

Schoolboy Rowe, Ace Tiger Twirler in '30s, Dies at 51

Arkansas' All-Round Sports Star Suffers Heart Attack; Led Bengals to 1934 Flag

By FREDERICK G. LIEB

Arkansas' sports wonder boy of three decades ago, Lynwood Thomas (Schoolboy) Rowe, a former Tiger pitching ace, died in his home in El Dorado, Ark., January 8, three days before his fifty-second birthday. The tall former hurler, a Detroit scout, died after suffering a heart attack earlier in the night. He was pronounced dead after his family had rushed him to a hospital.

Even though Rowe lived more than half a century, he was "Schoolboy," or the more affectionate "Schoolie," until the day of his death. He got the nickname when only 15, while pitching for the Methodist Church against the Baptists in an El Dorado Sunday School league game. With his team enjoying a slim-ninth-inning lead, he was confronted by the Baptists' power hitter.

"Don't let that schoolboy strike you out!" yelled one of the partisans for the Baptist cause. Lynwood did just that, and forever afterward became "Schoolboy."

Son of Trapeze Performer

Rowe still is regarded as the greatest all-round athlete ever to come out of the state of Arkansas. Though Schoolboy was born in Waco, Tex., the son of a circus trapeze performer, his family moved early to El Dorado and he always considered himself a Razorback. When he left high school to enter Organized Ball, he was Arkansas' best scholastic pitcher and batter, an all-star football player for three successive years, all-state basketball player two years, high-point track man in 11 events, the state's scholastic golf champion and best boxer at his weight.

Rowe stood 6-4½ and weighed 210 pounds when he entered O. B. Record books give his age as 49 at the time of his death, but members of his family said he was 51.

Every one of the 16 major league clubs knew of the Arkansas wonder boy in 1931. But the nation then was deep in the depression, and the Detroit club snatched the promising youngster for a modest bonus. The Tiger organization didn't fool with its prize in the lower minors, but started him in 1932 with the Class AA Beaumont club of the Texas League. He

Long Walk



ONE OF THE MOST heart-tugging photos ever made of Schoolboy Rowe was this shot, taken on June 3, 1938, when the big righthander was only a few years past his heyday with the Tigers. He strolled across the mound at Briggs Stadium, with the park empty, headed for the Beaumont (Tex.) farm club, where he had hoped to recover from a sore arm.

Mound Star



Schoolboy Rowe

had a 19-7 record as a 20-year-old. Frank Navin, Tiger president and an early Rowe fan, ordered his advancement to the Tiger varsity in 1933. Lynwood broke in with a 3 to 0 shutout against the White Sox. He wired Bill Walton, his former high school coach: "Dear Coach. Beat Chicago, 3 to 0. Allowed six hits. As ever. Schoolboy."

Bucky Harris was then in his last season of a six-year managerial term. He used Rowe only in spots.

Mickey Cochrane, the former ace Athletic catcher, came to Detroit in 1934 as playing manager, and he greatly enhanced the Schoolboy's development. The wonder boy of Arkansas scholastic sports became the wonder boy of American League pitchers. Leading Detroit to its first pennant in 25 years, Rowe compiled a 24-8 record, with one winning streak of 16 straight, tying the A. L. record held by Walter Johnson, Joe Wood and Lefty Grove.

"How'm I Doing, Edna?"

At one point when he was blowing batters down with his blazing fast ball, he yelled up to his bride in the stands, "How'm I doing, Edna?" He repeated the same line while being interviewed on a radio program. He heard that phrase as long as he remained an active pitcher.

Rowe was spectacular in his first World's Series game against the St. Louis Cardinals. Pitching the second game of the 1934 Series, he wore down the two St. Louis lefties, Bill Hallahan and Bill Walker, 3 to 2, in 12 innings.

However, with Detroit leading three games to two and a chance to clinch the Series, he lost the sixth game to Paul Dean, 4 to 3, and the Tigers were badly spanked in the seventh game next day.

Rowe never again was as good as he was in 1934, though he won 19 games in both 1935 and 1936. In Detroit's 1935 four-to-two World's Series victory over the Cubs, he was credited with one win in relief, but lost both his starts.

Shipped to Minors in '38

The Schoolboy's famous right arm lost its zip in 1937 and early in 1938 he was sent to Beaumont with the hope that the hot Texas sun would bake out his ailing flipper. A 12-2 Texas League record brought about his recall, and he looked something like the old Rowe when he was 16-3 with the 1940 Tiger A. L. champions.

He was roughened, by the Reds in the subsequent World's Series, twice being knocked out in early innings. Lynwood closed his World's Series record at 2-5, being tied with five others for most defeats.

Detroit held on to him until April 30, 1942, when he was sold to Brooklyn on waivers. Dodger Manager Leo Durocher used the Schoolboy largely in relief, and in the late summer shipped him to Montreal (International). The Phillies purchased him from Brooklyn in March, 1943, and he did some fine pitching for the Quakers, 14-8 in 1943, 11-4 in 1946, 14-10 in 1947 and 10-10 in 1948. His Phil career was interrupted by two years in the Navy, 1944 and 1945.

The Schoolboy also was a good batsman for a pitcher, and frequently served as a pinch-hitter.

In his post-pitching years, he served the Tigers as coach and then scout.

Luderus, Power Socker of Early Phil Clubs, Dies

First Baseman Gained Fame as a .438 Rapper Against Boston in '15 Fall Classic

Frederick W. (Ludy) Luderus, captain-first baseman of the Phillies' first championship team (1915) and a lusty home-run hitter in the era of the dead ball, died in his native city of Milwaukee of a heart attack on the night of January 4. Luderus was 75 years of age.

Though Fred Luderus reached the .300 mark only twice in an 11-year National League career, he was the Phillies' cleanup hitter, whether batting fourth or fifth, and a batter who struck terror in the heart of many a pitcher. Right Fielder Gavvy Cravath and Luderus were the big one-two punch on Pat Moran's 1915 Phil-



Fred Luderus

lie champions and subsequent contenders. Luderus' big year was 1915. He batted .315, second only to the .329 of the Giants' Larry Doyle, the N. L. batting champion.

However, it was in the 1915 Phillie-Red Sox World's Series that Luderus acquired nation-wide distinction, and then with a loser. While bowing four games to one, the Phillies made a stubborn showing. Grover Alexander won the first game, 3 to 1, but the Phillies dropped the next four by one run, three by 2 to 1 scores and the last one by 5 to 4.

While the club compiled a sorry team batting average of .182, Luderus stood out on the Quakers like a giant on a team of pygmies. His fellow slugger, Jeff Cravath, was held to a batting average of .125 by the strong Boston pitching staff, but Luderus tied into Ernie Shore, Dutch Leonard and George Foster for a mighty .438. His seven hits including a homer and two doubles.

Socketed 18 Homers in '13

Though Luderus hit 16 homers for the 1911 Phillies, 18 in 1913 and 12 in 1914, the home-run stratosphere of that day, he never had the thrill of being the N. L. home-run leader. Eighteen homers would have won in the National League in 11 out of 12 seasons, 1901 to 1912, but in both 1913 and 1914 teammate Cravath reached 19. Luderus' 83 home runs for his full major career would be a modest figure by current standards but in his time it was real home-run production.

Fred was born in Milwaukee of German parentage, September 12, 1885, and from the time he was a tot, he wanted to be a ball player. He was hefty, with strong, bulging muscles, and from his early sandlot and semi-pro career he was a first baseman.

He threw right and batted left. His early pro play was with Grand Forks and Winnipeg of the Copper League, 1906-07-08, and he used a .321 batting average with Freeport, Ill., of the Wisconsin-Illinois as his graduation certificate to the majors in the fall of 1909, when he was acquired by the Chicago Cubs.

The Cubs had a hard-hitting first baseman, Vic Saier, at the time. In July, 1910, they traded young Luderus to the Phillies for Bill Foxen, a left-handed pitcher. In 36 games in 1910 with the Cubs and Phillies, Luderus hit an unsensational .254. However, early in 1911, the veteran Phillie first baseman, Kitty Bransfield, showed signs of slowing up, and Manager-Catcher Red Doolin assigned his Milwaukee Dutchman to first base. Fred quickly won his spurs by batting .301

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for 146 games, his extra-base bag including 24 doubles, 11 triples and 16 homers.

In Ludy's early years in Philadelphia, he was a member of one of the most colorful infields then in the National League. It consisted of Hans Lobert, third base; Mickey Doolan, shortstop; Otto Knabe, second base; and Luderus, first. They all were tough and rugged, battlers every moment they were on the field.

In contests with clubs such as John McGraw's scrappy Giants, the Cubs of Tinker, Evers and Chance, and the Pirate team built around the fiery Fred Clarke and the amazing Honus Wagner, the Phillie infield played a "no holds barred" type of baseball. If anyone played rough, they gave as good as they received or better.

The infield, which was at its best on the N. L. runner-up of 1913, was broken up by the jumping of Knabe and Doolan to the Federal League and the trading of Lobert to the Giants.

Remained as Team Captain

Captain Luderus remained, and around him the new manager, Pat Moran, built up another scrappy infield with Milt Stock on third, Dave Bancroft at short and Bert Niehoff at second. Backing Grover Alexander and other capable Phillie pitchers, this infield was good enough to help the Phillies win the flag in 1915 and finish second in 1916 and 1917.

The Phillies slipped badly after World War I, and Luderus slipped with them. After batting only .156 in 16 games for the 1920 Phillies, he was released to the Toledo club of the American Association, where he regained his batting skill by batting .323. He was made a playing manager of the old Mud Hens in 1921. It began a lengthy managerial career in the better minors—Oklahoma City, 1923-24; Shreveport, 1925; Oklahoma City, 1925-26-27; Omaha, 1928, and Oklahoma City for a third term, 1932-1933. He played his last ball with Omaha in 1928.

In an era when big league players had one or two children, with many of them having none, Luderus, the burly Phillie first baseman, stood out as "the Dutchman with the five kids." Today, players with five or more children are commonplace.

Dr. Ned Stickle

Dr. Ned F. Stickle, former shortstop for Spokane (Western International) and Seattle (Pacific Coast), died of a shotgun wound in the garage of his home in Spokane, Wash., January 2.

The coroner listed Dr. Stickle's death as a suicide. He was reported to be despondent recently because of an operation on his hand.

Dr. Stickle, a 43-year-old dentist, attended Whitman College at Walla Walla, Wash. He joined Spokane in 1940 and was promoted to Seattle the

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L. A. Scout Dies Day After Coaching Cagers to Victory

GENEVA, N. Y.—Lyle (Spike) Garnish, a Dodger scout and baseball and basketball coach at Hobart College here, died of a heart attack recently a day after coaching his cage team to victory over McMaster of Toronto.

Garnish, who was 56, was a referee in the National Basketball League, the forerunner of the NBA, until he came to Hobart 11 years ago. He began scouting for the Dodgers in the central New York area in 1955.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Selma Garnish; two sons, Dr. Richard A. and Dr. John Garnish, and his mother.

following season. He was being considered for advancement to Pittsburgh when he entered military service in December, 1943. Following his discharge, he returned to the Rainiers for the 1946 season, then retired from the game.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Betty Lou Stickle; three daughters, his mother and two sisters.

Mark C. Wanstall

Mark C. Wanstall, who was associated with the Indians for 44 years before he retired as auditor of the club in 1950, died at Memorial Hospital in Lima, O., January 9. He was 69.

Wanstall's first job with the Indians was as a helper to his brother, Ted, a ticket-taker, in 1906. He was placed in charge of the club's downtown ticket office in 1916, and was moved to the club's main office as a bookkeeper in 1919, and later was promoted to auditor.

Wanstall, a native of Cleveland who had resided in St. Petersburg, Fla., before moving to Lima last October, is survived by his wife, Mrs. Yetta Wanstall; a son, William L. Wanstall, and two brothers.

Russell M. Sillman, a restaurateur in Daytona Beach, Fla., who was well known to many major leaguers, died in that city, January 4.

Sillman, 54, was owner of the Shamir Restaurant, where numerous Cleveland and St. Louis club officials and players ate regularly when their farm teams trained in Daytona Beach.

Mrs. Rose Schnitzer, mother of Sports Writer Sam Schnitzer of the Los Angeles Examiner, died in New York City, January 5.

Other survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Shirly Friexer, with whom she resided in New York; another son, Phil Schnitzer of Philadelphia; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Two Loops Cited by Non-Pro Group

WICHITA, Kan.—Two non-pro baseball leagues for players of unlimited age—the Pelican State and the Inter-Social—have been jointly named "league of the year" by the National Baseball Congress. The selection is determined annually from the NBC's National Association of Leagues.

The Pelican State loop consisted of Louisiana teams, with the Norco Shells winning the league title. One of its members, Ponchatoula Athletics, later won the NBC Louisiana state championship and finished second in the official 1960 U. S. team ratings in the past national tournament in Wichita. The young Athletics were the only team to advance to the finals unbeaten in the double-elimination national tourney. In the championship round, however, the A's were beaten twice by the 1960 national champions, Grand Rapids (Mich.) Sullivans, 8 to 6 and 8 to 7.

The Inter-Social League consisted of Florida teams. The title was won by Gibsonton, a suburb of Tampa. This club later won the Florida championship and then finished third in the national tourney.

Congress President Ray Dumont reports that machinery had been set up to franchise more than 600 leagues in its 1960 National Association.