

Philadelphia Athletics FARM AND WORKING AGREEMENT CLUBS

The Sporting News THE BASE BALL PAPER OF THE WORLD

FROM ALL POINTS OF COMPASS BASEBALL NEWS-GOSSIP-COMMENT

TWIN WINS BY REDS REDOUBLE PENNANT CONFIDENCE IN CINCY

M'CKECHNIE HAVE SWEEP EIGHT BARGAIN BILLS THUS FAR Record Shows 20 Victories Out of 24

CINCINNATI, O.—This city's champion Reds, piloted by Bill McKechnie, the only man who ever managed two winning major league All-Star teams in one year, again appear on the verge of pulling away from their rivals and starting to make a successful drive toward another pennant.

There's no guarantee this sport will do what the others failed to accomplish, but many who profess ability to read the signs might maintain that the Reds now have gone into the lead for the last time and that as the season progresses their first-place margin will grow, instead of shrink.

McKechnie, the canny Scot, refuses to share this view, at least not yet. "Our lead isn't big enough to talk about," he maintains. "We will just go on as we have done all season, win every game possible and hope that we stay on top and increase our lead. But Brooklyn's club hasn't quit and it is not likely to quit."

After winning a double-header from the Phillies here July 14, the Reds, with three games yet to play to complete the first half of their season, had a lead over Brooklyn of two and a half games, had won 15 of their 19 games, including seven straight streak which the Dodgers topped, July 13, and were four games ahead of the Phillies.

Sundays and double-headers continue to be the main mediums through which the Reds fatten their percentage. They now have won 11 of their 19 Sunday games and in double-headers have won 20 games and lost four. Their double victory over the Phillies, July 14, was their eighth sweep of a bargain bill this season. They've made the four others and, if no more double-features are added to their schedule, they still have 14 more of them to play.

They have shown such a liking for double-headers and the Dodgers have done so poorly in them that it may be the bargain bills will provide much Cincinnati's margin of success. The ability of the Reds to cop close games and win while being out of the interesting item. Including the games July 14, McKechnie's champions had 11 games in which they were out-hit also capped 17 times by one run as last six defeats by a single tally.

Whitey Moore joined the ranks of Red pitchers who have gone the route this season by holding the Phillies to four singles in the second game, July 14, which he won, 7 to 1, and in which he forced in Philadelphia's run by walking Chuck Klein with the bases full and one out in the ninth. Whitey pitched steady ball the rest of the game.

Jim Turner, pitching his sixth victory of the season and his fourth straight, gave ten hits, all singles, to the Phils in the 3 to 2 first game. The three-game first-place war with Brooklyn's Dodgers here last week came up to expectations in that each game was hotly contested and full of excitement.

Naming of Trosky as Captain Viewed as Peace Move by Vitt

Big First Baseman Was Listed as One of Indians' Insurrectos Against O' Os as Manager; Boudreau's Play on Trip Strengthens Claim to 'Rookie of Year' Title

CLEVELAND, O.—Hal Trosky, the big blond from Iowa, who has played a major role in American League affairs since 1934—picked by the All-Star teams to the contrary notwithstanding—has won special recognition from Manager Oscar Vitt. Vitt has named Trosky field captain, a distinction which not only carries with it extra remuneration, but which makes the trial first baseman the first official captain the team has had since 1927, when Jack McCallister named George Burns to the role.

Misses by a Blister

Robert W. Feller In the eighth inning, July 12, deprived Bob Feller, Cleveland ace, from becoming the second pitcher in major league history to hurl two no-hit games in the same season. The Cleveland Indians' speed king set down the Philadelphia Athletics without their own lighting system for seven innings without the semblance of a blow. Then Dick Siebert met the first pitch in the eighth for a hit that rolled over second base.

The performance was one of the best of Feller's star-studded career. He walked only two men and struck out 13 to win a 1 to 0 decision from Johnny Babich. It was Rapid Robert's fourth victory. Siebert was the fourth player in the last three seasons to spoil a no-hitter for Feller. Two of the four were former Indians. Billy Sullivan, then with the St. Louis Browns, beat out a bunt to deprive Feller of no-hit distinction early in 1938.

After the July 12 game, Catcher Rollie Hemsey explained that a blister on Feller's finger probably was indirectly responsible for Siebert's hit. Hemsey noticed the sore spot before the eighth inning and decided to call for nothing but fast balls. Siebert, a well-known first-ball hitter, undoubtedly would have drawn the curv under other conditions—and the Athletics weren't hitting Feller's curve. They weren't even seeing it.

Holiday Takes Gadsden Reins From Hands of Billy Bancroft

GADSDEN, Ala.—The Gadsden Pilots, who have been "low to get into the first division fight this year, despite what was regarded by club officials as an ample array of talent, came up with a managerial shakeup last week. President James F. Mann announced that Billy Bancroft had resigned as skipper and that Hughie Holiday, veteran outfielder, who signed with the Pilots this spring, had been named manager.

While no change had been indicated, the shakeup was not altogether a surprise, as the Pilots' managers were disappointed with the showing of the team. The club started with several key men from last year's first-division crew, purchased several more and in addition the Pittsburgh Pirates, with whom the Pilots have a working agreement, sent down players.

Oklahoma City Brings in Adkins, 16-Game Pine Bluff Winner

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—Playoff chances of his Oklahoma City Indians are fading fast, so Manager Rogers Hornsby called in Dewey Adkins from Pine Bluff, Ark., on the mound States League to bolster his rotation. Adkins, who is expected to await the outcome of the still-administered arm treatment by Lewis McLendon, another righthander. McLendon has been suspended for 15 days and has returned to his Sylacauga, Ala., home to attempt to regain his form in daily workouts.

SOUTHWORTH BEGINS DEBUNKING SOME OF RICKEY BURBANKING

MANAGER OF CARDINALS CONVINCED PADGETT IS NOT A CATCHER Plans to Send Big Fellow to Outer Garden and May Shift Mize; Browns Fall Back Into Old Losing Ways

ST. LOUIS, MO.—As the unrelenting Cardinals ramble down a zig-zag course to nowhere in particular, it is becoming more and more evident that Billy Southworth is on his own. In other words, he is not wearing the Rickey collar. Sink or swim, Billy is dictating his own policies and running the Cardinals as he best sees fit. He can well do this, because it is understood that he has a straight contract without the ten-day release clause, such as his predecessor, Ray Blades, worked under.

This premise is founded on facts of action that cannot be refuted. There is, for instance, the Southworth idea that Padgett is not a catcher, but an outfielder. We personally like big, red-faced Don, but never fully reconciled ourselves to the idea that he was a catcher. As a .399 hitter last season, there was some reason to believe that he belonged where the manager placed him, as an asset at any price with a batting average like that.

At any rate, Branch Rickey is seeing his grandest dream of Burbanking being destroyed. Southworth has come to the conclusion that Padgett is not a catcher. He is grooming Don for a return to the outfield where he will be away from passed balls and stolen bases. Mize May Be Tried in Outfield And that isn't all. Southworth has had First Baseman Johnny Mize working out in the garden. The Mighty Mize, who has 23 home runs to his credit, somehow is worse this year as a fielder at first base than he has been in the last couple of seasons. He isn't moving any faster than a ten-ton truck, and whatever Southworth has in mind, it is evident that he believes games are being lost on those four-line drives along the right field line.

Southworth can afford to gamble at first because of the clever Johnny Hopp on his squad. This young man can field with deftness and is a fair enough swinger with the bat. But what Manager Billy is going to do with all his outfielders, allowing that he intends to go through with his conversions of Mize and Padgett to the garden, is something that would give Solomon a good tussle. It is possible that he will arrange to have an all-lefthanded hitting outfield when a righthander is working against the Cards. This kind of a setup would benefit Terry Moore, the defensive centerfielder in the business, on those occasions, but the club is begging for power to overcome pitching delinquencies. This would mean Padgett in right, Mize in left and probably Enos Slaughter in center.

At any rate, Southworth, who was made manager on the personal selection of Sam Breadon, now is trying to get the best he can out of the club for the remainder of the season. He confers with Breadon almost daily. His troubles and problems are taken up with Sam, rather than with Rickey. He is on his own, so to speak, and trying to swing things around so that he won't have two strikes on him next season. The Cardinals had dropped six in a row up to July 13, when they smacked over the Giants in an upset fight. In the first game of a double-header and pulled through in the nightcap for another win, 4 to 3. They carried the streak over into July 14 with a couple of late-inning victories at the expense of the Boston Bees, 8 to 7 and 3 to 2. The second game of the Bee double duel was dictated by the pitching of Bill McGee, who notched his seventh triumph.

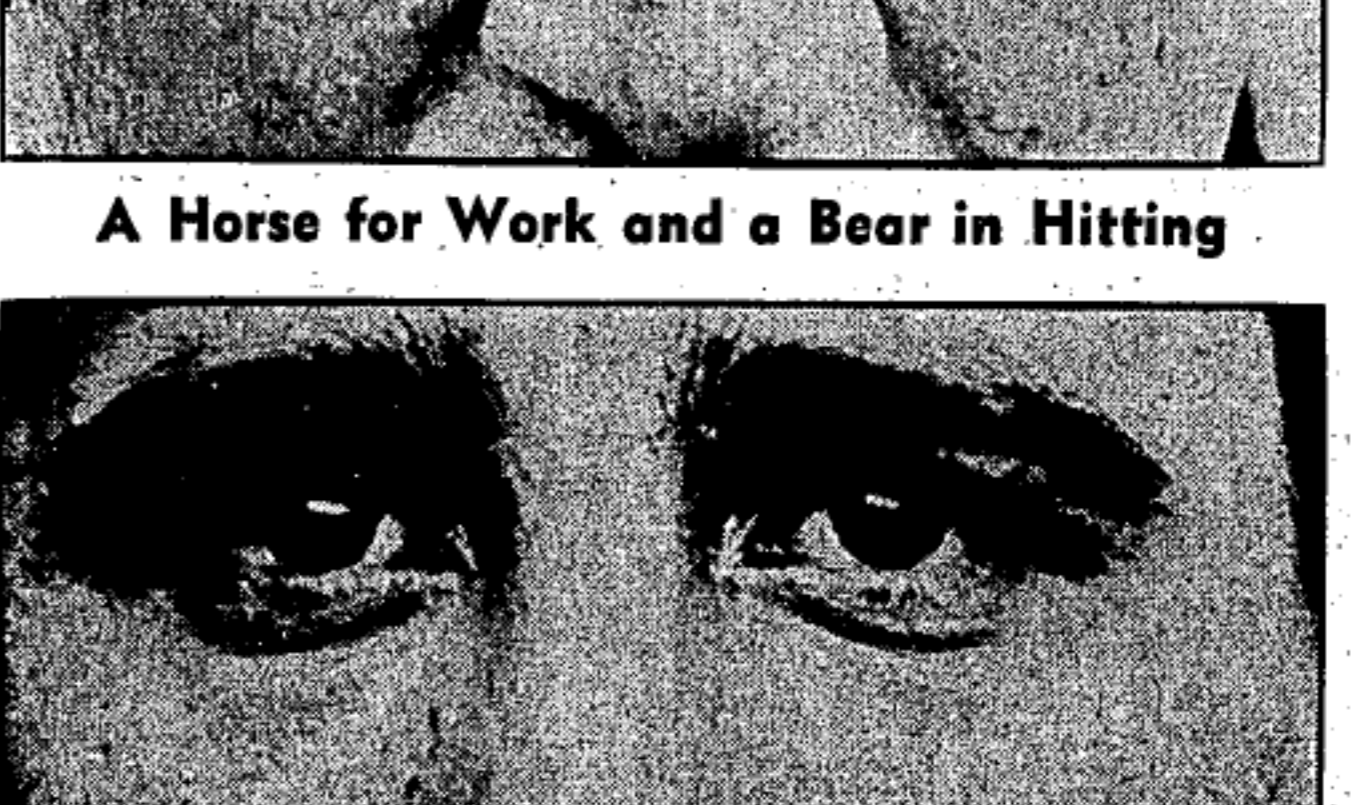
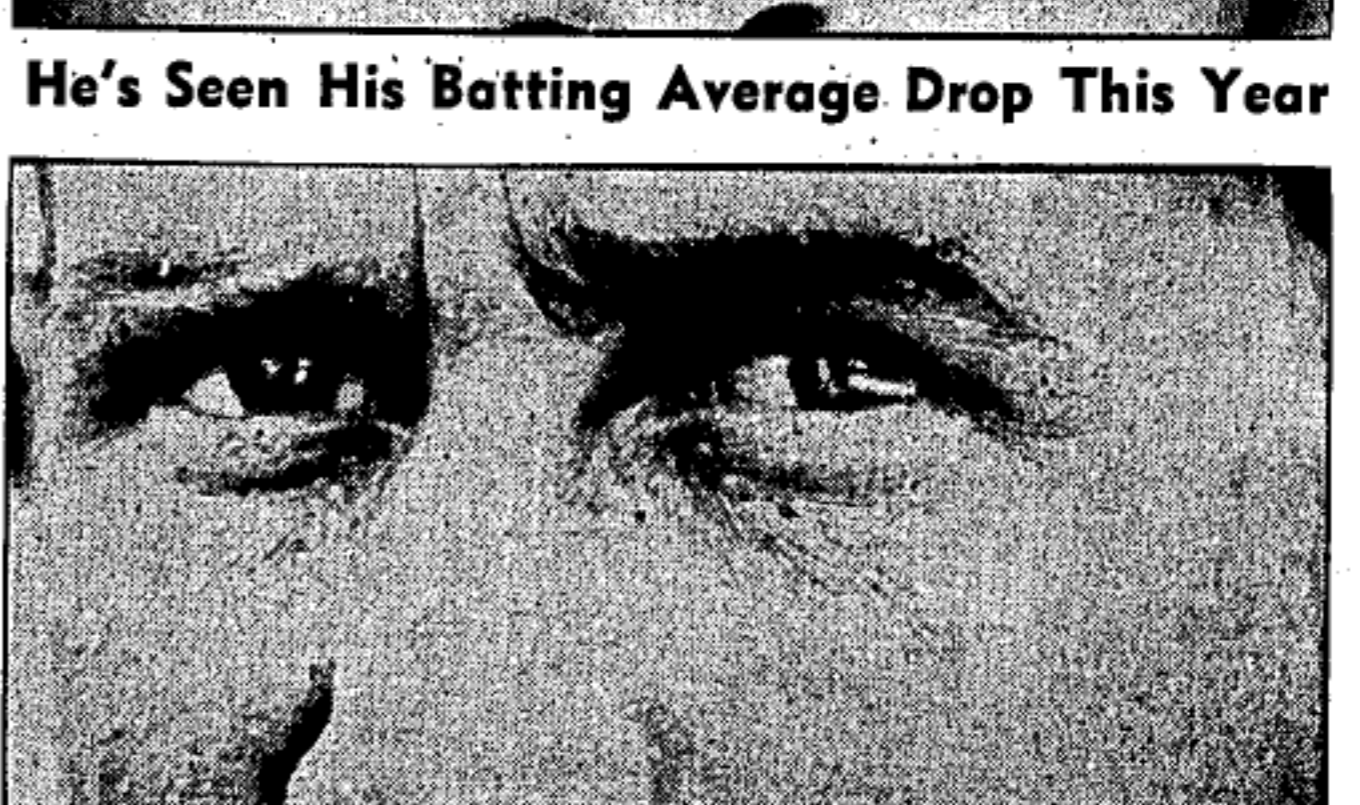
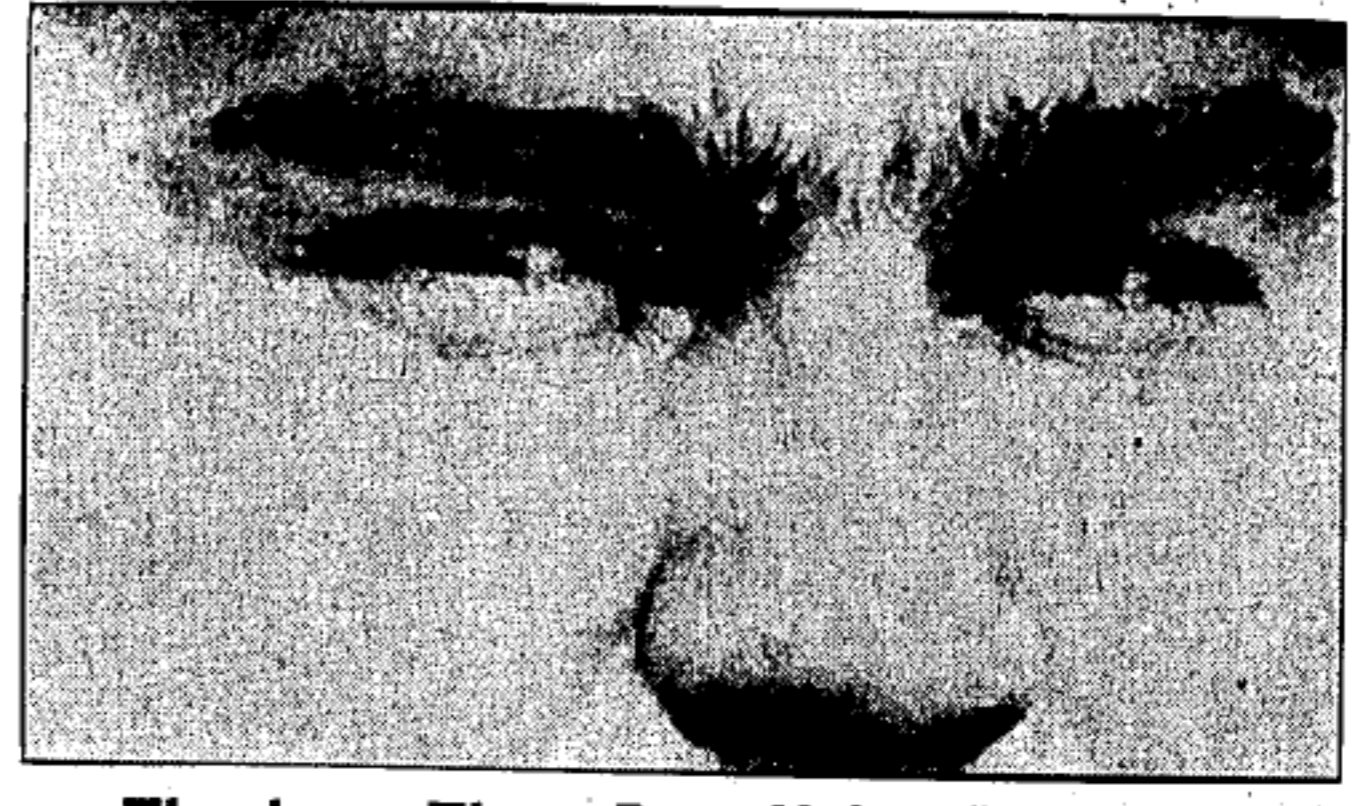
Orengo and Marlon Making Grade In justice to Southworth and the team as a whole, it must be said that a couple of grand infielders are being played into big leaguers. They are Joe Orengo and Martin Marlon. Orengo, besides being a fine fielder, has hit remarkably well, and the same might be said of Marlon. Jimmy Brown again is active, and this little sparkplug fits in whether he is at third, short or second. Perhaps better days are ahead for the Cards, but the chance of an upsetting on a dash such as they did last year is becoming more and more remote. The Browns have slipped to a point where they are on the brink of their well-known catch berth. At this writing, they look 13 in a row and there is no good reason to believe that Fred Haney would ever get them off their backs. It is a rather tragic circumstance for a team that had fought so nobly to gain a place in the sun. As a matter of fact, it was only a short time weeks ago that the Browns occupied for a day a berth just ahead of the Yanks in fourth place.

Charleston, S. C., Takes Over Spartanburg Sally Franchise

SPARTANBURG, S. C.—The eleventh-hour attempt of Cecil (Dusty) Rhodes, president-manager of the Spartanburg club, to keep the Sally League franchise in this city failed, July 15, and E. M. Wilder, league president, announced that it had been transferred to Charleston, S. C. It was a sad day for Spartanburg fans. In financial difficulties since the opening of the season, the surrender of the franchise to the league and its transfer to another city, however, was not unexpected. Rhodes, an excellent manager, tried to raise enough money to keep the club here, but there was no response. The Spartanburg Journal, commenting on the transfer of the club, said: "You fans have spoken—or, rather, you haven't spoken—but your silence has told Manager Rhodes and the South Atlantic League officials what they wanted to know. And we are not blaming you one bit. Time and time again you have indicated you wanted a club here—a winning club—but you've never had it. Promises have been made, but something always happened and they never came out right." Bob LaMotte, formerly an official of the Savannah Indians, will be sole owner of the new Charleston club. LaMotte said work of putting the Charleston park in playable condition would get under way immediately, with the team making its home debut sometime between July 24 and July 31. Rhodes will continue as manager, it was stated. L. D. BRAY.

WHAT'S YOUR SCORE in the TWO-EYE LEAGUE?

How Many of These Major League Stars Can You Identify? Score 16 2-3 Points for Each, Out of a Possible 100% Answers Will Be Found on Page 2 TRY YOUR ORBS ON THESE OPTICS



11 YANKEES LISTED AS BEING ON SPOT, FIGHTING FOR JOBS

DANIEL ASSERTS EVEN RED ROLFE 'MUST LOOK TO LAURELS' Crosetti, Dahlgren, Six Pitchers Among Those Likely Seeing Last Year In N. Y. Uniform; Cucinello Disappoints

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Well, m'lads and lassies, after that All-Star game our faces are a little red around here. To be sure, Mel Ott, Harry Danning and Carl Hubbell of the Giants comported themselves with success late in the battle at St. Louis, and wangled that fourth run off Bobby Feller. But the five Yankees who were on the starting nine for the American League contributed about as much as you could crowd into the left ear of a midget goat. The Yanks sailed out to conquer the world, and they meandered in among the badly beaten.

It would seem that as the Yankees go, so goes the American League. You might paste that in your hat and refer to it in October. However, the All-Star game is out of the way and now for the second half of the pennant races. The Dodgers are very much in the fight, even though folks with whom I talked at St. Louis expressed a strong preference for the Reds, with Paul Derringer and Buck Walters. That was even before Paulus and Buckus pitched four innings of exemplary ball against the American leaguers. Still, the Dodgers are the "hustling" guys in the majors, and may make it in spite of expert opinion to the contrary.

Leaving the Dodgers for the more erudite lubrications of Thomas Holmes, let us examine the Yankees and the Giants. Those Yanks are very much on the spot. I don't mind telling you they are fighting for their jobs—at least 11 of them—despite the way they went through the Browns here. The Giants will have to produce, too, or there will be quite a few changes there, as well. This game of ball is strange, any way you look at it. Last winter Burgess Whitehead was supposed to be let out, now he is rated the strongest entrenched Giant on the club.

Non-Trading Rule Also to Get Ax The American League rule barring trades for the pennant-winning club will be tossed out in December. It came up for scant consideration at St. Louis, where a good deal of the conversation was about attendance, night ball, the All-Star game, and the umpires. In the National League meeting, virtually all the time was devoted to the umpires, who sure are on the griddle. If the Yanks don't win again, the non-trading rule, of course, will not affect them, whether it stands or goes. Another factor in the situation will be new ownership under Jim Farley. The new owners will want action, and a winner.

There are some players in the chain who must come up in 1941. The outfielders are Phil Rizzuto and Gerald Priddy of Kansas City. Joe McCarthy is going to need a lot of pitchers, and he is going to be the most active trader in the league. The Red Sox are sure to tear things apart, too. The relief pitching of the Yankees looks to be in a state of collapse. There's where the ax will fall, win or lose, with greatest effect. It looks as if six pitchers might be put on the danger list.

At this writing, the Yankees have been in seven losing games. They have lost every one of them. At this writing, the Yankees have dropped no fewer than ten decisions by one run. They have won only six games by that slim margin, carry the Yankees into overtime, and they are whipped because they haven't any relief pitching. Creep up on the Yankees and make them change pitchers, and the chances are, 10 to 6, that you will beat them. Through four pennant winning years the Bombers would have won seven of the ten one-run games they lost; five of the seven overtime games they dropped.

The bullpen presents no relief for the Yanks in emergencies, and the first thing McCarthy must do is to remedy this serious situation. Henrich Working Again on First Of course, Babe Dahlgren still is under fire. He is the greatest fielding first baseman the game has seen in five years, but he has not been hitting. Now he is around .245. McCarthy has been giving Tom Henrich long workouts around first base, and it looks as if Joe were toying with that idea all over again. With Rizzuto and Priddy coming up, some of our infield lads in other stations are on the spot. Frankie Crosetti, even Red Rolfe around third, will have to look to their laurels.

To make it short and plain, from now on the Yanks are not fighting just to avoid being whipped after they had opened 2 to 5 pennant favorites. They are fighting for their jobs, fighting desperately to remain with the big club in the big city where the big money always has been. The boys are alive to the situation, they are hustling. But some of them haven't the nervous energy. Business around here has been good. The Yankees lead the American League in home attendance. At St. Louis, Ed Barrow reported 400,000, with the Tigers second and the Athletics, with an amazing 355,000. Third, Cleveland showed only 340,000. In the National League, the Dodgers reported 500,000 and the Giants were second.

The chances are that Brooklyn again will pass the million mark and keep the attendance championship it won last year, with 1,090,000. With Frank Demaree back, the Giants look better. But Mel Ott just isn't hitting. He still won't wear those glasses. Harry Danning is slugging, but now Joe Moore is not doing so well. The pitching is okeh, but it is entitled to more big innings, and it has not been getting them. Terry has run into quite a few disappointments. In the first place, there is Mickey Wittek. He is too slow a fielder to suit his manager, and it would surprise no one if in the fall he were put on the block. Wittek had a close call from being sent to Jersey City. Whether he is at second or at short, Wittek does not get the ball away fast.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2, COLUMN 2)