

### And Now Hockey Goes West

Pole, track, crew, football—supremacy in all those sports and more have gone West, and now hockey! Two American teams defeated two Canadian teams to keep the finals of the playoff series for the Stanley Cup in this country. And the two American teams that turned the trick were the Chicago Black Hawks and the Detroit Red Wings, both "way out West" in the little world of ice hockey.

The Red Wings were picked in these columns as winners in the American division at the beginning of the National Hockey League season, and they did it in the face of competition from last year's Stanley Cup finalists, the New York Rangers and the Toronto Maple Leafs. Their climb to the finals was a victory for youth, the zest of inexperience, and the managerial ability of chubby Jack Adams.

Adams unearthed a goalie in mid-season to relieve an aging veteran; a disarmingly dazed youngster he was, and Wilf Cude was the unknown's name. Time and time again he made spectacular saves with a daring dive right at the blades of the players that stormed his nets—and he always looked sleepy, tired.

One more bit of sensational substituting is given much credit for the Red Wings's climb: After two straight defeats, Jack Adams lifted his farm-club Olympic first line out of the minors and into the front for the Red Wings. A daring move, but it worked—perhaps as a goad to the worn-out regulars or perhaps in its own rights as a good first line. No matter how, they have played their part in moving hockey out onto Western ice.

### Optimists No More

Tho some may stand up for Los Nanduces, the consensus will hold that the greatest name in indoor polo has long been that of Winston Guest's Optimists. Guest has always been the keystone, and a ten-goal one of late, of that trio. His supporters have included other great names: His brother Raymond Guest, Michael Phipps, Stewart Iglehart, Ben Phipps and others were among those who have been included in the Optimist lineup. Last year it was a Winston Guest-Michael Phipps-Iglehart combination that were declared champions in Chicago.

The Indoor Polo Association paid the Optimists the compliment this year of setting an eighteen-goal limit for the Senior Championship play—it was felt that the Optimists were too strong, that they could find no competition. Iglehart had to drop out of the lineup and Michael Phipps's brother Ben, a one-goal player, was brought in to keep the team under eighteen goals.

And now the handicap ruling and the aggressive, climbing New York Athletic Club trio have combined to rob the Optimists of another trip to Chicago to take part in indoor polo's first East-West series. The N.Y.A.C. team deserve much credit for what was a real team triumph. But the passing of the Optimists is to be lamented by those who like to see the best in sports.

## Some like 'em cork tipped



## Some like 'em plain



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# America Cries "Play Ball" in a Recovery Season

Major League Baseball Gets Under Way Next Week as Leading Sports Writers Pick the Pennant Winners of 1934 Through The Literary Digest Poll

A MAJOR league umpire first shouts "Play ball" in the 1934 season when the Boston Red Sox play down in Washington next Monday, April 16. But the American National Sport actually got under way some four months ago, back in December, when Connie Mack went over the hill with the Philadelphia Athletics and sold the backbone of his club. For once, colorful Babe Ruth made but few pre-season headlines. But baseball did write more headlines when a uniform ball was adopted for the major leagues. If this last move was designed to make the game more spectacular for the fans, certainly the fans have responded nobly—it is predicted that nothing will reflect the progress of the Recovery Program and the NRA so much as baseball attendance this year. And certainly the interest evidenced by the fans during the burlesque baseball period allotted to spring training would seem to bear out these predictions.

On the first of the season's headlines—the break-up of the Athletics—Joe Vila, sports editor of the New York Sun, commented:

"Evidently Connie Mack is not entitled to the loads of sympathy extended to him by thousands of followers who have been wondering what kind of a baseball 'wreck' he will start in the American League race on April 17. Suspicion is growing that Mack, who has spent more than fifty years in professional baseball and knows all the angles, has disposed of fading stars whose places will be capably filled by youngsters now developing rapidly."

The wealthy young owner of the Boston Red Sox, Thomas Yawkey, paid a small fortune for pitchers Grove and Walberg, and second-baseman Bishop—thirty-four year-old Grove has developed an early season-lame arm, and there are a lot of base-

ball men that believe that Bishop and Walberg are on the down grade. Chicago White Sox owner Louis Comiskey bought pitcher George Earnshaw in the Athletic auction—Comiskey was not too pleased with Earnshaw's erratic pitching in spring

This spring, Ruth drove one out over the fringe of Australian pine trees that border the training camp field down in Florida, and he smiled at the handwriting on the wall: "That one really traveled," he said. "It's been two years since I hit one in that neighborhood. It must be the new ball. Last year I couldn't have carried those trees with a rifle."

That set the experts to thinking; several of them are back on the bandwagon, rooting for a comeback. Commented Richards Vidmer in the New York Herald Tribune:

"Babe Ruth, at the age of forty, has clearly proven that he will be more of an asset than a liability this spring and summer. There was some question about this when the training siege got under way, for the celebrated slugger admitted himself that this would be his last active year and some wondered if the action would be visible to the naked eye. But the Babe put all such thoughts to rest by batting .429 in thirteen games and hitting half a dozen home runs. He led the team in batting and runs driven in and when a man can do that his footwork becomes a secondary consideration."

Jimmy Foxx, Connie Mack's last stand on the Athletics, predicted that "this looks like my year to finally shatter that sixty-home-run-record of Babe Ruth's," but he won't do it without some competition from the man that set that record, even tho this has already proved a bad year for comebacks.

In a year that will see another America's Cup defender built, a polo team sent to England, and a Rugby team brought from England, it is well to note that baseball has not lagged in its rôle as the National Sport. In the American League, Thomas A. Yawkey bought the Boston Red Sox franchise last year for \$1,000,000, and since the initial cost his budget has included

## Sports Writers' Poll Ranks Major League Teams

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Ranking	Team	Points
1—	New York Giants	136
2—	Chicago Cubs	131
3—	St. Louis Cardinals	91
4—	Pittsburgh Pirates	81
5—	Boston Braves	77
6—	Brooklyn Dodgers	58
7—	Cincinnati Reds	43
8—	Philadelphia Nationals	24

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Ranking	Team	Points
1—	New York Yankees	141
2—	Washington Senators	140
3—	Detroit Tigers	95
4—	Cleveland Indians	85
5—	Boston Red Sox	75
6—	Chicago White Sox	57
7—	Philadelphia Athletics	55
8—	St. Louis Browns	31

Compiled on a point basis—8 points for a first ranking and 1 for a last—from rankings sent in answer to THE LITERARY DIGEST poll by the sports staff of leading newspapers:—Cleveland Plain Dealer, New York Times, New York Journal, New York Herald Tribune, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, New York Sun, Cleveland News, St. Louis Star-Times, New York World-Telegram, Brooklyn Times-Union, Brooklyn Eagle, Washington Herald, Chicago Daily News.

training games. And as the spring training drew to a close, catcher-manager Cochrane, who cost the Detroit Tigers \$100,000, went to the hospital with appendicitis symptoms to add further weight to the argument that Connie Mack still knows baseball.

This has been the first of many preludes to the baseball season that has not seen the game's most colorful figure, Babe Ruth, battling Col. Jacob Ruppert for more salary. Ruth began his climb back in 1920 at \$20,000, reached a peak of fame and salary in 1930 at \$80,000, and now he is back down around where he started, at \$35,000, and they say he is through. John Kieran, writing in the New York Times, recalled some of the high spots in the rise and fall of that "noblest Roman of them all": "In 1920, hitting 54 home runs, the first time any player had come close to the fifty-mark; in 1927, sixty homers in a season to set what still stands as an all-time major league record; 1928, three home runs in one world series game, repeating the feat of 1926 against the Cardinals in St. Louis."



Acme

Babe Ruth starts a comeback in Florida



Wide World

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