SPEARHEADING With SPORTS

by ED SPEARS

FISHING is an ancient sport and although its ex- is unknown there have been a number of ref- the practice among the writings of the Romans. earliest accounts of fishing with the artificial fly ed in an article by Dr. E. W. Gudger, Waynesville with the American Museum of Natural History k.

GUDGER states in the article, first published in on and Trout Magazine, that an epigram writ- Martial (who died about A. D. 104) has been as follows:

Who has seen the scarus rise,
Decoyed, and killed by fraudful flies?

VER, THERE is some doubt as to the translation word which may have been "moss" rather than the verse also is questionable in its relation to because the "scarus" are a Mediterranean sea fish not take a hook.

FIRST VALID reference, according to Dr. is in the writings of a third century Roman, Aelianus. Aelian went into detail with his de- of "An Unusual Way of Fishing in Macedonia." nt reads:

E LEARNED by hearsay of a Macedonian method this type. In the river Astraeus, which flows be- a and Thessalonice, breed fish distinguished by ted colors. These fish get their food from the which flit about over the river. These are not pearance to other flies, which are everywhere; like bees, nor do they have the appearance of nally, of hornets; they have a characteristic pe- one of these. For they have a certain similar- flies in their daring, they are like the hornet in e the color of wasps, and they make a buzzing to bees. The natives call them hippuri. When ver at the surface of the water for the sake of do not escape the notice of the fish. For when a fly on the surface, the fish, going silently be- aters lest its prey be frightened away by the the water, comes very near to the fly's shadow ll seizes a sheep from the drove or as an eagle from the flock, so the fish, with its mouth gap- ngly, devours the fly and then sinks again below of the water.

ALTHOUGH the fishermen are not at all ig- this very thing, they do not use these flies as lure the fish. For as soon as a human hand these flies, they lose their native color, and their ppear, and they are rendered unsuitable as se fish. That is the reason why they are en- h hatred for these flies and detest them. Nev- those who possess exceptional knowledge and fishing catch these fish by a certain insidious- evise of this type: they cover a hook with a ool and fasten to this wool two wings, similar beeswax, from the plumage or the wattles of They let down this camouaged trap into the fish, allured by the color, greedily proceed to it, and, thinking because of its beautiful ap- that they will have a sumptious feast, they are by the baited hook and as captives enjoy this fruit."

IT APPEARS that you who let a "camouflaged the water of Pigeon, Jonathan or Cataloochee out by the color to "a sumptious feast" and trans- baited hook are following the path trod by the more than 1700 years ago.

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MASTERS OF THEIR CRAFT

Black Bears Well Heeled In Talent For Diamond Season Opening Tuesday

Canton Meets Ben Lippen in First Game; 1948 Schedule Is Announced

Well heeled with talent from their Blue Ridge Conference championship nine of '47, the Canton high Black Bears are rounding into shape fast for their current diamond campaign which opens Tuesday afternoon on the home field with Ben Lippen.

In addition to their ace twirler of last season, Clyde "Doodle" Miller, the Bears have a pair of moundsmen from Canton's American Legion Juniors in Don Stiles and Wayne Loftin. Miller averaged 12 strikeouts per game in his seven won, three lost record of 1947, and led the team at bat with an even .500 average.

Kenneth Mackey, who held down third last year, is being groomed to take care of the receiving.

Possible starters for Coach C. C. Poindexter's infield are Mack Stiles at first, Butch Smathers at second, Ted Stiles at short, and Shorty Lowe at third. Bob Stroupe, Wayne Loftin and Dan Kelly seem to have the inside track on the outfield positions, although several younger players have shown promise of breaking into the lineup.

The schedule is as follows:

Apr. 6—Ben Lippen, home.
Apr. 9—Waynesville, home.
Apr. 13—Cullowhee, there.
Apr. 17—Christ School, home.
Apr. 20—Biltmore, there.
Apr. 23—Marion, home.
Apr. 28—Asheville School, home.
May 1—Ben Lippen, there.
May 5—Christ School, there.
May 8—Asheville School, there.
May 11—Cullowhee, home.
May 14—Waynesville, there.
May 18—Biltmore, home.
May 21—Marion, there.
May 28—Franklin, there (pending).

PAUL HOWARD (DIZZY) TROUT, bespectacled right-hander for the Detroit Tigers who had slumped considerably since his 1944 27-win season, has been training as seriously as any rookie with the club at Lakeland, Fla. The Tigers are loaded with normal talent, with starters such as Hal Newhouser, Virgil Trucks and Fred

Feller Sets Sights On Lowering Earned Runs

TUCSON, Ariz.—Bob Feller is through aiming at strikeout records but two ambitions replace that target—to lead the American league in low earned run averages and with ball games.

As the kingpin of the Cleveland mound staff, which some unkind critics say begins and ends with Feller, Rapid Robert hopes to improve what he loosely calls a "disappointing" season last year.

True, his 20 wins were the lowest since his full season total of 17 in 1938, but it happens that Feller was the only 20-game winner in the league last year, paced the circuit with 196 strikeouts and placed second in the earned run division, with 2.68.

That last is a title Feller has never won, and he wants to add it to his collection of honors.

He seems completely recovered from the buckled knee injury that put him on the sidelines for a month last year, and as the highest paid ball player in the world, he seems destined for another 20-plus year.

Manager Lou Boudreau, of course, would certainly appreciate the same kind of "disappointing" seasons from some of his other pitchers, and unless he finds an improved staff over last year, pennant hopes of the Indians are nothing but sweet dreams. Chief hope as support for Feller seems to be Bob Lemon. Bill Veeck, president of the Indians, has predicted Lemon will hit the 20-game circle and that he and Feller will contribute 45 or more victories between themselves.

Lemon, 27-year-old converted infielder, won 11 and lost 5 last year, but the figures don't tell the story.

Boudreau, desperate for a starting pitcher, didn't start Lemon until July 31, and he whipped the Red Sox and went on to win nine more games before the season ended.

He beat Detroit and held the hapless Browns to two unearned runs in 18 innings, and wound up by hurling a six-hit, 2-1 triumph in a 11-inning battle with the Athletics.

Mountaineers Play Franklin Nine Today To Open Slate

Slugging May Peg Giants To Higher Rung In National League Top Division

By BOB MYERS
AP Newsfeatures

PHOENIX, Ariz — The New York Giants quit their spring training camp here in even more optimistic spirits than a year ago, and for good reason.

As is well known, the 1947 Giants literally slugged themselves out of the cellar with a record barrage of 221 home runs. They moved into fourth place.

And unless bad luck overtakes them, they figure to finish as well in the 1948 campaign—if not better.

How much better, of course, is a prediction conservative Mel Ott declines to make, but he thinks the club has a "chance" to win the pennant.

The overall picture—

Tremendous hitting, one of the best infields in the National League (and that includes St. Louis), and half of a battery that takes a back seat to no one.

The other half—the throwing half—might be only fair but could be good. Given something even better and the Ottmen will be definite championship contenders.

Top man on the pitching staff is, of his last year's record, tall, well built Larry Jansen, who proved a remarkable surprise in winning 21 games in his freshman year in the big show.

Most of the Giants' official family, including veteran Scout Walter Ruether, who has been helping Ott with the pitchers, see no reason why Jansen, with his control and good head can't duplicate his performance. Give him two or three runs and he is hard to beat.

Interesting, too, will be the efforts of 23-year-old Clint Hartung, the much publicized rookie of the 1947 spring, who started out as an outfielder and was bad, was shifted to the mound and in his first real test threw himself to nine wins against seven defeats. "Threw" is the proper word, because the rookie from Hondo, Tex., couldn't do much else.

Opinion seems divided as to his potentialities, but predictions range from 12 wins this year to Hutchinson, and Trout is determined to retain his regular turn on the hill and make amends for his 10 and 11 record of last season and this may surprise you—20 or more games.

Hartung in a sense is a mystery. He whipped the Cubs 3 to 2 in 12 innings and the Cubs still shake their heads over the game, and no less than Ralph Kiner, the home-run king of the loop last year, went 0 for 16 against rangy Clint. Yet some of the clubs beat his ears off.

Ott has another newcomer in Ray Poat, who turned in a 11-7 season in the International league with Baltimore and then finished the year with 4-3 at New York. He won from the Cardinals and beat the Brooklyns twice, giving fair indication that he can be trusted as a starter this year.

THREE GIANT outfielders, Sid Gordon, Willard Marshall and Whitey Lockman, left to right, hold their war clubs.

Jack Ammons To Hurl For WTHS Team As It Hits Road For Season Opener

Waynesville high's baseball team will open the current season this afternoon at Franklin, with Jack Ammons announced by Coach C. E. Weatherby as the starting hurler.

A 12-man squad will be taken on the first road trip to meet what is anticipated to be strong opposition. Weather has hampered workouts during the past week, and the Mountaineers haven't had time to reach top form as yet, but are hoping to get off to a good start in their initial encounter.

The probable starting lineup includes Ammons on the mound, Sammy Wiggins behind the plate, Dick Powers on first base, Charles Burgin at second, Ervin Shook at shortstop, Price at third; Wayne Caldwell in left field, Bill Owens in center and Bob Owens in right.

Boyce Brock and Bennie Joe Craig, relief pitcher and catcher, and Manager Lewis Green will round out the squad.

A return engagement with Franklin will be held on the Mountaineer diamond April 16th.

SAYING IT WITH TRUCKS

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UP)—Mrs. R. M. Bondurant wondered why some 50 beer trucks were parked in a residential area — not a tavern within several miles. She called the brewery and got the answer. The drivers had dropped in at the home of E. E. Dettwiller, the brewery's sales manager to wish him a "happy birthday."

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Three New Teams Ready For W-H Softball Play; Meeting Set For Tuesday

Not Enough Teams Represented For Action To Be Taken At Meet Monday

Since a majority of teams anticipated in the league this summer were not represented, the softball session of Waynesville-Hazelwood nines took no action Monday night.

League President L. N. Davis set Tuesday, April 6, at 7:30 p. m. as the time for the next official meeting, and urges all teams desiring entry in the league to have a representative present.

Three new teams had managers present Monday, and a fourth prospect was mentioned. Indications are that around 10 teams will be fielded.

Discussion also was held on the possibility of having girls' softball this summer, and those present thought that this would help add interest to the softball program.

Attending the meeting were Earl Scruggs and Jack Smith of Spic and Span, "Deacon" Green of the veterans Electric Appliance class, Henry Hale of Pet Dairy, Bill Porter and Buddy Robinson of Slack's, Ed Spears, league secretary, and Mr. Davis. Although not represented, the High School and Lions Club had sent word that they could be counted in, and Dayton Rubber, the Tannery and National Guard also are expected to again have teams. The fourth likely new member is Buchanan's Sport Shop, and there also is the prospect of other sponsors.

It is hoped to enlist all teams Tuesday so that a schedule can be prepared for the season to open about the middle of May. Player eligibility rules, fees, league officers and other important matters are to be taken up.

Starting Second Season, Mele Tabbed Future Star

By FRANK ECK
AP Newsfeatures Sports Editor

SARASOTA, Fla.—Sam Mele is on his way. Veteran baseball observers predict the Astoria, Long Island, lad will be one of baseball's coming stars.

Manager Joe McCarthy of the Boston Red Sox has been sold on Mele to such an extent that Stan Spence, slugging outfielder obtained from Washington, is being counted on to play first base.

This means Mele is likely to be the Bosox fulltime rightfielder playing next to Dom DiMaggio with incomparable Ted Williams in left.

Mele has learned a lot from Williams and DiMaggio.

"Last season I had trouble getting under fly balls," says the 25-year-old former New York University athlete. "I was awkward. Dom gave me some tips about how to get in position to throw on fly balls and on grounders and Ted talks to me day in and day out about hitting."

Mele admits he pressed so much as a freshman in 1947 that he often was worn out from worry. Joe Cronin, now the team's general manager, used him in the No. 3 batting slot ahead of Williams. Then he was switched to No. 5 behind the Kid. And anyone batting in front or behind Williams, especially a rookie, is a target for the pitchers.

"You know," remarked Mele, "I went into a bit of a slump batting behind Williams. The pitchers would walk Ted to get at me and I was bearing down."

McCarthy never saw Mele until camp opened this spring. An example of how he feels about Sam is best shown during hitting practice and in exhibition games. Mele is back batting behind Williams. "And make believe I don't watch his every motion," says Sam seriously.

SAM MELE
Plugs Bosox Outfield Gap

"Mele is the kind of player you don't see every day," says Cronin. "Why, he's had only two seasons in organized ball and yet he hits like a real big leaguer. He may become a great right handed hitter." Cronin himself was no slouch at the plate for his lifetime mark is .302.

Mele at 187 is seven pounds heavier than last year. He says he is always willing to learn and hopes he has Dom, "The Little Professor," as a roommate indefinitely.

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