

A.L. Club Owners Force A's To Kansas City

NEW YORK (AP)—The American League apparently has forced the Philadelphia Athletics into Kansas City.

Blocked in its efforts to sell the club to a Philadelphia syndicate, the Mack family was expected today to resume negotiations for the sale of its stock to Arnold Johnson and the transfer of the Philadelphia franchise to the Missouri city.

In a special meeting yesterday, the American League voted to reject the bid by an eight-man Philadelphia group to buy the Athletics and keep the club in Philadelphia. The vote, according to an American League executive, was 4-1.

Six affirmative votes are needed to approve any owner.

NO REASON

No reason was given for the turnout of the syndicate. However, the opposition appeared to stem from a desire to get the league out of Philadelphia.

League public relations director Earl Hilligan, who made the announcement at the conclusion of the six-hour meeting, simply said: "The transaction presented today by the Philadelphia group failed to receive a vote of approval. The meeting was adjourned to permit the Macks to return to Philadelphia to attempt to work out their problems."

Hilligan did not amplify the statement, but several club owners indicated they were not satisfied with the "divergence of opinion" in the Mack family on how, or to whom the stock should be sold.

"It seems to me," said Charles Comiskey, vice president of the Chicago White Sox, "that the Macks can't get together on what they want to do. One wants one thing and another wants something else."

Will Harridge, president of the American League, said no further

meetings were planned, and it now was up to the Macks to settle their own affairs.

"As far as the league is concerned," he said, "the Macks have the ball club. They own the stock. They are going to operate the club."

Baseball people, however, doubted the Macks could do that financially, and predicted they would renew negotiations with Johnson, who recently offered \$3,375,000 for the entire stock plus

Connie Mack Stadium. In an Oct. 12 meeting in Chicago, the American League approved the sale to him and also the transfer of the franchise to Kansas City.

SURPRISING

The Macks in a surprising switch Oct. 17 had ended negotiations with Johnson and agreed to sell to the Philadelphia group.

Connie Sr. and Earle appeared dejected after the meeting. The former had made an impassioned plea to the other seven owners

to sanction the sale to the Philadelphia syndicate "because I want so much to see the Athletics remain in Philadelphia."

Earle blamed his brother, Roy, for the failure of the sale to go through.

"It's all Roy's fault," said Earle. "He's thinking only of himself. I'm thinking strictly of dad. I want to do anything he wants. If it weren't for dad, neither Roy nor I would be in the business. He's given us our bread and butter."

Smith Success With N.Y.

By HARRY GRAYSON

NEW YORK (NEA)—Edward Mayo Smith is named manager of the Phillies and a lot of people ask "Whooooo?"

You'd think that a guy would have to first put on an advertising campaign to qualify as a manager of baseball players.

The Yankees knew all about Mayo Smith and that was good enough for Bob Carpenter, who is to be congratulated for once more getting away from the old major league managers' union.

The story of Smith's rise is identical to that of Walter Alton, who did mighty well under extremely distressing circumstances in his first season with the Dodgers. They are minor league ballplayers who qualified as managers in the minors.

The day of the major league player becoming a big league manager without previous experience is just about past. Eddie Stanky easily could be the last. Too many of them have failed miserably.

Owners now insist that even the brighter stars first prove themselves as pilots in the minors. Birdie Tebbetts last season further demonstrated the advisability of this. Stan Hack was brought up from Los Angeles to replace Phil Cavarretta, who hopped straight from the players' ranks to the driver's seat. Pinky Higgins, who takes over the Red Sox in the spring, served his apprenticeship in the minors. Al Lopez and Paul Richards earned their stripes down below.

Casey Stengel, Charley Grimm, Charley Dressen, Bucky Harris and Fred Haney earned return trips by attracting attention in the minors.

The 39-year-old, balding Smith spent all but 73 games of his career as a minor league outfielder. He got into that many games with the Athletics in the war year of 1945, batting a rousing .212.

Smith was recommended to the Yankee chain by Jim Turner, for whom he played with the Portland Coasters in 1948.

Turner came to New York as the Yankees' pitching coach under Stengel, and Smith was assigned to the Amsterdam, N.Y., club of the Class C Canadian-American League. After two years there, he won pennants with Norfolk of the B Piedmont in 1951 and '52, spent the last two summers with Birmingham of the AA Southern Association.

Smith quickly became a key manager in the Yankee chain, had a way with youngsters. He developed Bob Grim at Amsterdam; transformed Bill Skowron, now a first baseman, from a third baseman into an outfielder at Norfolk. He had a hand in the development of three highly-regarded catchers—Gus Triandos, Lou Berberet and Hal Smith.

Woody Held, the shortstop who joined the Yankees toward the end of last season, was schooled by Smith. So were Pitcher Wally Burnette and Third Baseman Buddy Carter, just put on the Bronx roster to protect them from the draft.

Gridders Learn Hard Way

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

College football players, headline stars and scrubs, have learned the hard way this season that training rules are a lot like a woman's birthday—none of the principals look forward to them, but don't overlook 'em.

A total of 18 players at Georgia Tech, Pitt, Texas and West Virginia have been dropped from rosters this season because of training violations.

Veteran Bobby Dodd, Georgia Tech's gentlemanly coach who usually has been lenient toward players in the past, put his foot down Thursday and suspended five players—including his ace offense threat, Billy Teas.

Dodd's action was a jolt to his Tech squad. Teas, needing only three yards to set a new career rushing record at the school, was Tech's big hope against Duke Saturday.

Dropped with Teas were guard-tackle Jackie Shoemaker, halfback Larry Ruffin, guard Harvey Brown and tackle John Lasch.

Dodd said "These boys were guilty of breaking our (11 p.m.) curfew, but were not guilty of breaking any other training regulations. I consider this offense grave enough to drop them from our team. I am very disappointed that this thing happened."

Dodd hasn't been the only coach to crack down this season. Ed Price of Texas and Pittsburgh's Tom Hamilton took similar action earlier this week.

Nine Texas players were disciplined for "misconduct and breaking training." None was dropped from the squad, although all nine were ejected from the athletic dormitory and two who were first string linemen were demoted.

Pitt's troubled trio missed a couple of practice sessions and were cut from the roster.

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