

Jack Phillips Named Clarkson Baseball Coach

Hank Hodge Steps Down After 35 Years At Helm

By Stu Infantine

In the spring of 1930, Hank Hodge penciled nine names on a scorecard to officially begin his duties as head baseball coach at Clarkson College. Now, after thirty-five seasons and 522 games as skipper of the Golden Knights, Northern New York's "Mr. Baseball" is turning over the reins to one of the greatest players he ever developed.

Jack Phillips, a star performer on Hodge's great Clarkson team of 1943, and later a major league with the New York Yankees, Pittsburgh Pirates, Detroit Tigers and Boston Red Sox, will take over the helm of his alma mater's diamond fortunes next year.

Hank Hodge, a name synonymous with Clarkson and baseball, will continue as the College's Director of Athletics and will devote full time to the responsibility of coordinating Clarkson's expanding athletic program.

Met in 1939 Jack Phillips and Hank Hodge first met during the summer of 1939 when Hank was managing the Watertown Collegians, one of many semi-pro teams he handled while coaching 50 players, including Phillips, develop in major league material.

Jack's father, knowing there was no opening on the club, brought his son to Watertown for a try-out with the Collegians and gave him enough money for a two-week stay.

The elder Phillips, a long-time friend of Hank's, also had these instructions for the Watertown manager: "Teach him as much baseball as you can, then send him home."

Hodge gave Phillips a uniform and carried him on the team, using the tyro only in late innings when the outcome of the game was beyond doubt.

During this period, Jack bunked in a YMCA room with a young pitcher named Frank Shea. Apparently this chance meeting was an omen of things to come, because in 1947 the two were teammates on the World Champion New York Yankees.

With Yankees

Frank "Spee" Shea was one of the Yankees' hurlers during the 1940's, receiving credit for an All-Star game victory, and taming the Dodgers twice during the '47 World Series. But in 1939, Shea was toiling on the mound for Hank Hodge's Watertown Collegians, and Jack Phillips was riding the pine, trying to avoid the splinters. Low on money and morale, Phillips came to Hodge at the end of two weeks and announced that he was going home. Fortunately, Hank prevailed on his young protégé to suit up for the game that night.

As fate would have it, the regular first baseman broke his arm and Phillips broke into the lineup. He stayed there for the rest of the year, and made an indelible impression on Manager Hodge with his flawless fielding and powerful slugging. Sensing that here was a tremendous baseball talent, Hodge convinced the 17 year old strapping that he should enroll at Clarkson. For the next three years, Phillips was one of Clarkson's greatest athletes, following in the footsteps of Emerson Roser, '40, according to Hodge, "The best pitcher I ever coached."

From Clarkson, Roser went on to Major League stardom with the New York Yankees and Boston Braves.

Tech's Best Year The year of 1943 proved to be the most successful in Clarkson's history. The Hodge-coached team won 19 and lost only 1. Says Hodge, "That was without question my best team." Phillips sparked the team's great season by slamming eight home runs.

That was also the year Jack Phillips decided to turn professional, and after completing his work in June, signed a contract with the Yankees, and was assigned to a New York farm club in the Piedmont League. In a league which saw only 63 homers hit all year, Phillips led the circuit with eight, and his teammate, a awkward-looking catcher named Yogi Berra, pined seven.

Drafted into the Navy the following year, Phillips returned to baseball after the war, and played in the 1947 World Series with the Yankees.

During the winter Jack completed the requirements for his B.A. Degree, and was a member of the graduating class of 1948.

Major Memories The summer of 1948 saw the New York Yankees, managed by Bucky Harris, leading the pack by 5 1/2 games early in August. Phillips had been out with an injury, but was hitting a fine 308.

"I'll never forget that summer," he says. "Here we are, leading the league, I'm hitting over .300, and on Aug. 6, I

find out the Yankees have traded me to the Pittsburgh Pirates." The Yankees went on to finish third, and in 1949 Casey Stengel became manager of the New York club. Phillips stuck with the Pirates until 1952, playing every position in the infield and outfield.

While a member of the 1950 Pittsburgh team, Jack experienced one of his greatest baseball thrills. On a mid-September night in St. Louis, he smashed a grand-slam home run off Hairy "The Cat" Brecheen, to knock the Cardinals out of contention for the pennant. In 1952 Pittsburgh assigned him to the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast League. Phillips made the league's All-Star team in 1952-53, as Hollywood, managed by Fred Haney, won two pennants. The Stars tied for the flag in 1954, as Jack hit .300, played every position except catcher, and was voted the league's "Most Valuable Player."

During the winter, Phillips was traded to the Chicago White Sox, but before the versatile star could put on a Chicago uniform, the Sox bartered him to Detroit. Phillips played from 1955-57 before being traded to the Boston Red Sox, and ultimately was assigned to the San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League.

Minor League Star That was the last year San Francisco had a representative in the PCL, because the Giants established residence there in 1958. Far from being a displaced person, Phillips rendered his valuable diamond service to Buffalo of the International League that summer, and in 1959 completed his active career with the Bisons.

During that final campaign, Phillips capped his career as an active player with his most poignant diamond thrill. Buffalo's Offermann Stadium was jammed with 9600 fans, there to pay tribute to Phillips on Aug. 18, 1959, which had been designated "Jack Phillips Night."

Before the game, Gordon "Stub" Baker, a 1927 graduate of Clarkson and Clarkson Alumni Association, presented him with a plaque honoring his high standards of conduct both on and off the playing field.

In the first inning of the game with Toronto, Phillips popped out with the bases loaded, after Toronto pitcher Ron Negray had intentionally walked the preceding batter to pitch to the lean slugger.

Negray tried the same strategy in the third inning as the Bisons loaded the bases with two out. Big Jack strode to the plate with the ovation of the fans ringing in his ears.

"Jackie At The Bat" He took a strike, fouled off another offering, and laved off a wide one to run the count to 2-2. Then the former Clarkson

Beechertown

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Foster Jr., Bannin, Calif. are the parents of a daughter, Seneca Ann, born Apr. 7. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hartson.

Mr. and Mrs. David Montgomery visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Montgomery, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Hartson and family, Winthrop, were supper guests Sunday, May 10 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hartson. Evening guests were Mr. and Mrs. Claude Moulton, North Stockholm.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Winters and family were Sunday guests at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Winters, Skimerville.

Mrs. Clara Hartson was a Mother's Day dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Garvey at the Sunset Lodge.

WINS GRANT-IN AID William Cartner of Madrid has been notified that the Agricultural and Technical Institute at Canton is prepared to award him a Grant-In-Aid sum of \$150 for the coming fall semester. According to Hugh A. Quinn, dean of students at Canton ATI, the grant will be continued during the second semester, if a satisfactory scholastic record is maintained by Cartner.

son star jumped on an inside curve and lost it in the seats for a grand slam home run to ice a 6-0 Buffalo victory.

"The 'Is were running up and down my spine," Jack recalls. He considers that moment a greater thrill than when he circled the bases after his bases-loaded blast with the Pirates.

Following up his spikes that year, the Marilla, N. Y. native became a manager in the Philadelphia organization, helping to develop such players as Richie Allen, currently a candidate for "Rookie of the Year" honors with the Phillies.

From 1960-61 he managed Elmira in the Tony League, and in 1962 went to Twin Falls, Idaho, in the Detroit farm chain, where he was named "Manager of the Year."

Became Manager Last year he handled Chattanooga of the Sally League, and this spring moved on to Jamestown, just 75 miles from where his great baseball career began.

How does it feel to know that he's coming back to Clarkson? "Great, just great," says Phillips. "I love professional baseball. It's been my life, but it involves a lot of travelling. At Clarkson, I'll be able to spend more time with family."

Phillips has this to say about the man he's replacing: "Hank's been like a second father to me. I can't bring any new baseball philosophy to Clarkson, because Hank Hodge taught me all I know."

Tech Lacrosse, Tennis Teams In Last Week

Two of Clarkson College's varsity spring sports teams wind up their campaigns this week end as Knight athletes participate in a total of four contests.

Closing out the season Saturday against arch-rival St. Lawrence in Canton, Clarkson's lacrosse team will be striving to complete its most successful campaign in history.

Lacrosse A varsity sport at Clarkson since 1960, lacrosse has been making rapid progress under coach Jack Hantz and the Golden Knight stockmen have chalked up three victories in seven outings. By coming through with a decision over SLU on Saturday, the Knights could reach the .500 level, the finest record ever attained by a Clarkson lacrosse combination. Clarkson already owns a 3-0 verdict over the Larries in addition to victories over Siena and Hamilton.

Tennis Under the direction of Bill Mott, the tennis team also concludes its season Saturday, meeting Hamilton on Snell Field Courts. In a rebuilding year, the netmen have turned in a 2-5 record.

Baseball Celebrating thirty-five years as head baseball coach at Clarkson with one of his best teams in recent years, Hank Hodge sends his club against R.P.I. Saturday afternoon at Snell Field. Having stunned highly-rated Syracuse 7-4 last week, the Knights are enjoying a fine year with a combination of timely hitting and strong pitching contributing factors.

Next week, the Knights meet St. Lawrence in Canton on Tuesday and host R.I.T. on Saturday. Clarkson winds up its season on June 6, with the traditional commencement double-header against St. Lawrence. The first game will be played at Potsdam at 10 a. m. and the second half of the twin bill will take place in Canton at 2 p. m.

Golf Coach John Sevacka and his strong golf team have a make-up match Saturday with St. Michael's. Originally set for May 2, the match was moved up to this week end. Undeclared in its first six matches, the golfers have only two matches remaining on the card after Saturday's clash with St. Mike's, both triangular affairs.

On Monday, Clarkson hosts Middlebury and St. Lawrence, while Wednesday finds the Knights traveling to Canton for a three-way battle with Syracuse and SLU in the final match of the season.



A LOT OF BASEBALL THERE! — Two of Northern New York's greatest baseball figures, Hank Hodge (left), 35-year Coach of the Clarkson College diamond forces and Jack Phillips, former New York Yankee and major league star, and newly-named Clarkson baseball coach to replace Hodge, represent a pupil-coach combination which spans over 20 years. Hank is in his final weeks as a ball coach at Clarkson, although he will remain as the College's Athletic Director, and Phillips will take over the reins next Spring.



Courier and Freeman SPORTS

COURIER FREEMAN, POTSDAM, N.Y., THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1964 13

More 12, 13 Year Olds Needed In Junior Loop

The Potsdam summer pee-wee baseball program, to be held on the school grounds behind the Lawrence Avenue Elementary School, is due to commence on June 15. So far, more than 200 boys have signed up, but the number between ages 12 to 13 is still insufficient. The program is open to all boys who reached age 7 on or before Dec. 1, 1963, and had not reached their 14th birthday on the same date; in general, grades 2 through 8.

The deadline for registration has been extended to May 19 in hopes that enough youngsters in the 12-13 group will enlist, to make the program feasible. Otherwise that phase of the program may have to be dropped.

Registrations will be held next Tuesday, May 19 in room M-121 in the Old Main building on the Clarkson Campus, from 7:30 to 8 p.m. Parent's permission slips are also available and registration may be completed now at Healey's Shoe Store on Market Street.

After the registration at Old Main, a public meeting will convene at 8 in the same room, to determine the formation of teams, assignment of coaches and general instructions to all involved. This meeting should be attended by every adult in any way concerned with the program, including coaches, umpires and other interested people.

The meeting will also include a discussion of the possibility of forming softball and kick-ball leagues for the girls. The interest shown by those attending the meeting will be the first step toward forming such leagues, and all parents—who are interested are urged to attend. Organization and supervision are very important for these programs, and no one is as well qualified to direct them than the parents of the children involved.

The season is scheduled to get underway in the middle of June, but may have to be delayed if the necessary number of coaches and umpires cannot be assigned.

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Softball season is just around the corner, so I thought we might fill you in on our Village Softball League, which, by the way, has openings for teams and players.

At the present moment we have six teams and we hope for one or two more before the season begins. Everyone who plays in the League has an enjoyable time, but the League had hoped to play under lights this year, and also possibly to bring in special attractions to entertain people in the area, and also to keep us in the red. We tried quite a few ways to raise money, but to no avail.

We are reassured that we could have used the field on Clough Street, but when your organization is small and can only help itself, it is difficult. We had also hoped to let the Pee-Wee baseballers use the lights... but no money. Angelo Fiocco offered us his field on Route 11 and also offered us a considerable amount of money to aid the cause, but other things came up, so right now our League is planning to start under the sun, and we hope a little later this summer to go under the arcs.

We have a good League. Everyone cooperates and everyone does his best. We hope to have more people stop around this summer to see us play, as we think we play some of the best softball in this area. We rely on the high schools and colleges to supply our fields, and through the aid of Hank Hodge and Hal Gillette, we hope we will be at the same stand.

We are going to try to bring in some talent this summer to entertain area residents, and help raise enough money for the lights. It has been a tough project, but many people have been cooperative, and we are still pushing. The Village Softball League plays two nights a week, Monday and Wednesday, beginning at 6:30, and we go through a 20-game schedule plus play-offs. As I mentioned earlier, we have some outstanding players and teams, and we invite everyone to watch our teams and follow our League this summer.

In addition, we invite everyone to join us this Friday evening, May 15, at the Potsdam Civic Center, when one of the top country and Western shows will be in town, Doc Williams, and his great troupe of performers. They will present a big two and a half hour show of music and comedy tomorrow night, and we hope you'll be there. If this goes over well, we may try more of the same later in the summer—possibly under lights. See you Friday.

Potsdam State Tennis Squad Defeats Oswego Netmen, 6-3

Potsdam State won its second straight tennis match by downing conference foe, Oswego State, 6-3, at Oswego Tuesday afternoon. Pete Burvenich, Doug Ille, Gus Baxter and Barr Aiken all won singles matches for the victorious Bear netmen and Ille and Aiken and Art Fitz and Bruce Miller triumphed in doubles play for Potsdam. The victory put Potsdam State 4-3 on the season as they enter the State University tournament this week end at Oneonta. The summary:

Singles—Burvenich (P) defeated Walkins 7-5, 6-1; Ille (P) defeated Hay 6-1, 6-1; Baxter (P) defeated Edelstein 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Gibbs (O) defeated Fitz 6-1, 6-4; Aiken (P) defeated Rosen; Ort (O) defeated Miller 6-4, 2-6, 10-8.

Doubles—Walkin and Gibbs (O) defeated Burvenich and Baxter 7-5, 6-3; Ille and Aiken (P) defeated Edelstein and Rosen 7-5, 4-6, 6-2; Fitz and Miller (P) defeated Hay and Schwartz for forfeit.

Nearly 87 percent of all milk beverages are consumed at home, 8 percent at schools, and less than 2 percent in commercial establishments.

— SPORTS CALENDAR —

Time	Sport	Thursday, May 14	Teams	Place
4:00 p.m.	Baseball	Potsdam Hi vs Gouverneur	Friday, May 15	C'ty Club
3:00 p.m.	Baseball	Clarkson vs R.P.I.		Snell Field
1:30 p.m.	Tennis	Clarkson vs Hamilton		Snell Courts
4:00 p.m.	Baseball	Potsdam State vs R.I.T.		State Field
1:30 p.m.	Golf	Potsdam State vs Oswego		C'ty Club
			Saturday, May 16	
1:00 p.m.	Track	Potsdam Hi vs Massena		Massena
1:30 p.m.	Baseball	Potsdam State vs Cortland		State Field
1:30 p.m.	Golf	Clarkson vs St. Michael's		C'ty Club
			Monday, May 18	
4:00 p.m.	Baseball	Potsdam Hi vs Madrid		Potsdam
1:30 p.m.	Golf	Clarkson vs Middlebury		C'ty Club
			Wednesday, May 20	
4:00 p.m.	Baseball	Potsdam Hi vs Massena		Potsdam
4:00 p.m.	Baseball	Potsdam State vs Oswego		State Field
1:30 p.m.	Tennis	Potsdam State vs Oswego		State Courts

Syracuse Hoop Coach To Speak At SUCP

Fred Lewis, head basketball coach at Syracuse University, will be principal speaker at the annual athletic banquet of The State University College at Potsdam, Monday, May 18. All college sports awards will be presented at the banquet.

Lewis, a highly successful basketball standout and coach at Mississippi Southern for five seasons where his teams won 89 games and lost 38, just completed his second year as head coach at Syracuse. The former professional league All-America produced the best Syracuse team in seven years last season.

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