Pafko Shakes Off Injury Kayo of '46 and Comes Back Punching for Cubs

Biffing Andy



Andy Palko

Andy's Homers Help to Trim Tribe; Borowy Shows Old Form on Mound

By ED BURNS

LOS ANGELES, Calif.

Andy Pafko, that fine young bridegroom, has been giving his charming Missus plenty of here stuff to read about as she waits back there in frozen Chicago. And some of the most exhilarating of these tidings for Mrs. Andy and other Cub fans back home were based on the way Andy gummed up the first visit a Cleveland Indian team. ever made to the golden area, which sometimes is designated as California.

On March 15, in the first game a Cleveland American League team ever played in California, the dramatic Veeck troupe hopped off to a four-run lead in the first inning and by the time the Cubs came to bat against Roger Wolff in the fifth inning, the Indians were ahead, 5 to 1. By the

time there were two outs in the fifth, Cleveland still was leading, 5 to 1, but the bases were loaded. It was at this juncture that Pafko busted a grand-slam homer to tie the score and Bill Nicholson followed him up to the plate and also busted a homer to give the Cubs a lead they never relinquished, going on behind shutout pitching by Johnny Schmitz to win, 7 to 5.

Sure, the Indians were disappointed. But they were to start Bob Feller the following day. The largest crowd that ever saw an exhibition baseball game In Southern California, 23,500, was on hand to see the Indian ace get revenge over the Cubs. On this occasion, though, Andy didn't wait until the fifth inning to do his stuff. With two out and two on in the first inning, Andy whanged another homer. The Cubs carried on to an 8 to 1 victory.

In eight times at bat in the two games against the Indians, Andy made six hits and played bangup fielding and throwing games besides.

More important than this specific accomplishments was the fact that Pafko had played in every game of the exhibition schedule until Manager Charlie Grimm excused him from the trip to San Bernardino for the San Diego Padre game on March 17. All last season, Andy appeared in only 65 games and was the victim of an unbelievably persistent series of physical mishaps, including two fractures in widely spaced accidents.

Pafko, thus far, has been very philosophical about his misfortunes of a lifetime quota for bad luck last year

and approaches the new season with great eagerness, unafraid that a whammy will pursue and overtake him again this year.

Happy as this observer is to be able to report lusty health for Pafko, Nicholson and a few others, good physical luck has not been the theme-of recent exhibition successes of the Cubs. We had decided not to mention the Cub shortstop situation this week, just for a change. But how, in the spirit of earnest reporting, can we avoid it? In the Cleveland series, for instance, Coach Bill Jurges had to play short throughout, the reason being that the three listed shortstops all were on the shelf —Len Merullo and Ace Parker with sore arms and Bob Sturgeon with two



CLINTON, Ia.—Another Pafko— Ed, a younger brother of Andy, Chicago Cub star-will get a trial in O. B. this spring, the young outfielder having signed with Clinton of the Central Association.

crippled fingers, trophies of two differ-

ent accidents. Second Baseman Don Johnson, who suffered a leg muscle injury on "Johnson Day" in Fullerton, tried to get back in action for the Cleveland series, but aggravated his injury and gave way to Henry Schenz, Schenz, by the way, has been doing well and is assured of

recession a "infield insurance." Waithus Retires After Five Innings.

First Baseman Eddie Waitkus was another incapacitated player who tried to get back into action for the Cleveland series. He did play five innings, then gave up. On March 17, he went lies at second base, where the veteran to Boyee City for treatments by Denay Myatt is now favored, but where Eddie Caroll, former wizard healer of the Lyons is a strong candidate. Young Carrot Tigers. Eddie is suffering Lyons is a righthanded hitter, and if with a sore arm, replaced Wait- | lar job.

The pitching staff appears in fine mism in the Washington camp. It stems shap: to most cases and on the mend from the dashing play of Priddy in his in course. Hank Borowy was pitted new shortstop position, the promise of against Seller in that March 16 game | Cecil Travis to make a sensational and rous led out a total of 15 exhibi- comeback at third base, and the man- field, between third base assignment tion inneres with a yield of only one there in which the pitching staff is shapsun watching the Pirates from the ing out with the Pirates on a that run. That one run started to bloom it is up. tive contract de error of his phys- with two out the s-cond inning of Griffith and Bluege, who have been Jansen, who, in his first try on the he battle with Teller. et al. Hank his maintaining that pitching will be the mound, was struck in the face by his old Tankee temmate, Joe Gordon, east of their workies, are elated over drive off Bob Feller's bat, breaking by Herman planned to pick a tentative with a ritched, wall and Joe later got the form shown by Sid Hudson in the cheek bone. He was expected to rejoin starting team of Elbie Fletcher, Ed Ba- home with the only Cleveland run of spring games. In a recent outing, Hud- the team on March 29.

is of reckoning, looked great in finish- a sweat. ing up the first Cleveland game and There was a flurry of trade talk in ing the No. 1 infield. Rigney and You the same was true of Bill Lee, who the Washington camp when Maddy took over after Bolowy finished his Ruel brought his Browns to C-lando

that the Cubs are coming along mighty exchange for a caucher or an outfielder. well, but still should give some thought But the deal apparently is cold. al-

Giant Mauler



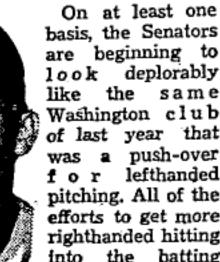
Willard Marshall

Senators Still Listing to Port

Efforts to Add Righthanded Strength to Batting Order **Have Failed Thus Far**

By SHIRLEY POVICH

ORLANDO, Fla.



basis, the Senators are beginning to look deplorably like the same Washington club of last year that was a push-over for lefthanded pitching. All of the efforts to get more righthanded hitting into the batting order have failed thus far. When the

Senators go to bat this season, everybody in the lineup, with the exception of Shortstop Gerry Priddy and whoever is catching or pitching, will be lefthanded. That was the club's trouble last season, when they were licked too often by even the second-string southpaws of the league.

Manager Ossie Bluege and Owner Clark Griffith are maintaining a high optimism despite the suspicion they are too lefthanded, but deep down they remember the anguish of last year, when the Senators couldn't get up a gallop against southpaw hurling.

The two additions to the club in regular positions, George Myatt at second base and Rookie Gil Coan in the outfield, are both lefthanded swingers. The club's determination to give young Coan a full shot at a garden job assured a picket line of three lefthanded swingers, with Stan Spence in center and Buddy Lewis in left.

On the sidelines is George Case, the only righthanded outfielder with the club, whose chance to break into the lineup depends on the success of Coan. Lyons Bids for Keystone

The chief possibility that the club may add another righthanded hitter Loubter pains on his throwing side. The proves to be competent as a fielder, ap' Phil Cavarretta, out several days he may yet oust Myatt from the regu-

Nevertheless, there is a rising opti-

son breezed through three innings Schmitz, leading National League against the Tigers, putting away nine itcher last year on the earned-run ba- men in order and scaragig working up

stint in the Feller-vanquishing enter- and supposedly it centered about an attempt by the Nats to acquire Infield- and Grissom have been slammed around In summing up things, it may be said ers Russ Peters or Mark Chairtman in in beref appearances. the start of the season.

Ott Squad Hits Hawaii in High Glee Over Hits

Display of Power Against A. L. Clubs Gives Happy Sendoff to Giants

> By KEN SMITH HONOLULU, Hawaii.

With the waves of Waikiki lapping against the shore in the gorgeous South Pacific twilight, the scent of pineapple and the strum of the ukelele and gray of the hula hula to distract them, the pioneering Giants, first major league team to visit the Hawaiian Islands,

Seals.



settled down to five night exhibition with Left/ O'Doul's San Francisco

The National Languers brought to Honolulu a record of five victories and four defeats in nine consecutive exhibitions with American League opposition: In three straight wins, two against the Cleveland Indians and one against the Chicago White Sox, on March it if Bisbee, March 14 at Phoenix and March 15 at San Diego, Mel Ott's boys cut a wide swath with 40 hits, including four home runs, three triples and two doubles, not to mention 16 bases on balls.

The outfielders took turns celebrating special days for themselves. Willard Marshall lambasted two Ruthian home runs, a triple and two singles, knocking in eight runs in a terrific afternoon on March 13 at Bisbee. The next day, Lloyd Gearhart socked a home run and triple, driving in three runs and scoring the other for a 4 to 2 victory and on the following day, Whitey Lockman slammed a homer, double and single and drew two walks. Clint Hartung, who was forced to the sidelines for three days by a lame thigh, had his day on March 9, when he collected three two-baggers and a single, also stealing a base and throwing but a runner.

All This and Hurling, Too With good pitching by Bill Ayers, Earl McGowan, Monte Kennedy, Gene Thompson, Dave Koslo, Herb Andrews and Mike Budnick and the brightest

9 Cents a Word on Stories

HONOLULU, T. H.-It costs 54 cents for newsmen covering the Giants here to cable, "Lombardi hit into a double play." The rate for filing stories of the New Yorkers' Honolulu games to the mainland is nine cents a word.

base running by any Giant club in d least a score of years, the lads earned themselves a holiday and it was the understanding they could eat all the pineapples they wanted to in Hawaii,

"Some of these rookies may not be quite ready," said Ott, as he boarded one of the two DC four-engine plane for the ten-hour hop into the Hawaiist sun, "but the point that pleases me is that every one of them has talent. The can do things with a bat, a ball and glove and they can run."

When the squad is finally peeled down, players will be let out because there isn't room, not because they not able to play. In Joe Lafata, Dick Lajeskie, Jack Maguire and Sid Gordon, Jack Lohrke or Bob Thomson, Ott has a third-string infield that could make a good showing, not to mention a No. 2 infield of Babe Young, Mickey Witek, Bill Rigney and one of the three third basemen.

The camp surprise is Jack Magnire. from the Trenton farm, who stole bases last year. To relieve some of the infield congestion, Bob Thomson, fastest man in camp and one of the heaviest thumpers, was planted in the out-

The entire squad of 40 players flew to Hawaii with the exception of Lan

Hartung, Lockman and Marshall com prise the regular outfield, with Min Blattner, Kerr and either Gordo Thomson or Lohrke at third base for are in fine form. Cooper is showing his old St. Louis style. Kerr has annual sore shoulder. Voiselle, Hoor

The beam was due to open a five series in San Francisco with La turn to Passenix.

Bucs Get Promise of Catcher -But There's a Catch to News

Knee Operation Successful, But Smith Won't Be Able to Feport Until June

> Ey CHABLES J. DOYLE MIAL BEACH, Fla.

Unable to pry a front-line pitcher from either the Dadgers or Britis during almost a water of earnest conversation, the Pirates saitled for a cheering bit of news from Catcher Vin

Smith. Smith, currently sidelined at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, with what he hopes is the last of a series of operations on his knees, phoned Manager Billy Herman and told him to A ply had some good news for hits.

"The doctors here tell me I'll be able to report to the Pirates by June I." Smith said, "They've promised me I'll be completely cured by then. And it's •bout time."

Smith was due to leave the hospital

at the end of the month and go to his

home in Richmond, Va. When his legs begin to feel stronger, he had to track an, with the Baltimore : Vin's career thus far meshed in her luck. He

by the Pirebes in 1941, this was Navy being he had much of a charact to during the still.

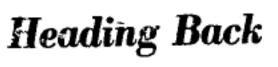
Caush, Seller in Service Smith managed to get in some baseball in the service and was Bob Feller's ace catcher at Norfolk. He returned in 1946 and was right behind Al Logiz as the Bucs' first-string backsice. Vin displayed a rifle arm, was smart said could hit. In fact, he opened the season as the No. 1 man with the mask and pad.

However, in April, Smith tore a ligament in his knee sliding in a game against the Reds and from that point on underwent one operation after another. He spent most of the 1946 seastands and walked on crutches.

Smith wasn't being counted on for 1947--until he had that talk with Herman. Clyde Kluttz is currently listed as No. 1 catcher, with Bill Salkeld No. 2. Leroy Jarvis, 20-year-old rookie, is the only other backstop in camp and he may need more seasoning. Jarvis, no doubt, will stick with the club until Smith comes back.

Meanwhile, Herman refuses to become disturbed over the failure of Ralph Kiner to hit the ball in his accustomed fashion.

of the others. Remember how he hit there on options.





Via Smith

those home runs in spring training a year ago? Then he stamped off white

the corson market. "We'll maybe the poor start held Ke ting now will make his over that much more keen when the season open-

Preacher Kee, who had been workical condition, has signed a document calling for the same figure as in 1345.

sinski. Bill Cox and Frankie Gusti : the contest. in the infield; Greenberg, Kiner and Jim Russell in the outfield and Klude as the catcher and use them for at least the first five or six innings of each ex-

The Bucs' farm at Indianapolis co: .tinued to receive surplus material from the Pirates. Hank Gornicki was sent "I understand Kiner played a lot of to the Hoosiers recently and last week winter ball a year ago in California," Herman sold Outfielder Stan Wentzel Herman said, "and when he came to back to Indianapolis and dispatched training camp in 1946, he was far ahead Pitchers Jim Walsh and Lee Howard to strengthening certain spots in the though it could easily be revised offer C'Doul's boys on March 26, then to the