

Page, DiMaggio Combine To Put Yanks Up Front

By HARRY GRAYSON
NEA Sports Editor

NEW YORK, July 26.—There are more good human interest stories in the Yankees than there were in connection with any other club in memory.

Billy Johnson and Johnny Lindell, the ugly ducklings listed as trading material in the spring, barely hanging on to lay golden eggs.

Geore McQuinn's remarkable comeback.

And the account of a couple of guys named Joe, among them.

DiMaggio and Page helped each other—and the Yankees, too.

Page spent the better part of two campaigns with the New Yorks before DiMaggio returned from the Army, and much of it was wasted. Laughing Joe just never got around to cashing in on his tremendous pitching assets.

When Jolting Joe DiMaggio climbed back into a baseball uniform a year ago last spring, Laughing Joe had someone to tie to. Jolting Joe was his idol and Laughing Joe attached himself to the big fellow like a trailer. They roomed together, undressed and dressed side by side in clubhouses rarely were apart off the field.

DiMaggio is the very antithesis of Page. The Yankee Clipper has a tremendous sense of obligation to his club and the fans, but he had been out three full years, had suffered from ulcers and, worst of all, was carrying a terrific torch.

DiMaggio got off a whooping, but unwisely he was not rested an inning in 50-odd exhibition games that started in the heat of Panama. The result was that he saw awfully tired in mid-summer, when he got to pushing for hits and bogged down frightfully. He was lower than the Browns are at the moment.

It was at this point that Laughing Joe Page did as much for Jolting Joe as the latter has done for him this trip. It is extremely difficult to be down-in-the-mouth in the presence of an effervescent chap like the left-hander from the Pennsylvania coal belt.

Page did a grand job of keeping DiMaggio's mind off his troubles until the Clipper closed well, but for a comparatively poor season for him.

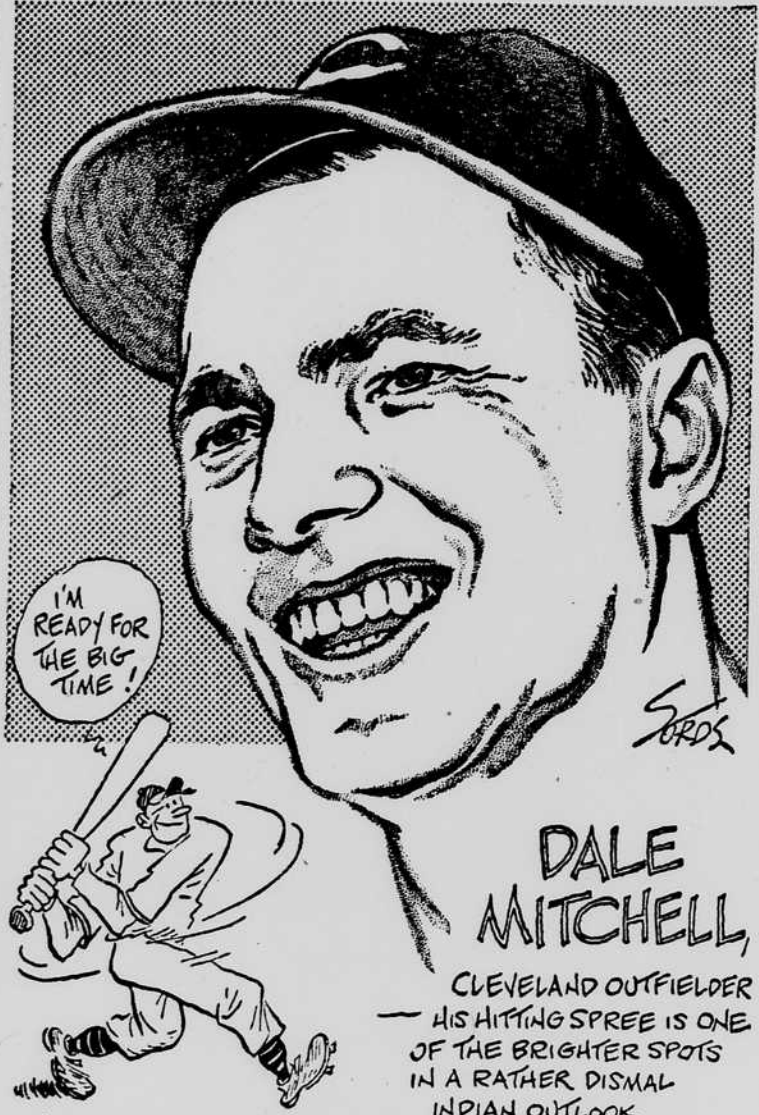
Some of DiMaggio's best friends suspected he was finished the past spring. There was the operation for the removal of a spur on DiMaggio's heel, the skin grafting job that followed, the special shoe required by the ugly crescent-shaped wound on the bottom of the butt of his foot.

DiMaggio had the courage to get into the lineup long before he should have. He suffered excruciating pain batting and running. There were times when he felt that he would have to give up.

It was Laughing Joe Page more than anyone else who kept him going until the heel healed.

Meanwhile, Jolting Joe was slowly drumming into Laughing Joe's head that a pitcher who

IN THE GROOVE . . . By Jack Sords



DALE MITCHELL
CLEVELAND OUTFIELDER
— HIS HITTING SPREE IS ONE OF THE BRIGHTER SPOTS IN A RATHER DISMAL INDIAN OUTLOOK

HE CAME UP FROM OKLAHOMA CITY OF THE TEXAS LEAGUE WHERE HE HAD A BRILLIANT YEAR IN 1940 HITTING .337, GETTING 21 HITS IN HIS LAST 47 TIMES AT BAT

Kiner Chuckles At Jinx Rumor

By HARRY GRAYSON
NEA Sports Editor

NEW YORK, July 26.—That second-year jinx business is a lot of hogwash. The holes are only beginning to show.

When young Ralph McPherran Kiner failed to hit much more than his 190 pounds going into Decoration Day, it was whispered that perhaps the pitchers had found a blind spot.

But men who know baseball best knew this was not true.

Ralph Kiner simply had to hit that long ball which last year made him the second player since 1900 to lead the National League in home runs in his first year in the majors. The big Pittsburgh outfielder manufactured 23.

So Kiner found the range in June, when he hit 14 home runs, one short of old Cy Williams' National League record for that month. He has hit .380 since June 1, is now in the Big Five, crowding 100 hits, batting .312, hot on Johnny Mize's trail for the home run leadership and pressing Walker Cooper, Mize and Willard Marshall for the top position in runs-batted-in.

Kiner is one of the mighty few individualistic ballplayers. He holds the bat directly in front of him, straight up and down, swats

wanted to be paid well had to ditch.

Page went to the bullpen as DiMaggio started to hit again.

Complementing each other professionally as well as socially now, Page quickly became the finest relief worker in the business with a phenomenal strikeout record, DiMaggio the consecutive-game hitter of old.

Laughing Joe Page got 'em out. Jolting Joe DiMaggio batted 'em in.

And the Yankees broke away to run away and hide.

the ball with a twist of the wrists, adopting a perfect golf swing for baseball.

Kiner is anything but a disciple of the deadly leveling swing that he longed to such as Shoeless Joe Jackson, Lefty O'Doul, the Waners and other remarkable hitters.

Yet Kiner rifles the ball into left field stands when he uncorks his wrists.

The young man—he is only 24—furnishes additional evidence that any style is good, as long as coordination and the eye are there and the batter brings the bat into the ball correctly. How about Al Simmons and his foot in the bucket? Seeing the one-time Athletics' luminary for the first time you suspected he was a bit nervous.

Kiner also led the circuit in strikeouts last year with 109, so was the National League's right-hand counterpart of the American League's King Kong Keller.

He has cut down his strikeouts considerably, which could be due to Hank Greenberg shortening his stride and swing this spring. Yet, like Joe DiMaggio, the southern California collegian's stride is wider than that of most hitters.

Again like J. DiMaggio, Kiner takes a very short step belting the ball—not more than six inches.

Once more like the great DiMaggio, Kiner runs well for a six-foot-one-and-a-half-inch chap coming in at 190 pounds. He has good baseball sense, has also played first and third base.

He is an accomplished flycatcher with a fine pair of hands.

Ralph Kiner's one flaw is that he is not a superlative thrower. His arm is pretty good, but he apparently has to wind up, which has him getting the ball away too slowly. A loose-jointed kid, he seemingly lacks the flexibility of muscles that enables others to barrel instantly from where the ball is caught.

But they all can't have everything.

If they did, they'd all be Joe DiMaggios.

Some western red cedar trees are 18 feet in diameter and 200 feet high.

CARDINALS DOWN BRAVES 9-5

ST. LOUIS, July 26.—(P)—The St. Louis Cardinals and Boston Braves clubbed away at each other's pitchers tonight with 22 hits—nine for extra bases—but the Redbirds pushed across enough runs to triumph 9 to 5.

AB	R	H	O	A
St. Louis	27	11	24	12
Boston	27	5	11	27

AB	R	H	O	A
St. Louis	209	102	000-5	00-3
Boston	209	102	000-5	00-3

Errors: Moore, Slaughter. Runs batted in: 3, F. McCormick, Musial, M. Ryan, 2, Kuroski, Marion, 2, Hearn, McCormick. Two base hits: Holmes. Three base hits: Marion, Northey, Sacrifice: Ryan, 2, Hopp, Torgeson, 2, twice; Hearn. Double plays: Culler, Ryan and Torgeson; Schoendienst, Marion and Musial. Left on bases: Boston 6, St. Louis 5. Bases on balls: Voiselle 1, Lanfranconi 2, Karl 1, Johnson 1, Strikeouts: Hearn 2, Burkhardt 2, Johnson 1. Hits: off Voiselle 3 in 1 inning (none out in 2nd); off Lanfranconi 2 in 2; off Karl 5 in 2; off Johnson 1 in 3; off Hearn 9 in 5 (none out in 6th); off Voiselle 2 in 4. Passed balls: Vanecko 1. Winning pitcher: Hearn. Losing pitcher: Voiselle. Umpires: Pinelli, Barlick and Gore. Time: 2:10. Attendance: 26,063 (paid).

SENATORS CLIMB PAST CLEVELAND

WASHINGTON, July 26.—(P)—The Washington Senators scored their fifth straight victory today by defeating Cleveland 8-4 and moved into fifth place in the American League.

Cleveland, which one time held a four-run lead over Washington in today's game fell back to sixth place.

Cleveland pried four runs from Marino Pieretti in the first four innings, but the Senators picked up two runs off Mel Harder in the fourth and added three more in the fifth when they belted the veteran right-hander from the mound. Ed Klieaman yielded three runs in the seventh.

Washington collected 13 hits, including three each by Sherry Robertson, Mickey Vernon and Al Evans. The Indians fashioned 14 hits off Pieretti and Milo Candini, who replaced Pieretti in the fourth and was credited with his first success of the season.

AB	R	H	O	A	
Cleveland	39	4	14	24	17
Washington	39	4	14	24	17

AB	R	H	O	A
Cleveland	102	100	000-4	000-3
Washington	102	100	000-4	000-3

Errors: Pieretti, (2). Runs batted in: Edwards, Boudreau, Robertson, 2; Vernon, 2; Candini, Priddy, Evans, 2. Two base hits: Boudreau, Gordon, 2. Three base hits: Robertson, Evans, 2. Sacrifices: Harder, Yost. Double plays: Keltner, Gordon and Robinson; Yost, Evans, Yost and Christian; Christian, Priddy and Vernon. Left on bases: Cleveland 12, Washington, 7. Bases on balls: Pieretti, 12; Harder, 1; Candini, 1; Klieaman, 2; Lemen, 1. Hits off: Harder, 6 in 4 (none out in 5th); Klieaman, 7 in 3; Lemen, 0 in 1. Pieretti, 8 in 3-1-3. Time of game: 2:15. Umpires: Jones, McGowan and Grieve. Attendance: 14,327.

WALTERS TWIRLS 2-HIT SHUTOUT

CINCINNATI, July 26.—(P)—Bucky Walters turned loose some of his pitching mastery today, holding the Philadelphia Phils to two hits to lead Cincinnati to a 1 to 0 victory. The game was played in one hour, 28 minutes, the shortest of the season here.

AB	R	H	O	A
Cincinnati	29	0	2	8
Philadelphia	29	0	2	8

AB	R	H	O	A
Cincinnati	600	000-0	000-1	
Philadelphia	600	000-0	000-1	

Errors: Albright, Tabor. Runs batted in: Zientara. Two base hits: Lamanno. Three base hits: Water. Sacrifices: Walters, Hase. Left on bases: Philadelphia 2, Cincinnati 0. Bases on balls: Leonard 3, Walters 1. Strikeouts: Elogard 1, Walters 2. Hits: off Leonard 4 in 7; off Walters 1 in 1 inning. Passed balls: Lakeman. Losing pitcher: Leonard. Umpires: Stewart, Henline, Magerkurth. Time: 1:28. Attendance: 4,260.

Who's Telling Who, Doctor?

LOS ANGELES, July 26.—(P)—When posters used to advertise Pete Ladjimi, 50, former heavyweight wrestler, as "The Strongest Man in the World," they may not have been far wrong.

Hit by an automobile today and taken to a hospital, Ladjimi was reported by physicians to have suffered "possible fractured back, concussion of the brain, possible internal injuries; condition serious."

They told him he'd recover, but that he might be hospitalized a long time.

Ladjimi, the indestructible, however, had other ideas. He got up off the operating table, put on his clothes, said "so-long" to the astonished medics and walked home — a mile distant.

From five to seven years are required to bring a new military plane through the design stage to production and combat testing.

LEGION PLAYERS BAND TOGETHER WIN FIRST GAME

The first game played by the Toledo-Scale Highcappers. . . members of the Wilmington American Legion baseball nine which just completed its season. . . ended in a 9-4 victory yesterday over the Alpha-Omega squad at 9th and Ann streets.

Pedrick and Brissom hurried for the winners, and Smith did the twirling for the A O nine.

Under the direction of Ed Lewis, an attempt to keep the Legion squad intact for the remainder of the summer has proven successful. Members of the team are: J. Crowley, Hilburn, B. Smith, King, Lewis, Hobbs, Staudemire, Duval, Peck, E. Crowley, R. Eason, and Brown. A full schedule will be announced by Lewis later.

Mulloy Captures Seabright Title

SEABRIGHT, N. J., July 26.—(U.P.)—Gardnar Mulloy of Coral Gables, Fla., won the singles championship in the 59th Annual Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club Invitation grass court tournament today when top-seeded Frank Parker of Los Angeles defaulted in the final round because of an injured shoulder.

Mrs. Marjorie Gladman Buck of New York and Mrs. Virginia Kovacs of San Francisco won the Women's doubles title.

SQUADS READY

CHARLOTTE, July 26.—(P)—Two 16-player squads representing North Carolina and South Carolina, were announced tonight for the Fourth Annual Carolinas All-Star boys baseball game in Charlotte Friday night at Griffith Park.

WINS STATE TITLE

CLEVELAND, Miss., July 26.—(U.P.)—Winnie Cole, Vicksburg, Miss., professional, held the Mississippi Open golf trophy today.

Twenty-five years ago there were no international airlines. 1946, however, 1,040,000 Americans made trips abroad by air.

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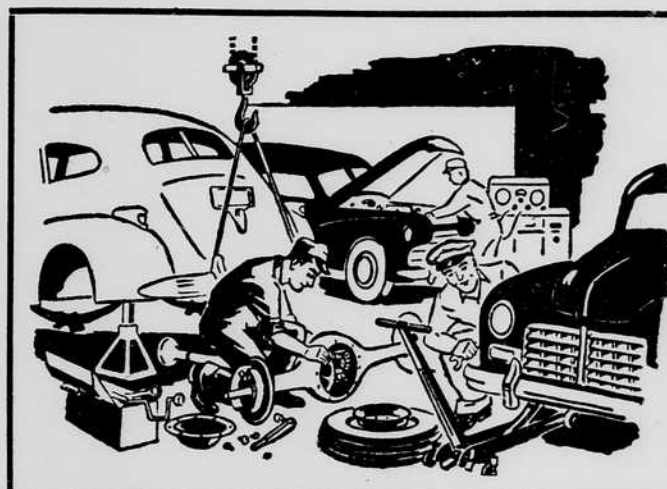
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