

Cincinnati Long on Power But Have Hurling Shortage

(This is the fourth in a series on the prospects of the major league clubs.)

By LEO H. PETERSEN
Tampa, Fla. (U.P.)—The Cincinnati Redlegs are long on power and short on pitching, but Manager Birdie Tebbetts thinks he can still parlay that combination into a legitimate pennant contender.

Complicating Tebbetts' plans at the moment is big Ted Kluszewski, who has been hobbled

all spring by a stubborn muscle pull in the back of his back. "Frankly, I'm worried about it and so is Ted," Tebbetts said today. "He doesn't know how he got it and none of the treatment he has taken so far seems to do any good. But we think he'll come around all right. We certainly hope so, anyway."

If Kluszewski has to remain

on the sidelines for any length of time the Redlegs are bound to miss his heavy bat. He hit 47 homers, drove in 113 runs and batted .314 last year and you don't find hitters like that under every bush.

May Use Rookie

But if "Big Klu" has to remain on the bench for a while, Tebbetts is determined to go

with rookie Frank Robinson at first base. Robinson has tremendous power and has been exceptionally impressive this spring. His only drawback is a questionable arm, which he won't need too much at first base. He injured the arm mysteriously with Columbia of the Sally League last year and it hasn't come around yet.

"Robinson is a natural," Tebbetts says. "I know he'll only hit about .270 if I play him—don't forget it's his first year up—but he'll hit 20 homers easy. So if Klu comes around okay, which we think he will, I'll put Robinson in left field."

That would make Cincinnati's outfield Robinson in left, Gus

Bell in center and long-ball hitting Wally Post in right, and that outfield could be the most powerful in baseball, bar none. Other outfield available are Bob Hazle, up from Nashville of the Southern League where he hit .314; Stan Palys, and Bob Thurman.

Rounding out the Redlegs' infield will be dependable Johnny Temple at second base; smooth fielding Roy McMillan at shortstop and hard-hitting but erratic fielding Ray Jablonski at third. Rocky Bridges is the No. 1 utility man, while Charley Harmon can play third, first or the outfield.

Pitching Staff Uncertain

Smokey Burgess, who batted .306 last season, is ticketed for regular duty behind the plate with Ed Bailey the No. 2 man

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MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—ELEVEN

and Matt Batts behind him.

The pitching staff, however, is Tebbetts' chief problem and currently he is still trying to find a fourth starter to go along with Joe Nuxhall, who won 17 and lost 12 last year; Art Fowler, who had a 11-10 record; and skinny Johnny Klippstein, who posted a 9-10 record.

Among those in competition for the fourth starting role are ex-Cardinal Brooks Lawrence, who had a 5-1 record with Oakland of the Pacific Coast League last year; Rudy Minarcin, who was 5-9 with the Redlegs; southpaw Don Gross, 8-2 at Nashville, and the best looking rookie pitcher of the lot, righthander Jack Taylor, who won 17 games and lost 11, with the High Point-

Thomasville club in the Cincinnati chain last year.

That leaves such men as veteran Joe Black, Hal Jeffcoat, Hersh Freeman, Bud Podbielan and lefthander Bill Kennedy for

relief.

Cincinnati has power to burn but whether the Redlegs will rocke into first division or fizzle out in second division depends entirely on their pitching staff.

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Eagle Point Diamonders Practicing

Eagle Point—Baseball practice at Eagle Point high school got underway full scale this week as Coach Les Warner drilled 19 aspirants with nine veterans among them.

Warner has been working with pitcher and catcher candidates in the gym for a couple of weeks but practices for the whole squad with some nine of that class among leading prospects. Junior veterans are Errol Tresham, catcher; Dennis Boren, pitcher and third baseman; Dean Tebbetts, centerfielder; Dick Brown, second base; Larry Clement, shortstop; Larry Dodenhoff, outfielder, and Gary Foran, pitcher and first base.

Ten Games

Dick Schauble is a sophomore letterman pitcher and John Bunker is a senior vet at first base or in the outfield. Other top candidates include Dick Wallace, pitcher, and Ron Hanson, Doug Chamberlain and Dick Foran, infielders.

Ten games have been scheduled for the Eagles, who play in the Rogue League and District 6 A-2. Warner is trying to line up others with possibly some night action on the lighted Eagle Point diamond.

The Eagles will face Class B Rogue River next Tuesday at Eagle Point in a non-league starter. Art Thompson is assisting Warner with the coaching chores.

ValleyFans Have 2 Opportunities To See Magicians

Cage fans here will have two chances to see the Goose Tatum-Marques Haynes-led Harlem Magicians battle the New York Olympians in professional exhibition basketball games in this area.

Tuesday night the teams clash in the Ashland High gym and on the following night action swings over to Grants Pass. The Ashland high students' fund gains from the first contest, while the Varsity "G" serves as sponsor in the latter.

For both cities, it marks the first appearance of Tatum and Haynes, the former stars of the Harlem Globetrotters. But, as co-owners of the Magicians, they are playing throughout the Northwest.

Two Other Ex-Trotters

Two other former Trotters on the team are Boyd Bule, the one-armed player, and Tom Gipson, a five-year vet. Other standouts include young Van Phillips, 19, and Jerry Johnson, the team's tallest player at 6-8.

Big gun for the opposition is Bill Spivey, the 7-1 former Kentucky All-American. Other talented Olympians are Don Malmrose from Brigham Young and Charlie Hadden from North Carolina State and Kentucky.

Advance tickets are available here at Lampert's and Sam's Sporting Goods stores. Other outlets are Eberharts in Ashland and McClean's Sports Shop and Grants Pass Sporting Goods in Grants Pass.

Kahut Expresses Surprise Over Fight Charges

Portland — (U.P.) — Joe Kahut, former Oregon heavyweight boxing champ, expressed surprise today that a fight he had in 1946 was mentioned in a Los Angeles boxing investigation.

Eddie Stanley, retired fight manager, testified before the governor's committee investigating boxing yesterday, that he once took Ira Hughes to Portland to fight Kahut. Stanley said that Matchmaker Babe McCoy sent him to the fight with instructions to "get him out early."

Nothing Suspicious

Kahut, now a truck driver for a fuel company, scored a third-round victory over a Tiger Jack Hughes here on June 28, 1946. He said there was nothing suspicious about the fight and that if there was he wouldn't have accepted the bout.

"I hit him with an overhand right and his eye puffed way up. After the fight was stopped in the third, his eye was swollen completely shut and was larger than a doubled-up fist. We tried to get him to see a doctor . . . but he wouldn't let anyone touch it," Kahut said.

"I've always tried to be a credit to boxing and certainly would never have been a party to any questionable fight," Kahut said.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE SPORTS

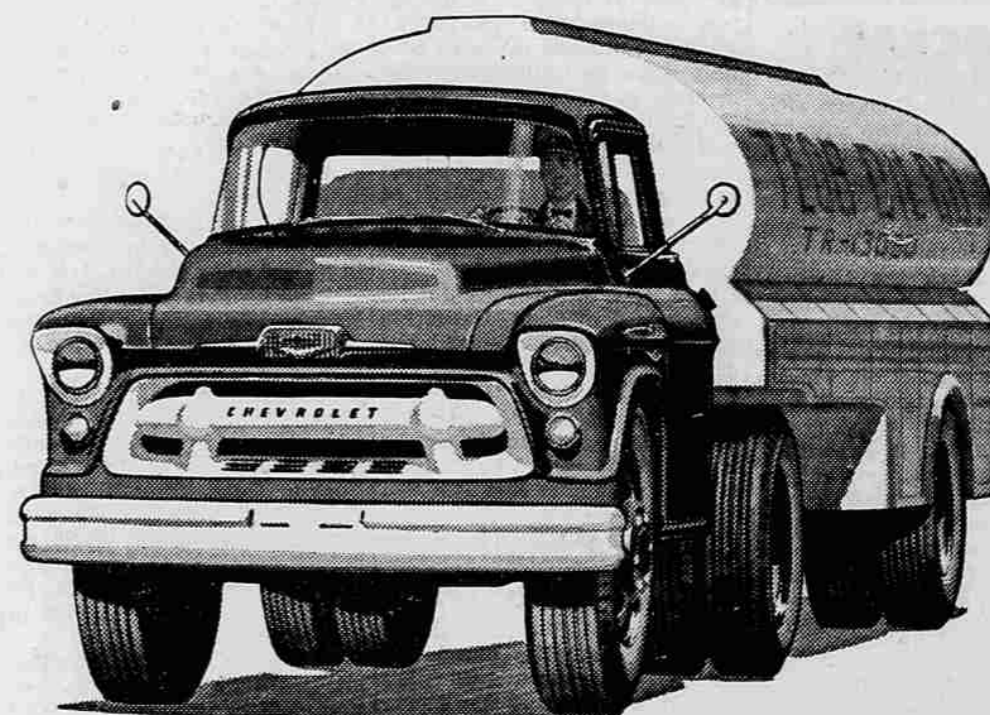


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