

Vitt's Indians Given Outside Chance

But Must Plug Shortstop Gap

Boudreau's Injury Severe Blow to Cleveland; Lack Long Ball Hitters

By WHITNEY MARTIN
FORT MYERS, Fla., March 23—(AP)—It's been 20 long years since Cleveland held the American league championship, and although even the freethinkers won't tell you that this is the year it will be given back to the Indians the idea is general that Oscar Vitt's team is one of the two or three with even an outside chance of finishing ahead of the Yankees.

That is, the chance was there until three or four days ago, when Vitt sent Louis Boudreau for a precautionary X-ray of a lame ankle.

"He was running from first to third," Vitt explained. "When he came in he said he hurt his ankle stepping on second base. The X-ray showed a crack in the bone. He may be out three weeks, maybe indefinitely. You can't tell about those things."

"And he's the best shortstop I've looked at in a long while. I wouldn't trade him for any in the league. I don't care if he hits ought-two, he'll help me. But he should hit .260. You should see him on double plays—swish, swish, swish," Vitt illustrated with darting movements of his hands. "He'd be in on four double plays a game."

From Buffalo
Boudreau came up late last year from Buffalo, along with Second Baseman Ray Mack, much to the distress of the Buffalo fans. Mack, a 195 pounder, handles his bulk dexterously, and he and Boudreau make an excellent double-play combination. In fact, with Boudreau available, the Cleveland infield packs plenty of class, with large Hal Trosky on first and Ken Keltner on third.

It is the impression that the Indian outfield is a little on the light side, but Vitt bristles at the suggestion.

"I'm satisfied with it," he challenges belligerently. "Ben Chapman and Roy Weatherly are all right and Geoffrey Heath has the natural ability to be one of the best players of the game."

"See that No. 34 out there? That's Clarence Campbell, an outfielder with New Orleans last year. I like him. He hit one nine miles the other day."

However, despite Vitt's expressed satisfaction with how his garden grows, the idea persists that the Indians could use some men out there who would send opposing outfielders shinning up fences. Heath got 14 home runs last year. Chapman, six, and Weatherly only one in the 95 games he played, and all that doesn't add up to a half-pint of power when compared with the Williamses and Di Maggio and Greenbergs some of the other contenders boast.

Trosky Powerful
Trosky is the only real power hitter on the team, and it's going to take some blasting to get the Yankees out of here. You can't punt them out.

The Indian catching seems to be well taken care of with Rollie Hemsley on his good behavior these many months, and Frank Pytlak a capable understudy.

With runs none too abundant, a heavy load will fall on the Cleveland pitchers, and it is the mound stuff which starts the fans arguing and worrying simultaneously.

The argument is that Bob Feller is certainly due for a fine year, that Max Harder should win his share, that Willis Hudlin and Al Milnar should turn in workmanlike jobs, and that a couple of lads like Mike Maymick may help the credit side.

The worrying comes in with the question of Johnny Allen's arm and the possibility of Harder's wing going dead. All Vitt will say right now is that his pitchers "are coming along all right."

As a whole, the team's chief



SYL JOHNSON
VETERAN RIGHT-HANDER AND COACH OF THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

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JOHNSON IS BEGINNING HIS 20TH YEAR IN ORGANIZED BASEBALL
SYL WAS ONCE KNOWN AS THE BEST CURVE BALL ARTIST IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

drawback would seem to be the lack of sheer power on offense, particularly in the outfield, but that drawback can't be shrugged away. It's hard to find a good substitute for a home run with the bases loaded.

United Brethren Choir Will Sing

The First United Brethren church will present an Easter program tonight at 7:30, featuring the choir, conducted by Carl B. Bowman, and members of the intermediate department of the Sunday school under the direction of Mrs. R. A. Clark.

- The program comprises the following numbers:
- Prelude, "Easter Triumph"..... Ashford
 - "There is a Green Hill Far Away"..... cornet, euphonium and piano
 - "The Resurrection Morn"..... Miles
 - "He Dies, The Friend of Sinners"..... Kratz, male quartet
 - "Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"..... Barnaby Strain
 - "Hail, The Glorious Easter Morn"..... Schnecker
 - "We Have Seen The Lord"..... intermediate department
 - "Sing Sweet Carols"..... Howard
 - "The Lily of the Valley"..... Anderson
 - "The Sun Had Set"..... male quartet
 - "Hallelujah, Sing to Jesus"..... Stairs

Postlude
Faye Waldorf and Adelbert Henderson will appear in the incidental solos. Marion Bowman is accompanist.

Rain of Dodos in No. 12 Cup, Salem Golf Club Course

The 150-yard number 12 hole of the Salem Golf club layout took a dodo beating last week.

Wednesday Carl Mason, senior member of the Willamette university golf team, hit a one-put into the number 12 cup;

Thursday, in celebration of his 18th birthday, Ray Farmer, number one man of the Salem high tee corps, spanked his tee shot into the same cup.

Subsequent inspection by groundskeepers revealed no groove.

Portland Utility Petitions Ample

Final petitions for creation of the proposed Portland people's utility district, filed here Friday, contained 7403 signatures, the state hydroelectric commission reported Saturday. Checking of the petitions was completed Saturday noon.

Less than 6000 signatures were required under the law.

Hydroelectric commission officials said the proposal would be submitted to the voters of Portland at a special election May 17, the date of the primary election in Oregon.

Nominees for directors were received here Saturday. These include George M. Clevenger, Clifford A. Lucas, William F. Woodward, Cyril G. Brownell and John P. Lich.

Coos PUD Final Petitions Filed

Final petitions for creation of the Coos people's utility district were filed in the offices of the state hydroelectric commission here Saturday.

C. E. Stricklin, commission secretary, said the special election on the petitions would be held May 17, the date of the Oregon primary election.

The district would comprise a strip of land along the coast. Names of only two nominees for directors of the district accompanied the petitions. These were Paul Hudson and Maurice Anderson. Five directors are to be elected.

Chandler Brown Latest Candidate For Water Board

Chandler P. Brown, alderman from ward three, announced yesterday that he will be a candidate for city water commissioner, bringing to four the number who will vie for the three places open on the water commission.

A fifth person, Dr. F. L. Utter, has also indicated that he may be a candidate.

L. M. Doughton, present water commission chairman, Floyd Seigmund and George B. Butts have mission.

Thomas B. Hill, who announced already filed for the water commission, would seek the mayorally yesterday formally filed for the post. His slogan is "Constructive and active government."

Joseph Voegtlin, 795 South 12th street, filed yesterday for alderman from the fourth ward. He will run in opposition to Gertrude F. Lobdell, who is seeking reelection.

Gain in Gasoline Purchases Shown

Gasoline consumption in Oregon for the period January 1 to February 29, 1940, aggregated 31,803,436.12 gallons, an increase of 2,888,811.08 gallons over the similar period in 1939, Secretary of State Earl Snell reported.

The February 1940 consumption was the largest of any February in the history of the state.

Gasoline tax paid up to February 29 this year totalled \$1,590,171.83, as against \$1,445,731.26 during the same period in 1939.

WU Baseball Club Begins Training

Pitcher Shortage Faced by Coach Keene; White Sole Veteran Tosses Back

Their opener set for Saturday of this week against the penitentiary Grays, the Willamette U baseballers Monday buckled down to serious work for the 15-game season that will carry them through May 18.

Faced with a dearth of pitchers, Veteran Coach Spec Keene intends to immediately begin search for someone who can stand on the slab and get the ball across.

Only veteran chucker available is "Powder" Bob White, senior fireballer who is always a late starter. White's only help at this writing is Hal McAbee, rookie of last season who showed his wide hook to good advantage in the conference playoffs at Whitman.

Jimmy Robertson, who shared bird cage duties last year with Hal Moe, is back in that spot this season, but his assistance is an unknown quantity. First base, where Rex Pierce has been stationed for three years, is wide open, but Captain Lee Shinn is back for second base duties and Johnny Kolb is available for the hot corner. The shortstop job will probably again be in the capable hands of Dick Gentzkow.

Returning outfielders include Maurice "Horse" Loneragan, Durb Southard and Dwight Catherwood.

Freshmen who will make strong bids for the club include Al Walden and George McGlinn, flashy football halfbacks, and Ralph Farmer, behemoth basketball.

150 Swear Allegiance

PORTLAND, March 23—(AP)—Oaths of allegiance to the United States were taken by 150 persons yesterday before Federal Judge Claude McColloch.

Washington Given Hood; Chamber Here Protests

Mt. Hood is in Washington, according to pictures in the March 18 issue of Life magazine. A caption in the section entitled "Life's Pictures" credits the northern state with Oregon's winter playground, but pictures appearing in the main section give proper ownership. Fred D. Thielson, manager of the Salem chamber of commerce, has protested by letter to the editor of Life.

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Commutations Are Granted to Lifers

Two commutations of sentence, involving men now serving life terms in the Oregon state penitentiary for murder, were granted by Governor Charles A. Stryker here Saturday.

One of the prisoners, Joe Perry, was received at the penitentiary April 5, 1926, from Umatilla county. He was convicted of second degree murder. The other prisoner, Joe Wallace, was received at the prison June 12, 1917, from Gilliam county.

Both commutations were recommended by the state parole board. Perry and Wallace will be released within the next month.

A conditional commutation of sentence was granted to Robert Curry, serving a 15 year term in the penitentiary. He already has served eight years.

Under this commutation Curry would be returned to California to complete an unexpired term at Folsom prison.

Weigh Anchor Is Tanforan Winner

SAN FRANCISCO, March 23—(AP)—Weigh Anchor, the favorite, came up from fifth spot in the stretch to win today's mile and a sixteenth Golden State derby at Tanforan race track and collect \$3910 for its owner, W. D. Simpson of Chicago and Menlo Park, Calif.

It was the fourth victory of the day for Johnny Longden, Calaveras, Canada, Tanforan's leading jockey this season. He brought in Weigh Anchor in 1:44, to pay Backers \$5, 3.40 and \$2.80.

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BUDDY MYER
WASHINGTON SHORTSTOP AND SECOND BASEMAN SINCE 1925

BESIDES SECOND AND SHORT STOP BUDDY HAS ALSO FILLED IN AT THIRD BASE