

"SPRING" PITCHING GIVES BAKER REPUTATION OF BEING A REAL HITTING "COME BACK"

FRANK BAKER MAY BE ABLE TO "COME BACK," BUT ONLY TIME WILL TELL, CERTAINLY

Hard Hitting in Early Spring Is Result of Weak Pitching and Not a Great Eye for Swatting the Ball

SOME say they never come back. Others say they do. When James J. Jeffries "went," he did not "return." Neither did Jack Johnson, Jack Combs did come back and with a triple-expansion vengeance.

Hence we contend that it all depends.

The reason for all this is J. Franklin Baker. The great question with New York baseball fans and pitchers of the American League is: "Can Baker come back after having been out of the game a season?" Apparently there is no reason why he should not be as good as ever, except the trifling decline which comes to every athlete, no matter how good, with the passing of years. But it is not good form, nor is it the correct "dope" to say that Baker has demonstrated beyond all question that he has "come back" simply because he slammed the ball viciously around the lot at Macon, Georgia, the training camp of the Yankees, in his first workout.

If the Maryland farmer continues to do this all spring, and begins pelting the base hits to all corners of the American League lawns, it will be time to say that he has come back. But when either a veteran pitcher is just lobbing them across, or an untired rookie is getting a half-inch break on the ball, any able-bodied, two-armed man can get a hit with reasonable frequency. Even Emory Titman used to get them in the spring.

It's the Same Old, Worn Story

This same thing happens every season at the various training camps. The pitchers have the seams on the balls they offer to the batsmen during the first two weeks of the season of preparation, and that is about all except the trademark. Hence the perennial glowing reports of the swatting wonders that we get from the Southland each blustery March.

Frank Baker is no doubt wondering wonders with the willow in the lazy precincts of Macon, but others are doing it too.

Down in St. Petersburg the heavy maulers of Moran's brigade are batting old boards off the distant fences with monotonous regularity, but that does not prove that every player who is doing that is going to hit .300 this season, nor does it even prove that any individual will even win a permanent position on the strength of hitting against these weak offerings.

Frank Baker has many friends in Philadelphia and many followers who believe that he is going to be a big aid to Wild Bill's bunch of Yankees. Nevertheless it is too early to predict that this "Richard is himself again" and that he will be able to accomplish the same feats during the 1916 campaign that he did as a member of Connie Mack's champion White Elephants.

One great factor in Baker's success was Eddie Collins. The White Sox second baseman, batting just ahead of J. Franklin, used to get to first base and so disconcert the pitcher by base stealing, or bluffs at stealing, that the average hurler would very often get in the hole with Baker. This meant that Frank would have a chance to get a heavy crack at a "ripple."

However, as stated in the beginning, it all depends. Likewise you never can tell.

Harry Davis as a Bowling Magnate

The officials conducting the big bowling championship of the Atlantic coast, to be staged in Washington, D. C., next month, would like to have Harry Davis, Connie Mack's lieutenant, organize a five-man team and enter it in the championships. He has already captained two teams from the Washington American League Club, these to be led by Walter Johnson and Clarke Griffith.

Many of the Washington officials know Davis' bowling ability of old. Ten years ago the Athletic veteran was one of the best bowlers in this city, and conducted one of its leading bowling alleys. He rolled in the national championships for years and generally finished up in the prize money. He would have to pick a team of youngsters, as the majority of his old team are missing. He had on his team in the past such men as Bender, Plank, Schreck, Waddell, Monte Cross, Dan Murphy, Oldring, Conkley and a group of others. It is doubtful whether any baseball combination ever compared with this team of players.

England vs. America in Big Battle 28 Years Ago

Although the historian may consider it a minor affair as compared with the great battles fought in France during the present war, and may even pass over it without mention, nevertheless the battle of Chantilly had some features deserving of perpetuation in print. It was just 28 years ago this week that this conflict was fought on Baron Rothschild's training grounds near Chantilly, France. It was England against America, the former represented by the lily, slender, scientific boxer, Charlie Mitchell, and the latter by the big, broad, bluff, bellows Irish-American, "young truly John L."

Although this was a bare-knuckle battle, under the old London rules, with the world's championship and \$5000 at stake, it was not marked by any great degree of ferocity. The opponents and their seconds—Jake Kilrain and Jack Baldeck for Mitchell and Ashton and McDonald for Sullivan—seemed to remember that they were on the soil of France, that land of politeness and suave courtesy, and acted accordingly. The rude language so often heard at such affairs was almost lacking, and "Mr." Sullivan and "Mr." Mitchell bombarded each other with the utmost good feeling. When Charlie landed a good one John would say, "That was a fine punch, Mitchell," and the Britisher was not to be outdone.

At the end of the 39th round the affair was called a draw, the battle having occupied three hours and eleven minutes. The affair was unsatisfactory to the fans who had traveled so far to see it.

After the crowd returned to London, an American was explaining Sullivan's failure to win. "A cold, driving rain was falling," he said, "and poor John was chilled to the bone. He suffered terribly from the cold, and my heart ached for the poor old fellow, fighting away so gamely hour after hour.

"It was a bloody shyme," agreed an Englishman. "But, blimey, who was 'olding the umbrella over Mitchell?"

Meredit May Continue to Smash Marks

Will the award of the intercollegiate track and field championships to the Harvard Stadium be just the thing to give Ted Meredith a chance to break two world's records in May? Those who have studied the matter of tracks, the trainers of the big college teams and the men who have held records in the past, believe that the track in Harvard's big athletic oval is just enough faster than that on Franklin Field to take a couple of seconds off the half-mile record and nearly a second off the quarter-mile mark, all other conditions being equal.

Billy Paul, the former Penn miler, who, previous to John Paul Jones' time, was the holder of the college mile record at 4:17.4-5, and Mike Murphy were two of those who most strenuously maintained that in any distance from the quarter-mile up the Harvard Stadium track meant a great advantage to the athlete. They both assigned two reasons for this peculiarity. One was that the track is better made, with a finer spring; the second that in that at Cambridge it is possible to run almost on the pole with safety, while on Franklin Field the track is not firm enough to stand the pounding at a lesser distance than a foot from the pole, while a third reason is the whirling currents of winds in the stadium.

When analyzed by such a specialist as Mike Murphy, the reasons why the track at Cambridge can be circled in a fraction of a second faster in a quarter-mile, nearly two seconds in the half and more than three in the mile are clear to track men. When the runner can tread almost on the pole and find firm footing he is saving many yards in his course about the track, which, of course, means a saving of time.

As Meredith will again essay the winning of both the quarter-mile and half-mile events, and naturally will hope to break both records, the help that the Harvard track and the wind currents will give will surely be welcome. It is noticeable that almost all of the great records in events from the quarter-mile up in recent seasons have been made in the stadium.

There is one ball player, at present out of a job and probably very anxious to land one, who could make the 1916 pennant just about a cinch for a team in need of a good first baseman if he could be depended on to do his best throughout the season.

Hal Chase is his name and American League fans do not need to be told that he is a wonderful athlete when he feels disposed to try. The trouble is that there is no certainty that he will give his best efforts to any club more than a few days at a time.

PENN WILL NOT PLAY OFF TIE WITH PRINCETON

Cage Title to Be Divided Between Red and Blue and Orange and Black

OTHER CAGE NEWS

Intercollegiate League

LAST NIGHT'S RESULT: Princeton, 22; Cornell, 19.

FINAL STANDING OF THE TEAMS: Penn, W. L. 499 193; Yale, W. L. 380 200; Princeton, W. L. 800 140; Dartmouth, W. L. 500 150; Cornell, W. L. 500 150.

The University of Pennsylvania basketball team will not play a post-season series with Princeton in spite of the fact that the Tiers' 22-19 victory over Cornell last night put the Orange and Black on even terms with the Red and Blue.

There are several reasons why Penn will not consent to the series to decide the intercollegiate title, regardless of what action the league officials may see fit to take.

After the game at Cornell on Monday night the Pennsylvania team disbanded and broke training for the season. Williamson, the lightest and smallest player in the games, was physically unfit to continue further. Of a nervous temperament, the league race had a great effect on his nerves. At least two other players could not stand the strain of another series of games, and several members of the team have been neglecting their studies in order to give their best services to the basketball team. This is a state of affairs that could not continue very long. These players have returned to their scholastic duties, and are through with basketball for the season.

Penn Refuses

Therefore, even if Princeton is willing to play a series, Penn is unwilling. Should the intercollegiate basketball officials suggest that a series be played to determine which team is the better, Pennsylvania will not play. This is a matter of honor, the championship of the league by forfeit, that is its privilege, declare the Penn players.

Following a tie for the league championship a contest was arranged between Cornell and Columbia, the intercollegiate league went on record as saying that in the future should the league race result in a tie a series of games should be played to decide the championship, also suggesting that the games be played on a neutral floor.

Much Too Late

But the league officials failed to provide for the playing of the games within a certain time limit, and so moving up the league dates, Lou Jourdan, coach of the Penn team, is of the opinion that it is rather late in the season to be arranging a tie between Princeton and Cornell.

Consequently the intercollegiate Basketball League race of 1915-1916 will remain a tie between Pennsylvania and Princeton, which is the first time in eight years the Pennsylvania has not won first place, and it is the first time in Princeton athletics that a Tiger team ever got above third place.

Eastern League Standing

W. L. P. C.	W. L. P. C.
Greensboro, 25 11 391 18 19 448	Richmond, 25 11 391 18 19 448
Columbia, 20 19 513 18 19 451	Jasper at Greystone.

Jasper staged a whirlwind rally in the second half of the game with Campbell last night and won an 18-17 decision in the tenth round. The Jasper five pulled five points from the game, and the Campbell five was never able to overcome. The first half ended 17-12 in Campbell's favor.

Stumpage Joseph L. Bailey of the Greensboro club, the pennant holder, which he had a margin over the runner-up, which he had a margin over the runner-up, which he had a margin over the runner-up.

NO HALT IN MCCARRON'S WORK

Allentown Middleweight Continues Training for Mix With Borrell

There was no let-up in Jack McCarron's training following his 15-round victory over Jackie Clark, in Allentown last night, according to a report received by Jack O'Brien today. McCarron will do light work today, and then put in two days of hard training Saturday and Monday in preparation for his encounter with Joe Borrell at the Palace A. C., Norristown, Tuesday night.

Borrell took his usual four-mile run this morning and afterward began his gymnasium work this afternoon he announced himself in the best shape since his return from Europe. Joe's right hand had been giving him trouble, but he feels now that he could fell an ox without injuring the fist.

NEWS OF THE BOWLING ALLEYS

Retail Credit is two games ahead of the Accounts squad, each winning two games in the National League series on Casino Alleys last night.

Pieron, of Accounts, is the leading bowler of the big department store league. He scores 190 and 198 last night, but he maintains the position at the top of the average men.

Ross easily outrolled Moy's Furnishing. Stokes, of Ross, took 291 in his second game with 222, which was the best single game of the season. Ross also took 291 in his last game, and Johnson, of the same combination, got 211 in his first game, while Armstrong, of Wholesale, twice in succession reached 198 pins.

Franklin won two from Pennsylvania Company in the National Bank matches on Terminal Alley. Hayes took 281 in his second game for the leaders. McCormack, of the Four Aces, with 200, and Hordell, of Pennsylvania Company, with 202, were the other four bowlers of the 40 experts who reached the double century mark 232 games on Terminal Alley.

The Pirates retained their stride against Belgrave and won their eighth in the Keystone League tourney on Keystone Alleys last night. They won six games over the 369 who played. Pirates dropped the second game, 971 to 951. Dunham was high for the winners, averaging 208 for three games. Hughes, of Belgrave, rolled 204 in his second game and 242 in his third.

The leaders of Section II of the Keystone League suffered reverses last night. Archers twice leded Active, the leaders. In a close 2-2 battle, Active won the margin of 2-1 by two pins and this was the margin of Archers' triumph in the second game, while Archers won the third conflict by a 982-to-873 score.

The Curtis League lights of the wooden pins again will begin their touring matches in Terminal alleys tonight. On Keystone alleys the Quaker City experts will contest.

Knox, of Agassiz, showed his old-time ability with scores of 204, 222 and 221 in succession against Wined. The latter team took 172 pins by handicap allowance and won the second game by four pins.

With the additional week in which to fore-which carries the expert, the 1916 season cannot, without a large stretch of the imagination, see many things better than last place for the

THE FRESH OFFICE BOY AGAIN



CONNIE MACK MAY DEVELOP ANOTHER GREAT BASEBALL MACHINE BY THE SEASON OF 1917

Pitching This Year Should Be Far Better Than It Was in Campaign of 1915

By CHANDLER D. RICHTER

THE coming season will be the most important in the career of Connie Mack, builder of wonderful baseball machines and the recognized genius of the national game.

Baseball players, managers, scribes and fans are of the opinion that Mack has overestimated his own ability and will never be able to fight his way back to the top of the heap. But Connie insists that he will have a better team, within two years, than the one he broke up.

Throughout his career, Mack has had wonderful success with youngsters brought into the majors without a day of minor league experience. Before Mack started picking up youngsters from collegiate and minor league ranks and putting them into the game, it was believed that it was impossible for a player to make good without minor league experience. With but few exceptions, all the players in the game prior to 1901 had been picked from a minor league or were sent to one for further seasoning.

Mack's Collegians

Mack completely revolutionized the game by picking up and developing the greatest team in the game's history at a cost of less than \$2000 in money spent for players. Collegians were frowned upon until Mack produced Plank, Bender, Conkley, Fultz, Coombs, Collins, Barry, Williams, D. Murphy and others. Now a large percentage of the men in the game are collegians.

The rest of the good men who played prominent parts in the winning of pennants cost Mack little. He discovered and developed the best pitchers in the game before they were passed up by other clubs and purchased by Mack for \$500 or less. Amos Strunk, one of the greatest outfielders in the game, was picked up playing with the "Sparrows" at Fenway Park; Baker cost Mack \$750; Wally Schang was gotten for \$1500, the draft price, although 10 other clubs were after him; Ira Thomas was a gift; so was Morgan, Boyert, Shaver and others who have played an important part in past successes of the Mackmen.

Mack's career sounds like fiction, and though the whole country appears to believe that the Athletics will remain in the rut for years, we are inclined to believe that 1917 will again find Mack with a wonderful team. He may not have the necessary balance to come through a pennant winner, but the machine will be constructed and coming fast.

For the 1916 season one cannot, without a large stretch of the imagination, see anything better than last place for the

Athletics' Roster for 1916

PITCHERS	Crowell	Ray
Hessler	Moyers	Richardson
Buck	Shelton	Aldworth
Nabors	Myer	CATCHERS
Schang	Perkins	Meyers
McJohn	Lajoie	INFELDERS
Malone	Witt	Grabe
Olding	Gillmore	McConnell
Walsh	Stellbauer	OUTFIELDERS
	Strunk	Thompson

Athletics. Unless the team shows far better than it appears capable of doing at the start of the season, game after game will be lost until the youthful combination finds itself.

At the present time the Athletics really are better than they look on paper. The miserable pitching of 1915 and the general indifference and lack of spirit of the rest of the team made the Mackmen look even worse than they were.

Young Pitchers

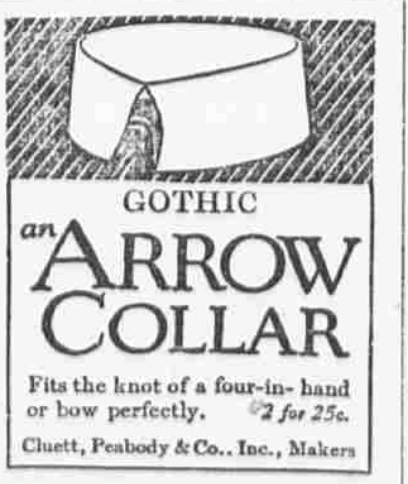
The same pitchers who looked so bad in 1915 probably will be mainstays of a staff which will in time rival the famous crews headed by the grand old trio of Bender, Plank and Coombe, which Mack threw to the winds.

Weldon Wyckoff is to be the Bender of the new staff. It will be Wyckoff who will be the mainstay in the pinches and the hurler around whom the staff will be built. The training season is about to commence and the rest of the staff are of unknown quality, excepting Bush and Bressler, who will be stars or dubs this year, and we will venture to guess that Myers, Morrisette, Richardson, Nabors and Ray are going to play an important part in the reconstructing work of Mack this year.

Myers is certain to be a star if he has any nerve at all. He has greater natural ability than any right-handed pitcher Mack has had in years. Morrisette is another wonderful prospect. His international League record does not look impressive, but he has everything a pitcher needs to develop into a star. Manager Mack declares Morrisette will be one of the best pitchers in the country within a year if he can learn that baseball is a business instead of play.

Jack Dunn, who has handled Morrisette at Baltimore, picked Morrisette as the best prospect coming up to the major leagues this year. Dunn intimated that Morrisette is hard to handle, but Mack has had great success with that type in the past and is not worrying.

The make-up of the rest of the team is



ONE LOOK! THAT'S ALL National A. C. National A. C. Saturday Night-Saturday Night Joe Azvedo vs. Johnny O'Leary Patsey Cline vs. Eddie Morgan THREE Other Star Bout

OLYMPIA A. A. Broad & Bainbridge Monday Night-8:30 SHARP! WALTER FREEMAN vs. JERRY STANLEY KETTEL vs. YOUNG WEBBER GEORGE WOOD vs. BILL KAHUFF BUCK FLEMING vs. EDDIE MOY

Benny Leonard vs. Sam Rubeau Adm. 25c. Bal. Res. 50c. Arena Res. 75c. S1

Quaker City A. A. 27th & Duane Bill Nubbekel Mer. Stanley Thomas vs. Willie Houck Admission 25c and 50c.

J. Weldon Wyckoff Is Pitcher Around Whom New Hurling Staff Is to Be Rebuilt

problematical. Melnis will be at first, with Oldring, Strunk, Walsh and Thompson in the outfield, while Schang will do the bulk of the catching. Lajoie and Malone will fight it out for second. Larry probably will start the season, but the youngster Malone is sure to have the job before the season closes. Malone is gradually changing his batting style and will be ripe for regular work as soon as he has mastered his new position. His fielding in above par now.

Sam Crane will start the season at short, but unless he can improve wonderfully in hitting he probably will be relieved in June by a collegian, who will join the Mackmen at the close of the school term. Mack says the collegian will surely star in 1917 and will be his regular shortstop for several years to come.

Local Infielder Signs to Play in New Eastern League

Joe Byrne, local third baseman who played with the J. C. Brill team in the Delaware County League last season, has signed with the Bridgeport Club, of the new Eastern League.

Byrne has also played in the Canadian and Tri-State Leagues. He will report to the New England club about the middle of April. Neal Ball, the former Cleveland infielder, may manage Bridgeport.

LOUISIANA BEATS CHAVEZ

Philadelphia Lad Easy Winner in 15 Rounds Over Mexican

KANSAS CITY, March 10.—Louisiana, Philadelphia featherweight, gave Benjie Chavez, of Denver, a thorough trouncing in a fast 15-round fight here last night. The Philadelphia boy won seven rounds, twice on his toe and the balance were even.

Louisiana blocked well and used his left hook to punch the Mexican on the head and body. Louisiana piled up a good lead in the first 11 rounds, then held his own for a couple of sessions and in the 15th fought the Mexican all over the ring.

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CATHOLIC TEAMS SHOULD FORM CAGE LEAGUE

Catholic High, La Salle College, St. Joe and Villanova May Organize

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

The organization of a Catholic School Basketball League, with games played under similar rules and proper league regulations, would be a move in the right direction, in the opinion of many of the basketball followers of the Catholic High, La Salle College, Villanova Preparatory and St. Joseph's College teams. The title could then be decided on the percentage basis.

As the series for the Catholic school title are now run, it is a matter of elimination and the team with the best record will have the best claim for the championship.

The standing of the teams on the elimination basis is as follows:

School	W. L.
Catholic High School	12-4
St. Joseph's College	9-3
Villanova Preparatory	7-1
La Salle College	5-3

Captain Lilly, of the West Philadelphia track team, will run the half mile and quarter mile race for the schools at the Meadowbrook track tomorrow night. This will be one of the feature events, especially interesting to the lower-grade students.

Swarthmore High and Doylstown High both it out for the intercounty basketball title the game tomorrow night at Swarthmore, Doylstown having won the Bucks County title and Swarthmore the Delaware County High School League championship. It will be a game well worth seeing.

Catholic High, with such players as McGee, captain of the team; Dumpy, Glasscott, Cole and Ferguson, has the best record of the teams to date, having won two titles. The other teams are from Villanova College and one from St. Joseph's College. The two games last night at St. Joseph's College and Villanova Preparatory School.

St. Joseph's College weakened in the last game of the season. The team, Dumpy, Glasscott, Cole and Ferguson, has the best record of the teams to date, having won two titles. The other teams are from Villanova College and one from St. Joseph's College. The two games last night at St. Joseph's College and Villanova Preparatory School.

BYRNE WITH BRIDGEPORT

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OTHER SPORTS ON PAGE 17

EVENING LEDGER MOVIES - WE HAND IT TO YOU, TEMPUS - ON THE FACE OF IT THIS JOKE'S AS CLEAR AS A CRYSTAL

