



# After The Ball

By SANDY GRADY

## The Case of Williams vs. the Managers

There is a game which the American League managers have taken to playing these past few seasons, much in the same class with making or inventing a perpetual motion machine. This game is sort of a puzzle and a Holy Grail mixed together, and the league pilots work on it constantly in the hope of winning some day. It is called Finding a Way to Stop Ted Williams.

In the old days a club that hit Boston's Fenway Park had a pretty even chance of winning the ball game if they could hold the enthusiastic Mr. Williams to one or two small singles. To shackle Williams like this required the utmost strategy and craftiness on the part of the manager. Lou Boudreau of Cleveland discovered a neat stopper when he shifted the outfield into right-field and let the infield congregate between first and second. Since Williams is a southpaw pull hitter, this should have been very effective. Other teams patted Boudreau on the back and pulled the same stunt. This frustrated Williams very much. "It is just as though they have a stone wall up there," mourned he. But he found that if he put all that famous wrist motion in his swing he could still blast hits through the opening. This kept things at a pretty even keel for a while, and managers began worrying about other problems, like the home rule and how to beat the Indians.

There is talk that the St. Louis Brown franchise will be shifted to Los Angeles or San Francisco. The Pacific Coast bigwigs have been planning for years to get an American League club in those two cities. With the Browns' attendance dwindling to a mere handful every night, President Richard Muckenman says it's "going to be up to the fans whether the Browns remain."

Now Williams has broken the bonds again and is hitting over .400, rattling the ball against the fences like a Gator. Here's the man, it's the left-field fence. He tried all last season to hit the ball into the wide-open left field but couldn't make it. He hasn't changed a thing this year, but his drives are booming into left field consistently. "I haven't changed any strap or stance and I'm trying to pull the ball on every pitch. I'm as surprised as everyone else," says Theodore, division B meaning the AL managers. But the Splendid Splinter isn't just dumping or slapping the ball into left field. He's getting solid knocks. Why? "One thing," says he, "that every pitcher is working the outside corner on me. They're mad out, they throw their best stuff out there. Sometimes I feel that I can't pull the ball to right like I once could. But that's silly when a fellow is hitting over .400."

Some agents say that Ty Cobb, one of the only men to hit over .400 in a season besides Ted, proved the Boston Basher into hitting to left. While in town, once, he made some blunt remarks to the effect that "Williams is stupid not to accept the challenge and hit to left field." The boys say that proud Ted began his swing a little left of center right after that. Others say Joe McCarthy had something to do with it.



TED WILLIAMS

But whatever the reason, the switch will give Williams his second .400 season with a mile of luck. He draws so many walks that he shouldn't have any bad slumps. At least, that's the way Backstop Bernie Tobenson sees it. He says Williams gets so few legitimate chances to hit, his bag of bingles goes especially far on the average. And it brings back the old headache to AL mentors of stopping Williams. They figure the only way to stop Ted down is give him a broomstick for a bat and fire soft balls at him from 40 mph. But the lumber Theodore would probably find a way.

## Of the Brownies, Rookies, and Tourneys

Richie Ashburn, the hottest rookie in the American League, wears special pads on his forearms because of his famous head-first slides into the bases. Ashburn takes off catchers when he heads for second base. He has swiped 17 bases for the Phillies and is on his way to the 54-mark.

The major league clubs are holding tryout camps at every crossroads in the country this season, trying to drum up some new blood. The Phillies and Reds picked up several ball players from the Carolinas this way. One interesting note of this year's ivory hunting is the seeking out of Negro Talent.

The semi-pros are opening up the state tourneys again. The district tourneys will be held next week and the state event in Asheboro on July 23. It is too bad that Hazelwood could not go to the Western district tourney in Kings Mountain. Business Manager George Bischoff figured that the long trip and overnight stays would incur too much expense and trouble. The locals might have cut quite a swath in that competition. Incidentally, when the Graham semi-pros take the field up in the Elkin tourney this week, you'd think the players would wear "Tar Heels" across their backs. In the batting order will be Charlie "Choo-Choo" Justice, his brother, Joe, and Bobby Weant, Carolina Flocking back.

Both Ecusta and Martel were pretty shaky when they played in Brevard last week—Johnny Nee, the bigtime Phillie scout was in the stands. Nee came down to watch the work of Noah Goode, the swift Ecusta third-sacker. Goode really strutted his stuff for the ivory-hunter—he slammed a game-winning home run in the fourth inning and played perfect ball, gaining him a contract to Americus, Ga. Nee was also impressed with the hurling of Pitchers Frisbee and Suttles. Both are a little too old to break into organized ball now. Hazelwood has met both chunkers this season and handled them pretty roughly.

# Hazelwood Slugs Hard In Two W

HELPING OUT . . . . By Alan Maver



## Bosox Go On Bingle Binge To Beat Athletics, 19-3

The Boston Red Sox went crazy in the second game of the two-game double at Philadelphia. Athletics' pitcher, Jim Lenz, was hit by a home run by Babe Ruth in the first inning. The Sox scored three runs in the first and won the game 19-3.

The Pittsburgh Pirates helped themselves to a double victory over the Chicago Cubs. Catcher Ed Kelly potted a fourth inning triple and the team scored three runs and won the opening game 4-3. In the nightcap, the Pirates scored behind the perfect four-hit twirling of Elmer Riddle. Riddle walked six and struck out four in his near performance. Ralph Kiner added to his home run total for the Pirates by slugging one over the left-field wall.

The St. Louis Cardinals split a double-header with the Reds. The Gashouse Gang dropped the first by 3-0 when Cincy got fourteen hits off five Card pitchers. Cincinnati centerfielder Wyrostek was the day's hero when he got two home runs. The second game was won by the Cards when Harry (The Cat) Beechen scattered seven hits to win 8-1.

**HURRY, HURRY**  
SYRACUSE, N. Y.—(AP)—Don Hurry, Syracuse University athlete, recently had a busy afternoon. He put the shot in the opening event of a dual track meet at Colgate, hopped in his car and drove 39 miles to Syracuse where he pulled the No. 5 car in the Orange junior varsity eight against M.C.C. and Rutgers.

## New Canton Club Licked 15 And 3

After Saturday afternoon's warmup, the Hazelwood club lambasted another fifteen runs on the Fourth of July to turn back a new Canton team by 15-3.

Playing under a broiling sun before a fair-sized crowd, the Hazelwooders cut loose with the same number of hits they had made the day before—fourteen—and took advantage of every Canton miscue to rush across a tally.

Ken Troutman and Lawrence Robinson unleashed a home run apiece for Hazelwood.

It was Little Jack Ammons, working slowly and effectively, who held the invaders to eight hits and was never in serious trouble. Canton threw four pitchers into the fray but none could stem the Hazelwood attack. Rogers was the losing pitcher.

Dudley, Yount, Cline, Powers and Robinson each had a pair of safeties. Both of Dudley's hits were screeching triples. Dudley, Troutman and Yount had three runs batted across. It was just another tale of too much Hazelwood power.

No member of the Canton batting order was able to get over one hit. Shortstop Stevenson got the only extra-base knock, a double.

The loss was a pretty discouraging event for the neighboring Canton outfit, which has just been organized and has already been licked by Cullowhee in its first start. A re-match will definitely be slated for a later date between the two rivals.

Canton	AB	H	R
Miller, 1b, cf	4	1	1
Lowe, rf	1	1	0
Spence, c	3	0	1
Stevenson, ss	4	1	1
Rhymer, lf	4	0	0
Robinson, rf, c	4	0	1
Sizemore, cf	4	0	1
Rathbone, 3b	0	0	0
Dayton, p	1	0	1
K. Rhymer, cf, p	2	0	0
Pressley, 2b	1	0	0
Hardin, 2b	3	0	1
Long, c	2	0	1
Rogers, p, 1b	2	0	0
Loflin, p	1	0	0

Hazelwood	AB	H	R
Miller, cf	5	1	1
Jas. Ammons, cf	1	0	1
Troutman, 3b	3	2	1
Whitener, c	1	0	0
Smith, c	4	3	0
Dudley, 2b	5	2	2
Yount, lf	5	2	2
Cline, rf	4	1	2
Powers, 1b	5	1	2
Robinson, ss	5	2	2
Jack Ammons, p	5	1	1

**SHOWS 'EM HOW**  
VILLANOVA, Pa.—(AP)—The final event on Villanova College's spring football training calendar was a foot race among members of the Wildcats' coaching staff. Head Coach Jordan Olivar took the honors. Your nickels and dimes and dollars will help some starving child in the United Nations Appeal for Children. Give today.

## Locals Wallop Clearwater By 15-8 In Saturday Tilt

The Hazelwood ball team cut loose with a display of Fourth of July fireworks this weekend, exploding in two games for fifteen runs and winning two clean victories over Clearwater and Canton.

The local semi-pros made life hard for Pitcher Dan Rogers of Clearwater Saturday afternoon when they sailed fourteen safeties by him, with half of those going for extra bases. The

plate barrage netted Hazelwood a 15-8 victory over the Industrial League celerities.

Charlie Leatherwood, the home house 1 fly, tossed creditable ball against Clearwater scattering the visitors' thirteen hits and pulling out of trouble with a fast ball frequently. His mates gave him fine support. They made only one error.

Manager Jack Smith gave a neat demonstration at bat when he lashed three hits in four tries. Elmer Dudley and Oliver Yount contributed three for five. One of Dudley's hits was a triple and two of Yount's went for doubles.

Bob Pitts, the stocky left-fielder, walloped a home run and had two for four to keep him in the lineup. He batted in four runs.

The win gave Hazelwood another boost of the Industrial league ladder. They now have seven wins and four losses and stand very securely in the first division.

It was just another defeat for the visitors, who haven't picked up but one win this season. Catcher Burgin hit three for four to pace their losing plate attack. They fumbled seven errors to help the

## What's Wrong With Bob?



BOB FELLER, once the most rapid of American League hurlers, had a disastrous season's start when he dropped five games in a row. The stock phrase in Cleveland became "What's wrong with Feller?" Said Manager Lou Boudreau, "We'll sink or swim with Feller. He's our ace and we're going all the way with him." Then the other day—before a record crowd of 82,781 fans—Rapid Robert came through with his old form to defeat the rival Philadelphia Athletics. Feller announced that he had cancelled all his publicity and off-the-field engagements—he would do nothing but worry about his pitching from now on. Holding a slender lead in the AL, first place, Manager Boudreau warily hopes that the Iowa strong boy can keep turning in workmanlike jobs. As Feller goes, so goes Cleveland.

## LEADS IN TWO SPORTS

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—(AP)—Bobby Forbes of Clearwater, Fla., leading ground gainer in the Southeastern Football Conference last fall, also paced University of Florida's baseballers with a .438 average for 25 games. The first baseman has another season of football eligibility.

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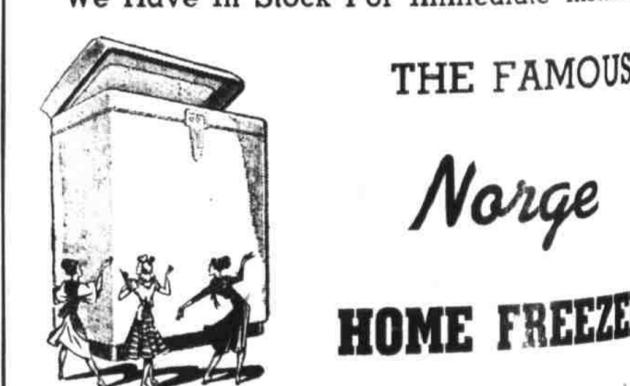
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