwell to one of the roughest afternoons the great Cincinnati righthander has experienced in the majors when he combed him for five hits in five times at bat, including a home run, three doubles and a single, April 22. Bell's homer hit halfway up the right-center light standard at Crosley Field. Cincinnati writers said they never had seen a batsman collect five for five off Blackwell before.

The Pirates gave indications they will score plenty of runs this year by handing Blackwell his first two defeats and gouging 20 hits off his delivery in 12 innings.

Werle may have a partner in crime in the bullpen in Joe Muir, rookie left-hander. The Indianapolis grad made his big league debut, April 21, against the Reds, retiring six batters in a row and only two balls went to the outfield.

Westlake pounded out two homers in the first three games and his second clout landed on top of the center field scoreboard at Crosley Field off Howie Fox and bounced into the street.

Pirate Scoreboard: M-G-M spent \$20,000 a day during the two-week shooting schedule on "Angels and the Pirates" at Forbes Field. Among the former big leaguers in the movie are Paul Waner, Lee Handley and Pie Traynor, who also is technical director. The gray-haired Traynor looked at Waner's head of black hair and said, "How come no gray ones?" "Clean living," replied Waner. . . . Paul Douglas, former sportscaster who plays the lead in the movie, went back to his first love on opening day at Pittsburgh when he broadcast a few innings of the Cardinal game with Rosey Rowswell and Bob Prince. . . . The opening-day crowd of 25,894 at Forbes Field drank 15,776 cups of hot coffee and hot chocolate and ate 19,352 hot dogs. But only 988 soft drinks were sold in the 37-degree temperature. Incidentally, all soft drinks are being served in paper cups, not bottles, this year in Pittsburgh. . . . The Pirates have bought the contract of 19-year-old Bill Koski, rookie righthander, on a 30-day conditional basis from their New Orleans farm club. . . . The Pirates have named Danny Murtaugh as their player representative, succeeding Ralph Kiner, who was recently elected National League player representative. Cliff Chambers is the Buc alternate. . . . Monty Basgall went 13 times at bat and into his fifth game before making his first hit of 1951 against the Cubs. . . . A train porter forgot to adjust his watch to the hour's difference in time coming from Cincinnati to Chicago and awakened the Pirates at 5:15 a. m. They spent the next hour and a half looking out the train window.

## Pitching Shapes Up Better Than Expected; Gus Bell Continues to Pound Ball

By LES BIEDERMAN

PITTSBURGH, Pa.



Bill Werle

For the benefit of those who consigned the Pirates to seventh or eighth place in the National League (including this writer), this is to serve notice that the 1950 cellar champions will boast of several bright spots.

In the first place, Pirate pitching, which was feared lacking all during spring training, suddenly emerged into full bloom once the season opened. Unexpected help came from Bill Werle in choice relief jobs in three of the first four games and Mel Queen came up with a dazzling, but losing, performance against the Cubs, April 23.

On the other side of the picture, Gus Bell, who blasted major league pitching for a .446 average during spring training, continued to sound off when the chips were down and George Metkovich is supplying the Bucs with big league play at bat and in the field.

George Strickland shapes up as a crack shortstop and Manager Bill Meyer believes he'll hit up to par. Wally Westlake is showing signs that he may keep up the home run standard in left field for the Pirates and Ralph Kiner is doing a workmanlike job at first base, although he didn't get his home run bat moving in the first five games.

Werle, in particular, could occupy the niche Jim Konstanty enjoyed with the Phils in 1950. The stylish southpaw saved the first two games for Cliff Chambers and Murry Dickson, respectively, and then rescued Dickson once again on April 22, this time getting credit for the victory.

In his first three relief chores, Werle pitched eight scoreless innings and gave but seven hits. Branch Rickey mentioned that Werle's jobs of the early

### 32,954 at Polo Grounds Top First Sunday Gates

The Dodgers and Giants at the Polo Grounds drew the largest crowd of the first Sunday in the 1951 season, 32,954. The Athletics and Red Sox played to the second largest crowd of the day, 30,026.

Inclement weather kept down the attendance in most of the other cities and prevented the Yankees and Senators from playing at Washington.

Four parks in the National drew a total of 64,080 and three in the American 52,407, for a grand total of 116,487, as compared with 89,921 on the first Sunday in 1950, when the weather was a bigger factor, only three parks being opened in the American and two in the National. Three American League parks last year attracted 61,570, 9,163 more than the same number this season.

Attendance for Sunday, April 22, follows, with figures in parentheses indicating whether one or two games were played:

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Athletics at Boston (2) — 30,026  
Browns at Cleveland (2) — 13,932  
Tigers at Chicago (1) — 8,449

Total — 52,407

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Dodgers at New York (1) — 32,954  
Cubs at St. Louis (1) — 12,611  
Braves at Philadelphia (1) — 11,261  
Pirates at Cincinnati (1) — 7,254

Total — 64,080  
Grand Total — 116,487

## Comebacker Shea Tosses Four-Hit Shutout at A's; Chiropractor Discovered Torn Muscle in Frank's Neck

By DAN DANIEL

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Frank (Spec) Shea once again is the white-haired boy in the pitching situation on the Yankee club. In the wake of Spec's four-hit shutout against the Athletics, in a 4 to 0 victory which made it four straight for the Bombers, 15 other major league clubs doubtless are kicking themselves all over the map for having spurned Shea in the November draft, when he was on the Kansas City list.

The New York club had released Frank unconditionally and could not bring him back until he had run through the draft.

Shea's brilliant performance against the Athletics marked his first victory for the Yankees since April 30, 1949, when he received credit for a success against the Red Sox on only one inning of relief hurling. Frank fanned five Athletics, walked only five, and kept those four singles scattered. Yogi Berra said, "Shea was very fast, and free. He got a little tired in the sixth, but came back in the eighth. He faded a little in the ninth. But, all in all, he gave a great performance. We all pulled for him, because there is one game guy."

Shea said he had not felt so well since 1947, when he starred for the Yankees. He gave credit for his return to pitching form to a home town chiropractor named Anderson, in Naugatuck, Conn., who discovered that Frank had been suffering from a torn muscle in his neck.

"Shea is the silver lining I have been looking for," said Casey Stengel. "That is, if you can call a husky like Spec a silver lining."

"Things are looking up. With Shea back in form, and Bobby Brown and Billy Martin added to our infield forces, we aren't quite the bums some of the experts thought we were around April 15."

Previously, Vic Raschi and Ed Lopat had helped to ease Stengel's doubts about his pitching. The righthander opened with a shutout against the Red Sox, and the southpaw came up with a two-hitter against Steve O'Neill's outfit.

However, the vulnerability of the lesser brackets of his mound staff then became exposed in a double defeat in Washington.

In an afternoon battle, Tommy Byrne, the Wild Man, continued wild and had to be lifted as early as the fourth inning, after he had walked eight men. The Senators got 13 passes and only two hits, and won by 5 to 3.

In the night encounter, Tom Morgan, rookie righthander, was knocked out in the fifth inning, with a four-run blast, and this one landed in the Washington column, 8 to 4.

Stengel was counting on establishing Byrne as his No. 3 man and Morgan as the No. 4, at least until Allie Reynolds was able to take his regular turn. The failure of both Byrne and Morgan shocked Ole Case greatly.

There were some compensations the following afternoon, when the Yankees put over an 8 to 7 victory which snapped Washington's winning streak at four straight.

In this game, two interesting developments were highlighted. Shea pitched spectacular ball until he tired in the sixth inning. He was relieved by Reynolds, who made his first appearance of the year in competition. Allie could not last out the inning, as his control was away off. Tom Ferrick came in and was the winner.

There have been stories that the Yankees have been dicker for both Ned Garver of the Browns and Ferris Fain of the Athletics. The high

### Kidney Stone Attack Puts Casey in Hospital for Day

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Casey Stengel spent a night at Lenox Hill Hospital after a kidney colic attack, but he was back in the Stadium the following afternoon on April 25. He did not stay to see the Yankees score a second consecutive four-hit shutout over the Athletics.

Casey is suffering from a stone in a kidney but expects to get rid of it shortly. He became ill at noon on April 24 and after lying around in the Stadium a couple of hours, was removed to the hospital where Dr. Jacques Fishel diagnosed the case as kidney inflammation instead of appendix trouble, as had been feared.



Frank Shea

### Brown and Martin Back, Yanks May Ship McDougald

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Dr. Robert Brown, third baseman, is back with the Yankees. He walked into the Stadium on April 24, said "Here I am, ready for work and in shape," and gave Gil McDougald the chills.

With Billy Martin back from the Army as a hardship case a day later and Brown again on the job, it is conceivable that McDougald will be optioned to Kansas City to await developments.

Just how long Brown will be able to stay with the Bombers is a question.

"I could get no definite information from my draft board at Red Bank, N. J.," the doctor said. "I decided to report and play as much baseball as I could."

"You see, I am 30. I am afraid that after I have done my chore in service, I will not be much good to the Yankees and it will be time for me to buckle down to surgery."

Dr. Brown still was on the active list of the Yankees, so he was eligible to jump right into the lineup. He found Billy Johnson batting .308, but not doing too well against righthanders.

command assures me that neither yarn is supported by fact.

It is understood that the Browns are open for bids on Garver, but the Yankees have shown no interest in the point of contacting Bill DeWitt on that subject.

The New York club has had no talks with Philadelphia about Fain since last December and is convinced that if Fain is traded, he will land with Detroit.

Naturally, there has been the keenest interest in Mickey Mantle, Casey's 19-year-old right fielder up from Joplin, Class C.

Mantle has a tough row to hoe. He has had only two years of professional experience, and he struck out 90 times even in the Western Association. The pitching in the American League conceivably is much more baffling.

Mickey Doing Well in Field  
Mickey will have to learn that trying to knock the ball out of the park every time he comes up is a rough program.

Mantle has done well in the field, where it was feared he would encounter his most serious difficulties. He had quite a tussle with a triple in the tricky right field angle in Washington, April 21, but in the main his defense has been exemplary.

Mickey did well in the first two encounters with Boston, but ran into foul weather in Griffith Stadium on April 20—he fanned twice in each game.

However, the next afternoon, Mickey broke up the game in the eighth with a two-bagger. He had been lifted into the leadoff position that afternoon, after having batted through four games in the No. 3 spot.

One worry for Casey was the condition of Phil Rizzuto. That pulled muscle in Phil's left side has been mending too slowly, and while it has not bothered him too much in the field, it has handicapped him at bat.

This trouble will pass any day now. When Yogi Berra settles down to a Berra pace with his bat, and Joe DiMaggio gets into his stride, Stengel's smile will be worn much more consistently.