

'NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS,' MOANS MICKEY TO JOE

One Wallop After Another, Cries Cochrane, and Every One Where It Hurts Most

Tiger Pilot Is Referring, of Course, to Detroit Injury Epidemic; Col. Williams Agrees Greenberg-less Champs in Tough Spot.

By JOE WILLIAMS

Times Special Writer

NEW YORK, May 8.—There wasn't a cloud in the sky, nor the slightest suggestion of foul weather in the atmosphere, and yet Mr. Mickey Cochrane was most positive on the point that it never rains but it pours.

The reporter had heard that phrase somewhere before, and thought it very pretty. Did Shakespeare write it? Or was it Col. Stoopnagle?

"I don't know who wrote it," snapped the manager of the world champion Detroit Tigers, "but it fits us to a 'T.'

The reporter got it, "T" for Tigers, eh?

"No, 'T' for terrible, and I'm talking about the kind of luck we've been having if you didn't know. Just one terrible wallop after another, and every one where it hurts the most."

Mr. Cochrane did not seem to be battered down. There were no visible wounds. His health appeared to be all that it should be. Perhaps he was like all generals and suffered only in a technical sense, reserving the more material agonies for his in-fantrymen.

This wasn't the True, big Hank Greenberg had gone down in a double-wrist fracture, and Jack Burns, who had been recruited from the Browns as a replacement, picked up an ugly spike-wound, and there were still other

casualties among the privates; but General Cochrane hadn't escaped the wholesale blight. Not by a long shot, or by a Bold Venture if you prefer.

The season had scarcely started before Mr. Cochrane stuck his thumb in the path of a foul tip and was forced out of the line up. This in itself was an ominous thing.

THIS wasn't all, either. Some days later Mr. Cochrane read a book and it went to his head. Or rather to his eyes. Anyway he couldn't see for several days. It may have been a technical book on umpiring, judging from the result.

The luck of the Tigers last year and the year before was traditional. They went through two full campaigns without a major injury, and they won two championships in a row. In picking them to make it three straight this spring, baseball observers added . . . "For their luck holds out."

Well, it looks as if it's beginning to turn, and turn completely sour. When Mr. Cochrane starts striking his thumb into foul balls, things look dark. Relatively speaking, of course, the injury to Greenberg is the staggering blow. He comes close to being the back bone of the Tigers' offense, and experience has demonstrated you can not replace a back bone with a wish bone.

FOR the next two or three months Mr. Cochrane won't be able to do much more than wish he had Hammering Hank back in the line-up driving in those runs. Hammering Hank drove in 170 runs for the Tigers last season, which was exactly 40 more than any other slugger in either of the two big leagues was able to do.

The Tigers were leading by five or six games when they clinched the pennant, and while the records are not available, it seems reasonable to assume Hammering Hank must have won at least 20 ball games, maybe 25, all by himself. So you can imagine just how great his bat is going to be missed.

TO offset the absence of Greenberg for three months—and it's going to be all of that—the champions will have to start clicking at top speed in every department. And it so happens that up to now they have been clicking in very few departments.

It's little incidents like this that cause Mr. Cochrane to squint into the golden sunbeams of a May afternoon and moan, "It never rains but it pours."

Semi-Pro, Amateur Baseball Notes

Schedules tomorrow in Indianapolis Amateur Baseball Association circuits follow:

Co-operative League—Ziffen, Trucking vs. Mallable Iron, at Rhodus No. 1, Wall Street. Terre Haute, Indiana, vs. Indianapolis No. 3, Indianapolis No. 4, at Indianapolis No. 3, Indianapolis No. 5, at Indianapolis No. 6, at Indianapolis No. 7, at Indianapolis No. 8, at Indianapolis No. 9, at Indianapolis No. 10, at Indianapolis No. 11, at Indianapolis No. 12, at Indianapolis No. 13, at Indianapolis No. 14, at Indianapolis No. 15, at Indianapolis No. 16, at Indianapolis No. 17, at Indianapolis No. 18, at Indianapolis No. 19, at Indianapolis No. 20, at Indianapolis No. 21, at Indianapolis No. 22, at Indianapolis No. 23, at Indianapolis No. 24, at Indianapolis No. 25, at Indianapolis No. 26, at Indianapolis No. 27, at Indianapolis No. 28, at Indianapolis No. 29, at Indianapolis No. 30, at Indianapolis No. 31, at Indianapolis No. 32, at Indianapolis No. 33, at Indianapolis No. 34, at Indianapolis No. 35, at Indianapolis No. 36, at Indianapolis No. 37, at Indianapolis No. 38, at Indianapolis No. 39, at Indianapolis No. 40, at Indianapolis No. 41, at Indianapolis No. 42, at 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