



SPORTS...

By Eddie Ash

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN more or less puzzling to baseball fans in general when they read in the late fall that the Cincinnati baseball club is sold out of tickets for the following spring's opening day game.

The announcement is always brief and to the point, "no more reservations are being accepted, the demand exceeds the supply."

Since Indianapolis seldom comes close to winning any kind of attendance honors on opening day, despite the fact the home-town Indians are famous for winning their inaugural titles, fans here doubtless will be interested in a story covering the Cincinnati situation.

Gabe Paul, the Reds' genial road secretary and publicity chief, did some research work on the subject and came up with the following:

"In Cincinnati an opening day sellout before Christmas is not an unusual thing. It is the very usual procedure to allot the supply of inaugural ducats long before most major league teams begin to think about ticket printing, let alone a sellout."

"The Reds today are champions of the world. They have tremendous crowd appeal in and out of Cincinnati. But their championship appeal is not the reason for the sellout announcement. Reason is that opening day in Cincinnati has appeal in itself. It is a day that is different from other baseball days. It is opening day. That is enough."

"Back in the dark days, when the Reds were wallowing in the cellar, there was no letdown in opening day interest. There were Christmas sellouts then, just like today."

It's Traditional With Redleg Fans

"OPENING DAY interest existed in Cincinnati since the days of the first professional club in 1869. It has been traditional for Cincinnatians to attend the first game."

"Forefathers of the present day baseball fans attended the opening just as their descendants are doing today. It is something that has grown of its own accord. It is something that could not have been stimulated."

"There is such a deep feeling for it that it necessarily must have been born into the children of the people who placed Cincinnati on the baseball map years ago."

"**Most PROLIFIC** example of the Cincinnati opening day loyalty came in 1938, after the Reds finished a hopeless last in 1937, behind the pennant winning Giants, and they closed the season by being the pennant-winning Giants, and they closed the season by dropping their last 14 games.

"Yet, in spite of all this, the largest opening day crowd in Cincinnati's history turned out the following spring when the Reds started their 1938 season."

"The unusual condition that exists in Redland has been the cause of attempts at duplication in other major cities. But Cincinnati's opening day cannot be duplicated."

Jewel Ens., World Series Unsung Hero

JEWEL ENS, the baseball pepperpot who recently tossed up the Indianapolis managerial reins to join the Cincy Reds as coach, continues to win acclaim for his part in the 1940 World Series...

Writing in the Cincinnati Enquirer, Lou Smith is in part:

"Quite a few of the Eastern writers, along with a few of the Detroit scribes, are still dashing off pieces that the unsung hero of the 1940 World Series is Jewel Ens."

"They claim that Ens won the championship for McKechnie by insisting that Paul Derringer, who had been knocked out in the second inning of the first game, be permitted to go back in the fourth contest."

"McKechnie had announced Thompson as his starter. But Ens kept working on the Deacon until he broke down his resistance. Derringer took Junior's place—and won. Ens fought for Derringer in spite of the rather undubious action of the big right-hander. After he had been knocked out in the first game, Derringer complained that he had received orders. This passed the buck vigorously to Ens, who had scouted the Tigers and drawn up the book on them. Jewel got pretty hot under the collar."

"Derringer had not followed the book and didn't have his usual amount of stuff that day. But Ens cooled down and kept badgering McKechnie until the Deacon gave in and postponed Thompson's debut in the series."

MILKMAN JIM TURNER, the Cincinnati hurler who used to toss 'em up for the Indianapolis Indians, has upped his age a couple of years over the figure carried in the baseball records.

For years Jim's "baseball age" has been carried as two years less than it actually is, he admitted in a note to the Cincinnati club when asked for his selective service registration number.

"Instead of being born Aug. 6, 1906, as the record books show, I was born on that date in 1904, so didn't have to register for conscription," the Milkman wrote.

In making note of Turner's "confession," Sporting News, the baseball weekly, carried a nifty headline, to wit: "Milkman Watered His Age."

Potsy Clark to Speak at Butler's Football Dinner

George (Potsy) Clark, one of the all-time great backfield men at the University of Illinois and more recently coach of the Detroit Lions professionals, will be the principal speaker at the Butler University Black Key football banquet next Monday night at the Athenaeum.

Robert Nipper, Shortridge High School coach and a Butler luminary, will act as toastmaster.

Clark is an attached figure to Butler athletics, himself. He coached here in '27, '28 and '29, winning 14 games, losing nine and tying one. He has been head coach at Kansas State and Michigan State and assistant at Illinois and Minnesota in addition to a whirl at the pro game. He has coached the Portsmouth team whose franchise later was changed to Detroit, and the Brooklyn Dodger pro outfit for two seasons. Next year he will assume the athletic directorship of Grand Rapids College, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Honored guests at the banquet will include Butler's varsity and freshman football teams and the varsity cross-country team. Local high school coaches and Butler's opposing coaches this year also have been invited.

The 1941 Butler captain, elected by the entire team, will be announced, and the presentation of

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Boston College Is Eastern Champion

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (U.P.)—Boston College has been awarded the Lambert Memorial Trophy, symbolic of the Eastern football championship, it was announced today.

The high flying Eagles, who will meet the Tennesseeans in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day, were named by every one of the 65 Eastern football writers and radio commentators who participated in the poll.

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