

Jake Early Traded To Browns By Washington Senators

Jacob Willard (just plain Jake to everyone) Early, Kings Mountain's gift to major league baseball, favorite of many baseball-loving fans here, and former member of the Griffith-backed Washington Senators catching corps, is now a member of Manager "Muddy" Ruel's St. Louis Browns according to a press release yesterday from the Los Angeles Baseball Winter Congress. Jake was switched with Frank Mancuso, former Brown catcher in a straight player swap, it was announced.

Jake pitched the Kings Mountain high school 1935 baseball team to a conference championship, racking up 7 victories against one defeat, a three-hitter to Cherryville by 4 to 1. Professed to be a catcher to begin with, Jake did the tossing that year to bolster a team composed of two good catchers, Clyde McSwain receiving.

With the Senators since 1939 with the exception of a two year stretch in the 347th Infantry Regiment in Europe, he has had the baseball fans of Kings Mountain following the

comes here is that the Browns will have quite an added list of followers now that 'our fair-haired' player has switched uniforms.

Highlight of his long baseball career was his selection to the American League All-Stars in the Dream Game at Philadelphia. He caught 196 of the Senators 184 scheduled league games and

Curry is supposed to have called him "the greatest catcher up here."

The likable receiver started on his baseball trail when he left high school in the spring of 1936 to report to the Senators spring-training camp at the request of scout Elin Beck. After a couple of week's with the Chatanooga Lookouts he moved to the Bally League with Jacksonville, finishing the season with a batting average of .303, after dropping the league leading average of mid-season.

Back with the Lookouts in 1937 Jake reported to the Charlotte Hornets to complete the season, returning for the entire 1938 schedule.

In the spring of 1939 he was back with the Senators in their Florida camp, making the road trip to Washington and sticking with the big-top club. He shared receiving duties with Rick Ferrell during that season.

After he had signed his contract with the Senators for the 1944 season Jake was contracted for duty with the Army, serving with an infantry unit for two years.

According to June Cloninger, one of his most ardent followers, Jake's first trip to the plate in a big league game was as a pinch-hitter against Mace Brown in Chicago. His first trip resulted in his first hit in the big top.

Jake's first homer came on July 3, 1939, in Washington when he slamed one of Big Jim Bagby's fast ones over the right field wall. Mr. Cloninger was present for that game and, according to him, helped Jake celebrate his initial round-tripper.

The hustling, left-handed hitting catcher could not be reached for a statement yesterday afternoon, but according to his father (and quite a catcher in his day also) Boyce Early, Jake likes the 'people' over in the Browns camp and is quite satisfied with the switch. Many of his local admirers no doubt will be highly in favor of the change also.

Cage Hopefuls Begin First Week's Practice

King Winter's favorite indoor sport Neismith's famous game of basketball was slammed into gear here this week as Central's high's candidates for the boys team opened practice in the High school gymnasium Monday afternoon, being only about a week to the girls aggregation who had previously begun their training grind. Some 30-odd hopefuls reported to coaches Clyde Canipe and Don Parker to begin training for their initial game that starts off a vigorous athletic season in the Historical City.

Mainstays of the 1946 basketball squad, guards Bill Cashion and Bob Neill, and forward Bill Dettmar, were among those reporting and a returned Navy veteran, Jim Black, member of the championship 1944 Central cage team, along with letterman Ken George ('44 also a veteran), Don Glass, and Bill Putnam were on hand for the initial drills and are expected to be in the fight for starting berths. Under coach Don Parker, the 1946 cage squad had a conference record of 9 wins and 6 losses. In 1944 Coach Parker led the Central aggregation to a fall string of conference victories and the preceding year the team drop ped only one game.

Another returned veteran and former Grover basketball star is expected to bolster local cage hopes. Jake Harry out for a Mountain cage uniform for the first time is an experienced player, having played considerable basketball with numerous amateur teams in his home town of Grover.

Schedule for the Kings Mountain cage representatives has not been released as yet.

Among the members of the squad expected to see action in the initial practice are Bill Cashion, Bob Neill, Don Glass, and Jim Black.

Season Ducats To Assure Good Seats

Season tickets for home basketball games played here by the Kings Mountain Central high school cage squad will be sold this season according to an announcement made yesterday by J. E. Huneycutt, high school principal. Holders of season tickets will be seated in a special reserved section of the new bleachers assuring them a good seat even though they may not be among the early arrivals at the gymnasium.

As most home games this year are expected to be complete sell-outs, sale of the ducats for the entire schedule will give local basketball rooters a chance to get reserved seats, first time the chance has been made available for local games.

The 1947 Western conference schedule will be formulated at a meeting of school representatives in Hickory on next Tuesday, Dec. 10

edition of the Herald along with further information on the sale of the season tickets.

Mr. Grady Tate, Bud Media, John Herman Jackson, Garland Still, Herman Manney, Ora Falton, Bill Amos, Jack Ruth, Don Crawford, F. C. Hampton, Perry and Ed. Walker, Jackie Jones, and Frank Green.

Dickey, Allen, Gibson In New Years Day Bowl Games

New Years Day 1947 will find three graduates of Kings Mountain Central high football squads of the past romping the gridiron with their respective college teams in two post-season classics, the 'Gator Bowl, to be played at Jacksonville, Fla., and the Tangerine Bowl, to be played at Orlando, Fla.

Jimmy Dickey, Mountaineer Star in '40, draws a starting guard berth on Coach "Chubby" Kirkland's Catawba Indians as they face the strong Maryville (Tennessee) College eleven in the Orlando dream game.

Not probable starters, but ready to go into action at any time for N. C.

State's Wolfpack in the 'Gator Bowl are two big fullbacks, George Allen and Jim Gibson.

Dickey is playing his third year for the Indians and has one more year of eligibility. He has started at left guard all season in the hard-charging Catawba forward wall, and is a former Marine Sergeant with 18 months overseas service.

Allen, a junior, was the star of State's romp of VMI, scoring, three times, all in smashing 'down the center' drives, one for 25 yards. Gibson a sophomore has seen action in a number of his team's games. Both are veterans with overseas service.

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