

ORANGE PEKOE BLEND "SALAM" TEA



SYNOPSIS
Since Pop Clark distanced his famous Blue Fire-eaters ten years ago he has been vainly trying to win the United League pennant with his Royal Blue. Sport writers give them little chance.

CHAPTER VIII

"What has your daughter to do with this?"

"Nothing, that is, nothing at all," Pop Clark said, "but what was she doing there?"

"You mean when Doyle slugged him on the jaw?"

"Yes."

"Well, Whitper deserved it. He was trying to kill the kid."

"That's the point," Pop said. "There has been blood between them since early this spring."

"Oh, there has?"

"Yes—and that is how my daughter came into it. She travels with me, as you know. Whitper was becoming too attentive during our exhibition games. I didn't like it, but didn't say anything until she showed a preference for young Doyle. When Whitper began to act up, I told them both to stay away. Whitper didn't like it, said it was Doyle's fault for butting in. Doyle wouldn't take that and they had a row. I may have been a little unreasonable about that, but it made me mad to have those two fighting over my daughter as though she were an ordinary wrench. I lost my temper, then and told them to stay away from each other."

"Just a nice little family mix-up, isn't it?"

"I was surprised at today's display of temper, however," Pop went on. "The two boys weren't friendly until we had to trouble of any kind until today."

"Doyle is pretty cocky and that's probably what got under Whitper's skin," Terry suggested.

"He played great baseball for a rookie," Kelly said with admiration. "I expected to see him go smash any minute, but he played like a veteran."

"He's got to learn to keep his head," Pop said.

"Yes, he has," Kelly agreed.

"Where were you, Pop, when Whitper was shot?"

"Out in front of the dugout. I was worried about the game. It looked bad for us at that moment, but thought we had the game in the bag and then Whitper upset everything with that wonderful hit of his."

"Where was young Doyle?"

"I don't know. I think he went up to change. He was out of the game for good and he knew it."

"That's bad," Kelly said.

"You don't think that Doyle—"

Pop began.

"You're not thinking, I'm just wondering. This was Doyle's first game. He played good ball and then lost his head and I don't blame him for that either. I'd probably have kicked the guy myself. I'll have to know where he was at the time of the shot."

Pop shook his head. "He looked pretty good when I called him. I guess he was ashamed of himself. He took a while for them to forget college spirit and learn the commercial angle of the game."

Kelly turned to Terry. "What do you know about Whitper's run? Got your notes?"

"Yes, read," Harper was on hand ready to go home. The first ball to Whitper was a called strike. Then Higgins changed his pace and Whitper swung with all his might, put-

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