



Dazzy Vance Keeps Arm in Swing



Dazzy Vance, Brooklyn's star pitcher last year and considered the most valuable player in the National league for 1924, is pictured here autographing baseballs for some of the kid fans of his native town in Nebraska.

SIGN NEW TALENT FOR MAJOR LEAGUE

List of Young Players Who Will Report in Spring.

Last season the National league called about one hundred rookies from the bush and a score of them made the grade, out of which number a dozen flashed as stars. For the coming season the National will have only about seventy-five recruits from which to fill its ranks against time's attrition, and bolster its defenses and add zest to its offense.

The names of these rookies mean little or nothing right now. They are untried and callow and obscure, but it is to them that the league must look for its strength and standing and fame a few years hence. Not in 20 years has the old National had such grand and promising young material dealt to it from the fateful hand of the mysterious "bush" as in the last three seasons. Another such haul will give the Heydler circuit a great foundation for pre-eminence in the seasons from 1928-30.

Pittsburgh heads the list with 14, while Chicago and Boston come next with 11 each. The Phillies have 9, St. Louis, Brooklyn and Cincinnati have 7 each, while New York comes last with only 6.

Of the 75 rookies 39 are budding pitchers. The Texas league was the most popular recruiting ground with 12. The Southern league furnishes 8 and the Coast league 7, Virginia State 5, College 4, Western league 4. The International league furnished only 1, the least of all.

The following is the complete official list of the brand new players, their positions, their records and the club with which they will make their try for big league fortune and fame:

**Boston.**  
Catchers—Fred Schiller, a semi-pro from St. Louis. Oscar Seimer from Worcester, spent most of last season with Hutchinson of Kansas league.  
Pitchers—George Hartgrove, free agent, with Farmington, Maine, last season. Joe Ogrowski, semi-pro from Elmira, N. Y.; recommended to the Braves by the same man who told them about Genewich. Ed VanBrunt, semi-pro from Bradley Beach, N. J.  
Infielders—Burrus, drafted from Atlanta. Marriot, drafted from Mobile. Harry Snyder, purchased from Rocky Mount of Virginia league.  
Outfielders—Dave Harris, purchased from Greensboro club of Piedmont league. Herb Thomas, purchased from Daytona of Florida State league. James D. Walsh, purchased from Seattle, this deal involving \$50,000 in cash and players. Manager Bancroft has high hopes of Walsh.

**Brooklyn.**  
Catchers—L. B. Hartline, from Augusta, Ga.  
Pitchers—Guy Cantfoll, kid of twenty, from Ft. Worth, Texas league. J. E. Rush, purchased from Waterbury, Eastern league; he is twenty-nine years old, a husky 180-pounder, over six feet high and graduated from the Kansas-Oklahoma league only last year. Charles Schwartz, free agent of Great Falls, Mont., strongly recommended by Burleigh Grimes. L. T. Williams, college player, Atlanta, Ga., recommended by Nap Rucker.  
Outfielders—Dick Cox, from Portland club of Pacific Coast league.

**Chicago.**  
Catchers—Clarence Jonnard, from Wichita Falls.  
Pitchers—Guy Bush, from Wichita Falls, where he won nine and lost six games last year. Percy Jones, from Seattle, where he won 12 and lost 11 last year; home in classic settlement of Goose Creek, Texas. Dick Morgan, from Wichita Falls, won 12 and lost 5; also a native Texan. George Millstead, from Marshall, Texas. Joe Westledge, from Danville, Va., where he won only 2 and lost 3 games last year. Herbert Brett, Wichita Falls. Charles Root, from Los Angeles, won 21 and lost 16 in Coast league last year.  
Outfielders—Clark Fitzgerald, Salt Lake, batted .326 last year. Ed Kearns, from Beaumont, Texas league, batted .302. Ralph Michaels, from Little Rock of Southern league. Charles Taylor, from Beaumont, Texas, batted .324 last season. Hal Kern, a semi-pro from Saskatoon, Canada.

**Cincinnati.**  
Pitchers—James Clark, drafted from Oneonta of the New York-Pennsylvania State league, won 7 and lost 17 games last year. Neal Brady, semi-pro of Ludlow, Ky., has had a long minor league experience, up with the Yankees several years ago, also with Toledo; great record last season; still under thirty; known in the Kentucky Blue Grass country as "King" Brady. Joe Linneman, a college and semi-pro pitcher. Mike Collins, purchased from San Antonio of the Texas league. Ed Morris, purchased from Nashville of the Southern league; has a good pitching record.

**Philadelphia.**  
Catchers—None.  
Pitchers—Ullrich, one of the star pitchers of the champion Waterbury club of the Eastern league. Knight, purchased from the Texas league, where he had a fine record last year with Houston. Raymond Pierce, purchased from Topeka of the Kansas league. Dana Pittman, left-handed minor league veteran who has been up in the majors before, comes back this time from Beaumont, Texas league. O'Neill, purchased from Beaumont in a \$10,000 deal that also involved players. Manager Fletcher expects great things from Knight, O'Neill and Ullrich.

**Pittsburgh.**  
Catchers—Roy Spencer, purchased from Birmingham of the Southern league, twenty-four years old and lives at Norfolk, Va.  
Pitchers—Joseph Brown, purchased from Oklahoma City, a husky six-foot right-hander; won 23 and lost 3 in half-season of Oklahoma State league; won 12 and lost 13 in Western league; was sick most of the 1924 season. Bernard Culloton, purchased from Norfolk of the Virginia league. Calvin Eullis, purchased from Greensboro of the Piedmont league. Carl Demareet, purchased from Beatrice, Nebraska State league; in Williamsport under option during most of the 1924 season. Louis Koupal, purchased from Omaha of the Western league. C. B. Shelton, purchased from Durham, N. C. Piedmont league. Don Songer, a left-hander, purchased from Oklahoma City, pitched for Kansas City and Augusta (Ga.) teams.

**St. Louis.**  
Catchers—Albert Boel, purchased from Lincoln of the Nebraska State league, on option to Fort Smith, Ark., last year. Accounted a good hitter with an unusually good arm.  
Pitchers—Clyde Day, purchased from Muskogee, Western association, is a big, impressive fellow and had a wonderful strikeout record with his league last year. William Hallahan, a left-hander, purchased from Kalamazoo, Mich. "Duster" Malle, the famous left-hander who was waived out of the American league, purchased from Oakland. Charlie Rhem, the Clemson college boy, who made such a great strikeout record for Fort Smith of the Western league, a Columbus university boy. Royce Williams, free agent, from Hendrix college, Conway, Ark.

**Western League.**  
Outfielders—Maurice Frew, free agent, Greenwood, S. C., of the Carolina league; was a star athlete at Washington and Lee university. John Sherlock, drafted from Quebec, of the Ontario-Vermont league.

**International League.**  
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**Sandy Herd's Lead Is Now Challenged**  
Sandy Herd's leadership of the "hole-in-one club" is being challenged by another British golf professional, Rowland Jones of the Wimbledon park course, who has sunk his tee shot on 16 occasions. Herd has experienced this rare thrill 17 times.  
Some of Herd's admirers have promised him the gift of a gold-pan putter when he makes his eighteenth hole in one.

The Pulse of Today's Business

Chain store and mail order sales during the early weeks of 1925 were much heavier than during the corresponding weeks of last year. Individual reports have indicated this; now the indexes prepared by the Federal Reserve Board make plain that during January all classes of chain stores, excepting the department store groups, bettered the January, 1925, record. Department stores did just as well but no better than was the case a year ago.

Greatest January gains were made by the grocery and five-and-ten-cent chains. A year ago grocery sales were 103 per cent above the monthly average of 1919. This year, January witnessed an increase of 145 percent over 1919. In the five-and-ten-cent groups, January, 1924, sales were 26 percent above 1919 while the January 1925, percentage increase from that year's levels were 51 percent. Of course declines from December sales were heavy, but that, as a seasonal tendency, is to be regularly expected.

Activity in the real estate market—the buying and selling of business and residential property—is reflected in a new index for which data will be collected regularly in the future by the National Association of Real Estate Boards. This index, based upon the number of transfers and conveyances of deeds in 41 cities relative to the monthly average of deeds recorded during the years 1916-1923, was first announced several weeks ago, with data completed through October of last year. In October, real estate activity appeared to be about 52 percent above the 1916-1923 monthly average, following a decline from the extremely high levels of 82 percent and 83 percent above the base period, as registered during the first two months of 1924.

The index has been carried through the month of January, 1925. November activity was less than that of October, at 44 percent above 1916-1923, but December and January witnessed a sharp turn upward, activity increasing to 58 percent above the period in December and to 71 percent above January. It is worth while pointing out that the first two months of 1924 were the only months during the period since the end of 1915 as covered by the index, during which real estate activity appeared to be heavier than in the opening month of the present year.

The striking feature of railroad operations during 1924 was the excellent record of net earnings in the

face of gross earnings that were rather unfavorable by comparison with 1923. Complete records now available for the first time enable an interesting comparison, as compiled by the Commercial and Financial Chronicle, of gross and net earnings in various subdivisions of the country. These records show that for the United States as a whole, gross earnings in 1924 of 191 roads were 5.87 percent below the \$6,332,874,535 figure reported in 1923 while net earnings, at \$1,424,020,137, in 1924, were 1.04 percent greater than the net earnings of the preceding year. To express it differently, expenses declined 7.85 percent from 1923 while gross income fell off but 5.87 percent. In 1924 expenses totaled 76.11 percent of gross earnings; in 1923 the ratio was 77.74 percent.

Turning to the various sections, we find nowhere a more brilliant per than in New England where with the aid of a mild 1924 winter, a decline of 6.07 percent in gross income is to be compared with a 17.54 percent increase in net earnings. Although net earnings were above those of 1923 in but three of the seven divisions of the country, only in the far western and middle western groups was there a greater decline from 1923 in net than in gross earnings. But railroads are not yet earning as great a return on capital invested as the 5 1/2 percent to which they are entitled by an Interstate Commerce Commission ruling. After deduction of taxes and other costs not classified as "operating expenses," the 1924 rate of return on the tentative valuation of roads was 4.35 percent as compared with 4.49 percent in 1923 and 4.14 percent in 1922. In view of the efficient management of railroads, however, as shown by the 1924 record of economy, it is little wonder that rail securities are being held by investors in continually greater esteem as to future possibilities.

The nation's basic industrial activity was marked during the initial month of this year, Department of Commerce indexes show. While reports from individual industries have indicated excellent activity, the Commerce Department's indexes, through combining activity in various important lines into single figures for related industries, show that this was perhaps even greater than has been generally realized. Production of raw materials, 51 commodities was 20 percent greater in January than the monthly average of 1919. A year ago, raw material output was but 8 percent above the 1919 average while in December, the increase was 42 percent above 1919. This means that January raw material output, although about 15 percent less than in December, was approximately 11 percent greater than in January, 1924.

HORTICULTURAL MEETING LAST WEEK

Thursday and Friday, the 5th and 6th of March were set apart for a visit of Mr. H. R. Niswager, State Extension Horticulturist to be in Polk County.

The way it snowed Wednesday p. m. looked gloomy for our door meeting, and did scare off some tenderfoots who are afraid of damp ground; but in spite of the gloomy outlook, we had some intensely interested orchard and vineyard men whom I am sure were benefited by definite instructions and practical demonstrations in shaping young trees just planted, and in correlative pruning of older trees that have not been properly shaped when young.

Six orchards were visited and definite demonstrations given in four. Arrangements were made to visit other orchards; but roads out into settlements were in such condition that we got into some real mountain mud, and spent one afternoon making efforts to get out. We would pull forward a few feet and bed in deeper. Then we would back a little and get still deeper. Then we tried using a lever to set "John Henry" side wise in firmer ground, only to find ourselves further the other way when gas was applied. We kept right on, first backing, then going forward, or at least trying to do so, then trying to go sideways, only to find that we were only getting deeper and deeper all the time. By some means, I know not how, "John Henry" that's the name of my car took a notion to get out, and out he came. Mr. Niswager was delivered in Saluda just in time to make close connection with the Spartanburg jitney for Hendersonville. I am sure Mr. Niswager will remember his visit to Polk County to his last day on earth.

Respectfully,  
J. R. Sam,  
County Agent.

Village's Odd Name

Some of the first settlers of the village of Penn Yan were from Pennsylvania, while others were known as New England Yankees. A discussion arose as to the name of the village, and both parties were satisfied by the adoption of the present name, Penn Yan, made up from the first syllables of Pennsylvania and Yankee.

**The Clever Idiot**  
"She was such an infernal fool, the sort of fool who can find her way in the time table, understand the income tax, know the date of the battle of Waterloo, in other words a thoroughly well informed woman whom people call clever, and who's nothing but a driveling idiot."—From the "Triumph of Gallo," by W. L. George.

EGGS: From Shepley's Egg Raisin Association. Price: \$2.50 per 15. Address: ANCONA FARM, Box 71

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