

Veterans Agree — Catcher's Position Holds Fewest Brains, Least Glory

Brooklyn — (U.P.) — Veteran Walker Cooper of the Cardinals says all a youngster has to be is "big and ignorant" to make the big leagues as catcher these days.

And if a kid catcher has brains, Cooper adds, he has a tremendous advantage.

"But give a ball club two or three 20-game winners on its staff and it'll do all right even with the dumbest catcher in the world behind the plate," Cooper says.

The 41-year-old Cooper, who is serving his 16th season as a major league receiver, says he isn't the least bit surprised that fewer and fewer outstanding catchers have come up to the big leagues in recent years.

"Today the accent is all on the pitchers," he says. "You know Branch Rickey's theory. He always tells his scouts to look at the pitcher first because the pitcher usually is the best player on the team."

"I guess you can't blame the kids for not going out for the catcher's job these days. They think the work is too hard. They'd rather play first base or the outfield."

No Glory
As for the reason that many youngsters turn to pitching, Cooper thinks they are influenced by "all the glory" involved.

"It's just like in football," he explained, "most kids like to run with the ball but few of them are eager to do the blocking."

Cincinnati catcher Smokey Burgess agrees with Cooper that most youngsters are shying away from catching today.

"Injuries discourage the kids a lot," Burgess said. "Some of them try catching for awhile but they change to another position the first time they get hurt."

"Right now, I'd say that the catcher's job is the most wide open position in baseball for a young fellow coming up."

Burgess feels that the most common mistake among kid catchers is that they take too long getting rid of the ball and they don't shift their feet properly when they throw to the bases.

Tremendous Asset
Cincinnati Manager Birdie Tebbetts, a former catcher himself, says that any receiver "who can catch, throw and think is a tremendous asset" to a ball club these days.

"There are some fellows in

the big leagues today who couldn't make it anywhere else but behind the plate," he said. "I was one of them. Others who are doing a good job at catching today but who probably couldn't make it any other position are Sherman Lollar, Sammy White, Hobie Landrith and Roy Campanella."

Tebbetts pointed out that some inexperienced catchers cost their pitchers strikes by the way they catch the ball.

"Some of the catchers carry strikes out of the strike zone," he said. "They also catch low balls down when they should try to catch them up."

SPORTS

Tie Game Marks Softball Action in Local League

McCulloch Chain Saw, Chris Drugs and Courtesy Chevrolet scored victories in Wednesday and Thursday night Jackson County Softball association games, while Crater Lake Motors and Walt's Lithia Motors wound up tied at four apiece.

Last night, McCulloch beat the 20-30 Club 17 to 7 and Chris Drugs took DeMolay 15 to 5. Courtesy squeaked by Bills' 99 Chevrolet Service 6 to 5 and the two Motors teams tied in a game stopped by darkness Wednesday night.

Frank Ravard of 20-30 blasted in all five of his club's runs with three hits including a homer, but the bats of McCulloch were too much to overcome. Norm Loop supplied a 2-run homer for the winners. Ken Gentry pitched his fourth win against two losses. Sanders was the losing pitcher.

Montgomery, Richardson and Wendt all homered for the victorious Chris Drugs team as it walked over winless DeMolay. Singler hurled for Chris and Madden opposed him on the mound for DeMolay.

Courtesy Chevrolet was out-hit by Bill's 99 Chevrolet Service nine to seven, but managed to push across three runs in the sixth inning for a slim winning margin. Roy Parmenter knocked a double and two singles for Bill's 99 off Courtesy pitcher Puscas. Bill Sweet pitched for the losers.

In the second Wednesday night game, Crater Lake Motors went scoreless for five innings, picked up a lone run in the sixth and finally added three in their half of the seventh to put the

game into a 4-all tie. Lithia Motors got two in the first frame and two more in the sixth. Hale pitched for Lithia and opposed Flanagan for Crater Lake. The game was halted due to darkness and will be continued later.

Tacoma To Get Charles-McMurty

Tacoma — (U.P.) — Former world heavyweight champion Edward Charles has agreed to meet Tacoma's "Irish Pat" McMurty in an outdoor fight at Tacoma July 13.

The unbeaten McMurty and Charles will square off in a 10-rounder at the 15,000-capacity Lincoln bowl.

League Leaders

Player & Club G. AB R. H. Pct.
Long, P.H. 56 205 38 70 .341
Boyer, St. L. 59 234 44 79 .338
Clemente, P.H. 49 160 23 53 .331
Musial, St. L. 59 220 36 71 .323
Moon, St. L. 57 201 36 65 .323

Mantle, N.Y. 60 229 62 87 .380
Maxwell, Det. 48 154 37 57 .370
Kuenn, Det. 50 193 30 69 .358
Vernon, Boston 46 166 27 58 .349
Berra, N.Y. 51 196 38 65 .332

Home Runs—Mantle, Yanks 27; Sievers, Senators, Berra, Yanks, and Long, Pirates, all 17; Wertz, Indians 16.

Runs Batted In—Mantle, Yanks 64; Musial, Cards 53; Boyer, Cards 51; Wertz, Indians 31; Simpson, Athletics 30.

Runs—Mantle, Yanks 62; Lopez, Yanks, Yost, Senators, Sievers, Senators, and Boyer, Cards, all 44.

Hits—Mantle, Yanks 87; Boyer, Cards 79; Lemon, Senators 74; Simpson, Athletics 73; Runnels, Senators, Musial, Cards and Ashburn, Phils, all 71.

Pitching—Lawrence, Redlegs (8-0); Pierce, White Sox (10-2); Freeman, Redlegs (3-1); Labine, Dodgers (3-1); Brewer, Red Sox (9-2).

STANDINGS

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
	W.	L.	Pct.	GB
Milwaukee	30	22	.577	
Brooklyn	31	24	.564	1/2
Cincinnati	31	25	.554	1
St. Louis	27	27	.500	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	30	26	.538	2
New York	23	32	.418	8 1/2
Philadelphia	22	34	.393	10

Thursday's Results
Milwaukee 7, Pittsburgh 2
Chicago at New York, ppd. rain.
Brooklyn 9, St. Louis 6 (night).
Only games scheduled.

Friday's Probable Pitchers
Milwaukee at New York (night)—Crome (6-3) vs. Gomez (2-5).
Cincinnati at Brooklyn (night)—Lawrence (8-0) vs. Maglie (1-0).
St. Louis at Philadelphia (night)—Poholsky (4-4) vs. Roberts (6-8).
Chicago at Pittsburgh (night)—Jones (4-4) vs. Arroyo (2-1).

Saturday's Games
Cincinnati at Brooklyn
Milwaukee at New York
St. Louis at Philadelphia
Chicago at Pittsburgh

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
	W.	L.	Pct.	GB
New York	32	20	.615	
Chicago	32	22	.593	5
Cleveland	31	27	.534	8
Boston	27	31	.466	12
Baltimore	28	33	.459	12 1/2
Kansas City	24	36	.400	16
Washington	26	39	.400	16 1/2

Thursday's Results
Cleveland 5, Boston 0
Chicago 1, Baltimore 0
Kansas City 15, Washington 6
Only games scheduled.

Friday's Probable Pitchers
New York at Chicago (night)—Sturdivant (4-1) vs. Donovan (4-2).
Boston at Kansas City (night)—Sullivan (5-3) vs. Dittmer (6-6).
Baltimore at Detroit (night)—Wight (3-7) vs. Foytack (4-3).
Washington at Cleveland (night)—Stobbs (5-4) vs. Garcia (4-7).

Saturday's Games
New York at Chicago
Boston at Kansas City
Baltimore at Detroit
Washington at Cleveland

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE				
	W.	L.	Pct.	GB
Seattle	48	28	.632	
Los Angeles	45	32	.588	1
Hollywood	36	35	.507	9 1/2
San Francisco	37	36	.507	9 1/2
Sacramento	36	36	.500	11
Portland	33	38	.465	12 1/2
San Diego	33	40	.452	13 1/2
Vancouver	24	50	.324	23

Thursday's Results
San Francisco 2, Los Angeles 3
Portland 2, Sacramento 3
Seattle 4, San Diego 1 (10 innings)
Vancouver 6, Hollywood 5 (10 innings)

How Series Ended
San Francisco 2, Los Angeles 1
Portland 2, Sacramento 0
Seattle 3, San Diego 0
Vancouver 2, Hollywood 1

Probable Pitchers for Friday
Sacramento (Earl Harrist, 7-5) at Los Angeles (Dave Hillman, 7-2).
San Diego (Pete Messa, 4-7) at San Francisco (Max Surkont, 0-0).
Hollywood (Cholly Naranjo, 6-5) at Seattle (Bud Podhieslan, 7-2).
Portland (Bill Werle, 6-5) at Vancouver (Byrne Duren, 4-6).

NORTHWEST LEAGUE				
	W.	L.	Pct.	GB
Yakima	34	17	.666	
Eugene	30	18	.625	1 1/2
Lewiston	25	18	.581	5
Tri-City	26	21	.553	6
Salem	19	28	.404	13
Wenatchee	18	32	.360	15 1/2
Spokane	15	35	.300	18 1/2

Thursday's Results:
Salem 4, Spokane 1
Eugene 2, Wenatchee 0 (first game)
Eugene 7, Wenatchee 5 (second game)
Yakima 2, Tri-City 1 (first game)
Yakima 5, Tri-City 4 (second game)

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