

# Pinch Hits, "The Eagle Has Landed"

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On April 8, 1916, Cleveland Indians Vice President Robert McRoy announces that the club has acquired 27-year-old star outfielder Tris Speaker from the Boston Red Sox for pitcher Sam Jones, a player to be named later, and \$55,000.

The player to be named later turns out to be minor league infielder Fred Thomas, who is coming off a .265, 11-home run season with the New Orleans Pelicans of the Southern (A) Association.

The trade of Speaker, nicknamed "The Grey Eagle" and the 1912 American League MVP, is a result of the inability to come to terms with the Red Sox on the question of salary.

Because he is much in demand by teams from the Federal League two years earlier, Speaker is reputed to be one of the two highest-paid players in the American League with a yearly salary of \$17,000 - possibly higher at the time than Detroit's Ty Cobb.

However, with the demise of the Federal League, Red Sox owner Joe Lannin reportedly offers Speaker a contract for the 1916 season in the \$9,000-\$10,000 range. In his four years as the team owner, Lannin's Red Sox win back-to-back World Series in 1915 and 1916.

While not disclosing the actual amount, Cleveland Indians' President James C. Dunn says, "We paid more money for Speaker than the Chicago Americans paid for Eddie Collins or the New York Americans paid for J. Franklin Baker."

Speaker will go on to hit over .350 in ten of his eleven years with Cleveland. In his first year (1916) with the Indians, he snaps Ty Cobb's unprecedented streak of nine straight American League batting titles by besting the "Georgia Peach" by 15 points (.386-to-.371).

Two days prior to the trade Boston reportedly offers Speaker to the New York Yankees in exchange for Fritz Maisel and a "bunch of cash." The Yankees are willing to pay "handsomely" for Speaker but are unwilling to part with Maisel. Boston's Lannin disputes that his star outfielder will be traded and says that he expects Speaker to sign his contract with a couple of days, "I haven't thought of such a trade," says Lannin. "Speaker will sign in a few days and will be in center field for Boston as usual."

## SPEAKER REPORTED SLATED FOR NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 8.—Tris Speaker is slated ultimately to join the Yankees, according to information supposed to be authentic. The "dope" is that New York failing to make an offer satisfactory to Lannin, the Cleveland owners, who are very close to Ban Johnson, were prevailed upon to act as middlemen, and that within a day or so the sale of Speaker to New York will be announced.

While no confirmation of this is possible, it is a known fact that Johnson would go the limit to put a championship team in the metropolis, and Speaker, it is needless to say, would "help some."

seasons with Boston, Jones is 64-59 with a 3.39 ERA before the temperamental right-hander is involved in a six-player trade with the New York Yankees that brings Rip Collins, Roger Peckinpaugh, Bill Piercy, Jack Quinn (and \$100,000) to Bean Town.

In 11 seasons with the Indians, Speaker hits .354 with 1,954 hits, including 486 doubles, 108 triples, 73 home runs and drives in 886 runs. In 1937, the Hubbard, Texas, native is elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

IT'S GOODBY AND GOOD LUCK  
AND HERE'S TO YOU, TRIS!



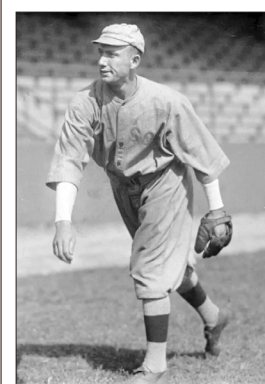
"Whale of a Price,"  
Admits Lannin

Couldn't Afford to Pay Him  
\$15,000 Salary, He Says

Offered \$10,000---Sure Team  
Will Win Another Pennant

On the morning after the trade, the Boston Post runs a sidebar (right) says that the Indians were "middlemen" and that Speaker will eventually end up with the New York Yankees.

It will take Thomas two years to make it to the majors. The 25-year-old Milwaukee native hits .257 in 1918 with one home run and 11 RBIs for the Red Sox before being sold to the Philadelphia Athletics for \$1,500. In six



Sam Jones  
Boston Red Sox