News and Views of the Sport World

GROVE ON TOP AGAIN

Boston Southpaw Anything But "Has Been"—Topped League Last Year

They were trying to write Robert Moses Grove, slender Boston southpaw, out of the diamond picture as a has-been two years ago, but "Lefty" still has the scoffers eating their words.

Slumping to the foot of the list in 1934 after a fine career, Grove rallied in 1935 to top the league, and during the past 1936 American League season he easily held his place at the head of the field with an earned-run average of 3.81. He appeared in 35 games, winning 17 and losing 12, and gave 237 hits to 963 batters in 253 innings. He was in 1936, as in the previous season, the only one of 18 pitchers working in 45 or more games to allow less than three runs a game. It was the seventh time in 12 seasons he has been under the three-run mark, and the seventh time he has led the league.

The runner-up to Grove was a youngster who blazed a brilliant trail through the league in the latter stages, young Bob Feller of Cleveland. Feller, who pitched in the relatively small total of 62 innings, worked 14 games and won five against two defeats. He pitched to 227 batters and whiffed 76, or approximately one out of three. The 17-year old lad, in his first season, tied Dizzy Dean's single game strike-out record by fanning 17 Philadelphia batters on September 13. He had previously whiffed 15 St. Louis batters on August 23 and ten more on September 6, giving him 25 strike-outs against the Browns in two appearances.

Behind Feller came Johnny Murphy of New York, Johnny Allen of Cleveland, Pete Appleton of Washington and Tommy Bridges of Detroit, the "winningest" pitcher with 23 victories to his credit. Monte Pearson of the Yanks, for whom Allen was traded last winter, rated seventh, but the Yanks had slightly the better of the trade in won-and-lost figures, for Pearson had a 19-7 record for a percentage of 731 while Allen's mark was good for but .667.

For the second successive year Wes Ferrell of Boston pitched the most innings, 301. This, naturally led to his facing the most batters 1203, and giving up the most hits 330.

Off percentages, Jim Henry of Boston was the best with five victories and one loss for .883 with Irving (Bump) Hadley of the Yanks having a record of 14 and 4 and a percentage of .778 Hadley had the best streak of the season with 11 consecutive victories from April 26 through August 12.

Russ Van Atta, of the hard-working St. Louis staff, appeared in the most games, 52, and Jack Knott, his hard-working cohort was involved in 47, taking the worst beatings in the league with 174 runs, 156 of them listed as "earned," against his record. John Gordon Rhodes, of Philadelphia was setting a new major league mark, with 18 players driving in 100 or more runs. The old standard was 17, set by the National League in 1930. The American posted another major league mark of which it is, possibly, less proud: 4847 players drew bases on balls during the campaign to top its own 1935 total of 4612. Ben Chapman drew five of the passes in the May 24 game for the season's high, though that is not a record. His teammate, Selkirk, twice tied the league mark for the most bases on balls in one inning, in the fifth inning on June 24 and the second inning on August 28. He walked twice in each instance. Gehrig came up with another individual crown in this department, topping the league with 130 bases on balls.

Jimmy Foxx, with Boston, led the "Caseys" by striking out 119 times to be far ahead of all rivals. It was Jimmy's sixth season—a new major league record—at outfanning all rivals. Frank Crosetti was the ablest target of the season, being hit by pitchers on 12 occasions. At the other end of the scale were 12 players who participated in 100 or more games without being hit, with Hale's escape through 153 games and West's dodging through 152 topping the list.

Former Tennis Star Arrives For Quiet Wedding



Nonchalant as though they were out for morning stroll, Mrs. E. O. Fearnley-Whittingstall, better known as Eilleen Bennett who was one of Britain's brightest tennis stars a few years back, and Marcus Marsh, noted racehorse trainer, are pictured as they arrived at the registry office in Chelsea for their marriage. As indicated, the ceremony was not made a society event.

SPORT CHAT

Despite the meagre total boasted by its leaders, the American League sent a full assortment of runs-batted-in records crashing into the discard in the 1936 season. As a matter of fact, the champion, Hal Trosky of Cleveland, did his best to set a mark in the winning. His total of 162 runners driven across the plate is the lowest since 1929, when Al Simmons topped the circuit with 157. Otherwise, though, the American League sluggers were in fine fettle, with the world champion Yankees setting the pace.

The New Yorkers themselves batted in 995 runs for a new major league record, shattering their own mark of 991, which was posted in 1931. On their way to the season standard, they toppled the record for the most runs batted in in a single game, hammering 25 runners home against the Athletics on May 24. The former mark was 23, set by the A's in 1929. Lou Gehrig was the leader in the Yanks' path-cleaning activities with 152 scores sent in, but he was joined above the century mark by Joe DiMaggio, 125; Tony Lazzeri, 109, and Bill Dickey and George Selkirk, each with 107. This, too, is a record; eight clubs share the former mark of having had four players better 100 in the RBI columns.

Gehrig, DiMaggio and Lazzeri each derived some additional personal glory from the carnage, also. Lou went into a tie with Al Simmons in the number of consecutive seasons in which he topped the century mark in driving in runs. Each has a string of 11. Simmons, whose streak was broken in 1935, performed the feat again last season for a lifetime total of 12, within one of Babe Ruth's all-time high of 13. Meantime, Goose Goslin brought his total to 11 by scoring 125 mates. The threat to a Ruthian record was bettered by Gehrig, who drove in over 150 runs for the sixth time in his career, tying the Babe's mark. DiMaggio, on June 24, drove in five runs to tie the American League record for the most runs batted in by an individual in one inning, and Lazzeri, in that May game with Philapelphia, accounted for 11 runs to break the old league record of nine, set by Jimmy Foxx in 1933.

Meantime the league as a whole

FREE! BOOK ON HOCKEY

A Great Book "How to Become a Hockey Star" by T. P. "Tommy" Gorman, manager and coach of the Montreal "Maroons", profusely illustrated and containing many valuable tips on how to play the game.

also

AUTOGRAPHED PICTURES of GREAT PLAYERS
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Sugar Bowl Has Been Sold Out For Big Match

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17: — A complete sell-out for the New Year's Day football game between Louisiana State and Santa Clara at the Sugar Bowl here is announced. The Sugar Bowl has a capacity of between 40,000 and 50,000 persons.

HOCKEY SCORES

Pacific Coast League

Vancouver 7, Seattle 2.

HISTORIC FOOTBALL

Recent Battle May Mean Finish Of U. S. Imports

TORONTO, Dec. 16: (CP)—Canadian football, preferably played by Canadians, is here to stay in this eastern sector. Sarnia Imperials and Ottawa Roughriders did more than anything else to assure this by playing a historic game in Varsity Stadium for the eastern championship. It was historic—there can't be a question about that.

All the criticism by experts who contended loudly that football required United States players, rules and methods was answered when Imperials defeated Roughriders 26-20 in one of the greatest battles ever waged in this country. It was a "Gee whiz" game.

If football can be any more thrilling than it was when Sarnia scored four touchdowns, Ottawa three, then the crowd of 7,000 that watched Roughriders roll along 99 yards in the fourth quarter towards the tying score—and fall 13 yards short—doesn't want it. The human heart couldn't stand any more.

Ottawa's remarkable comeback in the last period was an answer to the contention that no team can come from behind successfully under the Canadian code which restricts interference, penalizes forward pass failure severely. Trailing 26-14, Roughriders advanced the ball 172 yards without permitting a Sarnia hand to touch it.

And all this was done under the Canadian code. Roughriders could not run downfield interference but they could lateral pass. The game produced some of the best lateral passing since the hey-day of Harry Batstone and Pep Leadley at Queen's more than a decade ago. Both teams excelled.

May End Imports

Looked-down-on domestic talent acquitted itself so sensationally that it conceivably may be the end of general importation of American football stars by eastern clubs. No American star ever put on a better show for the customers than the home-breds did in this game.

Hugh (Bummer) Stirling convinced his audience that he is a superior all-around halfback to Montreal's Abe Eliowitz, former Michigan State player and all-eastern ace of three straight seasons. There isn't anything the Sarnia halfback doesn't do better than Eliowitz.

Against Roughriders, Stirling ran back the opening kickoff 50 yards, averaged 49 yards in punting, plunged, forward passed, tackled, knocked down Ottawa passes. The Bummer is from St. Thomas, Ont. He's probably the best football player in the east this season.

Sarnia's American halves, Ormond Beach and Rocky Parsaca were great but no greater than the natives on the Ottawa backfield—Andy Tommy, Tommy Daley, Jack Leore. The massive Beach wasn't as effective in plunging as Dave Sprague of Roughriders.

The business of putting United States trimmings to Canadian football received its first setback last winter when the Canadian Rugby Union clamped on a rigid residence rule. When the Interprovincial Union barred a dozen U. S. players in September—players who came into the country just to play football—the fight was on.

It is apparent to most observers that Sarnia and Ottawa won the game for Canadian players. It's going to be difficult now to convince the paying customer he can get more thrills from watching Americans under any code than seeing Canadians under the current one.

GORDON WALLACE HAS EASY KNOCKOUT WIN OVER CHICAGO MAN

VANCOUVER, Dec. 17: (CP)—Gordon Wallace, 143½ pounds, Canadian welterweight champion, knocked out Harry Dublinsky, also 143½ pounds, of Chicago in the fifth round of a scheduled 10 round bout at the Auditorium here last night. The Chicagoan was floored three times before Wallace dropped him for the full count.

Smith and Morin Are Leading In Bowling Tourney

Er Eddie Smith and Stan Morin are leading by seventy-six pins over Johhny Comadina and Max Asemissen in a Christmas bowling tournament. Asemissen was high average scorer in three games played with 200.

Individual scores were as follows:

	1st	2nd	3rd	Ttl.
Smith	189	187	205	581
Morin	210	181	170	561
Team total				1142
Asemissen	207	192	201	600
Comadina	157	140	178	475
Team total				1075
Bury	182	190	177	549
Schriaberg	169	201	151	512
Team total				1061
French	181	182	153	516
Gunderson	169	169	197	535
Team total				1051

LADIES' LEAGUE

January 6—Rangers vs. Blue Birds, Annette's vs. Knockouts, C.N.R.A. vs. Spark Plugs, Grotto vs. Doodads.

January 13—Spark Plugs vs. Doodads, Annette's vs. Rangers, C.N.R.A. vs. Grotto, Knockouts vs. Blue Birds.

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