

Hershberger's Suicide, Laid to Worry, Saddens Cincinnati Squad

POPULAR SECOND STRING CATCHER SLASHES THROAT

Teammates Upset by Act—Worry Over Loss of Games He Caught, Manager Says.

By Frank E. Carey
Boston, Aug. 3.—(AP)—The "Big Slug" made believe he was reading the newspaper. But he wasn't kidding anyone. The boys all knew that he was thinking—as were they—of the "Little Slug."

The Cincinnati Reds baseball players were sitting in the hotel room of Bill McKechnie, their manager. That is, they were all there but one, Willard Hershberger, their second string catcher.

He had committed suicide a few hours before. Slashed his throat with a razor blade, the coroner said.

"Hershey" was the "Little Slug." He got that monicker out in Cincy, the boys said, where the town loved him as a scrappy pinch-hitter. They called him that to distinguish him from Ernie Lombardi, the first-string catcher. Ernie's the "Big Slug."

Yeah, the "Big Slug" made believe he was reading a newspaper. He must have known the weather report by heart because his eyes were on it about ten minutes. But then, the "Big Slug" had something to do with his hands. The other boys didn't...

Big, bronzed "Hank" Gowdy, the Reds' coach, just fiddled with his finger nails, and shook his head. A couple of the other boys seemed to be memorizing the numbers on their hotel keys. They tapped the keys on the sides of their chairs during pauses in the talk. And the pauses were long ones...

Remember when? Sure—Someone mumbled something about the time "Hershey" was all excited about getting that new antenna. "Gee he was a bug on radio."

"Great guy for collecting guns, too," said another. The keys tapped. "Big Slug" rustled his paper to make it look good. Bill McKechnie moved to another chair and threw his leg over it. He had tried all the empty chairs in the place.

Because Bill knew all of the story and he had had to tell it to everyone, the players, and the boys from the newspapers and all the rest.

The Story
Yes, said Bill, he had an idea something was wrong yesterday when Hershey was catching the nightcap of the doubleheader.

"There was a swinging bunt that Hershey could have fielded himself," he said, "but he let it roll and the pitcher had to field it."

"Afterwards, I put my hands on his shoulders, and his eyes were just popping out of his head."

"I said to him, 'Hershey, d'ya see that tuft of grass. That's where Moore had to field that ball. Anything wrong?' And he said to me 'yes, Bill there's plenty, I'll tell you tonight.'"

And Bill could remember, he said, how he took "Hershey" into the grand stand after the game when the fans had gone home and tried to get the story. But no dice.

"He didn't tell me until last night just before dinner," said Bill. "He cried like a kid. Seemed he cried an hour. And then he told me he was worried about the club losing the games that he had caught."

"The poor kid. He was worked up particularly about that game we lost 3 to 4 to New York Wednesday night in the ninth inning. He said he thought he had called for the wrong pitches. I told him everything was okay, and he seemed all right."

"Then he went downstairs and ate a helluva dinner. Roast beef and everything."

Bill said all the boys knew that "Hershey" kind of worried about colds and things. Carried a lot of medicine around with him.

DERRINGER WINS 16TH GAME, HIKES FLAG RACE LEAD

Boston, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Big Paul Derringer registered his 16th victory of the campaign today as the Cincinnati Reds won the first game of a doubleheader with the Boston Bees, 3 to 1, but the National league leaders fell apart in the nightcap and lost, 5 to 2.

The split gave the last place Bees three-out-of-four thus far in the six-game series. The Reds increased their hold on the league lead by a half game, putting them six and a half games ahead of the threatening Dodgers.

Manager Bill McKechnie of Cincinnati left the park in the third inning of the second game on learning of the suicide of Willard Hershberger, second string catcher. The news shocked the players.

Sibby Sisti was Boston's hero in the second game, blasting out a homer in the second inning with two men aboard to advance the Bees' four-run rally.

First game: R. H. E.
Cincinnati 3 6 0
Boston 1 11 2
Derringer and Lombardi; Posedel and Berres, Mast.

Second game: R. H. E.
Cincinnati 2 6 2
Boston 5 8 1
Hutchings, Riddle and Baker; Piechota, Sullivan and Berres.

Brooklyn, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Southpaw Ken Raffensberger set the Dodgers down with five hits today in hurling the Chicago Cubs to a 2 to 1 victory over Brooklyn.

Raffensberger didn't allow a man to get by first base until the ninth. Then Pee-Wee Reese sent a long fly into left field and a spectator leaned over the grandstand railing and caught the ball. It was ruled a homer, despite the Cubs' protest.

Score: R. H. E.
Chicago 2 10 1
Brooklyn 1 5 0
Raffensberger and Todd; Davis and Mancuso.

Philadelphia, Aug. 3.—(AP)—A combination of Mace Brown's three-hit pitching and Walter Kirby Higbe's "jinx" gave the Pittsburgh Pirates an 8 to 0 victory over the Phillies today.

Brown was in top form, facing only 30 batters.
Score: R. H. E.
Pittsburgh 8 14 2
Philadelphia 0 3 0
M. Brown and Davis, Fernandez; Higbe, Beck and Warren.

New York, Aug. 3.—(AP)—The St. Louis Cardinals climbed all over the fading Giants today for an 8 to 3 victory to give long Lon Warneke his fourth straight win.

The Cards clubbed Carl Hubbell, Daffy Dean and Roy Joiner for 17 hits, including homers by Ernie Koy, Pepper Martin and Johnny Mize.

Score: R. H. E.
St. Louis 8 14 2
New York 3 9 2
Warneke, Joiner and Owen; Hubbell, Dean and Danning, O'Dea.

NEXT BALL GAME HERE WEDNESDAY

There will be no baseball games in Medford today. The Craters are in Albany for a two-game Oregon State league series, makeups of postponed first-half contests, and the Rogues will travel to Roseburg for a Southern Oregon league battle.

Next ball game here will be the Craters versus the Kansas City Monarchs and Satchel Paige, under the lights at the fairgrounds park Wednesday night.

side of that you'd think he wouldn't have a care in the world. He'd have been first string on many another ball club. He just bought a swell home for his mother out in Three Rivers, Calif., where he lived. He was unmarried and had plenty of money. Just one of those things, I guess...

"But shucks," he said, "out

HUTCHINSON AIDS TIGERS IN TWIN WIN OVER BOSOX

Detroit, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Crack pitching by two youngsters and the old wallop at the bat carried the pennant-minded Tigers to a sweep of a doubleheader with the Boston Red Sox today, 6 to 4 and 14 to 2, before an exultant crowd of 38,150 fans.

Raising to a game and a half their margin over the Cleveland Indians, who beat the Yanks in a single game today, the Tigers capitalized on staunch twirling by Freddie Hutchinson in the opener and a gilt-edged five-hit job by Johnny Gorsica in the nightcap.

The Tigers, after wasting earlier chances, jumped on Jim Bagby for four runs in the seventh to give Hutchinson his second triumph of the season against three defeats. The heralded \$70,000 beauty from Seattle who was a bust last year allowed seven hits in 8 1-3 innings, relief man Al Benton helping him in the ninth.

First game: R. H. E.
Boston 4 7 1
Detroit 6 11 3
Bagby, Galehouse and Fox; Hutchinson, Benton and Sullivan.

Second game: R. H. E.
Boston 2 5 1
Detroit 14 14 2
Hash, Terry, Mustalkis and Peacock; Gorsica and Tebbetts.

Cleveland, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Al Smith and his southpaw pitching stopped the New York Yankees with six hits today to give the Indians a 5 to 1 victory over the world champions.

The tribe climbed aboard Lefty Gomez for four runs in the first frame and from there on it was just a breeze for southpaw Smith.

Score: R. H. E.
New York 1 6 2
Cleveland 5 12 0
Gomez, Hadley, Sundra and Rosar; Smith and Hemsley.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—(AP)—The red-hot Chicago White Sox reeled off their 13th victory in 16 games today by defeating Washington, 7 to 6, after taking an early lead on Rene Montague, Cuban right-hander.

Score: R. H. E.
Washington 6 10 1
Chicago 7 7 0
Montague, Masterson, Krauskas and Ferrell; Knott, Brown and Tresh.

St. Louis, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Impotent pitching undid some good hitting by the Browns today and the Philadelphia Athletics pounced on them hard in three innings to walk off with an 11 to 7 decision.

Bob Johnson and Dick Siebert hit home runs for Philadelphia and Don Heffner got one for the Browns.

Score: R. H. E.
Philadelphia 11 16 0
St. Louis 7 12 2
Vaughan, Heusser, Caster, and Hayes; Niggeling, Coffman, Lawson, Trotter and Susce, Swift, Whitehead.

SUNSET HANDICAP WON BY KAYAK II

Los Angeles, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Kayak II won the \$20,000 Sunset handicap at Hollywood park today, defeating Specify in a stretch duel, with Big Flash third.

Kayak II, redeeming himself for a poor showing a week ago, collared Specify as the field turned into the stretch and won by a head.

The time for the mile and one-half closing feature at Hollywood park was two minutes, 30 1-5 seconds.

Etolia II, another Argentine importation, was fifth, and Beautiful II, her countryman, ran seventh in the field of eight.

Kayak II, owned by C. S. Howard, was the betting favorite.

GUN CLUB SHOTS TO PARTICIPATE GEARHART EVENT

Leaving Medford Wednesday a representative delegation of local gun club trapshooters will journey to Gearhart, Ore., to attend the 33rd annual shoot of the Pacific Indians on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week.

The organization was founded in Medford in 1908, then composed largely of professional shooters representing the ammunition companies and a few Medford, Eugene, Portland and other Oregon shooters. The tribe shoots once each year, usually at some summer resort and is an invitational affair.

For the past five years the shoots have been held at Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia. Owing to the necessary requirements to permit firearms to be brought into Canada, on account of the war, the organization decided to hold the shoot in Oregon this year.

It is considered the de luxe shooting event of the year on the Pacific coast, with every shooter being assured of a fine trophy.

Local shooters desiring to attend the Indian shoot are advised to contact any Medford Gun club officer, who will arrange for the invitation.

Practice shooting at the Medford Gun club will start at 11 o'clock this morning. Visitors are always invited to enjoy the facilities of the club at the same prices as the regular members.

New all-black targets have been purchased to make visibility against the brown grass background better and scores should be as good as at any time of the year.

PORTLAND LOSES 12 GAMES IN ROW

Portland, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Portland's Pacific Coast league team docilely absorbed its twelfth consecutive defeat this afternoon at the hands of Los Angeles, 8-1.

Bonetti, on the mound for the Angels, held the cellarites to one hit for the first five innings and squeezed through the sixth without allowing a run despite three Portland hits.

Meanwhile, led by the big bats of Lou Novikoff and Moore, Los Angeles ran up a four-run lead in the first seven innings and clinched matters by scoring four more in the ninth.

Score: R. H. E.
Los Angeles 8 10 1
Portland 1 6 0
Bonetti and Hernandez; Orrell and Deniston, Beiber.

Oakland, Calif., Aug. 3.—(AP) Sacramento's Tony Freitas won his first Coast league baseball game from Oakland in two years today, 3 to 2, and dropped Oakland into third place, with Los Angeles in second bracket.

Score: R. H. E.
Sacramento 3 8 1
Oakland 2 12 2
Freitas and Ogradowski; Salveson and W. Hammond.

T. R.'s Widow Indisposed.
Oyster Bay, N. Y., Aug. 3.—(AP)—Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt will be unable to follow her usual custom of observing her birthday here because of poor health, her daughter says. She has suffered from the heat wave.

ite with the crowd of 35,000. The Argentine paid \$4.80, \$4 and \$3.40. Specify paid \$3.80 and \$3.40, and Big Flash \$5.

WOODEN BOX WINS SOFTBALL TITLE, BEATS MEDCO, 11-9

Wooden Box attained the 1940 Medford softball championship Friday night at the stadium by trimming Medco, 11 to 9, in the third and deciding game of their best two-out-of-three series. Medco, last year's champs, won the first tilt, 11 to 1, with the Boxmen squaring the playoffs with a 3 to 2 conquest Thursday evening.

Along with the victory went the right to represent Medford in the district tournament at Klamath Falls, Thursday and Friday nights, the winner of which earns entrance in the state tournament at Salem.

The score was tied at 3-all starting the second frame, but from then on the Boxmen took command of the contest and were never headed. They tallied two in the second, three in the third and three in the fourth, and although Medco staged a five-run uprising in the seventh and final inning, the Wooden Box lead was too great to overcome. Medco's other run was scored in the third.

Joe Peccia, Wooden Box fireballer, went the route for his club and yielded nine hits, fanned two and walked five. Morris Steiner of Medco hurled five innings, during which he walked five and fanned none, and McLean worked the last two innings for the losers.

Medco committed eight errors, all of which aided the Boxmen in hanging up their victory. The victors erred three times.

D'Arcy hit a triple and Piche and Campbell smashed out doubles for the winners, while Calvert and White tripled and White doubled for the losers.

Bear Creek Orchards, behind the one-hit flinging of Russ Bean, blanked Copco, 3 to 0, to win the National league pennant. The score was 0 to 0 until the sixth inning, when Bohl's triple started a three-run rally that brought victory.

Bean whiffed 10 Copco batters and issued two bases on balls, while Ray Singler gave up five blows and struck out eight. Singler didn't allow a single free ticket.

Two handsome trophies were awarded, the championship cup to Wooden Box and the trophy for the best-uniformed and best-conducted team to Fluhrer's Breadeaters.

Score: R. H. E.
Medco 9 9 8
Wooden Box 11 9 3
Steiner, McLean and Wilson; Peccia and D'Arcy.

Score: R. H. E.
Copco 0 1 4
Bear Creek 3 5 1
R. Singler and P. Sakraida; Bean and Wooten.

VALLEY GOLFERS GO TO M'CLOUD

A dozen members of the Rogue Valley Golf club left here this morning for McCloud, Cal., where they will engage a like number of host-club shot-makers in a team match under the Nassau point system.

Those making the trip were Ivan Harrington, Bob Hammond, Jr., and Bob Hammond Sr., F. G. Bunch, Leland Clark, R. J. Donelson, Tod Porter, Lee Watson, Hubert Bentley, Stan Sherwood, Roy Pruitt and Don Bagley.

Closing time for Too Late to Classify Ads is 1:30 p. m.

CAMPBELL KEEPS NORTHWEST TOGA; HANEN LOSES, 6-5

Tacoma, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Playing superlative golf, Albert (Scotty) Campbell of Seattle was Scotch with his strokes today as he shot seven-under-par golf for 31 holes to retain his Washington State amateur championship by defeating a promising youngster, Dick Hansen of Marshfield, Ore., 6 and 5.

Campbell, a former Walker cup player, was at his best in mastering the 19-year-old University of Oregon freshman. The king could do no wrong as he shot a two-under-par 69 on the morning 18 to hold a two up advantage at the halfway mark. At the end of the 27th he had a four hole advantage. When the match ended on the 31st as Campbell dropped a three foot putt for a birdie two, he was five under for the 13 afternoon holes.

The husky Seattle golfer was hitting every shot. Hanen, the tournament medalist who had a 71 on the morning round, was good; but not good enough to challenge the veteran seriously despite the fact he won the first three holes of the morning 18.

Howard Anderson, Seattle, shot himself to victory for the first flight championship, winning 1 up on the 37th after being two down at the end of the 31st.

HURLER IN HURRY MYSTERY SOLVED

Seattle, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Now the 9,000 fans who saw the second game of Friday night's San Francisco-Seattle doubleheader know why Hub Kittle, the San Francisco pitcher, was working so fast on the hill, despite the fact the second game didn't end until midnight.

Kittle had a date to marry Cleo Capisthan, 21-year-old Yakima girl whom he met while pitching for Yakima of the Western International league last year.

Kittle, 23, whose full name is Hubert Milton Kittle, relieved Rookie Bob Jensen in the second inning and pitched scoreless ball until the sixth when he was nicked for three runs. Seattle won the game, 6-1.

After the game Kittle and his bride-to-be wound up at the home of the girls' aunt, Mrs. Paul Donaldson, wife of the Sunday editor of the Post-Intelligencer, and were married.

Kittle, whose home is Los Angeles, was sold to the Seals recently by Yakima for \$5,000. He won 20 and lost 10 last year. His first two appearances for San Francisco were anything but gaudy, but he showed lots of stuff last night.

IF WAGNER LOSES ARMENIAN FACES MAIN GO WINNER

Mike Nazarian will have considerable incentive to win when he clashes with George Wagner in the middle event of Monday night's armory grappling card, for Promoter Mack Lillard has practically promised him a main event spot on the next week's program if he gets over the Wagner hurdle.

The rough Armenian, making his initial appearance here last week, bullied and fouled his way to a conquest of Otis Clingman, and will undoubtedly follow the same style of matwork against Wagner. Nazarian isn't as dirty as many gladiators, but he isn't a gentleman by any means.

Lillard tentatively plans to match Nazarian, if he beats Wagner, with the winner of the McShane-Pilusos main event Monday eve. The Armenian, not used to wrestling in preliminary bouts, has been bothering Lillard for a main event shot, and Monday's match will decide the issue.

Sonnenbergs and other spectacular legitimate maneuvers versus plenty of dirt and pile-driver holds will be seen when Ernie Piluso squares off against Jitterbug Danny McShane in the one-hour main event. McShane, with two straight wins in as many Medford starts, is figured to run up against his toughest opponent thus far, and many persons are of the opinion that Piluso will emerge with the laurels, due to his blazing speed and all-around ability.

Bob Cummings will return to face Otis Clingman in the opening event. Cummings, a clean wrestler, hasn't been here for several months.

Tomorrow night will mark the last ladies' night program for several weeks.

Gets Bonneville Job.
Portland, Aug. 3.—(AP)—The Bonneville administration named Wallace L. Knappke, Wenatchee, Wash., alumnus of the University of Oregon law school, to its legal staff today.

Grant Extradition.
Salem, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Gov. Charles A. Sprague today approved the extradition of Elmer Miller of Eugene, wanted in Holt county, Mo., on a charge of issuing a no-account \$4 check.

Cat Has Quintuplets.
McClellandtown, Pa., Aug. 3.—(AP)—Five Siamese kittens born to a cat at the home of a Negro family in Palmer, a nearby coal mining hamlet, were reported "doing all right" today.

NAME NO CRATERS SEMI-PRO SQUAD

Portland, Aug. 3.—(AP)—All but two of the 18 players named on the state semi-pro baseball team today are members of the State league club, attesting to the domination of the circuit over the state semi-pros.

The team was selected following completion of the state semi-pro tournament. It follows: Pitchers—Elliott, Albany; Carstens, Portland; Babs; Jack Richards and Clow, Jack-Jill Tavern; Wiltshire, Silverton.

Catchers: Witteke, Jack-Jill; Warren Wagner, Gaston-Dairy Creek.

First base, Clifford, Albany; second, Koch, Babs; third, Shinn, Albany; short, Schroer, Jack-Jill; outfield, Brown, Babs; Whitman, Silverton; Leininger, Jack-Jill; utility outfield, Amato, B. & O. Transfer; utility infield, Kirsch, Silverton.

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GEO. WAGNER vs. MIKE NAZARIAN
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