

Famous Pitcher Now Discard

Story of Mails' Rise in Majors Like Fiction

Hero of 1920 World Baseball Series Is Given the 'Gate' by Cleveland Manager.

By FRANK G. MENKE.
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BLISHED among the baseball stories of sporting pages, there appeared the other day an item of just a few lines which read:

"The Cleveland Indians have released Walter Mails to the Oakland club, in the Pacific Coast league."

And so an athlete, whose spectacular work two seasons ago made him the most conspicuous player of his time, has passed from big league view, without a salute—without a goodbye.

A wonder man then—a has-been—

the story of Walter Mails is one, which, in telling, sounds more like fiction than a cold array of established facts.

It may be recalled that the Indians, the White Sox and the Yankees traced nose to nose all through the fading days of 1920 in one of the most thrilling flag battles in history. For three months they were so close together that nearly every victory or defeat changed their standings.

Indians Looked Good.

The Indians looked like sure-thing folks for a while—and then came the death of Ray Chapman, due to being hit on the head by one of Carl Mays' terrific underhand balls. The passing of Chapman, one of the mightiest cops in the great human machine, almost wrecked its morale. And then, to fill the Indian cup of misfortune to overflowing, the pitching staff practically collapsed as September came upon us.

"The Indians are through," fandom decided. So it seemed. And then came out of obscurity Walter Mails, portside flippier, Mattie, the brilliant, yet ever the eccentric.

"If good pitching is all you need to win the pennant," Mails confided to Tris Speaker, "why, don't you worry any more. Little Walter is here—and the old souper is in great shape."

Sent Out S. O. S. Signals.

When Mails was secured late in August, there was no intent by Speaker to try him out in the 1920 fight. But when Mails arrived in the Indian camp, Czeleskie's arm was woozy from the strain; Jim Bagby was floundering and Ray Caldwell was showing distress signals.

So Speaker, having no one else to work one afternoon, shoved Mails on to the mound. Mails won his game in brilliant fashion. A few days later he was tried again. And he won.

The rest of the story?

Well, it details how Mails pitched seven games for the Indians in the final weeks of the 1920 fight—and won them all. No more brilliant performance ever was turned in than that by the southpaw, who led a forlorn hope to the heights of the baseball world.

Got Series Chance.

Mails got a world series chance against the Dodgers in the third combat; going in as a reliever for Caldwell. He pitched 2 2/3 innings—and held the Dodgers rudderless.

His next chance came in the sixth game, when he started for the Indians and finished the Brooklynites. Mails shut out the Dodgers that day, making a total of 15 2/3 world series innings pitched without a run being scored against him.

Monte Cristo had nothing on Mails when the world series was done. For throughout the length and breadth of the land he was hailed as the conquering hero—the superman—the lion of the hour.

But since then—well, Mails has never been the same. His work in 1921 was fair, his showing in 1922 bad. And so they've discarded—shunted from the majors—one of the most spectacular pitching records of all time.

Dundee Presbyterians Beat First Christians

Accurate eging by Robertson and the defensive playing of Church at guard were factors in Dundee Presbyterians' victory over the First Christians last night in the feature class B Church league game at the "Y" last night.

Robertson collected 10 points for the Dundees.

Benamo Jewish crew held First Reform scoreless in the first half and won, 16 to 3, while Grace M. E. won from Grace Lutheran, 12 to 4.

Benamo M. E. beat Pearl M. E., 21 to 10.

Last night's contests wound up the first half of the class B division. Play in the second half will start next Thursday.

Lawler and Dygett Lose in Hand Ball

Hawthorne and Ritchie will play McGuire and White next Monday for the handball doubles championship of the Omaha Y. M. C. A.

Hawthorne and Ritchie won their way into the final bracket yesterday by defeating Ed Lawler and Ed Dygett.

Tilden Plans Hardy.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—William T. Tilden, national tennis star, was given his first test at the net game since he underwent an operation in which the first joint on his service hand was repaired, when he met Sam Hardy, captain of the team that brought the Davis Cup back from New Zealand, in 1920, on indoor courts here today. In practice at Philadelphia, a week ago, Tilden found that the operation did not hamper his playing ability.

Chief Jockey of Year



Martin Fator, by riding Joe Blair to victory in the last race of the old year at the Pijuana track, won the American jockey championship for 1922, by defeating "Chick" Lang, New Orleans rider, by one winning mount. Fator brought home three winners on the last Pijuana card. His total for the year was 187 winners against Lang's 156.

Woods and Waters by BOB BECKER

How Ruffed Grouse Drums.

Of all the characteristics of the ruffed grouse its habit of drumming is probably the most interesting and remarkable. This handsome game bird sure does make a racket when he gets going, and the method by which he does his drumming has long been a subject of much argument.

This noise is difficult to describe by mere words, but the best combination goes like this: Thump—thump—thump, thump; hump, thump, rump, rump, r-r-r-r-r. It is a rolling tattoo, sounding something like the beating of a drum, and once an outdoors man hears it he will never forget it.

Just how this bird produces such a racket puzzled many naturalists many years ago. Thoreau was ready to swear that the grouse struck its wings together behind its back. For a long time woodsmen told the story of how the grouse chose a hollow log or which to drum and by beating this hollow log with its wings produced its remarkable call. But that kind of an explanation will not stand today and it is quite generally conceded that the bird beats nothing but air. Its wings do not strike any substance whatever, neither do they meet behind the bird's back.

Many woodsmen have seen the cock grouse drumming on a log; photographs have even been made of the bird when he was acting like a wireless broadcasting station; but the old boy beats the air so fast that not even a photo could throw much light on how he does it. His wings become merely blurs and neither the human eye nor the camera could register clearly.

Ben Bush tells of an interesting experience with a grouse which gave him a closeup of that bird during its drumming act. He was hunting in the Michigan woods and flushing a cock grouse knocked it down with one shot of his gun. As he approached the bird lying upon the ground and stopped to pick it up, it began to drum. In describing this stunt Ben says: "Standing there I saw that the bird fluffed out feathers just like a strutting turkey cock. The rapid whirrs of its wings did not strike the body and the sound, the drumming, was produced by the beat of concave wings upon the air."

Right you are, Ben, and this fact is now quite generally understood, although we suppose that the old story of the grouse hammering a hollow log like a kettle drummer beating a drum will persist for many years just as the yarn about the porcupine being able to shoot or throw his quills is still going the rounds. Another thing, it is quite well known that the cock grouse drums in order to call a hen. Chapman speaks of it as an announcement that the bird is at the old rendezvous—a place which the handsome male has used many times to call to the hen that even in autumn or winter when this king bird finds himself in the vicinity of this old rendezvous he cannot resist the temptation to mount his perch, fluff out his feathers, and let go that rolling drumbeat that was his springtime song of love.

It also seems reasonable to suppose that this drumming may be a challenge to rival birds. Others believe that it is simply an expression of the bird's vanity. Certainly a grouse can be proud of his looks, as few game birds are handsomer. It's no wonder they call the grouse the "king of the woods" and once you hear his drumming specialty and see him in all his glory you can readily believe that he is the king.

"Billy" Rolfe to Fight Glenn Milligan Next Week

Atlantic, Va., Jan. 5.—(Special)—"Billy" Rolfe, Omaha welter, will meet Glenn Milligan of Sioux City in an eight-round go here next Monday evening, at the local Elks club. Rolfe is in the city training for a bout. There will be a good bunch of preliminaries to the main event.

Grid Proceeds Build Stadium.

Annapolis, Md., Jan. 5.—That the Navy Athletic association realized practically sufficient funds from the Navy-University of Pennsylvania football game in Philadelphia and the Navy-Penn State game in Washington this last season to cover the cost of the new baseball field and stadium now in course of construction on the government reservation here, is revealed in the report of Commander Douglas L. Howard, secretary-treasurer.

News relating to crime is suppressed by police in Tokyo, Japan.

Millard Man Re-Elected Head of Poultrymen

Location of 1924 Show Not Decided Upon—Secretary Gives Out List of the Prize Winners.

Fremont, Neb., Jan. 5.—(Special)—A. C. Andrews, Millard, was re-elected president of the Nebraska State Poultry association at the annual meeting on the eve of the close of the 35th annual poultry show. Owing to illness in the family, President Andrews was unable to be present at the session.

Other officers re-elected for the coming year, are Nels Peterson, Mason City, secretary; John Burnham, Adams, treasurer; John Skinner, Herman, director. County Agent Deverson of Adams county was elected director, the only new officer chosen.

Location of the 1924 poultry show has not yet been decided upon. It is planned to choose a site for the next convention following the Nebraska state fair.

Prizes in the different classes of poultry were announced by Secretary Russell Palmer as follows:

Barred Plymouth Rocks, E. C. Jewell, De Witt.

White Plymouth Rocks, William White, Rock Farms, Cedar Bluffs.

Buff Plymouth Rocks, Mrs. Ross Ogive, Alexander.

White Wyandottes, E. E. Hanson, University Place.

Silver Wyandottes, W. L. Hawk, Fremont.

Buff Wyandottes, W. J. Gow, Norfolk.

Partridge Wyandottes, J. W. McElvin, Farnum.

Single Comb Rhode Island Reds, Henry Whitehead, Lincoln.

Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds, Charles Junker, Cambridge.

Rose Comb Rhode Island Whites, Martin Norberg, Franklin.

Black Langshans, Earl McGlun, Adams.

Light Brahmas, G. F. Robertson, Omaha.

Single Comb White Leghorns, Tony Vanderhill, Falls City.

Buff Leghorns, V. P. Johnson, Saraville.

Single Comb Anconas, Ak-Sar-Ben Ancona Farms, Omaha.

Rose Comb Anconas, Ross Beems, Lincoln.

RADIO Sparks

The percentage of fans who prefer jazz to music is not readily computable. It may be fair, or not, to judge the whole by a part, but if the result of the canvass of fans in the northwest is a safe criterion then classical music has reached a place in the estimation of the majority of listeners in which leaves no doubt on the subject. Dance music and jazz are not synonymous.

In case the broadcasting stations in England do not give a class of program desired by the fans over there, they will be picking up stations in this country to supply their entertainment. Several numbers transmitted from WJZ were heard in Croydon recently and that is somewhat over 2,000 miles away.

To eliminate the body capacity as much as possible, I mounted my variometer about 4 inches from the panel and used longer shafts. As this did not entirely cut out the capacitance I procured some rubber tubing that would fit over the shaft tightly, cut out 3/4 inch of the shafting and used the tubing as a coupling. This has been my only remedy for body capacity. Before doing this I was only able to pick up 225 miles, now I receive 2,015 miles. I use no amplifier, just two variometers and a variocoupler.—H. C.

Detector crystals which are most sensitive to radio signals are usually the crystals most affected by contact with the air resulting in oxidation of the surface of the crystal and a decrease in the sensitivity. The crystal may be clipped or scraped with a knife to expose a fresh surface.

I found by mounting a switch shaft and knob in combination with a heavy rubber washer mounted so as to tightly fit against my variable condenser dial, helped very much in tuning and also presented a neat appearance on the panel.—Dr. C. C. R.

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