

ATHLETICS ARE READY FOR THE BRAVES—PHILLIES GOING WELL—OTHER SPORTS NEWS

MACK IS CONFIDENT HE WILL BUILD ANOTHER GREAT TEAM

Athletics' Manager Starts Weeding Out Players for His 1916 Machine—Rookies Lack Ginger in Practice

By CHANDLER D. RICHTER

FORT PIERCE, Fla., March 22.—The Athletics held their last preliminary exhibition yesterday afternoon. To the surprise of the spectators, the real battle for positions will commence. The regulars are here to meet a team picked by the McMichael boys, of Philadelphia, while the Yankees are over at Gainesville.

Within two weeks Manager Mack will know whether the youngsters he has picked up to mold into another wonderful baseball machine are good enough to fill the bill. Some of them may be slow in showing their true ability, but all who are likely to develop into stars will at least show the earmarks before the team returns to Philadelphia.

Not in years has there been as much interest in a training camp as is being shown in the work of the Athletics in the south this spring. The entire baseball world is interested in Mack and his future. The wizard manager declares that he will construct another team as good as the famous machine broken up last year.

Baseball men are almost unanimous in the opinion that the Athletics of 1915 were the greatest ball team of all time. The claim has been made that Mack was benefited by circumstances and was lucky in picking up a wonderful array of players. The wizard manager declares that he will repeat his remarkable achievement and will soon have a team greater than the one he broke up.

Conline has gathered some excellent material, but it is yet to be thoroughly tested. The foundation of his old machine was its wonderful pitching staff. The ability of the pitchers to hold the opposing teams to low scores gave the youngsters confidence when they first started. The foundation of his old machine was its wonderful pitching staff. The ability of the pitchers to hold the opposing teams to low scores gave the youngsters confidence when they first started.

After that the natural ability and class asserted itself and with increasing confidence the team became invincible. Mack is paying particular attention to the pitching staff now. While he has picked up three or four youngsters whom he believes will be stars within a year, it is the pitching problem which is causing him the most concern. Fourteen youngsters were taken South. Eight of them appear to be destined for stardom, but as is generally the case, a few will really fail by the way side.

Mack is now worrying more or less about the number who will be able to go through the first stages and come along strongly as the season wears on. Persons who believe that three of the new men are going to develop into pitchers who will rank with the stars of the old machine, if they have the fighting spirit.

Lack of ginger and fighting spirit is the only thing wrong with the work of the Phillies in training to date. The men in the other positions must get more pep and be more enthusiastic if they expect the young pitchers to get the confidence needed so badly.

To date we have seen no Collins. Many baseball men declare that Mack never will have another Collins. He may not develop a player of Collins' value for all-around efficiency, but if he can find one with a Collins brain and fighting spirit his work will be made much easier.

Two or three days is a short time to judge a ballplayer's calibre, but if first impressions amount to much, Mack has surrounded himself with a pitching staff. The infield is likely to be a little weak during the coming season and it is probable that at least a phenom must be discovered before the inner works are strong enough to even compare with the old machine, but present indications point to

FISH IMPRESSES PAT MORAN WITH BACKSTOP WORK

Philadelphia Kid Goes Through 12 Innings in Close Game With Cubs

PLAY AGAIN TODAY

By a Staff Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 22.—Young "Bill" Fish caught his first complete game for Moran's Maulers against the Cubs yesterday and won a warm spot in the unusually warm heart of Boss Pat. It was the third consecutive defeat of Chicago's tinkering tinkers, who have decided that the middle of August is a better time to play the champions than the middle of March.

This morning the Cubs and Phils came across Tampa Bay for the fourth tilt of the series. It was an ideal time for the trip. The sky was cerulean blue and the air held a balminess that makes ballplayers great or small, eager for a fray.

There is a possibility that Moran will send Fish back of the baters again today. In view of the wares shown by Mr. Fish yesterday it is unlikely that he will be tossed back to the pond from whence he came. He is a product of Philadelphia. For several summers his main duties were stopping the slants of semipro hurlers in and around the old home town.

Fish did several things in yesterday's struggle that attracted more than passing attention. In the first place, he faultlessly handled the twisters of George McQuillan and Karl Adams. This was his principal duty. But he checked out a quartet of Cubs trying to steal second and, incidentally, scored a run.

Moreover, the youthful backstop caught more than an ordinary game and got away with it. The battle dragged along through 12 innings, and although the Phils looked like winners in the fifth, when McQuillan resigned, the Cubs later imitated the European war by meeting the assault of Karl Adams with a terrific cannonade. In all, the combination of Phils and Nats poked out seven 14-karat drives. One of these was a home run by Zwilling. The outcome of the ballgame was the Cubs going into the lead.

Then Niefhoff, in the 12th, succored his comrades by outwitting Pierce. Niefhoff, with Whitted on first and Luderus on third, reached far over the plate and cracked one through the pitcher's box. Pierce at the time was trying to pass the Phils' second baseman, but Niefhoff wouldn't stand for it. Whitted and Luderus counted.

An attempt was made to cure Eddie Murphy of his fiddling defects and it failed, but Mack feels certain that Stellerbauer will improve wonderfully. He is willing to stand for a lot of fielding blunders if Stellerbauer can hit at regular games as well as he has in practice.

Starting tomorrow, the pitching problem will solve itself. Manager Mack said some time ago that, while his young hurlers all had their good points and apparently were almost evenly matched, the weakness of some and the strength of others would assert itself when they were put to a test against the National Leaguers.

By this Mack did not mean that a pitcher who happened to be knocked out of the box a few times would be hopeless or that a hurler who went well during the exhibition season would be assured of his position, but he meant that each man would show early his possibilities.

The most important point in Mack's reconstruction work has been reached. From now on it will not be speculation or possibilities. It is the results which count from now on. He has not a ball team which will permit him to worry the leaders, but we believe that toward the middle of summer it will prove a better combination than the fans throughout the country expect.

OVERTON, OF YALE, MAY BE ANOTHER JOHN PAUL JONES

Showing This Winter Stamps Runner as Favorite for Mile and Half-Mile Records



JOHN W. OVERTON

A NEW champion middle-distance runner is about ready to flash forth. He is John W. Overton, of Yale. This young man has just completed the most satisfactory indoor record of any runner, collegiate or club. Those who have studied him most closely are convinced that if any outdoor records from the half-mile to the mile are to be approached or equaled during the coming spring and summer Overton is the man who may be expected to accomplish the feat.

This is saying a good deal as long as such men as Ted Meredith, of Pennsylvania; Dave Caldwell, the former Cornell star, and others are in the running game. Overton and Meredith have not met this winter. Nor have they ever met when the two were on edge.

The chances are that Overton will concentrate on the mile run this spring, and if he does he will run it in close to world record time. What he has done since last fall is convincing proof of this. Last November he outran a big field in the intercollegiate cross-country championship at Boston. Then he took to indoor running and in one week ran three sensational races.

At the Meadowbrook A. C. games in this city on March 11 he ran the last half mile of the two-mile relay race and did his half in the wonderful time of 1:56.2-5. The following Wednesday he went against Dave Caldwell in a special three-quarter mile race and he took the measure of this supposedly unbeatable middle-distance runner in 3:07.1-5, which was exceptionally fast for an indoor track. Finally, on March 18, he entered the A. A. U. indoor championships and ran the 1000 yards in 2:15.1-5, equalling the world's record.

Those who have been watching Overton's career believe that he is best fitted for the half and mile runs. In the opinion of the writer, he has a better chance to duplicate the running of John Paul Jones, of Cornell, than any other man now running. Ever since he has been at Yale his coach has been using him at the two-mile and longer distances. Overton must have considerable vitality, since he is now cross-country champion; but what he has done this winter makes him look much better for the shorter distances.

Overton is a graduate of the Hill School, where he was developed by Mike Sweeney. At this preparatory school he ran the half in 2:00 and the mile in 4:30.

Basketball Fan Picks All-Academic Teams

An enthusiast, who thinks the season is complete without an all-star basketball team, has sent us the following selections, picked from the pro schools of Philadelphia and nearby.

FIRST TEAM:
Hickman, Swarthmore Prep..... Forward
Joe Moore, Haverford..... Forward
Bob Martin, Chestnut Hill..... Centre
Holmes, Germantown Academy..... Guard
Lundgren, Swarthmore Prep..... Guard

SECOND TEAM:
Mike Howell, Haverford..... Forward
Benjamin, Swarthmore Prep..... Forward
W. Tice, Swarthmore Prep..... Centre
Lewis, Haverford..... Guard
Hert, Swarthmore Prep..... Guard

THIRD TEAM:
Kent, Germantown Academy..... Forward
Butten, Germantown Friends..... Forward
E. Howell, Haverford..... Centre
Bailey, Chestnut Hill..... Guard
Hutter, Haverford..... Guard

PENN AND TIGERS TO PLAY ONLY ONE GAME FOR TITLE

Cage Championship to Be Decided on Neutral Floor

The Faculty Committee on Athletics at the University of Pennsylvania decided yesterday that it would not stand in the way of the proposed play-off for the intercollegiate basketball championship between Penn and Princeton. The only string attached to the consent was that the teams must meet on a neutral floor within 10 days. This will permit only one game.

Manager John Lannell said that the championship battle will more than likely be staged somewhere in Philadelphia, probably Convention Hall. The Wrightman Hall floor is not large enough to accommodate the spectators that will want to see the game. No definite date for the game has been selected, but these in control of the sport at the two institutions met in New York this morning to decide on details.

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TILDEN MAKES CLEAR POSITION REGARDING TENNIS MERGER

By WILLIAM T. TILDEN, 2D
(Germantown Cricket and Country Clubs)

THERE seems to be a good deal of misunderstanding about the attitude of the Philadelphia and District Lawn Tennis Association in its desire to gain the members of the Interclub League as its own. Possibly this misunderstanding can be cleared up a little if these few points are considered:

The Interclub League as a body would not be affected if the clubs making it up were to join the Interclub League. It is not the Interclub League that is asked to join and submit itself to any rules or regulations of the Philadelphia and District Association which it as a body might not like. The members might easily join and feel no effects on the policy of the Interclub League. In answering the criticism made by a member of the Interclub to join would place the Interclub in a position where its schedule would be affected and its policy determined by the exalted clubs of the Philadelphia and District Association, let it be distinctly understood that the schedule, policy or any other rule or regulation of the Interclub would not and could not be touched by the other body, since the two would continue to be separate organizations. Within the Philadelphia and District Association now there are two leagues, absolutely independent of each other and playing separate schedules. These are the Tri-state and Suburban leagues. If two exist, why not a third, namely, the Interclub?

To make the standpoint I take a little more clear and to try and show that I have no prejudice I have been on the side of the Interclub, the four years of match tennis that I have played were all played in the Interclub. I have always been, am now, and will continue to be an Interclub member. So the attitude taken cannot be ascribed to favoritism.

Since there is no conflict between the organizations as would regard injury to Interclub, now comes the interesting question of what steps have ever been taken to bring the Interclub clubs into the Philadelphia and District Association.

The Interclub clubs seem to feel that they were not invited to join at the time of formation of the other associations. This is due to a misunderstanding, for on excellent authority it is stated that all the Interclub clubs were asked to join. Why hold this unfortunate occurrence in mind and let it stand in the way of the betterment of the game?

Unquestionably unity alone will spell progress for Philadelphia tennis. Unity can only come through the clubs joining the Philadelphia and District Association, since the Interclub, by the statement of one of its own members, believes in a policy of restricted membership. Its members must meet a very high standard of play. This is highly commendable, but it can never result in drawing all the tennis units of Philadelphia together. It may give us a standard to work up to, but it is not the means itself to the ultimate end of unity.

Let it be stated once more that the merits of the Interclub are unquestioned. The good it has done the game around Philadelphia has been enormous. Now its members can do still more good, not by sacrificing any of the rights of the Interclub as a whole, but as individual clubs joining the Philadelphia and District Association.

All the clubs are working for the good of tennis in the city as they see it. There should be no conflict. Therefore, let us work together as one body, not-in two groups pulling apart.

Two things Philadelphia needs for its tennis are big tournaments held at the big clubs, with prominent men playing in them. Those are the things that the Philadelphia and District Association works for. Those are the things that the Interclub is working for. Why not work together?

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— NOW ENTER IRA— THAT'S IT— NOW POINT YOUR PISTOL AT HIM AND YELL, HANDS UP!

— I WISH I HADN'T GONE IN FOR THIS ACTING THING!

— HUH—HUH—IRA AINT YOU GOING TOO FAR— REMEMBER I KNOW JUST EXACTLY HOW MUCH IS IN THAT ROLL

— FINE WORK IRA— NOW EXIT!

— JAY DID YOU FOLKS SEE MY OVERCOAT— I WANTED TO USE IT AS I CAME IN TO HOLD YOU UP AND—

By C. A. VOIGHT