

SPORTS

Weak Hitting Still Plague To Cincy Reds

By United Press

That old redger jinx — lack of hitting power — promises to keep Cincinnati in the National League's second division again this season.

Although they have a new pilot, Johnny Neun, and have added several promising new players, the management is trying desperately to make a deal for a right-handed cleanup hitter, preferably and outfielder. There is also a dearth of first basemen and shortstops and none of the many candidates to take the jobs in the Reds' camp here appears capable of making the grade.

Pitching, catching and third base will be the Reds' strong spots. But the rest of the club has a definite second division — and possible cellar — complex.

Because he has three high class catchers, Neun is willing to give up one of them, Al Laskerman, for the power hitter he needs for the fourth spot in his batting order. If he can make the deal, it will leave him with Ray Lamanno and Tom Mueller as good a pair of all-around receivers as there is in the game today. Lamanno has looked particularly good this spring and has been driving out long hits and may win the number one spot.

If Bucky Walters and Elmer Riddle regain their old form the Reds might come up with the best pitching in the league. Walters will not be able to work every day, but the injuries which plagued him last season have disappeared and he believes his arm is coming around. Riddle, too, has arm trouble which forced him to leave the game last year. But he has been testing the arm and reports it apparently is well.

Two rookies are almost sure of landing places on the staff: young Kent Peterson, who pitched eight no-hitters for service teams and Ed Erauta, a 20-game winner with

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SUN. MON. TUES.
Continuous Sun. from 1:15

OLIVIA de HAVILLAND
Academy Award Winner in
"DARK MIRROR"

Lew Ayres, Thomas Mitchell
ALSO—Shorts 9c-40c Inc. Tax
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TODAY—"Deception" Bette Davis,
Paul Henreid, Claude Rains.
ALSO—Shorts 9c-40c Inc. Tax

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GARY COOPER
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TODAY—"Fighting Frontiersman"
Chas. Starrett. ALSO—"Daughter
of Don Q" — 9c-30c Inc. Tax

Phils And Braves Exchange Players

Hollywood last season. Neun is counting on them for starting roles.

Other starters will be Johnny Vander Meer, Ewell Blackwell, who looks as a possible 20-game winner, in his second season in the Majors; Joe Beagles and Harry Gumbert.

Howard Fox, Bob Malloy, Clyde Shoun, John Hetko, and Clay Lambert are the remaining hurling possibilities.

At third, the Reds may come up with the best hot corner man in the league, for Grady Hatton has great possibilities. He was going great last season until he was injured and his hitting average dwindled to .271, but he is meeting the ball well in training and has been in fielding fine.

The veteran Louie Frey, who hit only .246 last year, or Bobby Adams, sophomore, will be at second base. With the Reds not counting on Eddie Miller, four players are in the running for the shortstop berth. They are Hermit Wall, Benji Zientara, Claude Corbitt and Tom Stalcup.

Stalcup is a rookie who hit .334 for Roanoke last year. His fielding may measure up, but his hitting has been poor. In the end it probably will be Zientara, who took over last year when Miller was shelved by injuries.

Neun is now trying two rookies at first, Charles Kress, who hit .261 for Syracuse, and Ted Kluszewski, who elated .352 for Columbia. S. C. Kress is the better fielder but cannot hit with Kluszewski and Neun has revealed that he is going to sacrifice fielding finesse this season for hitting.

Augie Galan, the veteran obtained from Brooklyn, is the only outfielder sure of a job. Frank Baumholtz, another Columbia graduate who hit .343, probably will be in center with Clyde Vellmer, Elmer Durrett and Al Libke the leading contenders for the other post.

State Mental Inmate Population Higher

Indianapolis, March 29.—(UP)—The U. S. bureau of the census reported today that the population of Indiana state mental hospitals grew by 215 persons during 1945.

There were 9,286 on the books of Hoosier institutions at the beginning of the year and 9,601 at the end, the report issued in Washington said.

During the year, 1,824 persons were admitted to the hospitals, 269 of them readmissions of persons who had been there before. Discharges during the year totaled 686, and there were 833 deaths.

Patrons Report On Gambling Club Holdup

Jeffersonville, Ind., March 29.—(UP)—Patrons told today of a \$16,000 holdup of employees in a Jeffersonville gambling club Thursday night, but police said the crime had not been reported to them.

Customers said five masked gunmen entered the club, lined patrons against a wall, took money from seven employees and raked other cash from poker and dice tables.

County and city authorities said the robbery was not reported to them.

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Find Charred Body In Burning Trailer

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La Porte, Ind., March 29.—(UP)—Police today investigated the death of Genevieve Hatchel, 78, whose charred body was removed from a burning trailer near here.

Authorities said a stove became overheated, setting fire to the trailer. The victim was a member of a pioneer family and authorities said her father was among the earliest settlers in La Porte.

It was only the fourth victory for Ireland in the long history of England's most famous turf classic.

Only 21 horses in the field of

57 finished the race including the only American entry, Mrs. Frank Adams' gray gelding Refugio.

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