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The Sporting News

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FROM ALL POINTS OF COMPASS
BASEBALL
NEWS • GOSSIP • COMMENT

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'I'LL BE NICE AS I CAN,' SAYS VITT OF TRIBE TRUCE

TERRY TOSSES DEF AT DASHING DODGERS IN CUCCINELLO COUP

VET WILL ADD FURTHER STRENGTH
TO GIANTS' CLASSY INFELD

Tony, for Whom Bees Received \$30,000,
May Be Used Later at Second Base;
Keller Sets Pace for Yanks

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Just before the busy fall of the trading season, the Giants grabbed Tony Cuccinello from the Bees. They also got Herschel Martin and Del Young from the Phillies, but this pair were assigned to Jersey City. Alban Glossop, second baseman, and Manuel Salvo, pitcher who had been sent to Jersey City, went to Boston along with \$30,000 for Cuccinello. The Yankees, of course, could not make a trade. The Dodgers already had their shopping, having paid \$125,000—official amount—to the Cardinals in the Medwick-Davis transaction. However, Larry MacPhail tried right to the finish to get Max West and Bill Posedel or Lou Fette. The seven clubs in the American League unaffected by the non-trading rule failed to come up with a single deal. In fact, the last day of the trading season was something of a bust. The Arnovich-for-Rizzo trade between the Phils and the Reds completed the fun.

Brooklyn is sure Joe Medwick and Curt Davis will win the pennant for Durocher. But New York, which during the last week-end slipped temporarily into second place over the Reds, is sure Cuccinello will turn the World's Series into a five-cent carnival again, with Brooklyn watching the Giants and the Yankees.

Terry did not put Cuccinello into the lineup immediately, being reluctant to break up a combination that was functioning satisfactorily while the team was winning. However, if Tony is used later, he will be assigned to second base, in place of Miley Wright, while Buzette Whitehead will remain in third. With Cuccinello in the lineup, he would add punch, as well as dash and poise, to the inner cordon of the Terrymen and Bill would still have a nice infield.

Close A. L. Ruff Foreseen

The Yankees are going to be keen factors right to the finish in the American League. In fact, we are confident they will win again, though in a keen race which is not likely to find the Bombers more than four games ahead at the finish.

The Giants won eight straight before June 16, but then they lost three in a row. One man dies down a bit and another picks up the baton. It is that way on the Yankees, too.

Just now the Giant leader is Joe Moore. He has been hitting around .350 and his meaback is more than definite. Last week he had a .400 average. He is .289 and I believe his own club had an an he had gone on the skids.

The Giants have been hitting, and they have been getting pitching, and seem all equipped for the long haul.

In winning three straight double-headers they won their winning around .300, and they had the best pitching for the pe of schedule it has turned out. There a plethora of double-headers, and Terry is ready to meet them with seven rting pitchers—Hubbell, Schumacher, hrman, Cumber, Melton, Paul Dean s Pop Jones.

Dean's great work in the four-hitter ainst the Cubs came at a vital time, and pressed on the Giants the fact that they a tremendous force behind their drive, e trephendous of the Dean comeback eant be overestimated.

Terry certainly hated.

great breaks. Perhaps the most impor- involves the comeback of Whitehead. fter the 1939 season, Terry decided that hitehead could not be counted on to ure at all in the 1940 race. But here he e Whitehead came, playing a spark, eved infield and hitting around .300, and e Babe Young 'Old Man Regular'.

Another break involves Babe Young. During the training season I was told he ould not do, that he did not have enough e and interest. But he has made the ade with plenty to spare.

Moving into the ranks of the Yankees, e find that the current feud has to do ith Charlie Keller. Right now he is on a batting binge. He achieved a shrill pitch in the Yankees' first night game, in St. Louis, which they won by 12 to 3, with 17 nts for 32 bases.

Bill Dickey's progress with the bat is oo slow for comfort. Frankie Crosetti ust cannot reach even the 200 mark. Red Rolfe is having his worst time since he joined the Yankees.

The trading season, of course, passed without any action by the Yankees, pri- marily because the league rule stopped them. However, this rule will be killed at St. Louis next month.

The reaction on the Cleveland relief among the Yankees was all in favor of Os- car Vitt. The Yankees believe that if the Indians had a real grievance, they should have called Vitt into the meeting.

The Yankees say the Indians were buck- passing and cry-babbling, and it seems that the Tribe let itself in for a hard fighting around the league, just as Ted Williams did, when he gave out that ri- cious interview about preferring to be a fireman in San Diego. DAN DANIEL.

Ex-Mate Beans Ducky



Joseph Michael Medwick

MISFORTUNE overtook Joe Medwick in his fifth game as a member of the Dodgers, when on June 18, at Brooklyn, his first trip to the plate in a contest with the St. Louis Cardinals, he was struck on left side of the head while attempting to dodge an inside pitch from Bob Bowman, his ex-teenmate.

Medwick was carried unconscious to the clubhouse, where he was revived and then taken to Caledonia Hospital, where he was found to be suffering from a slight concussion.

'CIRCUMSTANCES FORCED DEAL FOR JOE MEDWICK'

—LARRY MACPHAIL

Dodger Chief Asserts He Had to Forego
'Building-for-Future' Policy When
Team Jumped in as Contender

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—"Circumstances through force of circumstances" is what the red-faced Larry MacPhail calls the Brooklyn Dodgers, who have become the talk of the baseball world. "That's literally true," says MacPhail. "I know that the Dodgers looked pretty good down South, but a 1940 pennant was furthest from my thoughts then. I felt that we had a club good enough to be in the first division, yet saw little probability that Brooklyn would be a red-hot contender. We were looking further into the future than that."

"Circumstances and the fans changed that all around," declared the executive dynamo at Ebbets Field. "The boys start off with nine straight victories, the town goes crazy, talking about their pennant chances. The fever of the fans sets a new high. We started drawing customers far in excess of our gate at a corresponding period last year."

"Almost in spite of ourselves we were forced to abandon our original plan of building for the future and shoot the home run. The fever of the fans had been going quite so well, we would have been so anxious to make a deal for Joe Medwick. But with the fans as hoped up as they were, we owed it to them to go to town, to forget about next year and make the best deal possible for immediate help."

"Frankly, the Medwick deal surprised me more than anyone. If you'd have told me a week before that we'd come up with Medwick, I'd have said you were crazy. A month ago, I put out a feeler for him and was told there wasn't a chance."

"Who will you trade?" I asked. "Anybody," answered Rickey. "Does that go for Medwick, too?" I asked. "Yes," he said. "So I flew out to St. Louis and it all came true."

Medwick's influence on the Dodgers became immediately evident. The day he joined the Dodgers, they opened their home stand with the Reds and dumped the Cincinnati scoundrels, 2 to 0, behind Luke Hamlin's two-hit pitching. Medwick drove in one of the runs. He was a factor the following day also as the Dodgers again upended the Reds, 'time in a slugging solace."

In these two games, the Dodgers looked swell, and it was obvious at that time that Joe's value to the club went beyond his physical presence. Medwick had made no terrific attempt to conceal his unhappiness with his surroundings the past two years, and before his injury, he was cutting loose with the verve of a rookie.

As a result, the rest of the Dodgers had caught his enthusiasm. From the attitude of Durocher's axiom—hustle from day to day—they started acting like gents who thought they'd won the flag.

The Reds might have had their confidence shaken by the Medwick deal, but they weren't so scared they forgot to play ball. June 16, With Paul Derringer and Jim Turner performing fussy pitching jobs, they outlucked Brooklyn in one game and beat them on the level in another.

Curt Davis, who came to the Dodgers along with Medwick, might easily be almost as important to the pennant prospects of the Dodgers. He made his debut in a Brooklyn monkey suit in the second Sunday game. He didn't pitch well enough that would click on most occasions. Conditions did not improve the next day when the Cards called, and Clyde Shoun, making his first start of the season, beat the Dodgers, 3 to 1, on four hits. But there is no panic. TOMMY HOLMES.

CARDINAL FANS FAIL TO WORK INTO STEW OVER DUCKY'S LOSS

THEY SEE BRIGHT FUTURE IN DEAL,
WITH HAAS COMING UP IN '41

Birds Turn Slump Into Spurt on Road
as Southworth Rights Mound Staff;
Browns Spurn Riah Tiger Bid

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—As St. Louis weighed the delivery of Joe Medwick and Curt Davis to the Brooklyn Dodgers by the Cardinals for the \$125,000 and a "few ham sandwiches" as one writer put it, there were no indignation parades, sports desks were free from letters damning "that man Brea-don" and business went on as usual throughout the city. This seemed a strange wake to the passing of a great star, but it may have been the way the fans chose to tell Old Ducky that he was persona non grata.

Then, too, one William Southworth, new manager of the Cards, converted what had been a deep-seated slump on the part of the Birds, into one of the most interesting upswings of the year, and all without the aid of Ducky, or mirrors, for that matter.

Whatever the ultimate outcome of this latest big-money-to-boot deal engineered by the Cardinals, the fact remains that no solid replacements were made on the club that was pegged to win the pennant. Ernie Koy, the outfielder obtained in the transaction, is fast and a capable defensive player, but lacks power at the plate; Carl Doyle, the pitcher, has a good fast ball, yet failed to make good a season ago; for trials; Ben Harp, variously catalogued as a first baseman, outfielder and third sacker, will remain with Montreal for the season; ditto Pitcher Sam Nahem, with Louisville.

The future side of the deal is the bright spot. Haas has always been a hitter. He led the Southern Association last season, playing with Nashville, with .365. Only recently, he was given a shot at third base by Montreal and has done so well that this may be his meat. If so, mark down Haas for value later on. Nahem is a young right-handed pitcher who has been used chiefly in relief by Louisville. He may be a comer.

Brea-don justified the deal with the statement that "the Cardinals were going no place with Medwick and Davis on the job—and they certainly couldn't be any worse without them."

Lumberjack Not Sawing Wood

The club president could point to the fact that Davis had started seven times, was knocked out five times and removed for pinch-hitters twice. Four defeats had been charged to him without victory.

When the trade was announced, the night of June 12, Medwick was batting .304 and his popularity was on the wane with the fans, who suspected that he was not putting his heart into his work. On a number of occasions this year, he was razzed by the fans. This was the official belief that Ducky was on the downgrade so far as speed was concerned, had a strong influence on the decision of Brea-don and Rickey to let go while he had high market value.

Last summer, Larry MacPhail of the Dodgers, who came here to buy time, and engineer the deal, reputedly offered \$200,000 for Medwick. That was when Ducky got into difficulties with Ray Blades, who conceived the idea of "putting him in his place" by removing him from left field in the 11th inning and replacing him with Lynx King, since then back to the minors.

Medwick had a .339 career batting average with the Cards, starting with 1932, when he came up from Houston. Five times he was named on the National League All-Star team. In the memorable 1934 World's Series with the Tigers, in which he was target of a shower from try Detroit fans who refused to let him finish the game, he batted .379.

Ducky's greatest season as a batter with the Cardinals was in 1937, when he led the league with .374 and in various other slugging departments. As a consequence, Joe's pay was hiked to \$20,000 for 1938. But he slipped down to .322 with the bat and after a long holdout in the spring of 1939, signed for \$18,000. On the strength of a .332 average last year, Joe figured he should go back on 20 grand time and there was another contract bid this year. Medwick finally gave in, much against his will, and signed at \$18,000 again.

Whether these salary upper-cuts had an effect on Joe's playing, no one knows. But, obviously, you can't fool the fans. He is always a fan favorite.

The close personal friendship of Medwick and Manager Leo Durocher of the Dodgers was common knowledge. They played golf almost daily during the off-season; they traveled to the Pacific Coast together. When Joe was holding out in the spring, Durocher was quoted as saying: "They'll have a time of it signing Ducky for less than \$20,000." This brought on a mild case of tampering, but Brea-don never pushed the case seriously.

At any rate, Medwick is gone. He gave the fans of St. Louis lots of thrills during his stay here and he gave them headaches more recently when he cuffed into double plays and reputedly did not always pick em up and set em down on his way to first. Perhaps he will put on a big comeback and star with his pal, Durocher. Perhaps he will turn out to be the man who will make the difference between first and second or third place for the Dodgers.

Ducky went away with less fan protesting than when other Card stars of the past departed.

And it amused many that the Cardinals, who had dropped five straight games prior to the departure of the Duck, sailed right out of the slump after he had dressed in as a Dodger. Billy Southworth officially put the Birds through his first game as superintendent in Philadelphia, June 14. And with Bob Bowman pitching, they walloped the Phils, 6 to 2.

That was only the beginning, for they went on to trim Doc Prothro's crowd the next afternoon, 14 to 1, with Mort Cooper gaining his first victory of the season. There followed a double-header, June 16, and Southworth's crew made it four in a row.

The Padres are far over last year in attendance, with slightly more than 100,000 to date.

EARL KELLER.

OL' OS' GOES TO BAT FOR HIMSELF



Manager Oscar Vitt (left) summons a smile as he discusses with President Alva Bradley of the Indians a demand by a group of Cleveland players for Vitt's resignation.

LANCASTER WELCOMES RETURN TO O. B. RANKS

Pennsylvania City Enters Inter-State Loop
on Transfer of Hazleton Franchise;
1,000 Fans Attend First Game

LANCASTER, Pa.—After having been promised the Sunbury franchise not long ago, only to be turned down at the last minute, Lancaster, nevertheless, is back in Organized Ball. When the Inter-State League club failed to pay its way in its second season in the coal-regions, Owner Michael Ferrari of Hazleton decided to move elsewhere, and his first stop was Lancaster.

Conditions here met with his approval, and within 24 hours he had completed arrangements for the transfer, league sanction and all. The team is known as the Lancaster Roses.

The opening home game was played June 15 and a crowd of about 1,000 turned out despite threatening weather. The visitors were the Allentown Fleetwings and, to make the picture complete, the locals came through with a 13-to-2 victory.

Now that they have been established here, the club is going ahead with plans to install a lighting system at Stumpf Field.

The city's fans seemed to be much impressed with the young men whom Cy Perkins, one-time major league catcher, has assembled to represent them, and, if the early game attendance means anything, it looks like Lancaster is apt to do alright with Organized Ball, which it hadn't enjoyed since the days of the old Tri-State League.

If there was one man in this man's town who was happy about it all it was Jimmy Sheekard, one-time outfield star of the Chicago Cubs of the Tinker-to-Ever-to-Go era. Jimmy has long been awaiting the day when league ball would return here.

GEORGE KIRCHNER.

No Trouble in Newark

NEWARK, N. J.—Oscar Vitt had no apparent trouble with his players while managing the Newark club to pennants in the International League. Of course, Vitt hated to lose and probably expressed his disgust over defeats more openly than the average manager, but that was regarded here as a virtue, more than a fault. Oscar probably was twice as happy over winning as he was mad over losing.

Like all pilots, Vitt pointed out bad plays after his team lost, but never for publication. For every pitcher he censured to his confidants, he praised ten. He stressed hustle and his policy seemed to be: "Put on a show for those who pay our salaries, regardless of the score."

Vitt's Newark teams were young and ambitious. They hustled for Oscar, who was highly popular here.

M. GAVEN.

SUKEFORTH'S SHAKE-UP PUTS ROYALS IN STRIDE

Changes, in Wake of Injury to Hughes,
Bring Improvement on Road; Hitting
of Stainback Sparks Attack

MONTREAL, Que.—Manager Clyde Sukeforth of the Royals, reaped quick benefits in the win column from a shake-up that affected five positions. There was a general shift-up of the infield. Boze Berger stepped over to second from shortstop, with Don Ross replacing him and Bert Haas moved to third. All this was brought about by the injury to Roy Hughes, who fractured his collarbone at Rochester, and won't be available for six weeks.

When Jimmy Ripple returned from the Dodgers, he was placed in right field. Sukeforth shifted him to left and put George Staller in right.

Then the Royals began to show first-division tendencies. Haas looked anything but a stranger at third and Ross was little short of sensational at the shortfield.

Haas broke in at first base with the Royals. He went to the outfield and hit, unteered to play third when Hughes was hurt. Sammy Bell, was being used as utility infielder.

If to the St. Louis Cardinals, who gained title to Haas in the Medwick deal, with delivery scheduled for the end of the Int. season, expect to use Bert at third base. He is getting a good grooming. He has been doing so well at the hot corner that Sukeforth wouldn't entertain a suggestion of moving him.

Stainback Making Comeback

Fandom's rave herabouts continues to be Tuck Stainback, who is stepping jauntily along the comeback road to the big time. When the Royals won their first double-header of the season the night of June 13, with the Syracuse Chiefs the victors, Stainback hit his seventh and eighth home runs in the lamplight and after 50 games was clubbing a cool .373.

Stainback set a club record by batting safely in 21 consecutive games. At the moment, he is on another spree. Bill Hinchman, scout of the Pirates, followed the Royals home, and it was reported that he was watching Stainback with avid interest.

When Ira Hutchinson left to join the Cardinals, June 15, he had won only one game against seven defeats. As a Royal, Ira had many thankless relief chores and his luck was bad. . . . Kemp Wicker continues to win. . . . Lee Grissom fanned seven. Newark's Bears in a six-inning tie and showed signs of hitting the groove. . . . Jimmy Ripple was batting over .400 until he struck a five-game slump on June 8. . . . George Staller hit safely in 16 games straight until stopped by Elmer Rambert of Syracuse, June 13.

J. L. MCGOWAN.

Maynard Replaces Nisonoff as Federalburg, A's Skipper

FEDERALBURG, Md.—Sam Nisonoff is out and Donald Maynard is in as manager of the Federalburg A's. Maynard, likely predecessor as boss man, is a catcher and will be a playing pilot.

Nisonoff's release was attributed to the poor showing of the A's, who won only nine of their first 30 games and are buried in the Eastern Shore League cellar.

Maynard, who played in the Texas League last season, hails from Pawtucket, R. I., and coaches football and basket ball at the Pawtucket High School and during the off-season. He is a former Holy Cross athlete.

Along with the change in pilots, Dr. W. K. Knotts, business manager, announced the return of Outfielder Al Evanko by Wilmington and the addition of infielder Bobby Everett, Pitcher Dick Mulligan and Pitcher Dominic Kolodjes.

R. P. O.

Scouts on Trail of Al Olsen, 19-Year-Old San Diego Lefty

SAN DIEGO, Cal.—Several big league clubs are known to be on the trail of Al Olsen, 19-year-old San Diego Padre south-paw. Joe Devine, Yankee scout, was on hand at San Diego, June 11, when Olsen hurled a 2 to 1 win over Dick Barrett, Seattle ace.

In his second year of Organized Ball, Olsen has won seven games so far and figures to win many more this year. His fast ball is better than most of his curve has the opposition guessing. What has helped Olsen more than anything else is the ability to remain cool under fire. Last year, he sometimes folded when runners got on the bases.

The Padres are far over last year in attendance, with slightly more than 100,000 to date.

EARL KELLER.

LEADER UNDER FIRE, ADDS HE'LL CRITICIZE MISTAKES, IF MADE

PLAYERS CALL OFF OUSTER PETITION
AFTER VISIT FROM BRADLEY

Troubled Pilot Admits He May Have Been
Severe With Some of Men; Indians,
Meanwhile, Keep Up Drive

CLEVELAND, O.—The flag of truce fluttered over Cleveland's curious Wigwam as the Indians faced their important series with the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees. The effort of a delegation of the Tribesmen to have Manager Oscar Vitt dismissed from his post of manager was ended June 18, when the players delivered to newspapers the following statement:

"We, the undersigned, publicly declare to withdraw all statements referring to the resignation of Oscar Vitt. We feel this action is for the betterment of the Cleveland baseball club."

The statement was signed by every member of the club except Jeff Heath and Hank Heif, who were in the hospital, and Roy Weatherly, who made an unexplained departure from the meeting before it was over.

The statement was agreed on at a clubhouse meeting, following the Indians' double victory over the Philadelphia Athletics. President Alva Bradley attended the session, but his part in the discussion was confidential and he left before the players took their action.

Vitt greeted the development with the statement that he cherishes no animosity toward anyone and will go as he always has, "trying to win ball games."

"If mistakes are made," he added, "they'll be criticized by me. That's part of the manager's job. But I'll be nice to everyone as I possibly can be."

The club directors had been investigating the players' complaints against Vitt since June 13, the day the team returned to Cleveland, following an eastern trip on which it won only five of 13 games and took four of those victories from Philadelphia and Washington.

Shortly before noon that day, a delegation of 11 players walked into Bradley's office in the Marion Building and during a two-hour conference with the president they made a motion picture of protest against Vitt's regime. The general tone of which was: "We can't win for him."

My, My! He Hurt Their Feelings

Specifically, the players charged that Vitt had ridiculed them publicly; that he had compared them unfavorably with the New York Yankees, making it impossible for them to play their best ball. They insinuated in their dealings with them, praising them to their faces, blasting them to others; that his words and actions in the dugout were of such a nature that the manager's own jitters were transmitted to the players, making it impossible for them to play their best ball.

No little group of malcontents known for trouble-making tendencies was this. It was a truly representative delegation, including the team's brightest stars and some of its most even-tempered members. (Though the players pledged Bradley to confidence regarding both their identity and their mission—and the owner did not violate his promise—the names of most of those who visited his office soon leaked out from other sources. Bob Feller, Mel Harder, Johnny Hopp, Johnny Allen, Rollie Hemsley, Ken Karp and Jeff Heath are known to have attended the meeting, and Hal Trosky endorsed their views by telephone.

Having understood that the entire operation was most confidential, Bradley was dumfounded to receive a phone call in the day from a reporter who knew that the players had called on him and knew their complaints down to the last detail.

The next day the story "broke"—with all the spectacular effects which Cleveland newspapers have long practiced in dealing with major news concerning the Indians. Vitt, who hadn't been told by Bradley of the players' visit, refused to believe that the reporter who called him was anything but a practical joker. Finally convinced, he said, he didn't have the most remote suspicion of such a movement on the part of the players.

"I knew there was a couple of fellows on the team who don't have much use for me," he said, "but I never dreamed of anything like this. I did say a jussy thing to Mel Harder when I told him one of a game in Boston the other day; some crack to the effect it was about time a fellow making his salary won one. I regretted that immediately, but isn't anyone liable to speak unthinkingly when he's fighting for first place and sees his club losing a close game?"

Old Os' Sits Tight and Quietly

Vitt said that the next step was entirely up to Bradley, and went to the owner's office for a 45-minute conference. At its close, Bradley told reporters that Vitt would continue as manager, and that there would be no further announcement until he had made a thorough investigation of the players' charges.

After that, Vitt has sat quietly in the dugout as the team continued its battle to gain first place. Outwardly, there has been nothing to suggest to the uninformed spectator that there has been the slightest change in the relationship between the manager and his men. The players followed their visit to Bradley by winning four of their next five games, with several of the complaining delegation figuring conspicuously in the victories.

Allen beat the Athletics in a two-hitter that week; he was the "sensation of the week" in the rebellion story hadn't still been fresh. Feller held the Mack-men to three hits to register his ninth of the season. Kether, Hemsley and Trosky all made important contributions to the winning streak.

Harder, starting against the A's, June 15, looked better than he had in any previous assignment. "The visitors bunched their hits in one inning and had the help of an untimely error in another to beat the youthful veteran." His performance

NEW FACES HELP SAINTS DO ABOUT-FACE ON ROAD

Reorganized Team Takes Ten Out of 16
on Jaunt; Eddie Morgan, Late of
Brewers, Hitting Ball Hard

ST. PAUL, Minn.—The Saints have dug in for a stand against the eastern teams of the American Association, hoping that the defense of Lexington Park will be as fruitful with success as was their recent invasion of the East. A season of dizzy and terrifying slides down the cellar door of the fans, but despite playing in hostile territory, the Saints did an about-face and won seven out of ten games. It has been a good deal on the next two weeks.

After losing 18 of 21 games their last time in the West, the Gangleizers took to the road with foreboding in the hearts of the fans. But despite playing in hostile territory, the Saints did an about-face and won seven out of ten games. It has been a good deal on the next two weeks.

The main point is that the major replacements have been successful. Bill Swift, after a bad start, has pitched good ball, although credited with only one win. Where Earley is another whose performance is better than his record. Both came from the Boston Bees, Swift outright and Earley on option.

Youngster Makes the Turn

Harry Taylor, young fast-ball right-hander, who has been on the staff part of three seasons, finally has come along to the point where Business Manager Lou McKenna and Manager Gangle have visions of his rescuing the season, financially and in other respects.

Eddie Morgan, lefthanded hitting outfielder received in trade from Milwaukee for Woodley Abernathy, appears the prize package of all the trading grab bag. He has been hitting about .400 since joining the Saints.

Neil Clifford, rangy young catcher, who played with Tacoma last year, has done a good job of replacing Roy Jackson as second-string receiver.

All in all, fans give McKenna and Gangle credit for trying. Attendance was good at Lexington Park through the first unfortunate quarter and surprisingly few sour notes were heard even in the face of seven straight defeats by the Saints' arch rival in Minneapolis.

Bobby Reis, who was to have had a regular job of outfielding after playing just about every position, except catcher, last season, had to take over first base when LeRoy Anton remained home with an injured back. In addition, Bobby got one chance to pitch while the team was on the road.

Ralph McLeod has been playing right field in place of Gil Brack, who stumbled into a slump after a dizzy opening pace in which he led the league in home runs and runs batted in. McLeod was signed as a free agent after release by the Boston Bees.

GORDON GILMORE.

Klem's Advice to Reese

"Ball players upset themselves fighting umpires," sagely remarked Bill Klem, veteran National League arbiter, to Sports Editor Jimmy Powers of the New York Daily News.

"I told Pee-wee Reese, rookie shortstop of the Dodgers, 'Son, have nothing to give you, and nothing to take away. So stop giving me those dirty looks—for the grandstand.'"

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Scouts on Trail of Al Olsen, 19-Year-Old San Diego Lefty

SAN DIEGO, Cal.—Several big league clubs are known to be on the trail of Al Olsen, 19-year-old San Diego Padre south-paw. Joe Devine, Yankee scout, was on hand at San Diego, June 11, when Olsen hurled a 2 to 1 win over Dick Barrett, Seattle ace.

In his second year of Organized Ball, Olsen has won seven games so far and figures to win many more this year. His fast ball is better than most of his curve has the opposition guessing. What has helped Olsen more than anything else is the ability to remain cool under fire. Last year, he sometimes folded when runners got on the bases.

The Padres are far over last year in attendance, with slightly more than 100,000 to date.

EARL KELLER.

LET DOWN IN HURLING PULLS DOWN RED SOX

DROP SEVEN GAMES IN ROW BEFORE
RE-ENTERING WIN COLUMN

Brownies Jolt Cronin Out of First Place
by Sweeping Four Games; Weather
Puts Crimp in Bees' Schedule

BOSTON, Mass.—Attempting to call the turn these days on the Red Sox has become a task for a person with a sixth sense. Just when they appeared to be all straightened away and fully capable of demonstrating ability worthy of a first-place outfit, the pitching exploded with a bang, the team hit a losing streak that was a record for the season, and slid out the lead. Mainly, it was the pitching that failed.

As they neared completion of their last home stay they had come to life and, looking every bit the part of champions, downed Cleveland twice in succession after being rained out of the first game of the series. Incidentally, that was the setback which prompted the Cleveland players to stage their rebellion against their manager.

The Sox got great pitching and timely batting in those games and reassured themselves. They started on a tour of the western circuit, stopping first at Chicago, and when that series was finished, the Sox were sure they had hit their peak.

They won four straight games, although they were extremely fortunate to annex the one in which the venerable Ted Lyons opposed them. Ted had that game all tucked away in his victory collection until Rookie McNeil went hurt.

Because he wasn't able to go the distance in games after the season's opener and throughout May, the experts had started the long count over Bob, but he and Manager Joe Cronin refused to agree with the men who pound typewriters. Old Folks Lefty had pitched well against the Browns in Boston on June 6, Jimmy Foss winning the game for him in the ninth with a homer.

So Everything Looked Jake. It was ten days later before he worked again. The only time during his stay in that Chicago game when they bunched two hits off him was in the fifth, when Julius Solters hit a homer into the right field sector after Appaling had singled.

That victory more than spurred on the Sox and they made the remarkable display of 20 hits for a total of 40 bases in the second game, in which Jack Wilson not only pitched, but showed the way in hitting. Jack got two homers and two singles to help his cause. Cronin also hit two homers and Foss got his sixteenth of the year.

An off-day followed that series, and the Sox have demonstrated before that off-days give them the leg. They then went to St. Louis and new history was made.

The Browns beat them four consecutive times. The Sox did their best to hand the first game of the series to the Sox, who refused to accept it. The Sox did take the lead and had it going into the ninth, when the Browns came through with a couple of hits which, aided by an error of Ted Williams, which played sloppily in at game, tied it and won the game with their leaded the bases and Johnny Grandsino homered into the left field stands.

In the second game of the series, with ash pitching, the Sox got a quick jump. Bob Harris, who they pounded for two triples, two doubles and two singles in the first three innings. That got Jack and Roxie Lawson was a different position as relief man. He held the Sox and the Browns finally lit on Hash in the eighth and slammed out the second victory, 6 to 1.

Denny Galehouse opposed John Niggeling in the first game of a twin-bill and a pitching battle ensued, Niggeling emerged victorious when Harland Clift hit a homer in the ninth to break a 1 to 1 which existed. As slick as Galehouse was that game, Niggeling was better.

Was one of the finest exhibits of tuckball pitching a man could give, seemingly, had perfect control that type of delivery, which is difficult control.

Browns Run Wild in Next Tilt. They took all the starch out of the Sox and they were soft pickles and played in the second game, after Jack Kramers' eleven Emil Biddis and stopped the Sox attack. The Browns went two runs ahead in the fifth and then added to that until they won, 11 to 4.

That final defeat by St. Louis knocked the Sox out of first place. They were well in their way to the right back up there the next day at Cleveland, when another eighth-inning attack and another homer joined them. With Jack Wilson pitching well up to that time, the Indians first pushed over the tying run and then, with two men on bases, Beau Bell homered.

Fossy had been knocked unconscious and taken to a hospital, where X-ray examination revealed a concussion but no fracture.

The Bees continue on with intermittent success. They won a twin-bill from the Pirates, June 17, a semi-final here celebrating the Battle of Bunker Hill, but the remainder of the week chilled them off; in fact, it was so cold on the first day of summer, June 21, that the game was cancelled because of cold weather. Then they lost to the Cards, but on June 23, bounced back with a double win over the Birds.

Three more Bees pitchers have gone to their pastures. Joe Callahan went to St. Paul, a player being owed that club. Bill Bonville went to Syracuse and finally Lou Fette, the veteran right-hander, was claimed by Brooklyn for the waiver price. The first two are youngsters with a chance of getting somewhere. Fette has been bothered with arm trouble this season and as not been of any use to the Stengels.

The coming of Manuel Salvo to the deal for Cucullino and with more the return to duty of Jim Tobin, it is decided to get along without Fette.

JACK MALANEY.

Gusline, Bucs' Brilliant Kid Infielder, Who Started Out to Be 'Another Traynor,' Now 'Frisch's Boy' at Second

Tried to Follow Style

of His Hero and Was

Signed by Pie Himself

Made Long Jump From Class B

League to Majors When 19;

Sends Pay Home and Plans

to Build House for Parents

By DICK FARRINGTON

FRANKIE FRISCH'S managerial comeback as boss Pirate got him nothing more than a beer-drummer's headache during the first six weeks of the season and there probably were times when Onkie Frisk might have wished he had stayed with his "mike" in that Boston radio booth. But Frisch is beginning to see a little daylight through his tears of despair now, chiefly because he is bringing along, systematically, a number of young players in his rehabilitation program.

One of these lads is Frankie Gustine, cherubic-faced infielder, whose talents are being used at second base. So successful has been Gustine that, on current rating, he is a prominent challenger for the rating of the "major league freshman of the year."

Little did Frisch believe, when the season opened, that the mild-mannered, but spunky, kid from Chicago would be his regular second sacker. He had Floyd Young, a far more experienced man, for the job, and he had Bill Brubaker, another seasoned campaigner.

It was Frisch's belief that he would have to nurture and develop young Gustine as he went along; not to push him too fast, or do anything that might injure his confidence. But Pittsburgh affairs went from bad to worse and in short order Frisch had the boy in there. His fielding has been superb and his hitting is one of the highlights of the season. And he is a lively number when it comes to running bases.

Frisch is no push-over for "cheap talk." You've got to have the stuff, if he goes for you. But the old katteraufschnit man left himself wide open in a recent appraisal of Gustine, who spanned the gap from the Gadsden club in the Class B Southeastern League to the majors last fall, when he was only 19 years old.

"He's my boy," Frisch, who used to do some nifty second basing himself, told this writer. And the old Flash poured a little concrete in the "my" for good measure. "Yes, he's my boy, and a great one at that. . . . You can look for him to become one of the stars of the majors. . . . A great kid."

There is quite a tale behind Gustine, who was 20 years old February 20, and his strain of contravening circumstances, made the more enticing because of Frisch's "my boy" appellation.

As a lad of 12, Gustine started out to become another Pie Traynor; tried to adopt the style of the then maddened Pittsburgh third baseman, and, indeed, it was Traynor, since succeeded by Frisch as manager of the Pirates, who talked him into joining the Pittsburgh organization.

A Neighbor of Gustine's

BACK in 1936, Gustine was a sophomore at Park High School, on Chicago's South Side. He played third base and sometimes second or short for the Parker team, which numbered such lads as Pitcher Bob Carpenter, a New York Giant chatter; Bud Dantz, now with Richmond; and Bill Guerin, Young Gustine also went in for baseball as a forward, and was a member of the school's golf and tennis teams.

Because of his scholastic standing and his athletic ability, he had been offered a four-year scholarship at the University of Chicago, but he turned it down.

Next door to the Gustine 120 West Sixty-Ninth street, lives Sam Roberts, old friend of Pie Traynor and a sort of an unofficial scout for the Pirates. Roberts had seen young Gustine play and was so impressed that he made a date for Traynor to talk to the lad late in the summer of 1936.

Grand Rapids-Flint Meetings

May Bring June Showdown

FLINT, Mich.—The Michigan State League pennant race may be heading for an early season showdown. Within a week six games are scheduled between Flint and Grand Rapids, the two clubs that have outdistanced their opposition. A June 26, 27 and 28, and three games slated at Grand Rapids, July 1, 2 and 3.

The two teams were to have met last Saturday and Sunday at Grand Rapids, but both games were rained out and along with another one that was postponed on the Grand Rapids visit, will have to be made up, possibly next week in Grand Rapids.

Flint and Grand Rapids have been running neck-and-neck for the lead. Not since June 2 has either club commanded an advantage of more than one game. At last count, they were deadlocked for the lead, with third-place Muskegon eight games back.

While Flint and Grand Rapids have been playing good ball, the four other clubs have disappointed their fans, and will have to struggle if they hope to catch the two top clubs.

Saginaw advanced Tex Avery to the position of business manager, turning the pilot job over to Catcher Hank Kramell. . . . St. Joseph announced severing of its working agreement with the White Sox and the making of a working pact with the St. Louis Browns.

MAURIE COSSMAN.

Victories on the Road Keep

Grand Forks Chiefs in Race

GRAND FORKS, N. D.—Engaged in a nip-and-tuck struggle with Superior for first place in the Northern League, the Grand Forks Chiefs are moving through their second home stand of the Northern League season and hitting on all cylinders. Fine pitching by Lefty Dwin Sloat and Righthanders Bruno Somenzi and Karl Wolfberger, steady fielding and timely, long-distance hitting have combined to keep the Chiefs up in the race.

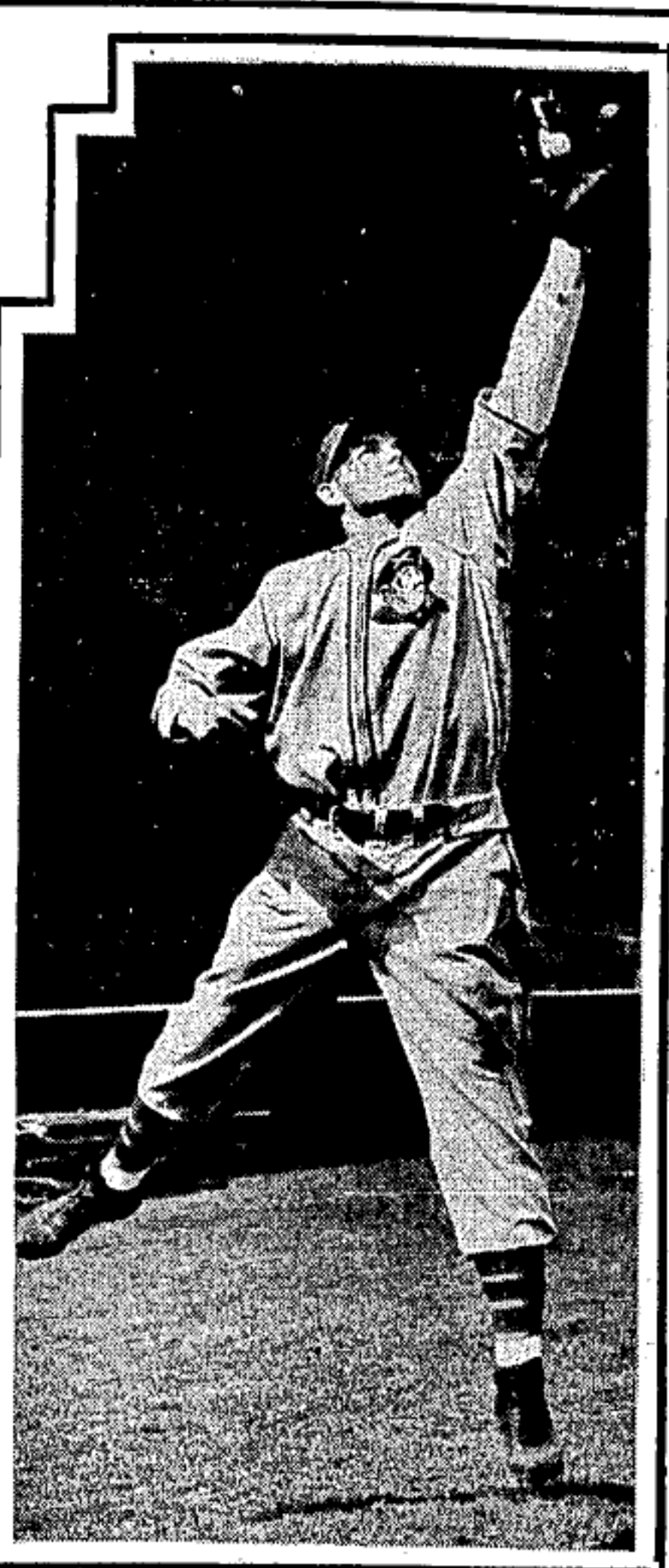
Manager-First Baseman Fred Williams. Catcher Herman Bauer. Third Baseman Jimmy Grant and Outfielders Ed Puchleitner, Don Olix and Wilbur Carley are giving the Chiefs the best attack. Grand Forks club has since the city returned to the Northern League in 1938.

The Chiefs opened the campaign away from home and won of their first six games. When they made their first home stand they couldn't solve opposition pitching and won only six of 15 games here. They took to the road again and immediately started a winning drive.

FRED J. O'NEIL.

FEW BOOTS

IN THIS YOUTHFUL FREEBOOTER



FRANKIE GUSTINE

HIS TALENTS RUN TO SPEED, BATTING AND FIELDING

Cubs-Sox Golf Match

CHICAGO, Ill.—The Cubs and White Sox, who many times have met on the diamond, will clash in a different kind of city series—a golf match. The match will be staged at Twin Orchard course, Chicago, on July 8, an off-day for both clubs, preceding the All-Star game at St. Louis, July 9. Proceeds will go to the Red Cross.

"I don't beat Gabby Hartnett's ears off, I'm going to quit playing golf," boasted Jimmy Dykes, White Sox pilot.

1936. Let's let Frankie tell this part of his story in his own words: "I'll never forget that meeting," mused the husky lad, who still can get by shavely twice a week and who has a boyish voice. "Traynor talked to me for about two hours at the Pirates' hotel and it was the thrill of my life. Remember, Pie always was my hero. . . . The upshot of that meeting was that he invited me to go out to Wrigley Field and work out the next day."

"I guess he liked me, because before he left with his team, he had mother sign a contract so that I could report to the Hutchinson farm club of the Pirates in the spring of 1937. Of course, I forgot all about going to the University of Chicago, but the way things are going, I guess I shouldn't feel too badly about that, because there are a lot of fellows who have put in four years at college and they haven't got jobs. Besides, my dad hardly would have afforded to send me to the university, free tuition or not."

Good to His Mother

and That's No Boloney

HARRY GUSTINE, Frankie's dad, has been a hard-working man all his life. He came out of Lewistown, Ill., and being a man who needed a job, moved to Hoopston, Ill., to obtain employment and there he met Zella Foshier and they were married. Frankie was born in Hoopston, February 20, 1920. He has a sister, Marjorie, who is several years younger than himself.

The Gustines moved to Chicago years ago, where Pop and Mom both work. Young Frankie is genuinely appreciative of what he is getting out of the game. From the time he began to play in the minors, he always sent part of his pay home. "And," he says, "when I really go to—I'm going to build my parents a home in Chicago, where they can take it easy."

Getting back to the meteoric career of young Gustine, he didn't last with Hutchinson in 1937, but he did hit .300 with a liberal sprinkling of extra-base hits. He is a right-handed batter. The rookie has great versatility, being capable of playing second, third and shortstop in a clever manner.

Besides Traynor, Hack Wilson was a boyhood hero to Gustine. Frankie was a kid in knee pants around the South Side of Chicago when Wilson was in his heyday with the Cubs. Despite young Gustine's love for the White Sox, he would make the long trek to the North Side to see Hack.

When Gustine originally was measured for Organized Ball as a lad of 17, he weighed 160 pounds and was five feet 11 inches tall. Now, he gives the beam a nudge at 180 and stretches the tape to six feet. His stance at the plate resembles that of Rogers Hornsby.

Yes, there's quite a bit to this young man—Pie Traynor's "boy"—or now he should say, Frisch's "boy!"

'Pass Bean-Ball Rule in N. L.' --Ducky; Frick Favors Helmets

Medwick Not Resentful Over Injury, but Cites A. L. Safeguard;

Dodger-Card Storm Subsides With Thunderous Peace

Talk by Larry MacPhail in Birds' Clubhouse

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Outfielder Joe Medwick of the Dodgers, knocked unconscious by a pitch from Bob Bowman of the Cardinals, June 18, told the writer the next day he believed the National League should adopt a "bean ball" rule similar to that in force in the American league, as a help in preventing head injuries to batters at the plate. Resting at Cedarside Hospital, where we called on him, Medwick gave no sign of any animosity over his skulking, merely indicating he felt it was "just one of those things." However, he called attention to the American League rule on the "bean ball," which reads:

"It will be the duty of the umpire, in the event a ball being pitched close to the batsman's head, to first warn the pitcher. If he fails to heed the warning, and in the judgment of the umpire, pitches another such ball, he must be immediately removed from the game and the American League office notified. For the second offense, the pitcher will be automatically suspended for a period of ten days without salary."

"For the third offense, he will be automatically suspended for a period of 30 days without salary." Mrs. Medwick, who was on the verge of collapse when Joe was felled in the first inning of the June 18 game, was at the outfielder's bedside when he called Nellie Durocher, stepdaughter of the Dodger manager, was with her. On June 21, Joe was released from the hospital, examination having shown only a concussion, without any trace of a skull fracture.

Meanwhile, the injury to the outfielder for whom the Dodgers gave up players and cash estimated from \$150,000 to \$200,000, gave impetus to the move for the use of helmets by batters. Ford Frick, president of the National League, and President Ewing Mackay of the Cardinals, suggested that various types of headgear be tried, with the idea of finding one that would prove satisfactory for general use.

President Frank J. Shaughnessy of the International League, who urged players in his league to make use of helmets while batting, after serious injuries to Woody Abernethy and Gene Hasson told us that it was a tendency of performers, after wearing the headgear a few times, to become careless and discard the practice. Another deterrent is the idea of some players that the wearing of helmets would be "sissy" move, but it is pointed out that no one regards umpires as sissies for wearing masks, body protectors and shinguards behind the plate.

Bowman denied he was "throwing" at Medwick, stating it was purely an accident. He expressed belief that "Medwick was hit by a curve ball, expecting the ball to break, as he made no attempt to get out of the way."

Others advanced the idea that Medwick may have been "pressing" the plate, trying to shake off the slump that had gripped him in the few games he had played for Brooklyn.

Incidentally, it was recalled that this was the second time that Joe had been hit by a pitcher named Bowman. Joe Bowman of the Pirates having struck the outfielder with a pitch on a three-and-nothing count in a game last year. On the fourth ball, Medwick, feeling that Bowman had tried to dust him off, threw his bat at the pitcher.

Back in St. Louis, President Sam Breadon of the Cardinals cited a game in early May between the Cards and Dodgers at Sportsman's Park in which Pitcher Hugh Casey hit Don Padgett, Johnny Mize and Enos Slaughter. "We did not accuse the Dodgers of using bean-ball tactics that afternoon," he said.

Not in years has Brooklyn, accustomed to tumultuous diamond incidents, seen so much excitement as was crowded into the June 18-19 games between the Dodgers and Cardinals. Developments started on the morning of June 18, when Medwick and Durocher encountered Bowman, Manager Billy Southworth and other Cardinal players in an elevator at the Hotel New Yorker.

Bowman, it is said, heard Durocher remark he didn't plan to play in the game that afternoon because of bruises he had received the day before. "Of course, you ain't going to play," Bowman is reported to have replied. "You know I'm going to pitch."

"You won't be in there when I get to bat," retorted the Dodger pilot. He did not know how prophetic his words could be, for the first three men who faced Bowman connected safely, and Bob was removed after he hit Medwick. It was the first pitch to Joe that struck the Brooklyn outfielder behind the left ear, knocking him out.

Players of both teams milled around the scene, and as Medwick was being carried off on a stretcher, Prexy Larry MacPhail of the Dodgers stormed over to the Cardinal dugout and challenged the players, individually and collectively. All of the St. Louis performers stood up, but none made any move, although Pepper Martin is reported to have told Larry to "take it easy."

MacPhail distributed a typewritten statement in the press box, charging Bowman with a "cowardly" action. Later, when the St. Louis pitcher was leaving the park under the escort of two detectives, the Dodger prexy sent a wild swing at him. Next day, two investigations into the incident were started. League President Frick summoned MacPhail and Durocher, as well as Manager Billy Southworth, Bowman and a number of other Cardinals, to his office. District Attorney William O'Dwyer of Queens County also announced he was starting his own inquiry, and sent a representative to the hospital to interview Medwick.

Frick and MacPhail both took exception to the district attorney's intervention in the case, hinting that baseball could keep its own shirt clean. However, O'Dwyer soon dropped the investigation, saying he could find "no evidence of criminality," and Frick also absolved the Cardinal pitcher of any intent to hit Medwick.

All Hearsay With Larry

After the tumult and the shouting died at Brooklyn, following the Joe Medwick "beating" and the Durocher-Owen fist fight, it developed that Larry MacPhail, Dodger prexy, had seen neither incident.

When Medwick was hurt, MacPhail was in the press room. He was at the same spot, conversing with Publisher J. G. Taylor Spink of THE SPORTING NEWS, when the fight broke out at the night game, June 19.

FAILURE TO DIG UP HITS HOLDING BACK MINERS

Loose Fielding Also Crops Out at Critical Points in Tight Games; Chilly Weather

Shaves Attendance Figures

SCRANTON, Pa.—Because the boys who make the schedules, or farm almanacs, have not found a way to control the weather, the Eastern League finds itself in a paradoxical situation—a red-hot pennant race and frigid ball games.

Which is to say, business isn't what it used to be in the continent's only Class A circuit.

Every city, at last reports, save Hartford, was a wee bit behind its 1939 gate record, although there have been five different occupants of first place during the past month, and three over a space of two weeks.

The attendance angle could change overnight, with the permission of Mother and Dad Nature, who need only to substitute a few warmish evenings for the cold weather of the past week.

As is, the Miners, despite the fact that they opened their new Stadium with 15,388 payees, and have one of the niftiest plants in the minor realm, are approximately 20,000 behind last year's figure of 103,652 for the corresponding period. This, of course, is no cause for alarm, particularly if Nemo Leibold inherits a few players with color, something woefully lacking at the moment.

No Hits, No Runs, No . . .

Contrary to the 1939 group of dramatists, who made a specialty of late-inning rallies and big scores, the present defenders lack a potent punch, as evidenced by the fact that they went three games without an extra-base knock in a series of five home appearances. One of these went 13 innings when the Scranton hit total was four, while the Miners were guilty of four errors, the last of which cost heroic Andy Karl a 5 to 2 decision to Springfield. The night before, Alex Mustakis had the Nats shut out with only one man to go, when his defense cracked to cost him a 3 to 1 verdict.

The 27-year-old Mustakis, who is dean of the pitching staff, and roster, would have recorded his ninth victory in 12 tries with this success. Around the minors so long the scouts no longer take him seriously, he is, nevertheless, worthy of a chance in higher society.

The parent Boston Red Sox might also keep an orb on Owen Schetz, who has come up with two three-hitters and a four-swat job. He hasn't issued a walk in two games, while in another pair, he passed only one.

CHIC FELDMAN.

BRANCATO RATES NO. 1 MORE THAN ONE WAY

MACK ROOKIE LEADS OFF AND PLAYS

EITHER THIRD OR SHORT

Bob Johnson Regains Home-Run Range, but Hard Luck Trails Frank Hayes; Phils Take Brace at Home

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—On this long swing of the Athletics around the circuit, one day's bright and the next day drab, a player who has attracted a lot of attention is Albert Brancato, a young Philadelphian who did not reach voting

Brancato learned the game on the lots here and has taken two training trips with the Athletics. He was optioned to Williamsport last year and batted .276 in 133 games. What made his showing more important was that he posted in 87 runs.

Out in California this year, Brancato showed so much improvement and played with such enthusiasm that Connie Mack decided to keep him instead of optioning him to a Class AA team as he had intended to do before the training trip.

Some observers figured that keeping the kid might do him more harm than good, because his development would be arrested if he stayed on the bench, whereas he might continue to get better if he played regularly in the high minors.

On June 5, in Philadelphia, Al Rubelling, a victim of a pious attack, had to leave the lineup and Brancato was sent to third. From the first, Brancato began to spark the infield. His flashy fielding and arm helped in the defense and he began to hit timely. Rubelling duly recovered and was ready to act in action, but Connie could not disturb Brancato and it was the other Al who rode the bench.

Then on the last day of the recent Detroit series Shortstop Bill Lillard was spiked by Barney McCocky. Bill finished the game, but he could not play the next day when the series with Chicago opened. Mack shifted Brancato to short and restored Rubelling to third base.

Mack figured he could get more hitting out of the Brancato-Rubelling combination than the Lillard-Brancato combination, so put Lillard on the bench indefinitely.

Makes Hits Count for Runs. On the current road jaunt that began June 14 in Cleveland, Brancato batted in nine runs in the first eight games. In those nine games he made 10 hits in 32 times at bat for a percentage of .312.

Brancato is now a full-fledged regular. Mack has placed him at the top of the batting order and he has proved to be quite a satisfactory man for the leadoff.

The peppery Philadelphian boy hit his first homer of the season, June 20, in Detroit, when he prodded one of Newhouse's shoots into the left-field stands. This was also the second homer of his brief major league career. He hit one near the end of last season when he joined the A's after the Eastern League season closed.

In his first game at short, June 20, Brancato accepted seven chances without a slip. In the second inning Appaling hit a homer near the bag. The ball hit Al in three places. First in the chest, then in the chest and then in the shoulder. After it hit his shoulder it caromed away and Al snatched it in the air and rifled a throw to Siebert to retire Appaling in one of the most miraculous infield plays Connie Mack ever saw.

"There's no telling how good that boy is going to be," said Mack after he had ogled that master coup.

Bob Johnson has regained his batting eye and the first game in Chicago he clubbed his twelfth and thirteenth homers. Frank Hayes continued in his slump only because the gods have deserted him. He is hitting in beastly luck. He socks the ball a mile a minute on the field and somebody comes up with it. This ill luck has been his since he came to the Bennis McCoy's batting average. . . .

Benny McCoy's batting average. . . . Heeded lately and hits have been few and far between on this trip. . . . Dick Siebert has been hitting consistently good all through the trip and so has Wally Moses. . . .

Le (Buck) Rost first came to the far on the trip, going into two games so far. He came through for the only victory in Cleveland and then beat the Sox in Chicago, June 21, in a masterpiece. He held the Sox to four hits, two of them scratches, while the only enemy run was unearned.

Collegian Shows Strikeout Ball. The A's apparently have dug up some gold in the person of Porter Vaughan, who had his christening in the first game of the double-header with Cleveland, June 16. Pitching the first game, Vaughan won 18,000 fans, this 21-year-old pitcher more than made up for the loss of the Indians to the Sox in the seventh inning, he was on duty. He was removed for a pinch-hitter. Vaughan fanned eight men in the seventh inning and only three. Fielder had to pitch a three-hit game. The defeat was charged to Relief Pitcher Caster as the score was even when Vaughan went out.

The Phillies are doing far better at home and have escaped from the cellar. They made their twelfth and thirteenth homers. After Beck was beaten in the opening game, Hugh Mulcahy outthrew Bucky Walters under the arcs in a great battle, 3 to 1. The hero was young Bobby Bragan, the shortstop who is not yet 21.

In the seventh inning, Bragan tied the score at one-all when he homered into the left-field stands. In the ninth inning with the score still deadlocked, and Merrill May on base, Bragan again sledged a homer into the left-field seats to win the game.

In the next game, Higbe beat Junior Thompson in a 12-inning epic, 4 to 3. This second win over the Reds gave the Phillies the honors of the series and also lifted them out of the dungeon.

The Cubs opened their series by surrendering to the Phillies, 6 to 5. Lloyd Browder was the winner and Bill Lee the loser. Chuck Klein and Merrill May did some effective clouting in this game. Mahan's single and Schulte's triple compounded the winning run.

After making a fine start, the Phillies by his delay, Johnny Rizzo finally reported and was at once placed in left field. He has played good ball so far. Rizzo is a natural hitter and can get distance, so Shibe Park is made to order for him. Resident fans are content with the Beal much as they regretted to see such a popular star as Morris Aronov go.

JAMES C. ISAMINGER.

Be Wise Between Meals

Chew light, wholesome, satisfying

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT GUM

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT CHEWING GUM

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT CHEWING GUM

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT CHEWING GUM

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT CHEWING GUM

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT CHEWING GUM

Hall of Famer Joe Medwick Dies of Heart Attack at 63

Joseph Michael (Ducky) Medwick, a member of the Hall of Fame and one of the game's greatest righthanded hitters, died of a heart attack in St. Petersburg, Fla., March 21. He was 63.

Although he played for four National League teams, his greatest accomplishments came with the Cardinals in the 1930s when the Gashouse Gang was the darling of the fans in St. Louis. They were something less to the customers in other cities.

Medwick didn't make it into the Hall of Fame until 1968, the last year he was eligible in the Baseball Writers Association of America voting. If the writers had passed over him that year, he would have been dumped into the veterans' category and it would have been the responsibility of a special committee to appraise his shrine qualifications.

One reason it took Medwick so long to gain Hall of Fame recognition was serious personality flaws, as the late Arthur Daley wrote. Medwick was hardly a favorite with some writers, especially in the East.

BUT HIS credentials on the field were outstanding. He was the Triple Crown winner in 1937, batting .374, driving in 154 runs and hitting 31 homers, the same number logged by Mel Ott. His lifetime average was a lofty .324 and he hit .300 or better for 11 straight seasons.

He campaigned actively to get into the shrine, something most players don't do. "Sure I want to get in the Hall of Fame," he said in 1965. "I look at all those other guys going in and some of them weren't half as good as me."

He placed the blame solely on the writers, saying, "They aren't doing their homework," meaning looking at his record.

Harry Walker, a long-time friend, thought one of the things that went against Medwick was his aggressiveness.

"Joe was a push-push-push type of guy who didn't take anything from anybody," said Walker.

THAT WAS TRUE. Medwick frequently was the center of controversy. His salary battles with management, particularly in St. Louis, took on the air of all-out warfare. His play on the field was inclined to lead to a skirmish here and there and he wasn't averse to belting a teammate now and then.

The biggest hassle in Medwick's career came in the final game of the 1934 World Series between the Cardinals and the Tigers at Detroit.

In the sixth inning, with the Redbirds leading, 9-0, Medwick slid,

spikes up, into Marv Owen at third base. A slight altercation followed, but the worst was yet to come.

When Medwick took his position in left field after the incident, a shower of garbage, bottles and other missiles came pouring from the bleachers. They were aimed at Medwick who moved out of range.

WHILE THE barrage continued, Leo Durocher walked out from his shortstop post and told Medwick, "Don't worry, kid, they can't hurt you."

"Yeah," said Medwick, "I'll tell you what—you come out here and I'll play shortstop."

Commissioner Kenesaw Landis finally put a stop to the bombardment by ordering Manager Frankie Frisch to take Medwick out of the game. Chick Fullis finished in left field and the Cardinals won the game, 11-0, and the Series.

"I often wonder," said Medwick, "what the commissioner would have done if the score had been 0-0."

Actually, the fans had come prepared to give Medwick and the Cards a massage with garbage, regardless of the Owen incident, some people feel. The Cardinal slugger had a terrific Series, getting 11 hits and batting .379.

Frisch always was amazed by Medwick, who was a notorious badball hitter.

"I just wonder what he would have hit if he didn't go for those bad pitches," Frisch once said. Then in reflection, he added, "He might not have hit as well as he did, you know."

MEDWICK, WHO had been the Cardinals' minor league batting instructor in recent years, had six seasons in which he collected 100 or more RBIs.

After his 1937 onslaught, when he also was named the MVP in the National League, the Cardinals raised his salary \$5,000 to \$27,500, the most he ever made.

In 1938, he batted .322 and the Cardinals tried to cut him \$5,000.

"I called Branch Rickey (the Cardinals' G. M.) and asked him why in the hell he was cutting me," Medwick recalled. "You know what Rickey told me? He said, 'Well, Joe, you didn't have the kind of year you had the year before.'"

"BASE HITS and bucks" were the things uppermost in Medwick's mind, J. Roy Stockton, a St. Louis sports editor, once wrote.

His first encounter with some extra bucks came in Houston in 1931 after a woman fan dubbed him "Ducky Wucky" because of his walk. A candy bar was named for him by a Houston firm and Joe earned a fee for the use of his

name. The Ducky tag stuck and Medwick detested it.

Bench jockeys knew how to make Medwick bristle. George Susce, a Pirate catcher, would shout: "They're not paying you enough, Joe. You're the best and Johnny Mize makes more money than you."

Medwick was born in Carteret, N. J., and was a star high school athlete there. He was in line for a scholarship at Notre Dame, but he elected to play baseball and started with Scottsdale in the Middle Atlantic League in 1930. Two years later, he was with the Cardinals.

JUST WHAT caused the Redbirds to become disenchanted with Medwick isn't quite clear. There are several versions, one of which involves the fans jeering Joe and Owner Sam Breadon deciding it was time for a change.

At any rate, on June 12, 1940, Medwick was traded to the Dodgers. At the time he was in a slump and his disposition hardly was improving.

Shortly after the deal, the Cardinals met the **Dodgers** in Brooklyn and Bob Bowman was the St. Louis pitcher. There are reports Bowman and Medwick had met in a hotel elevator earlier in the day and had words. Bowman hit Medwick in the head with a pitch, inflicting a concussion. There was a mild flurry of action then.

THE NEXT DAY, however, there was a first-class riot, with Cardinal catcher Mickey Owen and Leo Durocher, the Dodger manager, in the thick of it.

One of the classic Redbird incidents involved Medwick and Dizzy Dean in Pittsburgh.

Medwick, who liked to be called "Muscles," let a ball drop for a three-run double and Dean, who was pitching, was teed off. He accused Medwick of not hustling. One word led to another and Dean and his brother Paul came marching, shoulder to shoulder, at Medwick. Joe grabbed a bat and said something about "separating the Deans forever."

Later in the game, Medwick hit a grand-slam homer and trotted into the dugout and to the spot where Diz was sitting. He spit on the pitcher's shoes and told him, between epithets, that there were the three runs and one more.

MEDWICK, like many players, was superstitious. He and teammate Pepper Martin had a special fondness for finding hairpins, which they thought brought luck.

Once when Martin was in a terrible slump, Ray Gillespie, now an associate editor of THE SPORTING NEWS but then a writer for a St. Louis daily newspaper, obtained some hairpins and scattered them near the dugout where Martin could find them.

But Medwick located them first and, like a kid on Christmas morning, started picking them up. Gillespie protested, saying they were for Martin.

"The hell with Martin and his slump," shouted Muscles. "Let him find his own hairpins."

AFTER THE beaming by Bowman, they said Medwick was never the same. His average and run production did decline. During the 1943 season, Medwick was traded to the Giants, who later sent him to the Braves.

He was with Brooklyn again in



Joe Medwick . . . Colorful and Controversial

1946 and closed out his major league career by returning to the Cardinals in 1947-48. When it was all over, Medwick had 2,471 hits and 540 doubles to go with his 205 homers and .324 average. But the Hall of Fame still was 20 years away.

Medwick managed in the minors for several years at Miami Beach, Raleigh and Tampa. He also had an insurance business in St. Louis.

In his mellowing years, as the Cards' batting instructor for the youngsters, he displayed the patience he sometimes lacked as one of the all-time great sluggers.

Clarence L. (Biggie) Munn, former football coach and athletic director at Michigan State University, died in East Lansing March 18 after suffering his second stroke in less than four years. He was 66.

Hot-tempered, dedicated and competent, Munn put Michigan State on the football map after succeeding Charles Bachman as coach in 1947.

Michigan State was jokingly referred to as a "cow college" by its detractors because it specialized in training farmers, veterinarians and others of similar pursuits. And its football program drew laughs, especially from its bitter rival, the University of Michigan.

John Hannah, president of Mich-

igan State, decided to change all that and he hired Munn, then coach at Syracuse University. The change was dramatic. After losing his first game, 55-0, Munn went on to a 7-2 season and the Spartans were on their way to respectability and eventually glory.

A strict disciplinarian, Munn demanded loyalty and hard work from his players and assistants. He lived by a motto which was displayed prominently in his office. It read: "The difference between good and great is a little extra effort."

Munn took his Spartans to the Rose Bowl in 1954 and a victory over UCLA. In 1952, he won Coach of the Year honors.

When Munn decided to step out as coach in 1954, he handed the reins to his hand-picked successor, assistant Duffy Daugherty. Munn moved into the athletic director's office after compiling a 54-9-2 record and putting the Spartans "on the map," as one school official said.

An All-America guard at Minnesota in 1931, Munn became a coach the day he graduated, joining the Gophers as an assistant. Before he landed at Michigan State, he had been head coach at Albright College, line coach at Michigan and head coach at Syracuse.

Biggie's 17-year dynasty as athletic director of the Spartans was not always one of tranquility. There was open hostility between Munn and Daugherty, despite their long association.

Some thought it came from Daugherty's failure to consult frequently with Munn. At any rate, the matter came to a head in 1958 when the Spartans were mauled by a poor Minnesota team, 39-12.

"What happened out there today was terrible," Munn told a sports-writer. "It really hurts to see something you've built, an empire you made with your own hands, come tumbling down."

Daugherty and Munn became more hostile after that and the president of the school was obliged to appoint an intermediary, who finally gave up in futility. After a chat with the president, Munn and Daugherty calmed down, but they never were close again.

As the athletic director, Munn was outstanding. He instituted one of the best intramural programs in



Biggie Munn

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