

RUFFING LOSES, 8-4, AS SIX SCORE IN 6TH

Vance Fails to Stem Red Sox Barrage and Yanks Suffer Defeat in First Game

NOTED HURLER'S SON STAR

Bagby Wins in Debut, Pitching Six Innings—Chapman Hits Homer—Rain Mars Battle

By JAMES P. DAWSON

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BOSTON, April 18.—Amid a modified manifestation of the customary pomp and enthusiasm, the Yankees pried the lid off the 1938 American League baseball season at Fenway Park today and, with amazing early speed, immediately went in a direction opposite to a third straight pennant which has been so generously predicted for them.

Where rain and raw, chill weather could not dampen the ardor of Joe McCarthy's baseball champions, the fighting crew of Joe Cronin did. For with a pounding of Charley the Red Ruffing, the Red Sox drove the Yankee right-hand ace to shelter in the sixth inning, pouring six runs over the plate to come from behind and clinch the ball game.

Boston's signal victory was measured by 8 runs to 4, to the undisguised chagrin of Marse McCarthy and the noisy delight of some 10,000 fans who braved the uncooperative weather for the inaugural.

New Star Rises in Hub

Tonight the gloom in the Yankee camp is as thick as the leaden skies. But the baseball fans in Boston are singing the praises of a newcomer to major league baseball, a lanky young pitcher who made his acquaintance with the big time the hard way.

His name is James C. Bagby, son of the old Cleveland hurler that name who will be remembered for his pitching against Brooklyn in the 1920 world series and for the fact that he is one of the last of the old-line big league right-handers to win thirty games in a season.

Before this afternoon young Bagby had never even seen a major league ball game. Yet the 22-year-old youth from Atlanta went out there, not affected by his surprise selection over the glamorous Robert Moses Grove nor by the significance of pitching the season's opening game, nor yet by the knowledge he was facing the mound master, Ruffing, who last year had won twenty victories in the Yankee pennant drive, and who had behind him the modern murderers' row that lacked only a single unit. And Bagby won the ball game!

Bagby wasn't around at the finish. Manager Cronin extracted him in the sixth inning, when the Sox were blistering Ruffing with a savage fire that saw the club send eleven hitters to the plate before the New York hurler's removal was accomplished. This attack subsided after Joe Vance had tested part of the Boston fire.

McKain Stops Yanks

A tactical move sent the left-handed Archie McKain in to pitch the last three innings for Boston and check the Yanks. But the six winning runs for the Sox were scored while Bagby still was technically in the ball game and the victory was credited to him.

There was tense drama in this opening game, a battle worthy of a better setting. But it was enjoyed by only a comparative few, for rain, which fell intermittently before the game, dampened the field and kept down the attendance. The clouds broke as the game started, in the second inning and again in the eighth, when a ten-minute interruption was forced.

The bunting which festooned the grandstand roof and the boxes drooped; Old Glory, flung to the breezes before the game by a detachment of marines from the Charlestown Navy Yard, waved feebly through the showers which caused crowds to leave unprotected parts of the stand and run for shelter.

Governor Charles F. Hurley of Massachusetts and fellow-executives from Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine, as well as Mayors from many nearby New England cities, were among those who were kept by the rain and cold from full enjoyment of Bagby's feat.

But to Bagby it was a great day and to his team-mates as well. For the Yankees it was a sad occasion.

Five Hits off Youngster

In the six innings he pitched, Bagby gave up five hits, three less than the experienced Ruffing. The youngster faltered in the second when one of six passes he issued was converted into a run, by Manager Cronin's error let Dickey's double later result in a run.

Bagby was unsteady in the third when he hit Red Rolfe, walked George Selkirk and intentionally passed Dickey. A single by Myrtle Hoag then fashioned two more Yankee runs and gave the champions a 4-to-2 edge.

But thereafter Bagby checked the Yankees. He handled himself like a veteran in the next three innings using a fast ball, a good curve and a change of pace judiciously as he limited the Yankee attack to one more hit.

And as if to encourage the youngster, the Red Sox rallied. They jumped to the lead when Rog Cramer's double and Jimmy Foxx's single gave them a run in the first. They got back on even terms with the Yanks in the second when Chapman, an old Yankee, poked a homer over the left-field stand.

In the sixth the full weight of their attack fell upon Ruffing. Manager Cronin started and ended the drive, opening with a single and closing with a double. In between Pinkey Higgins walked, Chapman neatly sacrificed, Bobby Doerr doubled, Gene DeSautels walked, Leo Nonnenkamp, batting for Bagby, walked and Cramer came through with his third straight hit, a single before Ruffing was removed.

After Joe Vosmik fled out, Vance took up the burden, Hoag singled and Cronin hit his double. Then the barrage subsided. But



Chapman of Red Sox crossing plate with the campaign's first homer in game with Yankees

was good for six runs that sealed the Yankees' doom.

Until late last night the decision to pitch Bagby was guarded by Manager Cronin, who didn't want to excite the youth. But the Sox could have saved his conversation. Out there on the mound Bagby was as cool as the weather.

It was the first time after six straight seasons that Lefty Vernon Gomez lost the opening pitching assignment for the Yankees. Ruffing was starting the Yankee season for the second time and was jarred at the outset when Cramer cracked his first pitch for a double off the left-field wall.

The Yanks looked spick and span in their shiny new traveling uniforms, decorated with the World's emblem, a trylon and sphere with the blue numerals 1939 against an orange background, on their sleeves.

Tomorrow, weather permitting, the clubs will clash in morning and afternoon struggles. The morning game gets under way at 10:15, the other at 3:30 P. M.

McCarthy will pitch Lefty Gomez and Monte Pearson. Manager Cronin is expected to use Lefty Hoag and Jack Wilson.

The box score:

NEW YORK (A.)	BOSTON (A.)
ab.r.h.po.a.e.	ab.r.h.po.a.e.
Lehmann, ss..4 0 0 3 2 1	Cramer, cf...5 2 3 3 0 0
Lehmann, 3b...3 1 1 0 1 0	Vosmik, lf...5 0 1 1 0 0
Lehmann, lf...4 1 0 3 0 1	Foxx, lb....5 0 2 2 2 0
Lehmann, 2b...2 1 0 7 0 0	Cronin, ss...4 1 2 2 2 1
Lehmann, c...3 1 2 4 0 0	Higgins, ss...3 1 0 1 4 1
Lehmann, rf...4 0 1 2 0 0	Chapman, rf...3 1 1 1 0 0
Lehmann, cf...4 0 2 4 0 0	Doerr, 2b...4 1 2 3 3 0
Lehmann, 2b...4 0 0 1 3 0	Desautels, c...3 1 0 7 0 0
Lehmann, p...3 0 0 0 2 0	Bagby, p....2 0 0 0 1 0
Ruffing, p...0 0 0 0 0 0	Nonnenkamp, p. 0 1 0 0 0 0
Vance, p...0 0 0 0 0 0	McKain, p...1 0 0 0 0 0
Hoag, p...1 0 0 0 0 0	
Total.....32 4 6 24 8 2	Total.....35 8 11 27 12 2

Batted for Vance in ninth.
 Batted for Bagby in sixth.
 New York.....0 2 2 0 0 0 0 0—4
 Boston.....1 1 0 0 6 0 0—8
 Runs batted in—Hoag 2, Henrich, Foxx 2, Chapman 2, Doerr 2, Cronin.
 Base hits—Dickey, Hoag, Cramer, Cronin, Doerr.
 Home run—Chapman. Sacrifice—Chapman.
 Double plays—Higgins, Foxx and Cronin; Cronin and Foxx; Doerr and Foxx. Left on base—New York 8, Boston 7. Bases on balls—Off Ruffing 3, Bagby 6. Struck out—By Ruffing 3, Vance 1, Bagby 5, McKain 2. Hits—Off Ruffing 8 in 5 1-3 innings, Vance 3 in 2 2-3, Bagby 6, McKain 1 in 3. Winning pitcher—Bagby. Relief pitcher—Ruffing. Hit by pitcher—By Bagby (Rolfe). Umpires—Summers, Quinn and Rue. Time of game—2:10.