

BAKER ABSOLVED OF CONTRACT JUMPING—PHILLIES GAIN SLIGHTLY IN LEAGUE RACE

FRANK BAKER IS ABSOLVED OF CONTRACT-JUMPING CHARGE

Interstate Association Refuses to Bar Slugger From Upland Team—Bancroft's Running Mate Available for Moran as Reserve Second Baseman—Athletics Going Strong.

The Interstate Association refused to bar Frank Baker from playing with the Upland Club of the Delaware County League. This was only what was to be expected, and the resignation of three of the leagues which are members of the association, together with the resignation of Joseph R. Rogers as president created no surprise. Nor will there be any surprise or regret if the entire association disbands.

It was evident from the moment Baker joined Upland that the Delaware County League would quit the organization rather than give up this splendid drawing card, and it is safe to say that any other club in the organization would have taken Baker had it been able to pay him the enormous salary he draws at Upland.

Baker Not Regarded as Contract Jumper

There was no real reason for barring Baker, as the Interstate Association was in no sense harboring a contract jumper when it accepted Baker, as Manager Mack has admitted that his former star could play any place he pleased, except with another organized ball club or the Federal League. Baker contends that Mack told him he was willing to have him play independent ball so long as it was not with a local team.

It is significant that the action of the Interstate League clubs caused the resignation of two of the local leagues that were members of the association, both leagues having great respect and friendship for Manager Mack and the Athletics. Playing with Upland, Baker is not injuring the Athletics in any way, as the Mackmen do not draw ten people a Saturday from that section of Delaware County. The Upland Club made it plain that Baker had an agreement whereby he could sever his connections with that team any time Manager Mack called upon him to join the Athletics.

Wyckoff's Work Boosts Hopes of Athletics

The Athletics were blanked by lanky Carl Weiman and were retired in order for seven of the nine innings, but there was some satisfaction for the Mackmen in the fact that Wyckoff gave another sterling exhibition of twirling. Wyckoff's good games are becoming so consistent that it is apparent this young man is through with his weird and erratic performances.

An odd feature of the game was the record made by Wally Schang. He threw out six Browns who tried to steal, a trick that has not been turned by a major league catcher in several years. Last season Charley Doolin turned back five of the Giants in the final series of the year in New York, while Jimmy Archer, Ray Schalk and Killefer each had six assists in a game, but in each instance they received assists for plays other than on base stealers.

The Athletics continue to look rather weak with the stick, but it does not necessarily mean that they are in a batting slump. It is likely that the pitching for the last week has been just a little bit better than the Athletics faced in the East.

Tip to Manager Moran on a Second Baseman

This might interest Pat Moran: The Cleveland American League club is about to trade or send Bill Rodgers back to the Pacific Coast League. Rodgers is dissatisfied in Cleveland, and insists that he would rather go back to Portland than play in Cleveland. He played second base, with Dave Bancroft at short, at Portland last season, and the pair was picked as one of the four greatest "key-stone" combinations that the veteran Harry White has ever seen.

When Rodgers went to Cleveland and Bancroft to the Phillies, White said that one might not go well without the other for a time, but that as a team they could strengthen any major league club in the land, barring the Braves. White also stated that the Cleveland club, which has first option on all Portland players, made a great mistake in not buying Bancroft at any price after it had exercised its option on Rodgers.

That White was right, so far as Bancroft is concerned, will be vouched for by every one who has seen the new Philly shortstop, and it is safe to predict that Rodgers would be just as much of a star if he had Bancroft working with him, because Rodgers was admittedly a better man on the coast.

Niehoff's work has been high class, and it would be foolhardy to replace him with any one at present, but Rodgers would be a pretty handy man for Moran to have around for the future, as he is many years the junior of either Niehoff or Dugue. It is likely that Rodgers could be had at the waiver price or in some sort of a trade, and he would be worth the chance, as the reserve strength of the Phillies has not looked particularly strong.

Jake Daubert's Handicap in Taking Throws

A fan wants to know why Jake Daubert was not placed among those who are wonders among first basemen at taking throws in to a runner.

In the comment on this subject in these columns Daubert was not placed in this class for the simple reason that Daubert is really weak on thrown balls in to a runner, although a marvel on other throws. Fred Tenney is the only left-handed first sacker who was ever really a star in this department, though for a time Hal Chase's manipulation of his gloved hand made him famous on plays of this sort.

Left-handed first basemen may have an advantage over right-handers in some respects, but the advantage is lost, and then some, on balls that are on their bare hand.

Most infielders have a decided incurve to their throws, particularly those who throw underhand. As a result, the ball is in to the runner half the time if the throw is not true, and a left-handed first baseman cannot get his glove over in time, and a bare-hand play with the runner and ball reaching the bag at the same time is a rarity.

It is for this same reason that left-handed pitchers make more wild pitches than right handers. A southpaw's fast ball is always breaking away from the catcher's gloved hand, and it is not only dangerous but next to impossible to stop entirely a fast ball on the outside of the plate with the bare hand. Of course, there are a few right handers, such as Wyckoff, who can make wild pitches of all descriptions and at any time.

Another Walter Johnson Reported Discovered

Cliff Blankenship, discoverer of Walter Johnson, is now managing the Salt Lake City team, of the Pacific Coast circuit, and has his men leading the league, mainly through the effectiveness of a young pitcher named Williams. Blankenship is admittedly a wonderful judge of pitchers, being responsible for Tom Seaton, "Dutch" Leonard, Harry Krause and Bill Steen. He says that Williams is another Johnson.

Minor league managers have a habit of boosting their own players in the hope of getting a good price for them from major league clubs, but Blankenship is evidently sincere when he goes so far as to state that Williams is as fast as, if not faster than Johnson, but decidedly green. When Blankenship brought Johnson to Washington the speed king was as green as they come, and Cliff got the laugh, but the laugh is on the other side now.

Judge Landis Longing for Old Seat at Ball Park

It is said that Judge Landis has not attended a baseball game this summer, because of the suits of Organized Baseball and the Federal League which are in his hands. In other years Judge Landis was a daily attendant at the games of the three leagues in Chicago, and, if some reports are true, he was always at the Federal League park when possible.

He does not think that it is proper for him to attend the games until he has disposed of the suits. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why Judge Landis is trying to bring about a peace settlement. The baseball fever has evidently taken hold of him and he is longing for a seat in the stand among the real fans.

Schoolboys Are Making Great Track Records

College men should not entirely lose sight of what some freshmen and schoolboy athletes are doing on track and field these days. There were some notable performances in various dual meets on Saturday. In the meet between the Yale and Princeton first-year men, Orr, of Yale, ran a quarter in 49.4-5 seconds, time fast enough for most college men.

In the Pennsylvania Freshman-Mercersburg meet, Cory, of the Quakers, ran the low hurdles in 25.4-5 seconds. The Cornell freshmen who lost to Hill School brought forth some sterling performances. Hickman, of Cornell, cleared 22 feet 7 inches in the broad jump, and 11 feet 4 inches in the pole vault, while Shelton ran a quarter in 50.1-5 seconds. Smith, of Mercersburg, who ran a quarter in 49.8-5 seconds at the Penn Relays, distinguished himself by running 100 yards in 10 seconds.

FLEMING AND COSTER BATTLE AT BROADWAY

Gray's Ferry Lightweight Will Try For 21st Consecutive Victory in Tonight's Bout.

Buck Fleming, of Gray's Ferry, will endeavor to score his 21st consecutive victory of the season when he meets a worthy opponent in Jimmy Coster, of Little Italy, tonight in the star bout at the Broadway A. C.

Since entering the lightweight division Fleming has been fighting in corking form. He is as fast as any of the 135-pounders here and overcomes his lack of hitting ability by cleverness.

The program follows: First bout—Black Dundee, Smoky Hollow, vs. Mickey O'Brien, Southwark. Second bout—Eddie Rando, Point Breeze, vs. Johnny Lincoln, Bell Road.

Third bout—Phil Chip, Southwark, vs. Billy Ryan, Fairmount.

Semi-windup—Johnny Clark, Little Italy, vs. Lew Stinger, Little Italy.

Special number—Battle royal between 12 gentlemen of color.

Windup—Buck Fleming, Gray's Ferry, vs. Jimmy Coster, Little Italy.

WILMINGTON BOWLERS NOSE OUT LEADERS

Warren Team Tops Score of White Elephants in Championship Tournament.

The Warren team, of Wilmington, won the championship of Class A in the local city association and adjacent districts tourney, which was concluded on Terminal Alleys last night, by totaling 234 in the five-men matches, beating the previous high score of the White Elephants, of this city, who last Thursday totaled 232. The Wilmington team was given 20 pins handicap and knocked down 531, 550 and 1013 pins.

Switchboard, champions of the Western Electric League, also annexed the Class C championship by totaling 2414 pins, surpassing the total of the Aetna quintet, who registered 2345 on Tuesday night. The winner in Class B is Edouard team, with 2543.

The opening three-men team games were also rolled last night. In Class C the combination of Arrison, Smith and Sheets rolled well and hung up a total of 2474, which is considered a very good start in this class.

FIVE MEN TEAMS

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Totals, 531 550 1013. Totals, 780 827 894.

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