

'ONE FOR BOOK' NIPS WALTERS' WIN STRING

VICTORIOUS RUN DENIED RED ACE IN BID FOR TENTH STRAIGHT

**Park Attendant Failed to Remove Night
Game Canvas, Nullifying Craft Homer;
Reds Find Selves in Real Fight**

CINCINNATI, O.—Those fans who thought a month ago that Bill McKeehne was trying to prevent his Reds from becoming overconfident when he kept saying "over and over" that they believed the National League was in for another ding-dong pennant race with at least three, possibly four clubs in the thick of it for some time, are beginning to believe that Cincinnati's silent strategist was on the level and not spoofing.

This was brought home when the champions got only an even break in four games with Brooklyn, losing the first two, even though in the four games the Reds made 51 hits for 88 bases and scored 32 runs to 36 hits for 56 bases and 17 runs by the Dodgers.

Fathered to scatter their hits and runs so that they would bring them more than two victories in four games.

The Dodgers not only were efficient enough to get an even break while being outslugged and outscored by the Reds but they also were able to raise the money. Crosey fielded 54,000 paid admissions at home 7, 1, 2 and 3, but they succeeded in doing much the same at the away games. The 1935 season was a very intelligent Crosey field draws worker—what no other team had been able to do this season—defeat Bucky Walters. The 11-inning 4-to-2 defeat of Sir Bucky in the series opener, June 7, is one for the book—a game which the Reds won in the ninth, only failed to make stick. It was like this: When night ball was introduced here in 1935, Larry MacPhail,

then general manager of the Reds and now president of the Dodgers, saw to it that all details connected with the lighting system were letter perfect, and decreed that for night games two shields should be erected above and back of the center field fence to prevent the glare.

General John A. Vance to prevent the glare of street lights on Western avenue from shining into anyone's eyes. These shields, made of green canvas, are about two and a half feet by three feet, at least that part of them which projects above the fence is about that size.

Ground Keeper Muffled Routine
For five years it has been a routine matter for the park's ground crew to put up these shields for night games, then take them down before the next day game was played. It has become so routine that Grounds Superintendent Matty Schwab

The ground rule is that balls striking these shields and rebounding to the field are in play. Only no batted ball ever

struck one of them, that is not until the ninth inning of the June 7 game, when with Walters engaged in a 2 to 2 mound duel with Hugh Casey, the successor on Brooklyn's hill in that game to Tot Pressnell, Harry Craft opened for Cincinnati with a drive to left center. His smash

skimmed over the top of the concrete fence, struck one of the shields and rebounded to the field. Fast work by Dixie Walker held the fleet Craft to a triple on that drive which would have been a game-winning homer had the shield been taken down as was customary. Craft was

At the time Craft had to stop at this on what would have been a legitimate and game-winning homer, no one rooted for the Reds thought much of it because

However, Craft didn't get home. Myer took a third strike, Walters grounded Lavagetto and Werber grounded to Derocher, making Craft one of the 12 Red Sox players who were out in the inning.

That, however, wasn't the only unusual feature of that game which brought Waters his defeat. Ival Goodman doubled to center with one out in the tenth, Fra

McCormick was passed purposely and Er Lombardi drove a fly to deep right. A present could tell that Jimmy Wasd was going to catch Lombardi's drive. McKeechie, coaching at third, yelled Goodman to tag up and come to the after the catch. But Goodman ran me

than half-way to third, had to go back to second and missed his chance to advance. And on the next play, Duroch threw high to first for an error which would have let Goodman score from the winning run, had he been there. Instead, he merely got to third and

Enter Camilli, the Villain
In the eleventh, Joe Vosmik opened with a single, advanced to third on two field outs and then walked in when D

The Reds more than avenged Buck's defeat, June 8, with a 23-to-2 victory which Fred Fitzsimmons was charged with the loss because he yielded the first four runs in the first two innings.

The Reds made no records in that game but their 27 hits for 42 bases was quite a batting performance. Their 23 runs set a new high for 1940 while Carl Doyle being made to pitch four innings when he plainly wasn't a big league pitcher.

at least that day, yielded 14 runs and 10 hits and hit four batsmen, thus equalling the modern big league record for the most batsmen hit by one pitcher in one game. All told, 62 Reds went to bat in that game and 44 of them took their turns at the plate in five consecutive innings, starting

It certainly wasn't the sort of baseball anyone buying a ticket to a big league park should expect, while the first game of the June 9 double-header which Brooklyn won 2 to 1 also was far from being

In that one Tex Carleton, pitching his first victory since he held the Reds hitless and runless here, April 30, worked beau-

tifully, with the only Red advancing as far as second being Frank McCormick on his seventh-inning homer. Jim Turner, Joe Beggs, John Hutchings and Johnny Vander Meer were hit effectively by the Dodgers.

back on even terms with their challengers, saw Gene Thompson hurl a neat winner, 6 to 2, over Whitlow Wyatt at Tot Pressnell, and also do his share at bat with a single and a double. It was his second victory of the week, the younger

He now has won three straight games after losing three in a row, and in the three winners allowed only six runs. Paul Derringer, after losing two straight, has

It does not appear likely that Cincinnati's club will make any big league player deal before midnight, June 15. The club's bosses, while not wholly satisfied with their squad, see slight chance to improve it by trade or purchase at this time.

improve it by trade or purchase in
time, and there's not even a rumble
a possible deal to be heard.

10. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 283: 2686-2692.

Pirates See a New Pollet--It's Howie in Old Form Again

Southpaw Regains Weight, Impresses in Early Tests; Bucs Show Good Pitching, But Scarcity of Hitting

By LES BIEDERMAN

HOUSTON, Tex.



Howie Pollet

The Pirates are looking at the Howie Pollet of a few years ago this spring and several of the players boldly are predicting the former Cardinal southpaw ace will come back with at least 15 victories for the Bucs.

Pollet had little or no spring training a year ago, because he was a Cardinal holdout. Then he was thrown back when he caught the flu bug in New York. His weight dropped from 175 to 167 and he never could pick up the pounds he lost.

Howie simply didn't have his good fast ball and his curve last season. When he joined the Pirates, he gave it everything he had, but he didn't have very much.

When he checked into San Bernardino this spring, he was the new Pollet. His weight was 176 and he was strong. He didn't get a chance to pitch in the exhibitions until he faced the Giants, March 13, then put on a dazzling performance.

In his second outing against the White Sox, March 22, Pollet was the first Pirate pitcher to go as many as six innings and looked better than ever.

He blanked the Giants through four innings on two hits and gave the Sox one earned run and five hits (two of them infield scratches) in six innings. But more important, Pollet was throwing hard and he had something on the ball.

Manager Bill Meyer thinks Pollet is terrific. "He never gives up, that fellow," Meyer said after his work against the White Sox. "He gave only one walk in the six innings, and two infield taps loaded the bases with none out in the first. Johnny Merson threw a double play ball into left field and the Sox had three runs in, a man on second and none out."

"But he retired the side without allowing a ball to go beyond the infield. Many pitchers would give up in a situation like that. But not Pollet. "If we can score a few runs for him this year, he could be a big winner. I believe I'd match him with any lefthander in baseball. There's a fellow with class and poise and know-how."

Dickson Victim of Loose Support in '52 Bow

Murry Dickson made his first start of the exhibition season against the White Sox, March 23, and while he gave up three runs in three innings, he should have held the American leaguers scoreless. Two errors ruined Dickson in the first inning, and when Gus Bell nonchalantly played Don Nicholas' single, Nicholas quickly turned it into a double. A bloop single scored him.

The rookie pitchers—Ron Necciai, Ron Kline, Jim Waugh and Ed Wolfe—continued to sparkle and they certainly have a chance to break in as regulars.

Rookie Dick Hall was still holding down first base and beginning to hit hard again, and Rookie Bobby Del Greco was making more headway in center field each game. Rookie Lee Walls played third base in the eleventh straight game, March 23, but the brass feels he needs more seasoning in the minors.

The Pirates built themselves a budding winning streak of five straight the last two victories coming in corking exhibitions against the Giants and Indians, but then the Indians, Cubs and White Sox toned them down.

The 3 to 2 victory over the Giants at San Berdoo, March 18, was a game worthy of midsummer between pennant contenders. It was scoreless for the first ten innings and the Giants tallied twice in the eleventh. Then the Pirates came back with three runs after two men were out. Hall contributing a vital single for one run and Pinch-Hitter Bill Howerton whacking a two-run triple on the first pitch.

The next day Jim Suchecki, obtained from the Browns, shut out the Indians on one hit in five innings, and 18-year-old Jim Waugh yielded two runs to Cleveland, after facing nine batters in three innings.

The Pirates collected three first-inning runs off Bob Feller and made them stand up to win, 3 to 2. Hall was impressive in this game, beating out a bunt and then dumping Snuffy Stirnweiss at second base to foil a double play.

With Waugh on the mound, the average age of the team that was on the field against the Indians in the late stages of this game, exclusive of Catcher Clyde McCullough, was a mere 23 years.

Rint-Size Koshorek Impresses as Fielder

Clem Koshorek has been impressing the Coast fans with his skill in the field, but the five-foot, six-inch shortstop is having difficulty hitting. However, he kept the Pirates' faces from being red in the 2 to 0 loss to the Indians at Hollywood, March 20, when he scratched a single off Bob Lemon and belted a clean single off Mike Garcia for the Bucs' only two hits.

The Pirates have been getting terrific pitching this spring, but they haven't shown much of an attack. In a stretch of five straight games against major league teams they scored only ten runs, but managed to win two.

With three weeks behind them in camp, it appeared the biggest problem of the Pirates will continue to be the infield. Although Hall has been performing capably at first base, Meyer says not one infield job is yet secure.

Meyer was toying with the idea of testing Hall at third base in order to bring George Metkovich's lefthanded swatting into the lineup. As now constituted, the Bucs have only one lefthanded hitter, Gus Bell.

Pirate Scoreboard: Vice-President Tom Johnson flew to San Bernardino to catch the Pirates in several of their final games before leaving California. . . . Clyde McCullough went from first to third on a bunt in the first game against the Indians. . . . The Pirates and Indians drew only 543 fans in cold weather at Hollywood the night of March 20 and each team took \$247 as its share of the gate. The same afternoon, the Cubs and White Sox attracted only 602 fans at Wrigley Field. . . . National League President Warren Giles saw the Pirate-Cub exhibition at San Bernardino, March 21. . . . The Pirates and White Sox drew an overflow crowd of 3,449 at San Bernardino for their Sunday exhibition, March 23, the largest attendance in history at the Buc training grounds. Ralph Kiner missed the March 23 contest because of a heavy cold. . . . Jack Phillips flew home to Marilla, N. Y., when he was notified of the death of his father.

Red Sox Keep Fingers Crossed as Marines Test Williams' Arm

Betting Is Even on Whether Ted Will Pass Physical for Recall to Air Corps

By AL HIRSHBERG

SARASOTA, Fla.

The Red Sox approached April 2 as a day of reckoning or a day of release. On that date, Ted Williams reports for his physical examination for active duty in the Marine Air Corps. He will take the exam at Jacksonville, and many Red Sox hopes are riding high on the result. If Williams passes, his baseball career will be all but over. If he flunks, he'll be available to the club, and the Red Sox' position in the standings this year will be definitely affected.

The betting is about even money on whether or not he'll pass. If the Marines want him for flying purposes only—and that's what they want of their other air corps reserves whom they have called in—there's a good chance that Williams won't get by. If they want him for publicity purposes, with the intention of giving him something else to do if he isn't fit to fly, according to their rigid standards, he'll undoubtedly pass the test.

Actually, the Marines don't need Williams for publicity purposes. They have him anyhow. They've used radio platters by him for over a year, urging young men to join the Marines. They can continue to use him, even if he fails to measure up to their physical requirements for flying. They don't have to wreck his baseball career for publicity purposes. If the Marines do take Williams and don't fly him, they'll get nothing but bad publicity anyhow.

Injury Left Its Mark

Williams definitely has an elbow defect, the aftermath of the bone break he suffered in the 1950 All-Star Game at Chicago. Through strategic exercises and close application to them, he was ready to play before that season ended, but it was an unusual recovery, and the injury did leave its mark. The Red Sox slugger has use of his left arm for ordinary purposes, and he could pass an ordinary physical. However, he cannot twist and turn it a full 360 degrees, and the left arm is slightly shorter than the right.

At the time it first was announced that the Marines were calling Williams back to active duty, we talked to two doctors who, while they refused to allow their names to be used, had quite definite opinions on the subject. One was on active duty in the Navy and was thoroughly familiar with Marine flight requirements, but he had never examined Williams. The other was thoroughly familiar with the Williams case, had examined Williams and had formerly served in the Navy. However, he was not familiar with present-day flight requirements.

In the case of the doctor on active duty, Williams' condition, so far as

This . . .



Williams as Red Sox

. . . or This?



. . . as Marine Flier

was known, was carefully described, although not in medical terms, and the doctor replied, "If Williams does not have 360-degree use of either arm, and if one arm is shorter than the other, it is probable that he will not pass the Marine flight physical, although these conditions will not prevent him from passing practically any other physical given by any other branch of the service. I couldn't venture any more of an opinion without giving an examination myself."

"If conditions are as described and you were the examining doctor, would you pass Williams?" he was asked.

"If conditions are as described and I were the examining doctor," he replied, "I would not pass Williams for active flight duty."

"If he couldn't pass flight requirements, would Williams be eligible for any other branch of the Marine Corps?"

"It is customary," the Navy doctor answered, "to release air corps reserve men who, when called up, are unable to satisfy requirements for active duty. I say this is customary. It is not mandatory, although I have never heard of anyone being shifted. I should think that Williams would be handled like anyone else. I would say that, if he couldn't pass the physical, he would be permanently released to civilian life."

The former Navy doctor who knew Williams' situation but was no longer

Slugger Does Not Have Full 360-Degree Use of Arm Hurt in '50 All-Star Game

familiar with Marine Air Corps requirements definitely asserted that the trouble with Williams' arm today is a slight narrowing of his radius of operation and a slight difference in the length of his arms.

"Under those conditions, and in consideration of present-day requirements, do you think Williams could pass the Marine flight physical?" he was asked.

"If present-day requirements demand 360-degree use of his arm," he answered, "and if they also demand that one arm not be appreciably shorter than the other, I don't see how Williams could get by. They'll have to turn him down unless they intend to use him for purposes other than flying."

Keeps on Playing

In the meantime, Williams continued to play ball in exhibition games, while waiting to go to Jacksonville for this all-important exam. When the Red Sox arrived in Miami during a recent Florida trip, he stayed at his own home and joined the team back in Sarasota later in the week. He was scheduled to remain with the club until after the exhibition game at Memphis, March 31, when he was to leave for Jacksonville.

Williams has been careful not to express an opinion about his own condition. He actually doesn't know what to expect. Neither does anyone else at the moment.

If he is available to the Red Sox, they're pennant contenders. If he isn't, no one can be sure just what they are.

Sox Shorts: Manager Lou Boudreau is satisfied with his radical batting order shift, which finds the pitcher batting seventh, Billy Goodman ninth and Ted Williams second. However, he won't decide whether he will use it in the championship race until just before the season begins. . . . Looks as if Johnny Pesky will be the third baseman this year. He is familiar with the position and the experiment of using him at second did not work out. . . . The Red Sox need more catching strength. Gus Niarhos is doing a good job, but he's frail and brittle. As long as he's all right, the position is well handled, but the Sox are weak behind him. Al Evans is a fading veteran and Sammy White is a promising but inexperienced youngster. The Red Sox have nobody but themselves to blame for this catching situation. They had both Birdie Tebbetts and Matt Batts, and let the two go for a song. Tebbetts was sold to the Indians for the waiver price in the fall of 1950. Batts went in part payment for Les Moss in a fantastically stupid deal with the Browns last summer. Moss flopped so badly that the Sox sold him back to the Browns a few months ago. As for Batts, he's now the Tigers' first-string catcher and one of the most improved receivers in the business.

LABINE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

to take a look at Labine. Also at hand to inspect him was Drensen, then the Lip's chief lieutenant. They were impressed, particularly because of Labine's sinker. Clem broke his right index finger playing football and the crooked finger provides him with a natural sinker.

Clem was so delighted with his borrowed Dodger uniform that he still

Height Likely to Keep Buc Rookie Hall Out of Service

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif.—Dick Hall, the Pirates' 21-year-old rookie first baseman who appears to be bridging the gap between college and the major leagues, may stay out of service because of his height.

Hall first received word that he would be deferred by his draft board because he still is listed as a student at Swarthmore College. Later, the draft board at Towson, Md., notified him that he might be subject to call sometime this summer.

However, service regulations bar a man over six feet, six inches in height. Hall is six feet, six and one-half inches tall.

hadn't taken it completely off when the first game of the double-header was over. The Brooks had just lost another and Durocher was raging when he stormed into the dressing room. He didn't stop to see who the culprit was. He merely noticed an apparent Dodger half undressed.

"What the hell are you doing undressed?" he barked. "Get into uniform again while we have a meeting."

"Yes, sir," said Clem, too flustered to tell the Dandy Little Manager that he wasn't a member of Leo's nine.

Got \$500 for Signing

The next day Clem's father signed a contract for him—the boy was still under age—for a \$500 bonus and \$200 a month to play for Newport News. The boy played a few months and went off to war. Then he was merely another product rolling off the assembly line at the Vero Beach baseball factory Branch Rickey ran. Fresco Thompson kept insisting the boy was ready for the big leagues, but no one listened.

When Clem was yanked up to the varsity from St. Paul in midsummer, he limped into Ebbets Field. He'd sprained his ankle trying to knock over an enemy catcher while scoring the winning run in the ninth inning the day before. He knocked him over, too. He scored the run, too. That's the kind of competitor he is. Now he has his big chance. Most folks think he'll make good.

McKechnie Agrees to Stay as Red Sox Pitching Coach

EN ROUTE NORTH WITH RED SOX—Bill McKechnie, only manager to win pennants with three different major league teams, has agreed to serve as pitching coach of the Red Sox throughout the American League season. McKechnie had been coaching the Red Sox hurlers in spring training, but had not made plans to coach them through the year. He comes to the Red Sox on a one-season basis. McKechnie has managed three different clubs to pennants and coached a fourth. He was pilot of the 1925 Pirates, 1928 Cardinals and 1939 and 1940 Reds, and coached the '48 Indians under his present Red Sox manager, Lou Boudreau. Three of the clubs, the Pirates, '40 Reds and Indians, also capped world's championships.

Bill, co-owner of a produce farm in Bradenton, Fla., did not break camp with the Red Sox, but planned to rejoin them on their northward jaunt.

McKechnie had been out of the game since drawing his release from Cleveland, January 10, 1950.

Although his Red Sox salary was not made public, he is understood to be the highest-priced coach in baseball.

BIRTEWELL