

GHOSTS OF BRIBE SCANDAL FAIL TO EFFECT PLAYING OF GAMES

EXPERIENCE PROVES BIG ASSET TO MCGRAW

Senators' Visibly Under Nervous Strain, Make Costly Errors; Bribe Expose Has Not Hurt Attendance.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Oct. 8.—The ghosts of the Giants' bribery scandal are haunting the Senators' camp as they prepare to play the first game of the World Series tomorrow night. The Senators' camp is visibly under nervous strain, and the exposure of the bribery scandal has not hurt attendance.

When they went into the fourth game with the Senators they held a two game lead. The Senators' camp is visibly under nervous strain, and the exposure of the bribery scandal has not hurt attendance.

Much has been written, and the scandal mongers have been working far into the night since O'Connell's name was dropped from the ranks of Organized Baseball, and it may be that there is still a great deal to come of an interesting nature out of the case. The latest news is that Commissioner Landis has promised to give O'Connell another interview.

Each O'Connell interview was summarily spoiled when Commissioner Landis, sitting with President Heydler of the National League, effected the charges made by the latter against O'Connell.

Landis to interview Dolan Again. NEW YORK, Oct. 7.—Commissioner Landis, yesterday announced that he would interview George Dolan, scout for the New York Yankees, who was named in the bribery episode.

Major Draft Meeting Delayed. WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 7.—The annual draft meeting of the major leagues was postponed because of the absence of several club representatives who were unable to get there.

O'Connell Still in New York. O'Connell has delayed his departure for his home in California because of the publicity of an anonymous letter in a New York newspaper.

The letter said that a certain group had offered \$100,000 that New York would win the National League flag by two games and that \$5,000 had been paid over to the players in at least two of the three games that have been played.

WHITE SOX RETAIN CHICAGO CITY TITLE

Victory Makes Ninth American League Team Has Won Honors, Compared to Three for Nationals.

CHICAGO, Ill., Oct. 7.—The White Sox are the champions of Chicago for the second straight year, defeating the Cubs in the deciding game of the series yesterday, 6 to 2. It was the sixth game of the series, the Cubs having captured the first and fifth contests solely on the pitching of their pitcher, Ed Walsh.

PLAYERS NAMED FOR TOUR. Number of Players From Other Teams. With Joe Judge, manager of the Chicago White Sox and New York Giants.

Others in the party will include Charles A. Comiskey, owner of the White Sox; Harry Grabiner, wife and child, and W. D. White, former Louisville American Association player.

Fans May Buy Fort Smith Club. FOR SMITH, Ark., Oct. 7.—Runt Marr, manager of the Fort Smith team of the Western Association, has been driven toward forming a stock company of fans here, with 200 members.

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SISLER TO MANAGE BROWNS NEXT YEAR

PITCHING ABOUT ONLY THING HE'LL NEED FOR A WINNER.

Rickey Appears to Be Stittin' Pretty With Youngsters; Bribe Incident Proves Game Cannot Be Manipulated.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Oct. 6.—George Sisler will be manager of the St. Louis Browns next year, it is believed. Phil Ball, president of the club, has unboundedly faith in George Sisler personally and takes the slant of the fans, who figure that Sisler did as well as anybody could have done with the pitching staff.

There are several likely looking prospects in the cluster of young men reared from the minors, but in the main it does not look like any of them are winners. There is also a possibility that two or more of the deadweight heavies, who are being around all season, will be crammed together in one package and traded for one dependable Class A A heater.

Bloodhounds Have Been Busy. Scouts Monahan and Cahill, as well as several others, have given up their regular assignments to concentrate on pitching talent late in the season, and these able bush beaters have been busy.

Interested in Coast Players. Branch also has something in the fire with the Coast League, and there is reason to believe that the Cardinals will hook a pitcher and another player.

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M'KECHNIE HEARS SHOUTING OF MOB

DREYFUSS SAYS HE'S SATISFIED WITH BILL'S WORK, HOWEVER.

Several Changes Likely, Grimm, Cooper and Schmidt Having Axes to Grind With Owner.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Oct. 6.—Washington and New York are wild with World's Series excitement, but in Pittsburgh there is nothing more exciting than a seething controversy over whether or not changes are to be made in the personnel of the Pirates before the dawn of another National League season.

Well Fixed for Future. He ought to have a much better club next year, says Dreyfuss, who is the general manager of the Pirates.

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SENATOR PLAYERS FALL OFF IN WEIGHT

RUEL, FOR INSTANCE, IS TEN POUNDS UNDER NORMAL FIGURE.

Hard Campaign, Plus World's Series, Has Had Its Effect on Men; Capital Proud of Griff's Fighters.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 6.—Washington is submerged in an ocean of baseball and is enjoying it to the limit, regardless of what man has in it. The first World Series. The one idea of all is to get the Giants, but that was never easy, and judging from the results of the first two contests, the Series may go even further.

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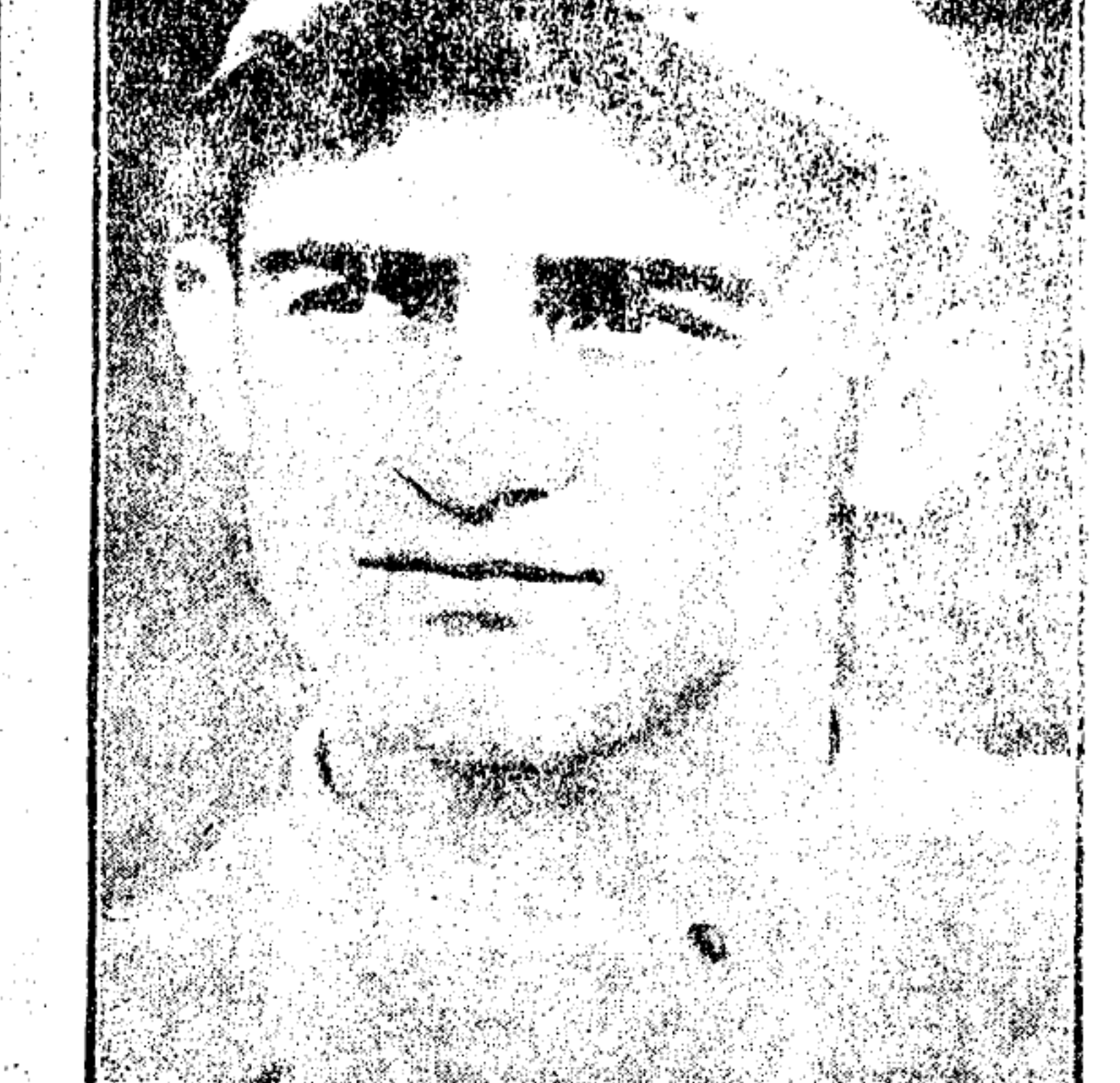
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REGULAR BUSINESS WITH HIM

SECOND BASEMAN FRANK FRISCH



Records of the first three games of the World's Series show that the Giants have outplayed their American League rivals, but if one is permitted to become a trifle facetious, and will refrain within reasonable bounds of truthfulness, it can be said that Captain Frankie Frisch has outplayed the Senators.

ECONOMY WILL BE STRESSED AT ANNUAL CONFAB OF MINORS

Operating Expenses Are Running Too High and Retrenchment Must Come, According to Views Expressed by Number of Club Owners.

PRINCETON, Mass., Oct. 5.—Economy measures will be given the closest of consideration at the annual meeting of the National Association of Minor League Baseball Clubs at Hartford, Conn., the first week of December.

Delegates to the convention this year are to be impressed with the fact that the association wants the convention to be a real business meeting, and not a party.

There has been much discussion regarding possible changes in the Eastern League circuit for next season. It is believed that the Orioles, who have all the other members will stick.

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Defense Strikes Blue Note In Redbirds' Spring Sonata

By NEAL RUSSO

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—As expected, pitching was the Cardinals' long suit as they headed into the 1973 season.

The most pleasant developments in a spring training that was a tremendous change from the shaky 1972 Florida camp included the emergence of two pitchers. One was somewhat of a veteran, starter Alan Foster. The other was a virtual unknown, lefthanded reliever John Andrews.

Foster and Andrews, who were not on the varsity roster, shared surprise-of-the-spring honors with Ray Busse, who quickly took charge of the shortstop sweepstakes.

Foster and Andrews survived spirited competition for the few berths open on a pitching staff that figured to include the Big Four of Bob Gibson, Rick Wise, Reggie Cleveland and Scipio Spinks. Add Al Santorini, Diego Segui and returnee Wayne Granger.

THAT MEANT A sort of tournament. Victims of the numbers game were Rick Folkers and Mike Nagy. Folkers, another southpaw fireman, didn't allow an earned run in nine spring innings, but he happened to have options left and was sent out.

Nagy had an ERA of 0.64, but he was dealt to the Rangers because the Cardinals decided to hang onto Jim Bibby, who throws harder than Nagy. Both Nagy and Bibby had run out of options.

Foster did not allow an earned run until his fifth and last appearance of the spring. Cleveland was the most effective hurler in the play-for-fun games with six excellent outings and an ERA of 0.50. Reggie walked only five and struck out 16 in 36 innings. He clearly showed the benefit of a successful winter in Venezuela.

GRANGER INDICATED strongly that he was ready to return to his glory days as a Redleg with a 0.56 ERA for nine appearances.

Ace Gibson was set back by a foot injury, but he rebounded to earn another opening-day start. Wise was excellent except for his last time out of the starting block. Spinks was erratic in his early out-

ing, partly because he hadn't been in competition since last July 4, when he suffered a knee injury, but Scipio finished strong in Florida.

Andrews was not scored upon until his ninth and last chance at camp. Santorini appeared ready for another dual role of relief and spot starting. And Segui was the same old Segui—a steady performer with a most baffling forkball.

THERE WAS excellent hitting by Ted Simmons, the club leader with .349. Tim McCarver, an excellent addition, hit the ball well, especially in the early weeks. Ken Reitz, a good-fielding third baseman, closed fast after missing eight days because of chicken pox. And Jose Cruz, appearing more mature, not only hit the ball well (.308) but also displayed some of the center field skills he showed when he came up in 1971.

Busse, the big hope at shortstop, tailed off at bat late in spring training, but still wound up as the club RBI leader with 11. An 0-for-18 swoon pulled him down to a final .254.

Joe Torre finished with .212, but nobody was worrying about him. Nor was there concern over Lou Brock's .225 or Ted Sizemore's .203.

BUT MANAGER Red Schoendienst did fret some about the leaky defense, which finally seemed to tighten in the last few games in Florida. And he was a bit concerned about the batting slump in the last 10 days. He found it hard to believe that the Birds hit only three home runs in spring training. The Pirates' Bob Robertson hit that many in one game—against the Cardinals.

Because of the questionable offense, Red had to make sure he put his best defensive lineup on the field. That meant Torre would have to play first base and Reitz third—at least at the beginning. McCarver, who did pretty well making the transition from catcher to first baseman, would have to head up a bench that shaped up as an improvement over the 1972 edition.

THE MAJOR disappointments

to Schoendienst were Bernie Carbo and Luis Melendez. Neither hit well in Florida and Carbo, who earned the right field job last year, was having trouble in the field, too. Schoendienst, shaking his head, decided to platoon the pair at the outset with the offer of the regular job to whoever could get hot at the plate.

Also disappointing, especially in view of the over-all outfield situation, was the shoulder injury that knocked hot prospect Bake McBride out of virtually all of spring training. McBride was expected to make a strong bid as an extra outfielder.

That role appeared to fall into the hands of Dwain Anderson, an infielder who quickly adapted himself to all three outfield positions.

BACKING UP McCarver, the only spare catcher, on the bench were, in addition to Anderson and whichever platooned outfielder wasn't in the game, Ed Crosby, Mike Tyson, Bill Stein and Bobby Fenwick.

Busse and Cruz appeared to be the keys to the fortunes of the '73 Redbirds, a much more relaxed and confident crew than the '72 entry.

Redbird Chirps: Segui was called to Miami late in spring training because his father had suffered a heart attack. . . . Harry Mitauer of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat rates as the champion cigar smoker among the baseball scribes. Mitauer chomps on 20 stogies a day. . . . The Cardinals picked up Mike Thompson, a right-handed pitcher, from the Rangers in the swap for Nagy. That transaction also served to cancel the player owed to the Cardinals for pitcher Lance Clemons. . . . The Cardinals promoted Paul Fauks from director of sales to administrative assistant in the farm and scouting departments. Joe Cunningham, the ex-Cardinal first baseman-outfielder who had been director of special projects, moved into Fauks' job. . . . The Redbirds, 6-14 in spring training last year, finished at 13-11 this time, including 8-3 against National League clubs.



BROEG & BASEBALL

By BOB BROEG

Sisler's Standards Were Sky-High

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Researching "Super Stars of Baseball," the series of 40 player profiles published by THE SPORTING NEWS and then put in book form, I came upon a brow-raising comment in an interview with **George Sisler**.

I'd been impressed and said something to the effect that even though an infection had caused temporarily blindness and forced **George** to miss the entire 1923 season, he had rebounded remarkably. Why, he'd had 200 hits three times thereafter and batted .326, .327 and .345.

A polite man, **Sisler** interrupted impatiently and said scornfully, "I didn't consider that real good hitting."

Hitters who today would want the Taj Mahal for those averages probably couldn't understand The Sizzler's sky-high standards. As the Christian Science practitioner said in the course of memorial services for **Sisler** the other day, Branch Rickey's favorite player was modest. But he also had, as the Mahatma wrote in "The American Diamond," a trait Rickey referred to as "justifiable ego."

One time **George Sisler, Jr.**, president of the International League and one of the three baseball sons of whom the super star could be proud, sat alone with his father in the quiet of a late summer evening on a front porch and asked:

"Just between us, Dad, what pitcher or pitchers really gave you trouble?"

There was silence. **George Jr.** sensed that the old man was studiously reviewing his career, trying to come up with a name or two. Finally, **George, Sr.** gave up trying.

"I was like (Rogers) Hornsby," he said, "because I honestly felt sorry for the pitcher. The pitcher was out there for me to hit. I didn't look for anything except the ball."

And, oh, even after illness had robbed him prematurely of his tremendous speed and had aged him early athletically, he still could hit. At 37, bowing out after 14 full seasons in which he'd failed to bat over .300 just once in a complete go-round, he still batted .309 at Boston with the Braves in 1930.

Even .420 Wasn't His Best

But to **Sisler**, that wasn't hitting. The man's own standards were so high that he didn't even regard his .420 in 1922, the season he was named Most Valuable Player, as his best year.

To gorgeous **George**, his best came two years earlier when he was 27. Playing every inning for the old St. Louis Browns that 154-game season in 1920, **Sisler** had the incredible total of 257 hits, still the major league high.

Batting .407, he went hitless in only 23 games all season. Only twice did he fail to get a hit for two successive games. He collected 49 doubles, 18 triples and, as he liked to point out, 19 home runs, a total second only to Babe Ruth's 54. He scored 137 runs, drove in 122 more and stole 42 bases.

Sisler could leg out an infield hit or bunt and he could push and slash, too, but he resented the suggestion that he was a Punch and Judy hitter. When he pulled his heavy (42-ounce) hickory with a choked grip, he hit hard.

Frank Frisch, himself a great all-round player, singled out Babe Ruth and **George Sisler** as the two greatest of extremes, the slugger and the scientific player. Of **Sisler** before his own death recently, Frisch said: "He was poetry in motion, the perfect player."

A lefthanded pitcher good enough to beat his own idol, Walter Johnson, in two low-run duels as a rookie in 1915, **Sisler** became an extremely graceful first baseman, perhaps second only to Hal Chase, if you'd care to start an argument.

He could do the incredible things defensively. Rickey, for whom he played at the University of Michigan and with the Browns, loved to remember **Sisler's** rapid reaction in sensing a squeeze by Washington, flashing in to grab the bunt off Roger Peckinpaugh's bat, tag the batter and then zip the ball to catcher Hank Severid in time to double Joe Judge at the plate.

"He did it in one motion, by Judas Priest, like a magician whose hand was quicker than the eye," said Rickey, who topped that one with this:

Ever hear about the time **Sisler** fielded a ground ball and flipped it softly toward first base only to find that the pitcher wasn't covering the bag? Before you could say **George Harold Sisler**, The Sizzler had leaped forward, so help Branch Rickey's bushy eyebrows, and caught his own throw on the bag for a putout.

Pleasant, Aloof, Modest and Sober

Yesterday or today, **George Sisler** would be classified as a different breed of cat. He was pleasant but aloof, a modest, sober man who appeared to smile a lot because he squinted and bared his teeth in concentration during his playing days. In later years, he wore a grimace of pain from arthritis when he struggled into St. Louis' Busch Memorial Stadium to continue scouting for, ironically, the club that lost him in 1915—Pittsburgh.

If the old National Commission had upheld the Pirates' claim to a prior contract in 1915—and the Buccos' Barney Dreyfuss never spoke again to the man who cast the deciding vote, Cincinnati's Garry Herrmann—Pittsburgh no doubt would have won more pennants.

Sisler, genteel, had class. Some still can't believe that he once slugged an obscene teammate (Bob Groom) or slapped an umpire (**George Hildebrand**) and drew a minimal suspension only because his record was exemplary.

Personally, in conversation, I found **Sisler** touchy in comparisons between the present and the past, impressed by pitching development and totally unimpressed by what he considered lack of studious hitting and batting concentration.

He was also a straight arrow when, as a member of the Hall of Fame's Committee on Veterans, I'd ask him for a confidential appraisal or evaluation of a player or a comparison between two performers with whom he was infinitely more familiar than I. He answered succinctly, frankly and fairly. I'll miss his wisdom and his counsel.

If he swore, I never heard it. He didn't smoke or drink, and, of course, there's the story about the time W. C. Fields, who admired him so much as a ballplayer, invited him backstage, lavished him with praise and offered **George** a drink of the best Prohibition booze.

When **Sisler** declined with thanks and said he didn't drink, W. C. sighed his famous Fieldian sigh and in the familiar nasal tenor now imitated widely in television commercials and variety shows, the showman whined philosophically:

"Ah, well, not even the perfect ballplayer can have everything."



Bernie Carbo, Luis Melendez . . . Slow Starters.

The Sporting News

THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS WEEKLY

Trade Mark Registered
Founded March 17, 1886

Published by

The Sporting News, 1212 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63166—AC 314 997-7111

Subscription Price \$15 a Year Six Months \$8.00 Three Months \$4.00

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Vol. 175

APRIL 14, 1973

No. 14

SISLER—A RUGGED GENTLEMAN

George Sisler was at the peak of his game in the early 1920s, the beginning of an era often dubbed the Golden Age of Sports. Sisler helped make it so. He was a contemporary of Babe Ruth, whose home-run bat and magnetic personality generally are credited with rescuing baseball from eclipse after the 1919 Black Sox scandal.

Nobody hit the ball farther than Ruth, and no one hit it more consistently than Sisler. Like Ruth, Sisler came on the baseball scene as a pitcher of quality, and again like Ruth, Sisler reached the heights with his bat. Those were just about the only similarities in the careers of these two baseball giants—Ruth the carouser, crowd pleaser, instinctive athlete and product of the Baltimore waterfront; Sisler the college graduate, thinker, student of baseball and quiet gentleman.

Though Sisler was recognized as a superb hitter and a first baseman of extraordinary skills, he should be remembered above all as a model athlete and exemplary man, on the field and off it. Branch Rickey, the master talent-molder, discovered Sisler at the University of Michigan and brought him to the big leagues with the St. Louis Browns in 1915. Thirty-five years later, after developing countless stars, Rickey was asked to name his all-time favorite player. The Mahatma's eloquence surfaced at once with this appraisal:

"My favorite player is George Sisler, and I choose him because, in addition to his marvelous talents as a player, he has such high qualifications as a man. From the time he came to me from the University of Michigan until this very moment, he has never criticized a teammate and never criticized an opponent. He was always a close observer of every play, every pitch. He was always thinking. He was a student of the game and devoted to his profession.

"And don't get the idea because I said George never was critical that he wasn't dead game. I remember shortly after Sisler joined the Browns, there was an overthrow and George chased the ball. Between innings, one of my players, I think it was Bob Groom, yelled at George, something to the effect that he was a so-and-so college player, and next time on an overthrow to run harder. George never said a word, but he got up and floored Groom with one punch. Groom got up, moved to another seat on the bench and nobody bothered Sisler any more.

"Yes sir, George would fight at the drop of a hat, yet he was a perfect gentleman."

American League pitchers probably never thought of Sisler as a gentleman. In 1920, he belted them for 257 hits, still an all-time record, while batting .407. Two years later, he racked up 246 hits and batted .420, a figure not even the great Ty Cobb ever matched. Sisler himself might have exceeded it had he not been felled by a sinus infection the following year. Stricken at the zenith of his career, he played eight more years in the majors, but never approached those heights again. Neither did he ever bemoan his misfortunes.

When Sisler died March 26 at the age of 80, he left a legacy of which baseball can be proud. Some say baseball could use more "colorful characters" of days gone by. Maybe so, but these days it's reassuring to know we've also had in our midst some solid citizens, of whom George Sisler was a prime example.

AFFLUENCY BREEDS INDIFFERENCE

A contract is a contract, says the National Basketball Association players' union. As a result of the players' stand, the top team in the NBA's Western Conference was determined by a coin flip instead of the anticipated one-game playoff. The Milwaukee Bucks, who tied with the Los Angeles Lakers for the best record in the West, won the toss. That gave the Bucks the right to play the Golden State Warriors, lowest ranking Western qualifier, in the first round. The Lakers had to face the higher-finishing Chicago Bulls in round one.

The top team in each conference gets \$30,000, the runnerup \$20,000. The difference of \$10,000 apparently wasn't enough to fire the competitive spirit of some players. Their association pointed out that the players' pact with the league calls for 82 regular-season games, no more. That squelched plans for a playoff. The Lakers and Bucks split first and second money, \$25,000 apiece.

NBA officials apparently had not considered the possibility of player balkiness. Their response was a coin flip, to which the players readily agreed. In our opinion, this is not the ideal way to determine a conference champ. If the players refuse to budge on the matter in future dickering, there are better ways to determine the top finisher. A comparison of the deadlocked teams' records against each other would be a better gauge than mere chance.

Milwaukee players blamed the Lakers for the coin flip. Laker Coach Bill Sharman said his players wanted to play the game "but they didn't want to set a precedent. Next year there might have been a decision to have a best-of-three playoff," Sharman said. "But it was the player representatives who made the final decision."

In any event, the episode reflects the degree of affluence attained by pro basketball players. Granted that the money difference wasn't significant for today's tycoon-athletes, especially when they knew they could get a 50-50 split without playing, they may have overlooked public reaction to their indifference. Fans expect highly paid pros to be competitors, even if only pride and prestige are on the line. Indifference can afflict spectators when they detect that malady among the players.



we believe...

By C. C. JOHNSON SPINK
Editor and Publisher

Powerful Effect of Sports

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Television is unparalleled for its spectacular coverage of sports events, but the tube's images often make a greater impression on the memory than the words that are spoken to go with the pictures.

We watched the "Gillette Cavalcade of Champions" on NBC-TV the other night and, in case you have forgotten them, we want to quote from Bob Hope's closing remarks as the master of ceremonies.

"Ever since Dave threw his historic beanball at mighty Goliath and confounded the Phillistine experts," Hope said, "the world has been fascinated by athletic achievements . . . running faster, throwing farther, jumping higher, than the next fellow."

"TODAY, the super stars of sports come from every corner of the world. Pele, the undisputed king of world soccer, is from Brazil. The brilliant Rod Laver is carrying on Australia's great tennis tradition. From the Soviet Union came Valery Borzov, the world's fastest human.

"Kip Keino of Kenya is a bright example of the vast store of athletic talent just beginning to surface in the emerging nations of Africa. And, of course, Jack Nicklaus and Mark Spitz lead the world in their specialties.

"The simple game of Ping Pong was the catalyst that triggered the first thaw in relations between us and the Peoples Republic of China and ended 20 years of mutual hostility and suspicion. An 85-pound bundle of talent, grace and determination named Olga Korbut won the hearts of the world in Munich. In just a few days, she did much to humanize the image of Russia which had for so long been cold and forbidding.

"Such is the power of sports."

MOST OF ALL, we believe, sports have the power to influence the attitudes and actions of millions of young people who watch and hear and read about our stars of sports and games. Unfortunately, that influence always isn't good.

We thought about the arrogance and ill manners of Bobby Fischer, the world chess champion . . . the

wife-swapping of Fritz Peterson and Mike Kekich of the Yankees . . . the drug involvement of a few players in pro football . . . the temper tantrums of some tennis types . . . and the brutality of a hockey player like Steve Durbano of the Blues, who used his stick to hit a taunting trainer in the face. Are they, through sports, to set an example for our youth?

And we thought about Bill Walton of UCLA, who had demolished Memphis State in the final of the NCAA basketball tournament. We were at the game. There's no question about Walton's dominating talents, but for us, his head-shaking disagreement with some of the calls of the referees flawed what was almost a perfect performance. After the game, he brushed off the sportswriters who tried to interview him in the dressing room.

"It's just his way of doing things," Coach John Wooden said in explanation of Walton's behavior. "I think the boy has a right to his own life style."

WALTON HIMSELF said, "My life as No. 32 for UCLA has ended for this season. I'm now Bill Walton, just me, not Bill Walton, the basketball player. I don't want to talk about basketball. I don't want to talk to reporters."

Walton has every right to expect some privacy, now that his season is over, but just for a few minutes he should have realized that the writers were not there on a personal mission. They were there representing the fans who saw Walton in all his glory in the game and had questions in their minds about his injury, his reaction to UCLA's seventh straight championship and his future plans.

Perhaps it's just too much to expect a college player to respond with judgment to the pressure of being a national hero. But Walton should realize that his petulance on the court and his brusqueness in the dressing room could affect the life style of young players all over the country. The little fellow down the street who is trying to play like Walton may also copy his attitude toward the referees and the press. We have enough prima donnas in sports without creating a lot more of them.

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atoms

By BOB ADDIE

Shula Practices Humility

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Don Shula, coach of the Miami Dolphins, says there is no such thing as complete paradise—even for a football coach who has won the Super Bowl and has pulled off the first grand slam in the history of the National Football League.

"I still get letters," says Shula, "bawling me out for using Mercury Morris instead of Jim Kiick and vice versa. But, in a way, I don't mind. It really gives a man humility to remember that he can never get so high that somebody can't reach him with a rock. I haven't had much time to rest on my laurels because we have the game coming up with the College All-Stars and then the folks in Miami will have plenty of chance to judge us for the 1973 season because we have four preseason games at home."

Shula was given a dinner party by an old friend, Rep. William Stanton, who comes from Don's home town, Painesville, O. The bash was in Washington and it resembled a congressional caucus because among those on hand were Congressmen Jack Kemp, Silvio Conte, Gerald Ford and Tip O'Neill, along with Sen. Peter H. Dominick of Colorado. Shula once worked as an automobile salesman for Stanton before the latter was elected to Congress.

GEORGE ALLEN, coach of the Washington Redskins, says he doubts there will ever be another undefeated team in the NFL. "The Dolphins' tremendous achievement will be more significant as the years go by," says Allen. "The way the league is now, with such tremendous talent, it doesn't seem likely any team ever will go unbeaten again."

There are still many people closely associated with baseball who have no protection against job loss and it wouldn't be a bad idea if Marvin Miller tried to do something for them. I am talking about the traveling secretaries, publicity directors and the equipment men, most of whom put in long service with the ball clubs. Miller has said: "Anyone with continuous service should be protected." True. It would seem that the players' association would take in some of these people and broaden their pension base.

The National Football League Players Association recently reported that there are 763 retired players vested in the retirement plan. But, the group points out, there are only six players since 1959 who have retired with more than 10 years of NFL play. The attrition rate in football is tremendous. For instance, of the 1,295 players in the NFL in 1971, only 34 percent

were eligible for the pension fund, which carries a minimum of five years for retirement. And of the 763 retired players on the rolls now, over 36 percent are in the five-year class.

THERE ARE NINE fillies nominated for the Kentucky Derby May 5, something of a record considering that only one filly, Regret (1915), ever won the Derby. Secretariat is the big favorite, but there seems to be considerable sentiment for Sheky Greene, a colt named for the night club comedian.

Among those who will pay a nostalgic visit to Yankee Stadium this month is John Horgan, who is a special assistant to the president of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. in Washington. Horgan was a batboy in 1923 when the House That Ruth Built was opened and he has many fond memories of the Babe himself. "Before every game," Horgan reports, "the Babe would get hungry and he would send me out for two or three and sometimes six hotdogs."

Horgan also worked as a batboy at the old Polo Grounds when John McGraw managed the Giants. "My principal errand for McGraw," Horgan remembers, "was to find out who won what race. He and Rogers Hornsby, who played for the Giants one year in 1927, had me running back and forth to the old clubhouse which was in center field. If their horses won, I would wave a white sweatshirt. If they lost, I waved a red sweatshirt which McGraw kept especially for that purpose. Both McGraw and Hornsby were crazy about the horses. I don't think Ruth ever made a bet outside of the track in his life."

I SEE WHERE the Milwaukee Brewers obviously don't expect to have much of a ball club. The proof is that the Brewers are going back to all sorts of promotional stunts like flagpole sitters and beauty and personality contests to take the fans' minds off the business at hand—the baseball team. Bill Veeck always said that these gimmicks were great, but there had to come the day of reckoning when the vaudeville show had to end and the fans got what they were paying for—a winning team.

Traveling secretary Donald Davidson of the Braves, whose biography, written with Atlanta's Jesse Outlar, now is in paperback as a Bantam book, suddenly has been discovered by the banquet circuit. Everybody in baseball, of course, had known and loved the little man for years, but Donald never had too much public exposure—except for his abortive attempts to make himself a public address announcer.

Hall of Famer **Sisler**, a Master Hitter, Dies

GEORGE H. SISLER, one of baseball's all-time great hitters and member of the Hall of Fame, died in St. Louis March 26 after a brief illness.

The 80-year-old **Sisler** had been in declining health for several years, but still maintained an active interest in sports and frequently attended Cardinal games.

Sisler spent 16 years in the majors, 13 of them with the Browns, and was a premier first baseman. Some called him the best ever to play the position.

EVERYTHING he did, he did well. He twice hit more than .400 and had a lifetime average of .340. He was a superb base stealer and a graceful and sparkling fielder.

"George **Sisler**," said Branch Rickey some years ago, "was the smartest hitter who ever lived. He never stopped thinking. And in the field he was the picture player, the acme of grace and fluency."

into the majors and touched off an uproar that helped to change baseball's administrative structure.

Rickey coached **Sisler** at the University of Michigan and signed him for the Browns after he graduated in 1915. But the Pirates claimed they had the rights to **Sisler**.

IT SEEMED that **Sisler**, when he was 17, personally signed a contract with Akron's minor league team, but never played a game. Akron sold his contract to Columbus and Columbus peddled it to the Pirates.

Barney Dreyfuss, owner of the Pirates, decided to fight and took the matter to the old National Commission, which then ruled baseball. The commission was composed of the two league presidents—John Tener of the National and Ban Johnson of the American—and Garry Herrmann, president of the Reds.

Herrmann acted as chairman

and cast the deciding vote—in the Browns' favor—when the two league presidents voted for their respective teams.

Dreyfuss was incensed, especially with Herrmann, and began a one-man crusade against the commission. His moment of triumph came five years later when the commission was abolished and Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis was made czar.

SISLER ALWAYS believed the Browns had rights to him.

"I was a minor when I signed with Akron," **Sisler** said. "I didn't receive a penny and neither my mother nor my father signed the agreement. In fact, the first time I was given money was when the Browns signed me."

Sisler, a lefthander, had been primarily a pitcher in college. He was said to have won 50 games and lost none.

In his first year with the Browns, 1915, he pitched in 15 games and had a 4-4 record, including a victory over Walter Johnson. But his bat was so valuable that soon he was playing first base full time and moving toward greatness.

HE HIT .407 in 1920 and .420 in 1922, the year the rag-tag Browns almost won the pennant. The .420 mark was the third highest in the modern majors, surpassed only by Nap Lajoie's .422 in 1901 and Rogers Hornsby's .424 in 1924.

During his .420 season, he began to have eye trouble.

"I didn't quite realize what was happening," said **Sisler**, "until one day when I was driving I thought I saw two cars in the other lane. There was only one and I knew something was drastically wrong."

It was found that **Sisler** had a sinus condition that was impairing his vision and he sat out the entire 1923 season. Many thought his career was at an end.

But he came back in 1924, played in all but one of the Browns' games, and hit a solid .305. The next year he batted .345, but he wasn't the same player. Something of the sharpness was gone.

SISLER PLAYED in an era of great players, men like Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth and Hornsby. And since the Browns were usually flirting with the second division, he wasn't accorded all the public recognition he deserved.

He also was a quiet and reserved man, far better educated than most of his teammates. He had earned a degree in mechanical engineering. He seldom argued with umpires and profanity was not part of his vocabulary.

His peers held him in high esteem.

"**Sisler** could do everything," Cobb once said. "He could hit, run and throw and he wasn't a bad pitcher, either."

Although he weighed only 170 and was a little over 5-10, he swung a 42-ounce bat. He wasn't a long-ball hitter, but on five occasions he had more than 10 homers in an era when the dead ball was in use. He had 100 homers as a career total.

HE WAS SWIFT and certain as a runner and many of the 2,812 hits he made could be attributed to his speed. He led the American League in stolen bases four times. In 1922, the year he hit .420, he collected 246 hits and stole 51 bases. "That year he was the greatest ballplayer who ever lived," Rickey said.

During that season, **Sisler** hit safely in 41 consecutive games, breaking by one the modern record set 11 years earlier by Cobb. Joe DiMaggio shattered **Sisler's** mark in 1941 when he hit safely in 56 straight contests.

Sisler also set other records, one of which still stands. It's the modern major league mark of 257 hits in one season, established during the 1920 campaign.

AS FOR HIMSELF, **Sisler** said

he thought he was a better hitter in 1920 than he was in 1922.

"I was meeting the ball better," **Sisler** said. "The averages don't always tell the whole truth."

Although most of his teammates liked him, some thought **Sisler** was cold and aloof. But he really was an introvert in many respects and his cultural tastes generally were different.

He had only one fight during his career and it was a classic.

DURING HIS early days with the Browns, he reached for a high throw and missed it and by the time he retrieved the ball the runner was at second.

When he returned to the dugout, pitcher Bob Groom who was losing, cut loose on **Sisler**.

"Listen, college boy," shouted Groom, "you run harder for those balls. Where the hell do you think you are?"

The mild-mannered **Sisler** was shocked. No one had ever talked to him like that before and there was plenty of profanity in Groom's remarks.

THE BLOOD drained from **Sisler's** face as he walked over to Groom and decked him with a hard left to the jaw. After that, no one ever thought **Sisler** wasn't doing his best.

Rickey had made no secret of the fact **Sisler** was his all-time favorite player. And **Sisler** returned the respect. He would refer to his old

(Continued on Page 70, Column 1)



TWO GREAT HITTERS, Babe Ruth (left) and **George Sisler**, meet during their prime. Ruth was the home-run hero of the Yanks and **Sisler** was a batting star of the old Browns.

A Regal Record

GEORGE HAROLD (GORGEOUS GEORGE) SISLER

Hit safely in 41 consecutive games—July 27 through September 17, 1922; named Most Valuable Player, American League, 1922; holds major league record for most base-hits, season—257 in 1920; led American League in stolen bases, 1918, 1921, 1922 and 1927.

Manager, St. Louis Browns, 1924-25-26; manager, Shreveport-Tyler, Texas League, 1932; scout, Brooklyn Dodgers, 1943; scout, Newport News, Piedmont League, 1945; scout, Brooklyn Dodgers, 1946 through 1950; scout, Pittsburgh Pirates, 1951 through 1956; batting instructor, Pittsburgh, 1956-61; scout, Pittsburgh, 1962 to date.

Year	Club	League	Pos.	G.	AB.	R.	H.	2B.	3B.	HR.	RBI.	B.A.	P.O.	A.	E.	F.A.
1915	St. Louis	Amer. P-I-O	81	274	28	78	10	2	3	29	285	412	38	7	985	
1916	St. Louis	Amer. P-I-O	151	580	83	177	21	11	4	74	305	1453	86	24	983	
1917	St. Louis	Amer. O-1B	135	539	60	150	30	9	2	35	333	1394	101	22	983	
1918	St. Louis	Amer. 1B	114	453	69	154	21	9	2	45	341	1344	97	13	990	
1919	St. Louis	Amer. 1B	132	511	95	150	31	15	10	83	352	1349	120	13	991	
1920	St. Louis	Amer. 1B	154	631	137	257	49	18	19	122	407	1477	140	16	990	
1921	St. Louis	Amer. 1B	138	582	125	216	38	18	11	104	371	1367	108	10	983	
1922	St. Louis	Amer. 1B	142	595	134	246	42	18	8	105	450	1393	123	17	988	
																(Out with eye trouble)
1924	St. Louis	Amer. 1B	151	636	94	194	27	10	9	74	305	1328	112	23	984	
1925	St. Louis	Amer. 1B	150	649	100	224	21	15	12	105	345	1343	131	26	983	
1926	St. Louis	Amer. 1B	150	613	78	178	21	12	7	71	289	1467	87	21	987	
1927	St. Louis (a)	Amer. 1B	149	614	87	201	32	8	5	97	327	1374	131	24	984	
1928	Washington (b)	Amer. 1B	30	49	1	12	1	0	0	3	245	45	0	0	1,000	
1929	Boston	Nat. 1B	118	491	71	167	26	4	4	68	340	1128	86	15	988	
1929	Boston	Nat. 1B	154	629	87	205	40	9	1	79	329	1398	111	28	982	
1930	Boston	Nat. 1B	116	431	54	133	15	7	3	67	309	915	81	13	987	
1931	Rochester	Int. 1B	159	613	98	198	37	5	3	81	303	1401	125	30	987	
1932	Shreve-Tyler	Texas 1B	70	258	28	74	15	2	1	23	287	637	33	15	978	
American League Totals			1987	6716	1092	2307	344	145	92	966	344	15373	1278	316	987	
National League Totals			388	1551	192	505	81	30	8	214	328	1367	278	56	985	
Major League Totals			2365	8267	1284	2812	425	185	100	1180	340	16876	1554	372	987	

aSold to Washington for \$25,000, December 14, 1927.
bPurchased by Boston N. L. for \$7,500, May 27, 1928.

PITCHING RECORD													
Year	Club	League	G.	IP.	W.	L.	Pct.	H.	R.	ER.	SO.	BB.	ERA.
1915	St. Louis	American	15	70	4	4	.500	62	26	22	41	38	3.83
1916	St. Louis	American	3	27	1	3	.250	18	6	3	12	6	1.80
1917	St. Louis	American	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	2	0	0.00
1918	St. Louis	American	1	2	0	0	.000	1	0	0	1	0	0.00
1919	St. Louis	American	1	2	0	0	.000	0	0	0	3	2	0.00
1920	St. Louis	American	1	2	0	0	.000	0	0	0	2	1	0.00
1921	St. Louis	American	1	2	0	0	.000	0	0	0	2	1	0.00
1922	St. Louis	American	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
1923	St. Louis	American	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
1924	St. Louis	American	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
1925	St. Louis	American	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
1926	St. Louis	American	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
1927	St. Louis	American	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
1928	Washington (b)	Amer.	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
1929	Boston	Nat.	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
1930	Boston	Nat.	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
1931	Rochester	Int.	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
1932	Shreve-Tyler	Texas	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	0.00
Major League Totals			22	103	5	7	.417	81	30	28	89	48	2.13

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obituaries

(Continued From Page 41)

mentor as Coach or Mr. Rickey, even in later years.

Rickey had switched to the Cardinals shortly after Sisler began to blossom, but the Mahatma gave George jobs with the Dodgers and the Pirates in later years. Their mutual respect never lessened.

Sisler, who never played in a World Series, was made manager of the Browns in 1924 and held the job for three years. They weren't the happiest ones in his life.

HE ACTUALLY wasn't suited to be a manager. He didn't have a stinging tongue and he was reluctant to criticize. On top of that, his team was composed of many misfits. Mediocrity was intolerable to Sisler and when he stepped down, he seemed to be relieved.

It also was the beginning of the end of his stay with the Browns. After the 1927 season he was sold to the Senators for \$25,000 and played for them only part of the 1928 campaign before being peddled to the Braves for \$7,500. Not many years before, the Yankees had tried to buy Sisler for \$200,000.

Surprisingly, Sisler did well in Boston, hitting over .300 in all of the three seasons he spent there.

Then in 1931 he went to Rochester (International) the first time he had played in the minors. He was 38 and the eye trouble was still with him, but he hit .303. The next year he managed Shreveport-Tyler (Texas) and also played in 70 games. It was his swan song on the field.

HE WENT INTO the sporting goods business in St. Louis, but leaped at the chance to join Rickey when scouting opportunities opened with the Dodgers and the Pirates. He remained active until a few years ago.

Some of the Sisler skill and all of his enthusiasm rubbed off on his three sons. Dick was a major league player and coach and manager of the Reds for two seasons. Dave was a pitcher with three major league teams and George, Jr., an executive in the sport and now president of the International League.

They all recall with fondness a proud father.

"One day long ago," Dick reminisced, "dad was in the back yard playing catch with Dave, who was pretty young and didn't know much about dad's accomplishments."

"A throw hit dad and Dave yelled, 'Gosh, how did you ever play baseball?' Dad put down the glove, walked into the house and as far as I know never put on the glove again."

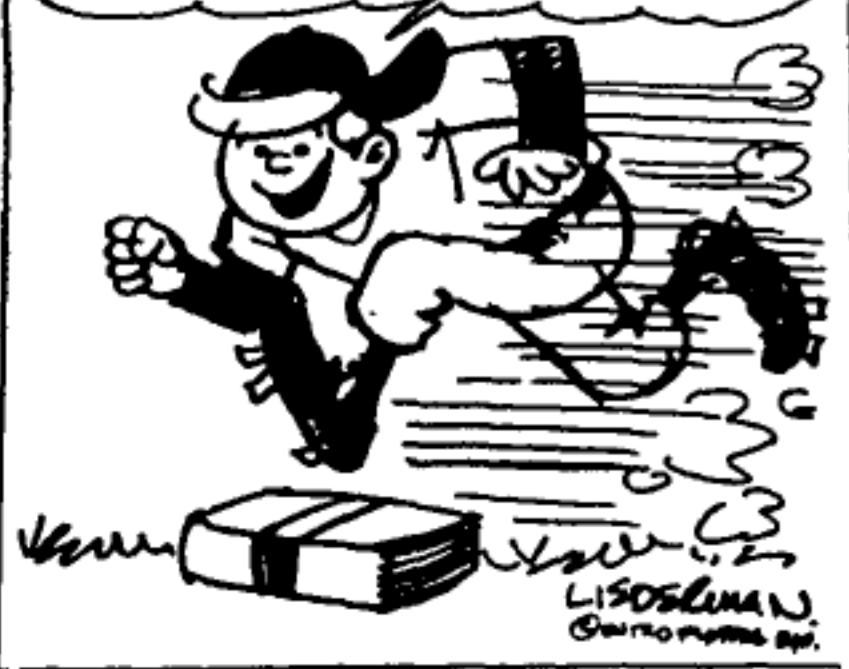
John (Johnny) Drake, a fullback for the Rams when they were in Cleveland, died of a heart ailment in Detroit March 26. He was 56.

A graduate of Purdue, Drake was with the National Football League team from 1937 through 1941, then went into private business.

Drake twice finished second in

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scoring and rushing.

Dutch Clark, who was Drake's coach, called the former Purdue star "the best player I ever coached."

L. A. (Mon) Whitford, baseball coach at Northern Iowa University from 1926 until his retirement in 1965, died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Cedar Falls, Ia., recently. He was 75.

Donald R. (Mousie) MacDonald, a goalie with the old St. Louis Flyers in the American Hockey League, died of a heart attack in St. Louis March 30. He was 46.

John P. Leahy, a veteran college football official in New England, died of a heart ailment recently in Berkshire, Mass. He was 68.

Dr. Alvin E. Longstreth, former athletic director at Little Rock (Ark.) Junior College, died in Little Rock March 22.

Edward M. Brophy, 89, a golf professional in Cincinnati for almost 40 years, died in Sarasota, Fla., March 18.

Frances Griscom, 93, national women's golf champion in 1900, died in Tallahassee, Fla., March 30.

Svare: Norway Was Nice, But Kicker Couldn't

(Continued From Page 72)

called me last October and proposed the trip. He used to live over there, and he said we'd win more games with a European kicker. When I decided to investigate, Kap lined up the candidates and made out the itinerary, including Vienna."

Q. Did you decide on an extravagant trip like this without notifying the Charger owner, Gene Klein?

"No, I called Gene and told him about it."

Q. What did he say?

"He said, 'I'll go with you.'"

Q. How much does it cost to send two scouts to Europe these days?

"Not that much. Less than a bonus for a third-round draft choice—and the returns should be greater."

Q. In the NFL today, the most reliable foreign-born kicker probably is Jan Stenerud of the Chiefs, a Norwegian, and your background is Norway, too. Did you scout anyone in Oslo?

"Yes, that was our first stop after London, and I was really impressed with one of the Norwegian kickers, Christian Toning. He's a big, burly guy. And naturally, as a Norwegian, he has the best personality of anybody we met on the trip."

Q. Why didn't you hire him?

"He didn't kick very well. He would have helped his chances a lot if he could only kick."

Q. Where did you go from Oslo?

"To Copenhagen and then Rome, Istanbul, Athens, Paris and Vienna. We spent two days at each town interviewing candidates and watching them kick soccer balls and footballs on the local soccer fields."

Q. Who were the finalists at each stop?

"As I remember, Franz Randorf in Copenhagen, Georgi Bercellino in Rome, Bekir Ermez in Istanbul, a guy named Developolous, I think it was, in Athens, Boscie Erbt or Erbt Boscie in Paris, and Peter Preiz and Gunter Enz in Vienna."

Q. How did you communicate with those chaps?

"Bob Kap knows the languages. He did the explaining, they did the



GEORGE SISLER (top, second from right) was the last survivor of this group, the first inductees into the Hall of Fame in 1939. Ty Cobb arrived too late at Cooperstown to be included in the photo. First row, from the

left, are Eddie Collins, Babe Ruth, Connie Mack and Cy Young. In the rear row, from the left, are Honus Wagner, Grover Alexander, Tris Speaker, Napoleon Lajoie, Sisler and Walter Johnson.

kicking, and we did the watching."

Q. As a head coach in a sport as sophisticated and scientific as NFL football, didn't you find it a bit beneath you to chase off through Europe recruiting a non-football player?

"No. NFL rules don't say anything one way or the other about Austrian field-goal kickers. It's never been beneath me to score points, and I think your chances today are better with a soccer stylist than an American."

Q. Why?

"There's less room for error in soccer-style kicking, and they're better athletes."

Q. What do you mean by less room for error?

"An American hits the ball with his toe, a European with his instep. Placekicking the American way is like a punch shot in golf. A soccer kicker gets his foot on a larger surface of the ball. The soccer action is more natural—like a golf swing—and easier on the leg."

Q. And you say it takes a better athlete to make the soccer swing?

"No, I didn't mean that. The difference is that in America the kicking specialist is usually a guy who can't do anything but kick. He can't tackle or even run. In Eu-



Harland Svare

rope, however, soccer players are active athletes. They know how to run. They're even used to some contact. They're just better athletes than American specialists."

Q. I'm sure you'd have a hard time selling this to anybody who saw Garo Yepremian in the Super Bowl. His pass attempt on the play when Miami messed up a field-goal was slapstick. The Redskins wouldn't have scored yet without it. Wouldn't you agree?

"Bob Kap tells me Yepremian isn't a soccer player. That is, he wasn't a professional. He played a little in high school."

Q. Yes, but the mistake he made could have been made by almost any specialist who doesn't go on an NFL field except to kick. Most athletes panic a bit when surprised. How are you going to guard against this when your kicker doesn't speak much English?

"We shouldn't have much trouble getting him to understand not to throw the ball up in the air if he suddenly finds it in his hand. On the list of don'ts, that's the first don't. I'll get somebody who understands Austrian to write it down."

Q. Why didn't somebody in Miami write it down in Greek for Yepremian?

"They tell me there are no words in Greek for 'eat the football.'"

Q. Yepremian, you say, wasn't a professional in Europe. Was your man?

"Yes, Gunter Enz played pro soccer eight years. The Europeans coming into the NFL now played first-division soccer over there. That means they're experienced international players—Tony Fritsch of Dallas, Anton Linhart of New Orleans and Enz. They're all Austrians. Horst Muhlmann of Cincinnati played first division in Germany—but as a goal-keeper. The earlier Europeans, guys like Yepremian and the Gogolaks, were amateur soccer players. According to Kap, they couldn't make third division."

Q. As far as American football is concerned, what's the difference if they come out of amateur or pro soccer?

"Pros are steadier. You pick up a lot of poise and maturity playing before those big, screaming soccer crowds year after year."

Q. Why would a major league

European soccer star want to sign on with an American football team as a specialist?

"I wondered about that, too. I guess if you're an Austrian or Norwegian, you ask yourself if life in America is what it seems on TV and in the movies. If it is, you may want to try it."

Q. Is Enz big or little for an American pro? What does he weigh?

"When I asked him he said 12-stone something. I didn't embarrass him by asking him to translate."

Q. How big does he look?

"I'd guess 5-10 and 165 or 170."

Q. Is that enough to hit a football 50 yards?

"Size has nothing to do with moving a ball. Chi Chi Rodriguez hits a golf ball about as far as anybody, and I doubt if he's 5-8 or more than 130."

Q. Is Enz big enough to make tackles on kickoffs?

"Sure. He's a strong, tough professional athlete. All he has to do is learn the techniques. We've got him in Texas with Kap now learning everything about American football."

Q. At your Vienna tryout camp, did you hold the ball for him yourself?

"No. I took a holder along, Charlie Conerly. Charlie used to do it with the Giants."

Q. Holding isn't that tough. A lot of us could have done it, couldn't we?

"So I've heard. When we stopped counting, we had about 186,000 applications. Some of them hadn't played high school football. Some had never even seen a football game."

Q. Well, maybe you'll be visiting Europe again some time?

"It's something to think about. I told Gene Klein the other day that if Gunter is the least bit shaky this season, we may have to go back next winter and hold some more tryouts."

Q. By the way, what ever happened to Duane Thomas?

"I wish I knew. We had two days off in Europe and looked all over for him—the Forum, the Vatican, the Acropolis. I haven't seen him yet."

Los Angeles Times