

PHILLIES LOOK BETTER FOR START OF 1916 CAMPAIGN THAN THEY DID LAST YEAR

PURCHASES OF FEDERAL LEAGUE PLAYERS CHANGE ASPECT IN NATIONAL RACE

Boston, New York and Chicago Looked Upon as Favorites, But Phillies Will Start Season in Better Shape Than in 1915

NEVER in the long history of major league baseball have the prospects for a pennant race been changed so completely during the winter months as this season.

Despite the great strengthening of other teams, Manager Moran still is optimistic. He says that few people believed he had a chance to win the pennant last season, so he is not worrying about their predictions.

There is no denying, however, that the Braves and Giants have strengthened to such an extent that both look better than the champions on paper, but the same cannot be said of the Cubs.

Konetchy, Allen, Knetzer and Wilhoit Will Help Braves

Both Frank Allen and Elmer Knetzer, also purchased by the Braves from the Pittsburgh Federal League team, no doubt will strengthen the pitching staff, but will not mean as much as Konetchy's addition and James' return to form.

If Konetchy is the Konetchy of 1911, 1912 and 1913, he will prove a more valuable man than "Butch" Schmidt, whose retirement from the game had apparently wrecked the Braves' pennant chances.

New York Looks Good, But Needs Pitchers

New York generally is considered a heavier favorite than the Braves, because McGraw has picked up two sensational outfielders in Benny Kauff and Ed Rousch, of Federal League fame.

With all the wonderful strength McGraw has picked up, the Giants really look little better than the Phils and not quite so good as the Braves.

Chicago looked better on paper before Tinker made numerous changes. At the present time his infield does not look strong. It depends entirely on whether Joe's arm will be in good enough shape for him to play short with Mike Doolan switched over to second, whether he will have a good combination. It is also a matter of doubt whether Tinker's pitching staff will hold up.

Tinker Depending Too Much on Federal Leaguers

According to his own admission, he is depending upon Mordecai Brown and George McConnell to win more than 50 per cent. of their games, with Hendrix, Lavender and Jim Vaughn turning in victories in at least 50 per cent. of their starts.

With the Phillies it is different. Moran has a pitching staff which looks a trifle better than others in the league. He has pitchers who have made good and held up under fire. Unless Alexander's arm is in poor shape, which is not likely, the Phils will open the season better equipped with hurlers than was the case last spring.

Another great pitching staff will be that of the Reds. Manager Herzog believes it is the best in either league, but Moran and several other leaders do not agree with him. For a stretch of two months last season the Cincinnati pitching staff electrified the league, but the absence of a fourth regular capable of keeping pace with Fred Toney, Pete Schneider and Gene Dale caused the team to skid badly in the closing stages of the race.

Herzog's Pitching Staff Will Be Strong

McKenery, the lanky youngster from the Northwestern League, will be a capable veteran this season, while with the addition of two southpaw stars in Packard and Schulz from the Federal League, Herzog will be well equipped for the pennant fight.

The addition of Jimmy Esmond, who will cover short, with Herzog back on third base and Heinie Groh at second, also will strengthen the Reds; but the outfield and catching staffs do not look to be strong enough to make that team a serious contender. A Kilng, Killefer, Schalk or Sullivan behind the plate is needed badly if Herzog is to be much of a pennant contender after the first of July.

Managers Callahan, of the Pirates; Huggins, of the Cardinals, and Robinson, of Brooklyn, appear to be content to stand pat on their 1915 material. Each believes that team work will be a more important factor than stars. In the past this has proved to be the case, but this trio may discover that with peace again prevailing in baseball, there will be a greater attempt made at team perfection than starring individually on the part of the players.

With Every Team Strengthened, It Will Be a Great Race

Every indication points to the greatest race the National League has ever enjoyed, with the teams more evenly matched and generally stronger. Since the advent of the Federal League the majority of the teams have been noticeably weak in certain departments. The material placed on the market by the Federal League has enabled every team to strengthen if it saw fit.

The race appears to be an open one, with Boston, Chicago, New York and the Phillies favorites over the field, in the eyes of the majority of baseball men. Philadelphians are satisfied that Manager Moran will again have his team up at the top or close to it, and look for another great season.

Jones and Reidpath Are Through With Match Races

An effort was made to induce the famous John Paul Jones to try to perform a come-back on the cinder path next spring, but the wonderful runner announced that he is through with the game for all time. A few days ago it was stated here that Charley Reidpath was in training and contemplating running again this spring.

Coast Tennis Men Will Fight Eastern Action

Word was received from Los Angeles today that the Pacific Coast Tennis Association will refuse to sanction, or abide by, any action taken by the National Association which would make Maurice McLoughlin and Tom Bundy ineligible to compete as amateurs.

BENDER MUST BEAT OUT SIX TO BE RETAINED

Half-Dozen Philly Hurlers Are Signed by Ironclad Contracts

RELIEF MAN NEEDED

By CHANDLER D. RICHTER

The addition of Charles Albert "Chief" Bender to the pitching staff gives Manager Moran of the Phillies 13 hurlers. Moran says he does not see how he can possibly carry more than 7 pitchers. It is reasonably certain that the six veterans of the 1915 staff will be retained, which means that the wonderful Indian hurler must defeat six rivals in order to be retained as a regular.

Bender insists that unless he shows Manager Moran enough during the training season to convince him that he is just as good as he was three years ago, he will retire from the game and not hold the club to the contract he has just signed.

Bender's case is commanding the attention of the baseball world in general. It is a great question whether the famous pitcher can come back but he is surely worth the gamble to any team, and particularly one in the position the Phils will be at the start of the season.

Leading Hurler

After being one of the greatest pitchers in the game for 11 years and the leading pitcher of the American League in 1914, Bender was suddenly released by Manager Mack, of the Athletics, to the amazement of the fans. Eddie Plank and Jack Coombs were also released unconditionally. The latter pitched excellent ball last season, while Bender, probably the greatest of the trio, failed miserably in the Federal League, and was again unconditionally released in mid-season.

Players who batted against Bender at the close of the 1915 season on a barn-storming trip insist that the Indian is just as fast as ever. They argue that no one is more experienced pitcher than the "down-and-out" class as long as he has the "hop" on his fast ball. Bender, according to hundreds who saw him work last fall, still has his great fast ball.

Ball players are unanimous in the belief that the peerless Mathewson will come back if he can get his fast ball working again. They contend that Matty lost his fast ball last season, and that no return pitcher can get by in the major leagues without a "hop" on his fast ball.

Will Bender still have his fast ball working when he goes to the training camp with the Phils or will the failure of 1915 in a league admittedly inferior to one in which he starred shake the confidence and spirit of one of the greatest "money pitchers" the game has ever known?

Veterans Collapse

All great veterans of the past have suddenly collapsed. That is why the fans are still unwilling to believe that Moran is through as a star. It perhaps also explains the willingness of Manager Moran to take a chance on Bender despite the fact that he failed miserably last year.

If Bender can come back it may clinch another pennant for the Phillies. The greatest value of the Indian will be in pinch pitching. If Alexander is forced to go to the race he traveled last year, a great pinch pitcher will be badly needed. It is asking and expecting too much of Alexander to go to the mound in his regular turn and still have enough in reserve to pitch emergency games for other hurlers.

Bender's wonderful nerve, control and experience will make him the greatest pinch pitcher in the country, if he still has his fast ball. All great pinch pitchers are essentially fast ball pitchers, and Bender will need his "hop." Bender's work this season will be of unusual interest to fans throughout the country. He has six young strong pitchers to outshine to land his job. Will experience and craft prove superior to youth and strength?

When Joe Tinker was informed that Pat Moran was going to give Bender a chance to come back, the new club leader said: "If any one was taking Bender after what he showed me last season I would say they were crazy. But Moran knows a pitcher better than any one in the game, and I would not be surprised if the Indian came through. Moran makes few mistakes, and any time he is willing to take a ball player, I don't think much of it. I think twice before letting him go."

Charley Herzog says that the Reds would have caught the Phillies last season when they were five games behind the leaders early in August if he had been able to uncover a southpaw. After Benton was sent to New York, Herzog did not even have a southpaw hurler to pitch to the batsmen for batting practice until the middle of September, when he picked up "Lefty" George. With Schulz and Packard, two experienced southpaws, his staff this season the hustling Marylander insists that he will win the pennant.

The American League clubs will have a chance to pick up several promising Federal League players during the last half of the month, when the Federal League circuit will be held. It is contended that the good players of the independent league have been purchased by National League clubs, but that is far from the truth. There are several excellent prospects who are still on the market. Manager Mack could use two Federal League youngsters, and it would not be surprising if he landed at least one, if he wants no veterans.

The most remarkable thing about the National League race this season is that every manager thinks he is going to win the pennant. All have a chance, but those of Huggins and Callahan look decidedly slim. There can be but one pennant winner, so several leaders are going to die hard.

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Olympia A. A. Broad & Bainbridge TONIGHT-8:30 SHARP

WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND



THE VALENTINE

POLO TOURNAMENT AT AIKEN

Philadelphia, Bryn Mawr and Devon Teams Are Entered

AIKEN, S. C., Feb. 14.—There will be at least 10 different polo teams, with some of the best players in the country here, during the big tournament season in March. The clubs represented will include Piping Rock, Philadelphia Country, Bryn Mawr, Devon, Myopia, Cooperstown, Point Judith and Onwentsia.

The winter's schedule includes: Third week in February—Round robin tournament and one-day handicap matches of the Aiken Polo Club. Fourth week in February—High goal tournament of the Pine Tree Polo Club. First two weeks in March—Annual tournament and races of the Aiken Polo Club. Last two weeks in March—Annual tournament, horse show and symphony of the Aiken Polo Club. First week in April—High goal tournament and symphony of the Aiken Polo Club; low tournament of the Pine Tree Club.

PHILADELPHIA RETAINS TITLE

Defeats Baltimore and Keeps Squash Racquets Championship

BALTIMORE, Feb. 14.—By defeating Baltimore five matches to none, at the Baltimore Athletic Club yesterday, Philadelphia easily retained the intercity squash racquets championship. That Philadelphia would win was virtually a foregone conclusion, for on the previous day the champions had beaten Boston by five matches to none and Baltimore had beaten Boston by three matches to two, thus giving them a clear lead of two matches.

In conjunction with the intercity matches the match for the singles championship of the United States was played between Stanley W. Pearson, of the Germantown Cricket Club, Philadelphia, titleholder, and H. Drewry, Baltimore, the Maryland champion.

BALL PLAYERS' UNION PLAN OF LABOR MEN

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—Officials of the American Federation of Labor are endeavoring to form a baseball players' union. They have written to Roger Bresnahan, ex-manager of the Cubs, to ascertain his ideas on the subject.

The ball players, it is argued, are not well organized at the present time. Their fraternity, headed by David Fultz, is held by those back of the movement, has not received much recognition from the magnates, and a new union, backed by the American Federation of Labor, is figured a good thing for the diamond profession.

The fraternity had one rebuff when the Athletics, almost to a man, held out, saying that they had plenty of faith in Connie Mack and his fairness. They did this when world champions.

IF YOU HAVEN'T IT YOU CANNOT SELL IT

That's What Chandler Says About Phillies' Stock

The well-known vice president of the Phillies, Frederick T. Chandler, avers that one cannot sell stock that one does not possess. With this apparent truth as a premise, Mr. Chandler deduces that Charley Murphy and Charley Taft are not able to dispose of Philadelphia National League holdings.

"There is absolutely nothing in the report," says Mr. Chandler, "for the good reason that Taft and Murphy can't sell anything they don't own. Taft and Murphy own no stock in the Phils, and haven't held any for more than a year."

"Taft and Murphy own the grounds on which the Phils play, but they haven't the slightest connection with the club."

"I don't understand how the report started. The only thing I can say is that it is 100 per cent. wrong. But what an awful waste of good space it was."

BLACK, OF YALE, ELIGIBLE FOR ATHLETIC COMPETITION

Eli Gridiron Captain Passes All Scholastic Examinations

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 14.—Captain "Cupid" Black, of the Yale football eleven, whose rank in scholarship has been low, has been declared by the college faculty to be fully eligible. Captain Black passed successfully every scholarship examination, and he again is eligible to play next fall and to retain the captaincy.

Captain Black conferred with the new head coaches, Tad Jones and Mike Sweeney, who last night departed for their homes.

COCHRAN MAY BE PITTED WITH STAR BILLIARD PLAYER

Young Cue Phenom Making Rapid Progress Toward Championship Form

IMPROVED 100 PER CENT.

Welker Cochran is making rapid progress toward championship form at Billiard Hall. So well is he playing that Maurice Daly, of New York, announces readiness to back him against Cassin and Hoppe. If George Sutton wishes matches he need not seek games with Hoppe.

Daly will match either Cassin or Cochran against him. Sutton can get engagements with one or both. Daly prefers two contests, one in New York, the other in Chicago. His expressed opinion is: "If any professional billiard player wishes to play billiards and can get matches he should put up his money and play in 30 or 40 days, and not talk about playing next October."

Cochran's improvement is so pronounced that some experts contend his game is 100 per cent. stronger than when he began practicing with Cassin. An assertion to that effect caused Daly to say:

"The boy is doing well. It is apparent that he is approaching championship quality. To say he is 100 per cent. better than when he came back from Iowa, before the holidays is to overestimate what he has done. But he is doing enough to attract many enthusiastic admirers. I told him to watch closely Cassin's methods and execution, and as far as possible adopt the best of them. That is just what he has done. The results have been impressive and gratifying."

"They had an experience common to all young players, professional or amateur, who went through it. In a little faster company than they had been accustomed to competing against, they were too ambitious and eager."

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Prince Albert is so friendly and so all-fired-good

that it just makes a man sorry-like that he didn't get onto this pipe thing and cigarette rolling stunt a-while-ago. He counts it lost time quick as the joy's goodness of this P. A. tobacco gets firm set into his happiness division. The patented process fixes that—and cuts out bite and parch!

Men, it's so easy to get on the right track for straight-ahead-action—and the ride only stands you 5c or 10c—that it sure is due you, due your tongue, due your contentment-container to know how much you'll like

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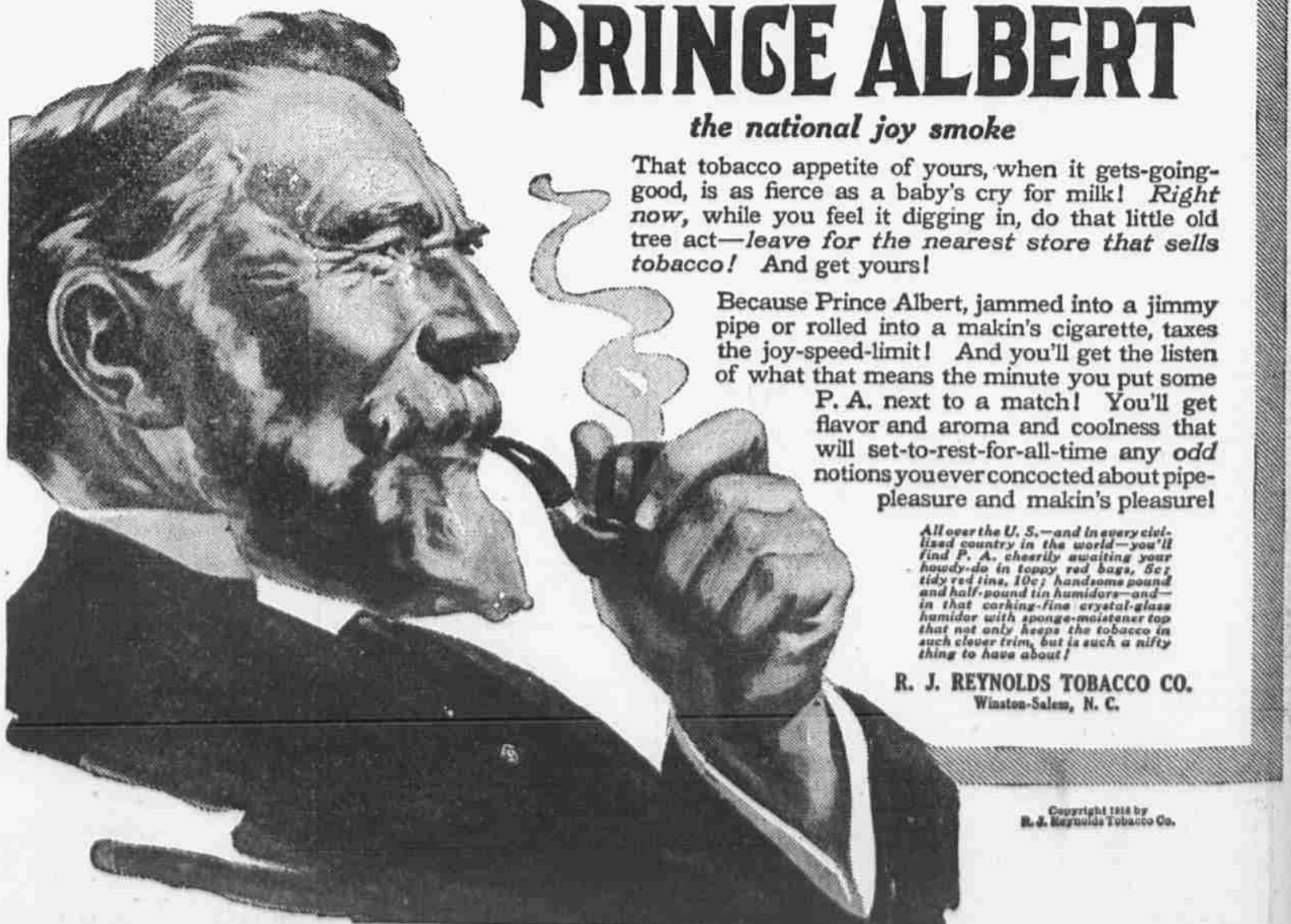
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That tobacco appetite of yours, when it gets-going-good, is as fierce as a baby's cry for milk! Right now, while you feel it digging in, do that little old tree act—leave for the nearest store that sells tobacco! And get yours!

Because Prince Albert, jammed into a jimmy pipe or rolled into a makin's cigarette, taxes the joy-speed-limit! And you'll get the listen of what that means the minute you put some P. A. next to a match! You'll get flavor and aroma and coolness that will set-to-rest-for-all-time any odd notions you ever concocted about pipe-pleasure and makin's pleasure!

All over the U. S.—and in every civilized country in the world—you'll find P. A. cheerily awaiting your hand—in topper red bags, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, 100c, handsome pouches and half-pound tin humidor—and in that corking-fine crystal-glass humidor with spoon-resting-top that not only keeps the tobacco in such clearest trim, but is such a nifty thing to have about!

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