

# SPORTSCOPE By JOE MAHONEY

## Ewell BLACKWELL

TWO YEARS AGO, WAS SAID TO HAVE 10 YEARS OF TOP-FLIGHT PITCHING AHEAD OF HIM, NOW, DUE TO AN ARM INJURY AND AN OPERATION, HIS CAREER IS A QUESTION MARK. BACK IN 1946 BLACKIE LED THE N.L. IN SHUTOUTS WITH 6. IN 1947 HE WON THE MOST GAMES, HAD THE MOST STRIKEOUTS AND SET A MODERN LEAGUE RECORD OF CONSECUTIVE GAMES WON BY A RIGHT-HANDER WHEN HE MOWED DOWN 16 TEAMS IN A ROW!



THE TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS, IN WINNING THE 1949 STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS, BECAME THE FIRST TEAM TO COP THE TROPHY 3 SEASONS IN A ROW SINCE THE N.H.L. WAS ORGANIZED IN 1917.

IN 1946, TED WILLIAMS WENT HITLESS IN 6 OF THE 11 GAMES HIS TEAM PLAYED IN YANKEE STADIUM.

## SPORTLIGHT

### Who'll Fill Baseball's Gaps?

By GRANTLAND RICE

ONE CAN RECALL, looking back many years, how people began to wonder who were going to fill the gaps when Hans Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Nap Lajoie had finished. Then there was Ty Cobb—followed by Babe Ruth, Ruth and Gehrig. No one could take Matty's and Cy Young's place. But Walter Johnson did. And after Johnson there was Bob Feller.

It may be that no ballplayer can fill the gaps left by Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth. Or perhaps Walter Johnson. No one has quite filled Hans Wagner's place at short.

But with the DiMaggios, Ted Williams, Bill Dickey, Bob Feller, Hal Newhouser, Lou Boudreau, Stan Musial and a few others, most of the gaps are plugged. Ruth, Cobb and Wagner's remain unfilled. But we have now come to a spot in the game that either Gen. Abner Doubleday or someone else invented where we have to look around for other gap-fillers.

Bill Dickey is through as a player. So is Mickey Cochrane, another catching brilliant. Williams and Musial should have a few years more. They are two of the tops—maybe the best. But Joe DiMaggio, Bob Feller, Ewell Blackwell, Charley Keller, Whitey Kurovski, Marty Marion, and many more are nearing the borderline where the sign reads—"Game Called."

It must be admitted there are not too many headliners left from the old guard. Ted Williams is the top man now. Musial is struggling in the grip of an early season slump. Newhouser is still pitching well, but he isn't winning as he used to. Blackwell, a great pitcher, has been struck down. He may or may not come along later on. Charlie Keller is now out in No-Man's Land. No one knows when he will be back. Feller is a bull-pen pitcher. "Where are the gods of yesterday?"

So they are asking today who will take the places of DiMaggio, Williams, Feller, Musial, Marion, Newhouser, Boudreau and other headliners who will soon be over the hill. This makes one of the greatest guesses in sporting history. Who will be the coming stars to fill these gaps? For there will soon

be many that will need plugging. Here are a few guesses—Al Dark and Earl Torgeson of the Braves; Ralph Kiner of the Pirates; Zernman, Al Raschi and Bob Porterfield of the Yankees; Perhaps Larry Yogi Berra and Larry Doby of Cleveland; Ralph Branca and Sid Gordon of the Giants; Eddie Kazak of the Cardinals; Richie Ashburn of the Phillies; Cari Furillo, Dodgers; Bob Chesnes, Pittsburgh; Johnny Groth, Detroit, and Roy Campanella, Dodgers.

Tommy Henrich is one of the star ballplayers of the year. But Tommy is 32 years old and he has been a pro ball player for 15 years. So Tommy can't be included with the stars of tomorrow. Then you can watch Lloyd Merriman of the Reds, a possible gap filler.

Dick Kryhoski of the Yankees and George Kell of the Tigers are other possibilities—don't overlook either. Enos Slaughter and Pee Wee Reese have come along too late for any future build-up—maybe Ferris Fain and Eddie Waitkus of the Philadelphia teams may prove the answer around first base, which has taken a heavy dip. Then we might take a look at all those \$50,000, \$60,000 and \$70,000 bonus players—Johnny Antonelli of the Braves—Curtis Simmons and Robin Roberts of the Phillies—and a few others who have yet to prove how good they are.

It might be mentioned here that Bill Dickey ranks Yogi Berra as potentially the best catcher in either league. "Considering Berra in every detail," Dickey said, "I'd take Berra over any catcher in baseball today. He is young, strong and ambitious. He has a fine arm and he can hit."

Dickey is extremely keen about the future possibilities of Raschi and Porterfield. He isn't suggesting they can fill the gaps that will be left by Feller and Newhouser. But he is sure they are much better than merely good pitchers.

Gus Zernial of the White Sox, a giant Texan, has shown exceptional promise. He may move up to challenge Ralph Kiner as the home-run star of 1954 or 1955. Zernial has shown enough promise to be rated high in any future book.

Don't overlook Dark of the Braves. He is one of baseball's fastest men who can field and hit. He may move in back of Hans Wagner before he is through with the game.

## The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND DREW PEARSON

### Two Big Questions

BEFORE Secretary of State Acheson left for Paris, he stopped by Capitol Hill for some last-minute parting advice, which will shed light on some of the policies the United States will follow at the big four conference.

Two big questions came up during the hour-long, closed-door conference:

1. How far should we go in conciliating Russia?
2. Where should we draw the line on German recovery?

Senator Vandenberg of Michigan cautioned the secretary of state against taking too stern a stand with the Russians. He agreed we mustn't give ground or show signs of appeasement, but at the same time he urged keeping an open mind to any honest peace overtures. His attitude was that we shouldn't "burn the last bridge."

Senator Thomas of Utah was blunt and to the point about rebuilding Germany. "Is there any feeling anywhere," he asked, "that we should rearm Germany as a buffer against Russia?"

Acheson assured not, but Thomas kept hammering this point home. He warned that Germany, when she gets her strength back, might side with Russia; that Germany has closer ties to the East than the West; that the Germans even started rebuilding their army and navy across the Russian border after World War I. Thousands of Germans actually worked inside Russia until Hitler bit the hand that was helping him, Thomas recalled.

### To Watch Germans

Senator Lodge of Massachusetts argued that we should strengthen Germany's economy without building up her war-making capacity. To prevent a resurrection of German military power, he demanded that Acheson insist upon a close watch on Germany's forces and factories.

The secretary promised this would be done. He added that Russia would have nothing to say about the Ruhr, since she got nothing from the Ruhr in peacetime.

"What do you mean by Russia?" Senator Thomas broke in. "If you mean the satellite states, then Russia has all the interest in the world in the Ruhr."

Central European countries, now behind the iron curtain, he added, always did a big business with the Ruhr, which would give Russia a voice in deciding the fate of the Ruhr.

Acheson and Vandenberg also engaged in a brief dispute over whether the right-of-way to Berlin definitely had been spelled out in the Potsdam agreement. Vandenberg argued that it hadn't been put in "contractual form," and urged the secretary of state to see that our right-of-way to Berlin was made clear at Paris.

### FDR, Jr., "On Way"

No one fought the election of Franklin Roosevelt, Jr., harder than Vito Marcantonio, sole American Labor representative in congress. The bouncing, brilliant legislator from Manhattan stumped the 20th district, trying to defeat the namesake of the late FDR.

But after it was all over and the votes showed young Roosevelt to be the overwhelming victor, Congressman Marcantonio met Congressman Chet Holifield of California on the floor of the House. Quote he: "You want to get aboard with Franklin Roosevelt. He's really going places."

Note—Young Roosevelt's victory in New York will be a big psychological boost to his elder brother in California where Jimmie plans to run for governor.

### CIO Housecleaning

CIO President Philip Murray's attack on Communists and fellow travelers last week was even tougher than appeared in the papers.

It was so devastating that the Communist party-liners were thrown into complete confusion and, at one point, Ben Gold, president of the left-wing Fur Workers union, became so disgusted with his fellow leftists he went out for a round of drinks. Returning, Gold stood up and denounced Harry Bridges, shouting: "I know the party line just as well as you do."

### RFC Probe

Arkansas' hard-working Sen. William Fulbright, chairman of a banking and currency subcommittee, will make a sweeping probe of certain officials of the reconstruction finance corporation who were given plush jobs with business firms shortly after these firms got loans from the RFC.

Fulbright is interested chiefly in John Hagerly, former head of the Boston RFC office, who got a \$30,000-a-year job with the Waltham watch company.

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A method designed to increase the attractiveness of woman's hair, by causing it to wave and also to curl and thus reflect light in greater degree is covered by a patent issued to a New York woman, according to National Patent Council. An inexpensive wave curler of non-metallic materials is used in the process; the inventor suggests the pinna, or leaflets of the pinnated date-palm leaf. The patent reveals a method of treating and preserving the pinna and describes each step to be used in producing the proper waves and curls.

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