

Brooks Add Pair to Plug Weak Spots

Clyde King to Be Handyman on Mound; Hank Edwards Slated as Pinch-Swinger

By JOE KING
ATLANTA, Ga.

The Dodgers were cheered on their homeward course by the presence of two brand new teammates, Clyde King and Hank Edwards, who achieved dramatic comebacks to provide support for the club in weak spots of last season.



Clyde King

King, righthand pitcher, and Edwards, lefty outfielder, were both former big leaguers who apparently had slipped beyond recall.

In the rags-to-riches transformation, King promises to be the handy man who can start and relieve occasionally, but chiefly handle the middle-distance innings after a starter has been knocked out. Edwards is cast as the deadly pinch-hitter lurking on the bench to menace and waylay the enemy pitcher in a close game.

The Dodgers had neither such character last year.

King had three previous terms with the Dodgers in 1944, '45 and '49 and wore the "won't-do" tag until he was asked in from Montreal for a tryout this spring. He had worked 182 innings for the Royals, for a 13-8 record, with 11 complete games in 22 starts, and an ERA of 3.12.

He is the pitcher Branch Rickey once termed the "smartest" in the chain. Smart, but sometimes they said his control wasn't what it should be, and

Few Dodger Rookies

ATLANTA, Ga.—The scarcity of Dodger phenoms this spring is illustrated by the presence of only five genuine rookies on the squad long before time to make the 25-player limit. Of course, the kids had a terrific veteran lineup to break, except at pitching. Don Thompson has a good chance to remain as an outfielder. Rocky Bridges probably would stay if Ed Miksis could be sold. Among the pitchers, Jim Romano lost considerable ground after a fine start, Clem Labine has failed to live up to his rep as a fireman, and Phil Haugstad has been handicapped by soreness in his flipper.

always they said his power would never be what it should be. So he must be a smart chap indeed to come back against those handicaps.

Oddly, King clinched his job in a game the Dodgers lost, 4 to 0, to the Braves. It was not his fault. He came from the bullpen with two on, one out, and retired the side. He continued to work six-and-two-thirds scoreless innings, to give the Dodgers a chance, which they blew, to overcome a 1 to 0 Boston lead.

King Shaves the Corners

King gave five walks—only three hits—in that tour, but no one could call him wild. He worked very carefully on the dangerous Brave hitters, and obviously was shaving the corners, hoping to have them swing at a poor pitch, or risk the walk, rather than offer a fat serve which could be overpowered. That's smart, and the double play three times rewarded him.

Edwards had a seemingly brilliant career collapse with the Indians after he suffered a shoulder separation. He was a Cub castoff last year, playing with Springfield (International), and came to the Dodger system as a throw-in in the deal for Dee Fondy and Kevin Connors. The desperate need for pinch-hitting in Flatbush gained him his chance.

Edwards never muffed it. He was devastating as a hitter in camp, and there was seldom any doubt he would be kept. His pinch-hit to win the first of two straight extra-inning decisions over the Braves was typical of his performance. Purchase of his contract from Montreal followed.

That spirited show against the Braves presented the Dodgers for the first time as if they had the National League pennant in mind. They fought with

Cactus Circuit Rolls Out Royal Carpet for King of Clout Kiner

Everywhere Ralph Goes He Receives a Hero's Reception From Fans

By LES BIEDERMAN
NEW ORLEANS, La.

Ralph Kiner, the 28-year-old slugging star of the Pirates with the No. 4 on his broad back, is becoming a VIP (Very Important Person).

The California Clouter now is coming into his own, and he's been accepted everywhere these days for exactly what he is—the major league home run king.

In Pittsburgh, Kiner long has been regarded as the No. 1 man. The fact that attendance at Forbes Field has averaged about 1,300,000 since Kiner began lathering home runs is mute testimony to the fact that he's the big attraction.

But this spring Kiner is being accepted everywhere as the top man among the home run manufacturers and a personality de luxe.

He is definitely the big box office draw of the Bucs on the road, a factor that is helping the Pirates enjoy their best training tableau in many years.

For his first five years, Kiner was merely taken for granted. But no more. Fans evidently feel he now is established and his home runs no longer are flukes.

And He Dresses the Part

He is the symbol of a finished performer—on and off the field.

Why, the Custom Tailors of America recently voted him among the ten best-dressed men in the land, top man among the baseball elite.

His salary—\$65,000—was the highest ever paid to a National League player until this spring when Stan Musial signed with the Cards for a reported \$85,000.

On the barnstorming tour through California and Arizona, Kiner was the attraction for the fans. The customers came early to watch the King of Clout in batting practice, and each time he was introduced before the game he drew a big hand, the biggest, by far, of any Pirate.

When he misses a game—which is rare, indeed—the fans mutter because they come out to see Kiner and when he's absent it leaves a void.

In El Centro, Calif., the other day, Kiner didn't make an appearance, and for a moment the Elks committee of the town, sponsoring the exhibition between the Pirates and Cubs, was quite disappointed. But after an explanation, the committee was satisfied.

This is the hallmark of an important man—being missed.

But the story of Kiner's absence from El Centro is this: Kiner is building a new home in Palm Springs and the deal jelled the day the Pirates broke camp at San Bernardino. Kiner told Man-

Dodgers' Average of 4,000 at Miami Is Far Below '50

ATLANTA, Ga.—The Dodgers were disappointed, but not too blue over the attendance they drew in their 18 games in beautiful Miami Stadium. The total was 73,432, for an average of just over 4,000, which was below expectations but not too bad for the citrus circuit.

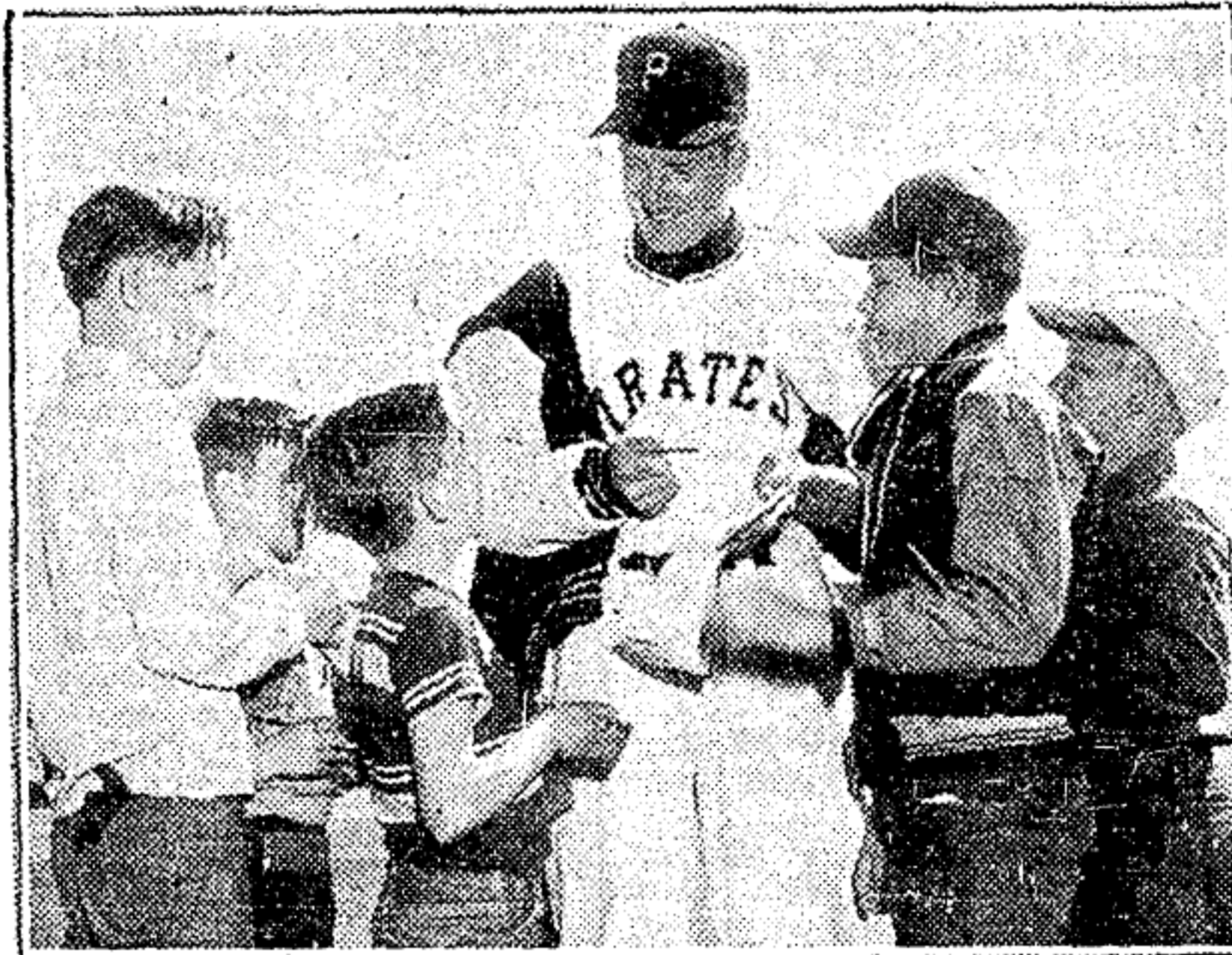
Club officials believe more intense promotion next year will build up attendance. But first, the reasons, variously ascribed, for the huge attendance drop from 1950, when an average of 10,000 was attained, must be studied.

The schedule next season will feature more day baseball with night games probably on a three-a-week program.

grim tenacity, and showed an all-round sound team. Chuck Dressen may not yet be able to say he has assembled a pitching staff, but he may have more talent than was suspected several weeks ago, and his team otherwise could be further strengthened.

That would happen if Don Thompson, rookie from Montreal, and, incident-

Mr. Big of Buccos



RALPH KINER OBLIGING HIS YOUTHFUL ADMIRERS

ager Bill Meyer about the project, said it meant about \$20,000 to him to close the deal and asked permission to fly from Los Angeles to El Centro, return to Los Angeles by air and fly to Tucson the next day to rejoin the Pirates.

"I don't like you flying so much in the spring," Meyer told Kiner. "If you think you can close the deal in one day, I'll give you permission to skip El Centro and pick us up next day in Tucson."

"Maybe the day's rest will do you good, too. You've been playing every game and I've been wanting to spell you anyhow."

So Kiner missed El Centro, closed his deal, and was at Tucson when the Pirates arrived next day.

The Elks committee at El Centro was miffed when Kiner didn't appear and the chairman of the game politely made explanations before the contest started.

"I regret to inform you that Ralph Kiner is not with the Pirates today and I also want to tell you the committee did not know of his absence before the team arrived," the chairman said.

"However, I understand Kiner hasn't had a hit in his last four games, so it probably is just as well he's not here," the chairman ended on a sour note. (Kiner had three hits in the four games prior to El Centro.)

The crowd of 3,142, largest ever to see a game at El Centro, took the announcement good naturedly, though naturally disappointed that Kiner wasn't on hand.

Kiner, himself, was quite perturbed when he heard of the commotion caused by his first day of idleness this spring.

"I wouldn't have done a thing like that had I known it would have caused so much embarrassment," Kiner stated. "But this business deal meant so much to me that I didn't think it out of the ordinary to request permission to fly to keep my

appointment. I wanted to be in El Centro and would have been there, but when Bill Meyer told me to take care of the business matter first and take a day's rest, I accepted gladly. I certainly had no intention of slighting the good people of El Centro."

Kiner appeared in 22 of the first 23 exhibitions of the Pirates and played more innings than any other player. He's one of the first men on the field for batting practice and is known and widely recognized as one of the most gracious and most co-operative big men in baseball.

Two Games in Day

He never turns down an autograph request and fills all the speaking engagements he possibly can. He realizes he has a responsibility to the game that has been so good to him that incidents such as El Centro hurt him deeply.

Kiner was scheduled to take part in a Kiwanis charity game at Hollywood, March 11, the same day the Pirates were playing the Browns at Burbank, Calif. The Browns' management needed Kiner to help their gate and Kiner could have quietly eased out of the Burbank exhibition in favor of the Hollywood charity game without a whimper.

But he suggested he start with the Pirates at Burbank and after the second time at bat rush to Hollywood. The Brownie officials were satisfied and helped provide a police car to speed Kiner from Burbank to Hollywood, where he arrived in the second inning of that affair.

Kiner is full of pride and not only is one of the hardest working athletes in baseball, but a boy worthy of the uniform he wears.

I'm certain El Centro holds no bitterness for such a great player and a fine gentleman as Ralph Kiner.

29 States Are Represented at Pittsburgh's Farm Camp

DE LAND, Fla. — Twenty-nine states, the District of Columbia and Canada are represented among the 178 players in the Pirates' minor league camp here.

Pennsylvania, the Pirates' home state, leads with 41 youths, while California ranks second with 17. Then come North Carolina with 13, New York with 12 and New Jersey with ten. Illinois and Ohio are each represented by seven prospects, while West Virginia and Virginia follow with six apiece. Five Bucs-in-the-making hail from little Rhode Island. Four each come from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Kansas, Delaware and Alabama.

Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina have sent three each, while Missouri, Indiana, Maryland and Florida are represented by two apiece. Only one player comes from Arizona, Louisiana, Iowa and Minnesota, as well as the District of Columbia. Canada is the home of two.

Buccos' Bell in Ding-Dong Batting Tune

Rated by Some Observers as Pirates' Best Right Fielder Since P. Waner

By LES BIEDERMAN
NEW ORLEANS, La.

At the start of Gus Bell's first full season in the Big Tent, he is rated by some as the best Pirate right fielder since the gilded days of Paul Waner. Although this is high praise for a 21-year-old flychaser who has played only four months of a major league



Gus Bell

ball, the slugger from the Blue Grass State of Kentucky is a comer if ever there was one.

This is Bell's first training trip with the Pirates, and he has been exploding base hits from California to Arizona, a welcome sight for the tired eyes of the cellar occupants of 1950. His average, including the game of April 1, was a fantastic .436.

A year ago Bell was in the Pirate rookie camp at San Bernardino. When the varsity arrived, Gus was shipped to the Indianapolis club. He had hit .325 and driven in 85 runs for Albany in 1949 and was rated a top prospect.

Indianapolis had the benefit of Bell's sizzling bat only until Memorial Day last year. He was clouting 400 when he was called up by the Buccos.

He finished with an average of .282, drove in 53 runs in 111 games and was earmarked as a star of the future. One of his unsung feats of 1950 was the 257-foot home run he tapped against Sal Maglie at the Polo Grounds one rainy afternoon, ruining the Giant star's scoreless string.

This spring Bell was delegated to the so-called "B" squad when the varsity took off on a northern trip to San Francisco and the kid was frankly worried. He sought out Manager Bill Meyer and asked what was cooking.

"Don't Worry"—But Gus Did "We know what you can do and we want to see what some of the others can do," Meyer told him. "Don't you worry about a thing."

But Bell did worry. When the varsity returned, Bell began hitting so savagely that now there's no doubt but that the kid has a starry future.

Bell can do everything. He can run, field, throw and hit. He made the Yankees take notice in the game at Phoenix, March 31.

Gus fired a strike from right field to cut down Ralph Houk going from first to third on a single, and later threw another right to the bag that proved a little too hot to handle. After that, the Yankees showed him the proper respect. At bat against the Yankees in that game, he powered three singles and smacked a homer.

In six games with the Cubs, Indians and Yankees, Bell rapped out 14 hits.

Another budding star, judging from his work in the exhibition games, is George Strickland, who has wrested the shortstop job from Stan Rojek. His fielding has been phenomenal and his batting quite a pleasant surprise. Through the first 23 exhibitions, Strickland was batting .378.

Bench-Warmer Last Year

Strickland was drafted from Birmingham at the end of the 1949 season and went to bat only 27 times in all of the 1950 season. This spring, he was given an opportunity to play shortstop and Rojek hasn't been able to budge him.

Kiner continues as the first baseman and has been looking pretty good. The shift from left field hasn't affected his hitting in the least and his batting average was a hefty .360 on April 1. He led the club in base hits, RBIs, and was tied in homers with five, through the first 24 games.

Pirate Scoreboard—Paul Pettit has had his Army physical exam transferred to Pittsburgh and will take it when the Bucs hit Forbes Field, April 12. . . . The Pirates shipped the "home" uniforms they were using at San Bernardino to M-G-M in Hollywood for use in the forthcoming movie, "The Angels and the Pirates." M-G-M purchased the Bucs' new road uniforms. . . . Hank Schenz became a father for the third time, March 31, when his wife presented him with a daughter in a Cincinnati hospital.

Yank Rookies Getting Trials Under Dickey

McCarthy, in Surprise Call at Stadium, Opens Door for a Comeback

By DAN DANIEL
NEW YORK, N. Y.



Spud Chandler

The King is gone, long live the King! After having started his sixteenth season as manager of the Yankees, Joe McCarthy has retired, and Bill Dickey, the club's catching mainstay since 1929, has taken over in Joe's place. Dickey already has indicated that he has what it takes to be a successful leader.

There are all sorts of conjectures about the job Bill has undertaken. Over in Brooklyn they say that if Billy Herman had accepted the managership of the Newark club, which the Dodgers reveal had been offered to the veteran infielder, he would have got the call over Dickey.

Your correspondent doubts this. Col. Larry MacPhail says there was no other candidate "because I do not intend to bring in outsiders for jobs with this club." Let us hope he sticks to this policy.

Joe McCarthy made a surprise visit to the Stadium the other day and appeared before the baseball writers in the press room.

This appearance was entirely voluntary, and was a confessional for his friends, and a defiance to his foes.

"Maybe after three or four weeks around the horses and mules on the

Embarrassing Moment

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The announcer on the public address system in Yankee Stadium experienced his "most embarrassing moment" before the New York-Philadelphia game, May 31, when he broadcast, "Will the spectators in the front row boxes please remove their clothing!" He had intended to add "from the front railing," but the crowd didn't let him get that far.

farm, I will get tired of it and want to get back," he said.

Joe is not contemplating returning. But he appeared to be eager to leave the door open in the event he did decide to come back.

However, if he could not take it on the Yankees, how would he feel running one of those second-division outfits?

There'll Be Some Rumors Soon

Obviously, Joe hasn't a second-division outfit in mind. Before long you will read rumors connecting him with one of the best jobs in the American League. But, meanwhile, he is in retirement, and insofar as anybody knows, is going to stay in retirement.

Obviously, Joe's first consideration in coming into the Stadium press room was to refute the report that he had been dismissed.

The Yankees have been doing a fair job under Dickey. But not good enough. They lost two out of three in Boston, where they might have swept the series with any luck at all. They had some tough games with the lowly Athletics, and continued to miss the spark which they had been expected to ignite with the return of Joe DiMaggio, Joe Gordon, Phil Rizzuto, Tommy Henrich, Dickey, Spud Chandler and others.

That Yankee pitching staff imposes a heavy burden on the attack. The burden was heavy even with Spud Chandler pitching in his recent outings against the Red Sox and the Athletics. Spud chalked up his seventh victory against two defeats, and is one of the standouts of the majors. But he carries too big a load.

Dickey is going to give an opportunity to every man on the club. He surprised everybody by starting Clarence Marshall in the Stadium's first night game, against the Senators. Cuddles did a great job, but failed to get any hitting support and lost a 2 to 1 decision to Emil Leonard.

Dickey dug Frankie Hiller out of obscurity and gave that righthander his first relief chance in Boston. He looked good. On June 1, Bill started Hiller against the Browns and lost a close decision.

MacPhail refuses to comment on Babe Ruth's assertion that he sought the Newark managerial post and was turned down.

McCarthy Says Goodbye

Marse Joe Wishes Dickey Luck -- 'From the Bottom of My Heart'

By DICK McCANN
Of the Washington Times-Herald
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Joe McCarthy came back to the Yankees the other day—to say good-bye. Unannounced, he dropped in at the Stadium office, sat in a box seat and watched his first ball game as a real honest-to-goodness spectator in more than 40 years, and then he elbowed his way through unrecognizing fans into the Yankee dressing room.

"Hiya, boys," he said as he shut the door behind him. His voice was barely heard above the chatter and noise of a winning ball club's boudoir. Some of them heard him. They hushed the others. And he went from player to player, shaking their hands and wishing them luck.

Then he went around the corner to his old office. There Bill Dickey sat at the big desk, still in uniform, reading letters and telegrams—all congratulating him on taking the job that Joe had. "Hiya, Bill, old kid," Joe said. Bill jumped to his feet, looking sort of embarrassed like a GI caught sitting at his general's desk. He grinned and stuck out his big paw. "Hello, Joe," Bill said. They grabbed hands for a moment, and then the photographers closed in. New York cameramen are usually a noisy lot. One of them once



"SEE YOU AT THE WORLD'S SERIES, BILL"

yelled to Queen Marie, "Hey, Queenie, cross your legs for this shot. . . We want some cheese-cake." But they were subdued this time, moving into the office quietly like mourners at a wake.

"Well, what do you want, boys—guess you want me shaking hands with Bill and wishing him luck," Joe said. They nodded. "Well, I'll sit here and I guess you can sit there, Bill—is that all right with you, Bill?"

They drew up chairs and sat side by side, the new Yankee manager and the old. One of the photographers suggested that they sit a little closer.

Joe grinned. "We've been close a long time, haven't we, Bill? And we'll stay that way, won't we?"

Then as the photographers crouched and aimed their cameras and fingered their flash bulb switches, Joe's jaws tightened and so did his grip on Bill's big hand and he said, with as much sincerity as we have ever heard: "Bill, the best

Tight Games Gave Joe the Jitters

Predicting that Joe McCarthy, retired manager of the Yankees, would return to the game, Frank Graham, in his column in the New York Journal-American, May 31, described the tenseness with which Marse Joe fought for every game and cited the following instance:

The Bombers, 11 games ahead in September, one year, played in Cleveland and had a hectic time struggling to a 14 to 12 victory.

"In spite of the fact that his team, far in front, had won another game," Graham recalled, "Joe was so upset that, on his return to the hotel, this is what he did: Got his key, a telegram and a bill from the clerk at the desk, ripped the envelope off the telegram, read the message and took a 20-dollar bill from his pocket. Started for the cashier's cage, threw the 20-dollar bill on the floor and, reaching the cashier, offered him the torn envelope and the key.

"To a reporter who had observed all this, and restored his 20-dollar bill, he said: 'I'll be all right in a little while. That game was enough to drive anybody nuts.'

"But," the reporter said, "You won and you're 11 or 12 games out in front."

"It was terrible," Joe said, shaking his head. "Terrible."

"Still shaking his head, he walked into the dining room—and probably wound up with indigestion."

of luck all the time, everywhere, in everything, kid . . . from the bottom of my heart."

The two smiled. Whereas the camera man's effort might have produced one of the industry's greatest human interest pictures, he came out with a printed expression of friendship.

Umpire Art Passarella came up to thank Joe for giving him his break in baseball—McCarthy had recommended him to the American League. Rookie pitchers came to thank him for tolerating them, and teaching them. Clubhouse boys wished him luck, and he dug down into his pocket to give them something further to remember him by.

Then he went back to the players' dressing room, stood in the doorway, waved his hand and said: "So long, boys—see you again—at the World's Series . . ." A clatter of so-longs arose from them and followed him out the doorway and up the ramp to the elegant new press room that looks like a cocktail lounge where the drinks are \$1.50 apiece. There the newspaper boys were waiting for his farewell address.

"I want to thank the press for the fair treatment you've given me in my 15 years here," said Joe. "I don't want any of you to ever get it in your heads that Col. MacPhail and I have ever had any words—any argument. . . I played baseball too tense, too tight. . . I never turned around to spit or to take a drink of water, afraid I might miss a pitch. . . So there had to come a break now and then. . . And these breaks lasted two and three days. . . And, what the hell, it wasn't the best that could happen. . . But don't worry about me—I won't wind up in the gutter. . . And don't worry about the Yankees. . . I'll always be a Yankee. . . And, if I can get two tickets, I'll be here for the World's Series."

That was the way his farewell speech went up in the gaudy press room. But those two words downstairs to the players, "So long," were far more eloquent.

Cards Scrape the Barrel of Hurlers for Winners

Mound Difficulties Multiply for Dyer; Injuries Still Hold Back Browns

By FREDERICK G. LIEB
ST. LOUIS, Mo.

With a host of first-string Cardinal pitchers coming back from service and the holdovers from a second-place staff of 1945, it looked, last winter, as if the main pitching worry for Eddie Dyer, the new St. Louis manager, would be to find sufficient work for his many aces.



Eddie Dyer

However, it hasn't worked out that way on the field. Even before the Mexican League snatched Southpaw Max Lanier and Righthander Fred Martin, Dyer was beset with pitching problems, but now that Maxie and Fred have gone to the Pasquels, Eddie's mound difficulties have multiplied. Brecheen and Pollet now are going well, but Dyer's present No. 1 problem is to find a pair of winning righthanders.

Ken Burkhardt has pitched the few strong games, but Red Barrett, the 23-game winner of 1945, seems to have lost his touch and still is struggling to break into the win column. Johnny Beazley, the 1943 star, who has pitched only one complete game, has been taking treatments from his family physician in Nashville. Ted Wilks did a

Browns Trim Roster

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—General Manager Bill DeWitt trimmed the Browns' roster by four just before the club took the road. Outfielder Lou Finney and Pitcher Al Milnar were sold to the Phillies on inter-league waivers; Pitcher Steve Sundra was given his unconditional release, and Outfielder George Bradley was optioned to Toledo. DeWitt was especially sorry to release Sundra, one of the club's best prewar pitchers. Steve returned from the Army with two damaged knees, and couldn't pivot properly, or get his old stuff on the ball.

a grand relief job for Beazley in Chicago, but when started against the Giants, June 2, he was slugged for two homers, including a grand slam by the ex-Cardinal, Walker Cooper. Despite his big string of pitchers, Dyer also lacks adequate relief hurling.

Raids Hurt Team's Morale

The Mexican raiders also continue after Cardinal stars, and unquestionably have hurt the team's morale. Stan Musial apparently hadn't definitely turned down the Pasquel offer until he had a talk with Sam Breadon, June 1, on the club's return home. Stanley then said he'd stick with the Redbirds; he didn't get a new contract, but unquestionably got some promises. At a clubhouse meeting, Whitey Kurowski, determined holdout of last spring, spoke out in his usual blunt fashion: "I believe in getting all the dough I can, but once I've signed, I honor that contract. Let's forget this Mexican business and try to concentrate on winning the pennant and getting into the World's Series."

The Browns closed an unprofitable home stand on Memorial Day, having won six and lost nine. Weather held the games with the eastern clubs to eight, of which the Browns won half, but they were feeble performers against their western rivals, winning only two out of seven.

Then Bill DeWitt ran into his usual Brown turnstile luck. On the club's first eastern trip, when Boston was in an especial frenzy over its 15-straight winning streak, Bill saw a Sunday double-header at Fenway Park rained out. On June 2, Bill saw another twin bill at Yankee Stadium washed out.

Injuries continue to hold back the Browns. Vern Stephens' ailing shoulder has been slow in responding to treatment; Chet Laabs still is bothered with a hip condition which may be arthritis, and just as Joe Grace started to hit, Tommy Bridges knocked him out of the lineup by exploding a curve against Joe's foot. Babe Dahlgren was returned to first base in the second game of the Memorial Day double-header, a pleasant feature of which was Denny Galehouse's return to pitching form. After losing four games, he shaded Virgil Trucks of the Tigers, 2 to 1.

Quincy, Ill., Will Observe Ostermueller Day, July 7

QUINCY, Ill.—This city, home of Fritz Ostermueller, will stage a special day for the Pittsburgh left-hander at Sportsman's Park in St. Louis, July 7. The Ostermueller Day plans, initiated by the Quincy Post of the American Legion, of which Fritz is a member, has been turned into a city-wide affair, with service and social clubs and fraternal organizations participating.

Booster tickets costing \$10, which will include fare on a special train, a ticket to the game and transportation to and from the ball park, are being sold. Souvenir Ostermueller programs will be distributed to ticket purchasers.

Few Look Finer Than Kid Kiner

Pirate Outfielder Blossoming Into a Star; Coscarart Decides on Mexico

By CHARLES J. DOYLE
PITTSBURGH, Pa.

Big news in the Pirate camp—on and off the field.

Last in hitting through the early weeks of the race, the Bucs made 52 hits and 31 runs in four recent successive games. It may be hard to believe, but the Bucs won only two of them, despite their clouting.



Ralph Kiner

Ralph Kiner, who clubbed a sensational seventh homer with two out and two aboard to tie up a battle on June 2, continued to bear out his early promise of becoming one of the most colorful players in the history of the Pittsburgh club.

Rip Sewell's triumphant return is also being hailed by fans and players alike. Rip was given a big ovation, June 2, when he stepped onto a soggy field to turn in a four-hit performance at the expense of the Phils to gain his third victory of the season. Sewell looked like his old self and his half dozen blooper pitches had the Quakers swinging futilely.

Lee Handley and Frankie Gustine are playing at a pace which some baseball men say makes them the standouts at their positions. Gustine is hitting well over .300 while playing flawless ball afield. All in all, the Bucs' infield looks like the best in the league.

Coscarart Sold to Padres

Off the field, the big news is Pete Coscarart's decision to join the Mexican League after having been sold to the San Diego club of the Coast league.

Pete was the first of six players listed to be disposed of to meet the June 15 deadline. Many Pirates feel that he was the most able sub on the club, but the fact was that two other infielders cost the club \$30,000 and were favored over him because of the expense involved in their acquisition.

Coscarart, four or five years younger than the others, had a brilliant season for the Pirates in 1944, but played with a lame leg through most of the 1945 season. Pete tapered off, due to the handicap, but stayed in the game owing to the shortage of talent.

Pete became dissatisfied when he was forced to take a cut of \$2,000 in his pay for this year. When the Bucs decided to drop him, they gave him permission to try to make a deal for himself, as he is not a ten-year-man, he could not get his unconditional release. Accordingly, he was sold to the minors. The Pirate officials don't deny that Pete offered them the waiver price, \$7,500, for his release, but this was refused. Pete felt that he could have landed with a team in the Big Time. He says his leg is perfect and that he was never in better shape to play in his life. He declared:

"I feel that I have several good years in front of me and want to spend them in the major leagues. If I cannot stay in the majors I will gladly go to the Mexican League."

Coscarart speaks Spanish quite fluently; he always takes the best care of himself and doubtless will be a stand-out player if and when he goes south of the border.