

JOE WILLIAMS SAYS . . .

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—In one of your more indis-criminate moments you may have read in this space an account of how Howard Ehmke happened to pitch the first game of the 1929 world series against the Chicago Cubs.

I dusted off the story last week when Connie Mack, the venerable Mr. Cornelius McGillicuddy of the Philadelphia Athletics, told me on the Pacific coast that his biggest thrill in more than 50 years of baseball came when he picked Ehmke to pitch this important game.

Circumstances made it a thrill. . . Ehmke hadn't pitched for weeks. In fact, he was supposed to be in disgrace. . . The broad indictment was that he had curled up in a September game against the Yankees. . . Moreover, Mr. McGillicuddy had at least two other pitchers who so much overshadowed Ehmke, even then a castoff, that it wasn't even comical. . . The two, of course, were Lefty Grove and George Earnshaw.

A Ghost-Writer Speaks

IN MY account of the surprise selection I quoted Eddie Collins, then Mr. Cornelius' assistant, as saying Ehmke was picked a couple of hours before the opening game and that only three persons knew he was going to start: Mr. Cornelius, Collins and Ehmke. . . I now quote a letter from the able Bob Paul of Philadelphia. It goes: "I read with interest—and surprise—your story. But that's not the way I heard it."

"Back in 1929 I wrote a baseball column for the Philadelphia News and I well remember traveling on the Athletics' special train to Chicago for the series."

"You quote Collins as saying no one expected Connie to start anyone except Grove or Earnshaw as of when the special left Philadelphia. That's correct, or partly so. I know for a fact that Earnshaw thought either he or Grove would get the assignment. I know this because I was ghost writing for Earnshaw and I wrote to that effect under his by line."

Utility Player Reveals Hot News

"BUT the next morning—and this was fully 28 hours before the start of the game—I had breakfast with Bevo Lebourveau who was playing utility outfield for the Athletics. Bevo hadn't taken the final trip with the Athletics because of an injury and therefore he and Ehmke (left behind, too) had seen much of each other while the Athletics were finishing on the road."

"As I say I had breakfast with Bevo. Suddenly he asked: 'When do you file your next story?'"

"When we get to Ft. Wayne. In a couple of hours."

"That's swell. Here's a scoop for you. Everybody thinks Connie is going to start Grove or Earnshaw. He isn't. Ehmke's the guy."

"Don't kid me. It's got to be one or the other. Ehmke? He won't even get in the series."

He Decided to 'Take It'

"I DECIDED to take it. I knew Bevo and had confidence in him. The train pulled into Ft. Wayne. I gave my copy to the Western Union representative and—by now I was all worked up, myself—cautioned him not to let another living soul see the story. You know how juvenile you get about those things, don't you?"

"MAYBE Eddie Collins didn't know Ehmke was going to pitch until the morning of the game, as you wrote. After all, why should Connie have to tell him? But the fact is Ehmke knew it a week before the Athletics left for Chicago."

Duke Edges Alabama After Wild Melee in Sugar Bowl

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 2 (U. P.).—The offensive splendor of two great football teams, playing every minute of their collective lives depended upon victory, gave football fans material for months of conversation today in an aftermath to Duke's 29-26 triumph over Alabama in the most colorful renewal of the Sugar Bowl series.

Even in a loser's role, all hands concerned had most praise for nerveless Harry Gilmer, the brash freshman, from Birmingham whose long precise passes, daring runs and heady quarterbacking put the favored Duke eleven on the defensive almost from the start.

The little guy tossed eight passes and had a 100 per cent completion average, accounting for 142 yards. Two of his flips went more than 50 yards apiece, both of which set up touchdowns. His running and play-calling sparked Alabama's original drive of 66 yards, although he didn't throw a pass in that advance.

Duke's team of veterans, showing the finesse and experience which counted in the clutch stages of the fourth period, scored the winning touchdown on a 41-yard march after being denied seconds earlier when Alabama's line held with Duke a half-yard out.

Gilmer grounded the ball for an intentional safety to make the score 26 to 22 and gave the Tide a free kick from its own 20. That strategy backfired when Duke scored on two running plays after the punt return with George Clark getting the victory touchdown.

Clark was the victim, earlier in the fourth period, of a pass interception by Hugh Morrow, 17-year-old "Bama" freshman, who grabbed his touchdown thrust in front of the intended receiver, Gordon Carver, and raced back 73 yards for what looked like the winning touchdown.

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Green Light For Professional Sports Dims

If Congress Should Call Up 4-F's Baseball and League Football Probably Will Fold

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (U. P.).—The green light which baseball, football and other sports have received from Washington was dimmed today by the request of War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes that congress enact legislation drafting 4-F's into war work.

Major league baseball and professional football have operated for the most part on 4-F manpower since Pearl Harbor. Of the 530 players on the rosters of the 16 major league clubs for the 1945 season are 223 players who are 4-F's.

Sport leaders awaited congressional reaction to Byrnes' suggestion before commenting for publication, but several privately expressed the fear that if congress should draft 4-F's into war work most professional sports will fold for the duration unless the athletes are permitted to participate in sports during their off-time.

Byrnes' Stand

Byrnes, however, in answer to questions said he had not "considered" stopping other sports, as he has racing.

Byrnes took the stand that if a 4-F can compete against the best athletes in the nation, a place should be found for him in which he could contribute directly to the war effort.

He said that some men who were classified 4-F were able to hear the signals of a quarterback in a huddle and therefore should be able to hear a first sergeant or a war plant foreman.

"And some of them (the 4-F's) are color blind," he added. "Well, they don't seem to get mixed up on the color of their sweaters. As for those trick knees, if they don't get tricky on the football field, they probably won't in Verdun."

Aggies Roll Up 34 Points

DALLAS, Tex., Jan. 2 (U. P.).—Sudden first period touchdowns, two of them in a row by Oklahoma A. and M.'s resourceful Cowboys, told the story today of the most one-sided football game in Cotton Bowl history, a 34-0 victory over a Texas Christian eleven which lost heart after that initial offensive outburst.

The crowd of 37,500 fans saw an interesting display of offensive football, led by Bobby Fenimore, who was the nation's leading ground-getter during the regular season. He scored two touchdowns and directed the drive for a third before Coach Jim Lookabaugh halted out his regulars and let second stringers run over a pair of scores in the final period.

An Italian burro was brought in to represent the army mule for the half-time festivities. There were two queens, both of them WACS, and two hands led by a drum major in lights, who was booted roundly when she put on a G. I. overcoat to cover her cold bare legs.

More than 20,000 servicemen and women were on hand for the spectacle which proved to be a one-man offensive demonstration by Moody, a 30-year-old ordnance soldier and former star at Morris Brown college. He scored two touchdowns and two extra points and shook the air force line from stem to stern.

Henry Franz, who held the tie Sunday night, is now in third place. He rolled 778 and received 115 free pins for 893. Elbert Thomason is fourth with 786 (96) 882; Tim Stricker, fifth, with 776 (93) 880, and Oscar Behrens, sixth, with 834 (27) 861.

O. E. Hudler, last year's winner, failed in his quest to repeat, getting 811.

Fred Schwomeyer and Gene Harper finished first in the men's event of the doubles tournament staged at the Illinois. The pair had 1188 and a 139 handicap for 1327. Schwomeyer turned in 632 and his partner, 696.

James and Garnie Caldwell won the mixed event with 1348. Caldwell had 625 and his wife, 490, to which they added a 231 handicap. Lucille Hornaday with 419 and Leona Allee with 263, combined their scores and took 263 charity pins for 1160 and top honors in the women's event.

The doubles, a weekly program sponsored by the bowling proprietors, will be held at Pritchett's next Saturday and Sunday.

Hardy was the Trojan hero. After a sleepless night with a stomach ailment and a fever of 101, the triple-threat quarterback sparked his team all afternoon, flipping passes that caught Tennessee flat-footed, slanting three punts out of bounds beyond the Volunteer 10-yard line, making one touchdown himself, and completing two pay-off passes for his 10th of the season and a new Southern California record.

Southern California capped a powerhouse 73-yard drive reminiscent of the best days of the Thundering Herd with a touchdown on the fourth period opened, marching the distance in 10 plays. Hardy packed the ball over from the 11-yard line and Pat West made the day's only conversion.

Waterfield, only good enough to make most second All-Coast teams this year after being touted as the best in the West for his play before entering the service, was nothing short of sensational as he sparked the West to victory before 65,000 fans.

Besides packing the pigskin 13 yards around end for the winning touchdown, brilliant Bob also turned in some of the most phenomenal punting ever seen on any gridiron.

East Scores Early

The East made its initial touchdown in the first four minutes of play when Frank Danciewicz flipped a pass to Jack Mead, the Wisconsin end for a 34-yard gain and a touchdown. Tom Hughes, Purdue kicking specialist, toed the point and the East led, 7-0.

The East generally was in command of things for the rest of the half, but the West started clicking in the third period and then collected both touchdowns in the fourth period.

The West got its first touchdown early in the fourth period and, with time fading fast, put on a brilliant 45-yard drive that faltered on the four-yard line when Kennedy fumbled. Bob Kelly, Notre Dame, kicked out, but the West pounded right down the field again, with Waterfield passing to Howell for 28.

Then on a fake lateral, Waterfield took the ball from Kennedy and skirted end from the 13 for the winning touchdown. Kekeris kicked the extra point.

Beech Grove Tilt

Beech Grove Boosters basketball team is to play Lukas-Harold at the Beech Grove high school gym tomorrow night. The game is scheduled to start at 8 o'clock.

DePaul Center Is Poison to Illini

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., Jan. 2 (U. P.).—DePaul university's Blue Demons of Chicago avenged a defeat of two weeks ago at the hands of the University of Illinois basketball team by defeating the Illini last night, 63 to 56.

George Mikan, DePaul's giant center, scored 28 points before he fouled out of the game after 31 minutes of play. John Orr, center, was high scorer for the Illini with 13. DePaul led at the half, 39 to 32.

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Tulsa Balances Bowl Book

MIAMI, Fla., Jan. 2 (U. P.).—Tulsa's Golden Hurricane balanced its "Bowl Book" today with a glorious 26-to-12 revenge victory yesterday over Georgia Tech in the Orange Bowl, which squared accounts for the loss suffered to the same team in the 1944 Sugar Bowl game.

Staging the first football upset of 1945, before 30,000 fans the Tulsons struck for a touchdown in the first four minutes and left no doubt thereafter that they would conquer the wily Engineers without difficulty.

Coach Henry Frank, the young mentor who has sent Tulsa to four Bowl games in as many years, crossed up the opposition with a style of play totally unlike that which had held the Oklahomans in good stead through the regular season. Instead of concentrating on a ground game, the oil country boys chose to throw the ball, and passes accounted for two of their four touchdowns.

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Negro Is Toast Of 5th Army

FLORENCE, Italy, Jan. 2 (U. P.).—Cpl. John Moody, a 230-pound Negro from Freeport, Pa., was the toast of the 5th army today for his all-out efforts which were largely responsible for the 20-to-0 football victory over the 12th air force in the New Year's day Spaghetti Bowl football game.

More than 20,000 servicemen and women were on hand for the spectacle which proved to be a one-man offensive demonstration by Moody, a 30-year-old ordnance soldier and former star at Morris Brown college. He scored two touchdowns and two extra points and shook the air force line from stem to stern.

An Italian burro was brought in to represent the army mule for the half-time festivities. There were two queens, both of them WACS, and two hands led by a drum major in lights, who was booted roundly when she put on a G. I. overcoat to cover her cold bare legs.

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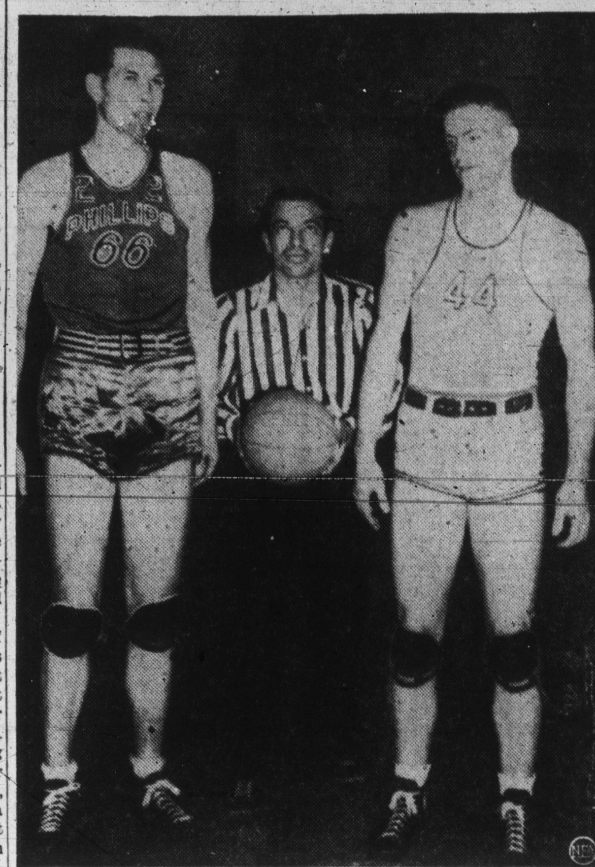
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In Different Role



Little Don Gutteridge, who plays plenty of second base for the St. Louis Browns, is practically dwarfed by 6 ft. 10 in. Charley Halbert of Phillips and Bill Hubbard, 6 ft. 6 in., Kansas State Teachers, as he calls jump-ball in game he officiates at Pittsburg, Kas.

Bowes Sealfast Stars Lead In St. Philip Pin Event

Joe Fulton and John Fehr hold the one-two positions in the standings of the 17th annual St. Philip handicap sweepstakes, which got under way Saturday.

Two hundred and forty of the 400 entrants rolled their quartet of games over the week-end and yesterday, with the remainder slated for action next Saturday and Sunday.

Fulton totaled 911 in his four games, added a 32 handicap, for 943 and the top spot. He had games of 254, 216, 214, 227. Fehr, a teammate on the Bowes Sealfast quintet, had a larger total, but his lack of handicap relegated him to the runner-up post. He had 194, 258, 226, 246—924 and a 16 handicap for 940.

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