



By Eddie Ash

BIG SEASON FOR THE ROOKIES
THRIVE IN MAJORS THIS YEAR

BIG league pennant races and last week's major All-Star game developments emphasize the pleasant fact that so far as the caliber of its recruits was concerned, 1938 stands out as one of the most remarkable seasons in more than a decade.

That the Cleveland Americans are leading the Yankees and the Red Sox threaten both; that the Pirates menace the Giants and the Reds have climbed from the cellar to the first division are traced to the influx of great players from the minor leagues.

To the National League goes the distinction of boasting the rookie of the year in Johnny Vander Meer, the Midland Park, N. J., lefthander who knocked down the American League slingers in the first three innings of the All-Star contest. . . . And last Sunday beat the Cubs for his 11th win of the year, including two no-hitters.

WITH Syracuse last year Vander Meer won only five games and lost 11. . . . In the American League the fight for the freshman title is keen between Joe Gordon, Tony Lazzeri's successor at second base for the Yankees, and Ken Keltner, third sacker for Cleveland.

In the early weeks Keltner ran away from Flash. . . . But now Gordon, hitting .308, has the edge on Ken, who is batting around .290. . . . Joe is making plays rarely seen around New York since the days of Frankie Frisch.

Behind Gordon and Keltner are Sam Chapman, left fielder of the Athletics, who made the jump from the University of California to the American League; Harry Steinbacher, outfielder and leading hitter of the White Sox; George Case, the streak of the Senators, who very likely is the fastest man in the major leagues, and Dario Lodigiani of the Athletics.

AMERICAN League pitchers of the freshman class who have done a splendid work are Spud Chandler, Yankees; Jim Bagby, Red Sox; Harry Eisenstat, Tigers; Howard Mills, Browns, and Johnny Humphries, Cleveland. . . . The last named is likely to emerge the star of the class.

National League rookies of unusual merit are Country Slaughter, Cardinal outfielder; Buster McCormick, first sacker, Harry Craft, outfielder, and Willard Hershberger, catcher of the Reds; Johnny Rizzo, Pittsburgh shortstop; Ewell Blackwell, pitcher of the Dodger outfield, and Emmett Mueller, second baseman of the Phillies.

Behind Vander Meer on the pitching list are Bill Klinger of the Pirates; Forest Pressnell, Vito Tamulis and Bill Posedel, Dodgers; Bill Lohrman, Giants, and Bill McGee and Max Macon, Cardinals.

TERRY'S Giants have won all their 10 games with the Dodgers this season. The "big" series starts Saturday, Giants vs. Pirates, at Pittsburgh. It's a three-day attraction. John Gee, former University of Michigan baseball and basketball star, is pitching great ball for Syracuse in the International loop. . . . He stands 6 feet 9 inches.

Cleveland plans to take up third baseman Oscar Grimes of the Milwaukee Brewers next season and train him at second base.

JUDGE K. M. LANDIS, high commissioner of baseball, today advised Leo T. Miller, the Indianapolis club's general manager, that he would be on hand for the American Association All-Star game here Thursday night when the Indians battle the pick of the other seven A. A. clubs. Mr. Landis will head the delegation of big leaguers at the classic.

Will Harridge, president of the American League, also has made All-Star reservations, and Ford Frick, president of the National League, a native Hoosier, probably will hasten to Indianapolis to glorify over his league's victory in the big league All-Star game in Cincinnati last Wednesday.

MANAGER SCHALK of the Redskins hopes to lead off in the All-Star classic with Vance Page, his ace pitcher, on the mound and with Bill Beck, back of the plate. . . . Both were named No. 1 in their positions on the official A. A. All-Star team before Indianapolis clinched the right to play host to the game.

Whittaker, with the Indians, is the only one who has sold last night to Brooklyn for 1939 spring delivery, probably will start on the rubber to All-Stars with Joe Becker, Brewer catcher, handing his slants.

It was announced today that in the event Jack Saltzgater, Kansas City second baseman, is unable to fill his All-Star assignment that one of the utility infielders already named will start at the position. . . . They are Bob Boken, St. Paul; Jim Bucher, Columbus, and Oscar Grimes, Milwaukee.

Baseball at a Glance

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

	W.	L.	Pct.	
INDIANAPOLIS	46	31	.597	
St. Paul	45	32	.584	
Kansas City	42	35	.545	
Minneapolis	41	38	.519	
Milwaukee	41	38	.519	
Toledo	39	42	.481	
Columbus	33	45	.423	
Louisville	26	52	.333	

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	W.	L.	Pct.	
Cleveland	44	25	.633	
New York	42	27	.609	
Boston	41	29	.536	
Washington	39	37	.513	
Detroit	37	38	.493	
Chicago	29	36	.446	
Philadelphia	27	42	.391	
St. Louis	22	47	.319	

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W.	L.	Pct.	
New York	47	26	.644	
Pittsburgh	43	25	.632	
Cincinnati	39	31	.537	
Chicago	34	34	.528	
Boston	32	44	.485	
St. Louis	29	40	.420	
Brooklyn	30	42	.417	
Philadelphia	27	42	.391	

TODAY'S GAMES

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INDIANAPOLIS	46	31	100	99	.597
St. Paul	45	32	100	100	.584
Kansas City	42	35	100	100	.545
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New York at Brooklyn	41	29	100	99	.536
(Only games scheduled.)					

BATTING

HOME RUNS	AB	R	B	A	E
Greenberg, Tigers	26	10	50	49	.500
Fox, Red Sox	28	12	58	57	.500
Yost, Tigers	22	10	50	49	.500
Goodman, Reds	21	10	50	49	.500
Ott, Giants	19	10	50	49	.500
Reese, Red Sox	21	10	50	49	.500

TRI BATTING

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B					