

By Eddie Ash

WERBER TO HELP CINCY'S REDS
IF HE PLAYS UP TO RECORD

BILL WERBER, third sacker acquired by Cincinnati from the Athletics, is a colorful ball player and should bolster the Redlegs' innerworks. . . . He paced the American League three times in base stealing and is regarded highly as a fielder. . . . His lifetime batting mark is .279 and he walloped 11 home runs for the Mackmen last season. . . . Lew Riggs has held down the hot corner for four years at Crosley Field and now has a bat on his hands.

Bill scored 92 runs in 1938 against 53 for Lew, batted in 69 runs from a leadoff position as against Riggs' 55 in seventh place, collected 11 homers to Lew's two, stole 19 bases against three, and drew 93 walks while Riggs strode gratis 40 times.

American League scribes say Werber's shortcoming is a tendency to create dissension on a team and he is known as a "clubhouse lawyer" by managers in the junior major loop.

Werber is a Duke University graduate and first hit the big time in 1930 for a short tryout with the Yankees. . . . He was shipped to the minors and joined the Yankees again in 1933.

He was sold to the Boston Red Sox and in 1937 was traded to the Athletics for Pinky Higgins.

With Werber in the Red's fold, Don Lang, young third sacker, probably will be turned over to the Indianapolis club, it was reported around the Florida Grapefruit League yesterday. . . . And if waivers are obtained on Riggs, he might slip back to the minors. . . . He was developed by the Columbus American Association team.

Werber is 30 years old, stands 5 feet 11 inches, weighs 170 pounds and bats righthanded. . . . Riggs is a lefthanded sticker and Lang swings from the right side.

Settles 'Ownership' Question

THE long debated question as to "ownership" of a batter to whom a retiring pitcher has delivered a few balls, and who then faces the relief man, is settled by this year's big league scoring rules, thus: "With the count two or three balls and one or no strikes; if the batter reaches first base, charge to first pitcher; if he strikes out or is otherwise retired, credit relieving pitcher."

Count three and two—same as above.

Count two and two—charge to relieving pitcher, whether batter is retired or gets on base."

1939 Ruling Cited

SOME years ago the majors passed a rule which prevented scoring a stolen base if the steal were accompanied by a balk, wild pitch or passed ball. The 1939 reading follows:

"The paragraph forbidding the crediting of a stolen base to a runner who had started to steal, and the pitcher was guilty of a balk, has been eliminated."

"Likewise the paragraph forbidding the crediting of a stolen base when a wild pitch or a passed ball occurred after said runner has started to steal, has been eliminated."

"In both instances the Baseball Writers' Association committee figured the runner's action in starting the steal probably caused the balk, wild pitch or passed ball."

Joe Williams—

TAMPA, Fla., March 18.—It may not be so easy for the Cincinnati Reds to win the pennant this year. For one thing, they go to the post with the press box jinx on them. Which is to say the experts are picking them to win. For another thing, they won't have Lee Theodore Grissom running the bases for them.

It seems that Mr. Grissom, or Winged Foot Mercury, as he is known in the camp, has reluctantly abandoned his ambitions to restore base running, especially base thievery, to the awesome pinnacle it occupied in the days of Ty Cobb, Hans Lobert and Max Carey.

He's Not Appreciated

A FRUSTRATED individualist who has been forced to bow to the dreary dictates of conformity, Mr. Grissom confessed today it was no use. "They don't appreciate me," he said.

On Aug. 24 last season, Mr. Grissom, who is a left-handed pitcher, attempted to steal second base with two down in a game with the Philadelphia Phillies and was thrown out. In sliding into the bag with a graceful if somewhat violent flourish he twisted his ankle and was lost to the club for the rest of the season.

"That cost us the pennant," said Bill McKechnie, the manager. "We lost by only six games and the way Grissom was pitching he probably would have made the difference. It was a dumb play and I told him if I had a gun in the dugout I would have shot him."

Grissom, a native of Mississippi, and the record of the pioneer is usually a contemptuous sneer. Once before in his life Mr. Grissom stole a base and on that occasion it won the ball game. "They don't remember that when they criticize me now," he says, bitterly. "And what was wrong about trying to steal second with two out, even if we were leading; wouldn't I have been better off on second than first?"

There is nothing that Mr. Grissom won't do to broaden the scope and effect of his genius. One year he read in the newspapers that Lefty Grove attributed his improved pitching form to the extraction of four ailing teeth.

"If that will help Grove, it can't do me any harm," Mr. Grissom reasoned. So in the hope of being doubly benefited he had eight teeth derricked. Perfectly good ones, too. Only the true ambitious are willing to make such heroic sacrifices in the interest of success.

Once the drama beckoned Mr. Grissom and he responded with characteristic fervor. Someone suggested that with his manly profile he would be a glamorous addition to Hollywood, but it was pointed out he would have a better chance if his hair was curly.

There's No Stopping Him

NOTHING can stop Mr. Grissom once the urge to do big things stirs in his soul. He went out and got himself a permanent marrage. All the folks in Los Moline, Cal., agreed it looked right pretty but Hollywood remained stupidly unresponsive. It was like the time he tried to steal second; they didn't appreciate him.

At present Mr. Grissom is concentrating on pitching. He isn't very happy laboring under stuffy restrictions which keep him shackled to the bases when the eagle in his calls out for flight. "But I'll give 'em all I've got anyway," he promises, gravely.

The other day he gave the Yankees all he had and it was too much for the world champions. He turned them back with one hit in five innings. His pitching opponent happened to be Mr. Lefty Gomez, another man of genius. Between the two exists, or did, a common bond of understanding, sympathy and fellowship.

"Now when I come to bat," said Mr. Gomez, "I don't want you to cut loose. You just lay that ball in there nice and easy. And when you come to bat I'll throw you nothing but fat ones, too."

Mr. Gomez Is Double-Crossed

M. GRISOM said nothing could be fairer than that and shook hands warmly with brother intellectual. But when Mr. Gomez came up three men were on base and Mr. Grissom almost blew the Yankee pitcher out of the park with his fast ball.

"So that's the kind of a heel you are, eh?" sneered Mr. Gomez. "Just wait until you get up there." The wait wasn't long, and soon the count was three and two. Mr. Grissom, who bats lefthanded, decided at this critical stage if he batted righthanded he might achieve the desired results, but unfortunately the best he could produce was a feeble field out.

Walking off the hill the lefthanded Mr. Gomez scoffed: "If it hadn't been three and two I'd pitched to you righthanded, you bum, and I do mean you."

The shattered fragments of a beautiful friendship lay cold and morose on the field as a dying tropical sun dipped behind the palm trees.



Bill Werber

Indianapolis Times Sports

PAGE 6

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1939

Cops Amateur Title
BELLAIR, Fla., March 18 (U.P.)—George F. McLaughlin of Chicago, scored a 5 and 4 victory over Edwin H. Vare Jr., of Philadelphia to win the Belleview amateur golf title yesterday.

Four Teams Pick Up Cage Title Chase Here

Anderson Indians Given Slight Edge Over Foes In Semifinal at Tech

Meet Greencastle in First Game; Franklin and Aurora Clash.

Semifinal Schedules

Indianapolis
2 p.m.—Anderson vs. Greencastle.
3 p.m.—Franklin vs. Aurora.

Evansville
2 p.m.—Vincennes vs. Salem.
3 p.m.—Garfield, Terre Haute, vs. Bosse, Evansville.

Hammond
2 p.m.—Frankfort vs. La Porte.
3 p.m.—Elkhart vs. Logansport.

Muncie
2 p.m.—Auburn vs. Burris, Muncie.
3 p.m.—Ossian vs. Kokomo.

Winners of afternoon games at each center will meet tonight at 8 o'clock for the right to compete in the final tournament at Butler Fieldhouse, March 25.

I. U. Is Threat To Oklahoma

Six Hoosier Wrestlers in National Semifinals.

LANCASTER, Pa., March 18 (U.P.)—Indiana University, Big Ten Conference champions, had six men in today's semifinal round of the National Collegiate Wrestling Championships and threatened to dominate Oklahoma A. & M. as national titlists.

Coach Guy Downey's Greencastle team was in the semifinals after an up-and-down season. But the Tech Cubs apparently were in shape, having overcome illness, injuries and bit of dissension in their camp. Their season record lists 10 victories and as many defeats. Their regional victims were Pine Village and Lehigh three, Michigan two and Minnesota.

The second afternoon game was to be a match of conference champions. Aurora came to the Tech gym carrying the Southeastern Indiana title, while Franklin boasted the South Central circuit championship.

First Time for Franklin
It was the first semifinal for the Grizzly Cubs but they had behind them their 22nd sectional and eighth regional triumphs.

The Franklin season record lists 17 victories, 17 losses, two down Green castle, and three losses, Ft. Wayne South Side claiming one of these.

If there had to be a local "dark horse," that honor went to Aurora. The Devils went through the regional "hard way," defeating Connersville and Rushville. It was in the Connersville game, incidentally, that the Devils registered or 42 per cent of their shots. That was too much for Connersville, which at the same time was making good 28 per cent of its tossettes.

Forward Probably Out

Aurora hopes were given a late setback with the announcement that Norman Steele, regular forward, was a victim of tonsillitis and probably would not see action. Coach C. J. (Dutch) Schmidt indicated he would use Dowers, Cutler or Ohlmann in Steele's spot.

Night games will be played at Stout Stadium, and twilight contests at city park diamonds. Teams interested are asked to contact Bill Britton at the Em-Roe store.

Begins Organization Of Softball Loops

The Em-Roe Sporting Goods Co. will organize seven types of softball leagues to play this season. Leagues to be formed include industrial, church, independent, downtown merchants and state, amateur at night and senior and junior twilight leagues.

Night games will be played at Stout Stadium, and twilight contests at city park diamonds. Teams interested are asked to contact Bill Britton at the Em-Roe store.

Busy Week-End in Store For Grapefruit Circuit

BATON ROUGE, La., March 18 (U.P.)—The New York Giants will renew exhibition hostilities with their International League farm club, the Jersey City Giants, today. The Giants, having licked the Philadelphia Athletics twice and Jersey City once, are seeking their fourth straight Grapefruit League victory.

SARASOTA, Fla., March 18 (U.P.)—Playing their eighth exhibition game in as many days, the Cincinnati Reds come here to meet the Boston Red Sox today. The Reds scored a 5-4 victory in 11 innings over the Detroit Tigers yesterday for their fourth win in seven starts. Manager Bill McKechnie selected Ray (Peaches) Davis as his starting pitcher.

Although Indianapolis and Marion County was not represented in the tournament, a crowd of 4500 was expected.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 18 (U.P.)—The St. Louis Cardinals and New York Yankees resume their Florida series today. They broke even in the two games they played last week-end. The Cards nosed the Boston Red Sox, 5-4, yesterday when rookie shortstop Joe Orongo from Sacramento tripped home the winning run in the 12th. The Yankees pitcher, Johnny Brocas, had signed and would report to the Tribe.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 18 (U.P.)—The St. Louis Cardinals boasted another exhibition schedule victory today through the efforts of rookie shortstop Joe Orongo, who tripped in the 12th inning to give them a 5-4 victory over the Boston Red Sox of the American League. Another conference of club officials with Joe Medwick, slugging holdout outfielder, was held.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 18 (U.P.)—The St. Louis Browns celebrated the signing of Buck Newson, their pitching mainstay of last season, with a 3-0 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies. Newson signed yesterday for a figure not revealed, but which was believed to be about midway between the \$12,500 he was offered originally, and the \$20,000 he was asking.

CHARLES, La., March 18 (U.P.)—Although the competition for the third base position on the Philadelphia Athletics still was an open and hot fight, Darle

Indian Camp Is Busy Place These Days



John Wilson, former International League pitcher, is trying for a comeback with the Indianapolis Indians at their Bartow, Fla., training camp. He stands 6 feet 2 inches and is a native of Georgia. He opened up with Toronto last year but a siege of sickness put him out of action.

Villanova Foe Of Buck Five

Ohio State Bests Wake Forest in Eastern Tourney.

PHILADELPHIA, March 18 (U.P.)—Indiana State's towering quintet, which shattered all-time scoring records at the University of Pennsylvania's Palestra in defeating Wake Forest last night, meets Villanova tonight in the Eastern Division finals of the National Collegiate Basketball Tournament.

The Buckeyes, winner of the Western Conference title, blotted the Southerners from the tourney picture in a sensational game, 64 to 52. Villanova outclassed Brown, 42-30, in the opening tilt of the double-header before 3500.

The winner of tonight's final automatically will qualify to meet the Western Division victor in the playoff at Evanston, Ill., March 27.

Ohio broke the Palestra scoring record of 53 points held by Army, and the Buckeyes scintillating forward, Dick Baker, netted 10 goals and five fouls for 25 points to top the court's high scoring mark held jointly by Roy Menzel of Penn and Lou Meyer of Dickinson.

San Diego State Gets 'Surprise Package'

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 18 (U.P.)—San Diego State received a 135-pound "surprise package" from home today—sharp shooting Billy Patterson, who was sent by plane to point his crippled team in the final of the National Intercollegiate Basketball Tournament against Southern College of Winfield, Kas.

Patterson, captain and star forward during the regular season, was unable to accompany his teammates here because he could not get leave from his job as Y. M. C. A. physical director.

Last night, however, when San Diego defeated Peru, Neb., Teachers, 49-29, and advanced to the final, students here and in California passed the hat and collected plane fare for Patterson.

Southwestern, paced by Lloyd Tucker, the tournament's highest scoring player, ended the 28-game winning streak of Glenville, W. Va., State, 46-37. Tucker made 19 points to bring his tournament total to 65 for four games.

Manager Ray Schalk, an old catcher himself, dons the big mitt for light workouts. The Cracker is recovering rapidly from the throat infection which forced him out of harness early this week.



Manager Ray Schalk, an old catcher himself, dons the big mitt for light workouts. The Cracker is recovering rapidly from the throat infection which forced him out of harness early this week.

Tribe May Run Through First Game Tomorrow

Tribesmen yesterday were Doug Wheeler and Justin Stein, infielders, and Milton Galatos, and Glenn Chapman, outfielders. It was the affordable Wheeler who won the support of many local fans during the 1938 spring training season with his performance at first base. A strained back, however, shelved him after the squad returned to Indianapolis.

Stein probably will be a candidate for shortstop. He took his first work-out yesterday, along with Galatos and Chapman.

Robert Loane, Oakland, Cal., outfielder, is reported to be en route here. He will be the last of the listed players to check in. President Miller indicated, however, that several other promising candidates may be signed by Monday or Tuesday.

Harry Danning, rated by many as the league's top catcher, will be aided behind the bat by Ken O'Dea, the pinchhitting ace from the Cubs.

Bill Terry Believes He Has Winner

But Right or Wrong He Has Rebuilt Giants Into New Machine.

BY GEORGE KIRKSEY
United Press Staff Correspondent
BATON ROUGE, La., March 18.—Building a pennant winner in one year is quite a task in any league, but Bill Terry, with a cold gleam in his eyes looks out at the 1939 edition of the New York Giants and tells you he thinks he's done the job.

And Terry may be right. But right or wrong he has ripped the old Giants apart and come up with a rebuilt outfit that smacks of more power and potentialities than even some of his pennant-winning combinations.

There are still some question marks, but on the whole Terry has done well in rebuilding a disintegrating ball club.

The old landmarks are still there—Mel Ott, Joe Moore, Carl Hubbell, Hal Schumacher and Harry Danning. Around them Terry has transplanted names strange to the Polo Grounds—Zeke Bonura, Billy Jurges, George Myatt, Manuel Salvo, Frank Demaree and others.

Right-Handed Slugger

Most important addition of all is Bonura, the big first baseman Terry maneuvered out of the American League. Bonura, no Fancy Dan around first base, is expected to give the Giants a right-handed home-run hitter to keep pace with Ott's left-handed power.

The Giant infield is all new from Bonura on around. Next to Zeke is the big question mark—Burgess Whitehead, who is trying a comeback after a year of idleness resulting from