

PHILLIES IN FINAL BEFORE SWING AROUND CIRCUIT-ATHLETICS STILL IN THE RACE

PHILLIES FACE "MAKE OR BREAK" TEST IN SWING AROUND CIRCUIT

Every Club in League to Be Met in Trip Beginning Tomorrow. Brooklyn, "Dark Horse" of Race, to Be Feared—Moran's Pitchers Ready—Athletics Not Out of the Race.

The Phillies start on their first swing around the National League circuit tomorrow, and every team in the league will be met before Moran's men return to the city. It is the make or break trip so far as the Phillies' pennant chances are concerned, according to the way it is doped out by the fans.

Local fans are of the opinion that the Phillies are a game ball club, as game as they come, but they do not think that the team can survive a trip such as the Athletics just had through the West. It is much easier to come from behind when opponents are paying no particular attention to a team until it has up its full speed than it is to come back after being jolted out of first place and possibly dropping into fourth or fifth.

First Real Trials Are Now On

Manager Moran can expect nothing but the best of pitching against his club on the coming trip. Every team in the league has become aware of the fact that the Phillies must be stopped soon or they will become convinced that they are the class of the league, and when a ball club gets that feeling it is doubly hard to stop it.

The Phillies are full of confidence now, but it is quite likely that they are worrying just a little about this first trip. It is a team that is likely to improve 50 per cent. If this first test is passed with flying colors, Moran is fortunate in having his pitching staff in wonderful shape, and barring possibly the Cubs no other club in the league is likely to get as good mound work for some time to come.

Phillies Have Cause to Fear Brooklyn

To date the Braves have been rather easy for the Phillies, but the series in Boston starting tomorrow may find things changed a bit. The Braves have James and Tyler in shape now, and though they were beaten four games in a row by the Cubs, the world's champions are likely to start on a spurt at any time.

After this series they tackle Brooklyn, and this is the club that must be crushed. The impression is growing in the National League that Brooklyn is the "dark horse" of the race. It is the best hitting club in the league, and the return to form of Pfeffer spells trouble for the other seven teams. It is a club that will be hard to trim if it once gets in the lead.

Little attention has been paid to Robinson's team, and the fact that it has come from a bad last to third place in three weeks' time is being overlooked. At present Brooklyn is only three and a half games behind the Phillies and a poor start in Boston will place the Dodgers in position to oust the Phillies from the top rung of the ladder in their series.

Moran's Pitchers Ready for the Test

In the West the Phillies have little to fear if they can get away with the Cubs, provided they do not return to the slump that has followed them for more than two weeks. Alexander, Chalmers and Mayer are in grand shape, while Rixey and Demaree are improving daily. With young Baumgartner to do relief twirling, there is little to fear from the pitching staff unless it shows a sudden reversal of form.

There is not another club in the country which has been fortunate enough to use relief pitchers as seldom as the Phillies have to date, and this means a lot as the race gets warmer. Foreign fields, with their long fences, will also tend to bring the Phillies back to the style of play that was so effective early in the season. Too much home-run hitting caused the team to go into its first batting slump, and the change will be good for the total batting average.

Athletics by no Means Out of the Race

While the Athletics are struggling to hold their lead away from home, the Athletics will be battling at Shibe Park to come back to the form that may mean the flying of another pennant in this city. The champions are lucky to have had their slump at this time if they are going to get out of it on the present home stand. The Mackmen are by no means out of the race, as the White Sox, who are now out in front, are not nearly so far ahead as the Tigers were last season and in 1911, when the Athletics hung about the bottom of the ladder until the latter part of July.

It must be admitted that the Athletics were a much better looking ball club in those days, but so were the Tigers, and yet they were caught in August. The pitching staff has been holding the Athletics back now, but it may be that this same bunch of youngsters are gaining the experience and confidence needed to bring them around. If that staff of youngsters ever gets working, the general opinion among baseball men is that the Mackmen will go along in a sensational manner.

The great work of Lajoie in the West amazed the fans, and it is certain that second base will not be the weak point in the Mack machine. Third base is, of course, not as well taken care of as in the past, but Kopp's weakness will not be noticed if the pitchers can go the route. With a crippled team the Athletics have been scoring heavily against all pitchers in the West and a sensational trip would have been enjoyed had the pitchers held up their end. The staff is gradually finding itself. Bases on balls are fewer and the changing of pitchers is becoming less frequent. These are good signs, and with plenty of chance for morning practice the Athletics will probably look like a different team in two weeks.

Gawky Cy Williams a Comer With Cubs

"Did you ever see a man who looked more awkward than that big fellow, Williams?" asked a fan, as he watched the giant outfielder chasing a fly. To be candid, one seldom sees a ball player who looks as ungainly as Williams, but this is because of his great height. Williams, nevertheless, is one of the fastest men in the game and is really anything but clumsy.

Williams is a graduate of Notre Dame University, and, while a student there, mixed track athletics and football with baseball. As a hurdler, Williams had no equal in the Middle West during his college career, and was such a brilliant all-around track star that he was persuaded to try for the championship of the world at the Olympic Games at Stockholm. However, he decided to stay at home and start on his professional baseball career. This decision may have made Jim Thorpe's way much easier at Stockholm, if reports from reliable track specialists of Chicago are true.

As a ball player, Williams was never a howling success until this season, though he has warmed the bench at Chicago for two seasons. Joe Tinker and Hank O'Day both passed him over because he was such a gawky-looking individual, but Bresnahan realized that he was a diamond in the rough and gave him a regular position. Williams has more than fulfilled the predictions made for him while he was a collegian.

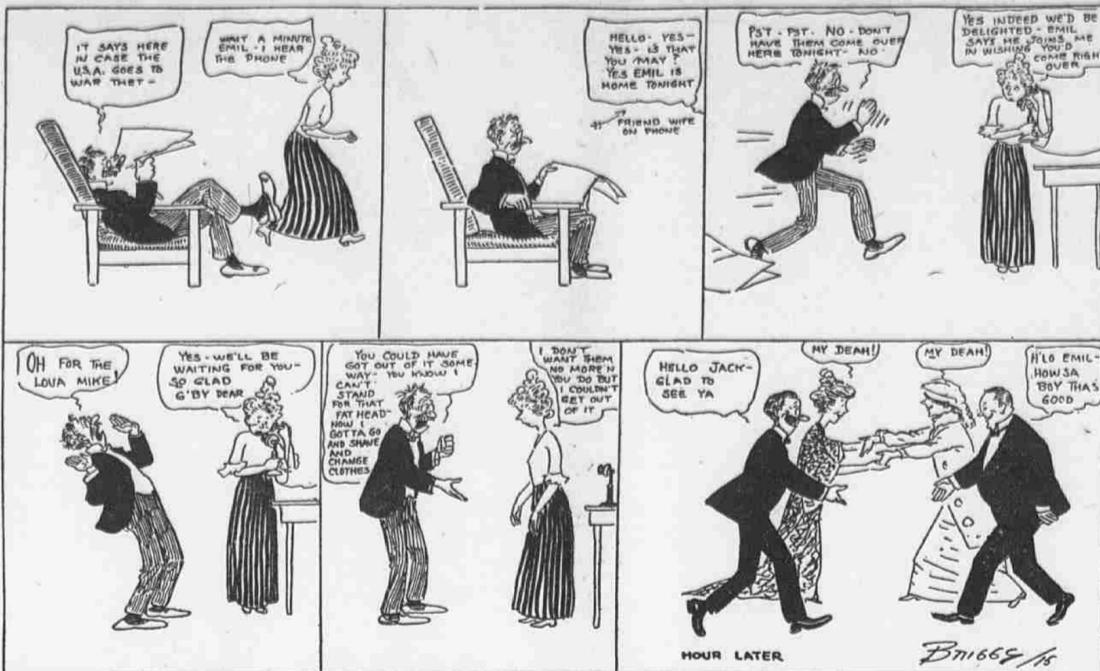
In Chicago he is looked upon as the successor of the famous Bill Lange, who was the idol of the centre-field bleacherites 20 years ago. Frank Schulte, a terrific hitter himself, says that Williams hits a ball harder than any left-handed batter in the game. This was borne out by his drive in Cincinnati this season, which went into the right-field bleachers. The longest previous hit on the new Redland Field had been made by Fred Luderus, and his drive hit the bleachers on the second bounce. No other player has even hit the bleacher wall, except with a ball that managed to roll there. It is the longest fence in any major league field, and the fans could scarcely believe that Williams had lifted the ball into the bleachers. He is still a youngster, having just passed his 24th milestone, and he should get better right along in the next two or three seasons.

McGinnity Still Iron Man in Baseball

Old Joe McGinnity, for years the real iron man of baseball, is still a marvel in the higher-classed minor leagues. On May 14, pitching for Tacoma, he shut out Aberdeen with four hits, and came back on the 16th and again shut out the same team, allowing but two hits. McGinnity is manager and half owner of the Tacoma club, but he still does the lion's share of the pitching, because he loves the game.

When a member of the Brooklyn champions in 1900, and later with McGraw's pennant-winning Giants, McGinnity thought nothing of pitching double-headers, and hardly a season went by that he did not pitch 50 full games, besides doing wonderful rescue work. His control made him a marvel. He still has it, and does not average a base on balls a game.

IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST OF REGULATED FAMILIES



O'DONNELL IS STRONG FOR MACK GO TONIGHT

Weight Will Not Weaken Him, Gloucester Battler Says. Open-air Boxing Bouts Here.

Joe O'Donnell, the boy with the punch and idol of Gloucester, believes that the weight governing his match with Willie Mack, of Southwark, at the Broadway tonight will not weaken him. He hopes to return a victor by a knockout. Mack is an elusive boxer and unless Knock-out Joe crosses a haymaker Willie should win because of his better knowledge of the hit-and-get-away game. Previous to the bout scales will be placed in the ring and the principals will weigh in at 123 pounds.

The program follows: First bout—Dutch George, Fairmount, vs. Dever Kid, Fairmount. Second bout—Young Hockey, Southwark, vs. Johnny Gibbons, Southwark. Third bout—Chris Waugh, Gloucester, vs. John Lincen, Bell road. Semifinal—Willie Hannon, Point Breeze, vs. Billy Hater, Smoky Hollow. Wind-up—Joe O'Donnell, Gloucester, vs. Willie Mack, Southwark. Two open-air clubs will stage shows on Friday night. Tomorrow night the Fairhill A. C., 3d street and Lehigh avenue, under the management of Stanley Dooley, will hold its opening stag with Young McGovern and Young Jack Toland featuring in the star bout. Sun Ford, of West Philadelphia, is trying to hook up Jack Fitzgerald and Terry Martin for the first show at the Ludlow A. C., 60th and Ludlow streets, for June 4. Ford will be matchmaker and referee of this arena.

Al Rue is of the opinion that his miniature fight protege, Joe Bradley, can cut the winning streak of Joe Tuber, former amateur champion. He is anxious to make the match. Bradley and Tuber each weigh less than 110 pounds. Harry Lenny writes from New York that he is anxious to rematch Jimmy Murray with Lew Tandler and also hook up Packey Hommey with Sam Robideau or Pat Moore. Tandler is now in New York and meets Abe Friedman, and Packey tackles Mel Coogan. Murray then will battle Kid Williams at Baltimore in a 10-round bout June 4. Jim will stop off here on his way home.

Gunboat Smith will go under an operation on his nose in a few days. As a result he was forced to cancel his fight with Young Weinert at Ebbets Field, Brooklyn next Monday afternoon. Battling Levinaky and Porky Flynn have been signed up to substitute. Mike Gibbons and Soldier Bartfield may clash in another go.

Hard Luck Part of It Part of this can be assigned to hard luck, embracing injuries to Fred Merkle and Fred Snodgrass. But this doesn't cover all the ground. The club isn't looting or quitting, and McGraw is as keen upon the assignment as he ever was, which means practically all the time.

Most of the deficit is assigned to a preponderance of age on the club. Yet among those who haven't got started yet are George Burns, only three years in fast company; Rube Marquard, who is still under 25—and these have been vital factors in Giant success. Doping out the why and wherefore of success and failure in this baseball business becomes at times entirely too zig-zag an occupation to be carried very far.



The case of the Giants is one of the most peculiar we have come across in some time. We have heard many reasons advanced for their inability to scramble back into old haunts, but none that seems absolutely convincing. Or is any reason advanced ever absolutely convincing?

Back to Last Year On the last of July last season the Giants, with three pennant years back of them, were above 500, still playing the best ball in their circuit. And then suddenly, without any warning, the collapse arrived. From July until October the Giants staggered along below a .450 clip, unable to win half their games. If they were afflicted with old age how were they able to dash into the lead through the first three months, always the hardest upon veterans who reach form slowly?

On Into 1915 Among causes advanced for the Giant collapse was weakness at third base, ragged pitching and Doyle's batting slump. To offset this for 1915 McGraw got Hans Lobert, who has been playing first-class ball. He added Paul Ferritt, who was a winner with the Cardinals. And Doyle has been smacking the missile around .300 all the spring. Yet at the end of six weeks the Giants have been utterly unable to win half their games.

Offside Plays It is as soft and easy to be neutral as it is for an umpire to give a decision on a close play at the plate and thereby make a big hit with both clubs and the fans. Brain, so called, is very often nothing but the courage to keep your head up and eyes open, all set for the main chance. Tom Jones has now reconsidered. He is at last willing to permit Mr. Willard to battle 10 rounds for \$25,000. This is a matter of a mere \$800 a minute, which is, of course, a terrific concession upon Tom's part. Don't some one suggest a vote of thanks?

Gibbons Outpicks Leo Houck NEW YORK, May 27.—It will be many a long day before Leo Houck can hope to take the middleweight boxing crown back with him to Lancaster, Pa. Charged to a high degree with laudable ambition, Houck last night missed it up with Mike Gibbons, of St. Paul, when he was a profitable evening of instruction in the ancient art of slam and bang and give and take.

PHILS' AND ATHLETICS' BATTING AVERAGES

Table with columns for PHILLIES and ATHLETICS, listing players and their batting averages (AB, R, H, TB, SB, P.C.).

DEVON HORSE SHOW MAY 27, 28, 29, 31

NATIONAL LEAGUE PARK PHILLIES VS. CHICAGO GAME AT 3:00 P. M. Admission, 50c. Box seats, \$1. On sale at Gimbel's and Spalding's.

FAIRHILL ATHLETIC CLUB THIRD AND LEHIGH AVENUE FRIDAY NIGHT, May 28th Young McGovern vs. Young Jack Toland Four Other Bouts. Tickets 25c, 50c, 75c.

PENN STATE HOPES FOR GOOD SHOWING

Coach Martin Announces His Men for Intercollegiate on Franklin Field.

STATE COLLEGE, Pa., May 27.—Penn State will be represented by seven star performers from /her track and field squad at the intercollegiate at Franklin Field, Philadelphia, on Friday and Saturday. Track Coach Martin today announced his entries for the big event as follows: Post, White and Dolbin in the sprints; Captain Hammit and Brown in the hurdles; Lamb in the hammer throw and Garland in the two-mile run.

State's entrants have done such exceptional work this spring in trial and competition that Coach Martin expects to see every man place in his events. The only past intercollegiate point winner in the group is Captain Hammit, who last year finished in third place. This year Hammit is slightly better, on two occasions, covering the distance in 12:24 seconds. Brown won the low hurdles three weeks ago in 25 seconds flat. This performance boosted Brown's stock until today he is the favorite here for intercollegiate honors in the 200 hurdles. Lamb regularly heaves the hammer 146 feet. The distance is expected by state men to win third or fourth place on Saturday.

SHIFT IN HARVARD'S EIGHT

Radical Changes Expected in Varsity Crew Soon. CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 27.—So many experimental changes have been made in the first and second eights of the Harvard rowing squad that inquirers were told that there was no varsity boat for the present.

PIPING ROCK MEETING SCHEDULED JUNE 2-5

Whitney Memorial Steeplechase Is to Be Main Attraction—Grab-bag Novelty.

The two-day spring meeting of the Piping Rock Racing Association will be held at Locust Valley, L. I., June 2 and 3. The main attraction will centre in the running of the Whitney Memorial Steeplechase. This race originated ten years ago, and since that time has become one of the most representative events of spring racing. Twenty-five entries have been received, including many of the best chasers in training.

The Grab-Bag Handicap, for 2-year-olds, is another of the events to attract wide interest. This race was first run last year, and proved such a success that it was decided to make it a permanent fixture. The entry for these two races is already closed. Among the horses nominated for the Whitney Memorial Steeplechase are Rollup, winner of the last two races; Cabaret, Marcellinus, Flanders, Meeting House, Cherry Malotte, Chupadero, Compliment, Single Stick, Lysander, Meadowsweet and Mission.

Both McGraw and Mack have been spending most of their spare time around the top since 1910. With the exception of McGraw's first year, back in 1902, neither has ever come into the closing days of May with a tail-end attachment. The experience is new, and new experiences, even if a trifle painful in spots, are at least worth something.

Both McGraw and Mack have been spending most of their spare time around the top since 1910. With the exception of McGraw's first year, back in 1902, neither has ever come into the closing days of May with a tail-end attachment. The experience is new, and new experiences, even if a trifle painful in spots, are at least worth something.



"Out to Sea in a Forty-Footer"

By Dr. Eugene Swayne Commodore Flat Rock Motor Boat Club

Other high power stories from motorboat enthusiasts include "Lost at Sea," by J. B. Yarnall, Commodore, Belmont Yacht Club; "The Education in Motorboat Racing," by A. B. Cartledge, Commodore, Delaware River Yacht Racing Association, and "Ten Weeks on the South Jersey Coast," by Charles J. Curran, Commodore, South Jersey Yacht Racing Association.

Here is a big, newsy spread for power boat owners that is highly instructive as well as delightfully entertaining. Each contributor is a man schooled to the ways of motors and waters, whose experience and advice are well worth your reading. Let these authorities tell you how to get more safety and pleasure from your power craft in next Sunday's Sports Magazine PUBLIC LEDGER

Order From Your Dealer Today

EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—THAT MAY BE TRUE ENOUGH, LYCURGUS, BUT THE GAME IS ON THE SQUARE

