PAST RECORDS OF ATHLETICS PROVE CONNIE MACK HAS BEEN DEVELOPER OF PITCHER

CONNIE MACK HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP A PITCHER WHEN IN A PINCH

Morgan, Coombs, Krause, Dygert and Others Hurled Well Because the Athletic Leader Infused Unbounded Confidence in Them

CONNIE MACK needs no defender, and the veteran "sportsman" who has in baseball will have a hard time convincing the fans that the Athletics will not come back within a year. This "sportsman" insists that Mack will not come back because in all his career as manager of the Athletics he has never been able to develop a pitcher.

He says that in nine years Mack has not developed a twirler, and that only the great natural ability of Plank, Coombs and Bender enabled Mack to become No doubt Plank, Bender and Coombs did help Mack, but not to the extent that Mack helped them. Had it not been for Mack not one of these twirlers would ever have become better than a second-rate twirler.

All had great natural talent, but it would never have been brought out had it not been for Mack. Those who recall the first days of the Athletics in 1901 remember how Mack and Mike Powers worked with Plank every morning. and how "green" Bender was when he joined the Mackmen three years later.

Had Patience With Chief Bender

To have released Bender would have ruined him, as his disposition at that time would have caused him to go to pieces, but not one manager in a hundred would have held the Indian on what he showed during his first three months with the Mackmen. Mack had the patience, and with the aid of the brilliant Powers, developed Bender Into a twirler.

Mack's greatest work probably was done with Coombs. Coombs showed flashes of great ability, but for a year after his famous 24-inning battle with "Jumbo" Harris in Boston, Coombs was useless. Harris was released by the shrewd Jimmy Collins because he said "Jumbo" would never come back. Harris never did come back; yet he had more "stuff" than Coombs at that time. Coombs lost confidence and was gradually going to pieces and only the faith of Mack pulled him through.

It is hard for the fans who have seen Coombs show such wondeful nerve and gameness in pinches to believe that fellow players accused him of lacking nerve until Jack had been made to believe by Mack that he was a great pitcher Coombs never attracted much attention until 1910, and the fans naturally remembered his great deeds prior to his injury in the world's series game with the Giants, but there are still a few men on Mack's payroll who remember hearing the infielders beg Connie to take the "big, yellow stiff" out of the box

Coombs Game, But Lacked Confidence

Coombs always was game, but he lacked confidence, and when the breaks of the game went against him he went completely to pieces until Mack gave him the confidence which made him one of the greatest pitchers the game has produced. More than one game, which apparently was clinched, was lost because Coombs lost confidence. He had a habit of filling up the bases with passes, then going completely to pieces, allowing the next two or three hitters to whale the ball a mile because he did not have enough confidence to put anything

Still Mack is accused of being a victim of circumstances because he happened to have three great twirlers. Mack was responsible for the success of the famous trio, and the claim that he has been unable to develop pitchers is proven false by the cases of "Cy" Morgan, Jimmy Dygert and Harry Krause. None of these twirlers were cut out to be sensational hurlers, and they never were; but Mack, through his wonderful ability, made each serve his purpose. Morgan and Krause really won pennants, though neither ever was trusted with a world's series assignment, and were completely forgotten by the time the

Morgan Was Considered a Great Joke

When Mack sent Vic Schiltzer, last season in the Delaware County League, to Boston for Morgan, other managers laughed. They declared that Morgan was the joke pitcher of baseball. All admitted that he had a lot of "stuff," but usually he averaged eight or ten passes to a game, and he was another who was "yellow," according to players who had played with him. Morgan's case was the same as that of Coombs-lack of confidence.

When Bender was taken ill and Eddle Plank had a lame shoulder just at the time when they were needed most in 1910, Mack was up against it and proved himself a master developer of pitchers by making a star of Morgan. He realized that there was only one way to do it and that was to convince Cy that was a great pitcher.

There were other hurlers on the staff, but Mack took his two uncertainties There were other hurlers on the staff, but Mack took his two uncertainties of the unexpected counts in wrestling as and told them they were to carry the pitching burden alone for a few weeks. In boxing, baseball or business." Both had always been wild, and working them every other day served two purposes. One was to give them confidence and the other to give them control. There is only one cure for lack of control, unless it comes from lack of nerve in pinches, and that is plenty of work.

Connie Demonstrated His Baseball Talent

Morgan and Coombs went to the mound every other day for almost three weeks and 14 out of 16 games were won, one of the defeats being charged against Jimmy Dygert who went to the mound in one game of a double-header. Coombs was not beaten and Morgan lost one hardeck game. This streak was the making of Coombs. Not one manager in a hundred would have had enough faith in Coombs and Morgan to entrust them with this burden on the strength of what they had previously shown.

Dygert and Krause were handicapped physically, and neither ever had a chance to be a star for more than a few years, but by wonderful handling. Mack won a pennant with the latter and nearly upset Detroit in 1907 with the other. In 1907, the pennant was virtually lost in the famous 17-inning game when "Silk" O'Loughlin made his famous ruling of interference on Davis' drive into the crowd.

This game was started by Dygert, who had been pitching wonderful ball. He was not strong enough to stand the pace and being a poor fielder Detroit put him up in the air in the first inning when Jones, McIntyre and Cobb beat out bunts. Waddell came next, but Cobb chased him from the mound by pounding one over the fence in the ninth inning tying the score.

O'Loughlin Robbed Dygert of a Reputation

Eddie Plank finished the gau.e, which was called at the end of the 17th inning on account of darkness. Had Dygert gotten away with the first same (a double-header having been scheduled), it is likely that Mackmen would have won the pennant and the hero would have been Jimmy Dygert-a pitcher who would never have been given a chance with the average manager.

Had it not been for Harry Krause's 11 victories out of his first 12 starts, the Mackmen would have been so far out of the race in 1910 that it would have been impossible for them to have won. Krause was never effective after that streak, and had really not shown enough to warrant the confidence Mack placed in him. Mack convinced Krause that he was a great pitcher, because Bender and Plank were not in shape-and really were not during the entire season-and it was a long time before Krause discovered that he was not cut out to be a great pitcher. Mack carried Krause until he became convinced that Krause knew that he was through as a star.

There has been no need for Mack to waste time on too many youngsters as long as he had his great veteran trio, but the fact remains that every time he has needed a new twirler to pull him through, the wizard-manager has uncovered him. In 1913 he started to build his new staff, and uncovered Joe Bush, who unexpectedly upset the world series calculations of the Giants by winning the game which was the turning point of the series.

Wyckoff Has Developed in Last Two Years

In 1914 he started to develop Wyckoff, but Bush fell away a trifle. The progress made with Wyckoff has not been so noticeable, because the Williamsport had a miserable team behind him in 1915, when he was just striking his stride. There is hardly a player in the American League who will not grant that Mack has two of the best young pitchers in the league in Bush and Wyckoff, and the fans will realize this before the 1916 season is long under way,

At the recent meeting of the American League in New York, the Athletics were thoroughly dissected by the managers of other teams, all of whom were present but Fielder Jones and Hughey Jennings. Every other leader admitted that Wyckoff was one of the greatest twirlers in the game, and each expressed a desire to give half a ball team in exchange for the young star. Four of the five leaders declared that Bush also was a wonder, while the other said he was a "pretty good-looking twirler, but not as good as Wyckoff."

IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES



STORIES IN PAPER WIN MAT BOUTS FOR JOE STECHER

Opponents Warned Against "Scissors," Often Leave Openings for Other Holds

ONLY 22 YEARS OLD

Joe Stecher, the phenomenal young wrestler, brought from oblivion by the re-vival of the mat game, says many of his matches have been won for him by news-

"On account of the done written about me I am known as the chap with a won-derful leg selssors hold." says Stecher. "It has been written that I have a squeezpressure of several thousand pounds in y legs and that the hold I use is deadly. In fact, the leg scissors has become as famous as the Gotch toe hold.

"Consequently every wrestler I meet is on the lookout for the scissors grip, and he leaves openings for other holds. I have not used the scissors in half my bouts. I know and use other holds, just like other wrestlers do. Half the time I do not have to think about using the scissors because my opponent, in protecting himself from the grip, lets me slam on the half-Nelson other good hold.

Stecher is called the "Boy in Overalls." He was raised on a farm near Dodge, Neb., and is only 22 years of age. In street clothes he looks like a schoolboy. But beneath his little checkered cap are more brains than the average wrestler has and beneath his neat-fitting suit are arms and legs of rare strength.

Stecher scales around 200, but seems small for the weight. At that, he is light for the heavyweight wrestling game. Most | Psychology of the Big Bout of the men he meets outweigh him many pounds and a lot of them are of the

"bruiser" type.

The bey has had 51 bouts. His shoulders have never touched the mat. He won the American championship by de-feating Charley Cutler, a veteran at the game; then defended the title against Americus, Hussane, the Turk, and others. In the international tournament at New York betefred the York he defeated the sensational Masked Marvel and is in the running for the \$10,000 to be given the winner of the

GUY NICKALLS CHEERFUL ON YALE CREW PROSPECTS Eli Coach Believes Material Can Be

Made Into Winning Boat NEW HAVEN, Feb. 29.—Guy Nickalls,

Yale's crew coach, who has just arrived from a three months' vacation in England, has taken charge of the development of Yale crews, and after looking over the men stated that he believed he had enough good material at hand out of which to build a winning varsity crew. As soon as he gets the men started in their neediminary training he intends to their preliminary training he intends to look over the Housatonic course on which Yale is to practice this spring, and on his verdict will probably depend the location of Yale crew quarters in the future

In discussing Yale's prospects in crew for 1916 Coach Nickalls said today: "The squad consists of excellent material, so that there is no reason why we should not turn out another championship crew. It is true that seven members of the Harvard crew which rowed at New London in June are rowing in the first boat again this year, while four members of Yale's championship eight were lost by graduation. Nevertheless the squad on the whole looks like one from which a winning crew can be developed."

Wilson Wins at Billiards

F. C. Appleby Defeats Brother NEW YORK, Feb. 29.—In the opening game the 15th annual narional amateur, class A. 2 billiard charmonophip fournament has

MYSTERY OF WILLARD LENDS PSYCHIC EFFECT TO BIG BOUT

Thousands Will Visit Battle to Get Close View of Jess and Form Own Opinions as to

By GRANTLAND RICE

The Veteran Speaks I know what's what," said the Veteran, As he lobbed one back to me; The early sun in these trainin' camps Ain't hot like it used to be."
"Maybe the old wing's sore a bit,"
I said as I sought the shade,

"O, the arm feels great," he said with a scoul

As he reached for the shoulder blade, 'My legs is good as they ever was,"

Said the Veteran unto me; But I wish to h—— I could get this kink Rubbed out of my aching knee; There ain't no heat in the sun," he snarled, "Or I'd be in condition now." Yes, yes, it's chilly and rate," I said, As I mopped at my dripping brow.

"I can hit that pill," said the Veteran, "I am there with the wallop still;"
And the old third baseman secouled again,
As old third basemen will; "It's funny," he said, as he looked around To see that nobody heard—

They got five kids in the draft this year And four of them play third.

Rickard the Shrewd

into a midwinter sunstroke or was on the to break even. of brain trouble.

Not to forget that one assisting feature cooked precisely that way at the is the public's knowledge that with Rickstart. But all the time Tex had Psychology working overtime for him, and in a

peculiar way.

The psychology of the apparent attractiveness of the big contest lay in the deep mystery that has surrounded Jess Willard. Thousands of those who will Willard. March Madison Square Garden late in March will be there, not only to see a boxing contest, but to find out from close quarters just what sort of a champion Willard is

Is he the most impregnable champ that ever won the title? Or did he merely catch Johnson as the Zulu was fading into twilight?

The Willard Debate There has never been a champion about

after securing the title.

TENNEY TO PLAY IN NEWARK New Manager Uncertain Grounds Will Be Used

NEWARK, N. J., Feb. 29 .- Fred Tenney, the new manager of the Newark International League baseball team, made Federal League grounds and Wiedenmayer's Park and declared he was undecided which would be more suitable for the coming season. Tenney said he intended to be a player-manager. "I am only 44 years old," he said, "and in a pinch I believe I can show that I have much baseball playing ability left."

Newark's new manager said when he and James B. Price, the president of the club, purchased the Newark franchise they obtained nine players, seven of whom were on the old Newark team when it was transferred to Harrisburg last sea-son. There is to be no expensive train-ing trip for the Newark team this year.

SINCLAIR THROUGH WITH GAME

Made Money by Selling Players, Says Oil King

KANNAS CITY. Feb. 29—"I've sold all my players, except one and I'm through with bases ball," declared Harry Sinclair, former Federal Lesgue magnate, who is here on his way to Tulsa, Cida. "And the best part of it," he continued. "Is that I have made money instead of losing the large sums I read of every day." Sinclair declared the small amount he lost in Newari, last year, was regained in the sale of that citt's players. Debts of other clubs in the league ware likewises liquidated, he declared until he came out with a profit. Hal Chase was named by Sinclair as the only player he has not disposed of.

His Calibre

The previous records show that Gunboat Smith and Bearcat McMahon, both ordi-Smith and Bearcat McManon, note ordinary boxers, while given decisions over the Kansan, were at least entitled to drawn verdicts. Willard's battle with Carl Morris, one of his last fights before meeting Johnson, was a terrible thing.

And then, in the wake of these badly fought contests, the big fellow suddenly are and disperses, the Smoke in a

steps out and disperses the Smoke in a battle that above all other things called for stamina and courage.

Desiring to Be Shown

So Willard today is the ring's Man of Mystery. Moran's boxing ability is fairly

But about Williard there are at least two distinct opinions-one that he is an unbeatable champion, with enough skill and speed and courage added to his huge bulk to render the combination invincible. The other is that Willard has little but mere bulk-that he is too slow, too unaggressive and too shy in boxing skill to deserve any top place in the ring.

The boxing public at large, which is no small part of the populace, would like to know which of these opinions is the

sition where more than \$99,000 was needed to pay the expenses of a ten-round nodecision bout a number of estimable thinkers thought that Tex had bunned over the big financial wall he must cross

> ard promoting the enterprise everything will be on the level to the last breath. Half Tones

The man who looks before he leaps will never have a broken neck-nor lead the

The right sort of confidence admits in advance the possibility of defeat, and so guards against it.

Most Valuable Wing

What is the most valuable arm in sport? A reader writes in to suggest that it belongs—not to Mathewson or Johnson or Alexander—but to Charles Chaplin. "Charles has already earned," writes our correspondent, "over \$2.000,000 by hurling ics cream cones, custard pies and such at the heads and faces of numerous women and men." Did you ever notice that her the control of th whose ability less was known a full year | and men." Did you ever notice that he is also a southpaw?

PERDUE FREE AGENT

Card Pitcher's Contention Upheld. Tony Smith Turned Down

CINCINNATI, Feb. 29 .- The national baseball commission has refused the application of Player Tony Smith, of the a visit to this city and inspected both the Galveston club, to be declared a free agent. The national commission also promul-

gated a decision, declaring Pitcher Hub Purdue, last year with the St. Louis Nationals, a free agent and eligible to contract with any club desiring his services. The commission upheld the contention of Purdue that under his contract St. Louis could not transfer him to a minor

CLARK WINS FROM FINK Philadelphian Loses First Match for

Pocket Billiard Title

Pocket Billiard Title
CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—E. I. Raiph, of Highlaown, N. J., defeated James Mature, of Denown, N. J. defeated James Mature, of Denown, of the Chicago of the Chicago of Seateriny's round in the national pocket billiard
iournament. Raibh ran out in I7 innings with
a high score of 21.
In the second game George L. Chark, New
Tots, defeated Morris L. Fink, Philadelphia,
1018. defeated Morris L. Fink, Philadelphia,
1049. defeated Morris Le Fink cores was 90 to
40 in Chark's rise stage the score was 90 to
philan came up with a splandid spurt, he lacked
one of running out.

SPORTSMEN'S SHOW All Week-10 A. M. to 11 P. M. Ends Mar. INDOOR TENNIS AND GOLF

SCHOOL FIVES MAKING USUAL CLAIM ON TITE

Basketball Teams Tak Turns Announcing The Are "Real Champions"

TAKE YOUR PICE

Scholastic Basketball Schedule for Today

HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE. Southern High vs. Northeast High, Quaker City Athletic Club, 26th and De OTHER CONTESTS.

High School League Standle

The usual winter competition age the preparatory school athletes, claim the Eastern basketball title, has star with Peddle Institute and George Sch having a spirited controversy as to the title winners for the scanon of its reddie Institute students think they have the best claim to the Eastern baskets

Perhaps Swarthmore Preparatory, Hay ford School and a few others have go claims. It is more than likely that to rethree more claims will be made before some some to an end. There is a sure thing and that is, Lawrencey School and Tome Institute will not do a bidding this year. They were climinallong ago.

GREYSTOCK GAINS

BIGGER LEAD IN

EASTERN LEAGUE

Pace-Makers Score Easy

Win by Trimming Tren-

ton, 30 to 19

BUDD DEFEATS GIRARD

Eastern League Standing

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS.

CLUB STANDING.

Greystock. 23 11 .676 De Nerl. 17 17 .600 Reading. 10 15 .571 Jasper. 14 21 .400 Camden. 18 17 .514 Trenton. 12 23 .343

TOMOS.ROW NIGHT'S GAME.

The Greystock team again opened its

lead in the Eastern League race. Last night at Trenton the Greys piled up a

lead of 13 points in the first half of the game with the Tigers, and had no trouble

During the entire first half the visitors presented an impregnable defense and Trenton failed to score a field goal. Mean-

while Greystock landed four two-pointers

and led in the score at the end of the half.

18 to 5. Cross was the star performer dur-

the entire Trenton team showed an im-

provement in form. Pross was unable to

score during the half, while Frost himself landed the ball through the net.

Trenton presented a team largely of

youngsters. Barlow and Hargrenves, the two former Laurel players, were at for-ward and Zahn, a Philadelphia youngster.

was at guard beside Hough. Zahn's work

was a feature of the match, his guarding and blocking being a treat. He outplayed

the veteran Fogarty despite the fact that the latter scored two field goals to his one,

'The calling of an extra "time out," after they had had their limit, caused Girard to go down to defeat at the hands

of E. G. Budd, at the Quaker City Athletic Club's Hall, last night, by the score of 23 to 22. It was the first of a series of

three games between the American and Industrial League champions, and nearly 1000 persons saw the contest, and, inci-

dentally. Girard's first defeat of the sca-scason at the Quaker City Hall. • Haire and Deines, who perform for the

Plymouth team, in the Pennsylvania State League, were in Girard's line-up. The calling of the extra time out happened

two minutes before the close of the game, and as White tallied the throw, it turned out to be the winning point. Budd had a three-point lead with this throw, and a

moment later Deines tallied a goal that would have tied the score. The Girard

boys played the better all-around game

but were woefully weak on their free throws, Haire and Ehlers both trying.

in winning by a score of 30 to 19.

Tremton at Camden.

Locally speaking, scholastic cage to are about ready to concede champions honors in the High School League honors in the High School League Central High School and in the Cath Schools' championship series to the Joseph's College. Everything points that direction. The unexpected a happen and Central may be elimated, but it is hardly likely, handing out a preparatory school chapionship in this section, Haverford School and Swarthmore Preparatory School close in line for honors. close in line for honors.

A telephone call from an Evening Less correspondent brought the "official" infertion that the "Central High School Philadelphia High School banketball range been postponed until Wednesslay to be the in the West Philadelphia grammastan. this information comes from a thoroughly liable source, it is published for the salight ment of the scholastic bankethall fame vread this column.

At the same time it simile be stated fonce more the High School Learne affel have falled to make any effort whatever notify officially the public through the passets of the changes made in the plans this work's league games. It was a jok the majority of the scholastic boast follow

Philip G. Lewis, of the central board of ficials. Catholic High's boys have been pl ing the Eastern Leavue rules. The game of played under the Intercollegiate League or

Captain Burnett, Collins, Betimer, Lasse Hausser, Gonover and Fisher all played Germantown, Burnell, Collins, Betimer, Lasser Captains, Burnell, Collins, Betimer, Lasser captains, Burnell, Collins, Betimer, Lasser captains, and the will some day loom up a winner on a club or college taum. Bets hopes to go to college, and if he success that he will make good as a college bia. In one of the closest games that has blayed at Bryn Athyn Academy in a loss the Bryn Athyn athletes went down to feat in the match with Lower Merian B School yesterday, 31 to 28. The Lower Mer High School reserves also won the with the Bryn Athyn second team, 17 to McDowell, Pool, Shupert, Allen and C tain Lardy Davis won the game for the A more school. Smith Seliner, Hosteck, Spenstein and Frost played for Bryn Athyn.



Ride to Work on this Bicycle



EVENING LEDGER MOVIES-WEAK EYES, ALOYSIUS, ARE TWO GOOD REASONS FOR WEARING SPECTACLES

