

Martins Will Open Training Camp Next Monday Morning

Players Scheduled to Arrive This Week-End

Manager Rodgers To Bring Players From Camp In Richmond

Series of Exhibition Games Planned Beginning Week After Next

Plans were announced complete today for opening the Martins' training camp here next Monday morning about 10:30 o'clock and making ready for the season opener here on May 8th with Tarboro. Manager Frank Rodgers has been doing some heavy scouting around the Reading, Pa., club at Wilson and in the Colts' camp at Richmond this week, advance reports stating that he is bringing in five recruits over the week-end from Richmond with an order for additional ones pending.

Most of the boys are due to arrive here Sunday by bus, some coming from as far away as Chicago. Several will come from New York and Pennsylvania, but quite a few of the players are already in and around this section.

The team management is calling upon the town's people to room the players without cost during the training period with the virtual understanding that the players will maintain their room addresses after the season is opened. The club pays no salaries during the training period, but it does have to board and room the players. The free offer of rooms during the little more than two weeks training period will greatly help in holding down expenses, President Fowden said.

The management is planning a series of exhibition games, the first to be played on Sunday, April 27, with an independent team from Durham. Others will be announced later.

Including five players Skipper Rodgers is bringing down from Richmond, the Martins now have nineteen men under contract with negotiations well advanced in several other cases. A contract with Pete Kunis, star moundman in the Coastal Plain circuit year before last, is pending. The management is planning to sign a young pitcher from Elizabeth City.

SHAPING UP

The 1941 baseball season is rapidly shaping up here, President Pete Fowden stating this morning that the weather is absolutely perfect, and that the fans are showing a keen interest in developments. Pledges are being met promptly in most cases, and since the operation of the club this year is strictly a community affair, a greater support and interest are already in evidence.

"The team is the town's team, and we earnestly hope the town will get behind the club and help work for a successful season," President Fowden said late last night.

The roster at the present includes the following men: "Chuck" Taylor, right field; Frank Rodgers, manager-centerfield; John Byrum, left field; Clarence Tuckley, first; Milton Richmond, second; Alfred Slakis, third; Berkley Stotler, shortstop; James R. Gainer and Elwood Brown, catchers; Felton Magee and Martin Martinza, both infielders; Ted Miller, Slim Gardner and Nathan Edmondson, pitchers. Ted Miller is bringing a second baseman from across the river who, according to Ted, will hit second to none.

In the group Manager Rodgers is bringing from Richmond are two young pitchers.

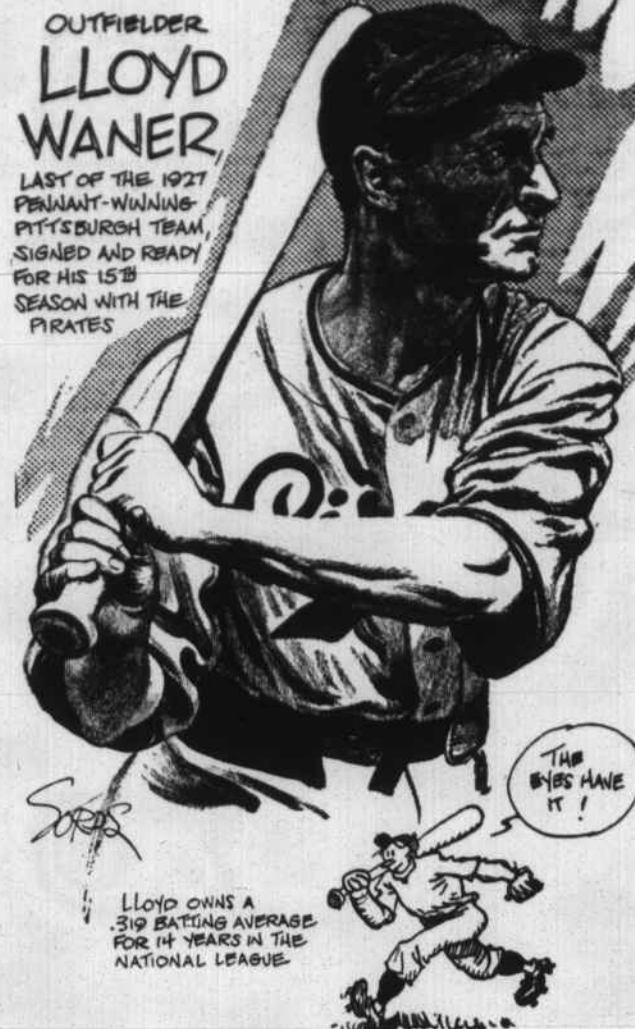
Interest In Poultry Flocks Continues In Richmond

Interest in the improvement of their poultry flocks continues to grow among Richmond County farmers, says N. L. Hendrix, assistant farm agent of the N. C. State College Extension Service.

Spoilage
Molds and bacteria which attack foods levy a toll estimated at more than \$100,000,000 a year, indicating a need for improved packaging and refrigeration to reduce this huge annual loss.

LONE SURVIVOR

By Jack Sorda



Record Review of the Martins Who Are Returning This Year

Former Cleveland Hurler To Umpire In Coastal Circuit

Jim Bagby, Sr., Will Try His Hand Behind the Plate As Arbitrator

As a rookie umpire, breaking in with the Coastal Plain League, Jim Bagby, Sr., will tread the turf where his young son, now with the Cleveland Indians, gained some of his early triumphs as a rookie hurler. The addition of Rocky Mount to the Coastal Plain circuit makes that possible.

In 1936, young Jim was just getting started with the Rocky Mount Red Sox of the Piedmont League. Senior Jim, who won 31 games for the Cleveland Indians back in their pennant year of 1920, had been coaching his boy for years, but the

Stotler and Slakis in Infield, And Chuck Taylor in The Outfield

Thus far, Manager Frank Rodgers has signed two infielders and an outfielder from last year's Williamston Martins. Bert Stotler, shortstop; Al Slakis, third base, and Chuck Taylor, outfielder, will return for another season. Proving of much interest, here is a brief summary of their work last year.

In the fielding averages, Chuck Taylor, participating in 115 games, sported a .940 mark, making 238 put-outs, 12 assists, figuring in two double plays, and making 16 errors. At the plate, he hit safely 123 times out of 465 trips, for an average of .265. Chuck batted in 38 runs, with 157 total bases, including 19 doubles, six triples, and one home run. He fanned 62 times, was walked 45 times, and hit by pitcher five times.

Bert Stotler, at shortstop, ended the 1940 season with a fielding average of .935. Playing in 76 games, he made 162 put-outs, 199 assists, and figured in 23 double killings. He erred 25 times. Bert's batting percentage was .269, gathering 70 safeties in 260 times at bat to score 49 runs. He drove in 39 runs. Extra base hits included 15 doubles, three triples, and five homers. He was walked 42 times, hit five times, and struck out 39 times.

At third base, Al Slakis played in 98 games, for a fielding average of .892. Al made 174 put-outs, 238 assists, and was named in 31 double plays. He made 42 miscues. Slakis' hitting mark was .236, 93 hits in 394 trips to the plate. He scored 48 runs and batted in 32. Al's extra base knocks included 21 doubles, one triple and four home runs. He was issued 34 walks, hit by pitcher once, and fanned 58 times.

Although these batting averages are not among the best, the players have proved that they are real prospects, and are expected to be the key men in the Martins' attack this coming season.

youngster could not develop a fast ball. "It will come to him some day,"

Locals Score Victory In Field Day Events

Speedy Manhattan Star With Wilson

Rookie Ends Up Playing At Shortstop Through Necessity

Ray (Speed) Forziat, rookie shortstop of the Wilson Tobs and an alumnus of Manhattan College in New York, tried four other spots on the diamond before he settled at short, and he took a whirl at that job only through necessity.

Manhattan's regular shortstop left school to enter pro ball and Forziat was thrown into the breach. He performed so well at the job that he remained with it and wants to stay there. Previously, he had tried the outfield, second base, third base and catching.

If he can make the grade with the Tobs he'll be a handy man to have around, with enough experience at other posts to fill a gap in an emergency.

As a freshman catcher at Manhattan, Forziat caught a no-hit, no-run game. He had a perfect day at bat during the game, one of the crashes being a home run with the bases loaded.

The Wilson rookie bids fair to be one of the fastest men in the Coastal Plain loop. Prior to entering Manhattan, he attended Fordham Prep school and for two years was regarded the fastest man on the baseball and football teams. He was given the school's most valuable player award in baseball in 1936.

There was a great race for this latter honor between Forziat and a teammate, and no decision had been made prior to the last game of the season. "Speed" rose to the occasion and came up with a perfect day at bat, and that probably had much to do with his winning the trophy.

The youngster played on two championship teams at Prep and led the club in batting his last year with a hefty .469 average.

Last summer, he was playing manager of the St. Brendon club in New York City and stole four bases in one game.

Twenty-one years old, Forziat measures five feet, eight inches and weighs 165 pounds. He bats from either side of the plate.

Mrs. J. W. Andrews visited her daughter, Mrs. J. L. Spencer, and family in Portsmouth Wednesday.

Jim, Sr., kept saying, "It did, while the youngster was with Hazleton of the Eastern League in 1937. He was considered the fastest pitcher in the circuit, and most fans will recall his illustrious debut in the big leagues the following year."

Taken up by the parent Boston Red Sox, he was assigned to pitch the opening game of the season against the New York Yankees. A mighty tough spot for a big league rookie, but he came through with an 8 to 4 decision and made the national headlines.

There is something of a parallel between the boy and his father, for Jim, Sr.'s best pitch also came overnight. The elder Bagby, originally an outfielder, was knocked out with a broken arm. He never returned to the outfield.

When the arm had mended, Jim began to work out with his Montgomery club.

"Watch me throw Mathewson's fadeaway," said Jim to old Buck Weaver, who was warming him up. To the surprise of both the ball broke about a foot, and from there Jim Bagby went on to the big leagues to become one of the brightest pitching stars of his era.

There are no more pitching victories in his arm, but old Jim hopes to stay in the game as an umpire, and the Coastal Plain is giving him the start. And as he makes his bow in blue serge, young Jim will be trying to help the Cleveland Indians, the team his dad helped win its last American League pennant.

Gardner And Miller Are Old Reliables on Martin Mound Staff

Slim Was One of Loop's Lowest Hurlers in Earned Run Averages

Herbert "Slim" Gardner and Ted Miller, the two hold-overs from last year's edition of the Williamston Martins who have been signed to perform again this season, possess quite an interesting record in this loop.

Slim Gardner, the "old" rookie, was one of the league's leading hurlers last season in the earned run department, allowing the opposition an average of 3.43 runs per game. Slim pitched in 13 games, 11 of which were complete, winning eight and losing seven for a won-lost mark of 5-3. Gardner hurled 128 innings, allowed 57 bases on balls, hit only five batters, was charged with eight wild pitches, while striking out 24 batters. Slim was touched for 125 hits and 63 runs during his mound duty.

Returning again this season, Ted Miller, Bertie County baseball product, also displays a fine record for his first year in organized baseball. Miller pitched in 27 games last season, including 13 complete contests, for an earned run average of 4.10. He won ten and lost ten, pitching 186 innings. Ted fanned 114 batters during the season, allowed 185 hits and 101 runs. He issued 77 bases on balls, five wild pitches and hit three batters.

Manager Frank Rodgers expects to build his pitching staff around these two men, and with the experience they gained last season, he ranks them among the best hurling prospects in the league this season.

A. Jenkins, Williamston.

Boys 220 yard dash: D. Stalls, Oak City; E. Roberson, Bear Grass; Lilley, Farm Life.

Girls potato race: D. Worsley, Oak City; and M. Wynne, Bear Grass, tie; M. Stalls, Oak City.

Boys high jump: Harrell, Oak City; A. Martin, Jamesville; C. Ward, Williamston and C. Brown, Bear Grass, tie.

Boys broad jump: Sullivan, Williamston; J. Lawrence, Oak City; B. Daniel, Farm Life.

Girls 400 yard relay: Farm Life, Jamesville, Williamston.

Boys 440 yard relay: Farm Life, Williamston, Robersonville.

Mixed relay: Williamston, Farm Life, Robersonville.

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