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

## PHILLIES, FEARFULLY WOBBLY, STILL HAVE GREAT CHANCE TO WIN

Grushing 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 Peturn home? Thousands of total fans are speculating today on these questions, and one mu : frankly admit that the outlook for the Phillies in the National League pennant "ace at the present time is anything but bright. Moran's men must show a complete reversal of form if they hope to start West on the final trip in a good enough position to win. It is to be hoped that the old-time walloping they gave the Cincinnati Reds yesterday will help turn the tide in

The Philles 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 frams could not boust of the consistent pitching the Phillies have had to date. Clame after game has been lost through the lack of batting strength and the failure of two or three players to move around the bases as well as they should.

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 shie to win, and it is only natural for the Philly staff to crack. In Pittsburgh the pitchers showed the first sign of weakening under the strain. Unusual circumstances may have brought about this apparent lack of form and the twirlers may come back to their stride on the home field.

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. This makes it appear that the Phillies have profited greatly by the size of the local field, in which many ordinary outs go for extra base hits.

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 "uppercutting" the ball that the long drives at home are high files that the outfielders reach

The Big Task That Faces Alexander

It is too late to switch this plan now, and the Moran men must profit by it en 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 same and supports him well in the field, the Phillies have a wonderful chance. Otherwise they can hardly hope to stand the pace. In other words, the pennant chances depend upon Alexander more than the rest of the team, and if they win, it must be Alexander who turns the trick.

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, affer 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. It has been said frequently that any club that could strike a spurt that lasted three weeks or more probably would win the pennant. Chicago's chances are bright. because it is a great home club and has almost a solid month on its own field in the closing days of the race.

## Real Fight Begins Here With Braves vs. Phils

The Brayes are sure to come back strong, despite their reverses at the hands ef 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. The coming series between the Phillies and Braves, starting Friday at Broad and Huntingdon streets, will have a most important bearing on the pennant chances of these two clubs. Judging by the way they have been going, one or the other is likely to be put out of the race.

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. They also express confidence that they will come through with flying colors.

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. In five trips to the plate Cravath made four doubles, driving in eight runs and scoring three himself. Cravath was therefore responsible for 11 of the Phil-Hest 14 runs, which is a record for individual batting for the season. Twice Cravath pounded out a double with the bases full and scored all the runners. was a regular old-time performance, and with the rest of the hard it is possible that the Phils are out of their slump at last.

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 placed Robinson's men second. The Braves continued their losing streak by dropping a game to the Cardinals. Every time the Braves lose it helps the Phils, as the impression is general that Stallings' team is the one which must be beaten in the stretch.

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. If the latter is the case, the majority of the fans who like a good, clean game of ball will agree that his retirement is for the good of the sport.

Evers and Stallings are the two originators of the so-called "riding" tactics of the Braves, and the pair of them would do the came 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 diagrace for President Tener to allow Evers and the rest of the Boston team to carry on as they have for the last month,

Leniency With Evers Has Not Helped Tener's Reputation

According to Ralph Davis, of the Pittsburgh Press, Wilbur Cooper, of the Pirates, was put out of the game, suspended for three days and fined \$25 for calling an umpire "a blind fathead." On the same day Johnny Evers called the same umpire the foulest names imaginable and then started a fist-fight with Fred Clarke. Though it was Evers' fourth offense in a little more than a month, Tener merely suspended him for three days. Is it any wonder that some people are beginning to believe that Tener is a figurehead president? . . .

Lajoie Was Napping, But Evans Was Blind When Schang was waiked in the first Athletics-Detroit game on Saturday, Lajoie, who was coaching on first, falled to watch the ball, and Schang was aught when Burns worked the moth-eaten hidden ball trick on him. Umpire Chill called Schang out, but Evans, who was officiating behind the plate, should have reversed this decision and sent Schang to second on a balk, as Cavaleskie stopped on the pitcher's plate without the ball in his hand. Evans evidently did not notice this, as the rules say distinctly that it is a balk if the pitcher steps on the rubber without the ball in his hand.

Sharkey Mosts His Waterloo-Abrahm's Fine Pitching

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



## FOOLISH AS A FOX

Two "Dudes," Slaves of John Henry Merry, See Something-It Turns Out to Be Real-Its 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.

(Copyright, 1912, by Street & Smith) OHN HENRY MERRY, manager of tal C, emerged from the dining room of a commercial hotel in a middle Western metropolis, and glanced about the lobby Johnny's brow was bent in a thoughtful frown. When he looked like that, he was said to resemble Napoleon at St Helena by people who had seen neither Napoleon nor St. Helena, and was coinmonly believed to be figuring out his chances to annex another pennant. It was no thought of a pennant which leveled Johnny's brows on this occasion; he was merely wondering whether he could hustle the afternoon game through in time to catch the fast train bound East. Johnny liked speed, even on wheels.

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



Through the swinging doors came a remarkable figure.

accounts of yesterday's game, in the morning papers, to alt 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 be-

"Do you see it, too, Jeff," he de-manded, "or do I only think I see it?" "Gosh?" breathed Jones. "Wonder who

ky heaved a sigh of relief. "I thought I had 'em again," he said.

Can you imagine a man six feet four inches from socks to scalp, with a hand like a ham, and a foot that wouldn't go into a doctor's value, rawboned, big-jointed, and awkward as a camel cott?

Attire this appearation in a cheen Attire this apparition in a cheap, green-ish hand-me-down suit seven years ba-hind 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-tashloned value of the vintage of the stylles, and you will be able to under-stand Pinky Hamilton's sudden attack

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

stops between his words, like a child re-

TOHN HENRY MERRY, manager of "Mister," said the stranger, "my name is Abner Abercrombie Ziegler. I have common and class is spelled with a capital C, emerged from the dining room of pitching baseball. They told me he stopped here. Do you know if I could see

Merry did not answer at once. His first impression—and Johnny Merry received impressions as rapidly as the photog-rapher's plate takes the light—was that some cheap vaudeville actor was trying to "kid" him and thus secure press-agent work. In fact, it was on the tip of Johnny's tongue to "bawl out" his ques-Johnny's tongue to "bawl out" his questioner, when he caught sight of the stranger's face, and hesitated. A man less mentally alert than Johnny Merry would have paused at the sight of the face of Abner Abercromble Ziegler, of Dexter, Ia. It was the sort of a face to choke utterance and stagger the intellect—a collection of facial adornments to be examined closely, reverently, and with thankfulness that the said collection had been wished upon Abner rather than the beholder. And the dominating note of that remarkable countenance was honesty, with stupidity running second. When with stupidity running second. When Johnny got a good look at that face, the "bawl out" slipped from his memory, and he found himself thinking:

"Well, whatever it is, it's real!"

Far be it from me to attempt to de-scribe the singular unhandsomeness of Abner Abercrombie Ziegler. It is enough to say that most men, after beholding that strange assortment of facial idiothat strange assortment of facial idio-syncrasies, believed that, at least, it was real! Every man who saw Ziegler at close range and recovered from the shock carried away with him the recol-lection of one predominating feature which gave a sense of solidity and per-manence. That feature was the nose— the long, solemn, honest nose, which somehow made one think of a horse. Not a high-grade horse, either. Just a plain, faithful, hard-working, simple-minded faithful, hard-working, simple-minded delivery-wagon horse.

"No," thought Merry rapidly, as his eyes traveled over Ziegler's astounding regalia, "no actor ever had a mush like that. This fellow is a small-town bug' from somewhere. I'll string him along for a while."

John Henry Merry excelled in several things, but in none was he greater than in his handling of the queer characters who swarm after a man of note in the community. Everything which gets into the papers day after day will in time breed its freaks. Every great championship fight uncovers dozens of harmless breed its freaks. Every great championship fight uncovers dozens of harmless
innatics: every murder trial develops
them; every pennant race brings them
to the front. All big league managers
can tell scores of stories about the
vagaries of these unfortunates—many
laughable, some pathetic and others
simply annoying. No "bug" ever annoved John Merry. He was interested,
entertained and diverted by them, and
he took them as a part of the great
study of human nature—life's continuous variety show. No matter how wild
or improbable the story, Johnny found

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WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN BASEBALL TODAY

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NATIONAL LEAGUE. AMERICAN LEAGUE. PEDERAL LEAGUE. 

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 some of his callers will live when a new generation of diamond stars has risen. To him Abner Abercromble 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 Postpone-

The postponement of the early season aquatic fixtures, due to the exposition championships in San Francisco. was bound to cause conflicting dates, and

ment Clubs Are Having Trouble.

some of the promoting clubs are now experiencing difficulty in arranging their 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

Ertle and Coulon Matched

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—Eddie Coulon, of New briegns, and Johnny Ertie, of Milwaukes, were today matched to stage a 10-round bout sefore the Capital A. C., of St. Paul, on Au-rust 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.

pionships at the Merion Cricket Club, his remarks, after giving the draw a fleeting giance, 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.

strong 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 that 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 held at Wilmington, while at his own club in the Schuylkill Valley meet he reached the final round, largely through his good

the final round, largely through his good fortune in the draw.

Another bit of luck in tennis is the toss 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-all, the server will recent witning the service to within one. 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 Mc-Loughlin and Brookes in the opening match for the Davis Cup last summer, the Australian was within a game of the set from 5-4 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 19th 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

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 paris, who belongs to that hustling Norristown orsanisation—the Plymouth Country Club.

When Swayne came to Philadelphia to take part in the Pennsylvania State championships at the Merion Cricket Club, his some one of its members.

GIL NICHOLLS WINS TWICE: HAS BET UPON 69 MARK

Starts Well in Series of Matei Against Fraser at Great Neek

NEW YORK, Aug. 9.-Gilbert Nicholis of Wilmington, the metropolitan open champion, won the first two of a series of 10 18-hole matches with James Prass. the home professional, on the links of the Great Neck Golf Club yesterday. T match was followed by a large gallery, A purse has been provided for the wim and in addition several large bets bay been made on the outcome. The backs of Fraser figured that his familiarity with

of Fraser figured that his familiarity with
the course would make him a dangerou
opponent for the champion.

Nicholis has bet that he will return a
card of 69 or better in one of the 10 is soo
matches. Yesterday on his second at
tempt he registered a 70 and would have
made his 69 if he had had good lock a
the last hole. A bad lie there cost his
a four for a hole, which under ordinary
conditions would be an easy three. 16
won by three up and two to play in the
morning, scoring 75 against 78 for Frase.
In the afternoon, when he made 20 pa. In the afternoon, when he made 20, ser returned a card of 76, Nichola ning by six up and five to play.

West U. P. Adds Another In a close and interesting game West : A. A. won from the Dunn A. C. by the of 4 to 2. The fielding of Beyler and the hitting of Galbraith and the pitche Bovzer featured for West U. P.; while pard's long drive for the circuit was best performance for the other side, Saturday W. U. P. plays St. Andrews at street and Girard avenue.

\$40,000 in Purses at Syracuse In the left 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 voiley, "Mac" threw his racket up in front of his face and, lot the ball and the 2:11 pace for \$5000.



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

