HARVARD HAS BEST CLAIM TO COLLEGE BASEBALL TITLE—"LITTLE SUNSET," BY VAN LOAN

WARVARD TOPS COLLEGE RIVALS IN BASEBALL RECORD FOR 1915

vale Failed to Fulfil Early Predictions and Finished Second. Penn Made Poorest Showing in Years-Phillies at Last Bat Out Victory for Chalmers.

Ranking the college baseball teams of the country invariably results in wide storgence of opinion. But one can usually give a good reason for the selection the team which deserves to be rated at the top. Sometimes it is even possible to place the second and third teams, but any effort to continue the list leads to a mase of contradictions, from which the wise critic will refrain.

This year 90 per cent. of the Eastern critics will grant freely that Harvard pearves first honors. The Crimson certainly overtopped all rivals on the diawond in its important games. It is true that Harvard suffered a number of midweek defeats at the hands of minor New England colleges, but in the games counted the Crimson was usually able to win,

Need of Intercollegiate League More Apparent

It is unfortunate that there is no such thing as an intercollegiate baseball pague to bring the leading teams of the East together in a series of games in shich each college would play the other claimants for first place an equal member of games.

This year Harvard, Yale and Princeton continued their opposition to the fermation of such an organization, and fostered, in its stead, a triangular league, m which each met each other member three times. Harvard, Yale and Princean met several of the other big universities, notably Pennsylvania, twice, as in the past, but the final rating for the most part must be a matter of opinion.

In the absence of a league and a league schedule, it is folly to attempt to comjum the strongest of the minor colleges with those usually referred to as the Big Six." It is true that such minor colleges as Williams, West Point, Holy Cross. Georgetown, Tufts and Brown scored their usual number of victories over the big university teams, but it must be remembered that the big universities consider these games solely as practice affairs and prepare for them as such. Equipped, as a rule, with only one dependable pitcher, he is saved for the one his game of the week, with the result that a minor college team, primed for this sae game, can frequently win from a big university team.

Harvard Easily Outranks All Rivals

Harvard deserves to rank first, because the Crimson beat Yale in two out st three games, defeated Princeton three straight and Pennsylvania two straight, besides triumphing in most of the other important games.

The Crimson had an unusually well-balanced team. Not only was it a splendid fielding and hitting combination, but it had a corps of three first-class pitchers, something most unusual for a college team. Mahan, the captain of the feetball team, was the star of the team, being the best pitcher and the best litter, though in the pitching department he was well supported by Willcox and Whitney.

Yale may be ranked second to Harvard. The Elis started their season well and looked to have a champion, combination, but, due to reported dissension in the coaching ranks, the loss of Hanes, whose eligibility was protested by Princeten, and the failure of the pitching staff to live up to early promises the Elis fell by the wayside at the critical moment.

Pennsylvania Has Most Disastrous Season

Pennsylvania's season was the most disastrous in years, and even the Quaker supporters will hardly complain if they are left out of serious considerstion among the big teams this year. Roy Thomas year in and year out develops teams of as high calibre as any of the college coaches, but this year he did not have the material.

It is idle to attempt further classification of the colleges, particularly the miner institutions. West Point made an unusually good showing, but it should be remembered that the Soldiers played all their games at home, with the exception of the contest with the Navy, and that their schedule for the most part contained games with small teams. Brown had a team well up to the standard of the Providence men, but since Brown openly uses professionals, it is not fair to class this team with those who observe the amateur code.

Phil Bats at Last Give Chalmers a Victory

George Chalmers shook off his "jinx" when he defeated the Dodgers and gave the Phillies an even break in the four-game series. It looked for a time like he was due to lose another hard luck game, as but one of the four runs estained by Brooklyn in the first three inning was through any fault of Chalmers. The big spitballer got going after three innings, and with air-tight support, was complete master of the heavy hitting Dodgers, who have been a thern in the side of the Phillies all this year. . . .

Shift in Batting Order Proves Success

The batting order was shaken up, and Manager Moran appears to have found the best combination he has struck to date, and one that could be hardly improved upon for the Phillies' style of attack. George Whitted, who has been bailing anywhere from fifth to seventh, has been moved up to the third position, and this appears to be a good move. Whitted is too strong a baserunner and much too clever on a hit-and-run play to be put below Cravath, Luderus and Becker, who are ideal clean-up men. Yesterday Whitted drew two walks, singled and sacrificed in four trips to the plate. His single was inserted at the right time, while his sacrifice sent Bancroft to third, whence he scored the winning run while Cutshaw was tossing out Cravath.

All things considered, the Phillies' attack was much better than it has been for some time. They have got more hits on several occasions recently, but they were not so well bunched, and the team was not so alert on the bases.

With the new batting order it is likely the Phils will come out of the slump, provided they do not continue the practice of trying to work a pitcher who has good control too long.

Moran's Men Work Pitchers to Limit

The tip has gone out throughout the National League circuit that the Phillies are playing the string to the limit, and making the pitchers pitch as many balls as possible. Opposing teams have learned this, and a wise pitcher has the Phils in the hole all the time by making sure that the first two pitches are over the plate. The team is in splendid physical condition, and if reports from the West that the Cubs and Cardinals are both slipping, the Phillies have a great chance to pick up a lot of ground on the present home stand.

Phillies Gloat Over Rout of "Wheezer" Dell

Another pleasing feature of the Phillies' victory was the routing of "Wheezer" Dell, the sensational young Brooklyn pitcher, who apparently had a little something on the Phillies. Dell had beaten Moran's men twice prior to yesterday, and one of the games was a shut-out victory, in which the local leam got but two hits, one of them a scratch. Yesterday the Phillies hit him even harder than the score would indicate.

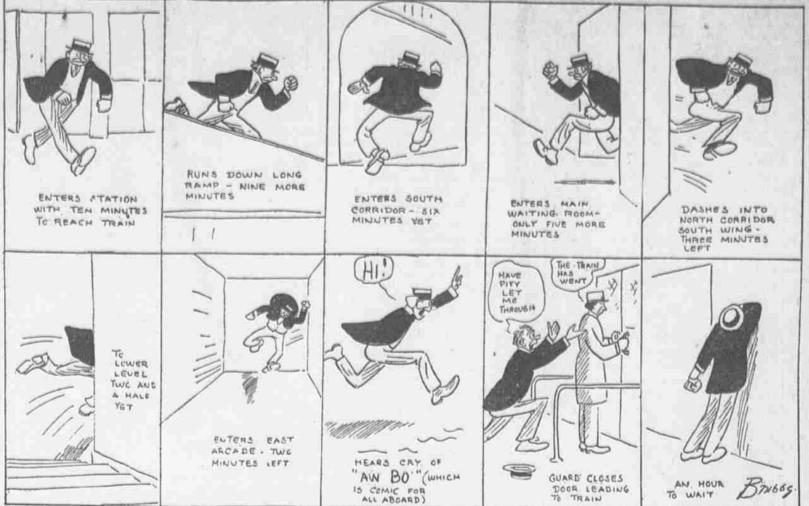
Dell lost control with two men out in the fifth and walked Whitted, Cravath and Becker in succession. The peculiar part of this sudden loss of control was that but one strike was pitched to the three batsmen, and that was a foul ball all by Cravath. That was enough for Manager Robinson and he sent Appleton, the Texas League recruit, to the mound, and he caused Niehoff to raise an easy fly to Myers.

The winning run was scored on Appelton, and therefore he is charged with defeat, but the moral effect of chasing Dell from the mound should be a great bilp to the Phillies when they face him again.

Walter Cahill, the Mt. St. Joseph College outfielder who was reported Manager Griffith, of Washington, has been picked up by the Athletica. Majone's influence weighed with Cahill, and he passed up Griffith's offer. Manager Mack believes that the youngster needs further seasoning, and has and him to Izzie Hoffman, at Peoria, for the rest of the season. He is subject to recall, and probably will join the Mackmen in September. . . .

Evidently Walter Johnson has been aroused by the wonderful pitching of elexander. The Washington wonder has not been scored upon for 34 consecubre innings, and has won five games in a row. Eddle Ainsmith, who has been Johnson's catcher for several years, declares that Walter is better right now than he has been since 1912.

MOVIE OF A COMMUTER CATCHING A TRAIN IN A MODERN TERMINAL



"LITTLE SUNSET"

John Wesley Is Out of the Money—Bergstrom Fails the Apaches, But After a Bit of Coaxing Comes to Terms and to the Flag-raising.

> By CHARLES E. VAN LOAN The world's most famous writer of baseball flotion.

> > carefully watched hundreds grew into thousands almost overnight, and the Ter-rible Swede became independent of the

Two days passed, and the Swede did not appear. Instead there came a letter

for Jake Myers which sent that busy man hustling after Pete Carr.

Carr whistled as he glanced over the

"Do?" howled Myers, who was a nerv-

stepped off the train the heavy, square shoulders of the big outfielder loomed up

Jake Myers heaved a sigh of relief. "Well, Gus," he said, "that was an awful

as I can use. Fust this one season and no more."
"Here comes the kid!" said Myers.
"You sin't game to tell him that. He'd have you shot at sunrise by a squad of bushers."

John Wesley Jones came trotting down the street, prancing like a fox terrier pup.

bimonthly salary check.

do about it?"

behind him.

"Read that!" said Myers.

"Brick" Jones signs with the Apaches, a major league tearn. As bagagge, he brings his red-headed son, John Wesley Jones. When his wife died Jones promised never to foreake the child, and so the youngster has lived on baseball diamonds almost all his live.

his life. "Little Sunset" is the name given to the child. Gus Bergatrom, the heaviest hitter of the league, makes a chum of him. "Little Sunset" learns to swear and to understand baseball from the inside.

John Wesley's fourth year with the club was one long blaze of glory. The Apaches thumped their way from fourth position to first, and hung on there until the close of the season. This was due in a great measure to the terrific hitting of Gus Bergstrom, who was celebrating his ninth year with the team. The post-sesson series was more of a joke than a contest, the Apaches losing but one game to their rivals.

With a nerve which would have done credit to a highwayman, John Wesley "declared himself in" with the split of the post-season money, and insisted on standing in line when the heroes received their diamond medals, the gifts of a highly excited populace.

"What do you think of them stiffs?" said John Wesley bitterly, after the



"Cheese!" said John Wesley.

ceremony. "Here I sin't missed a game this season and do I git any medal? Nix! You guys wouldn't have got no medals neither if I hadn't kep' that big stew of a Hergstrom up on his toes all season! I'm the feller that made him hit over .400, and they don't even give

me a pleasant look!"
"Some truth in that!" whispered Carr
to Jordan "The kid kept right after "Some truth in that!" whispered Carr to Jordan. "The kid kept right after Hergstrom all season, joliying him along, sicking him onto pitchers and generally ribbing him up. I guess that Gus is thinking too much about that property of his out in Ohio!"

When the Apaches reported at the Southern camp next spring, Hergstrom was not among the early arrivals. "The Swede will be along in a couple of days," said Jake Myers, the club

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He had been out at the park superinrie had been out at the park superintending the breaking in of a file of raw recruits and offering them such advice as they seemed to need.

"Hi, Gus!" he shouted. "I said all along you was only stalling! What's the matter with you? Did you get stuck on some Swede skirt up there in Ohio?"

Bergstrom actually blushed.

"Well the "said the bar "said the park superintended in the property of the pr "Lay off him!" warned Gibraitar Jordan. "He'il be all right as soon as the season opens. Ever see an old stove-up fire horse hanging around an engine house? Can't hardly walk until they ring that bell, but the minute the gong goes off, the old horse is right there, following the engine like a two-year-old. It'll he that way with the Swede."

"Well, then," said the boy, "what was biting you? Trying to stand 'em up for more money? You bet your life, if I hit

.425 last season I'd make Myers come through!" manager. "He signed a new contract last fall." "I don't want no more money, kid,"
Gus explained. "I got too much money
now. I got so much I can't look after
it all unless I stop playing baseball—"
Then he paused before the look of blank For many seasons Bergstrom had been known as a thrifty baseball player. For one season he had been known as

one of the richest of the stars of the diamond. This information was scat-tered by various paragraphs on the sporting pages, most of which bore the date line of an Ohio town where Bergmazement on the boy's face. "Quit the team!" gasped John Wesley.
"Why, Gus, you're crary! You better git
that bone doctor up in Lima to look at
your head! Quit playing ball? Why, you strom owned property. Bergatrom be-gan saving his salary in his minor-league days, putting every spare dollar into real estate. A manufacturing boom struck Bergstrom's home town, and the big roughneck, you couldn't do that!

Bergstrom began to mumble about his long term of service and his real estate. "Cheese!" said John Wesley. "If I hear you pull any more of that stuff, I'll get the dog catchers after you!"

"He's a funny duck," said Carr to Myers that afternoon. "I can't make him out. You know, all Swedes are alike, Once they get their minds made up, it takes a dynamite explosion to get another idea into their heads. This fellow has got a bug that he wants to quit playing base-ball and take a rest. Think of him restclosely written page.
"Why, the big, square-headed dog!"
said Pete. "He says he's going to quit
playing baseball! What are we going to ing! Next thing you know he'll be buy-ing automobiles!"

"Huh!" snorted Myers, "he'd look fine "Do?" howled Myers, who was a nervous man. "Do?" We'll get out an injunction against him if we can't do anything else! We'll have him pinched! We'll sue him for a million dollars' damages! You drop everything. Pete, and run up there to Selby and smoke him out! If he wants more money, he can have it, but don't you care have here without

"But, Jake," cautioned Carr, "don't run away with the notion that he can't afford automobiles. I looked him up when I We'll sue him for a million dollars' damages! You drop everything. Pete, and
run up there to Selby and smoke him out!
If he wants more money, he can have it,
but don't you come back here without
that Swede!"

Carr was gone seven days, and when he
stepped off the train the heavy, square doesn't want to. He's like an old tracksore race horse; he's had enough. We've got to handle him with kid gloves this season, because if he ever gets good and sore about anything—good-by. Mr. Berg-strom! I had a Sweds once on a team out in Iowa, and he——"

scare you threw into us. You had us up in the air for a few days. The idea of you quitting the game!" Bergstrom mooned through the apring practice like a leading man walking through a "supe" rehearsal, and Myers groaned as he watched his \$10,000 beauty. Bergstrom was not exactly careless, but his heart was in Ohio, locked up in a safe-deposit vault. The old routins of practice bered him: not even the morn-Bergstrom shook hands selemnly. All the joy over the return of the Swedish prodigal was on one side of the house. "Well, I tell you, Maester Myers," said Gus, "I yust come down to please Pets. If I please myself, I don't come at all. I got all the big league I want." "Go 'way!" laughed Myers. "You'll be ing batting bee could stir up a flutter of his enthusiasm. playing baseball when the rest of us are wearing wooden overcoats. You couldn't stand it to sit still and see this old club

Myers and Carr found some comfort in the fact that Bergstrom was still able to 'bust 'em on the nose." Evidently he had not left his batting eye in Ohio. The wrastling along without you!"
"I could do it," said Bergstrom unmoved. "I bet you of it. I ain't married to no baseball club, and besides, I got all the money I want. I got more money veterans who had played with him sea-son after season realized that something was lacking, and vainly endeavored to "kid" Bergstrom into the proper frame as I can use. Yust this one season and

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of mind. They might as well have tried to talk fire into the heart of an iceberg.

"Lay off him!" warned Gibraltar Jor-

The season opened at last, with the usual crashing of brass bands and hoisting of bunting. Little Sunset marched out on the field with the team when the new flag was sent aloft. When the band played the national anthem and 30,000 men and women stood up to cheer, Gus Bergstrom found a tiny flat within his own.

"Pretty awell, ain't it, Gus?" whispered John Wesley. "They don't have nothing like this in Selby!"

(CONTINUED TOMORROW.)

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