

DONIE BUSH IS SITTING PRETTY

Burning up the Majors with a Team That Was Next to Tailor in American Association Last Season.

By JOHN FOSTER
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Plant City, Fla., March 25—The Indianapolis Club of the American Association, which finished just above the tail-enders last season, is burning up the big leagues down here in Florida. And Donie Bush, the club's new manager, is enjoying a splendid spring after a hard winter.

Donie, who was let out by Clark Griffith as manager of the Washington Americans at the end of last season, was feeling pretty good as a result of victories over Brooklyn, Cincinnati and the New York Nationals. But his cup of joy was filled to overflowing when he added a 7-4 trouncing to the club Griffith thought he wasn't good enough to command.

Just now it looks as if the championship of Florida lay between Washington and Indianapolis, and Bush is extending himself for a spring pennant.

Donie's situation down here is most amusing—to Donie. To one side of him, at Tampa, is Griffith with his Washington's. To the other, at Orlando, is Jack Hendricks, commander of the Cincinnati.

About the time that Griffith was deciding to send Donie out on the tossing waves of baseball's dead sea, Hendricks concluded he didn't like the way things were going in Indianapolis, where he was manager, and buy the club. He worked a deal with Cincinnati which almost took the property. But Cincinnati withdrew almost the last moment. Hendricks was stumped. He was out all around until Cincinnati took him on as assistant coach. The death of Moran made him boss of the Reds. Cincinnati gave out that having to build new grounds balked the deal with Indianapolis. The fact is that Donie Bush's friends stole a march on Cincinnati and Hendricks, and got the team under their noses.

And here Donie is, with Griffith to one side of him and Hendricks to the other—and licking them both.

Bush's team is made up of many old timers. There's Sicking, second baseman, who was a giant in war time. He is fast, but has lacked incentive. And there is Janvin, also a second baseman, who flashed his first year as if he would burn up the big leagues, but whose fire went out. Then there is Otto Kruger, one time Giant, who always was a hitter. When he meets the ball it will kiss any fence goodbye and pass on. Schmandt, first baseman, was headed for fame with Brooklyn, but stabbed his toe when fame stuck out a nasty foot. Rehg and Kirka are old timers in the big leagues. Kirka was once with the Giants and ate as many times a day as he made base hits. One day he made six hits and almost founndered. Campbell, third baseman, is a Franklin College boy. The short stop's name is Hodapp, but this player should appeal to the court to change it to "Giddap." That would be better with his speed.

Bush says he is on his way to the first division if his shortstop continues doing so well. And Bush ought to know, for he has played shortstop himself so long that he can tell you how many grains of sand there are between third and second.

Hodapp is only 18, but he is as big as Konetch. He has shoulders like a tug of war man and his legs are thick and strong, but he is as nimble as a toe dancer. He has an arm that whips them over in great shape, and a reach that begins at the pole and stops at the equator. If he can hit he is one whale of a prospect.

The scouts overlooked him last season, but several clubs are trying now to get first call on him for next year. Bush says they won't. But the American Association now has the modified draft, and if this school boy keeps on pulling them in, the draft will pull him in unless he is passed along in the meantime.

Send Institution. It means the triumph of elements among the university alumni who felt Rockne was the right man in the right place.

While the period of uncertainty was on, Rockne conferred with representatives of various institutions who had approached him with offers whose flattering nature was commensurate with his prestige and ability. Princeton was considering him as a successor to Roper and at least one conference was had, but in the end the Tiger football committee decided it would be best to stick to alumni coaching.

The influence of Rockne's personality at Notre Dame is best

exemplified by the squad of nearly two hundred men out for spring football, nearly two hundred for track and a hundred and fifty for baseball. As to track it should not be lost to sight that Rockne is almost as gifted in this field of sport as in teaching the football idea to shoot.

Showing what the will to do will accomplish, behold the University of Michigan swimming team captured second place in the Big Ten Swimming meet in spite of the fact that Michigan does not own so much as a bath tub where the team may practice.

Michigan by the way is not getting so very greatly excited about spring practice because twice a week all winter practice has been conducted on the dirt floor of the Yost field house. The squad has averaged thirty five men and much new material has developed.

ALONG THE WATERFRONT

Repairs to the engine of the schooner Eugene H. Brown are still in progress. The vessel was shifted and now lies near Burgess street.

The supply boat A. B. 21 U. S. C. G. sailed Wednesday for various points to deliver supplies.

The U. S. C. G. cutter Pamlico sailed Wednesday for Pamlico.

Ensign C. A. Price is expected to arrive before the end of the week from a tour of Coast Guard stations along the coast from this State to Florida. Ensign Price is superin-

tendent of this district and stationed at Elizabeth City.

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