



EDDIE ASH

A BASEBALL figure oldtime Indianapolis fans never will forget was Shorty Birch, the little man with the big cigar and the big megaphone. . . Shorty was his own radio and public address system.

He was the Indians' announcer at old Washington Park. . . Shorty also was the ball club's ballyhoo man. . . On weekdays when the team was at home, Birch mounted a horse, which was not too far away from the glue factory, and zig-zagged through the downtown district shouting through his megaphone all about the ball game scheduled for the afternoon. . . Shorty used the noon hour for his ride back and forth on Washington St., in order to catch the fans out for lunch. . . At the park, Birch announced the batteries and he had the proper voice for it. . . He even made it easy for the hard of hearing to catch the names of the pitchers and catchers.

Shorty took great pride in his work and would trade jobs with nobody. . . He got in on the huddles between umpires and managers just before game time and that was really something in his life. . . Also, any other announcements to be made, were passed down to Shorty. . . But one day he thought the world had tumbled in and the situation was hard to take for the popular little man.

BUT ON this particular day, Birch was frustrated. . . When Shorty wasn't looking, the ball players stuffed an orange in his megaphone just before battery announcement time arrived.

So Shorty got in good voice, planted himself in the proper stance, upped with the megaphone and let go with "Attention, please." . . But there was no sound. . . The orange cut it off. . . A giggle rippled through the crowd and it became a roar when Birch reached into the megaphone and yanked out the fruit.

When the Indians won the pennant in 1928 and shoved off for Rochester, N. Y., to begin the Little World Series, Shorty was made a member of the party as guest of the Indians. . . Making a long trip with the team, especially to a Little World Series, was the greatest thing that ever happened in Birch's life and all the players saw to it that he had a good time.

BUT SHORTY didn't forget his megaphone. . . Somehow he figured he'd find a way to use it despite the fact he was headed for somebody else's home grounds.

Rochester had its own Shorty Birch. . . That didn't stop the Indians' Shorty. . . He went to the park early on the day of the first game and made the acquaintance of Rochester's megaphone hustler to whom he made a proposition.

"Let's split the announcement of the batteries," suggested Shorty. "You announce the Rochester battery and I'll announce the Indianapolis battery." . . The Rochester lad was reluctant to share his "key duties," but finally consented, and Shorty Birch was on top of the world again even away from home.

Thirty-eight years ago (1913-14) the Chicago White Sox and the New York Giants made a world tour and the exhibitions of America's national pastime were well received everywhere. . . A second global tour is in the formative stage for 1953-54. . . It is said the Cleveland Indians and the St. Louis Browns are interested in the project.

OWNERS OF the Dallas professional football team (nee New York Yankees) are swinging glittering gold braided lassos at every athlete sporting a Texas drawl, past and present, if he can still plunge, punt, pass or run. . . Whattaman Art (The Great) Shires, was born too soon to rate a stake in the new gold mine. . . Going big is a Texas custom. . . Dutch Meyer, Texas Christian football coach, is driving a Cadillac this winter, a gift from TCU lettermen and others. . . The fact that Meyer's Frogs were bumped off by Kentucky in the Cotton Bowl classic made no difference.

Good Season Promise Gets Mickey Kisses

GROSSINGER, N. Y., Jan. 22—Skinny Mickey McDermott of the Red Sox and his blue-eyed bride traded kisses and curve balls today in one of the most bizarre "baseball honeymoons" on record.

Although he pitches for a living, the gangling, goosenecked Boston southpaw has been doing most of the catching since his marriage six days ago.

"GIMME A kiss," he said to his bride over the breakfast table.

"Uh-uh," replied the honey, "not until you promise to win 15 games this year."

"Fifteen games? You're reeling off numbers like a stock broker. Gimme a break, will yuh, honey?" "You heard me. No promise."

"Oh, awright, I promise," pouted Mickey, puckering his lips.

There was a momentary pause while the former Barbara Riley tenderly kissed her lanky husband.

"WOW!" hollered the 23-year-old McDermott, "a couple more like that and I'll win 20."

"Whaddya think of this wife of mine? She didn't know much baseball to begin with, but after being married only a few days she makes me promise to have a good year before she'll kiss me."

The six-foot three-inch left-hander, who weighs only 170 pounds and says he has been "eating everything in sight" at the Grossinger Country Club in the effort to put on some weight, thought the added responsibilities of being "a family man" still left her favorite.

"See," said the youthful southpaw, "married only a few days, but I got her trained already."

Ceilings Set On Baseball Admissions

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—The government today authorized six major league baseball clubs to hike their ticket prices by 5 cents to 50 cents and minor league clubs to boost their admission charges by 8 per cent.

Major league teams who will get increases under the order, effective Jan. 28, are the two Chicago teams, the two Philadelphia teams, the Cleveland Indians, and the Detroit Tigers.

The increases and the new ceilings for them, which includes federal admissions tax, are: Philadelphia Phillies and Philadelphia Athletics—increases of 25 cents for box seats, bringing the ceiling to \$2.75.

Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox—increases of 25 cents for general admission, bringing the ceiling to \$1.50; increases of 50 cents for reserved seats, bringing the ceiling to \$2 and increases of 50 cents for box seats, bringing the ceiling to \$2.50.

CLEVELAND INDIANS—An increase of 5 cents for general admission, bringing the ceiling to \$1.25; an increase of 15 cents for reserved seats, bringing the ceiling to \$1.40; and an increase of 25 cents for box seats, bringing the ceiling to \$2.25.

Detroit Tigers—An increase of 25 cents for reserved seats, bringing the ceiling to \$1.75.

Other major league teams are held to their 1951 ceilings, the OPS said. The OPS said the order is designed to bring club ticket prices more in line. The major league clubs have not hiked their prices for several years, the OPS said, and have suffered increased costs from higher player salaries, traveling expenses, and ball park maintenance costs.

MINOR league clubs may increase their ticket prices as they wish, so long as the increase in their total admission revenues does not exceed 8 per cent for any capacity day.

The order also authorizes an 8 per cent increase for tickets to pre-season or other exhibition games that are not played at major league clubs' home baseball parks.

Norris Plans Walcott Bout

NEW YORK, Jan. 22—Promoter Jim Norris was expected to begin negotiating today for a return title bout between Heavyweight Champion Jersey Joe Walcott and Ezzard Charles as a result of the New York Boxing Commission's crack-down on Walcott.

Chairman Bob Christenberry notified Walcott last night that unless he signs within 15 days for his over-defense against a legitimate challenger, the commission will vacate his title.

CHRISTENBERRY later said ex-champion Charles or Rocky Marciano would be considered legitimate challengers. He added, "we do not care what city is chosen for the fight although we naturally would like to have it in New York."

The commission's letter to Walcott emphasized every champion, except when in the armed services, is expected to defend at least once every six months, and Jersey Joe had not risked the crown since he wrested it from Charles at Pittsburgh last July 18. His six months expired Jan. 18.

Manager Felix Rocchiccioli said he agreed to an early Walcott defense, but he preferred a Boston title fight in which Marciano of Brockton, Mass., would be the challenger. He made that statement at Holyoke, Mass., where Jersey Joe gave an exhibition last night.

State Fair Purse Hit All-Time High

Indiana's centennial State Fair this year will have an all-time high in estimated purses for the Grand Circuit harness racing program.

L. Orville Miller, reappointed director of speed, has announced \$192,000 in estimated purses for a six-day racing program.

The racing program includes the familiar features plus a new Friday show, sponsored by Two Galts Farm of Carmel, Ind., and Walnut Hall Stud of Donerail, Ky.

City, County H. S. Cage Card This Week

TONIGHT
Dear School at Whitestown.
Manual at Washington.

TOMORROW
Shortridge vs. Craggs at Tech.
Speedway at Lawrence Central.

When Stalin dies, who will take control of Russia. The new series of articles starting Monday in The Times will give you the answer.

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IMPORTANT: We are interested in men who seek permanent jobs. We choose deliberately, waiting for men who fit our needs. (Heat is essential even in war-time.)



Indiana Jolts Iowa Out of Big 10 Lead

Indiana rated an assist today for Illinois' undisputed hold on first place in the Big Ten basketball race.

The Hoosiers, who lost their pre-season United Press ranking of fourth place after three conference losses, smacked Iowa's fourth rated Hawkeyes last night at Bloomington, 82 to 69.

IT WAS the first defeat in 13 games this season for Iowa, and it left the Hawkeyes in second place in the Big Ten with a five and one record compared to four and zero for Illinois, idle in conference play since Jan. 14 and not scheduled to play again until Jan. 28 against Purdue at Champaign, Ill.

The game was a thriller until big Charley Darling, Iowa's 6-8 center, fouled out with 4:30 to go. With classy Chuck out, Indiana controlled the rebounds to forge into the game's only commanding lead.

Darling, the Big Ten's leading scorer, hooked in 31 points, and Iowa refused to substitute until he fouled out. His amazing hook and pivot shots were by far the outstanding features of the game. His rival in the pivot slot, 6-9 Freshman Don Schlundt topped the Hoosier scoring with 22 points.

THE GAME was tied a dozen times and the lead changed hands 13 times. At no time in the game, until the very finish, did either team enjoy more than a six-point advantage as the battle saw-sawed furiously.

The first period ended 18 to 18 and five quick baskets by Sammy Miranda gave Indiana a 39-to-35 half-time lead. But Iowa, led by Darling, McKinley Davis and Bob Clifton, roared back as the nip-and-tuck battle continued.

Davis, although bothered with four personal fouls in the second half, netted 19 points for the Hawkeyes, while Bobby Leonard and Bobby Masters contributed

College Basketball

Indiana 82, Iowa 69.
Michigan State 50, Wisconsin 39.
Northwestern 50, Michigan 27.
Ohio State 50, Minnesota 38.

STATES
Tennessee Tech 61, Evansville 46.
Adrian 72, Assumption 64.
American 61, Randolph-Macon 59.
Boston College 44, Dartmouth 31 (over-time).

BRACKET 44, Alfred 41.
Canisius 38, Holy Cross 40.
Catholic 60, Loyola (New Orleans) 61.
DePaul 41, St. Sheridan (Ill.) 44.
Elm 61, Norfolk 37.
Haver College 50, Catawba 44.
Indiana State 65, Western State 45.
Kentucky 56, Georgia Tech 41.
Lincoln Memorial (Tenn.) 54, David Lipscomb 51.
Memphis State 79, Mississippi Southern 57.
National 60, Agriculture (Pa.) 66, Kines (Del.) 62.
New Mexico Highland 57, St. Michael's 47.
Oklahoma 47, Missouri 45.
Washington State 56, Oregon State 44.
West Texas 60, Hardin-Simmons 51.

When Stalin dies, who will take control of Russia. The new series of articles starting Monday in The Times will give you the answer.

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Olympics Kill Out Royal Welcome Mat

Local Pro Cagers Seek 13th Straight at Home

COACH HERM Schaefer's pre-game talk to the Olympics tonight will probably follow this line: "Remember where you are, not where you've been."

If the Olympics head those words they'll beat Rochester for their 13th straight Butler Fieldhouse victory. Those interested can drop in at 8:30 and see what's in a word.

Home is a place there's no place like. And the Olympics will agree. If it weren't for the tonic of the Fieldhouse floor they would be digging a nice deep hole in the Western Division of the National Basketball Association.

MAKING LIKE a politician we say "Look at the record." The Olympics have won 13, lost 3 at home for a happy .813 reading. The road is something else, showing only six wins in 22 tries for a puny .273.

With three losses over the weekend the road losing streak has reached eight games. So it's no wonder the boys are glad to be home.

So it seems that the only way to get well is a diet of home cooking. And therein lies Herm's material for a pep-talk. He'll mention pride, regard for the Fieldhouse fans and hustle. He might also mention that fourth-place Ft. Wayne is creeping up faster than tax-paying time. If the third-place (19-19) Olympics are wise, they'll give a listen.

ROCHESTER is rugged. It's been running one-two with the Minneapolis Lakers for first in the West most of the season. But the Royals haven't been too much trouble for the Olympics. They have been pressed to hold a 3-2 advantage over the locals. In the single game played here, the Olympics won in a double overtime.

The Royals have the league's seven, ninth and 14th best scorers in Bob (15.7) Davies, Bobby (15.1) Wanzer and Arnie (13.5) Risen. Wanzer also is tops in free-throw accuracy (90.7). Davies ranks third in assists and Risen third in rebounds.

Incidentally, the Royals connect on 35.5 per cent of all shots from the field. True, the figures cited are cold, but they just might put warmth in the Oymp effort. Anyway, Schaefer hopes so.

All the Olympics have to do is remember they're home and not on the road. It's that simple. Or is it?

Entry Blanks Sent For AAU Tourney

Entry blanks for the Indiana AAU basketball tournament have been mailed to 60 local and more than 100 state teams.

Deadline for entries is Feb. 6. Entry fee is \$15 for a 12-man team. Teams from central Indiana will start play at the Dearborn Gym Feb. 12. District playoff sites are being arranged at Whiting, Delphi, Huntington and Richmond. Other centers will be arranged this week.

The state champs will represent Indiana in the national AAU tourney at Denver, Colo., Mar. 16 to 23. The Denver semifinals will compete in Madison Square Garden for a chance to represent the U. S. in the Olympic games at Helsinki, Finland.

Western Conference

ILLINOIS 25, IOWA 18.
MINNESOTA 38, WISCONSIN 27.
MICHIGAN 27, NORTHWESTERN 50.
OHIO STATE 50, INDIANA 82.
KENTUCKY 56, GEORGIA TECH 41.
LOUISIANA STATE 45, TEXAS 60.
ARKANSAS 44, MISSISSIPPI 57.
VIRGINIA 41, CAROLINA 37.
FLORIDA 41, ALABAMA 37.
MISSOURI 45, OKLAHOMA 47.
NEBRASKA 41, KANSAS 37.
SOUTH DAKOTA 41, NORTH DAKOTA 37.
MONTANA 41, WYOMING 37.
UTAH 41, IDAHO 37.
ARIZONA 41, CALIFORNIA 37.
NEVADA 41, COLORADO 37.
NEW MEXICO 41, TEXAS TECH 37.
LOUISIANA TECH 41, ARKANSAS TECH 37.
MISSISSIPPI STATE 41, ALABAMA STATE 37.
FLORIDA STATE 41, GEORGIA STATE 37.
VIRGINIA TECH 41, CAROLINA TECH 37.
NORTH CAROLINA 41, SOUTH CAROLINA 37.
Tennessee Tech 41, Evansville 46.
Adrian 72, Assumption 64.
American 61, Randolph-Macon 59.
Boston College 44, Dartmouth 31 (over-time).

Forward Tom Williams lifted Ohio State into undoubted third place in the conference when he stole the ball and dropped a crisp shot with four seconds to go for a 59 to 58 decision over Minnesota. The win gave the Buckeye a mark of three and two in the conference and left them a half game ahead of Indiana and Northwestern.

Center Paul Ebert was the Buckeye ace with 27 points while Bob Gelle dropped 15 for Minnesota.

Northwestern dominated Michigan, 59 to 57, as Larry Dellefield caged 17 markers. Jim Skala and Don Eaddy each hit 14 for Michigan, in last place in the conference. Bob Jewell of Indianapolis scored 9 for the Wolverines.

Michigan State dropped Wisconsin, 50 to 36, with Gordon Stauffer netting 13 while Paul Morrow connected for 14 for the Badgers.

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Lockmiller To Play For Giants

NEW YORK City White Lockmiller at the end of the 1951 season. . . man at the end of the 1952 contract. . . Giants today. . . assured he is caught in the

The blond, lotee, N. C. to first base. . . on the basis of average and 12 games.

IT WAS Lockmiller in the ninth inning of the playoff game. . . October that he alive and se Bobby Thoms homer.

Lockman, w Giants in 1941. . . home in his f to the plate. . . Leo Durocher, he will remain

"Whitey did when we broug first base," sa ling over his 15. . . I don't plan t to the outfield, our first base

Lockman was ber of the G 1952 contract.

THE PHIL letics announce their first fo eral Manager. . . the contracts of Dick Fowler, Murray and R

Utility Intell iger and Roc Teed agreed to lyn and Pitch with the Dodg 1950, applied t'rement.

Tenwigler, Chicago Cubs last season wh with St. Paul Association.

TWO ROCK Chiti, who may first string reg Tom Simpson. . . Chiti bat Moines last se won six and Buffalo Bisons.

The Red Sox the signing of ers Ralph Br, Freeman Jr., ham.

Billy Demar, old shortstop right to Toron ton League Browns.

Arizona '500' Dr

Bobby Ball, in last year's t been voted Ar professional at Ball was acc the Arizona Ex tion, and won standing prof Alex Kellner, who won the h Lee Salas, p Whizzer White Bears profess and Don Nich er recently l White Sox.

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