



## JOE WILLIAMS SAYS . . .

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.—They're dusting off the guillotine again for Leo Durocher over in Flatbush, and this time the palace guards tell you the ride is for keeps.

Brooklyn's baseball fortunes have struck rock bottom and so many are the competitive element the addicts find nothing more exciting to engage their fancy than to debate whether this year's cellar team is as bad or worse than the 1935 group, considered, up to now, the all-time Bums of Bums.

When a ball club loses the magic of winning, the convenient, almost inevitable thing to do, is fire the manager. . . . Quite often it is the proper thing to do for there are poor managers as well as capable managers, and more than one manager has had success thrust upon him by circumstances far in proportion to his native ability.

### Capability Is Open to Question

WHETHER Durocher is a capable manager today appears to be open to question. . . . But four years back when he was driving the beloved Bums to a popular pennant everybody agreed he was a great manager, and it wasn't just because he was winning; it was the way he handled his men, the fighting spirit and the team loyalty he created.

Is he the type of manager whose greatness flows only under the pressure of a hot pennant race, when the incentive to rare accomplishments exists? . . . There are such managers. . . . Has he lost his force to handle men? . . . This question was first asked a year ago when Bobo Newsom led a clubhouse rebellion. . . . It has not yet been satisfactorily answered.

### That Front Office Responsibility

DUROCHER is not without faults, as who is, and it may be the interests of Brooklyn baseball will be best served by recalling his dugout credentials. . . . To that we wouldn't want to guess.

Our only thought on the matter is that if Durocher was a good manager once it seems stranger he isn't an even better one now, keeping in mind experience is supposed to be an able teacher.

There is one point about which we do have a firm conviction. . . . It is that Durocher can't be blamed for the fact that the Bums are in last place. . . . For that he is no more to blame than Brother Branch Rickey, the general manager, the man who is wholly responsible for the playing personnel.

## 'Satch' Paige, Negro Mound Ace, Fronts for G. I. Joes

CHICAGO, Aug. 2 (U. P.).—Leroy (Satch) Paige, who boosted Negro baseball to its present moneyed position with his skinny right arm, today was soliciting fellow All-Star members of the Negro National and American leagues to join a strike.

Aug. 13, the day of the East-West All-Star classic at Comiskey park.

A prominent star in eight of the 12 East-West games, the "Satch" is organizing the strike in protest against the management of the two leagues who refused to follow his suggestion that 400 per cent of the game's proceeds go to war relief.

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# Pro Football 'War' Is Launched In Earnest

## Strife Hits Cash-and-Carry Grid Circles as New Loop Defies Old League's Rules

CHICAGO, Aug. 2 (U. P.).—The National Professional Football league declared today that the professional football war, which has been in the skirmish stage for several months, now is on in earnest.

Prompted by action of the American league, composed of Pacific coast cities, National league headquarters here sounded a warning to players of its own league not to be too hasty in accepting offers of newly-organized competitive leagues, "nebulous or otherwise," and indicated that new leagues should not be too ambitious when eyeing players in the National circuit.

Battle lines began to form a short time ago when several new leagues took shape on paper and announced: (1) They had plenty of fresh money, and (2) they needed football players to form teams. The first newcomer to promise open competition to the National was the United States league, whose president is Roland D. Payne, a Pittsburgh industrialist unknown to the sporting world.

The American league plans to operate this year and recently asked Elmer Layden, National league president and commissioner, to protect its property and players until the Far West is able to compete with the National, which is 24 years old this season and firmly established as a going concern.

Fireworks Touched Off However, an announcement by the American league yesterday that National league players have been assigned to Pacific Coast teams touched off the fireworks and ended affiliation prospects between the National and American.

The West Coast outfit received application blanks from prospective players, pooled the players for a workout and then assigned them to three of its teams in a co-operative venture new to professional football. They also propose to pool their expenses.

Noting that Dean Hilmick and Bill Fisk, Detroit Lion players, and Vic Carroll, a New York Giant member, were in the pool, George Strickler, National league publicity director, warned all players in that league that such fickleness might end their playing days in the major leagues.

Park Theater, one of the city's topnotch Negro softball tens, desires games with city or state teams. Write Max Goldsmith, 1022 Union st., or call LI. 2136 after 5 p. m. The Park team is to play Light Metals, Inc., tomorrow at 6:45 p. m. at Douglas park.

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### Amateurs Play at Victory Field



Lee Lady (left) of P. R. Mallory and Casier Schwartz of Kingan Reliabs will be holding down outfield positions tomorrow night when the two teams clash in a Manufacturers Amateur Baseball league game at Victory field. The game will start at 8:30.

## Toledo's Walter Brown Hurls Seven-Inning No-Hitter

It was a big day for Toledo yesterday. Walter Brown, 26-year-old hurler brought up from Memphis of the Southern association three weeks ago, pitched a no-hitter against the leading Milwaukee Brewers, whipping Casey Stengel's crew, 1-0, and then to add insult to injury, the Mud Hens drubbed the Brewers a second time in the nightcap, 10-7. The no-hitter was a seven-inning game.

Brown's no-hitter was the classic exhibition of pitching at Borcherdt field since Dennis Gannan blanked Columbus back in 1926. Toledo scored its only run in the third inning when Leonard Schulte hit a line drive to outfielder Bill Norman, scoring Edwin Ignasiak after the catch.

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## Old Cardinal-Dodger Era Passes as Rooters Shun Cooper-Wyatt Attraction

NEW YORK, Aug. 2 (U. P.).—The idea was inescapable today that the small crowd which saw Morton Cooper of the St. Louis Cardinals beat his old rival, Whit Wyatt of the Brooklyn Dodgers, 14 to 3, yesterday was in on the end of a baseball era.

From the 1941 season until mid-way last year, the Cards and Dodgers represented about all that was powerful in the National league and Cooper and Wyatt were their respective pitching aces.

Until the Dodgers began to crack up in the middle of the 1943 season, a duel between Cooper and Wyatt was sufficient to draw capacity crowds and the big right-handers never failed to provide a full measure for the admission price.

McCormick "On Fire" The Cincinnati Reds defeated the New York Giants, 5 to 4, with first baseman Frank McCormick continuing his batting spree with a three-run homer to pace the offensive. The Giants maintained a bare lead in fourth place over the Chicago Cubs who were idle at Philadelphia in the midst of a seven-game winning streak because of a transportation strike which caused postponement of a double-header.

The suspended game bugaboo complicated the standings again at Boston with Pittsburgh leading the Braves, 12 to 8, in a game called in the eighth inning to permit the Cubs to catch a train. Babe Dahlgren of the Pirates batted in six runs in the hit-fest, which will be completed when the Pirates visit Boston.

Browns Increase Lead The St. Louis Browns moved five and a half games in front in the American league by winning their fourth straight from Washington, 11 to 6, with Don Guttridge and Vern Stephens, their keystone combination, getting seven hits. Detroit defeated the New York Yankees, 8 to 4, knocking Ernie Bonham out in