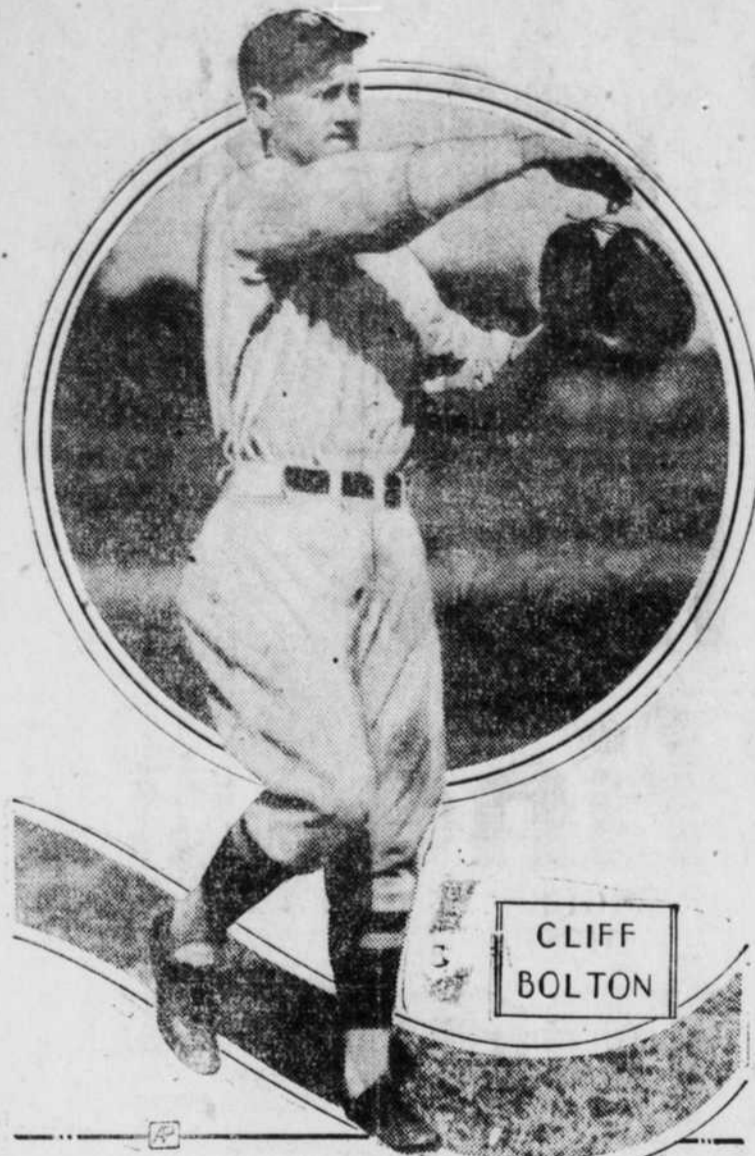


Nat Rookies Hits Like \$1,000,000; Catching Valued at About a Dime



CLIFF BOLTON

Here's Cliff Bolton, rookie catcher, snapped at the Biloxi, Miss., training camp of the Washington Senators, trying to improve his receiving technique. That's what he has to do to stay in the big time. He already has revealed himself to the Nats as a heavy slugger.

By GAYLE TALBOT, JR.

(Associated Press Sports Writer) BILOXI, Miss., March 25. (AP)—In Cliff Bolton, strong boy from High Point, N. C., the Washington Senators have a catcher who, in Manager Walter Johnson's own words, either is worth a million dollars or ten cents. It hasn't been decided definitely yet.

A great natural hitter, Bolton represents the one thing the Senators appear to need to make them a championship unit. But he has had a terrible time learning to catch big league pitching, and therein lies the rub. If he only could field and think like he can hit that apple!

Bolton has been playing professional ball for three years, the last two as property of the Senators, and he has found only one league so far that he cannot lead in hitting.

He led the Piedmont with a mark of 413, led the Eastern with an average nearly that high, and last

year hit .377 for Chattanooga to take second honors in the Southern association.

Despairing of his ever making a catcher, minor league pilots have been using him in the outfield. Johnson doesn't like it, so he has decided to keep him under his own wing this year and make a backstop out of his or bust, so to speak.

The Senators' coaching staff has put in more time on Cliff this spring than on all the other batterymen combined, and some progress has been noted.

Bolton's chief difficulty is with foul balls. He goes after them with too great abandon. Last year, tearing after one that ultimately landed well up in the grandstand, he went head-first into the concrete and broke an ankle.

In an effort to tame him down, the coaches have been knocking fouls in relays, exercising care to keep him well away from the stands. He gets a lot of them.

ON THE SIDELINES by BRIAN BELL

The boys can refrain from dusting off the old stories that Jack Dempsey will fight again. He never will. The Manassa Mauler expects to climb into hundreds of rines in the next few years, but he will put on no gloves inside the enclosure. Instead he will watch the leather covered hands of two other fellows. Dempsey, the former champion, now has an ambition to be the champion referee but fighter, no sir.

"The old urge is gone," says Jack. "I feel that I could not justify the ambitions of my friends were I to go back. I also know that I could not be at my physical best."

"It will be 36 in June, three or four years past the accepted fighting limit. I have kept in fair shape and have tried to work myself up to intensive training but the spark is not there."

The Game's Been Good

Dempsey expects to remain very close to the boxing game and never will be very far away.

"The game's been good to me," he says, "and I'm attached to it for keeps. I'll referee, or promote, and hope to be right in there at the finish."

"If I had a son I would want him to be in the game, too. The game makes of you what you make of yourself."

"I'm enjoying the popularity that seems to rest with me now. I can't explain and don't try. Possibly the public feels that I gave the best I had and tried to be a man about it in defeat and they've been a lot nicer to ex-champion Dempsey than they were to Champion Dempsey."

Dempsey is making a "comfortable living" from his activities as a referee. He describes his financial condition as fair, "not thin, not fat."

Speaking of financial matters, he sums it up:

"I saved, lost through some unfortunate speculations and have given away several chunks. Only hope I can make enough to still give a lot way to less fortunate pals."

Willard No Palooka

Tom Jones is one man in the fight game who will offer rebuttal in any debate based on the statement that Jess Willard was no great champion.

"When Jess fought Jack Johnson at Havana he could have whipped any man in the world," Jones declares.

Jess was a great all around athlete. He could run, jump, swim, and ride horseback as well as any of them.

"Willard's chief trouble was that when he became champion he refused to have anything to do with his old associates."

Jess told me the reason for this was that some of them never had given him any consideration before he became champion and after he won the title and amounted to something in the business, he refused to have anything to do with them."

Stars Given Edge in Race For Pennant

By JAMES S. SHEEHY
Spring prophecies frequently fade with the leaves of autumn, but it appears that Hollywood is the team to beat for the Pacific Coast league flag.

Successive pennant winners during the past two years, the Stars seem equipped to repeat. Even night baseball and discarding the split season should not worry Manager Witt's men, for they came fast during the second half of the 1929 and 1930 seasons.

Los Angeles and San Francisco should find a place in the upper bracket with Hollywood. All three teams have pitching strength and appear balanced defensively and offensively.

A further gaze at the crystal brings a reminder that Portland and Oakland—either or both—may surprise this season.

Portland has Spencer Abbott as manager and that may mean much to the Beavers. This fellow let it be known early at San Jose that he is running the ball club and will brook no interference. He insists on nine innings of real hustle and has the spark and will to win. Already he has picked his club for the first division and there appears to be no real reason why he should not land there.

Oakland sold Lombardi, Craghead, Vergez and Arlett to the big leagues and it would appear as mild evidence of an irrational mind to mention the Oaks as trouble makers. But stranger things have happened and a hunch prevails that Zankoff, the magician, may resemble a fighting craft that has youth, speed and the will to win.

An old hand like Hank Deberry back of the bat to team with Pete Read is sufficient reason to forecast steady improvement in Acorn pitching. Anton, Dondero, Moore and Andy Reese form a fast infield combination and the same can be said of Uhalt, Mike Powers, Wade and Martin in the outfield. The assemblage is not altogether punchless, either, but the slugging of Lombardi, Arlett and Vergez will be missed.

Seattle hopes to start the season in the high gear that it rolled during the close of 1930. The Suds under Manager Ernie Johnson (Continued on Page Five)

THIRD FERRELL GETS CHANCE TO PERFORM UNDER 'BIG TOP'



Another major league "brother act" is being born, in fact, a "brother act and a half." Marvin Ferrell, 20-year-old righthander, is working for a berth on the St. Louis Browns. He is shown with his brother "Rick," receiver for the club. Marvin also is a brother of Wes Ferrell, celebrated righthander of the Cleveland Indians.

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., March 25. (AP)—Another Ferrell of the Guilford, N. C. baseball family, is laboring mightily to break into the big time.

He is Marvin, aged 20, who is getting a try-out with the St. Louis Browns, now going through spring training camp here.

And there is one member of the Browns who thinks Marvin has a great chance to follow his celebrated brother, Wes Ferrell, as a successful hurler.

That man is "Rick" Ferrell, another brother and one of the Browns' regular receivers. But even if only half as successful as the Cleveland star, Marvin should be of help to the Browns.

The club, the record shows, got the worst pitching in the American league last season. The earned run percentage was 5.07 a game. Something less than a Wes Ferrell, it is obvious, could improve such a pitching staff.

Marvin is six feet one inch tall and weighs 170 pounds. He is a degree smaller than Wes was when

the Cleveland star turned the American league upside down by winning 21 games his first full season in the majors.

Marvin received his preliminary baseball training in a North Carolina military school and in the coal regions of West Virginia. If he makes the grade with the Browns, he will be the fourth Ferrell brother in organized baseball. George is an outfielder with Buffalo. In addition there is another Ferrell, only 18, who has the stamp of a ball player.

Marvin and Rick share "brother act" honors this year with Detroit's Gerald and Harvey Walker.

Women Fight Prohibition HELSINGFORS March 25. (UP)—Leading women's organizations have banded together here in an anti-prohibition crusade. The women are directing a campaign to secure 100,000 signatures to a petition asking the present prohibition laws be abolished and a system of redistributing distribution of alcoholic spirits substituted.

Russia continues to dump her goods abroad and leave the Russian people in the dumps at home.

Giant Recruit Makes Big Show Via Homer Road

ALAMEDA, Calif., March 25. (AP)—From busher to big league in three seasons, Johnny Vergez, recruit who is holding down third base for the New York Giants in spring training, slugged his way to recognition via the home run route.

The 22-year-old lad was picked up by the Oakland club, whose owners make a practice of fine-combing the sandlots and high school fields for talent.

Of medium height and weight and retiring by nature, the youngster failed to make much of an impression in his first year out. Neither of the sensational fielding type nor a "chatterbox" on the bag, he started in at once, however, to make a baseball noise with his bat.

A left field hitter, he belted out 46 homers in 1929, finishing third in the Coast league in this department. He also chalked up a batting average of .323.

Last year his hitting slumped all round, a condition for which he blamed night baseball. In mid-season his average stood around .350. The "owl game" started, and he dropped more than 40 points, ending with .307. He tied for fourth place in the four-bagger column, with 29.

Consequently, on his first trip to the majors, Vergez will have to make a "comeback" in hitting. His value as a "team player" caught the eyes of scouts during the last two seasons while his "runs batted in" record of 165 and 125, respectively, last two seasons also hastened his graduation from the minors.

The Philippine insular government, with a decrease in revenue of approximately 8,000,000 pesos in 1930, collected 81,000,000 pesos.

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