

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 Mack-men last season. . . . Lew Riggs has held down the hot corner for four years at Crosley Field and now has a battle 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 stroled 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 "club-house 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 1932.

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

With Werber in the Red Sox fold, Don Lang, young third sacker, probably will be turned over to the Indianapolis club, it was reported around the Florida Grape Fruit League yesterday. . . . And if waivers are obtained on Riggs he might also 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 right-handed. . . . Riggs is a left-handed 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 was 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 McKeechnie, 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 had a gun in the dugout I would have shot him." Genius is often misunderstood, and the reward 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 extracted perfectly soon. 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 mabel. All the folks in Los Molinos, 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 him 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 out 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

MR. GRISSOM 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 left-handed, decided at this critical stage if he batted right-handed he might achieve the desired results, but unfortunately the best he could produce was a feeble infield out.

Walking off the hill the left-handed Mr. Gomez scoffed: "If it hadn't been three and two I'd pitched to you right-handed, you bum, and I'd 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

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SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1939

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.

Four high school teams, already established as the "class" of this neighborhood as a result of their regional victories, were to take up the state basketball title chase this afternoon at the Tech gym in one of the four semifinals tournaments.

The schedule was to send Anderson's Indians against the Greencastle Tiger Cubs at 2 p. m., with Aurora's Red Devils and the Grizzly Cubs of Franklin battling an hour later.

Matinee winners will meet at 8 o'clock tonight, with the conquerors moving into the state semifinals next Saturday at the Butler Fieldhouse, along with victors at Evansville, Hammond and Muncie.

Dopesters who had shown outright boldness earlier this week, today were not so confident of their local choices. Coach Archie Chavis' Indians still were given a slight edge, but their defeat by Greencastle or the Aurora-Franklin winner hardly could go as an upset.

Everybody Knows Anderson

The Redskins, a familiar name in semifinals and final play, have a season record of 15 victories and seven defeats. In those seven defeats, however, is one by Greencastle in December. But the guessers who like Anderson will tell you Chavis' pupils always are at their best in the eliminations.

Coach Glynn Downey's Greencastle five was in the semifinals after an up-and-down season. But the Tiger 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 Clinton.

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

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

The Franklin season record lists 17 victories, including one over Greencastle, 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 incident, actually, that the Devils registered on 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 tosses.

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 Dewey Cutler or Ohlmansek in Steele's spot.

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

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 semifinals round of the National Collegiate Wrestling Championships and threatened to dethrone Oklahoma A. & M. as national titlists.

The Aggies, seeking their third straight team crown, sent five grapplers into the semifinal bracket, while Illinois qualified four, Franklin and Marshall three, Lehigh three, Michigan two and Minnesota two.

Tallying one point for each fall, F. & M. led the scoring with six and Oklahoma A. & M. was second with five. Other scorers were Lehigh four, Minnesota, two, Cornell of Iowa two, and Penn State, Navy, Indiana, C. C. N. Y., Illinois and Colorado Aggies, one each.

There were no upsets. Double fall winners included Burgess, F. & M. 121 pounds; Hanson, Minnesota, 128; Masem, Lehigh, 145, and Raab, F. & M., 165.

The Aggies from Oklahoma still were favored by the spectators, despite Indiana's greater number of semis. The Cowboys' big four in the penultimate round were Joe McDaniels, 121; Woodrow Dorex, 128; Stanley Henson, 155, and Johnny Harell, heavyweight. No other team appeared a likely possibility to enter the title fight between the Hoosiers and Oklahoma.

Begins Organization Of Softball Leagues

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, all playing 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 days. Manager Jimmy McKeechnie selected Ray (Peaches) Davis as his starting pitcher.

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 Orange from Sacramento tripled home the winning run in the 12th.

CLEARWATER, Fla., March 18 (U. P.).—With three pitchers trading for Lakeland, arm treatment the Brooklyn Dodgers seem to be up a stump for a hurling staff. Pitcher Jim Winford joined Van Mungo and Wayne La Master on their excursion to Lakeland yesterday while most of the club was out deep sea fishing.

NEW BRAUNFELS, Tex., March 18 (U. P.).—Manager James T. (Doc) Prothro of the Philadelphia Phillies was confined to his hotel room today with an attack of grippe. His physician said he might be lost to the team for a day or two. Meantime, President Gerry Nugent denied that he would make wholesale changes in the club roster.

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

Lodigiani of San Francisco was in temporary possession of the hot corner today through the Gantenbein and Wayne Nagel.

LOS ANGELES, March 18 (U. P.).—Manager Gabby Hartnett named Jack Russell and Charlie Root to pitch for his Chicago Cubs today in an exhibition game with the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Cubs yesterday defeated their city rivals, the American League White Sox, 10 to 2.

ONTARIO, Cal., March 18 (U. P.).—Manager Jimmy Dykes brought his Chicago White Sox to Ontario today to meet Los Angeles in the first game of an exhibition tour up and down the coast.

NEW ORLEANS, March 18 (U. P.).—The Cleveland Indians' pitching corps knuckled down to hard work for their game with the Philadelphia Athletics today after Manager Oscar Vitt's lecture yesterday. Keenly disappointed at their unimpressive showing, his headache was relieved slightly at word that former Yankee pitcher, Johnny Broaca, had signed and would report to the Tribe.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 18 (U. P.).—The St. Louis Cardinals celebrated another exhibition victory today through the efforts of Rookie Shortstop Joe Orenego, who tripled 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, produced nothing.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 18 (U. P.).—The St. Louis Browns celebrated the signing of Buck Newsum, their pitching mainstay of last season, with a 3-0 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies. Newsum 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.

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.).—Ohio 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 topple 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 Penn 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.

Pair of Missouri Valley Fives to Play in Finals

DENVER, March 18 (U. P.).—The Missouri Valley goes on parade tonight when two of its top cage teams fight it out for the championship of the National A. U. Basketball Tournament here.

The tournament had proceeded to its usual finale, a game between two teams of the Missouri Valley League for the championship. This time it was the Bartlesville, Okla., Oilers versus the Denver Nuggets, both ex-national champions and both eager to be the 1939 titleholders. For the past three years, the two finalists have been from the Missouri Valley circuit.

In the semifinals last night Bartlesville defeated the Hollywood Metros, 53-30, while Denver eliminated the San Francisco Olympics, 43-34.

Win Shooting Match

Hoosier Rifle and Pistol Club marksmen downed the International Harvester team, 940-881, in a match last night.

Cops Amateur Title

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

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 Jurgens, 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 Fanny 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 an appendectomy and a nervous breakdown.

Whitehead's future depends largely on whether he can regain his shattered confidence. If Whitehead can go, the Giants' infield will reek with class. If he can't, Terry has to produce a second baseman out of a hat. Alex Kampouris is next in line but he couldn't fill the bill last year.

Hafey in Reserve

Jurgens, from the Cubs and probably the best defensive shortstop in the league, teams up with George Myatt, feet-footed lad from Jersey City, on the left side of the infield. Myatt is likely to be the league's top base-stealer. He's no Pie Traynor at third but his arm is so good he can knock down balls with his chest and still get his man.

If Myatt fails, Tom Hafey, a long-distance hitter from Knoxville, will get the third base job.

The outfield is set with Moore in left, Frank Demaree from the Cubs in center and Ott in right. Demaree, whose batting average slumped 51 points last year to .273, is expected by Terry to hit close to his lifetime average of .307.

Gumbert Moves Up

For the first time since the Giants won the pennant in 1933 under Terry, Carl Hubbell won't be the No. 1 man. Harry Gumbert, who won 15 games last year, is likely to step into that role.

Hubbell, however, is the best bet of the Giants' "cripples" to stage a comeback. His arm is progressing nicely and he can be counted on to win just as many games as can be expected from a 35-year-old pitcher with a stitches-up elbow.

The other three fingers trying to make comebacks are Hal Schumacher, Slick Castlemann and Cliff Melton. If they all should be successful, it would be "Katie bar the door" for the rest of the National League contenders.

Schumacher's operation apparently was a success. Castlemann's back no longer troubles him and Melton's fast ball, which vanished in mid-season last year, gives evidence of returning.

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.

Tribe May Run Through First Game Tomorrow

Times Special
BARTOW, Fla., March 18.—The Indianapolis Indians baseball team will hold its first practice game at Municipal Park here tomorrow if enough Tribesmen are in camp at that time, Leo Miller, club president, said today.

Yesterday's arrivals at Bartow swelled the total in camp to 21, but 12 of them are pitchers and catchers. Manager Ray Schalk has delayed the usual sifting out process pending the arrival of more infielders.

Favorites Meet

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., March 18 (U. P.).—Two favored teams meet a pair of dark horse entries today in the semifinals of the fifth annual National Amateur-Professional Best Ball Golf championship.

National Open Champion Ralph Guldahl and Morton Bright, of Daytona Beach, the favorite tandem, engage the Michigan pair of Marvin Stahl, Lansing, and Chick Harbert, Battle Creek.

Denny Shute of Coral Gables and Bill Stark of Jacksonville, second choice entry for the title, play Jack Groat of Hershey, Pa., and Maynard Ramsey, University of Florida golf champion.

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