PHILLIES NOT THINKING ABOUT PENNANT CHANCES—VAN LOAN'S "FOOLISH AS A FOX

MANAGER MORAN STILL REFUSES TO ALLOW THOUGHTS OF PENNANT

Although Phillies Are Leading League and Need Something to Spur Them on, Peerless Pat Says It Is Too Early to Think of Flag

Which is the best way to breed the spirit that carries a team to a baseball championship? This is a question of great importance from a local standpoint at the present time, and it is a matter of much discussion whether Manager Moran is adopting the proper course in refusing to allow his players to talk about the pennant. Moran himself is willing to talk about anything under the sun but the Phillies' chances, and, while he probably is correct in not making a lot of foolish predictions, it is a question whether his attitude improves the apirit and confidence of the players.

Last season George Stallings won the pennant with the Braves because he convinced a lot of missits that they were the greatest team in the country. No team ever showed greater confidence than the Braves throughout the champlouship race and during the world's series. Stallings says this was due entirely to the fact that he had kidded the players into beliaving they had a great team, with a chance for the pennant, and the men went out and wen it.

There is no denying the fact that confidence is half the battle in athletics of any sort, and it must also be adimtted that overconfidence is the greatest handleap to a team. There is a happy medium, but Manager Moran is evidently afraid of overstepping the mark.

Now Is the Time to Get Pennant Spirit

Ask any Philly player or Manager Moran what he thinks about the pennant Pace and he will hand out the remarkable information that "we have a Any time a ball team stays out in front as well as the Phillies have through a gruelling race, and has such powerful pitching, it decidedly must have a chance to win. The stage has been reached where the National League team that gets the idea that it can't and won't be beaten, will go out in front and eventually win out, and the fans hope to see he Phillies get that spirit,

Worry has lost many pennants in the past, and Manager Moran is probably trying to guard against this in his policy of discouraging any pennant talk among his men. Defeats have a bad effect on a team that is thinking too much slicut the pennant; but, on the other hand, a team that gets the idea that it has something on its opponents, will not err at critical stages as often as one which is thinking too much of the game at hand.

Moran Well Satisfied But Not Too Confident

Manager Moran declares that he is well satisfied to have come back home In first place, but laments the fact that the team has been in a batting slump. A great improvement in hitting was shown in Cincinnati, and with plenty of morning batting practice, starting today, the Phillies should soon be out of their slump. Lack of batting in the pinches caused many brilliantly pitched games on the trip to go to waste. This prevented the Phillies from gaining a lead in the race that could hardly be overcome, unless the pitchers should suddenly crack, and it is hardly likely they will break now.

What do I think of our pennant chances? Well, we are not thinking of the pennant just yet. The boys are in there fighting for each game, and I don't want them thinking about the pennant. It is too early to predict anything. We have a mighty good chance, and that's about all I care to say about it. We had a hard trip, but not a poor one, and I am greatly pleased that we came back in first place.

'We won six games and lost nine. True, we should have won more, but the boys fell off in their work after striking a hot spell in St. Louis. All of them were affected, more or less, by the heat at St. Louis, and this showed in our games at Chicago and Pittsburgh.

Booted Easy Games Away

"We booted some of the games away, and others, especially the three that Alexander lost, would have been won if the boys had hit at their natural speed. There is no sign of the players going stale. We are still fit to put

"Home looks good to all of us just now, and we are ready for the Braves wich they land here tomorrow. The players need a lot of batting practice. Now they can get all of this that they require. They will also have the benefit of fielding practice at home, and this should serve to steady down the team and make it easier for the pitchers."

Charley Hall Making Remarkable "Come-back"

Perhaps the greatest of baseball "come-back" is being staged by Charley Hall, the former Boston American hurler, who is now with the St. Paul team of the American Association. Coombs, Wood and others are termed "comebacks," but their feats do not compare with that of Hall, because the latter is an older man and one who was counted down and out. Hall pitched grand ball for the Red Sox in 1913 and did much toward winning the pennant for McAleer and Stahl, but in doing so injured his arm and was released in the middle of the

Hall went to St. Paul, believing his pitching days were over, and he played in the outfield for the rest of the season. In 1914 he tried his hand at pitching but had little success. A complete rest was the only cure for his aliment and he twirled but little until this spring. Hall announced in the spring that his arm was better than it had been in years, but it was generally believed that he was overestimating his ability. Starting back in May, Hall has burned up the American Association and registered his 14th consecutive victory when he beat Dan Tipple, of Indianapolis, in a pitching duel on Tuesday. If there has ever been a more remarkable "come-back" than this it has never been brought to the attention of the public. Hall's record is all the more remarkable because of the number of shut-out and few-hit games that have been included in the

The Marsans Case Is Baseball's Greatest Joke

The announcement that Marsans, the Cuban outfielder who jumped the Reds for the St. Louis Feds and was restrained from playing by the courts, had asked the court to dissolve the injunction hardly caused a stir in baseball circles. This is another evidence of the fickleness of the public and how soon star players are forgotten. Two years ago Marsans was considered the very best outfielder in the National League, but after being kept out of baseball for ever a year, he is almost forgotten entirely.

The Marsans case is the greatest joke of baseball. If the Cincinnati Club is finally awarded his services by the courts they are compelled to pay the St. Louis Federal League Club all the money it has advanced to Marsans and his sulary for the two seasons, If the St. Louis Feds win, they must stand for Marsans' large contract, though he has been unable to play a single game. Marsans would be valuable trading material for the Reds, but there is not a chance of him ever playing in that city again and perhaps Garry Herrmann is secretly hoping that the case is lost.

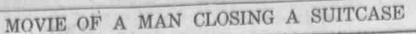
Texas Circuit Tries to Boost McDonald, a Has-Been

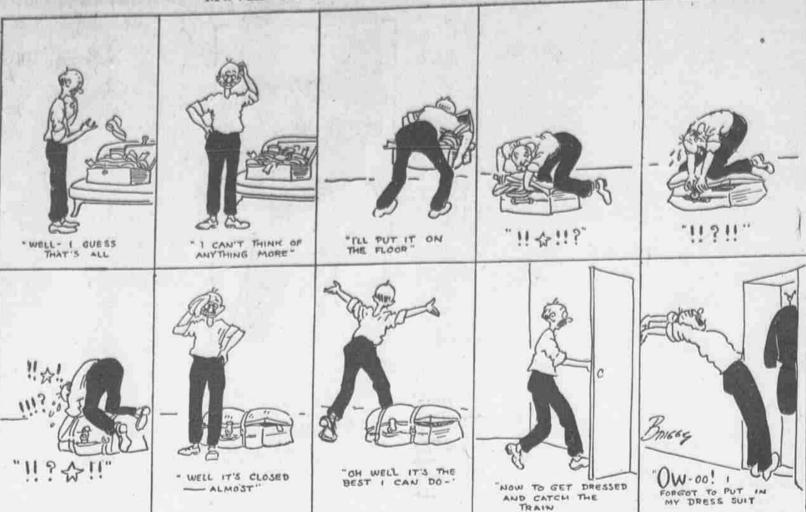
The Houston Texas League club insists that it has sold Third Baseman Malcolm McDonald to the Athletics, but Manager Mack knows nothing about it. Just why the Athletics should want McDonald is a mystery, as it is not Mack's policy to use veterans to build up a team.

McDonald has had three chances to make good in the major leagues, but has falled dismally each time. He was with the Cardinals in 1910, having been purchased from Shreveport, and was with the Dodgers and Braves in 1911. He was always known as a hard hitter but a poor fielder. At the present time he is batting under ,250 in a Class B minor league, and it is difficult to see where he would fit into Mack's plans. McDonald is nearly 30 years of age.

Jack Barry Day will be celebrated at Shibe Park on September I, when the Red Sox appear here. There have been Cobb, Collins and Murphy Days at Bhibe Park this season, but Barry Day will outclass them all, because there has never been a more popular player in this city than Jack Barry. Cobb is idolized for his spectacular playing ability, Collins for his value to the Mackmen in their pennant-winning days and Murphy had his own following, but Barry has slways stood above all others in the eyes of the fans. Barry is a credit to the game and it is likely that the fans will prove his popularity by filling Shibe Purk for the first and that time this season.

Hale & Kilhurn's team, which has been making a record this season has two youngsters who will bear watching. They are Pitcher Haas and Pirat Passman Diron. Hans shot out Electric Storage without a hit and struck out 14 men on Saturday, while Dixon pounded out five hits, including a triple and a double in the same game.





FOOLISH AS A FOX

A Real Mascot for the Duces-Major Boots Warms Up Quite Frequently—He Gets Into a Game at Last and Pitches One Inning-A Hummer

By CHARLES E. VAN LOAN

The World's Mest Fathou John Henry Merry, manager of the Dudes, is accosted by a stranger who says his name is Abner Abercromble Ziegler. It is a summary to the summary of the summary of

(Copyright, 1912, by Street & Smith) Then almost at once things began to ppen which convinced the most skeptical of the Dudes that the club had really found a mascot who was a mascot. Ball players are superstitious folk. They believe in jinxes and lucky signs and cross-eyed women and hunchbacks and all sorts of things. There is one big hitter, at present in the game, who would walk a mile rather than meet a oss-eyed woman; there is another who



"Zeigler now pitching-Zeigler."

selects berth No. 13 in a sleeping car, and will have no other. There is a great manager who once threatened to fine members of his team for singing "Casey Jones," regarding the same as a most malignant jinx. And as ball players believe in bad luck, so they believe in good things and the things which bring it. On the day when Major Boots rejoined the team, the Dudes won out in the fifth/inning, sewing up the game with a succession of hits—and once more the laconic Ziegler "called the turn." By the time the Dudes had won five straight, no man could have convinced them that Abner Abercrombic Ziegler was not a mascot above all other mascots, and the jinx dispenser extraordinary. selects berth No. 13 in a sleeping car,

dinary.

"He works both ways!" said Biff Behannon, the catcher. "He's good luck for us, and he's poison to the other fellows. He puts the sign on 'em, I tell

As might have been expected, Major Boots made a terrific hit in the home town. The newspapers took him up and made much of him. The fans watched made much of him. The fans watched his awkward attempts to copy the peculiarities of the team's pitchers, and howled with delight at his serious attitude and demeanor. He was interviewed by the representatives of the press, and photographed in a thousand poses. Whenever he talked for publication, Ziegler always insisted gravely and with all earnestness that he had come East to pitch for John Merry, and Johnny helped the joke along by encouraging Major Boots to "warm up" before every game; and after every game one of the assistant masseurs gave Ziegler a rubdown, using a preparation which would have burned holes in rhuscerous hide.

He lived at a small hotel near the ball

| park, and Johnny bought him a suit of clothes, but the major still retained his ill-fitting uniform. In the mornings, when certain members of the team practiced at the park, Hamilton took it upon himself to teach the major the fall-away slide, a very exacting performance for a

a veritable crucifixion. "You see, maje," explained Hamilton, "it's this way: Baseball ain't all pitching and hitting. You've got to be able to get around the bases, and you can't do it unless you learn this slide. Now, try it again, and hit the ground a little bit harder. You're doing fine."

well-trained athlete, and for Zlegler, with

his tremendous height and length of limb,

Ziegler continued to "hit the ground" until he was black and blue from knee to shoulder. He practiced the fall-away slide as he practiced everything else-painstakingly, earnestly, and with all his might. Serious injury might have re-sulted had not Johnny Merry put a stop

to Hamilton's comedy.
"You let the major alone," said the manager. "You want to get him laid up? He may be crazy, and all that, but he's harmless, and he's brought us luck, and I ain't going to have a lot of mutts like you give him the worst of it! Do you

After a time, the major began gently insisting that he be given his turn in the box. Merry suavely explained that he was saving him for some big game—some game which he really felt he had to win. "There's no hurry," he said. "Just keep our arm in shape, and practice that slow oall of yours. It's a peach." As a matter of fact, the continued prac

tice was having its effect. The major had developed a slow outcurve—the easiest curve ball to throw—and there were times when he could split the plate with it The Dudes continued their winning

streak; their luck held long enough to carry them out in front in August, and the pennant seemed theirs beyond any reasonable doubt. The major continued to clamor for his chance in the box, and at last he got it—but it was in a game which was hopelessly lost at the begin-ning of the ninth, by a score something like 12 to 3. The opposition had developed a terrific batting streak, hammering the ball to all corners of the lot, and the fans jeered, sarcastically.

"This game is a joke!" said Merry, with disgust. "That being the case, we'll make it a good one."

A little later he signaled Ziegler, and the major ambled over and sat down by the manager, very proud of the secondhand white uniform which he had re-ceived after sliding through the first colection of misfits.

"You're going to pitch the ninth in-ning," said Merry. "Get out there and show 'em that slow ball of yours."

Johnny had expected some sort of a emonstrance from Ziegler-so plaint at being sent into the box with such overwhelming odds against him. Nothing of the sort. The major at once began to peel off his sweater, his face wreathed in smiles.

There were only a few disgruntled fana remaining in the grandstand when Um-pire McGee whipped off his mask and bellowed the announcement:

"Ziegler now pitching! Ziegler!" The runways leading out of the park were choked with the backs of diagnated patrons, but at the yell which went up from the remaining handful these defrom the remaining nanorul these de-serters paused, recognized the tremen-dous bulk of Abner Abercrombie Ziegler striding into the diamond, and then, with joyous yells, scurried back to their seats. The bug was going to pitch, after all!

There followed 10 minutes of delirious e-nedy-the sort of a spectacle seider seen on any diamend. The opposition seen on any diamond. The opposition team entered into the spirit of the thing, and helped it along. Man after man bunted that alow curve straight down toward the pitcher's box, and Ahner Abercromble threw the bell all over the park in his anxiety to head off base runners. At last the side was out, and the comedy was over. The opposition had secured four more runs which were totally unnecessary. totally unnecessary

(CONTINUED TOMORROW.)

WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN BASEBALL TODAY

NATIONAL LEAGUE *Brooklyn Pittsburgh Chleago *Boston New York St. Louis *Cincinnati AMERICAN LEAGUE Won, Lost, Fet, Win, Lose 65 35 650 653 644 64 39 621 625 612 62 40 608 612 605 54 49 524 529 511 49 49 500 505 492 40 63 388 394 380 38 61 384 390 384 33 69 324 330 326

FEDERAL LEAGUE Won. Lose 58 45 563 567 558 58 45 563 567 558 57 45 559 563 557 56 45 554 559 343 56 47 544 548 58 47 60 439 444 433 47 60 439 444 433 48 67 350 356 346

LOCAL HORSES WIN HONORS

Capture Events at Flemington. Breeder to Hold Meeting

Local-owned horses were the class at the opening day's fair races at Fleming-ton, N. J., Tuesday. Joker D. Lake trot-ted to victory in the 2:30 class in three straight heats, 2:1914, 2:20, 2:2014, and King Wilkes had the footing in the 2:30 Winans showed the way in the initial heat, but the next three heats went to King Wilks.

A special breeders' meeting will be held

next Saturday at Narberth, Pa., and from early reports, many colts and fillies will go after marks

\$25,000 IN STAKES FOR LAUREL MEET

Plans Already Laid for Fall Races at Popular Maryland Track

At Laurel Park, Md., the sum of \$25,000 has been set aside for the stakes and early closing handicaps, which will be run off at the Laurel meeting October 1 to 30, inclusive. There will be six stakes and handicaps for 3-year-olds and upward at distances ranging from 11-16 miles to 1% miles; there will be two handicaps

exclusively for 3-year-olds, one of thich is at six furlongs and the other at 1 1-16 miles; there will be five handicaps at various distances for all ages, there will be four fixtures for 2-year-olds at from 5½ furlongs and up to a mile.

It may be safely said that no meeting in the country meets with more popular favor than the session in October at

the pretty plant in Laurel. This not alone is proved by horsemen who have raced their charges over this Maryland course in previous seasons, but is attested by the growing patronage seen during the last two years. Various reasons may be assigned for

Various reasons may be assigned for these conditions, principally among which is the first-class entertainment provided for patrons of the sport and the open and above board treatment accorded horsemen by the management. Though it has been only a few days since the stake blanks were first distributed among horsemen, the nominations have been of the most liberal sort and embrace the names of every thoroughbred of quality

LOUGHREY WILL BOX WITH JACK M'CARM AT NATIONAL ARE

Manayunker Wants to Rid s of Sea Legs-Date Me Be Set for Second Week in September.

MEET AT 158 POINT

Star Lightweight Bouts at Om Club-Five Thou' to Back Kast man Against Williams

Frank Loughrey, Just back from Journ to Australia, will make his appearance in a Philadelphia ing National A. C. probably the secural in September. Jack McCarron, town's aspirant for middleweight will be opposed to the Manayung to They will box at 158 pounds rings. Loughrey declared that he did her to appear in any contests for at a month, as he still felt the effects ocean voyage. He has started in inary training, and as soon as he as for ring action Frank will take a

An effort was made to match Lend with Joe Borrell, but the former not consider it unless he was the flat guarantee of \$750.

Jack Hanlon is negotiating for r star lightweight matches, viz. star lightweight matches, viz. Reynolds vs. Charley Thomas, Eds. Andrews vs. Johnny Nelson and J. Murphy vs. Walter Mohr for the oppolympia show August 30.

An effort will be made by Mugzay lor this season to force Champio Williams into a match with Benny B man. He says he can get backer \$200 to go as a forfeit for appear weight and a side bet for a 20-round at 116 pounds. Kid Williams is vacationing at an

Followers of Frankle White are are to see the Little Italy favorite in a with Bobby Reynolds again, Par is ley, White's manager, is dickering a

return date. Heavyweight Champion Jess Wil and the 101 Ranch Wild West Show be the attraction in Camden the is

part of the month. Promoters here should not be surp receive calls from Miss M Hoag, or rather Manager Miss Hoag, arranges matches for her brother, Co

Maraball. She contemplates outs for Marshall here. Benny Palmer, Mexican lightner

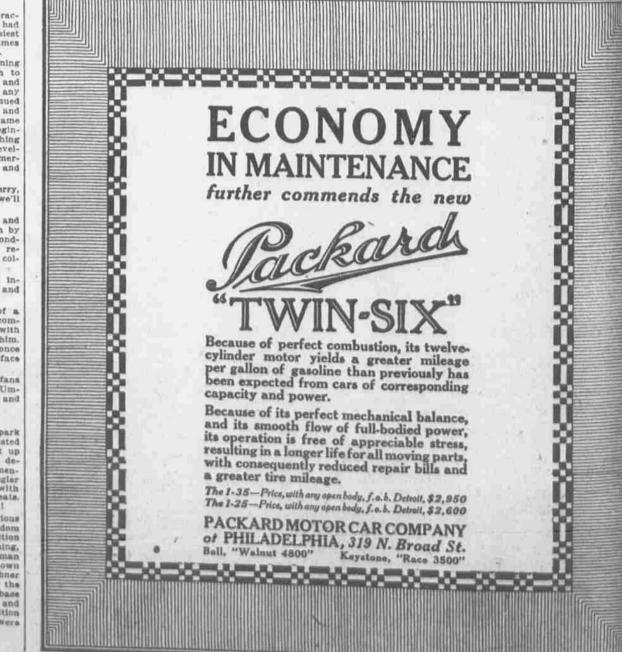
will seek maxuma and market city in the near future. His mress city in the near future. His mress Joe Levy, who handled Joe River, pects to bring Palmer here. Within three months, Joe Share actor-boxer, will be ready for bouts will finish his theatrical contract week and from Joe will hie himself the Maine woods, where he will rest

until about October. Terry McGovern, one-time for weight champion, wants to be a rela His name is up before the New L Boxing Commission board for a the

VICTRIX GAME ON SATURDAY Schlichter to Pitch in Contest

Clifton Heights Manager John Weeks, of the Victs ub, announces that Vic Schlichter,

oftched such sensational ball last we will oppose Frank Poth's Clifton Her boys when they meet Saturday after at Victrix Park, 58th street and Havers avenue. Schlichter, who was form with the Athletics, has proved a w wind this season.



EVENING LEDGER MOVIES-SOMEHOW, CHAWLES, THOSE ATHLETICS CAN EVERLASTINGLY WHALE THE BALL, BUT WHAT'S THE USE?















