

BROWNS TO SHOW CLASS THIS YEAR

St. Louis Has No Pennant Prospects But May Finish in First Division.

(Note: This is the fifth of a series of first hand stories on major league club prospects.)

By Alan Gould
(Associated Press Sports Editor)
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Mar. 11 (AP)—The St. Louis Browns, best of the second division clubs in the American league last year, have a fast young outfit that shows distinct signs of improving.

It has, quite frankly, no pennant prospects nor more than an outside chance of crashing the first division in a circuit top heavy with the strength of four leading clubs, but the reconstruction program of Manager Bill Killefer is showing favorable results.

Step by step, Killefer has patiently rid the Browns of dissension, developed young players and, finally, eliminated the "bonus system" that upset the club's morale to some extent last season. The players have nothing else to do now but concentrate on contributing the maximum to team play, instead of attempting to fatten the pay envelopes by individual exploits.

Holdout Troubles
Holdout troubles have beset the Browns, in the absence of any other items of irritation. Killefer has been handicapped by the delay in signing such stars as Goose Goslin, Ralph Kress, Dick Ferrell and Wally Stewart.

Meanwhile he has concentrated on the development of his young infield. "We tried the experiment last year of installing most of the Wichita Falls infield as regulars," said Bill. "It gave me a few more grey hairs but these boys have kept hustling and should all be better ball players this season."

The Browns are a bit shy of reserves but Jimmy McLaughlin, former Pacific Coast league star, is a good base prospect and Wes Kingdon, up again from Chattanooga, can fill in at short.

Plenty of Punch
There will be plenty of punch in an outfield composed of Ralph Kress, Fred Schulte and Goose Goslin but Killefer would like another good left handed cloutier for alternate duty.

The pitching staff has a strong quartet in Stewart, one of the best southpaws in the league; George Blaesholder, Dick Coffman and Sam Gray. Gray lost 24 games last year but they blame the "bonus system" for that. Coffman found himself late in the season when he hurled a one-hit game and then beat the great Lefty Grove in a duel that broke Grove's winning streak.

Wally Hebert, the Louisiana schoolboy who souped up the Athletics into submission in his first start, is the brightest of the young hurling prospects. Big Glad Kinsner, Don Cooney, from Wichita Falls, and Americo Polli, up from Milwaukee, all look good.

With Dick Ferrell and the veteran Benny Bengough behind the bat, the club is well fortified. To develop more speed Killefer has had his boys working in a new sliding pit, a novelty in the "grapefruit circuit" and an indication of the return to old fashioned methods.

"Goose" Goslin Signs Contract With the Browns

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Mar. 11 (AP)—"Goose" Goslin, star fielder and slugger, was in the St. Louis Browns' fold today, leaving but four holdouts listed on the club roster.

Goslin signed his contract yesterday after lengthy conferences with owner Phil Ball over salary figures. Neither of them made known the terms of the contract. Goslin had been holding out for the same terms he had last year.

OLD JACK A MYSTERY
CLEARWATER, Fla., Mar. 11 (AP)—If old Jack Quinn of the Brooklyn Dodgers should stick around the majors another 20 years all the mysteries that surround him might be cleared up.

Nobody—perhaps not even Jack himself—knows how old he is but it is usually has been learned that he is not Polish.

Quinn says: "I'm English with just enough Irish and Welsh seasoning to make me spicy."

DISCOVERS SECRET
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Mar. 11 (AP)—George Pippas has discovered the secret of Vernon Gomez's sensational success with the New York Yankees last season.

"The catcher," says Pippas, "gives Gomez the sign but even then he doesn't know what Lefty is going to pitch."

"The batter doesn't know what's coming."

"Gomez doesn't know where the ball is going."

"The umpire doesn't know what to call it."

"Thus everybody's fooled and victories pile up."

Eddie Ran Favored To Beat Battalino
NEW YORK, Mar. 11 (AP)—Despite his substitute's role, Eddie Ran, Polish welterweight, has been installed as favorite over Christopher (Battalino) of Hartford for their ten round scrap in Madison Square Garden tonight.

Ran took the match only three days ago when Battalino's original opponent, Billy Petrolle, turned up with a stiff neck and had to ask for a postponement.

The betting odds today favored Ran at 7 to 5.

Aching Voids
"Husbands are verra like teeth," said an old Scotch lady. "They're mighty hard to get, an' they're a deal of trouble all the time ye have them, but they leave an awful blank when they're gone."—Boston Transcript.



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