

MORANMEN STILL IN THE RUNNING—"FOOLISH AS A FOX," BY CHARLES E. VAN LOAN

PHILLIES, FEARFULLY WOBBLY, STILL HAVE GREAT CHANCE TO WIN

Crushing Defeats Follow Heart-breaking Losses on Road Trip and Outlook Is Anything But Rosy—Evers' Threat to Quit Game Is Good News.

Will the Phillies go to pieces or will they come back strong as soon as they return home? Thousands of local fans are speculating today on these questions, and one must frankly admit that the outlook for the Phillies in the National League pennant race at the present time is anything but bright.

The Phillies have held up at the top this long because the pitchers have shown the greatest consistency ever known in the National League. There have been times in the past when a team has won the National League pennant so easily that it was virtually cinched at this time of the year; but even those teams could not boast of the consistent pitching the Phillies have had to date.

Even Phillies' Pitchers Showing Signs of Distress

No staff of pitchers can stand the strain of a close fight when their teammates force them to hold the opposing team to one or two runs in order to be able to win, and it is only natural for the Philly staff to crack.

Some of the fans may allow their hopes to run away with their better judgment, but they must admit that the present rate of speed will never win the pennant. True, the Phils are still in the lead and are due to come out of that batting slump at home, but the fact remains that the team has taken two swings around the circuit and has not been able to hit in the large parks.

Opposing teams have the same chance, it is true, but as set forth in these columns earlier in the season, the Philly players seem to pull for the fences on the home field. This causes them to get into such a habit of "upercutting" the ball that the long drives at home are high flies that the outfielders reach on the road.

The Big Task That Faces Alexander

It is too late to switch this plan now, and the Moran men must profit by it on the home field in order to stay up with the leaders until the last road trip starts, on September 1, and then place their pennant chances in the hands of Alexander the Great. If the team gives the king of pitchers a few runs a game and supports him well in the field, the Phillies have a wonderful chance. Otherwise they can hardly hope to stand the pace.

Cubs, With Long Home Stay, Have Great Opportunity

While seven clubs in the National League are struggling along, making only little headway, the Chicago Cubs have started a sensational spurt, which may, after all, take the pennant West for the first time since 1910, when the Cubs won and were defeated by the Athletics in the world's series.

Real Fight Begins Here With Braves vs. Phils

The Braves are sure to come back strong, despite their reverses at the hands of the Cubs. Stallings' team has been through the mill and has proved that it plays better under fire, which is more than can be said of any other team in the league.

Manager Moran will prime Alexander for this series, and he will surely pitch on Friday and Monday, and perhaps may go in to save a game if such proves necessary. Moran and the other members of the Phillies have been looking forward to this series, and are convinced that it will be the turning point of the season in the National League.

Cravath Establishes Record With Eleven Runs Credited to His Bat

Cravath's batting in Cincinnati yesterday was one of the most sensational performances of the season. The home-run artist had been in a slump for two weeks, but he suddenly awoke and slammed the ball to all parts of the field.

Alexander was on the mound for the Phillies, and it was his first victory in the West. It was also the first time that the Phillies have hit behind the king of pitchers in more than a month. Three straight games were lost by Alexander because his team-mates not only failed to hit, but they booted the ball around in a disgraceful manner.

Defeat of the Braves Boost for the Phillies

The victory enabled the Phillies to increase their lead to two full games, as Brooklyn trimmed Chicago in a double-header. The double defeat at the hands of the Dodgers sent the Cubs to third place and dropped Robinson's men second.

By All Means Let Johnny Evers Quit the Game

Johnny Evers, the brilliant second baseman of the Braves, threatens to quit baseball after the present series between the Cardinals and Braves, in St. Louis. Perhaps Evers is just stalling and playing for sympathy and perhaps he is sincere.

Evers and Stallings are the two originators of the so-called "riding" tactics of the Braves, and the pair of them would do the game a lot of good by resigning. It is a credit to beat a ball team by fighting them hard from start to finish in a clean manner, but it is a disgrace for President Tener to allow Evers and the rest of the Boston team to carry on as they have for the last month.

Lazloje Was Napping, But Evans Was Blind

When Schang was walked in the first Athletics-Detroit game on Saturday, Lazloje, who was coaching on first, failed to watch the ball, and Schang was caught when Burns worked the moth-eaten hidden ball trick on him.

Sharkey Meets His Waterloo—Abraham's Fine Pitching

Prospect Park baffled Sharkey, of Drexel Hill, out of the box on Saturday and won a great victory. It was Sharkey's first defeat of the season. He was beaten in the second game of a double-header. In the first game a son of Ellis Abraham, the pioneer of baseball in Delaware County, blanked Drexel Hill 1 to 0 and allowed only three hits.

WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND



FOOLISH AS A FOX

Two "Dudes," Slaves of John Henry Merry, See Something—It Turns Out to Be Real—His name Is Abner Abercrombie Ziegler—Mr. Merry Decides to String Him Along.

By CHARLES E. VAN LOAN

The World's Most Famous Writer of Baseball Fiction.

JOHN HENRY MERRY, manager of the Dudes, a ball club noted for speed and class in a league where speed is common and class is spelled with a capital C, emerged from the dining room of a commercial hotel in a middle Western metropolis, and glanced about the lobby.

Merry did not answer at once. His first impression—and Johnny Merry received impressions as rapidly as the photographer's plate takes the light—was that some cheap vaudeville actor was trying to "sell" him and thus secure press-agent work. In fact, it was on the tip of Johnny's tongue to "hawl out" his questioner, when he caught sight of the stranger's face, and hesitated.

Through the swinging doors from the street there came a remarkable figure, which caused the ball players loading in the lobby and swearing at the lopsided



Through the swinging doors came a remarkable figure.

accounts of yesterday's game, in the morning paper, to sit up and gasp. "Pinky" Hamilton, one of the club's funny men, snorted and passed his hand across his eyes. Then he nudged "Jeff" Jones, the outfielder, who was sitting beside him.

"Do you see it, too, Jeff," he demanded, "or do I only think I see it?" "Goah!" breathed Jones. "Wonder who it is, it looses!"

Pinky heaved a sigh of relief. "I thought I had 'em again," he said. "Can you imagine a man six feet four inches from soles to scalp, with a hand like a ham, and a foot that wouldn't go into a doctor's valise, rawboned, big-jointed, and awkward as a camel's foot? Attire this apparition in a cheap, greenish hand-me-down suit seven years behind the reigning rage, and at least seven sizes too small, perch on the top of his head a small, black, varnished straw hat with an inch-wide brim, suspend from the immense, red-wristed right hand an old-fashioned valise of the vintage of the stripes, and you will be able to understand Pinky Hamilton's sudden attack of nerves."

Straight over to Johnny Merry marched this queer invader, dropped his valise with a crash, took off his black straw hat, mopped his brow, and "spoke," in a strange, even monotone, making long

WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN BASEBALL TODAY

Table with columns for National League and American League, listing teams and their records.

Table with columns for National League and American League, listing teams and their records.

Table with columns for National League and American League, listing teams and their records.

time to listen to at least a portion of it, and with a grave countenance, though the practical jokes which he played upon some of his callers will live when a new generation of diamond stars has risen.

To him Abner Abercrombie Ziegler was simply another "nut," but a new one, and, therefore, worth studying. Johnny shot one eye at the clock, and then put out his hand as he spoke.

"Mr. Ziegler," said he pleasantly, "my name is Merry. I'm delighted to meet you. Sit down."

(CONTINUED TOMORROW.)

SWIMMING DATES CONFLICT

Because of Panama-Pacific Postponement Clubs Are Having Trouble.

The postponement of the early season aquatic fixtures, due to the exposition championships in San Francisco, was bound to cause conflicting dates, and some of the promoting clubs are now experiencing difficulty in arranging their schedules.

Some have decided to depart from the custom of selecting Saturdays, and quite a few meets will be held in midweek, but such a course is not possible where important events are concerned, for the leading contestants are often unable to leave their business on working days.

The week of August 15 is especially crowded, there being affairs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and the latter meet may have to be changed, for both the Sackett Cup and Hussey Trophy races are to be competed for here on that day.

Several of the New York stars intend to bid for them.

Erle and Coulton Matched

CHICAGO, Aug. 9.—Eddie Coulton, of New Orleans, and Johnny Erle, of Milwaukee, were today matched to strike 10-round bout before the Capital A. C., of St. Paul, on August 20.

SWAYNE'S LUCK IN TENNIS DRAW? WELL, IT IS TO "CUSS"

Crack Norristown Player Found Himself Pitted Against J. J. Armstrong, Who Has Played a Game or Two—Where Luck Figured in McLoughlin-Brookes Match.

Although the element of luck does not enter into lawn tennis as much as it does in golf and baseball, nevertheless, it is a prominent factor. Most of the luck, however, is confined to the draw. For instance, take the case of Norman W. Swayne, a tennis player of parts, who belongs to that bustling Norristown organization—the Plymouth Country Club.

When Swayne came to Philadelphia to take part in the Pennsylvania State championships at the Merion Cricket Club, his remarks, after giving the draw a fleeting glance, were very appropriate, not to say highly emphatic. Opposite his name was that of J. J. Armstrong, who later won the tournament. Aside from that and holding several other tennis titles, Armstrong hadn't done a thing on the courts.

Naturally Swayne may have been greatly pleased at the stroke of fortune which sent the two together in the first round of the tournament. Swayne considers that his luck had more reverse English on it than one of Wallace Johnson's celebrated chop strokes. And he wasn't far wrong at that.

In two other tournaments Swayne had favorable draws and profited thereby. He gave T. R. Pell, New York, a severe drubbing in the Delaware State tournament, held at Wilmington, while at his own club in the Schuylkill Valley meet he reached the final round, largely through his good fortune in the draw.

Another bit of luck in tennis is the loss for service. Evenly matched players almost invariably win on their services, hence the player who wins the service is continually taking the odd game. This means that after four-alls, the server will go on, winning his service to within one game of the set, at four-five. Needless to say, the moral effect of being within one game of the set is great. It is as encouraging to the fortunate player as it is disconcerting to his opponent; hence it often happens that the toss will really decide a tennis match when both the players are about equal in ability and are playing up to form.

In that memorable first set between McLoughlin and Brookes in the opening match for the Davis Cup last summer, the Australian was within a game of the set from 4-1 until 15-14 was called. Then McLoughlin broke through and won the set in which there had been more than 200 points played.

In the 15th game Brookes led at 8-7 and love-40-three set points. McLoughlin at this point made a weak return and Brookes appeared to have the set within the palm of his hand. In order to protect himself from being hit with Brookes' fierce volley, "Mac" threw his racket up in front of his face and, lo! the ball

bounded back into the farthest corner of Brookes' court.

This, however, was an exception and McLoughlin is an exception to all rules, hence his pulling out of the deep hole really proves that the advantage is with the toss-winner rather than the server.

In the State championship a year ago, two brothers, one of whom was later collegiate champion several years ago, while the other, the present city champion, were drawn together, which also proves that too much tennis ability in one family is likely to be unfortunate to some one of its members.

GIL NICHOLLS WINS TWICE; HAS BET UPON 60 MATCHES

Starts Well in Series of Matches Against Fraser at Great Neck.

NEW YORK, Aug. 9.—Gil Nicholls, of Wilmington, the metropolitan open champion, won the first two of a series of 10-hole matches with James Fraser, the home professional, on the links of the Great Neck Golf Club yesterday. The match was followed by a large gallery. A purse has been provided for the winner, and in addition several large bets have been made on the outcome. The backers of Fraser figured that his familiarity with the course would make him a dangerous opponent for the champion.

Nicholls has bet that he will return a card of 60 or better in one of the 10-hole matches. Yesterday on his second attempt he registered a 70 and would have made his 60 if he had had good luck on the last hole. A bad lie there cost him a four for a hole, which under ordinary conditions would be an easy three. He won by three up and two to play in the morning, scoring 70 against 78 for Fraser. In the afternoon, when he made 75, Fraser returned a card of 78, Nicholls winning by six up and five to play.

West U. P. Adds Another

In a close and interesting game West U. P. won from the East A. C. by the score of 4 to 2. The hitting of Gairbairn and the picking of Borer featured for West U. P. while Blandford's long drive for the circuit was the best performance of the other side. West Saturday W. U. P. plays St. Andrews at the street and Grand avenue.

\$40,000 in Purses at Syracuse

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Aug. 8.—Purses and prizes aggregating in value more than \$40,000 have been offered for the Grand Circuit horse meeting at the New York State Fair, which opens here today. The card includes amateur and professional events, juveniles, the American Horse Breeders' Purity, the famous Empire State \$10,000 stake for 212 trotting, and the 211 pace for \$5000.

Advertisement for Fatima Cigarettes. Includes image of a cigarette pack and text: 'A Sensible Cigarette', 'The International Jury of Award selected FATIMA as the only cigarette to be awarded the GRAND PRIZE the highest award given to any cigarette at the PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION FATIMA THE TURKISH BLEND Cigarette'. Also mentions 'Liquette's Myers Tobacco Co.' and 'AMERICAN LEAGUE BASEBALL TODAY SHIBE PARK ATHLETICS VS. CHICAGO'.

EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—ONE MR. APPLETON, OF BROOKLYN, LOUIE, MIGHT BE ASKED ABOUT THIS; LET MILLER HUGGINS DO IT

