

# NEW SPIRIT IN REDS THIS YEAR

## Cincinnati Hopes to Finish Higher in the National League Race.

By Alan Gould  
(Associated Press Sports Editor)  
ORLANDO, Fla., Mar. 20 (AP)—The Cincinnati Reds this year have a new owner, a new manager, new spirit—and some old familiar figures in new uniforms. They hope the combination will make the reds more conspicuous in the national league pennant chase than has been the case since they last seriously threatened in 1926.

Late last season, the ownership of the Reds passed to the hands of Sidney Weil, young and energetic automobile dealer who admitted a lack of technical baseball knowledge but possessed excellent enough business judgment to engage the capable Dan Howley as general manager of the Reds on the field. Backed by Weil, Howley has given the club a drastic shaking up and developed a habit of hustling that may make the Reds a decided factor in this season, even though they hardly can hope to entertain any pennant prospects.

**Developing Pitchers**  
Howley has concentrated on the development of new pitchers, the encouragement of the old and the acquisition of a bigger punch in the outfield by obtaining Bob Meusel and Harry (Slugg) Hollman from American league clubs at an outlay understood to be around \$50,000. The new manager found ready-made for him such assets as the great right-handed twirler, Charles (Red) Lucas; a sensational

catcher in Clyde Sukeforth; and a fine second-base combination in Hughie Critz and Horace Ford. Leo Duracher, the peppery lad obtained from the Yankees may break into this combination as an alternate or understudy for Ford at shortstop without spoiling its defensive efficiency.

Moussel and Hellmann, in fine condition and eager to show they can hit national league curves as hard as they hit American league fast balls, give the Reds a much-needed clean-up wall.

Howley will be disappointed if these two do not hit around .350 apiece. They will be supported probably by Ernest Evar Swanson, centerfielder, and one of the fastest men in baseball, with Curtis Walker, Elhan Allen and perhaps Earl Webb, former Cub, in reserve.

**Veteran at First**  
The veteran George Kelly at first and either Charley Dreesen or Joe Stripp at third base will round out the infield. Tony Cuccinello came up touted as a great third baseman, from Columbus, but Howley has developed him principally as an understudy for Critz at second. This appears important in view of the talk at various times that the Reds might listen to terms on a deal for Critz.

No matter how many games they place in the winning column, the red flingers will be in condition. Howley has had the whole club hustling but he has had the pitchers running. Like Bob Shawkey, Rucky Harris and other managers, Howley regards a pitcher's legs as important as his arms.

Nothing is the matter with the good right arm of Lucas who won 19 games last season, or the southpaw of Jackie May. They are the ace of the staff. Pete Donohue, much heavier and stronger, and Eppa Jephtha Rixey, towering southpaw, probably will capitalize their experience as relief men. Howley hopes to develop at least

one, if not two performers from the crop including Dour McWeeny, big fast-ball pitcher from Brooklyn; Archie Campbell, another of St. Paul's numerous contributions to the big show; Silas Johnson, last year with Columbus; and Benny Frey, obtained from Nashville. Ray Kilp, Ken Ash, Rube Ehrhardt and Marvin Gudat, young Texas southpaw, are all hold-overs.

Sukeforth, who hit .354 last season, his first as a regular, will share the catching assignments with the veteran Johnny Gooch, but Howley has the hooks out for another backstop, needed for emergencies.

# Sport Slants

by ALAN J. GOULD

Luzerne Atwell Blue, the able first baseman of the St. Louis Browns who is built like Red Grange and as dynamic on the diamond as the redhead was on the gridiron, sat in on a discussion of fast balls in the lobby of the Monterey hotel, West Palm Beach.

"Lefty Grove unquestionably has the fastest ball of any pitcher in the American league," said Lu, who can speak with authority after ten years of facing the best boxmen in the circuit.

"Walberg is fast and so is Earnshaw, among the right handers, but neither has quite the zip that Grove can put on the ball. The ace of the A's, in addition, has great control for a southpaw. Walberg has a better curve than Grove."

The subject turned to Walter Johnson, who probably had the fastest ball of them all.

"I battled against Johnson eight or nine years ago when I believe he was still faster than anyone in the league and faster even than Grove is now," declared Blue.

"But Cobb, Speaker and the fellows who had known him in his prime, told me I should have seen Johnson when he was good. If they were right, I'm glad I didn't have that to worry about. He was too good for me when they said he was about through."

Winter sports, where winter has been successful, have had their fling and so far as the Northeastern sector is concerned, the University of New Hampshire still rules the roost, as intercollegiate champion. The boys of this rugged New England school skated and skied off with three of the four big meets, held at Dartmouth, Murray Bay and on their own snowed ground. Dartmouth captured the first honors at Lake Placid.

Notre Dame had its "Four Horsemen" but New Hampshire skated into the picture this winter with its "Four Ice-men," who cleaned up in a very big way. At the Dartmouth and New Hampshire winter carnivals, the two Mathuna brothers—Harry and Eugene—of Worcester, along with Arthur Burns of Manchester and Malcolm Chase of Dover, N. H., finished army-in-army for first place in the quarter-mile as well as two-mile races.

The University of Washington not only turns more oarsmen with coaching talent than any other university supporting rowing but most of the racing shells come from the shop and expert hand of George Pocock at Seattle. George's spirit and applause goes with the Huskies in any race. East or West, but he is impartial as a craftsman.

Pocock has just finished nine shells for the eight-oared competition, six of which—built for

Cornell, California, Wisconsin, Navy, Syracuse and Washington—will be assembled again for the Poughkeepsie regatta in June on the Hudson river. Harvard and Princeton also have bought new shells from the Pocock shop this year, while he is shipping one as far away as Cuba, where rowing is one of the most popular of sports.

## ART SHIRES THROUGH WITH CHICAGO TEAM

DALLAS, Tex., Mar. 20 (AP)—Declaring he was "sick of being bulldozed" by Charles Comiskey, Chicago White Sox owner, Art Shires, crumpled first baseman, has announced that he never again will play with the team.

In a telephone conversation last night he admitted he had received a telegram from Comiskey asking him "while participating in the fight ring, who suspended

you and who produced the evidence that caused the reinstatement?"

"The boxing commissions have records of this," Shires declared, "but I'm not a bureau of information for Comiskey or anyone else. If Comiskey wants to know anything about the fight racket, let him go to the boxing commissions. They have all the dope. I wasn't guilty of any wrong doing."

He said he was going to ask the White Sox to place him on the voluntarily retired list, then planned to proceed with other plans, probably to play semi-pro ball in which he believed he could make more money than the Chicago club offered him.

Shires has been classed as a holdout since he failed to sign the first and only contract tendered him by the Sox management.

NEW YORK—Attempt by three masked men to help up Greenwich Village restaurant resulted in slaying of one by policeman and capture of another by patrons.

## LOCAL MEN ON UNIVERSITY'S TRACK SQUAD

Two La Grande students are taking a prominent part in athletics at the University of Oregon this spring, both in track.

Clare McKennon, who won last year's coast conference quarter mile, will again compete at this distance and is also working out in the sprint, although his time so far—19.8 seconds—has not been very fast. McKennon represented Oregon at the national intercollegiate at Chicago last year.

Norman Jesse, turning out for the first time, shows much promise in the shotput, although so far his best heave has been under 43 feet. Jesse was a weight man during his high school days here.

LONDON—Foreign Minister Briand, of France, hints that way has been found to break Franco-Italian deadlock over parity.

**GIRL BETTERS RECORD**  
SYDNEY, New South Wales, Mar. 20 (AP)—The Australian girl Olympic swimmer Bonnie Mealing, swam 150 yard back stroke today in 1 minute 57 seconds in a 50-yard tank. She bettered by one-fifth of a second the world's record of Ellen King made at the English championships in August, 1928. Her effort was only a trial, her official attempt being planned for Mar. 27.

**ANOTHER BRIDGE BATTLE**  
SEATTLE, Wash., Mar. 20 (AP)—Because he trumped his time's ace in a bridge game, she hit him with an alarm clock, packed his clothes and ordered him out of the house, William Ellis testified during his suit for divorce against Mrs. Ellis. The divorce was granted.

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FOR—	Motor Coaches Leave La Grande	One Way	Round Trip
Pendleton	10:15 a. m.; 1:40 p. m.; 6:50 p. m.	\$2.25	\$3.40
Walla Walla	10:15 a. m.; 1:40 p. m.	3.75	5.65
Lewiston	10:15 a. m.; 1:40 p. m.	7.25	10.90
Spokane	10:15 a. m.	8.75	13.15
Yakima	10:15 a. m.	7.30	12.65
Portland	10:15 a. m.; 6:50 p. m.	8.00	12.05
Baker	10:10 a. m.; 3:30 p. m.; 8:25 p. m.	1.80	2.70
Boise	10:10 a. m.	7.10	10.65
Salt Lake City	10:10 a. m.	19.15	31.90

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