

Highclimber

By DICK STRITE

Some sportster "down in Boston" suddenly discovered the other day that Bobby Doerr had been rejected from the army because of ear trouble, and by the time it reached the publishing stage the scribes had the Red Sox second baseman rejoining the American league contenders at the start of their western tour later this week.

Bobby returned to Cheshire last week end. The chance is the Boston correspondent discovered that Bobby was rejected by the Boston board because of perforated ear drum last June, but he was recalled for another exam and passed. It would certainly have been a big boost for the Boston if he could have returned to take part in the dog-fight for the American league pennant and a spot in the World Series. Hitters capable of batting around .330 don't grow on the bushes.

Bobby told us he was a little mystified at the method of accepting a rejected man for the



BOBBY DOERR
Red Sox sacker to Army

service. He still has the perforated ear-drum he has had for the past 20 years and "will likely have for 20 years more." He suspects there has been so much criticism regarding the rejecting of baseball players that the Boston examining board recalled him and accepted him on general principles.

Doerr, considered by many baseball critics the greatest second baseman in modern baseball today, regrets missing out on the final few weeks of the season—with the pennant and world series and the American league batting championship hanging fire. He intimated the Detroit Tigers had too much Hal Newhouser and Dixie Trout for the rest of the pennant contenders, but predicted that the team that got hot would gain the dubious honor of meeting the potent St. Louis Cardinals in the series. He said the Red Sox, with Pete Fox and Bob Johnson in the lineup, still had plenty of hitting, but the Bostonians would have been in the drivers' seat if Tex Hughson, ace righthander, could have remained with the club. "He would have had 21, 22 or 23 wins by now," Bobby said.

There still appears to be a possibility that the army doctors will reject Bobby which would send him back to the Red Sox in time for Detroit, St. Louis and Chicago series.

Doerr will be leaving the Red Sox after eight seasons with the major-league club. He started with Hollywood in 1934, when he was only 15. He played in only 67 games, but the next year as a regular he batted .317 for the Stars. He shifted to San Diego in 1936 and hit .342, graduating the next season to Boston—a big league infielder at when he was still in his teens. This has been his best season at the plate for the Red Sox, holding a "duration" .328 average which might possibly cap the crown. His fielding has always been excellent. He was the leading league fielder in 1940, 1942 and 1943. Last season he set a new major league record by handling 349 fielding chances without an error—and finished the season with only 9 errors in 914 chances for an average of .990.

Bobby was the star of the 1943 All-Star game when he pounded in three runs with a homer and single and handled six fielding chances without a bobbie.

The 26-year-old athlete planned to spend a few days with his wife, Monica Terpin, and 7-year-old son, Don, at his "winter" home on the Rogue River above Hlahe, and will then return to the Terpins' milk farm out Cheshire way and settle his family down for the duration—returning to Gold Beach to report to his draft board there next Tuesday.

Bobby, incidentally, told us just where and when to catch those fine Rogue River steelhead. . . . and said he would tell the fellow who stays on his place to allow us to use his boat and fish on his property whenever we wish to risk taking that mountain road from Powers to the river. . . . Bobby says it isn't bad this season because it has recently been gravely.

Speaking of baseball, latest report from Montana School of Mines is that Jerry Switzer, former University high basketball star, has won his sixth game without a defeat for the Collegians and the latest was a 10-2 victory over Silver Bear to enter the fin-

als of the Copper league playoff. . . . In that game the big south-paw allowed but four hits, fanned four and walked two. . . . and aided in his team's scoring with a triple and single for two runs batted in. His team was charged with but one error in the last game. . . .

Young Switzer is in the navy V-12 program at Montana and is scheduled to finish his present course in November. There is a possibility, however, he may remain there for the basketball season—his best sport when a prep-

It was rumored that Hobbs was sending John Warren six basketball players from New York, but we later discovered it was just one of Ed Siegmund's puns. . . . The other John Warren, the ace pitcher for the Glushtina Reds who had the best earned-run average this season in the Cascade league, is the proud father of a catcher—Roger Kent Warren, tipping the beam at 7 pounds, 12½ ounces at birth. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Warren have three other sons—half a ball club now.

Hager, Kiser Accept Meanie Mat Challenge

A group of Creswell sportsmen today were reported to have posted the \$20 challenge wage backing Jack Kiser and Creswell's No. 1 athlete, Tex Hager, in a team wrestling match against Pat O'Dowdy and Buck Davidson at the Pearl Street arena next Saturday night.

O'Dowdy and Davidson, victors over Kiser and Milt Olsen last week and unbeaten in team competition over a period of several years, offered to meet all comers for a \$200 side bet—plus the purse, Kiser, present Pacific coast light-heavyweight champion, accepted the challenge but was unable to find a partner to share the wrestling and financial load until Hager showed up with his backers.

There was one provision demanded by the combine, however, in that Matchmaker Don Owen provide two instead of the usual one referee for the four-man skirmish. Kiser, Hager & Co. pointed out that O'Dowdy and Davidson got away "with murder" last week and that two officials must be employed this week, or else, Owen said he was willing to do this regardless of the extra cost and has assigned Milt Olsen and Elton Owen to the task.

In taking on Hager as a partner, Kiser is getting a formidable teammate and the champion believes the two matmen will have an even chance of upsetting the two villains.

Lane county mat followers, especially those who were on hand for the colorful and dynamic bout last week, will welcome the match with open arms—and are almost certain to fill the local arena to capacity, again.

Owen, in the meantime, is seeking top-flight talent to appear in a special 45-minute match as the supporting feature for the headliner.

Manuel Ortiz TKO's Castillo In Fourth

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 13.—(U.P.)—Manuel Ortiz headed back to his farm in El Centro, Cal., Wednesday, the world's bantamweight champion still in his pocket after his fourth-round technical knockout last night over spunky Luis Castillo.

It was Ortiz' 11th title defense, and he disposed of the Mexican contender in 11 and one-half minutes of almost nip and tuck battling.

Referee Mushy Callahan stopped the fight in the fourth round after Ortiz cut Castillo's left eye with a couple of smashing rights. A doctor crawled into the ring, examined the eye, and ordered the bout stopped.

Even Match Till—Both Ortiz and the Mexico City challenger had been slugging it out evenly until Castillo's eye started spurting blood.

The champion took the first round with a late rally after Castillo's dodging and feinting kept him out of reach until just before the bell. Within a few seconds Ortiz connected with three or four solid hooks to the face.

The chunky challenger came out fast in the second round and almost swept Ortiz off his feet with a flurry of fast body punches. Both fighters were swinging hard and missing frequently, but Castillo won the round with some looping rights to Ortiz's head.

In the third it was anybody's round for the better part of the three minutes. Castillo kept Ortiz on the defensive and seemed to be getting in the best punches.

Then Ortiz rallied and unleashed a long right to the chin that hurt the little Mexican. Judges called the round a draw.

Both fighters came out warily in the fourth. Then, with 30 seconds to go, Ortiz flashed out with a hard right that cut Castillo's left eye. A few seconds later he connected again leaving the eye a bloody mess.

Bucs Take Twin Bill From Cards

	W	L	Pct.	Behind
New York	76	61	.555	
Detroit	75	61	.551	1/2
St. Louis	73	62	.541	1
Boston	73	64	.523	3

By JACK HAND
Associated Press Sports Writer
Connie Mack's lowly Athletics put the chill on Detroit all season long, winning 10 of 19 from the pennant contenders, but Tiger-town Wednesday was 100 per cent behind Philadelphia as the A's tangled with the Yankees in a resumption of American league competition.

If the Mackmen, a step out of the cellar, in seventh place, can trip New York, Detroit would vault into the lead by .008. The Yanks-Athletics tilt was the only game scheduled from Monday to Friday but they were due for two more in New York over the weekend while Boston played Washington, St. Louis entertained Chicago and Detroit visited Cleveland.

American league teams, thinking of the world series, took heart from the Cardinals' continued slump as the Red Birds dropped a doubleheader to Pittsburgh for their ninth defeat in their last 13 starts.

Attendance figures reflected the tightness of the flag chase with New York showing the way at 727,385 and the entire league drawing 4,185,000 customers. Detroit was second with 648,642 and a cinch to take the lead with 14 more home games to two for the Yanks.

Rain washed out Cincinnati at Chicago and Philadelphia at New York doubleheaders in the National after the Phils had taken a 2-0 lead in three innings of the opener. Boston at Brooklyn also was postponed.

The Cardinals left before the Pirates' Fritz Ostermueller, 5-3, in the first game and then dropped the nightcap, 6-5 as Preacher Roe took the decision over Bud Byerly.

Gus Sonnenberg Dies In Washington

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13.—(U.P.)—The sporting world lost a familiar figure last night with the death of big Gus Sonnenberg, the former Dartmouth collegian whose "flying tackle" won him fame and fortune in the professional wrestling game.

The 44-year old wrestler, who had been serving in the navy as a Chief Specialist, died of leukemia at the naval hospital at Bethesda, Md. He had been hospitalized for almost eight months.

The squat, 235-pound Sonnenberg had been a familiar figure in wrestling for years and contributed greatly to the revival of the sport a decade or so ago. His record included victories over some of the top grapplers of his day, including Ed "Strangler" Lewis at the time Lewis was recognized as world's heavyweight champion.

He was a well-known football player in his Dartmouth college days, and developed his famous "Flying Tackle" from his pigskin experience. Actually, it wasn't a tackle but a head-butt delivered to the midriff.

At one time "Dynamite Gus" was considered among the wealthiest men in his profession but he spent money freely and was said to have gone through several fortunes.

Michigan, Purdue, Northwestern, Predicted To Fade Into Oblivion In 1944 Big Ten Race

(Editors note: This is the first of three stories dealing with the prospects of Big Ten football teams for the 1944 season.)

CHICAGO, Sept. 13.—(U.P.)—The football powers of the Big Ten—Michigan, Purdue and Northwestern—were suffering from the fortunes of war today as they prepared to open the 1944 season minus the stars that made them great last year.

Michigan and Purdue, generating their power from lend-lease talent, smashed through six conference games undefeated last year to tie for the Big Ten title. Northwestern, also bolstered by navy-marine transfers, managed five victories and one defeat for third place.

This year's story, however, is told in terms of round-trip tickets and the "return" stubs have been used by many of the navy-marine stars. At present, Purdue, where Cecil Isbell has been graduated to head coach, appears to be the only one of the "big three" capable of making a championship bid.

Here's a bird's eye view of the three team's major losses, holdovers and "finds":
Purdue—lost: quarterback Sam Vacanti, field general and deluxe passer; Tony Butkovich, all American fullback who set a Big Ten scoring record in 1943 of 78 points; Capt. Dick Barwegen and all American Alex Agase, guards. Remaining: 13 letterwinners, including two regulars. Found: A strong backfield and a new passer, Ray Schultz, Chicago.

Michigan—lost: Elroy Hirsch and Bill Daley, the "touchdown twins" who scored a combined 83 points; Merv Pregulman, all American guard-tackle, the entire line and three-quarters of the



CHAMPION RIDER—Nadine Williams, who won a contest for best horse and rider, at the third annual Lane county rodeo, is now practicing for the new junior rodeo, which will be held at the fair-ground soon. (Willshire engraving)

Navy Has Arsenal Of Top Gridiron Talent

By JOHN F. CHANDLER

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Sept. 13.—(U.P.)—On paper, the Navy football team could just about wrap up and deliver a national championship to little old crab-town on the Screen this fall—on paper.

And here's why the situation is so well under control:
1. Cmdr. Oscar E. (Hag) Hagerberg, new head coach, summoned the press to the annual grid preview the other day, and trotted out a hefty array of prime beef, brain and brawn, but wait.

Two days later, without warning, the academy, through the grace of the National College Athletic Association, pulled a magician's hat trick and instead of rabbits, six former Navy stars previously ineligible, jumped out. The NCAA ruling adopted last January, permits four years of varsity play for all undergraduates.

Thus, you don't have to climb out on a limb by saying Navy will be the outfit to beat this year, because the NCAA edict benefits no

St. Louis Cards Have Sensational Fielding

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—(U.P.)—The St. Louis Cardinals, whose butterfingers fielding was a big factor in their world's series defeat by the New York Yankees last year, are currently fielding at a pace never before equaled in major league baseball.

Including games of Sept. 11, the Cardinals boast a team fielding percentage of .982, a point higher than the major league record of .981 set by the Cincinnati Reds in 1940. Of the 5181 chances that came their way, they've committed only 92 miscues, 25 less than the Reds in their record-breaking year.

Of their 132 games to date, the Redbirds have played errorless ball in 58, probably a record.

Leading this group of glue-fingered phenoms is Marty Marion, who has erred only 15 of his 631 chances for a .976 percentage, tops for shortfielders in the majors this year. He's also accepted 15 chances (another high) on July 8 against Pittsburgh, and had 10 assists against Brooklyn 10 days later.

school as much as it does the academy. It brought six members on the 1942 and 1943 teams out of supposed retirement.

With backfield talent galore, Hagerberg still could welcome the return of Hal Hamberg, polished passing ace of last year, and Dave Barksdale, stellar blocking back who piloted the '42 Tar eleven.

But it was the forward wall where Lt. Cmdr. E. E. (Rip) Miller, line coach, needed help, and got plenty. Miller was worrying along with only one regular 1943 lineman, Ben Chase, guard and team captain, when the NCAA Santa Claus brought:

Don Whitmore, at 215 pounds one of the east's fine 1943 tackles; Ben Martin, a 190-pound back who once played end and will be shifted again to a wing position; Jack Martin, 205-pound regular center last season, and Marshall Sieves, a 192-pound guard.

Navy may have to hire a couple of extra statisticians to help Hagerberg keep track of his lengthy list of backfield candidates. Besides Hamberg and Barksdale, they include Bobby Jenkins, Dick Duden, Bill Barron, Jim Pettit, Joe Sullivan, Bruce Smith, and Tom Dwyer, all from last year's squad; and these newcomers: Ralph Ellsworth from Texas U.; Fred Earley, Notre D.; Dick Amburgey, U. of Pennsylvania; and William Abramowski, Penn St.

Major Leaders

AMERICAN	AB	A	H	Pct.
Doerr, Boston	438	92	152	.225
Johnson, Boston	436	100	148	.225

NATIONAL	Batting—Walker, Brooklyn, .354.
Runs—Batted In—Nicholson, Chicago, 107.	
Home Runs—Nicholson, Chicago, 32.	

Home Runs—Nicholson, Cubs, 32; Ott, Giants, 26.	
Runs batted in—Nicholson, Cubs, 107; Sauer, Cardinals, 97.	
Runs—Stirnweiss, Yankees, 114; Mural, Cardinals, 104.	
Hits—Stirnweiss, Yankees, 183; Mural, Cardinals, 151.	

HARDY TROY CAPTAIN

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 13.—(U.P.)—Trojan Jim Hardy, sensational quarterback who threw three touchdowns passes against the University of Washington Huskies in last year's Rose Bowl game, today took over as captain of the 1944 USC squad.

Angels Win Flag As Bevos Lose

The Los Angeles Angels Tuesday night dropped their home game with Seattle, 3-1, but clinched the Pacific Coast league baseball crown for the second consecutive season because the Oakland Aacorns blasted the second-place Portland Beavers out of the race with a 4-2 win at Oakland.

The Angels won the pennant obliquely with the Beavers' defeat placing the Los Angeles team eight games ahead with seven yet to be played as the final week of Coast ball got underway.

The San Francisco Seals crossed the plate twice in the seventh at San Diego to eke out a 2-1 win over the cellar-dwelling Padres, putting the Seals in a third-place tie with Seattle, while the Hollywood Stars squeezed out a 5-4 win over the Sacramento Solons.

Norbert Homers
Seattle took an easy win from the pennant victors, scoring in each of the first three brackets on home team errors. The lone Angel score came in the seventh when Ted Norbert punched a homer over the left field wall with the bases empty.

Oakland won their game, and incidentally the crown for Los Angeles, in a fourth inning spree that saw four Aacorns cross the plate on a series of singles and walks. Portland scored one run in the same bracket when pitcher Damon Hayes walked a man with the bases loaded to force a run. The second Beaver tally came in the fifth.

The Oakland success brightened the team's chances of being among those present in the four-team post-season playoff for the Governor's Cup, but the Seattle and San Francisco win kept those teams ahead of the Oaks.

The Sacramento—Hollywood game was highlighted by two home runs. Al McElreath hit a round trip for the Solons, and Frank Kelleher, Pacific Coast home run king, clouted a circuit drive in the eighth with the bases empty following a Hollywood three-run drive in the sixth.

Line scores:					
San Francisco	000	000	200	2	7
San Diego	000	010	000	1	6
Harrell and Ogdowicki	Hanski and Seinfeld.				
Seattle	111	000	000	3	2
Los Angeles	000	000	100	1	5
Elliot and Spindel; Adams, Phillips	(9) and Sarni.				
Hollywood	000	003	020	5	11
Sacramento	000	100	021	4	11
Sharp, Stanton (9) and Younger; Porter and Steiner.					
Portland	000	110	100	2	3
Oakland	000	400	000	4	9
Helach and Adams; Hayes and B.	Raimondi.				

Baseball

COAST	W	L	Pct.
Los Angeles	63	69	.474
Portland	65	77	.453
San Francisco	63	79	.442
Seattle	63	79	.442
Oakland	61	81	.430
Hollywood	60	83	.419
Sacramento	53	90	.368
National	71	91	.438

NATIONAL	W	L	Pct.
St. Louis	65	79	.450
Pittsburgh	70	84	.452
Cincinnati	73	87	.452
Chicago	60	79	.432
New York	61	72	.459
Boston	55	79	.410
Brooklyn	55	80	.407
Philadelphia	52	79	.397

JOCKEY CONTINUES HOT STREAK

LAUREL, Md., Sept. 13.—(U.P.)—Jockey Leonard Bowers, who rode 12 winners in the first four days at Laurel, turned in a triple yesterday aboard Ginoca, Sea Pilot and Wise Advice, Bowers is from the Boise, Idaho.

Preponderance Of Good Players In Majors

By CARL LUNDQUIST
NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—(U.P.)—Baseball's annual crop of "most valuable players" was ripe and about ready for harvest today, with the talent so nicely distributed in both major leagues that practically every club had at least one or two players worthy of serious consideration.

Oddly, there was a preponderance of outstanding shortstops, which usually are harder to find than a nickel beer. There are at least two standouts in each league, whose team mates will offer little argument that they deserve the laurel as the top players on their respective clubs.

With the champion St. Louis Cardinals in the National league it's smart Martin Marion, the guy with so much baseball horse sense that he is ranked with the greatest players of all time. Defensive-ly he covers as much ground as a Russian communique and might well be classed as a "fourth outfielder." He's no great shucks as a hitter, but can be dangerous with men on base.

His counter-part with the St. Louis Browns, Vernon Stephens, is a better hitter with a record of 97 runs batted in, tops for all American league and is tied for the lead in homers with 17. Moreover, he is a whale of a defensive player, some American league partisans even comparing him favorably with Marion.

Manager Lou Boudreau of the Cleveland Indians, a strong fielder and the team's top batter, is the other American league shortstop while Ray Hamrick, now in the navy, was so outstanding with the Philadelphia Phillies that he evoked the comment from general manager Herb Pennock that "he took the whole team with him when he left it." The Phils dropped from fifth to eighth in the standings after his departure.

At the moment it is a toss-up with the Detroit Tigers between their two 24-game winners Paul (Dizzy) Trout and Hal Newhouser, though lefty Hal might gain the nod because he has lost only eight games while Dizzy has dropped 11.

Stirnweiss Leading Yanks

George (Snuffy) Stirnweiss, who came out of obscurity with the New York Yankees when Joe Gordon went into military service, is getting most consideration as the standout among the world champions. He leads both leagues in stolen bases with the amazing average of .31 in 37 tries, is tops in runs scored with 114 and has a lustrous .318 batting average.

The Boston Red Sox, who might well be atop the standings if they hadn't lost second baseman Bobby Doerr and pitcher Cecil (Tex) Hughson, could figure either as their most valuable, but probably would settle for outfielder Bob Johnson among those still with the club. He has hit 17 home runs to tie for the league lead and is second in batting with a .323 mark. It's hard to get around the fact though that Doerr was leading the league in batting when called into service and that Hughson was tops among the pitchers with 18 victories when he left for the colors.

The lesser lights in the league, the Washington Senators, Chicago White Sox and Philadelphia A's each have one talented star worthy of consideration with catcher Frankie Hayes of the A's probably the standout among them because of his durability. He has caught every game, something unheard of in these times, has hit 12 homers and batted in 71 runs. Stan Spence, Senator outfielder, is the best on the team that didn't click



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Walters Top Red
The Cincinnati Reds were gone far without the national league's top 20 players. . . .
Walters, who is one of the best players in the league, is a "rookie-of-the-year" honoree who has been in a sad state since his 19 wins.

Brooklyn Dodgers
It's Pat (Dixie) Walker, the leading star in both leagues, who is having his greatest season in a decade. . . .
354 average is nearly 80 percent better than his best previous effort in the majors.

Bob Elliott, Pirate third baseman, is the individual star of the season. . . .
The White Sox is baseball's best pitcher with 18 wins and five defeats, despite late season arm trouble.