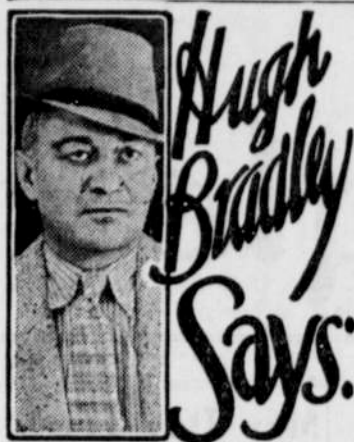




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Bob Feller Is Shy; Publicity Has Not Swelled His Head

THEY said the kid was upstairs in his room but that it would be a good idea to hurry for it was about time for he and Weatherly to start out for the night. They seemed to say that the young man was a bit of a holler—and at a tender age of eighteen—but it seems he is nothing of the sort.

"Yeah, we're startin' out—Stormy and me," said Bob Feller. "But come in. Yeah, we were goin' to the movies. Go every night—we're bugs about the movies. Me—I like Westerns, specially Hopalong Cassidy. Stormy does, too."

The two young Indians sat down. Weatherly is small and pudgy and twenty-two, but looks even younger than Feller. They have been roommates since Feller joined the club.

"We get along great," said Stormy. "Like the same things, like to go to bed early."

Feller was sitting silently. He is a shy youngster, terribly afraid that people will think all this publicity has gone to his head.

His dad visited him at New Orleans and some one asked if Pop would spend much time in Cleveland this summer.

"No, Dad doesn't like big cities," he said. "If I have a good year, though, he'll probably do a lot of visiting. But if I have a bad one I'll probably do a lot of visiting myself—to Van Meter."

"I'd like to be a pitcher like Walter Johnson," he said. "He pitched side-arm, didn't he? And he lasted a long time didn't he? Well, I think I should pitch side-arm, too. That's the way I threw back on the sandlots and I did all right there. It's my natural way of throwing."

"How many do I think I'll win? I just wouldn't say. I'll be satisfied if my average is as good as it was last year."

Last year in his short time with the club he won five games, lost three. If he averages a victory a week he'll come up with twenty-three decisions.

Business Manager Slapnick's recent statement that Feller would pitch once a week doesn't meet with his heartiest approval.

"Why, back home I used to pitch three times a week," he says, "and it never bothered me."

Never Tries Bean Ball but Batters Beware!

Some one suggested that perhaps the American league was a little different than the sandlots of Iowa.

"Well, not to me, it's not," he replied. "All I do is rear back and let it go, whether it's in a sandlot game or up here."

Some one else wondered if, when he improved his control, the batters wouldn't gain more confidence.

"I just won't improve that much," he said. "I never tried to hit a batter in my life, but, after all, getting out of the way of a ball is their business, not mine."

"What about Hubbell, what do you think of him?"

"I guess he's the greatest pitcher I've ever seen," he said. "He must be the best. I know I never saw a ball do the things he can make it do."

Then some one asked him if he had a girl back home and the meeting sort of broke up.

"Well sort of," he said. "But we'll discuss that later."

How it was that the Dodgers did not take Gabby Hartnett when he was offered to them by the Cubs? Gabby, one of the smartest and most popular players of recent years, still should have a season or two of top catching and hitting left in him. . . . Are experts and scouts taking proper note of the football line N. Y. U. will have next fall? If Coach Mal Stevens can persuade Bucky O'Connell to become a trifle more interested in the center assignment, the Violets may have New York's best forward wall.

Tris Speaker once saw Sam Crawford, the old Detroit slugger, hit a ball 429 feet on the fly off Christy Mathewson. It was in an exhibition at Tulsa, Okla., on a field that was not fenced in. The ball landed in a mud pile and remained where it hit. . . . The three Panama hats Owner Horace Stoneham of the Giants brought back from Cuba cost \$40 apiece.

NOT IN THE BOX SCORE: THE Yankees figure Detroit is the team to beat this year. They insist Cleveland is over-rated and that Bob Feller can be beaten by a combination of waiting him out and bunting. The best National league club, they say, is the Cubs. . . . Players, by the way, gossip that times have not changed in Cleveland. When Walter Johnson was manager Billy Evans tried to run the team. Now Cy Slapnicka, who succeeded Evans as business manager, is trying to do all the thinking for Manager Steve O'Neill. . . . 95 per cent of the horsemen racing in Florida last winter voted against that Australian starting gate with which New York's turf overlords opened the season at the Jamaica racetrack. . . . Ken Smith, the very able baseball writer, once was a freight agent.

Nasty mens insist that all is not sweetness and light among Cornell's football folks. They insist that Graduate Manager Jim Lynch recently called in Coach Carl Snavely to chide him about proselyting activities and that Carl has been doing a bit of lip-biting since. However, chide or no chide, they also insist that poor but honest boys still are getting a looksee from Cornell and that the Pittsfield, Mass., district was well gandered at two weeks ago. . . . John Meketi, Giant rookie pitcher now with Jersey City, is one of the best harmonica players in baseball. . . . Marty Glickman, the

Olympic sprinter, is shunning sports for a short time due to complications caused by low blood pressure. . . . Add look alikes—Julius Solters of the Indians and Joe Medwick of the Cards.

Although Temple loses 14 lettermen by graduation Pop Warner wears a bigger smile at spring football practice than he did 12 months ago. . . . Rivington Bisland, the eminent sports box-office man, used to pitch for Louisville.

One of the sights at the St. Nick's boxing arena is Jafsie Condon jumping up from his ringside seat and cheering whenever his bodyguard, Al Reich, referees. . . . Dave Soden, Brooklyn tax appraiser and ardent sports fan, is being talked about as the next president of his borough. . . . The National league may add Andy Kolk, an umpire let out by the International, to its staff this summer. Pretty good man, too. Because so many customers think he was robbed during the Montanez fight Lightweight Champion Lou Ambers, who previously never had been much of a drawing card, now should be a big gate attraction.

Vinnie Richards again has been invited to coach the Australian Davis cup team in preparation for the Aussie's North American zone finals with the United States at Forest Hills May 29-31. His acceptance depends upon whether or not he goes abroad. He offered his services to the Americans but was ignored in favor of George Lott and Karl Kozeleh even though Davis Cup Committee Chairman Walter Pate credited the Australians' victory last year to Vinnie's tutoring. . . . Bill Tilden must really be cracking up at last. The other day he remarked that he was tempted to pile all his racquets in the center of the court and make a bonfire of them.

Dick Gill, Boston college's gas-house blond, is due for plenty of shoving around on the intercollegiate tracks this spring. Eddie O'Brien and Jim Herber are reported as still being exceedingly sore over the way he elbowed and jostled the slender Charlie Beetham in a recent meet. . . . Although he is best celebrated as a football center, Ivy league pitchers are worried about the hitting prowess of Dartmouth's Mutt Ray. . . . Jake Flowers, who might have been a great infielder if he had not been troubled by ill health during his Dodger and Cardinal days, now has entirely recovered. He weighs 182 pounds and is seeking either to manage a Class B team or play in the International league. . . .



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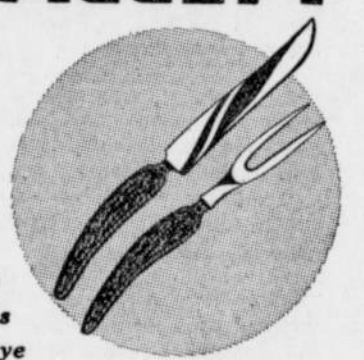
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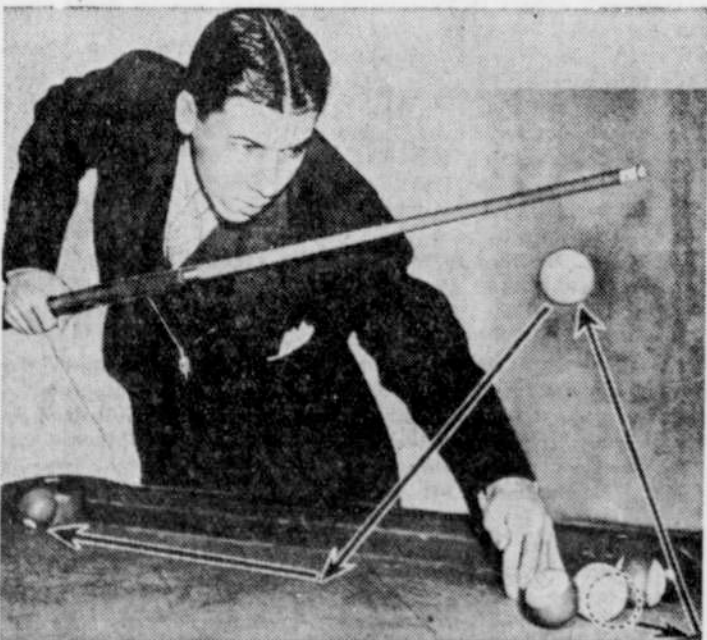
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