

MANHATTAN TOASTS
NOW FOR TERRYMEN

GIANTS CARRY HOPES OF BROADWAY
AS YANK DRIFT CONTINUES

Mickey Witek Fills In Capably for Jurgens
at Shortstop; Bombless Bombers
Lose More Ground in West

NEW YORK, N. Y. — There is a growing conviction among these parts that the National League race will resolve itself into a triangular fight among the Reds, Dodgers and Giants. And while the Brooklyn club has been making the most dramatic gestures, you can get plenty of support here for the Giants, who may wind up with the best home-stretch pitching in the circuit.

The local situation remains keenly interesting. The Giants and the Dodgers are right up there, and the Yankees have kept dawdling, and making it a fair wonder just what is likely to be their destiny. It seems that the Yankees, in losing, make a better story than the Yankees winning.

Against the western invaders of the Polo Grounds, the Giants blew a great chance. They could have swept into a good lead, but they only six and lost six. The loss of Billy Jurgens, who went hit in the head, had something to do with this lackluster showing. The failure of Frank Demaree to recover from his shoulder injury also has hampered the Terry outfit.

At this writing, Jurgens was at his home on Long Island, but it looked as if he might get back for the July 4 double-header with the Dodgers. Demaree presents a far more serious problem. Now his arm is in a sling, to take the pressure off his shoulder. It may be a long haul for Frank, and it is most disturbing.

While Jurgens out, Terry has been playing Mickey Witek at short, with Tony Cucinello at second. After Terry had benched Witek early in the season, he expected the club to concede anything to Brooklyn and Cincinnati. The pitching looks good. Terry has enough first-flight men to make that department really formidable, particularly in a double-header schedule.

Carl Hubbell has fallen off a bit lately, but he is expected to be back for the Brooklyn and Cincinnati. The pitching looks good. Terry has enough first-flight men to make that department really formidable, particularly in a double-header schedule.

When McCarthy returned to the Stadium, he had a long talk with Ed Barrow. "What happened, Ed?" McCarthy asked. "Nothing that we haven't already," McCarthy replied. "The boys fought hard and hustled, and there is nothing to do about it."

Well, it must have been Dickey right on. For he has slumped terribly this season, and the whole works have gone wrong with him. Ed Barrow faced a chance to become the savior of the party, but he hit around .250 in the West and returned to New York with a loss of 20 points, and an average .302.

Charlie Keller had a chance to take the lead, and he did it, but he was waiting for Dickey. Well, he was waiting for Dickey. Well, he was waiting for Dickey. Well, he was waiting for Dickey.

Higgins, 'Player of Month,' Sparks Climb of Tigers
Veteran, 'Stiffened Up' in Spring, Now Sparkplug of Detroit

Third Baseman Stages
Amazing Comeback in
Fielding and Hitting

His Gameness Puts an End to Bengals' One Problem in Keeping in Race With Indians and Red Sox

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — When the Tigers arrived in St. Louis, June 27, Pinky Higgins went to Barnes Hospital, where he was found to be suffering from a severe case of influenza. However, his record for June, prior to his illness, caused THE SPORTING NEWS to select the Detroit third sacker as the "player of the month." — EDITOR'S NOTE.

By H. G. SALSINGER
Sports Editor of the Detroit News

LF ANY major leaguer ever played third base as badly as Michael Frank Higgins did in Florida last spring, and during the first few weeks of the American League season, we cannot recall his name and we also cannot imagine that third base was ever before played with such a complete absence of merit.

Today, this same Michael Frank (Pinky) Higgins is the standard player of the Detroit team. His fielding and his batting are among the chief reasons why Detroit, a team that was unanimously picked to finish in the second division, is up there in the first division today and is given an equal chance with Cleveland and Boston of winning the American League pennant this year.

Higgins is today the best third baseman in the American League, judging third basemen on the basis of both batting and fielding, and his metamorphosis is the outstanding feature of Detroit's surge to the front. We cannot recall a similar surge in the baseball and while Higgins probably will not go down in the game's history as the best third sacker of all time, he certainly must be mentioned with the greatest players of all time. To come from the level to which he had faded last season and the spring of this year, to the level he reaches in mid-May and has maintained since then, requires the kind of courage that not many men possess.

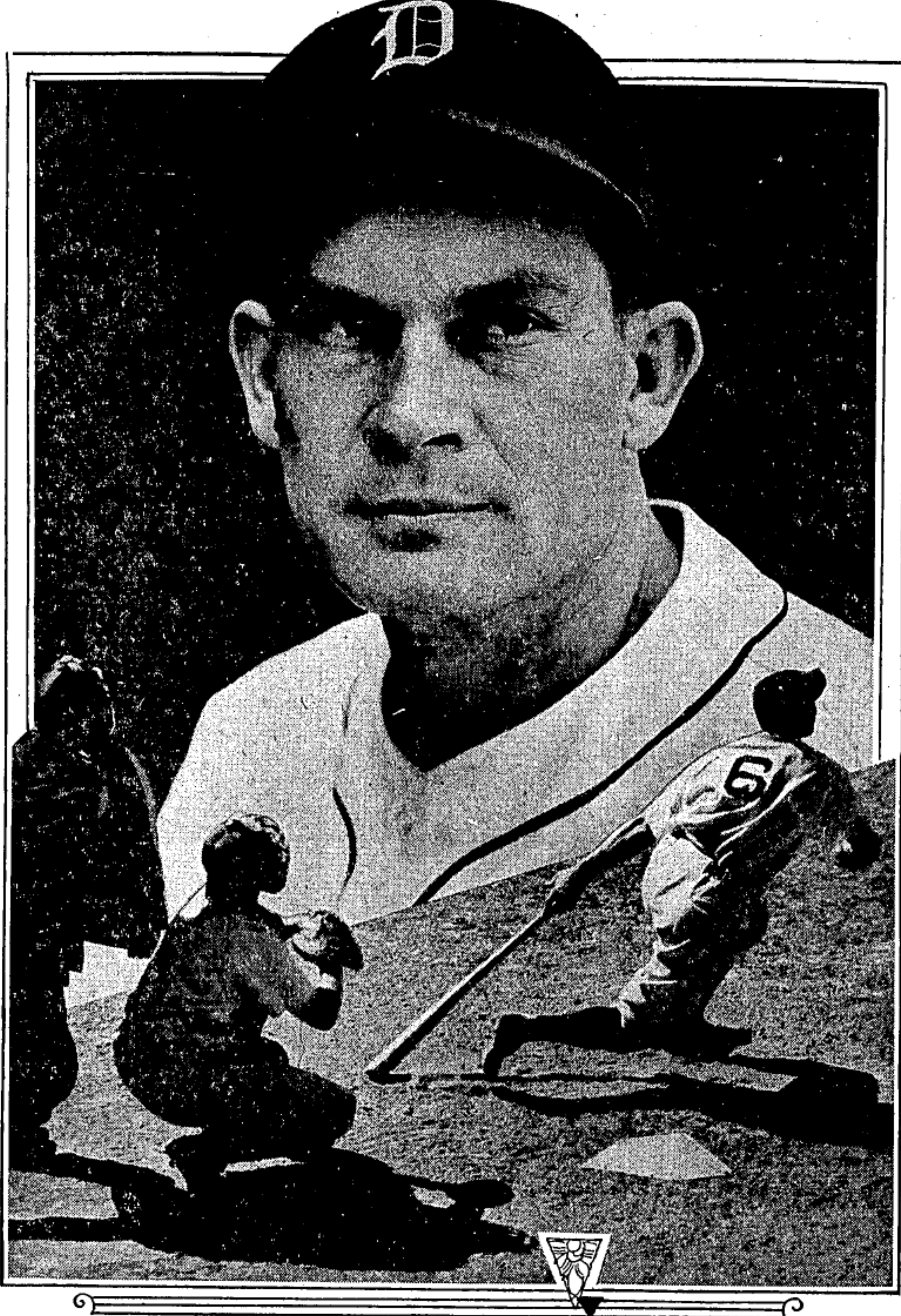
No one who saw Higgins in March, April and early May doubted that he was through as a major league player. There was nothing that anyone could do to help him. In these circumstances, advice is generally a handicap, rather than an aid. The player has to find his own solution and in Higgins' case there seemed no solution. His handicaps appeared physical. He had "stiffened up," as the boys say.

Pinky Shakes Off Zitters and Team Begins to Jitter

EVERYBODY felt sorry over Higgins' plight. He is one of the finest characters in the game, a gentleman. No player is more popular. They were all rooting for Higgins, but sympathy and friendships did not solve his problems. Perhaps they helped. The feeling they had towards him accentuated his natural courage and suddenly he was back on the job. Before they fully realized it, Higgins was playing the best third base of his career. Pinky zoomed and the team zoomed with him. Detroit's one remaining problem was solved and solved by the man who had created it.

Higgins was born in Texas, the state that produced Tris Speaker, Rogers Hornsby, Bib Falk, Rip Collins, Pinky Whitney, Gus Moore, Gus Mancuso, Tex Carleton, Sam West, Beau Bell, Roy Weatherly, Schoolboy Rowe, Debs Garms, Johnny Hittson, Ernie Koy, Gene Moore, Carl Reynolds, Bob Seaver and others. Higgins is born in a place named Red Oak, Texas, where he wore a pink nightgown and the family began calling him Pinky before he took his first step and he has been Pinky to one and all for 30 years. When he was five years old the Higgins family moved to the vicinity of the town of Houston, where the Higgins clan ever since has lived.

Higgins matriculated at the University of Texas at Austin. He played baseball and football. He was the blocking back of the varsity and the punning he took in breaking paths for the ball carriers was punished. Pinky played football well enough to be named on the all-star Southwestern Conference team, no mean honor when you consider that probably the hardest football in the country is played in the Southwest. He played third base and shortstop for the varsity baseball team and he probably would have joined Cleveland instead of the Philadelphia Athletics, if his father had not decided to run for sheriff.



MICHAEL FRANK (PINKY) HIGGINS

Pinky's "10 Big Years" in Figures

Year-Club.	League.	G.	AB.	R.	H.	2B.	3B.	HR.	RBI.	Pct.	PO.	A.	E.	Pct.
1920-Philadelphia.....	A.	16	24	6	8	0	0	0	250	8	0	0	0	0.000
1921-Dal.-S. Ant.....	T. L.	131	480	71	139	29	5	10	63	384	140	294	46	.898
1922-Portland.....	P. C.	189	721	145	233	51	5	33	132	326	156	328	47	.919
1923-Philadelphia.....	A. L.	122	507	114	178	34	11	14	32	114	232	64	28	.917
1924-Philadelphia.....	A. L.	144	543	89	179	37	6	16	90	330	147	247	37	.914
1925-Philadelphia.....	A. L.	133	524	69	155	32	4	23	94	296	102	214	21	.947
1926-Philadelphia.....	A. L.	144	555	85	159	32	12	12	28	235	181	258	29	.943
1927-Boston.....	A. L.	153	570	88	172	33	5	9	106	303	181	258	29	.943
1928-Philadelphia.....	A. L.	139	524	77	159	29	5	5	106	303	140	272	39	.914
1929-Detroit.....	A. L.	132	485	57	113	23	2	8	76	276	140	241	36	.914
Major League Totals.....		1013	3791	555	1343	222	35	87	651	302	1063	1776	212	.911

Michael Frank Higgins needed was plenty of work and sent him to the Texas League (Dallas and San Antonio) in 1921 and to Portland in 1922. In the spring of 1923, Connie Mack was sure that Higgins was ready for the major leagues and he installed Pinky as his third baseman. Higgins third-based for the A's for four years and was then traded to Boston for Bill Werber, a trade in which Boston got the better of it, but Mack thought that Boston deserved a break in its deals by that time and did not object.

Detroit tried to buy Higgins from Philadelphia in 1925. The late Frank J. Navin called up Connie Mack and asked him how much cash he wanted for Higgins. The answer was "\$250,000." Navin remarked that Mack answered "No."

It well, Tom Yawkey paid more than \$250,000 for Joe Cronin and Higgins is a better player than Cronin, so you're really getting a bargain in Higgins at \$250,000. Detroit still thought the price too steep and Higgins, as related, was traded to Boston for Werber. Pinky made his debut with the Red Sox lineup in 1927, and the following year Boston acquired Jim Taylor and decided to turn the third base job over to him. Consequently, the Red Sox traded Higgins and Archie McKain to Detroit for Elden Aufer, Jake Wade and Chester Morgan.

It was in the ninth inning. In the second game he hit a single, double and single off the bespectacled Bill Dietrich and in that order. The next time he came to bat, Pinky was given an intentional pass. From Chicago, the Red Sox moved to Detroit. Higgins arrived in town credited with four hits in a row. What of it? Pinky was not concerned and neither was anyone else. Hundreds of players have made four hits in one game and thousands have made four hits in succession, covering two games.

The Red Sox opened their Detroit stay with a double-header. Tommy Bridges pitched the first game. He walked Higgins the first time he came to bat. Higgins was up again in the fourth inning, and this time he doubled. He singled in the sixth, eighth and ninth, and was credited with eight consecutive hits when the first game ended.

Roxie Lawson pitched for Detroit in the second game. Higgins came to bat in the second inning and singled, for nine in a row. He was up again in the third and singled again. Ten in a row. He was up once more in the sixth. Another single. It was 11 in a row.

announcement, if nothing else, put the pressure upon Higgins. He did not know, until that moment, that he stood at the brink of a new record. He had been getting hit after hit while in a relaxed state and now the pressure was on. When he came to bat in the eighth inning, the silence was intensified. The crowd was watching one of the dramatic moments of diamond history. It was a tense situation with Higgins, the batter, and Lawson, the pitcher, the main actors in the drama. Lawson's first two pitches were wide. Two balls and no strikes. Lawson set himself and prepared to give Higgins the kind of pitch that he likes least of all—a curve ball, three feet low and over the outside corner. Lawson delivered a perfect pitch to walk Higgins, but Higgins swung and connected. He drove a sizzling grounder inside of second base. The great Gehring, playing perfect position, made a gallant dive for the ball, but it was hit too hard; it shot past him and on out into center field for a clean single and crashed an 18-year-old record.

Higgins showed his courage that afternoon just as he has shown it this season. He's a great guy in the clutch and he's a great guy any other way you take him, the kind of a guy the sun gods worship and that the profession admires and respects. That's why he has been designated by THE SPORTING NEWS as the "Player of the Month" for June.

Buster Maynard of Richmond, Busts Into Home Run Derby

RICHMOND, Va.—A sensational spurt, which started early in June, has carried James Walter (Buster) Maynard of Richmond's Piedmont League Colts into contention in the circuit's interesting home-run race.

VEZILICH DOES HIS LICK FOR BUFFS WITH STICK

Given Full Job When Winsett Goes Out, Vet Boosts Batting Average to .369; Pollet's Whiffs Reach 111

HOUSTON, Tex. — Although they have let down a bit from the terrific pace of the first six weeks of the campaign, the Buffs still are the class of the Texas League and at the beginning of the week held a comfortable seven-game lead despite a recent nine-game winning streak by second-place San Antonio. Among the most noteworthy events during the past week was the left-clubbing of Lou Vezilich's season-old outfielder.

Vezilich hadn't seen much service. He was put into the game only when lefthanders faced the Buffs and because the locals boasted so much power from the right hand side, few clubs would risk their southpaws against Eddie Dyer's bombers. But when Long Tom Winsett came to bat with a cold, Lou got his chance to play every day, and now he is clubbing the horsehide for a .359 mark, which is tops for the club and second only to Sam Harsanyi of San Antonio in the league.

Nick Cullop is leading the league in home runs with 12 and runs batted in with 68, which is 13 better than the runner-up. Nick's average is not as robust as in 1933, when he was voted the league's most valuable player, but the veteran is just as valuable to the club. THE SPORTING NEWS trophy was presented to Cullop, June 25.

Pollet Given Birthday Celebration

The next night, Howard Pollet, Houston's sensational lefty, observed his nineteenth birthday and a delegation of feminine fans presented the handsome youth with a cake at home plate before the game. Howard did not pitch that night because only two days previously he had turned back Oklahoma City for his thirteenth victory.

Two days after his birthday, he took the hill against Dallas and breezed behind a 17-hit attack from his mates to win No. 14 as he whiffed 11 to send his total to 114. The next day, he pitched for Johnny Antonelli, who massaged the horsehide at a furious pace at the start of the campaign, suffered a terrific slump, and no longer is among the leaders. Johnny, however, is topping the league in runs scored with Teammate Danny Murtough his closest rival.

Houston has been traveling along with only six pitchers for the past month, Lawrence Kempe, rookie southpaw, having been released to Pocatello, following an illness which made him of little value to the club.

President Fred Ankenman has been trying to land another seasoned hurler for the Herd, and the Cardinals optioned Sam Nahem to the Buffs on July 1. He comes from Louisville. Meanwhile, Houston is stringing along with this sextette: The seasoned Edward Krist, who has been pitching splendidly; Ted Wilks and Ed Rowland, holdovers from last year, and three brilliant recruits—Pollet, Wissman and Steve Warchol.

Advance of Hamilton Wings Slowed Up by Poor Elbowing

HAMILTON, Ont.—When Manager Fred Lucas of the Hamilton Pony League team introduced himself to local fanhood, May 7, he let it be known that he was satisfied, with everything but his pitching staff, and what has happened since then shows that he knew the team. Hamilton has had everything but good mound work.

As a matter of fact, Ted Herman, rated fourth best on the 1933 Hamilton corps, is now the club's leading hurler. He stepped from a couple of three-hit performances, Herman has been only so-so.

JOHNNY RIZZO FULL OF THRILLS AS PHIL

EX-RED AND PIRATE HITTING BALL HARD AND CONSISTENTLY

HILADELPHIA, Pa. — As the days wear on, Gerald P. Nugent is all the more satisfied with the deal that brought Johnny Rizzo to the Phillies. Rizzo, for Morris Ammann, has been a power hitter, has been belting the ball savagely since wearing Prothro-cut livery.

In the double-header with Pittsburgh, June 26, Johnny Rizzo got personal satisfaction, for during that twin card the Italian had six hits in seven times at bat.

The big left fielder won the first game almost single-handed when he batted in all four of the Phillies' runs. In the eighth inning when the score was a 2 to 2 tie, Rizzo unleashed a homer with Chuck Klein aboard to win the decision for the Phillies. It was his fourth homer in four games.

The Phillies lost the second game, but Rizzo reached base every time he went to bat, three times on hits.

Another former Pirate figured in the victory, but was not successful. He was Cy Blanton, who held the Pirates out for seven hits. It was the first time since joining the Phillies that he went the full distance.

The home stay of the Phillies has not been very profitable. They were in fifth place when they started and it was not long before they had fallen into the basement.

Their record at home with western foes showed four victories and ten losses. Right at the start they dropped four straight to the Cardinals. They were better against the road, winning two and losing one. The Cubs took their share of four, while against the Pirates they won one and lost two.

Doc Tries to Fry Loose McCarthy

During the visit of the Giants, Manager Prothro made every effort to subtract First Baseman Johnny McCarthy from Bill Terry's rotation. Prothro's offer of the waiver price McCarthy was scornfully rejected by Terry, who says he will keep his utility first baseman.

Prothro needs McCarthy, for Art Mahan, late of Louisville, has taken a nose-dive in batting. He has been dropped to eighth in the batting order. The outfielder Mel Zera played first during part of the June 29 game with the Giants.

Sturdy Moves to Lubricate Attack of El Dorado Oilers

EL DORADO, Ark.—Last in team batting and fielding, the El Dorado Oilers are staying high in the Cotton States race through the efforts of a class No. 1 mound corps.

Of course, the fielding averages do not represent the true status of the present Oilers, because it was entirely by an early-season lineup that pulled the figures down. But the team is lacking in punch and has had to depend on superlative pitching and smart leadership.

In 24 games, Manager Guy Sturdy found it necessary to lift the starting pitcher only once. Fred Anderson, an old-time International League hurler; John Lund, big righthanded Oregon boy; Cliff Wentz, and Russell Needham have borne the burden. Needham, in three successive games, allowed a total of ten hits. One of the games was a three-hitter, which he lost when his mates could not manufacture as many as two runs.

In an effort to improve the club's hitting, Sturdy signed Billie Marshall, formerly in the International and Eastern leagues. Marshall was with Clarkdale, but had to be released when the club ran over its limit of class men. A combination infielder-outfielder, Bartosch, who was in the Three-I last year, has also been added to the roster. He was recommended by Branch Rickey.

IT'S JUST LIKE GETTING
CAMERA FILMS FREE!

Camera Fans! Here's How! Get your films with the 20c to 35c you save each week when you smoke Twenty Grand. And, in addition, get that mild, full-flavored smoking enjoyment with...
Guaranteed Quality. The tobaccos in Twenty Grand are guaranteed equal in smoking quality to those in cigarettes costing as much as 50% more. So remember to ask for Twenty Grand today.

DAN DANIEL

TAIT CUMMINS

JOHN OLIVER

WALTER GOODSTEIN