

The Sports Trail

By WHITNEY MARTIN

NEW YORK, April 23.—The reaction of some fans to the news that Walker Cooper will go into the service April 28 was "Oh, oh, there go the Cardinals' pennant chances." Personally we aren't worrying about the Cardinals. We think they could lose both the Cooper boys in the Postage Building and still struggle through all right.

The reason you wouldn't worry too much about Walker Cooper, although admitting he is above the average as a receiver and hitter, is that for going on four years now the St. Louis club has had a fair-to-middling catcher on its roster named James Kenneth O'Dea.

You haven't heard so much about O'Dea because, as the No. 2 man, he was overshadowed by Cooper. But this 10-year man would be a regular on many a club this year, as if a club didn't need him, he would just hang around as a pinch hitter.

He really can bite into that apple in the clutch. He's played in a total of 19 games in five world series, and his batting average for those appearances is a neat .462, six hits in 13 efforts including one pinch-hit home run.

He played in 85 regular season games for the Cardinals last year, and that's only 27 games less than Cooper played. His batting average was only .249 which is slightly anemic compared to Cooper's .317, but he batted in 37 runs and collected six home runs.

O'Dea was a party to that six-day deal which the Cubs and Gi-

'CAT NINE GOES TO PLAY 'QUAKES THIS AFTERNOON

Hardison Or Rogers Will Probably Pitch Fourth Conference Game

New Hanover High School's unfortunate horsehiders will still be seeking their first conference victory of the season when they journey to Goldsboro to encounter the Earthquakes this afternoon.

The 'Cats, who lost their first three conference tilts to Wilson, Durham, and Rocky Mount, can hardly be expected to bounce into the win column today.

The "Goldbugs" were leading the locals, 4-0, at the end of the third frame here a couple of weeks ago, but the tilt had to be postponed because of rain.

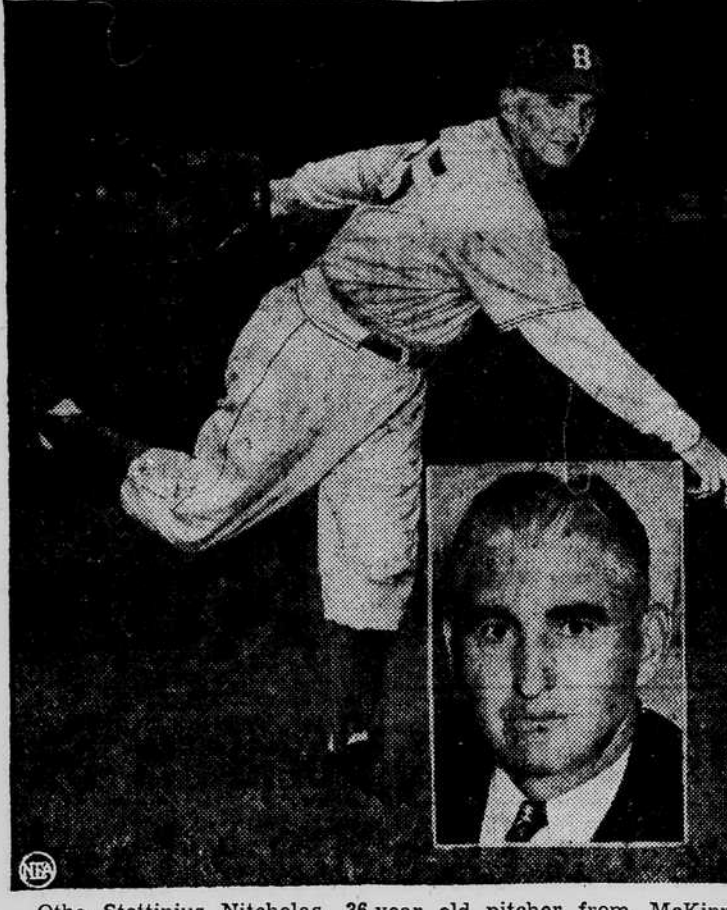
If it is agreeable with Coach Norris Jeffery, the Goldsboro mentor, the Hanoverians will play a doubleheader, or count the one game as two. Under normal conditions, the Wayne County lads would have to make a return visit to Wilmington to make up for the postponed game, but because of the transportation problem, that would prove impractical.

The Quakes, studded with many of last year's returning lettermen, have made a good showing thus far in the conference, dropping tilts only to Wilson and Durham. The last scalp lifted by the Goldsboro club belonged to Coach Seyton Holts' Durham Bulls. It seems that Billy Rose, Goldsboro hot-box keeper, brought the house down on the Tobacco-towners in the sixth inning when he doubled with the sacks full.

Malpass will probably be given a chance to see whether or not he can finish chalking up the victory that he had started when the weather man interfered here.

This game will have little bearing on the conference standings, except to pull the locals out of the cellar, and into a three-way tie for fourth place if they win. Wilson and Rocky Mount are tied for the top slot, both teams having dropped one tilt thus far. The Carolina men lost their tilt to Leon Bruden's Cycles at Wilson three weeks ago, while the Cyclones were upset by the lowly Raleigh Caps, who up until that time had not won a game, and who have failed to cop a single victory since. The fight between Rocky Mt. and Wilson, which started with Wilson's 13-12 victory over the Blackbirds during the football season, will be resumed in Rocky Mt.—on May 5, for what may well prove to be the Eastern Conference championship.

Stettinius Now Pitching



Otho Stettinius Nitcholas, 36-year old pitcher from McKinney, Texas, who won 14 and lost 11 at St. Paul last year, may not pitch the Dodgers to a pennant, but he'll certainly add dignity to the bullpen. He's a dead image of the Secretary of State.

WHITE SOX'S BATS KEEP ASTOUNDING EVEN PILOT DYKES

American League Pace-Setters Are Averaging A Neat .352 at Bat

CHICAGO, April 23.—(AP)—The pitching is as good as Manager Jimmy Dykes expected, but the hitting of Chicago's undefeated White Sox has almost made Rotund James swallow his inevitable cigar in pleasant surprise.

The American League pace-setters, off to the best White Sox start in a quarter of a century with five straight wins, have belted 64 hits, an average of 13 per game, for a .352 percentage at the plate.

Most of the thunder in the surprising get-away of the lightly regarded Pale Hose is packed in the bats of Dykes' aging outfield trio of Oris Hockett, Johnny Dickshot and Wally Moses whose average age is nearly 33. This "tottering" three-some is hitting a sizzling .420.

Hockett, acquired in a trade with the Cleveland Indians, and Dickshot, who played in only 62 games last season, each has pounded 10 hits in 23 trips for a .435 average, while Moses has nine blows in 23 appearances for .391.

The veteran Moses reports for induction into the armed forces on April 30. When he leaves, Dykes will have only three outfielders on the entire Sox roster.

The 32-year-old Guy Curtright, may not break into the lineup until the day Moses departs.

The infield has been sparked by Cass Michaels, 19-year-old shortstop, who has compiled a .421 batting average with faultless fielding. 36-year-old Tony Cuccinello (.385) is at third and 35-year-old Leroy Schalk (.304) at second. Tony sprained his leg Sunday.

Rookie Bill Nagel, converted third-baseman, still is a question mark at first, but Dykes has good insurance in Kerby Farrell, veteran first sacker recently bought from Indianapolis, who has pinch-batted two-game turning singles.

Baseball Owners Plan To Select Czar Today

MICHAELS, BUZAS LEADING ROOKIES Ford Frick and Leslie O'Connor Are Leading Contestants for Post

NEW YORK, April 23.—(AP)—Cass Michaels of the Chicago White Sox and Joe Buzas of the New York Yankees are setting the pace today for a bumper crop of rookie shortstops who have taken over half the major league jobs.

Ignoring the popular definition of a short fielder as one who fields brilliantly but sports an anemic batting average, Michaels has a .421 average at the end of the first week of the season and Buzas boasts a respectable .348.

Michaels' name was Kwietniewski until last season when the Sox shipped him to Little Rock after 27 games in Chicago.

Secretary Harry Grabiner of the Pale Hose was not notified of the change in spelling and not seeing any Kwietniewski in the Southern Association lineups dialed a hurried call to the Travelers' manager. He was doubly assured by the information that the 19-year-old Detroit native had legally changed his name and was whaling the ball at a .356 clip.

Although Chicago drafted Danny Reynolds from the Yanks' Newark farm, Michaels won the regular job in spring training and appeared hard to oust.

Buzas was taken up by the Yankees at the close of the International League season last year after hitting .297 and playing second base. Joe McCarthy installed him as short the first day of the Atlantic City workouts and he has not been out since.

Majors Take To Field Today After Resting

NEW YORK, April 23.—(AP)—The major leagues had their first "off" day of the young 1945 season today and it came as a welcome relief to the pitchers.

For they have been treated pretty roughly since the curtain went up last Tuesday and the hitters in no uncertain terms have started out to make baseball's fourth wartime season their year.

Warmer weather may change the picture, but thus far the superiority has been with the batters. They have been enjoying some field days.

A study of the record discloses that the first week of the present season was in direct contrast to the opening games last year when the hurlers were dominant.

In the National League, for instance, there were six shutouts pitched in the first 20 games of 1944. The first 25 games of 1945 have seen only two. There were only 10 home runs last season; so far this spring there have been 24. Where they pitched 14 games less last year, they have pitched only nine such low-hitters in 1945.

The feast for the hitters has not been so great in the American League, but it has been no famine, either. Last year in the first 25 games the batters of the junior circuit hit 13 home runs. They made the same number this year in two less games. The shutouts are even—three.

High hit games have been the rule. The Detroit Tigers turned in the top performance when they pounded five St. Louis pitchers for 21 hits. The Chicago White Sox, the surprise club of the season thus far, made 17 hits in a game against Cleveland. That's usually more the Jimmy Dykes' crew makes in three games.

Of all the 16 clubs, the White Sox have shown the most improvement. Their five victories against no defeats not only puts them at the top of the American League, but also is the peak performance in the majors.

Twelve of the 16 clubs will resume action tomorrow. In the National it will be Brooklyn at Boston, Philadelphia at New York and Chicago at Cincinnati with St. Louis and Pittsburgh idle. New York and Philadelphia will be idle in the American as St. Louis plays at Cleveland, Detroit at Chicago, and Boston at Washington.

HOW THEY STAND

| American League | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|------|-------|--|
| Team | Won | Lost | Pct. | |
| Chicago | 5 | 0 | 1.000 | |
| New York | 5 | 1 | .833 | |
| Detroit | 4 | 2 | .667 | |
| Philadelphia | 4 | 2 | .667 | |
| Washington | 3 | 3 | .500 | |
| Cleveland | 1 | 4 | .200 | |
| St. Louis | 1 | 5 | .167 | |
| Boston | 0 | 6 | .000 | |

| National League | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|------|------|--|
| Team | Won | Lost | Pct. | |
| New York | 5 | 2 | .714 | |
| Chicago | 4 | 2 | .667 | |
| St. Louis | 3 | 2 | .600 | |
| Brooklyn | 3 | 3 | .500 | |
| Cincinnati | 3 | 3 | .500 | |
| Boston | 3 | 4 | .429 | |
| Philadelphia | 2 | 4 | .333 | |
| Pittsburgh | 2 | 5 | .286 | |

PROBABLY FITCHERS

NEW YORK, April 23.—(AP)—Major pitchers for tomorrow's major league games. (Won and lost records in parentheses):

American League
 St. Louis at Cleveland—Potter (0-1) vs. Bagby (0-1)
 Detroit at Chicago—Benton (1-0) vs. Lee (1-0)
 Boston at Washington—Dreise-werd (0-0) vs. Niggeling (0-0) (Only games scheduled).

National League
 Philadelphia at New York—Raf-ensberger (0-1) vs. Hansen (1-0)
 Brooklyn at Boston—Gregg (1-0) vs. Javery (0-1)
 Chicago at Cincinnati—Wyse (0-1) vs. Walters (0-0)

GERMANY WARNED ON CAPTIVE CARE

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alibis that the acts were carried out by subordinates without actual authorization.

Every available means of communication, including broadcasts from Washington, London and Moscow, was being utilized to convey the message to all commanders, guards, Gestapo agents and other persons regardless of service or rank, who might have charge of Allied nationals. Allied planes were dropping uncounted copies of the warning over the part of Germany still held by the Nazis.

"Any person guilty of mistreatment or allowing any Allied prisoner of war, internee or deported citizen to be mistreated, whether in the battle zone, on lines of communication, in a camp, hospital, prison or elsewhere, will be ruthlessly pursued and brought to punishment," the statement says.

It adds that responsibility will be "binding in all circumstances and one which cannot be transferred to any other authorities or individuals whatsoever."

LAMPSHADE MADE FROM HUMAN SKIN

(Continued from Page One)

nament was an entire male chest, completely plain and undesignated. I could see clearly the nipples and navel marks, which made tiny marks in the smooth surface, somewhat like knot holes in a wood panel.

"This is not at all unusual," said the Dutchman. "It's just another instance of the lack of value the Nazis put on human life. They used humans as guinea pigs in experiments on typhus treatments, on restoring sight and hearing, and in treating burns.

"They'd destroy the hearing of a prisoner, or put out his eye, and leave him like that for weeks. Then they'd try to restore his sight or hearing. Sometimes they succeeded, but the experiment always ended with the victim's execution."

"Sometimes," the Dutchman continued, "they would put acid powder on a man's arm, letting it burn him to the bone, then experiment in treatments for it.

"They also experimented in sterilization. In one camp section they kept a group of girls for these tests. They always were well-fed and well-treated and had every comfort and luxury they could want. But about one hundred of these girls died every month from the experiments.

"The Nazis permitted prisoners to have children because they were making experiments in twins. Many of the children were killed because they were 'nuisance.' But they always cared well for twins."

POLISH PROBLEM LEFT UNSOLVED

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ing, stayed away from an afternoon session between the American and British representatives.

Mr. Truman last night, less than three hours after he arrived by air from Moscow.

The move to San Francisco was dictated in part by the pressure of time. All three conferees are chiefs of their nations' delegations to the United Nations meeting starting Wednesday, called to chart plans for a world organization.

There appeared no doubt that the Polish issue, considered to have a direct bearing on success of the San Francisco United Nations conference, topped the list of urgent problems discussed.

Texas did not have an official name for nearly 200 years after its discovery.

CASEY PITCHING FOR NAVY NINE

SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC.—(Delayed)—A big, right-handed pitcher who used to toss them in the normally eccentric surroundings of baseball's meastrom—Ebbets Field in Brooklyn—is pitching for a Navy team here.

Hugh Casey, once of baseball's best hurlers and now in his third year wearing Navy blue, would like to be back with the Dodgers.

Questioned recently after he had shut out a Marine Raider nine, 2 to 0, the 32-year-old Casey said he intends returning to the big leagues if he isn't too old when the Japs are licked.

Casey is in excellent shape, says the sailors who see him play fairly regularly, and probably could up the top slot, in one of the major league baseball any time" as he contends.

The ex-Dodger, who once lost a World Series game when one of his pitches escaped from Catcher Mickey Owen and thus enabled the New York Yankees to stage a rally, now pitches and assists in managing a Navy base hospital team.

City Briefs

PROMOTED
 Lewis H. Rackley, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Rackley of Burgaw, has been promoted from seaman first class to gunners mate third class, and is serving on a destroyer escort in the Pacific.

RATION UNIT TO CLOSE
 The food department of the New Hanover War Price and Rationing office will be closed to the public today.

WADE AND LANE WIN IN BALLOT

(Continued from Page One)

Other candidates received the following votes:

George H. Brinson, 1,776; John H. Davis, 1,761; Thomas E. Surrrell, 1,424; Ernest R. Mayhan, 322; William Henry Ezzell, 177; and Kingsley Lee King, 107.

The greatest vote cast in any ward was 614 for Mr. Wade in Sixth ward, second precinct. He commented that "I've always done well there."

During the Councilmatic form of government, Mr. Wade was elected to office in 1919 for a four-year term as a representative of the third ward. This type of government was changed in 1921 to the Commissioner form and he left office to represent New Hanover County in the General Assembly for three sessions.

He was elected city commissioner of public works June, 1935, serving in this capacity for 16 years. In 1943, he was elected to the State Senate as a representative of the Ninth Senatorial district.

Mayor Lane was elected to the Council on May 4, 1943. Following the death of Mayor Bruce B. Cameron on July 17, 1944, he was named mayor.

Councilman LeGwin has served on the Council since the city manager-council form of government was formed here in 1941.

Mr. Yopp is owner of Yopp's funeral home. He is past president of the North Carolina Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association and is at present one of the eight directors of the state association. His father was a member of the City Council for a number of years and served on the Board of County Commissioners for 20 years.

The last ward to make returns to the City Electors board last night was the largest in Wilmington township—Fifth ward, second precinct, at William Hooper school, where 1,658 were registered. A total of 624 persons voted there.

The number to vote at other wards was as follows:

First ward—256. Registration, 815.
 Second ward, 1st precinct—410. Registration, 949.
 Second ward, 2nd precinct—360. Registration, 896.
 Third ward, 1st precinct—540. Registration, 1,329.
 Third ward, 2nd precinct—658. Registration, 1,424.
 Fourth ward—580. Registration, 1,253.
 Fifth ward, 1st precinct—508. Registration, 1,264.
 Sixth ward, 1st precinct—504. Registration, 855.
 Sixth ward, 2nd precinct—787. Registration, 1,536.

HITLER LEADING BERLIN DEFENSE

(Continued from Page One)

Soviet steel were sweeping through the smoldering streets at an almost unbelievable rate. Some observers speculated that the entire city might fall within two days.

The Russians' mighty surge to the Elbe, believed to have been designated as the dividing line between the western and eastern Allies, completely isolated Berlin from the Nazis' national redoubt in southern Europe.

The Russians were 22 miles from last reported American positions on the Mulde river near Wurzen, west of the Elbe, but the swift drive had effectively cut off all northern Germany from the south, from Austria, Czechoslovakia and northern Italy.

The Nazi underground "Werewolf" radio said that Germans were fighting Germans inside Berlin's barricades, reporting that "traitors" were firing at German troops in northern Berlin, where waves of Red Army tanks were plunging relentlessly toward Unter Den Linden and Friedrichstrasse, dead center of the city.

At the same time, an overwhelming mass of Soviet armor was blasting into Berlin from the south.

The escape gap rapidly was being closed and one report said it had been narrowed to five miles in the area of menaced Spandau on the northwest.

The Nazis, routing huddling civilians from shelters, threw women and boys into the inferno of the city's death battle as the Russians bored in from three sides under a blanket of shellfire which had churned mile after mile of the city into a wasteland of twisted steel and stone.

SOVIETS NEARING U. S. NINTH ARMY

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troops fought up to within six and a half miles of the port of Emden.

The U. S. Third Army threw its enormous weight southward at a time when the Germans were hotly pressed to keep the French and the Seventh army out of their well-fortified and well-stocked mountain fortress.

Bent on making the kill quickly one armored column rumbled up 13 miles from the Danubian stronghold of Regensburg and about 75 miles from Munich, which stands at the northern edge of the Alpine redoubt.

Other columns burst across the Naab river and swept almost unopposed 23 miles southeast through disorganized defenses into Haag and Wetterfeld, northeast of Regensburg and 43 miles southwest of the Czech armaments city of Pilsen.

The blows were dealt in concert with those of the U. S. Seventh and French First Armies, already 29 to 48 miles from the western-most ramparts of the redoubt, and pouring southward in tremendous strength.

The Danube river line was buckling under the impact of the U. S. Seventh Army's armored attack which carried across the historic barrier 50 miles west of Munich and was closing up to the stream on a 50-mile front.

BRITISH, YANKS REACH PO RIVER

(Continued from Page One)

northern Italy. The exact points where Allied armor wheeled up to the Po were not disclosed, but at its nearest point the river curves 27 miles north of Bologna.

An earlier communique reported that advance units of the Fifth Army had driven as far as 35 miles northwest of Bologna, which was captured Saturday. These American and Allied troops had advanced approximately 75 miles in the first eight days of their offensive and had scored a clean breakthrough of the Germans' tough Apennine mountains defense line.

During most of the world-wide war the Russians have studiously avoided anything that might connect them with the war in the Pacific in which they are not involved.

Song's entry into the conference was taken as backing for previous indications that the tangled Polish situation had been put off until Molotov can consult his government and renew conversations in San Francisco.

Meanwhile the State Department declined to comment officially on a Moscow radio report which complained of what it called "foreign press" accounts that the Big Three had agreed at Yalta against inviting to San Francisco any Polish government unrecognized by Britain and the United States.

However, there never has been any official claim here that such an agreement was made directly by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin at their Crimea conference.

Diplomats however pointed to the fact that there was a Yalta agreement to amalgamate the Kremlin sponsored Warsaw provisional government with other Polish elements.

With such an agreement in existence, it was suggested, the Yalta conferees might have seen no necessity to consider such a point at all.

Even if the factual accuracy of the Moscow report is accepted, diplomats here see it as likely that the President and the Prime Minister took it for granted that an acceptable government could be set up in the two and one-half months before the United Nations meeting.

This country and Britain never have recognized the undiluted Warsaw group and it would be a diplomatic rarity for a nation sponsoring an international meeting to invite a government it does not recognize.

The action of Russia in staying away from recent aviation conferences to avoid contact with regimes it does not accept is cited as a case in point.

It became clear earlier in the day that the Big Three nations—the United States, Russia and Britain—had failed in a night and day of conference to settle the tangled Polish question and had decided to try again at San Francisco.

SOONG CONFERS WITH BIG THREE

(Continued from Page One)

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O'Connor Still Hasn't Decided Coopers' Case

CHICAGO, April 23.—(AP)—Leslie M. Connor, chairman of the major league advisory council, said today he was awaiting further information from Walker and Mort Cooper before making a decision in the salary dispute of the star brother battery of the St. Louis Cardinals.

O'Connor, last Wednesday, took under advisement the Coopers' demand for salary increase from \$12,000 to \$15,000 annually after earlier dissuading them from quitting the Cardinals until the dispute went through "proper channels."

The "miracle insecticide" of this war, DDT, will be made available to civilians shortly.

Dick Newcomb Goes Fishing by Proxy

Bob Newcomb used to be the best fly caster in the county. Never missed a Saturday at Seward's Creek. But come the war, and Bob's son going off in uniform, he just lost interest in things like fishing.

But the other day Bob got a letter from the South Pacific... kind of a homesick letter: "I'm thinking of you, Dad, fishing in Seward's Creek; cooking trout over an open fire; and keeping the beer cool in the stream. Keep an extra bottle cool for me."

So Bob spent his next day off exactly as Dick dreamed of his doing—fished Seward's Creek again, and cooked the trout, and kept the beer cool in the stream. And you knew he was doing it for Dick.

From where I sit, it's what the men overseas would have to do—keep alive the little customs, the small pleasures, they remember—keep them alive till they come home to share them.

Joe Marsh

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

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Joe Marsh

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