

GREAT PITCHING HOLDS PHILLIES IN LEAD-GOOD FIGHTS AT OLYMPIA A. A. TONIGHT

DOWNFALL OF DOAK BLOW TO ST. LOUIS CARDINALS' HOPES

Last Year's Leading Pitcher of National League Has Failed Huggins This Season and Team Is Down—Alexander's Pitching Is Sensation, But Oh for a Record!

Just how much one star pitcher means to a ball club is apparent in the work of the St. Louis Cardinals to date. Last season Huggins' team was in the National League pennant chase until the last two weeks of the season, and pitching alone kept the Westerners up in the race.

That pitcher was one William Doak, who turned in 19 victories out of 25 games pitched. This mark entitled him to the honor of leading pitcher in the National League, and placed him above Grover Cleveland Alexander, Big Bill James, Dick Rudolph and Jeff Tereau, all of whom are considered better pitchers because they are able to stand more work than Doak, who must be carefully nursed.

But 19 victories are 19 victories, and that makes a great difference in any ball club's standing, and the fact that Doak led the country in percentage of earned runs scored by opponents makes his 1914 performance all the more impressive.

Without Doak Cardinals Have Scant Hope

When Perritt was turned over to the Giants, Manager Huggins gave up a good pitcher, but he was not counting on Perritt so strongly as he had Niehaus, a southpaw, and the veteran Purdie, who was slated to work regularly this year.

In 256 innings last season Doak allowed only 79 runs, or an average of 1.72 per 9-inning game, which is remarkable in itself. But still more remarkable is the fact that but 49 of the 79 runs were earned. This means that 30 runs were scored against Doak through misplays by his teammates, and perhaps at least 10 more runs were tallied through errors of omission.

The present season finds matters completely reversed. Instead of being the effective pitcher that Huggins was counting upon, Doak has been hit hard in all but two games he has pitched. This is proved by the fact that prior to Saturday's game against the Phillies he had been found for 25 runs in 50 innings.

Last Year's Record Compared With This Season's

On Saturday the Phillies drove Doak from the box in one inning, and tallied four earned runs. One run scored by Bancroft on a walk is not counted as earned in the box score, but is charged to Doak in the pitching records because he was responsible for the man reaching first.

With Doak in form, the Cardinals will climb in the race, but without him they must remain in the second division unless another sensational performer is discovered and Huggins' young pitchers have not shown enough to warrant the belief that any of them will be a Doak. It is also no sure thing that Doak will come back strong.

Often a young pitcher proves a sensation in his first season and never comes through thereafter. The remarkable career of Harry Krause, with the Athletics, in 1909, is an example of this uncertainty.

Alexander Performs Remarkable Feat

Alexander's pitching against the Cardinals on Saturday was even more remarkable than the 12 strike-outs would indicate. Prior to that game the season's strike-out record was 11, also held by Alexander, while the National League record is 14, made by Nap Rucker, of Brooklyn, several years ago.

Had Saturday's game with St. Louis been close enough to keep Alexander going at top speed, there is every reason to believe that he would have hung up a new strike-out record for the National League.

In the first inning, Beck sacrificed on the first ball pitched, and in the fourth Dolan lifted a fly to Paskert on the first ball thrown. Every other batter had at least one strike called.

Butler fled to Becker in the seventh, with long single; Butler singled to right with one strike in the seventh, while Long singled and Butler fled out in the ninth, with one strike called.

After being given a 7-run lead in five innings, Alexander did not exert himself, or it is likely that at least three more players who had two strikes called would have struck out.

Oh! For Just One Record for the Great "Alex"

For Alexander's sake it is a pity that the game was not a pitchers' battle, as it would have placed the Nebraskan's name at the head of the list for strike-outs. Though a wonderful pitcher, in fact the best in the land, Alexander has no real record that will stand out prominently years after he has departed the way all must go.

Should Alexander break Mathewson's record of 36, made 10 years ago, it is likely to stand as a mark for all time, as the present-day pitchers, aside from a few, get but half the work the pitchers did 20 years ago.

Pitching Has Held Phillies in Lead.

The Phillies' batting slump is over. The team may not hit all pitchers as they hit Doak, Adams and Madows since awakening from their slumps, but the average clouting will be by far greater than it has been to date.

All ball clubs seem to get about three batting slumps in a season, and their position in the race is generally determined by the length of time the club remains in this slump.

The remarkable pitching of the Phillies' entire staff in the face of such discouraging batting and fielding presages bright things. Alexander, Chalmers, Mayer, Rixey and Demaree continue their consistently brilliant clip and may be counted upon to go even better when the team is giving them a few more runs.

GREAT AND NEAR-GREAT IN BASEBALL



COFFEY MUST BEAT FLYNN BEFORE HE MEETS WILLARD

Jack Curley Issues Ultimatum on New Heavyweight's Demands.

NEW YORK, May 17.—"I want to say just one word regarding Billy Gibson's challenge and offer of \$25,000 on behalf of Jim Coffey's contention that he be given a match with Jess Willard," writes Jack Curley.

WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN BASEBALL TODAY

Table with columns: Clubs, W., L., Pct., Win. Lose. for National League and American League.

FEDERAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: Clubs, W., L., Pct., Win. Lose. for Federal League.

Grover Cleveland Alexander is the sensation in National League pitching. Bill Doak was the league leader last season and kept the St. Louis Cardinals up in the race.

"FANNING" WITH GRANTLAND RICE. Doctors—Attention! I know that anti-toxin helps a diphtheritic case; That certain famous serums hurt tuberculosis back;

J. HEFFERNAN HOPES TO KNOCK OUT HIRST

Meet at Olympia Tonight. Young Erne Can Beat Willie Moore, Says Trainer.

The Olympia Club patrons may not see a repetition of the Willie Moore-Joe Heffernan battle at the Broad street arena tonight, when the latter endeavors to hang his sheep poultrie on Joe Hirst's jaw, but the principals should put up an interesting match.

Tomorrow night at the Fairmount A. C. Preston Brown and Young Pierce, two of the cleverest negro featherweights in the city, will meet in the star bout.

Young Nelson and Harry Kates will be the principals in the final bout of the 105-pound amateur tournament at the Gayety Theatre Wednesday night.

Although many of the staid followers in this city believe that Young Erne is through as a fighter and should hang up the gloves for good, a well-known fight trainer told the writer that he was almost positive that Y. E. could take the measure of Willie Moore.

Paddy Sullivan, said to be another Mike Gibbons, has arrived in New York from St. Paul and his manager, Billy McDonald, believes the Irishman will make even a bigger hit than Pompadour Mike.

Before the boxing game is over for the 1915 season Harry Diamond is anxious to show just once more with the mittens.

After trying for two years to get a match with Ad Wolgast, Leach Cross finally has been booked to meet the one-time champion at the St. Nicholas rink.

Billy McCarney, of this city, is a muckpotter now. He was appointed to back bouts for the new American Sporting Club.

Tomorrow night Eddie O'Keefe, of this city, will oppose Eddie Wallace, of Brooklyn, at the Broadway Sporting Club, Brooklyn.

PHILS' AND ATHLETICS' BATTING AVERAGES. These figures include games played to date.

Table with columns: PHILLIES, AB, R, H, TB, SH, P.C., BB, SO, Error.

Table with columns: ATHLETICS, AB, R, H, TB, SH, P.C., BB, SO, Error.

World's Swimming Relay Record. NEW YORK, May 17.—George Moore will begin tonight the defense of the three-cup billiard championship he won in the recent Penn Charter match.

Polo Player Badly Injured. HONOLULU, May 17.—Lieutenant Clarence L. ...

FOURTH STREET CLUB WINS. Clinches Championship of Interclub League on Saturday.

Recreation and Interest. Here in this country we go to ball games and play golf or tennis about the same as usual.

Forced Marches. Keep your eyes open and your mouth shut—and you can write your own ticket.

Nothing Doing. Sir: What chance do you think Jess Willard or Jim Coffey would have against Corbett or Fitzsimmons back in their prime?

CLASH IN OLYMPIA FINAL TONIGHT. Joe Heffernan, West Philadelphia's knockout artist, is the figure on the left.

STORAGE BATTERY. Starting Willard Lighting. Before Your Car Starts in good condition, tell us how on the what to do to avoid all chances of Tour starting or lighting troubles.

Have Your Battery Inspected at: Philadelphia, Pa.—J. G. Duncan, Jr., 121-123 S. 24th St., and 1311 Race St.

Save Garage Rent. Own your own portable garage. Portable freestanding metal garage.

JOHN A. CALL. 122-24 N. Franklin. "ANYTHING IN SHEET METALS" Have Our Salesman Call.

EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—ALL OF WHICH SHOWS, FRIEND LOUIE, THE FOLLY OF STOPPING AT THIRD WITH CRAVATH AT THE BAT



WATCHFUL WAITING. SLAM! CLINK! CLINK! SMASH! HILL-BOTTLE MUSIC. STANLEY STAW! JOHN BARLEYCORN, EXPLAIN THYSELF! DO YA WANNA KNOW THE LAST PLACE I'VE BEEN BEFORE COMIN' HOME? YES, WELL NASHERLY DEAR. GO ON! I STOPPED AT THIR' BASE! YOW! THINK IT OVER! DEEP STUFF HEY!