

## Studebakers Enjoy Banner Diamond Year

BY DAVE GALLUP.

The Studebaker Athletics, an assemblage of amateur baseball players which disbanded recently to follow varied winter occupations, holds the distinction of having compiled the best record of any team to represent the Studebaker Athletic association in the organization's 15-year history.

There are no cut-and-dried records to prove this statement, but Ernest A. Hammond, secretary of the Studebaker Athletic association, and Dick Studebaker, who has been following Studebaker athletic enterprises since he was in knee trousers, say it is so. Both are in a good position to know.

Mr. Studebaker even went so far as to say that Studebaker teams of past years, including the semi-pro clubs, were lucky to win half of their ball games. The 1940 A's won 31 and lost six.

**Hammond Mellow.**

The Studebaker baseball situation has placed Mr. Hammond in a mellow frame of mind. Said he: "The Studebaker Athletic association is grateful for the support given baseball at Lippincott park during the season just past, and this support has inspired us to plan an even better program for next summer."

Not only were the A's more successful than any of their predecessors in the matter of winning games, but they also came the closest to making expenses, according to informed sources.

Fred Foreman, director of baseball for the Studebaker Athletic association, and responsible in large measure for the all-around success of the team, had little comment to make except that as a baseball lover he had enjoyed his work in connection with the team.

**Highlight of the A's season,** of course, was their 2-2 victory over the Kansas City Monarchs, scourge of Negro baseball. This was accomplished behind the five-hit pitching of Eddie Hanyzewski, who finished the season with nine victories and one defeat. The powerful right-hander, who has big league ambitions and a good chance to realize them, went undefeated until the tail-end of the season when the Chicago American Giants finally caught up with him.

**A Bad Night.**

The Giants smacked poor Eddie for 10 hits in the first three innings—12 altogether—to beat the A's, 12-3. Hanyzewski went the route, however, and allowed but two hits in the last six innings.

Bernie Witucki, whose qualities of natural leadership were largely responsible for the A's actual playing success, also ranks his team's reversal of form against the Elkhart Conns. a definite sinx of the previous season, as a highlight of the 1940 season.

The A's whipped the Conns twice this year, after losing three straight to them last season.

"We were able to play better ball all around this year," explained Witucki, "because we had had a year of experience under lights and because we had veterans like Ray Thomas, Stan Wrobel and Russ Kurtz on our roster."

"Thomas made a big difference behind the plate and Wrobel made a lot of tough chances look easy out there on second base. Kurtz didn't miss much out in center field and his presence there gave us all a lot of confidence."

Biggest stumbling block of the A's this year were the Sturgis, Mich., Boosters, who defeated them twice, 6-0 and 4-1, before Hanyzewski was finally rushed out to tone them down, 6-1, in a third meeting at Lippincott.

Sturgis, incidentally, was the only team to beat the A's twice this season, and the Chicago American Giants and the Battle Creek, Mich., Postums were the only two teams to beat the A's without taking a beating in return. The A's only had one crack at each of the latter two clubs.

**Winter Program.**

A wide field of winter activity awaits members of the disbanded A's. Catcher Thomas, Pitcher Clem Strozewski and Second Base-

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