

## SPORTS

### By Eddie Ash

IF THERE was one person who "broke up the Yankees" last season the nod goes to John Babich, the tall, righthanded pitcher whom Connie Mack snatched off the Yankee farm at Kansas City a year ago, opines Henry P. Edwards, the head man of the American League Press Bureau.

According to the veteran baseball expert and digger-upper of baseball facts and fancies Babich might well be called "Jack the Yankee Killer," for despite the fact the Athletics finished last in 1940, John defeated New York five times out of six starts. . . . and the Yanks lost the pennant by only two games.

John held the Yankees to 36 hits in the six contests. . . . in the only game he lost to New York, the Athletics were shut out with two hits. . . . He beat the champs in the other five games by scores of 3 to 2 in 10 innings, 6 to 3, 7 to 3, 3 to 0 and 6 to 2, his last victory being the one that eliminated New York from the pennant fight.

Winning 14 and losing 13 games for a team that had a percentage of only .351 at the end of the season was a great feat for Babich, especially when it is recalled that in 1938 John was believed to be through as a pitcher.

In fact, that was what everyone thought except John himself. . . . He had developed an injury to his right elbow when with the Boston Bees and was forced to undergo an operation for the removal of a chipped bone.

When he recovered from the operation, he discovered he was less effective than previously. . . . He went on the voluntary retired list and returned to his home in California. . . . There, John had little to do but think about his future and when someone told him that George Uhle had been able to stage a comeback by learning how to throw a "slider," John decided he would try to do likewise. . . . He essayed to pitch for Boston again and also for Jersey City without success in 1937 and was sent to the Mission team in California.

#### Reached Kansas City in Miller Deal

BABICH won 12 and lost eight with the Missions and became encouraged. . . . and in 1938 he won 19 and lost 17 for Hollywood. . . . The Bees recalled him, but when the chance came to get Shortstop Eddie Miller from Kansas City, they tossed in Babich. . . . He really staged a comeback with the Blues, winning 19 and losing only six games.

Despite that excellent record, the Yankees brought in Pitcher Marvin Brewer in preference to the veteran and this gave Connie Mack the chance to land the courageous Austrian in the draft, about the best bet Mr. Mack ever made in the annual selection.

The training season in California was not a week old when the dean of managers knew that he had secured a most dependable hurler, one who should be a regular starter.

INSTEAD of losing 13 games as he did, Babich probably would have dropped but three or four pitching for a first division team. . . . He had the misfortune to be on the losing end of four shutout contests, two of them being 1 to 0 affairs in which Cleveland won. . . . He was hit for 10 hits or more only five times. . . . On the other hand, he pitched five five-hits, three six-hits and two seven-hit games. . . . Babich was just 18 when he reported to the San Francisco club for a professional baseball trial. . . . And now at the age of 27, John finds himself really starting.

#### McKeechill Still Goes for the Sacrifice

IF YOU FEEL the sacrifice is a forgotten thing in baseball, just look at the 1940 official National League averages and you'll find that it is a very much remembered item with the Cincinnati Reds, champions of the world.

Bill McKeechill, manager of the Reds, has been described as a very conservative type of pilot, which is partly correct, but a more correct analysis of McKeechill would reveal him as a 100 per cent opportunist, which accounts for the Reds having used the sacrifice as a means of attack 125 times last year.

This is more than double the number of bunts used by the lowest team in the league in this respect, and 38 more than used by the second in the sacrifice lists.

McKeechill must be described as an opportunist because though his Cincinnati team was fifth in the league in the batting averages, that the offensive methods he used were very sound and practical, and, in a measure, shows why the Reds were able to win 41 games by one run.

With some ball clubs, the sacrifice is not an effective means of attack. . . . This is particularly true of long, hard-hitting clubs. . . . But the Reds didn't have a great deal of power last year. . . . They had a splendid defense and a great pitching staff.

One and two-run leads were able to hold up with that kind of a club. . . . So what did McKeechill do? . . . He played for the single run.

RAY SCHALK's five-man bowling sweepstakes, at his Chicago alley, drew 100 entries and top prize will be \$1100. . . . The complete total prize money for the two-day event will be \$5000, which is to be split among 18 teams.

Firing will start tonight and Bowles Seal Fast of Indianapolis, defending champions and winners of two of the four previous Schalk sweepstakes, will roll on the opening squad.

## H. S., College Cage Scores

STATE COLLEGES	
Iowa, 45; DePaul, 35.	
OTHER COLLEGES	
New York University, 55; Illinois Wesleyan, 30.	
St. John's College (Brooklyn), 64; Springfield (Mass.), 49.	
Villanova, 41; Geneva, 34.	
Duquesne, 40; New Albany, 31.	
Brighton, 35; Toledo, 37.	
Duke, 66; Lehigh, 30.	
Missouri, 35; Washington (St. Louis), 22.	
LaSalle, 41; Davis Elkins, 43.	
Wayne University, 38; Dartmouth, 34.	
Iowa Wesleyan, 38; Culver-Stockton, 25.	
Creston, 42; Xavier, 39.	
Detroit, 30; St. Francis, 42.	
Hope, 41; Grand Rapids University, 42.	
Colorado College, 43; Ft. Hays (Kan.), 30.	
Hardin Simmons, 38; New Mexico Teachers, 30.	
Howard Payne, 61; North Texas State, 30.	
Texas Tech, 38; New Mexico A&M, 36.	
Texas Mines, 50; New Mexico University, 27.	
Denver, 55; Colorado Mines, 51.	
Colorado State, 39; Western State, 30.	
Oregon State, 32; Utah State, 25.	
Washington State, 75; Eastern Washington College, 30.	
Brigham Young, 67; Montana State, 45.	
Utah, 45; Idaho, 38 (overtime).	
University of California at Los Angeles, 60; San Francisco, 43 (overtime).	

CITY HIGH SCHOOLS	
Cathedral, 38; Mass. 20.	
Richmond, 33; Tech, 31.	
St. Paul, 33; West, 35.	
Crispus Attucks, 36; Stinesville, 35.	
STATE HIGH SCHOOLS	
Akron, 25; Elva Green, 20.	
Adams, 15.	
Shals, 36; Bloomfield, 27.	
Bainbridge, 43; Cloverdale, 21.	
Ben Davis, 42; Greenwood, 41.	
Kitchell, 35; Boston, 31.	
Bunker Hill, 40; Grove, 31.	
Boggs, 35; Clifford, 19.	
Kokomo, 30; Vincennes, 37.	
Paul, 35; Mitchell, 31 (overtime).	
Massillon, 29; St. Joseph, 25 (overtime).	
Tipton, 28; Ferguson, 25.	
Portland, 35; Saratoga, 28 (overtime).	
Rockester, 35.	
Adams, 15.	
South Bend Central, 37; South Bend	
Spencer, 24; Terre Haute Garfield, 16.	
Valparaiso, 41; East Chicago Roosevelt,	
Washington, 46; Delphi, 21.	
Hammond, 27; East Chicago Washington,	
Ottawa, 42; Orleans, 14.	
West Lafayette, 24; Terre Haute Ger-	
Greenwood, 36; Southport, 33.	
Shelbyville, 35; Rammer, 28.	
Greencastle, 35; Terre Haute Wiley, 34.	
Fl. Wayne North, 31; Fl. Wayne South,	
Hammond Tech, 41; Gary Emerson, 24.	
Decatur, 27; Auburn, 25.	
Greensburg, 35; Brookston, 34.	
Waldron, 38; Austin, 22.	
Reynolds, 45; Lawrence, 22.	
Bedford, 33; New Albany, 31.	
Gary, 35.	
Brownstown, 41; Cortland, 31.	
Wayne, 35; 27; Kendall, 23.	
Altus, 33; Clinton, 33 (overtime).	
Corydon, 28; Connersville, 21.	
Greensburg, 35; Brookston, 34.	
Crawfordsville, 38; Brazil, 29.	
La Porte, 35; Elkhart, 31.	
Laurens, 35; Ellettsburg, 23.	
Wayne Central, 50; Hartford City, 37.	
Gary Proehl, 42; Whiting, 28.	
Gary Telford, 35; Hammond Clark, 20.	
Greencastle, 35; Terre Haute Wiley, 34.	
Greenburg, 35; Seymour, 34.	
Reynolds, 45; Brookston, 34.	
Bever Dam, 35; Silver Lake, 33.	
Sidney, 27; Burkett, 18.	
Wayne Central, 50; Hartford City, 37.	
Cross Plains, 31; Holton, 13.	
Carmel, 36; Atlanta, 29.	
Wayne Central, 50; Hartford City, 37.	
Little Jeff, 29; Clark Hills, 17.	
Patriburg, 30; Real City, 23.	
Cumtoga, 30; Deer Creek, 23.	
Carthage, 30; Charlotteville, 19.	
Wayne Central, 50; Hartford City, 37.	
Cleora, 29; Arcadia, 25.	
Wayne Central, 50; Hartford City, 37.	
St. Paul, 33; Edinboro, 24.	
Spencer, 24; Garfield (Terre Haute)	
Wayne Central, 50; Hartford City, 37.	
Idaville, 46; Second Grove, 27.	
Wayne Central, 50; Hartford City, 37.	
Raleigh, 33; Lewisville, 30.	
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