



## Joe Williams Says— Yanks One Step Nearer Pennant

Defeating Red Sox Boosts  
Both Standing and Spirits

NEW YORK, Sept. 8—Up came the eighth inning in that big ball game between the Yankees and the Red Sox under the lights in the Stadium last night. The Yankees had come from behind to overcome a two-run handicap and go out in front, 3 to 2, in the seventh and score two more in the ninth to win 5 to 4 before 66,575.

Allie Reynolds was their pitcher. He had gotten off to a shaky start, passing four in the first inning and yielding a hit which produced the two enemy runs. But from the second on he had pitched with competence and courage. When he had to strike out the dangerous hitter, there was one gone in the eighth when Bobby Doerr tripped to deep left center. Immediately Casey Stengel, the grained veteran who has done such a wonderful job in managing the Yankees this year, was in the middle of the diamond.

Everybody in the vast crowd knew what that meant. It meant Joe Page was coming in from the bullpen to save another sick ball game. And that's precisely what he proceeded to do.

THE YANKEES, as a result of their victory, are a step closer to a championship performance today. No matter what happens in the remaining two games of this critical series they can't lose their lead.

It is almost impossible to overestimate the value of that win last night, materially and psychologically. It was a tremendous thing in so many ways. Even as a stage setting, sports offer few more majestic scenes than a jam-packed Yankee Stadium under the lights in the cool of a September evening.

And you could practically feel the tension on the field and the emotionalism in the stands. Even those people—those very old people—who come out to see Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams, merely two of the finest players baseball has ever known—surrounded at intervals to the high drama of the game and the human conflicts involved. When Reynolds was taken out it seemed as if everybody in the Stadium stood up and cheered him.

IT WAS an unusual game in that none of the big stars did much in a meritorious way to influence the result. Williams settled for a single, Joe DiMaggio went hitless.

Vern Stephens, who leads the league in runs batted in, fanned twice and was otherwise undistinguished at the plate. Indeed, the visiting shortstop had a miserable evening all around. It's unlikely that he was tapped under the tension, of which there was plenty, for he's battle-tough, but the fact remains he made two errors which led directly to Yankees runs. Once he tried to throw a ball before he had it in his hands—a trick which has defied the highest talents of fielders since Doubleday.

THE YANKEES' Bobby Johnson came close to being the hero of the night. He got himself a pair of triples, the second of which netted two runs and put the Yankees out in front, where they remained to the finish.

Yogi Berra was back in the game for the Yankees for the first time since he broke a finger on Aug. 7. He clearly showed the effects of bench confinement. He went hitless and it took some fine-and-dandy fielding by Phil Rizzuto to turn one of his second base pegs into a thrilling put out. This was in the sixth when Al Zarilla tried to steal. Berra's throw was low and wide and altogether amateurish but Rizzuto—another valid reason why the Yankees are setting the pace—made a great play and got the ball as well as the runner. It was the top fielding play of the game.

## 'You're Making My Job Lot Easier,' Stengel Tells Page

Relief Pitcher Blazes 5-to-2 Victory for Yanks Over Red Sox in Rare Exhibition

By CARL LUNDQUIST, United Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK, Sept. 8—Gray Casey Stengel shook the hand of the greatest relief pitcher of modern times and said amidst the victory din in the Yankee dressing room, "Thank you, Joe Page, you're making my job a lot easier for me."

It was in that same dressing room two years ago when another manager, Bucky Harris, so choked with the emotion of World Series triumph that he could hardly speak, raised a glass and said over and over again—"Joe Page, Joe Page."

It was Page who won that World Series for the Yankees and it is Page who is pitching them into the forthcoming one—for now the odds on them making it are almost prohibitively in their favor.

### Yanks Win 5-2

Page made them so last night, when for the 15th time this year he came to the relief of his pitching buddy, Allie Reynolds, and fired his blaze ball past four straight batters for third strikes to end the game in a 5-to-2 Yankee triumph over the pestiferous Red Sox.

That was one of the greatest relief pitching exhibitions I have ever seen," said Stengel, a grizzled veteran of more than a quarter of a century of big league ball.

Last night he came in for his 49th relief appearance and his 15th rescue job for Reynolds. Bobby Doerr had just tripped with one out in the eighth and the 2-to-2 Yankee lead looked precarious. Page nailed Al Zarilla on a schoolboy pop and struck out Billy Goodman. Then he struck out the side in the ninth and the Yankees wound up 2½ games in front in the most serious challenge they have faced to date.

### Johnson a Hero

In order for Page to emerge with the pitching honors, Billy (The Bull) Johnson, Stengel's fill-in first baseman who has been the club's most consistent hitting of late, had to be a batting hero.

The attendance was 2218, a

# Indians Still In There Battling For Pennant

## Only 3½ Games Behind With 5 Yet to Play; Blank Colonels, 7 to 0

Queen Goes After 21st Victory Tonight; Maybe St. Paul Has the Jitters

By EDDIE ASH, Times Sports Editor

You can never tell in baseball. A race isn't over until it is clinched. And the St. Paul Saints have yet to apply the clincher. The second-place Indianapolis Indians still are in there battling to survive, although they are three and one-half games behind with only five to go. St. Paul also is only five to play.

By winning last night over Louisville, 7 to 0, as St. Paul lost

new low for the season at Victory Field. It rained up to 7:55 and it looked as though the contest would have to be postponed.

But Tribe Business Manager Ted Sullivan refused to give up. Louisville wanted to play, and Jack Miley, chief of the grounds crew, performed a miracle by getting the diamond in shape to satisfy the umpires with a delay of game time of only 15 minutes.

It rained no more, except for a sprinkle in the eighth inning and the customers who braved the threatening weather sat in on a rare treat.

In an effort to keep his Indians

to continue winning without a break and for St. Paul to continue stumbling. The weather also could be a factor in determining the pennant race.

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The "Old Brawl"

The "brawl" is to take over the greenward at 7 p. m. and last about three innings, if there are any survivors after two innings. Stretchers will stand by.

After several secret practice sessions behind a tall billboard on the South Side, Bill Eggert of The Times, Press pitcher, announced that he had mastered the Frank Merrifield double shot.

When Gene (Splinter) Kelly, Radio pitcher, was informed by his spile that Eggert had developed a secret weapon, he went out to the State Fair, consulted with the carnival barkers and was taught how to throw a triple shot when the State Fair Board wasn't looking.

Getting back to last night's ball game at the Tribe park. It was a dandy. The Indians really looked the part of champions, instead of being just a runnerto-the-pitcher club.

Extra-Base Carnival

They blasted out 13 hits, including four doubles, three triples and a home run. They made the slumping Louisville Colonels look helpless.

Young Joe Muir, Tribe pitcher, held the visitors to four hits, all singles, and did not issue a walk while chalking up eight strikeouts. The rookie left-hander retied the Colonels in order after the fifth inning. His last hit was by Jim Piersall, in the fifth, and he was forced.

The Indians belted the horse hide for 26 total bases as they pounded two Louisville pitchers, Jack Robinson and Ewald Pyle.

High and Far

After two scoreless innings, Earl Turner, Tribe catcher, broke the spell by smacking a homer over the left field wall. It was one of the hardest hit balls of the season here. The wind was from the north and Turner was able to loop the ball right into the strong breeze, and it still had plenty of carry as it cleared the wall. It was his 12th homer of the season.

Turner also hit a single and a double, scored two runs and batted .375.

Other doubles in the game were hit by Les Fleming, Russ Peters and Ted Beard. Fleming and Peters also piled triples and Jack Cassini also lined a triple off the left field wall. Peters, like Turner, collected three blows.

The Indians scored in the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth.

It was Muir's ninth victory against eight defeats and his second shutout. He blanked the Colonels in a seven-inning game in mid-season.

Last night's game was an oddity. Not a single base on balls was issued by any of the pitchers. Moreover, the contest was played off in 1 hour 43 minutes, extra fast time for modern baseball. The attendance was 2218, a

so-so night in the 19th.

Turner in First Fight

In a fracas at Brooklyn which was highlighted by a fist-fight between Spider Jorgenson and Eddie Stanky, the Dodgers made it four straight over the Braves, winning 5 to 4, on a two-run homer by Eddie Mikas.

Mikas was the guy who replaced Jorgenson when he was ejected for his bunting. Roy Campanella also hit a Dodger homer.

In the only other major league game the Reds drubbed the Pirates 5 to 2 on the margin of Walker Cooper's grand slam triple and the White Sox scored a 7 to 1 decision over the Browns on Bill Wight's five-hit pitching.

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Ben Davis at Decatur Central, 8 p. m.

Howe at Broad Ripple, 8 p. m.

Crispus Attacks at Sheridan, 8 p. m.

Lawrence Central at Franklin Township, 8 p. m.

Plainfield at Pike Township, 8 p. m.

Southport at Warren Central, 8 p. m.

SATURDAY

Brownburg at Speedway, 8 p. m. (Dedication of Delavan Smith field lights 7:30 p. m.).

MONDAY

Sacred Heart vs. Charlton of Plainfield, 6:30 p. m.; Cathedral vs. Westfield, 8:15 p. m., at CYO Field. (Two games, dedication of CYO Field at 7:45 p. m.).

Crispus Attacks at Lafayette, Jeff, 8 p. m.

Julie Rykovich Signs With Chicago Bears

CHICAGO, Sept. 8 (UPI)—The Chicago Bears announced today that Julie Rykovich, former Illinois star, has signed for the 1949 season.

Rykovich recently was released by the Chicago Hornets of the A.A. A man in a conference. He earlier played with the Buffalo Bills of the AAC.

In college he played in 1942 and 1946 at Illinois and in 1943 as a Marine trainee at Notre Dame. He is 26.

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Indianapolis-Louisville  
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## Minor Mishaps Hex Big, Tough Gopher Grididers

By PAUL B. WILLIAMSON

(Following is Williamson's preseason survey of major football conferences and minor Midwest conferences.)

GROUP CHAMPION RUNNER-UP

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION Minnesota.....Army Cornell.....North Carolina U.

Southern Conference.....Ivy Tulane.....Wake Forest

Mid-American Conference.....Southern Methodist U. Texas Christian U.

Southwest Conference.....Notre Dame

Big Ten.....Michigan State

Mid-American Independents.....Ohio State

Big 8.....Oklahoma

Mississippi.....Mississippi State

Pacific Coast.....Southern California U. Santa Clara

Border Conference.....Hardin-Simmons

Mountain States.....Colorado A. & M.

California C. A. A. College of Pacific

Michigan Conference.....Michigan

Ohio Athletic Conf. (Upper) Toledo

Ohio Athletic Conf. (Lower) Denison

Indiana Conference.....DePauw

Iowa Conference.....Loras

Kentucky I. A. C. Louisville U.

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPION RUNNER-UP

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION Pittsburgh.....Rosenblatt and Mast

St. Paul.....Rosenblatt and Mast

INDIANAPOLIS.....St. Paul

St. Paul.....Rosenblatt and Mast

St. Paul.....Rosenblatt and Mast