

LOOPING THE LOOPS

By J. G. T. SPINK

Leo Looks Back and Laughs



Leo Durocher, manager of the Dodgers, looks back on his career.

WHAT goes on in a manager's head as he nudges his team into a pennant race? What does he think about as he lays his plans for a repetition of his flag triumph? There is one major league manager who can answer those questions—Leo Durocher.

Leo Durocher, manager of the Dodgers, looks back on his career. He has been in California, Brooklyn, Jacksonville and Chicago since the close of the pennant scramble, but he is still living over the pennant race. Upon his return from the Windy City to St. Louis, where he plans to remain until the middle of January, we found him the usual outspoken and interesting Lippy Leo.

"I know Larry MacPhail wanted me to play shortstop last September," said the Brooklyn pilot. "He wanted me in there a lot in 1940. But he particularly wanted me in there when it appeared Reese was cracking in the pennant drive last fall. Yes, I could have gone in. I was in shape. And, incidentally, I'll keep in shape if it's only to go in there to squeeze the winning run home with a hit once a season."

"I might have been a better shortstop for the Brooklyn club for one or two days in there last fall," Durocher continued. "But I knew that over a week, two weeks, the longer stretch, Reese would make the better plays. That was true despite the fact that he wasn't the shortstop last season he was when he broke in. He was a full step slower in the field last season, I thought."

Was Pee Wee slowing down—at 22? "That broken ankle he had," Leo explained. "It wasn't strong this year. He was afraid to put too much strain on it. But remember this—that boy will be a much better shortstop from now on because I did stick with him this year when the going was tough. He's going to have more confidence."

It was evident Leo was highly gratified by the acquisition of Arky Vaughan from the Pirates. Although Arky probably will be used at third base, he also provides protection at shortstop and adds to the attacking power of the Dodgers.

Contract Is Unfinished Business. Durocher was asked: "How about your own contract?" "MacPhail and I haven't discussed it yet," he replied. "And I never know when he's going to come. I may be here that it will come up, but it may not be until spring training."

"MacPhail said he was going to keep you," one visitor put in. "If you guessing, you mean," another asked.

Durocher laughed, too. "My contract is in the air," he said. "I never know when he's going to come. Last year we didn't discuss it until February, I think it was. I took a look at the figures on it. I said I thought they were too low. MacPhail said my guess was too high, that suggested figure was too much money for just managing a club. We finally settled it in a compromise—so much managing, \$5,000 or so more for staying shape to play."

The other afternoon a camera man wanted a shot of MacPhail handing me some cash. That was actually the first time a question of dough has come up between us. As the lensman snapped, Larry handed me a dollar bill with a laugh. "Here, you're a dollar-a-year man from now on, Durocher," he said. "You make too much money, anyway."

ants Pitcher, but Not Whitey Moore. "Now that the Dodgers have bought Don Padgett and Johnny Rizzo and sent Babe Phelps, Luke Hamlin, Pete Coscarart, Jim Waddell to the Pirates in deal for Vaughan, what about the deal for the Brooklyn club?" "I might be Lavagetto," Leo declared, "but I would have to be a really good deal. I did a good job for us the past year."

Pitching? Sure. I want another good pitcher. Got to do something to keep those Reds, who have much good pitching it isn't even funny. Who has three starters like Walters, Riddle and Thompson—not even counting Derringer and Vander Meer? Thompson had a bad year. He's a cinch to come back. But the Reds have to get hitting power. "I'm not interested in getting Whitey Moore from Cincinnati now. I would have given a lot the year before last, or even this year, but he's lost his fast one, I think."

Can the Dodgers get along without a pod left-handed pitcher? "Not really," said Durocher, sighing wistfully. "If I had a good southpaw, you know, I'd be in a good position. I'd ask me about that. Always ask me about that. That's because he's been involved in so many serious fights in baseball. Funnyest I remember Joe getting into was when Big Diz was pitching for the Cardinals, and Joe was in left. Medwick played a fly ball, and missed it, and Joe made a crack in the dugout about Dean's guts. Dizzy was trailing, 3 to 1. I remember. The next inning, Joe was home with the bases full. He came back to the dugout and said to Dizzy: 'Remember now, you see if you can hold that lead.' He had the last laugh, didn't he? There was no answer to that, was there?"

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## SUCCESS OF TIGERS' TRANSFUSION RESTS WITH BLOODWORTH

EX-SENATOR WILL STEP INTO SHOES VACATED BY GEHRINGER

Rog Cramer Also Can Be Valuable, Since

Greenberg Is Going Back to Army;

Fans Regret Campbell's Leaving

DETROIT, Mich.—From the Tigers' standpoint, emphasis in the four-player deal with Washington was on James Henry Bloodworth. It is Manager Delmar Baker's present intention to install the young second baseman as successor to Charley Gehringer. Efforts to get Bobby Doerr from the Red Sox were futile, and Baker believed Bloodworth the best replacement obtainable for the old Fowlerville flail, who has decided to retire from regular competition, at last.

There is, of course, a wide gap between the abilities of Gehringer at his best and of Bloodworth, but the newcomer has sufficient skill to relieve, in part, Detroit's main infield weakness. He has youth and three years of experience in the American League. The chances are that he is still developing.

Acquisition of Bloodworth implies that the Tigers have lost faith in Dutch Meyer and that they consider Eric McNair too far beyond his prime to fill the second base position. Meyer, who came to Detroit originally from Knoxville, has been disappointing in two trials, while McNair spent most of last season with Buffalo.

Negotiations for Bloodworth were begun at the American league meeting in Chicago and completed by phone the day after Jack Zeller and Spike Briggs returned home. The deal also brought from Washington the veteran outfielder, Roger Maxwell Cramer, who is more familiarly known to the fans as Doc Fitt. In exchange, the Tigers transferred Frank Croucher and Bruce Campbell to the Senators. No cash was involved.

Cramer, whose big league career began in 1931, when he joined the Athletics, is expected to fill the outfield place that had been reserved for Hank Greenberg. Before the outbreak of the war, the Tigers had counted on Greenberg, who was released from the Army, December 5, after slightly more than seven months' service. Greenberg came here from Fort Custer, Mich., to discuss contract terms with Walter O. Briggs, but before a conference was arranged, Japan declared war on the United States.

This action threw considerable doubt upon Greenberg's availability for the Detroit outfield, since he was a member of the Army reserves and subject to call at any time within the next ten years. Hank himself removed all doubt by a public announcement that he would voluntarily rejoin the military forces.

"The Only Thing to Do," Says Hank. "I have not yet been called back," said Greenberg. "I'm going back of my own accord. We are in trouble and it is the only thing to do."

Greenberg revealed his plans in Philadelphia, where he had gone for a brief visit. He was undecided as to the exact date of his return to the Army, but specific enough on the point that he would not be with the Tigers in the spring. Consequently, the Detroit officials looked with increased favor upon the opportunity to get Cramer, whom they consider physically more durable than Campbell and equally sound mechanically.

Unless war developments necessitate further changes, the regular outfield probably will consist of Cramer, Barney McCosky and Pat Mullin. This is assuming, of course, that Mullin will have recovered from an operation performed on his shoulder last summer. Rip Radcliff and five recruits are others tentatively registered in the slychasing department. The Tigers had one or two bids for Radcliff at the Chicago meeting, but turned them down largely because of the Ripper's relation to the draft. The combination of dependents and his 33 years gives him deferred classification.

Detroit parted more or less reluctantly with Campbell, who contributed much to the pennant-winning success of 1940 and drove in 93 runs this year, though he was on a part-time outfielder. Washington, however, insisted on Camp's return. The Tigers, eager to get Bloodworth, were persuaded to include the veteran in the trade. The shift of Croucher was no surprise. He spent all of the last three seasons with Detroit and received repeated chances to qualify as a major league infielder. Baker was required consistency and agreed to place him in the market.

As a result of the deal, the Detroit infield is beginning to take shape. It looks now as if Rudy York will start at first base, Bloodworth at second, Billy Hitchcock at shortstop and Pinky Higgins, or one of the recruits, at third.

SAM GREENE.

## Wilmington Rock Foundation Reinforced by More Deals

WILMINGTON, Del.—The Wilmington Blue Rocks' rebuilding campaign, which has been under way almost since the close of the 1941 season, continues in high gear, with the addition of three more players to the roster.

They are First Baseman Bob Prichard, purchased from Charlotte of the Piedmont League; Catcher Byron (Tex) Stuart, brought from Springfield of the Eastern loop, and Shortstop Joe Walsh, obtained from the Reading Brooks of the Interstate in a trade.

To land Walsh, who batted .277 in 103 games with Bridgeport and Reading last season, the Rocks gave up Catcher Tom Lloyd, who was bothered by injuries in part of the 1941 campaign.

## Hank Greenberg, Back to Colors, Becomes the Hank Gowdy of '41



SERGEANT HANK GREENBERG—1941

Former Detroit Tiger Outfielder, Just Released From Army, Announces Intention of Returning; Vet Catcher Was First Major League Player to Enlist in '17

TO HANK GREENBERG, formerly of the Detroit Tigers and more recently a sergeant in the United States Army, goes a notable citation—the distinction of being the Hank Gowdy of 1941. It is a case of one Hank emulating the other. Our country in general, and baseball in particular, are as superlatively proud of one as they are of the other.

Two days before the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hank Greenberg was out of the Army. Fort Custer had given the former Tiger star an honorable discharge. He was over 28, he had put in his seven months with the soldier boys, and he looked forward to returning to Detroit and his \$55,000-a-season contract.

But as soon as the dastardly attack of the Japs had become public knowledge, Hank Greenberg made up his mind. He was not going back to baseball. He was returning to the Army, back to the armed forces of Uncle Sam, ready to go wherever his country needs him in this struggle of the seven seas.

"This doubtless means I am finished with baseball, and it would be silly for me to say I do not leave it without a pang," said Hank. "But all of us are confronted with a terrible task—the defense of our country and the fight for our lives."

Let us roll back the years. The time is June, 1917. The United States had declared war on Germany in April. Hank Gowdy, catcher for the Boston Braves, walks into a Columbus, O., recruiting station and asks: "How does a feller get into the Army?" His query was answered at once. On he went, to camp, to France, to St. Mihiel—and eventually back to the Braves, the first major league player to have enlisted for service in the first World War. He was discharged as a sergeant.

Now a similar distinction belongs to Greenberg. He could have gone on to New York, to the home of his parents, and announced that he had done his bit, and left younger lads pick up.

But all the time there lay before Greenberg a picture. His father and mother had come to this country from Rumania because the way of living there did not correspond to their ideas of going through life. In the United States, the Greenbergs prospered. Their son had an equal opportunity with the sons of all other people in this country, and achieved a notable position in a notable profession.

Much credit is due to Hugh Mulcahy, pitcher of the Phillies and first major leaguer to be drafted while the country was still at peace; to Bob Feller, brilliant hurler of the Cleveland Indians, who enlisted last week in the Navy to begin a course of training as a physical instructor, and to other major and minor league players who have entered the armed forces either by induction or enlistment. But the decision announced last week by Hank Greenberg gave the game and the nation a special thrill.

"We are in trouble," said Hank, "and there is only one thing for me to do—return to the service. I have not been called back. I am going back of my own accord."

Hank looked back across the years—and he made the big decision. It was: "Back to the Army." Fans of America, and all baseball, salute him for that decision. J. G. TAYLOR SPINK.

## GIANTS STIR N. Y. FANS BY VOLLEYS OF CASH IN MIZE AND OTHER DEALS

\$50,000 Goes to Cards as Part of Transaction for First Sacker, Another \$20,000 to Reds for Werber; Yanks Would Like to Have Camilli, but Not for 60 Grand

Like to Have Camilli, but Not for 60 Grand

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Pop Knickerbocker certainly grabbed the play away from all the other cities of the major leagues in the action which developed at Jacksonville, Fla., and Chicago, and close in the wake of these media for discussion and trading. Here is what happened: 1—Giants acquired Johnny Mize, first baseman, from the Cardinals, for \$50,000 in cash and Bill Lohrman, righthanded pitcher; Ken O'Dea, catcher, and Johnnie McCarthy, first sacker, who was sent at once to Columbus to replace Ray Sanders. 2—Dodgers acquired Arky Vaughan, infielder, from the Pirates for Luke Hamlin, righthander; Babe Phelps, catcher; Pete Coscarart, second sacker, and Jim Waddell, outfielder.

3—Dodgers bought Don Padgett and John Rizzo, outfielders, one from the Cardinals, the other from the Phillies.

4—Giants purchased Bill Werber, third baseman, from the Reds, for \$20,000. 5—Giants traded Bob Bowman, pitcher, and cash to the Cubs for Hank Leiber, outfielder. 6—Giants sold Burgess Whitehead, second baseman, to Toronto, and Joe Moore and Morris Aronovitch, outfielders, to Indianapolis.

7—Giants closed tentative deal with Atlanta for Connie Ryan, second baseman.

8—Dodgers sold Mace Brown, pitcher, to the Red Sox.

9—Yankees sold Tommy Holmes, outfielder, to the Braves.

10—Yankees obtained Eric Tipton, outfielder, and Johnnie Babeich, pitcher, from the Athletics for Buddy Blair, third baseman.

11—Detroit released Tuck Stainback, outfielder, and Boyd Perry, shortstop, to Yankees, completing the deal for Bill Hitchcock, infielder.

Apart from the deals which the New York clubs completed, there was—and at this writing, still is—the effort by the

desirous to see him pass out of the National League, where he could do the Dodgers no harm, and could not make the deal look bad for the Brooklyn club.

Barrow offered \$25,000 in cash, and two players who were in the Yankee chain system—two from a list of 15 compiled by George Weiss.

MacPhail demurred. He wanted cash—\$50,000 worth of it—so he could get Mize from the Cardinals, or tempt St. Louis to trade Johnny Hopp. However, Barrow laughed at the suggestion that, in times like these, Camilli, at the age of 33, already announcing intentions to hold out for a reported \$25,000, could bring the same sum which MacPhail paid for Dolph to the Phillies, March 6, 1938. As a matter of fact, the hope is that MacPhail actually paid \$45,000 in that transaction, and three

"We do not claim to know what is ahead of baseball any more than the recipients of this communication," Bramham wrote to the minor league officials, "but we feel safe in saying that the outlook for the game is no more gloomy than that of any other line of endeavor—in fact, not as much so."

"In the World War—1917-18—some of our state officials became panicky and urged professional baseball to cease operations during the then-existing emergency. At that time, we believed this request to be without merit, but acquiesced. Later, it was generally conceded this action of suspending was ill-advised, the continuance of the sport being, in fact, then as now, a necessary tonic to support the morale of the civilian populations as well as the armed forces.

"Baseball ever has been and ever will be ready to respond to the wishes of the government. This has been the patriotic reaction of the club owners and the players. We believe by keeping our clubs and leagues intact as far as possible, we will render a real and necessary service."

"How far curtailment of our player rosters may become necessary remains to be seen, but with the expected and proper co-operation upon the part of clubs and players, even this can be handled so as to greatly lessen what may appear as a troublesome situation. Because we have large player limits does not mean that we should, or that it is necessary, to carry up to the very limit during the emergency now confronting us."

"The minor leagues, alone, played to in excess of 16,000,000 patrons in 1941, an increase of approximately 3,000,000 over our paid attendance in 1940, although we had two less leagues this past season. This was partly attributable to the enormous pay rolls incident to government expenditures. There is no sign of a decrease in such outpouring of government funds—but every indication of an increase."

"A number of our leagues already have informed us they are carrying on with their scheduled meetings and plans, and we believe this is the proper course to pursue. Panic can often do more harm to civil morale than machines of war. Baseball is an up-builder of morale. Let us keep it that way."

"This is the time to keep our clubs in the air, to face the future with courage and determination. No tents should be folded until necessary. We should be more attentive to seeing that our operations are conducted on conservative and sane financial lines. There is every reason to believe that if we keep our leagues intact, the federal, state and municipal governments, as well as our patrons, will appreciate and support our efforts. So let us face 1942 with confidence."

Yankees to buy Dolph Camilli from the Dodgers, who have waived on the 1941 season, after having had four big years out of Camilli, MacPhail was trying to make most valuable player of the National League. It would be strange, indeed, if The Sporting News had to go to Yankee Stadium to present the National League trophy, as well as that won in the American League by Joe DiMaggio.

Ed Barrow told The Sporting News the inside story of the Camilli affair. He said that, much to his amazement, he got a call from Larry MacPhail a week before the Jacksonville session, asking for an offer for Dolph. Barrow at first thought Larry might be trying to use the Bombers as a lever against some National League bidder. But MacPhail indicated he was eager to dispose of Dolph, and was especially

in Outfielder Chet Morgan for the balance; thus, after having had four big years out of Camilli, MacPhail was trying to make \$15,000 profit on the first sacker.

Of course, the demand for 60 grand was just the customary poker playing. It was left that way when the negotiators quit Chicago, and learned that the Giants had charged in and bought Mize. The plan, however, was to open up making an effort to get Hopp, who, Rickey insisted, was not for sale.

The purchase of Mize by the Giants entailed the biggest financial outlay since the Brooklyn club gave \$100,000 to the Phillies for Kirby Higbe. Considering the atmosphere in which the New York club turned over the check for 50 grand to Braden, the Mize deal is even more remarkable financially than the Higbe transaction.

Giants Back in the Headlines. It would be silly to say that with Mize, Leiber and Werber the Giants have assured their return to formidable contention for the pennant. They yet have things to do, but with the war on, they may be forced to go with what they have. In any event, they have shown the old spirit and initiative, and look like sure bouncers out of the second division.

Babe Young seems certain to remain in Class I-A in the draft. It was with that feeling the club officials bought Mize. In Mize, the Giants have one of the greatest hitters in the history of the club. True, he did not go so well last season, when he hit .317, and his home runs dropped from 43 to 16, with 100 runs driven in.

However, John was the victim of a set of circumstances. In the first place, he broke his thumb, and then injured a shoulder. In the second place, he allowed himself to become confused. The story is that he was told by the St. Louis front office that while home runs were interesting, they were not, in Sportsman's Park, as vital financially as they were in Yankee Stadium. The Giants understand that Braden told Mize he would have to hit high in the averages to get the kind of dough John expected to land for 1942. As a consequence, Mize began to hit to left for an average, and nothing went right.

For a 1942 infield of the Polo Grounds will show Mize at first; Connie Ryan, from Atlanta, at second; Billy Jurges at short, and Bill Werber at third. This means the return of only one infielder—Jurges. Ott thinks he can rehabilitate Leiber. If he achieves that trick, he will have a fine picket line with himself, John Rucker and Hank.

The Yankees would like to get Camilli, but if they don't they still will have the stoutest team of the major leagues. To be sure, they do not know what the war will do to their manpower. But at this time they seem to be in a good position. DAN DANIEL.

Continued on page 12, column 2.



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## HANK GREENBERG — THE WRITERS' CHOICE

BOB FELLER of Cleveland topped all the pitchers of both majors in victories and Joe DiMaggio of the Yankees led his league in hitting for the second year in succession, but when the votes were counted, it was found that **Hank Greenberg** of Detroit had been chosen over both the Cleveland ace and the New York slugger by the committee for the Baseball Writers' Association of America as the most valuable player of 1940 in the American League. And the majority of fans we believe will heartily second the nomination and hail the scribes' action as a wise selection.

Unquestionably, Feller is a great pitcher, and, if he maintains the form he has shown, will rank among the leading hurlers of all time. His record of 27 victories and low-run games in 1940 speaks for itself. Perhaps if he had been with a championship team this year, the distinction of being named the most valuable in his league might have come to him, but that is only a supposition, for the honor has not always fallen to a member of the pennant winner. His achievements on a team riddled by dissension were brilliant—and under ordinary circumstances might have brought him the most valuable rating, instead of the runner-up spot he gained in 1940.

Feller is a glowing example of how a youth without pull or the advantages of a college education can become tops in his profession within a few years. No more interesting success story could have been conceived in fiction, yet it is typical of what the future has in store for many American youngsters, if they are equipped to take advantage of the opportunity offered them.

The story of **Hank Greenberg** is different. **Hank** came up the hard way, being compelled to prove his worth in the minors before getting his chance in the Big Show. He perfected himself as a first baseman and a bigger and better reason to believe that the initial station would remain his position throughout his career. However, the necessity arose for his team to make a change, if it was to present its full strength the past season and **Hank** was selected to move from first to the unfamiliar pastures of the outfield so that the hitting power of Rudy York could be utilized.

**Greenberg** not only accepted his new role like a good soldier, but he set out to learn all he could about the position he was going to play. He paid his own expenses, going to other camps to seek the advice of veteran outfielders. While others were sitting in the shade of the dugout, **Hank** was out there, sweating and enduring in every way to overcome the handicap of filling an unfamiliar berth.

Such a spirit cannot help but get results—as proved by **Greenberg's** 1940 performance. He wasn't the most graceful outfielder in the game, nor the fastest, but sheer persistence and pride in his work made him a real flyhawk, who guarded his post well and turned in sensational putouts, simply because he never stopped trying, even when catches seemed impossible.

At the same time, **Hank** did not let his unfamiliar role affect his batting, but maintained the terrific pace he has always set at the plate. He hit .340, the second best mark in his 11 years in Organized Ball, and led the American League in home runs, total bases, number of extra-base hits and doubles, besides ranking second in runs scored. His batting, together with his perseverance in the outfield, helped immeasurably in bringing the pennant to Detroit, and without him, it is doubtful if the Tigers could have won the flag.

Only once in 11 years has **Greenberg** batted below .300 and he has a lifetime major league average of .326. His outstanding performances include: Tying the American League record for most home runs, 58 in 1938, by a righthanded batter; setting major league mark for most times two or more home runs in a game for one season, 11 in 1938; leading league in runs batted in for three seasons, 1935, 1937 and 1940, and topping league for total bases in two seasons, 1936 and 1940, and doubles, 1934 and 1940. The many high figures in **Greenberg's** averages speak for themselves for his ability, but his selection by the experts as the most valuable player in his league for 1940 was based on many other factors. Such intangibles as loyalty, disposition and effort counted heavily on **Hank's** side, and he doubtless won a rating of 100 per cent on such qualities.

So, considering all the elements which help to make a player the most valuable to his team, the baseball writers making up the committee did a fine job in naming **Henry (Hank) Greenberg**, who deserved the honor bestowed upon him in 1940 even more richly than in 1935, when he won a similar accolade.

## STAFF OF JOE STRIPP SCHOOL



PREPARING for a new season, Joe Stripp, former major leaguer, is organizing the teaching staff for his baseball school, which sent 30 players into Organized Ball last season after sessions at Tinker Field, Orlando, Fla., and which will hold its sixth annual instruction period from January 7 to February 16, 1941. Shown here is the faculty and training staff of the school. Left to right, standing—Ben Cantwell, Van Mungo, Bob Weiland, Don Padgett, Joe Medwick, Lou Hurst and Doc May; kneeling—Joe Tinker, John Cooney, Eddie Miller, Jimmy Jordan, George Andrews and Joe Stripp.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FAN, DOVER, PA.: SORRY, BUT WE do not have record of address of Norman Pilot.

FAN, ST. LOUIS, MO.: IN SCORING A sacrifice hit, letters SH are used. Answer may be written or typed.

FAN, SAN DIEGO, CAL.: EDWIN Schweda played with Wausau and Hopkinsville in 1938 and Lubbock in 1940.

TEXAS LEAGUER, NO ADDRESS: Walter Navie's home address is 2620 Cermack road, Chicago, Ill. 60618. He was in 1938 and 1939. He is now in 1940. He is now in 1940.

F. S. WAMPUM, PA.: LOU SCOPPIO won the batting championship of the Three-I League this season as a member of the Decatur team, his unofficial mark being .327.

ABC & QZM, PLAINFIELD, N. J.: HAROLD Reed lives at 322 Virginia avenue, Louisville, Ky. Pete Raiser, 3018 Taylor avenue, St. Louis, Mo.; Johnny Rucker, Alpharetta, Ga.

A. M. M., BROOKLYN, N. Y.: THE FIRST major league team with which Yut Tamulius played was the New York Yankees. His home address is 347 W. Fourth street, South Boston, Mass.

T. N. T., DAYTON, O.: MINOR LEAGUE reserve list for 1940 has not yet been released by the National Association. Will probably be published in November 28 issue of The Sporting News.

R. A. V., GREENVILLE, OHIO: GLENN Moulder was born September 28, 1917; Henry Meyer, July 10, 1917; Virgil Rickerts, January 19, 1918. Johnny Vander Meer lives at 1026 Delaware street, Scranton, Pa.

W. M. M., BENSONVILLE, ILL.: HOME address of Ed Mattick is 535 Geraldine avenue, St. Louis, Mo.; Ken Raffensberger, 633 West Philadelphia street, St. Louis, Mo.; Eddie Miller, 258 Plymouth street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

H. L. K., BATH, N. Y.: HOME address of Ed Murphy is 207 Bridge street, Joliet, Ill.; Ed Remorenko, Brookhaven, Chester, Pa.; Pete Risher, 1110 E. 12th street, Joliet, Ill.; Jack Graham, 618 1/2 Obispo, Long Beach, Cal.

UMPS FANS, KANSAS CITY, MO.: JOHN B. Corn was born in England; Edmond B. Corn, 1902, is five feet seven inches tall and weighs 154 pounds. He lives at 5222 Fairview street, Chicago, Ill. Fred Peters lives at Champaign, Ill. You may communicate with him by writing him in care of the Fire Department, Champaign, Ill. Weaver was born in Woburn, Mass. March 27, 1900, is six feet one-half inch tall.

## Neurology

Paul J. Fitzpatrick, 34-year-old sports editor of the magazine News-Week, died at White Plains, N. Y., October 23, after a week's illness, following an operation. The widow, a son, daughter and sister survive.

Fred Keltner, 65-year-old father of Kenneth Keltner, third baseman of the Cleveland Indians, died at Milwaukee, Wis., October 26, after an illness of six months. In addition to Ken, another son, a daughter, the widow, four brothers and a sister survive.

the runner was dodging along the base lines," Newsom argued, "the runner from first would have gone to third, and Doerr to second. There would have been only one out and either of the two succeeding batters could have driven in two runs with a single. As it was, two runners were retired, the bases emptied and one more out was needed to end the inning, thus choking off what might have turned out to be a big rally, with four more innings to go to break the tie."

The strategy of Newsom is typical of the plan of battle on the diamond today. However, some of the old school have seen fit to differ, and yell over such modern "inside ball." Its proponents point out that if a play had been made by Williams, Cronin could have been kept from going farther than second and Doerr held at first. Even if Cronin and Doerr each took an extra base, the old school argues that the Red Sox should have been compelled to drive in the run, rather than to be conceded the tally. It is further argued that Newsom might have made a wild throw to second, in which case all runners might have scored, and even if the throw was perfect, the runner from first might have made it impossible for the shortstop to complete the double play, in which situation a run would have scored and only one would have been out.

Here is a moot point of strategy, offering logical argument, pro and con. However, Buck did not have time to consult anybody. He had to act one way or the other, instantly, and he decided in favor of the double play.

In the old days, when the ball was not as lively and hard hitting was not the rule, there wouldn't have been much question as to which alternative to choose, but today, when big innings are frequent, a different aspect is thrown on the situation. Yet there remains that tying run, which helped the Red Sox to pull up even with the Tigers and go on to win in the thirteenth inning. The importance of quick thinking and the proper action is emphasized by the result of the Detroit-Boston game. It provides a very interesting subject for a Hot Stove argument. What do YOU think?

## MacPHAIL SCORES AGAIN WITH ADVANCE SALES

LARRY MacPHAIL, who introduced night ball to the majors and has given numerous other innovations to the game, has come up with another idea—a group plan of advance ticket sales for the "big days" of the Brooklyn Dodgers next season. Under this arrangement, one reserved seat for the opening game, two holidays and seven night games may be purchased for \$16.50, with one box seat for the same dates costing \$22.30. A reserved seat for all these games, plus 12 Sundays, may be obtained for \$36.30, or \$48.40 for a box seat. A small deposit will hold such reservations until February 1.

In seeking to build up an advance sale for the Dodgers, the red-headed Larry is borrowing a leaf from the book of collegiate football. The most successful example of the plan as applied to college gridiron games is the Army-Notre Dame contest. All of the 78,000 tickets for that game, played November 2 at Yankee Stadium, were sold a month in advance—thus assuring the athletic departments of both colleges a full financial return, regardless of weather conditions on the day of the game.

However, the advance-sale idea has two other features that are equally as important. It gives loyal followers of the Dodgers an opportunity to assure themselves of choice seats for big games at Ebbets Field next season, and strikes a blow at scalpers. It is unlikely, MacPhail figures, that speculators will be inclined to pay out large amounts of money to tie up quantities of seats for big days of the Dodgers several months in advance of their actual use.

Numerous major and minor league clubs sell season box reservations in advance, but the MacPhail plan modifies this arrangement by including only big days, and by making reserved seats, as well as box seats, available. The outlay for one seat is not nearly as large as in the case of box reservations for the season, yet the plan has the same advantage as far as the loyal fan is concerned, while from the club's standpoint it should bring just as large, or even larger, advance sale. And, finally, it strikes an effective blow at the scalpers.

Chalk up another hit for Larry MacPhail in pioneering a promotion plan that other clubs in Organized Ball will find profitable to put into effect.

## Scribbled by Scribe S

Defining the Real Fan  
DESPITE the fact that baseball is our national pastime, Jimmy Powers, sports editor of the New York Daily News, wonders how many Americans really love the game for its finer points of play, aside from partisanship, and then goes on to define a real fan.

"The skepticism was put into my noodle by the fellow who has become a red-hot pro football fan, who is a baseball fan, too," says Powers. "Here is what he told me over our coffee the other day: 'I think the pro football fan comes nearer to being a lover of the game itself than the baseball fan. If you attend the pro pigskin games, I think you will notice that every good play, every daring, brilliant bit of action is applauded on both sides of the field. In short, the fan comes to see the game well played and he isn't so partisan as the ball fan. It seems to me that the greater part of the partisan rooting at football games (college games excepted, of course) is done by the gambler.'

"This is not true in baseball. Most of the fans come to the park hoping that one team or the other will win by skill, or by luck. They root just as hard for either of them whether they are betting or not. At least, that's the way I am impressed when I study the crowds at ball games.' "There is something to his argument. It seems to me that the baseball lover who gets the biggest run for his money is the one who just goes out to see the game. A brilliant catch, a daring piece of base running, a tight, heady game of pitching, these are all part of the game, and what's the difference which side performs better?"

"I'm beside a veteran like Waite Hoyt and notice how he watches a game, looks at the play with keen, experienced eyes. He is able to sense strategy—what each side is trying to pull—he is able to tell what was a 'break' and what was a struggle to maneuver. He sees the game as a struggle between two men, and the managerial brains behind them. A man like Hoyt not only looks at a ball game—he also sees it."

"Lots of people go to the opera to listen to music, a musician once told me, but all of them really hear it. It's the same idea. That fellow who leaped out onto the field to attack an umpire in Brooklyn probably considered himself a real baseball lover. In the truer sense, he was not a baseball lover at all. Neither was the man who dumped refuse onto the head of Birdie Tebbels a true lover of the game. Birdie Tebbels is the fellow who goes out to the park on a lazy summer afternoon, eats his peanuts, observes the game as a game and perhaps from his vantage point of impartiality, has a bit of fun heckling the home-towners when the visiting team pulls off a good one. In short, real baseball lovers are born, not made. You have to be born with an inner sense of sportsmanship."

## Thanks from Winners

Additional acknowledgments were received last week from prize winners in a contest for listeners, conducted by THE SPORTING NEWS in connection with the recent popularity poll for baseball broadcasters: William F. Mayer, Jr., Louisville, Ky., "I hope you will not think me unappreciative for not writing sooner, but the pleasure I received from the good news was broken by a sudden death in our family the same day the check came."

"It was very gratifying to receive the award. I have been a reader of THE SPORTING NEWS for about ten years and always enjoy the paper." Nancy Wright, 4339 Cleveland avenue, San Diego, Cal., who was awarded a season ticket to the 1941 season, writes: "THE SPORTING NEWS reports the contest was the first in which she ever had won a prize. She continued: 'I have been reading THE SPORTING NEWS for almost two years. Ever since, as a matter of fact, I persuaded this family to present a subscription to my brother, an usher at the local park, Lane Field, as a Christmas remembrance. The fact that the entire group of us usually manages to read the paper through during the week is indeed a source of interest to fans of all ages.'

Expressing his thanks for the 12-month subscription to THE SPORTING NEWS which was awarded him, William J. Hinchman of Philadelphia, Pa., writes: "I have been a reader of your paper since 1915, though I have lost my copies from that time up to 1928. However, I have saved every issue since that time. Now I am sure of 52 more copies to add to that collection, but shall continue for many more. It is a paper that every player and fan should not fail to read each week."

## Deeries Indecision at Cleveland

The same indecision that marked the affairs of the Cleveland club during the season has continued, in the opinion of Warren Brown of the Chicago Herald-Examiner, decrying the delay in naming a new manager. "Cleveland is still as badly lacking in someone to make a decision on its baseball matters as it was many months ago, when the rebellion against Oscar Vitt was first reported," asserts Brown. "The Cleveland baseball club has been in a kind of decision in their post-season consideration of their affairs as they were when the heat of the battle between Vitt and the players was on. It was no secret that Vitt was not going to be retained, yet we had hoped that when the Cleveland authorities said so officially, they might have issued some sort of a statement saying why."

"We've had some hope that the Cleveland baseball writers would ask why, and they didn't. Or, if they did, the answer, if forthcoming, was regarded as too unimportant to incorporate in the dispatch. How much better for all concerned it would have been its basis in one message."

"The delay in selecting the manager who will succeed Vitt merely adds to the confusion, but maybe that's what the directorate wants. At least we are inclined to that view, as we reflect on the spokesman's statement that he enjoyed his duty next season," writes Williams. "The only one in Cleveland who did."

## Difference in Service Requirements

Joe Williams of the New York World Telegram wonders why baseball players should be inducted into military service in the United States, when it is not at present in Canada, where it is in force, does not find it necessary to call in its hockey players.

"Baseball owners are resigned to the fact that a certain percentage of their stars will not be available for full time, if 'the war' comes, and they are resigned to the fact that they will simply march off to camp and that will be that. No efforts will be made to obtain deferred service."

"This being so, it strikes us as strange, if not inconsistent, that hockey will probably have a single star this season. Practically all hockey players come from Canada. If our understanding is correct, any hockey star who has served a two-weeks' militia hitch has done his duty for the time being. We are all in the land when the ice games start. All of which is fine for the hockey owners, much finer than it threatens to be for the baseball owners."

"That makes this seem strange to us is that Canada is actually at war and America is never going to war. Anyway, it's too delicate a subject for us to rattle with at length. We just can't help wondering about it, that's all."

# Three and One

Looking them over with  
J.G. Taylor Spink

.. "THAT'S MY POP"—DAVID GREENBERG ..

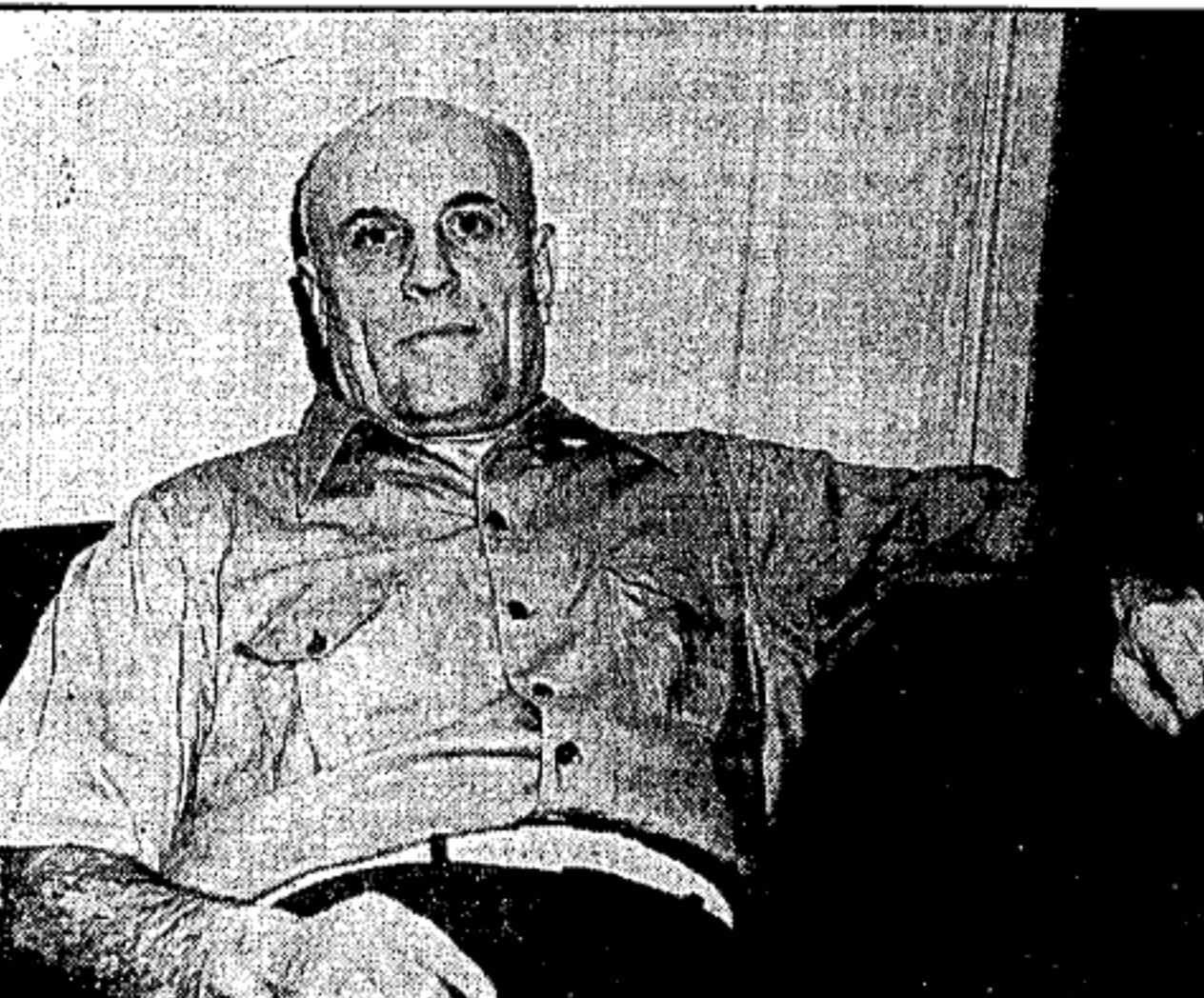
NEW YORK, N. Y.—Sandwiched between two big apartment buildings on Crotona Park North, New York City, is a 16-room brick dwelling—the home of the **Greenberg** family. Across the street is long, wide Crotona Park, on the diamonds of which **Hank Greenberg** became a ball player. **Hank** did not develop on the sidewalks of New York, like Lou Gehrig. He had only to cross the street from his home to be on playgrounds which had given many another player to professional ball.

At the door of the **Greenberg** home, you are ushered into the parlor—a pleasant, old-fashioned, quiet, modestly-furnished room—and you are greeted by **Hank's** father, David **Greenberg**, a well-set-up man of 57. Occupying the place of honor on the wall is a plaque which baseball writers of New York presented to **Hank**. In and out of the room bustles **Hank's** mother, Sarah **Greenberg**. She beams with pride, but has little to say. What did the **Greenbergs** family think of **Hank's** being awarded the Most Valuable Player trophy of the American League for the second time?

"Well, without boasting, we are not surprised," replied David **Greenberg**, whom **Hank** strongly resembles in appearance, mannerisms and speech.

"Could they have given it to anyone else? What more could a hard-working, earnest ball player give to his job than **Hank** gave to his this past season? They asked him to change from first base to left field, and he did it. You know how well he handled his new position. You also know that the experts said it could not be done—that **Hank** was too advanced and maybe too slow. Well, he fooled them all. However, there is no sense in my going over all the accomplishments of my boy this past season. The fans know, and it is in the records."

David **Greenberg** built that home on Crotona Park North. He has a summer home in West End, N. J. He goes to Miami Beach for two months every winter. He has a prosperous cloth-shrinking plant in New York. Not a dime of **Hank's** earnings has ever gone into that home. **Hank**



"HANK'S BASEBALL AMBITIONS MADE ME ANGRY AT FIRST"—but now **Greenberg**, Sr., takes keen pride in his son's play.

was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and that makes all the more remarkable his development into one of the greatest hitters of all time. Most ball players are born in anything but affluence. Inevitably, those who come of wealthy parents lack the incentive to become great performers on the diamond. But in many things, as well as ball-playing ability, **Henry Greenberg** is an exception.

"That is David **Greenberg's** chief concern about **Hank** right now? Well, he confesses he would like to see him married. 'Married to some nice, quiet girl from a nice, quiet family—and if she has only sweetness and modesty and a faculty for making my boy happy, she can come without a dime.' But **Hank** isn't thinking of marriage, he insists. He is too much taken up with his diamond career to settle down to finding the right girl."

## Put Sawdust on Lawn—And Pop Saw Red

WE ASKED the father of the Tiger star to tell us the keynote to **Hank's** development into a ball player. "As I look back at it, I think it came when he still was in high school," **Greenberg**, Sr., replied. "I used to potter around in the back yard, where I had grown a fine lawn. It was my pride and joy. Fishing and gardening were my hobbies. Now I just fish. One day I found the whole lawn covered with sawdust. I was mystified and angry."

"I discovered that **Hank** had bought the sawdust at our butcher's and was learning how to slide. I ordered the sawdust out of the yard. He would take it out in the afternoon, and bring it back in the morning. That, I believe, tells you a lot about the boy. He always has been hard, persistent worker."

"In James Monroe High School, he played baseball, football, basketball, handball and soccer. To keep up this athletic program, he would be up studying at 6 in the morning."

"I will admit that for a time **Hank's** baseball ambitions had me angry. I wanted him to go to college, and become a professional man. Baseball was nothing new to me. I was a Giant fan. Babe Ruth, though, was a later idol. Somehow, I could not connect my son with a baseball career. I had a rule that the entire family had to be at the dinner table every evening. Nothing could be served until I came home. Imagine his I felt when we had to wait evening after evening, because **Hank** was across in the park playing ball—and the game was in the seventh inning!"

## Bonus Greenbacks Didn't Budge **Greenberg**, Sr.

WE ASKED **Greenberg**, Sr., to go back to the beginning. To about his family, about **Hank's** start, to clear up certain stories which have been current about him. For example, the one that **Greenberg** had sat waiting for John J. McGraw in a reception room of the Giants for two days, only to be turned down. "Well, I was born in Rumania, and I came to this country in 14 at the age of 16," David **Greenberg** recounted. "My oldest son is Benjamin who is in the jewelry business. Then comes Lillian, who was a school teacher and now is Mrs. Golsion. **Hank** is the third and Joe, also a player, comes fourth. Joe was with Shreveport last season."

"When **Hank** still was in high school, I had a visit from Paul Krich, scout of the Yankees. He urged me to let the New York club send **Hank** through college, and to sign a contract with the Yankees. I was more interested in his education. But **Krich** was insistent. He made me several offers to visit my home with Mrs. Krichell."

"The whole thing mystified me. Was this all a joke? What was all about? Were they just trying to lure **Hank** away from college? I was invited to see Edward G. Barrow, now president of the Yankees, and he advised me not to let **Hank** play with an out-of-town club. He warned against the temptations which beset a young man and assured him **Hank** could take care of himself, and I could take care of my boy."

"Mr. Barrow started at \$1,000 and after a while got to \$7,500. I told him I would go home and think it over. The \$7,500 did not tempt me. I had seen that much money before. I say in all sincerity I would not have jumped at \$50,000. I wanted **Hank** to go to college. Along came Joe Engel from the Washington club and offered \$12,000. Jean Dubuc of the Tigers eventually gave **Hank** \$9,000."

## McGraw Called **Hank** 'Too Big and Awkward'

AS THESE offers piled up," continued **Greenberg**, Sr., "I began to give some thought to baseball. I asked myself if, in discouraging **Hank** from going into the game, I was doing the right thing for my boy. I went to see my friend Max Schneider, president of the Sterling National Bank. He not only was a fan, but knew many of the baseball executives."

"I asked Max to see McGraw and find out what this thing was all about. If **Hank** was good enough, I wanted him with the Giants. McGraw told Schneider that **Hank** was too big and awkward, and never would be a ball player. That, naturally, was quite a blow to my pride. **Hank** persuaded me to allow him to go into baseball and try it out for six months before going to college. He did not want to go to Washington because it had Joe Judge at first base. He did not like the Yankees, because they had Lou Gehrig. He wanted some club which could give him an early chance. He picked Detroit—and you know how wise was his choice."

"Detroit sent him to East Douglas, Mass., where he played week-end. I visited with Mr. Schuster, who owned the club, and he promised to loan **Hank**. My boy became a pal of Win Schuster, the owner's son. **Hank** came along, and in occasional \$50 bonus sort of proved it. **Hank** had gone from high school to the Bay Parkways in Brooklyn and the offers piled up after that."

"That's the story. He always has been a superior athlete, a superior boy, and now he is a superior man. That's not just the opinion of father, is it?"

We assured him it wasn't.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 1, COLUMN 1)



## OUT FOR ANOTHER FLAG -

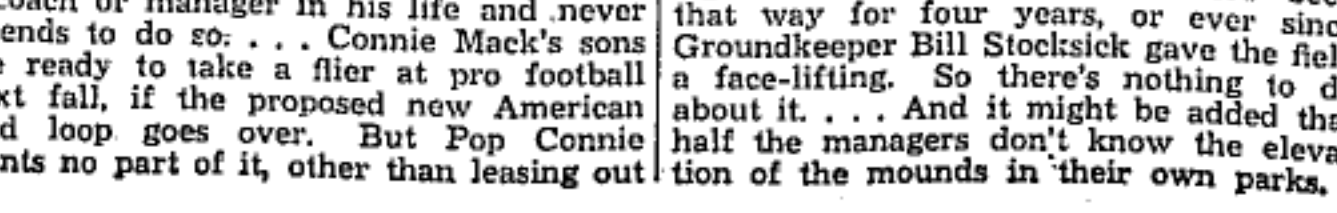
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The number of ideas which can be introduced is limited, only by the number of idea-makers and the game has plenty of these, who need only an opportunity to express themselves. The chief handicap has been the staff-backed club owner who wouldn't open his mind and his facilities to the public. There are numerous ways in which the game can be further popularized, without losing the sport, and the surface has only been scratched. Many a lesson could be learned from the MacPhails, Manns and their progressive kind—but it is a lesson which, like the MacPhails, Manns and in school, **MUST BE STUDIED** and then later **PRACTICED**.



balls and strikes. The more reasonable of the players understand this and the man's poise and experience more than offset his admitted errors.

"Why not let the new umpires get their poise and experience—and win the respect of the players on long winning streaks?"

Some six weeks. I was just 23 years old.

*What happened in 1915?*

The club was sold. Col. Ruppert and Cap Huston took over and they brought in Wild Bill Donovan. I played for him and then for Huggins, who arrived in 1918. In 1921, the Yanks lost the World's Series to the Giants, and that winter I was traded to Washington. I

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11, COLUMN 6.)