WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND

# PHILLIES ARE THREE-TO-ONE SHOT FOR 1915 NATIONAL LEAGUE WINNERS

#### Figures Show Braves and Dodgers Must Play Far Ahead of Any Form Shown This Year to Capture the Flag in Tener's Circuit

Unless the Cardinals take four straight from the Phillies while Brooklyn is trouncing the Pirates, the Phillies will be in first place on September 1. Being In first place on the first of September does not necessarily mean that the team will be in first place on October 6, but it means the realization of the dreams of the Philly players. It is no secret that the players and their crafty leader bave been thinking of little but keeping ahead until September 1.

There is little doubt but that several close games which have been lost within the last six weeks could have been turned into victories had Moran cared to work Alexander the Great out of turn, but Moran was determined to save his wonderful twirler until the last month of the race.

Almost every National League manager and player was of the same opinion a month ago in regard to the Phillies' chances. Any one of them would say: "I look to see them slip, but if they are ever in first place on September 1 there is going to be little chance of getting them out, provided Alexander is not worked to leath to keep the team in the lead."

The Phillies have managed to hold the lead without killing Alexander, and now the opinion is almost unanimous that nothing but a complete reversal of form by Alexander or serious injuries to him or several other stars can keep the Phils from winning the first pennant in the history of the club,

### Phils Have Long Road Trip Ahead of Them

The Phillips are on the road for the rest of the season after the St. Louis eries, barring a few days at the tail-end of the year, but Alexander has always been just as effective on the road as he has at home.

Hostile crowds never worry Alexander as they do a less experienced pitcher, and with "Alex" on the mound every third day, the chances of the Dodgers and Brayes appear small. Manager Moran declares that he will not work Alexander out of turn until the Phillies drop out of the lead, and therefore it may not be necessary to overwork the king of pitchers.

Nothing is more convincing than figures, and these show that the Phillies must strike a terrific slump to lose the flag. When one says that a team has but two and a half games on its closest rival, the contest sounds much closer than this race really is.

Brooklyn has played seven more games than the Phillies and has lost six more. This almost eliminates the Dodgers, if Moran's men are really of championship calibre. Back in July it was pointed out here that the pennant could be won with a percentage of less than .589, and there is no reason for changing

#### Brooklyn Has Hard Row to Hoe to Win Flag

To finish with a percentage of .580, Brooklyn would have to win 25 games and lose 8 for the rest of the season, and that is almost an impossibility. There have been many teams in the past capable of doing this, but Brooklyn has rot the power nor the pitchers

While Brooklyn is winning 25 games and losing 8 to finish with a percentage of .584, the Phillies would be compelled to win but 26 games against 14 defeats to finish with the same percentage, while Boston is forced to travel at a still faster clip to even 1" with the home club,

On this line of reasoning the Phillies would be compelled to win one more game than Brooklyn, but would be able to lose six more and still get a tie. Neither Brooklyn nor Boston has shown enough this season to warrant the telief that either will finish as high as .580. Figuring that all three contenders will be on the road at the same time, with each playing under the same disadvantages, it is safe to say that the Phillies will clinch the pennant by winning 2º of the remaining 40 games.

#### Percentage of Victories Increased in Last Two Weeks

If Alexander should be worked every third day for the remainder of the season and allowing for two Sundays in the East, which would give him an extra day of rest, he should start and finish 15 games. Unless he cracks badly, 1' of these should result in victories. That would compel the rest of the staff to win but 13 of the remaining 25 games. It might be mentioned that since early in the season the Phils failed to get better than an even break until the last two weeks, when 11 out of 16 games resulted in victories, but it is only natural for a team with championship prospects to better this record in the closing stages of the race.

# Three to One Shot That Phillies Will Win Out

With the dope running true to form and Alexander taking 11 out of 15 games for the rest of the season, the Phillies will not deserve the pennant if they cannot win 12 out of the other 25 games. It is not easy and there is no cause for overconfidence, but it certainly looks like a 2-to-1 shot that the Phillies will win the pennant. The Braves have a chance, Braves have a chance, if fact a much better the Benedicts arrived in town. It was a distinction unique in the baseball world, one than the Dodgers, as those six extra defeats that Brooklyn has makes it and one of which they might well have necessary for the Phillies to strike a great slump for Brooklyn to figure. In percentage the Phillies are but two and a half games ahead, but in figures they ere six defeats ahead, and that is a wonderful lead at this time

There is no necessity for passing compliments out to any individual players for the good work of the Phillies, because they all have done their part. Some may have shone brighter than others, but all have been necessary to the team and are responsible for its success, but standing out head and shoulders above all is Pat Moran.

Moran has proved himself the greatest hardler of pitchers since Frank Selee's day, and he must be given the credit for the consistency of the team's work. He has a pitching staff going into the last month of the season absolutely fresh, though the race has been a gruelling one, in which two other teams lost their chances because their pitchers were killed off back in July.

# Phillies' Pitchers in Better Shape Than Rivals'

Brooklyn scribes are pointing with pride to the fact that its pitching staff, barring Coombs and Rucker, is far younger than that of any other team in the league. They argue that the age and strength of the Brooklyn pitchers is going to be an important asset in the homestretch,

Perhaps this may prove a great advantage, but the Philly players and several managers declare that this is just what will beat the Dodgers cut of the flag. The; say that both Rucker and Coombs are too old to stand the work that should be placed on the shoulders of seasoned veterans, while the rest of the staff, barring Pfeffer, are too inexperienced and will not be able to stand the strain.

In this respect the Philly staff has an edge on all of its rivals. Boston has enough capable veterans, but they are not in as good condition as the Philly staff. Pat Moran's staff is composed of seasoned pitchers who have been worked so carefully that they are just as fresh as they were at the start of the

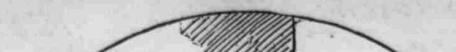
# Charley Hall Has Won 17 Consecutive Games

In the American Association two unusual things have taken place recently. One is the winning streak of Charley Hall, which has now reached 17 consecutive victories, and the other is the cracking of Dan Tipple, of Indianapolis The latter was burning up the league with his grand twirling, until the Highlanders purchased him for \$12,000. Since that time he has won only one game, and has been driven from the mound almost every game he has started.

Joe Wood has been sent back to Boston by Manager Carrigan. Throughout the West the tip has been passed that Wood's arm has gone lame again, but Carrigan declares that he merely wants Wood to rest up for extra work in the homestretch. Carrigan says that the weather in the West has been too cold for Wood and that is why he has not worked him, but in Detroit they say that Joe's arm is gone for good.

Young Benckert, of the Corley C. C. team, is attracting widespread attenon through his wonderful pitching. He has lost but one game this season. aturday he struck out 13 of the fast Collins A. A. nine, yielding only six scattered hits.

Heinle Grob, the brilliant little third beacman of the Reds, had made one hit or more for 14 consecutive games until McQuillan stopped him on Friday. Rudolph also held Grob hitless on Saturday, fanning him three times,





you what the youngest boy said to him just before breakfast. This flaw did not keep Dad from hammering the ball for a grand average of .312 in eight seasons,

quite fair for the father of three coming

Archie Howland, the handsome centre

fielder, so popular with the feminine fans, had a red-headed wife and two beautiful

little girls. Archie carried their photo-

graphs in a morocco teather pocket case, and had a habit of passing it to chance acquaintances with the remark that he guessed there wasn't a great deal of class to those children. Yes; they were perfectly miserable. Wouldn't do at all. All they needed was a little good looks, etc.

Four members of the pitching staff were

married men. Matrimony in the Benedict camp amounted to an epidemic, a habit, a specialty. Ball teams have specialties. The Ponies, for instance, were

widely but not favorably famed for wal-

After all, a specialty is usually a mat-ter of taste or environment. A young-ster, joining the Benedicts and finding himself a lonely atom entirely surrounded

by happy married men, soon came to be-lieve that matrimony was not such an awful thing, after all. Once in that

frame of mind, the rest was easy, always was easy, and always will be easy.

It was not only matrimonially that the Benedicts graded high as an organiza-tion. The sporting writers of their home town were prone to state that the Bene-dicts had "class." They could do more

dicts had "class." They could do more than play baseball. They were nearly all men who had been picked by Mace Henshaw to fill certain places, and they

were trained under that master mind until they worked together in a manner beautiful to watch and very hard to

beat. With their pitching staff in good form, it took a pennant-winning aggre-gation to beat them to the head of the

As individuals, they were noted for in-

oping umpires and finishing in

in a morocco leather pocket case,

#### THE BACHELOR BENEDICT

Introducing the Hero, Mr. Herbert Lansing Lowrie, More Commonly Known as "Bertie the Bear"-The Bachelor Oasis in a Desert of Benedicts

leaguera

By CHARLES E. VAN LOAN The World's Most Famous Writer of Baseball Fiction

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The Benedicts were the most excesively married ball club in the big league, or, for the matter of that, in any pro-fessional league whatsoever, and they glorified in the distinction.

Envious second-division clubs and man-agers scoffed and circulated scandalous stories to the effect that the Benedicts took their knitting along when they went on the road, and darned socks in their private Pullman car of an evening in-stead of playing poker, like any well-regulated club. Now, as a matter of fact, there were some socks darned in that Pullman; but the darning was done by the wives of the players, and was therethe wives of the players, and was there-fore nobody's business. Bachelor teams often said that the Benedicts carried



As individuals, they were noted for in-telligence, general good conduct and widely assorted talents. During the win-ter months several of them filled vaude-ville engagements, winning credit as well as coin. At least four of them could write initials after their names as well as before, if they saw fit, which they did not. They had a glee club which was worth hearing; and among ball players it was a well-known scandal that the Benedicts played bridge whist instead of poker-played bridge whist with their When one of the recruits, following illustrious example, took unto himself a partner to help him spend his salary check, the experienced husbands congratulated him, and the wives kissed the bride—and sometimes the groom. It depended very much upon the groom.
"You did the right thing, boy," the old heads would observe. "There's only one way to live." poker-played bridge whist with their It was common report that when the Benedicts were on the road, living in hotels, several of the men "dressed for dinner." "Biff" Bohannon started that story. Biff was a lowbrow. He was born that was story. Biff w

"Say, what ye think?" said Biff ex-citedly one evening. "I was just over to the hotel to chew the fat wit' some of From this general sentiment, the reader may deduce, and correctly, that the Benedicts were happily married.

Statistically speaking, their matrimonial team average was well over 300 and individually and collectively, the Benedicts were an enormous boost for the double team as an institution. Their divorce average was 400. to the hotel to chew the fat wit' some of them henpecked boys, and I catch 'em at dinner. Honest, be, there was seven of them fellows—seven of 'em in soup and fish clothes! All fussed up like a lot of undertakers! No party or noth-ing! All that make-up on just to cat! Ain't that a scream?"

Biff had once owned one whole dress suit; but he was endeavoring to forces

team as an institution. Their divorce average was 500.

Of the 26 men on the pay roll, 15 had wives, and seven of the 16 had children. "Some entries," as the Benedicts proudly remarked, "for the T. Roosevelt Cup."

Mason Henshaw, manager and captain, known to every student of baseball as "Mace." had one wife and one child, the latter a tot of five years, who knew more real baseball than her mother. Frank ("Dad") Rale, the veteran third baseman—the team giec club had a song which rethe team giec ciub had a song which re-lated Dad's experience in the Nile Val-ley League before the pyramids were built—led the Benedicts in the chase for the 'Rooseveit Cup." He had three chil-dren, "all bear cats," as he often ob-served with becoming pride. Dad was the sort of a man who can always tell

it, along with the lady who inspired the

With this lengthy preamble, we will now reach into the wings and pluck forth to the footlights the distinguished member of the Benedict pitching staff, who seemed to have no matrimonial inentions or inclinations-young Mr. Herbert Lansing Lowrie, known to his fellows as "Bertle the Bear." (When he a catalogue of the thousand virtues of his

joined the club, the men at once chris-tened him "Berite." After they saw him "work" against first-division clubs, the suffix was added.)

Bertie the Beur was far and away the Bertie the Heur was far and away the most eligible young bachelor on the payroll. He was young not more than 35. He might have been called a nice, clean boy without the delicate sarcasm which usually attaches itself to that left-handed compilment. He was "nice." All the club wives discovered that at once. He was clean. That goes without saying was clean. That goes without saying. And in spite of his 5 feet 3 inches of lithe, well-muscled humanity, he was still a boy at heart—the strongest reason of all why the women should have liked him.

In appearance he closely resembled those wonderful and wonderfully trousered beings who appear once a week on the back pages of the illustrated periodicals, a roundabout way of saying that Bertie was almost too handsome to be respectable. Add to his straight nose, gray eyes, firm chin, and good mouth a rich baritone voice, an air of grave courtesy toward women, a dozen polite accomplishments, and, lastly, that never aufficiently identified quality of mind or heart which attracts children as steel filings are attracted by a magnet, and you have a fairly accurate hae drawing of Bertie the Bear, a nice, clean boy.

Most recruits, joining big-league teams, pass three boards of inspection: the scouts, the players, and the fans of the

A Benedict recruit suffered a fourth in-spection, more searching than all. The ciub wives looked him over and decided whether he should be admitted into the close and altogether delightful intimacy of "the family."

Bortie passed the first three standards with a whoop and a hurrah, and captured every member of the fourth board of in-spection before he had been with the team three months.

At the end of four months the club wives began remarking regretfully that it was an awful pity some nice girl did not have Bertie for a husband; and when several married women say that about a young man he may be graded as 18-carat fine. Married women have a sort of intuition about these things. It is true that some of them have been known to make mistakes in selecting their own life part-ners, but not one of them has ever been known to err when it comes to picking out a "nice girl" for an eligible young

If a youth does not drink more than is good for him, steers clear of bad com-pany, washes himself behind the ears and below the line of his collar, and has a taking way with the little ones, married women pity his lonely state, and scan the horizon for the nice girl who is to be presented with a meal ticket for life.

Bertie was hard to get acquainted with that is to say, he was always polite with a politeness which never grew into anything like confidential relations. A kind-hearted, happily married woman can often extract the innermost secrets of a young man's soul, particularly if the young man happens to have a love affair on his hands. It soothes him to find some

beloved; and, under such circumstall married women are good listeners. Bertie the Bear seemed to have secrets of the heart, no confidence hestow. When girls were mentioned, you ustand—he laughed—a modest, happy ish laugh. He had a good head a shoulders, so he must have done thinking from time to time; but he his thoughts to himself. The club knew that he received no letter dressed in a feminine hand save the which came from his married sister they knew from their husbands and more reliable sources that he show inclination to seek the society of us ried women.

By the end of his first season will club the women were certain the must have had an unfortunate length, and this melancholy consisted to their maternal solicitude, added to their maternal solicitude, diesome? Certainly not! They like boy, and they wanted to see him he they wanted to help him make worthy young woman happy. The terest which showed in the private. worthy young woman happy. The terest which showed in the private at of Bertie the Bear was as compliane as a set of engressed resolutions a great deal more sincere. The young who has never had matchmaking interested in him may search his character for the reason—and then oup what he finds.

These were a few of the

up what he finds.

These were a few of the reasons we Bertie was popular with the better he of the team. He met every friendly one ture with exquisite courtesy. He had trick of removing his hat and holder in his hand while speaking with a woss and he was scrupulously careful in the tiny matters of etiquette which me men overlook because of their we smallness. With women it is little this which score heavily. This has he written many times, but a great trocannot be hogged by copyright. Even yery poor specimen of a husband son times escapes detection by hiding him sins underneath a bed of violets. A data times escapes detection by hiding sins underneath a bed of violets. A debook for anniversaries has pe

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

#### RUNS SCORED BY MAJORS LAST WEEK

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EVENING LEDGER MOVIES-WELL, MAYBE NOT, BUT SOME OF THESE DAYS TY COBB IS GOING TO TRY IT WHY IS THE

Biff had once owned one whole dress suit; but he was endeavoring to forget

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