

Cards Drop Clubhouse Speech-Making

He's Still Making All the Plays

From Pilot's Seat



"Lineup looks okay."

"Hey, move over."

"What do I do now?"

"They've got us one run."

"Now, tomorrow . . ."

One Short, Snappy Meeting in Each Town, Marion Says

'Long-Winded Talks by Manager Always Bored Me; Cards to Have Gas Again, But Not From Book of Rules

By W. V. TIETJEN

HOUSTON, Tex.

For the first time since the noisy and rarely dull Gashouse Gang days of Frankie Frisch, the Cardinals will romp out to play baseball with their ears unbent and their cerebral equipment in a state of comparative calm.

Martin Whiteford Marion may still be showing a certain amount of moisture behind the ears as the club's new field boss. But he has some rather definite ideas about managing a ball club, and they do not include the lengthy and laborious pre-game clubhouse meetings featured by his predecessors.

Ray Blades, Billy Southworth and Eddie Dyer, who followed the tempestuous Frisch at the Cardinal helm, all were great slickers for detail. Their clubhouse meetings covered everything except next week's weather and, in the late days of Southworth, extended into the not-too-closely allied fields of pathology and medicine.

Marion has other plans. "I can say it quick," said the personable young man who is charged with the large task of putting the gas back in Gashouse. "We'll have short meetings. I know that as a player those long-winded talks by the manager bored me. I know plenty of other players who felt the same."

Boys in the Back Row
Marty grinned and told a story of a major league manager who was explaining a complicated play to his athletes in the clubhouse. Suddenly he called on one of his players in the back row for the solution.

"What would you do now?" the manager asked.
The player, who was playing gin-rummy, blurted out:
"Believe I'd go down with ten."
"That's what I mean," Marion explained. "If you keep 'em around too long, you lose 'em."
Marion leans toward the style of the

One Way to Lose Weight —Running Around Bases

HOUSTON, Tex.—A number of Cardinals were sitting around discussing their playing weights when one of the rookies asked Slugger Stan (The Man) Musial how much poundage he usually lost by mid-August.

"How can you lose weight playin' the outfield?" interrupted Third Baseman Tommy Glaviano, with a touch of sarcasm.

The \$85,000-a-year Musial hopped on that conversational cripple. "Runnin' around the bases," he quickly replied.

New York Giants' curt Leo Durocher, whose club made its move last year in mid-season—after The Lip had dispensed with such monkey business as clubhouse oratory and meetings.

"We'll have brief meetings mainly to go over the other team's hitters," Marty says. "We'll do that the first time around the league, the first day of a series. That's all."

Marion has considerable respect for Dyer's ideas and the reasons he had for probing the depths of every little

Farm Pilots Failing as Teachers

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—Noticeably disturbed because he has been forced to spend a lot of time teaching rookies fundamentals they should have learned in the minors, Marty Marion, new manager of the Cardinals, declared that he's going to crack down on the pilots of the various clubs in the Redbirds' far-flung farm organization.

Pointing out that his Cardinals have lost a week or more of their spring training time because many newcomers had to be schooled in simple baseball pointers they should have been taught in the minors, Marion said: "We wouldn't have these delays if the minor league managers taught players the simple things they should be required to know in the majors."

"Even the greenest rookie ought to know how to execute a squeeze play, or how to trap a runner off base, or to what base the ball should be thrown on any

given play. That's why these youngsters spend time in the minors—to learn these things. That's why major league clubs, like the Cardinals, operate clubs in bush leagues—so youngsters can be developed and taught the essentials of baseball. But it begins to appear as though some of our managers aren't doing those things, and it's about time that they did."

Realizing that some of his veteran players had become exasperated while he ran his Cardinals through the same plays in monotonous, daily regularity, Marion pointed out that a lot of the St. Louis club's losses last year were due to somebody failing to do the right thing at the right time.

"I'd say at least half of the 29 games we lost by one run in 1950 could be traced directly to somebody on our roster flubbing an easy play at a crucial spot," Marty said.

move or situation likely to come up on the field.

"Eddie was very conscientious," the Cards' new manager recalled. "He wanted to cover everything. He felt that if there was any little remark he made during the course of a meeting that helped win a game it was worthwhile. And he felt that if he forgot to mention some point that was on his mind, and it cost us a game, it was his fault we lost."

There has been a feeling among some observers that Dyer was inclined to overdo instructions to his pitchers on what to throw where to this or that hitter. Those critics argued that the constant emphasis on "spot pitching" tightened up a lot of players, particularly fellows like Jim Hearn and Ken Johnson, who eventually were dispatched to other clubs.

Marion intends to make those instructions brief, too.

"When you get right down to it, there's two ways to pitch to anybody—high inside and low outside," Marty says. "I've been hearin' it for years. Man, if I could get the ball there all the time I could pitch myself."

The thoughtful Marion, who isn't going into this managing thing without trying to learn something about it, has been talking to managers and former managers every chance he has had.

"They all pour their hearts out to you," Marty observed, "and I feel I can learn something from every one of them. For instance, the first time I ran into Billy Southworth in Florida,

Old Injury Puts Blades on Bench Until April 20

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Coach Ray Blades, who was forced to leave the Cardinals at their St. Petersburg, Fla., training camp, April 1, and return home for treatment of an ailing knee, had the member placed in a cast and is now resting at his home at Mt. Vernon, Ill. He plans to rejoin the club in time for the home opener, April 20.

Blades, an outfielder for the Cardinals 25 years ago, injured the knee when he crashed against a fence chasing a fly ball during a game at Sportsman's Park.

During Blades' absence, Mike Ryba, who had been used as a bullpen coach, was shifted to the third-base coaching lines by Manager Marty Marion. "I can handle the job okay," Ryba assured Marion. "Of course, for a time, I may have trouble getting signals because during the past four years, while I was serving as a manager, I made my own signals. But I'll try to keep my eye on the bench."

he warned me about his experience when he first took over the Cardinals in 1929. I thought it was mighty nice of him."

The incident concerned the then young Southworth's "get tough" policy with a Redbird club that included such salty

old campaigners as Jimmie Wilson, Pete Alexander, Bill Sherdel and Chick Hafey, several of whom Southworth had buddied around with earlier as a player. Trouble developed from the start as Southworth, ruling with a supposed "iron hand," encountered a minor revolt and subsequently was fired by Owner Sam Breadon.

Southworth himself was recalling those days recently.

Southworth's Lesson

"I felt like a heel and I was," Billy declared. "Branch Rickey thought that was the right way to handle those fellows and I tried it, against my own better judgment. But I found out real quick you couldn't suddenly be two different fellows."

Marion says he won't make that mistake, though the situation he finds himself in is quite similar.

"The boys won't find me hard to get along with as long as they give me their best," he says. "I think a manager nowadays gets more out of his men with a little psychology and tact. And the main thing is to be firm—to mean yes when you say it, or no when you say no."

Marion set up only two training rules: (1) no card playing (which he will relax later on train trips and perhaps off-days) and (2) in bed by midnight.

And so far, at least, there are no complaints from a Cardinal club which perhaps has yearned for a little simplicity.

And Still Reaches From Here to There -- as Bench Manager

