

obituaries

Guy Harris (Doc) White, whose feat of pitching five straight shutouts in 1904 stood as a major league record until Don Drysdale of the Dodgers broke it in 1968, died at his home in Silver Spring, Md., February 17. He would have been 90 years old on April 9.

White, a lefthander, pitched his five shutouts in a period of 19 days in an effort to keep the White Sox alive in a three-way pennant race with the Highlanders (now Yankees) and the Red Sox.

Starting on September 12, he pitched 1-0 victories over the Indians and Browns, followed with a 3-0 victory over the Tigers and added 4-0 victories over the Athletics and Highlanders.

With one day's rest after shutting out the Highlanders September 30, White tried to pitch both ends of a double-header against the New York club. His string of goose eggs was broken in the first inning of the opener, but he beat the Highlanders, 7-1. However, in the nightcap, after three more scoreless innings, he gave up two runs in each of the next two innings and wound up losing the game, 6-3.

White, who was born in Washington, D. C., attended Georgetown University and obtained a degree in dental surgery in 1902, a year after he had broken into professional baseball. He practiced dentistry in the off season until February, 1906, when he closed his office and cast his lot entirely with baseball.

Winner in Rookie Year

He was pitching for a strong semi-pro club when he signed his first contract with the Phillies for \$1,200, with the promise by Col. John I. Rogers, part-owner of the club, that he would be given an additional \$200 if he fared well.

"With a kid out of college, Col. Rogers felt safe," White once said. "But I won 15 games for him and he gave me the extra \$200."

From a 15-13 mark in 1901, White slipped to 14-18 with the Phillies in 1902. The southpaw then jumped to the White Sox in the American League in 1903 and remained with the club until his major league career ended in 1913. For his 13 seasons in Big-Time ball, he won 189 games and lost 156, with his biggest year coming in 1907, when he won 27 games.

White's record was remarkable because the White Sox were a light-hitting club during his days. He was one of the pitching stars of the famous "Hitless Wonders," who won the American League pennant in 1906 with a team batting

average of .228, the lowest in the league.

In the all-Chicago World Series that year, White lost the second game to Ed Ruelbach, 7-1. In the sixth game, he stopped the Cubs cold for three innings as a relief pitcher and protected an 8-6 victory. Then, coming back as a starter the next day, he pitched the White Sox to an 8-3 victory in the seventh and deciding game.

During his career, White pitched in 26 games decided by 1-0 scores and won 15 of them. In the most memorable victory, he beat Walter Johnson of the Senators, 1-0, in 11 innings May 9, 1909. The pair met again five days later and battled to a 1-1 tie in 17 innings.

After leaving the White Sox, White pitched for two Pacific Coast League clubs—Venice in 1914 and Vernon in 1915. He held a desk job with Vernon in 1916. He then was part-owner of Fort Worth until the Texas League was suspended in July, 1918, because of World War I.

Career Ended in 1920

After serving as a YMCA athletic director with an aviation unit stationed near Dallas, White ran the Waco (Texas) club in 1919 and finally said good-bye to professional baseball as manager of Muskegon (Central) in 1920.

He did not desert sports, however. Returning to Washington, he taught physical education at his old high school and later coached baseball and basketball at Wilson Teachers College in the capital.

In an interview in 1959, when he was 80 years old, White lamented the control problems of modern-day pitchers.

"Now they can't pitch four innings without walking somebody," he said. "It's a fact; they can't get the ball over. And there's no excuse for it. They just don't practice."

White could speak with some authority on control because he once held the American League record for most consecutive innings without giving up a base on balls—65.

John A. (Jack) Zeller, 85, general manager of the Tigers from 1938 to 1945, died of a heart ailment at Glendale, Ariz., February 17.

Zeller resigned at the height of his career after the Tigers had won the 1945 American League pennant and had defeated the Cubs in the World Series.

An astute judge of players, Zeller built the '45 champions by deals that brought second baseman Eddie Mayo, shortstop Skeeter Webb, outfielder Roy Cullenbine, catcher Bob Swift and pitchers George Caster and Jim Tobin to the club. The Tigers' other catcher was Paul Richards, who was a Detroit coach before Zeller persuaded him to return to active duty.

The Tigers also were pennant-winners in 1940. Zeller obtained catcher Billy Sullivan and outfielder Bruce Campbell in deals that strengthened the club, but his most important contribution was to talk Hank Greenberg into switching to the outfield so that Rudy York could play regularly at first base. Between them, Greenberg and York hit 74 homers and drove in 284 runs in the 1940 season.

Zeller, a native of St. Louis, started in baseball as a lefthanded pitcher in 1903, shuttling from Joplin to Sedalia to Fort Leavenworth in the Missouri Valley League. The following year, he pitched for Providence (Eastern) and Schenectady (New York State). In 1905, with Haverhill (New Eng-



Jack Zeller

land), he pitched a 12-inning exhibition game on a cold, snowy day and suffered arm trouble that led to his release.

Converting to a first baseman, Zeller played with independent teams until 1909, when he purchased a half-interest in Springfield of the Connecticut League and managed the club for three years. Selling out, he obtained control of Pittsfield in the same circuit in 1912 and served as president and manager.

When the league folded in 1915 because of World War I, Zeller subsequently went into the Army and was discharged as a second lieutenant in 1919. He was in Texas, trying his luck in the oil business, when officials of the Fort Worth club asked him to keep an eye open for players. In short order, he became a full-time scout. With Zeller helping to supply some of the players, the Cats started on a string of six straight Texas League pennants in 1920.

Joined Tigers as Scout

Impressed by Zeller's success with Fort Worth, President Frank Navin of the Tigers brought him to Detroit as a scout in 1925. In 1936, after Navin's death, Walter O. Briggs, who had become president of the Tigers, gave Zeller the job of director of affiliated clubs, with headquarters at Beaumont, Tex. Two years later, Briggs handed him the portfolio of general manager.

Zeller helped the Tigers set up a nucleus of a farm system under Navin, but eventually his activities brought him to the attention of Commissioner Kenesaw M. Landis, who slapped down on the Tigers in January, 1940, and made free agents of 91 minor league players owned by the club. The Tigers were accused of "wholesale" cover-ups through gentlemen's agreements and fake transfer of contracts.

Zeller had entered into farm operations reluctantly. In 1944, he suggested to the major leagues' postwar planning committee that all farm systems be abolished through divestment of ownerships in the minor leagues and discontinuance of working agreements.

"I am firmly convinced," he said, "that baseball needs independent ownership of minor league clubs. Sure, I set up some farms, despite my opposition to that method of doing business. I had to develop eight subsidiaries in self-defense. If all major league clubs stopped operating that way, baseball would be a tremendous gain."

Nothing came of Zeller's idea.

After resigning as general manager of the Tigers, he continued on the club's payroll as a part-time scout until February, 1947, when he joined the Braves as their chief scout. He remained with the club until his retirement in 1954.

Hugo Autz, Sporting Goods Dealer Editor

Hugo Autz, 56, editor of The Sporting Goods Dealer, sister publication of THE SPORTING NEWS, died of a heart attack at his home in Normandy, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis, February 21.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Autz worked on newspapers in Milwaukee, Madison and Toledo before coming to St. Louis as editor of the national trade magazine in January, 1942.

He also was associated as a writer with THE SPORTING NEWS and took a major part in the conversion of the paper from a baseball weekly to its present status as a publication that emphasizes all sports in season. He was the editor of The Quarterback and the All-Sports Section, which formerly appeared in THE SPORTING NEWS, and pioneered the way for the inclusion of football, basketball, hockey and other sports in the paper's regular coverage.

Because of his dual role with the Spink Publishing Co., Autz had a wide acquaintance in all areas of sports from the stars on the field to the sporting goods dealers selling equipment to youngsters. He was active in promoting junior golf in St. Louis.

Autz was a member of the Baseball Writers' Association of America and the Football Writers' Association of America.

He was a former president of the St. Louis Advertising Club, the St. Louis Sports Council and the St. Louis chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, national journalism society.

Eugene (Bubbles) Hargrave, a major league catcher for 12 years and National League batting champion in 1926, died in Cincinnati February 23. He was 76.

Hargrave was a top-flight catcher in the days when there were a number of good backstops. He had a lifetime batting average of .310, with his .353 in 1926 his best effort. At the time he was with the Reds.

If his father had his way, Hargrave never would have become a baseball player.

"My dad always thought I should get into some kind of more useful employment," Hargrave recalled. "So I went into the upholstering business. I didn't like it because there was too much dust."

Hargrave had his own ideas about catching and always thought it was much easier to be in the Big Time than in the minors.

"I remember when I was in the American Association," he said. "I found it much harder to work there than in the majors. Big league pitchers have much more experience and a catcher doesn't have too much to do. In the minors, I had my hands full with those inexperienced pitchers. I don't know of anything more discouraging than catching a green pitcher."

Origin of His Nickname

Just where Hargrave got the nickname "Bubbles" is somewhat obscure. But he once said he thought it was a teammate who gave him that name because he was so free with suggestions and advice.

Although he began his major league career with the Cubs in 1913, he spent most of his time with the Reds. He worked only briefly with the Chicagoans in three seasons there.

The Reds bought him from St. Paul for \$10,000 after the 1920 season and he spent the next eight campaigns at Cincinnati. His last stint in the majors was with the Yankees in 1930.

In the minors, he was with Terre Haute, Kansas City, Memphis, Minneapolis, Buffalo and Cedar Rapids in addition to St. Paul. In later years, he worked as a supervisor for the Powell Valve Co. in Cincinnati.

He had a fling as player-manager at St. Paul in 1929 and one of the most humorous incidents of his career occurred there.

Hargrave had a tendency to stutter and when he became excited, his jaws would lock. That occurred one day when he was having an argument with umpire Ted McGrew.

"Never mind, Bubbles," McGrew said. "I'll help you out. I'll say what you want to say."

"McGrew, you're the louisiest

umpire in the world. You never was any good. You're blind and dumb. You ought to be in some other business."

By that time Hargrave's jaws became unlocked and he muttered, "You win."

J. Edward (Eddie) Murphy, who played for four pennant-winning teams during an 11-year career as a major league outfielder, died at Dunmore, Pa., February 20.

Murphy was discovered by Connie Mack while a student at Villanova College. He spent the 1911 season at Scranton and part of the next campaign at Baltimore before being called up by the A's.

"There was a lot of confusion when I first joined the A's," Murphy once recalled. "There was another Murphy on the team, Danny, and he also played the outfield. People were always getting us mixed up."

"In fact, even the record books are a little mixed up. My real name is John Edward Murphy, but somehow my name got into the books as Joseph Edward. I don't know how, although I dropped the John a long time ago."

Murphy was with the championship Philadelphia teams in 1913 and 1914 before going to the White Sox in July, 1915. Mack had started to break up his great club and Murphy was one of the last to go.

"We were in Chicago when I

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Doc White