

EAR OF UNPARALLELED SUCCESS APPEARS TO CONFRONT MORAN'S CHAMPION PHILLIES

IDEAL CONDITIONS PREVAIL FOR ULTRA-BRIGHT PHILLY CAMPAIGN THIS SEASON

Fans Will Not Have to "Pull" the Wait-Until-Next-Year "Stuff" of the Last Three Decades

VIRTUALLY every baseball writer in the country has predicted the most profitable baseball season for 1916 that the game has ever had.

There are a number of contributing causes to the prospective success of the 1916 champions. Philadelphia has always been a National league city.

Then, too, the conditions referred to above which are going to help baseball in general will also aid the Phillies specifically.

"Wait Until Next Year" a Forgotten Slogan In former seasons when the Phillies got off to good leads in the National League, then "blew," the knockers were wont to begin their annual sarcastic song—"Just Wait Till Next Year."

This year the fans as well as the players have confidence in the ability of the team to win. They realize that Moran and his champions are not mere flashes that will fade at a moment's notice.

Add to all this the excellent showing made by the Phils in their training camp this spring and we find that ideal conditions for a great year prevail.

St. Pete Weather Man Hangs Up New Record We haven't anything against our old friend George S. Bilas. On the contrary, this meteorological master has dealt us recently a brand of almost unbeatable weather.

This disciple of Al Lang has just hung up a new world's record for consecutive weather hits. The Phillies landed in the Sunshine City on March 7 and began practice the following day.

Today is the last workout of the Phillies at St. Pete and as our correspondent sent a wire early this morning that the weather was again good, the Phillies will have the most consistent spring practice in their long career.

On Monday the Phils begin their journey north, stopping off at Richmond and Washington before arriving home to open the National League campaign the Giants in the local yard, Broad and Huntingdon streets.

Phillies and Athletics on Sane Salaries What we have said of the two Chicago teams in the matter of top-heaviness salaries does not apply to the Athletics nor to the Phillies, yet the latter ought to be able to repeat their flag-winning trick of 1915.

The Athletics are probably the lowest-paid bunch of major league ballplayers in the country, and properly so, because indications are that they will finish with the smallest percentage.

The Phillies seem to be sound, financially and otherwise. Moran has put team on edge for the playing season with brilliant prospects for a pennant.

Manager Mack has changed the Athletics' batting order and in the future it will be the leadoff man. He has an excellent eye, does not swing at bad balls, is fast on his feet and also can drive the ball a long distance if he gets opposing twirler in-a-hole.

Manager Mack has told each man just what is expected of him in regard to condition this season and also has impressed upon them that he would not tolerate tardiness to morning practice.

Welsh Will Retire With Lightweight Crown Intact Now that Fred Welsh is convinced that his days as lightweight champion are numbered following the vicious lacing he suffered at the sting-guards, hooks and jolts of one Benny Leonard in New York last night, it is probable that the Briton will retire from the game before some one tickles him chin and gives him the displeasure of hearing the chirping of little flies.

There never was a champion who loved his title any more than Freddy Welsh. He has been a champion for a long time, and he has won the championship from Willie Ritchie, he was an "old man"—and Welsh has several times that he would retire rather than lose the coveted honor.

With the Briton on the sidelines watching his many indignant contenders battle for the championship, two boxers—both knockout artists—stand out as probable successors to the throne. They are Leonard and Charley White, with the former, because of his recent series of K. O.'s, the favorite. Another boxer must get recognition is Johnny Dundee, the clever Gotham gloveman.

Jourdet Deserves the Honor He Will Get Although no arrangements have yet been made with Lon Jourdet to coach the 1917 basketball team in Pennsylvania, it is certain that he will be reappointed to the course of time.

Jourdet has proved this season to be the master of college cage coaches, even excepting Dr. Al Sharpe, of Cornell. Lon's success has been due to his knowledge of the game, his natural ability to lead and his personality.

During the season with light and unpromising material, Jourdet developed a team that won the Intercollegiate League title for the Red and Blue for the first time since 1908. The splendid manner in which the team came back and defeated Princeton in the one game playoff for the championship is only another proof of Jourdet's ability and incidentally insures Penn another successful year in the basketball floor.

The contention often made that the University of Pennsylvania has repeatedly overlooked a great lot of athletic material in and around Philadelphia in preference to men from distant points, was at last disproved by the game with Princeton on Wednesday night. The combination of players that won the championship of the Intercollegiate League was not a band of athletes from any other spot in the country but Philadelphia. Without exception the five that humbled the Tigers in 1915 were former prep school athletes of this city.

As long as Pat Moran is manager of the Phillies, even such men as Luderus, Franzy, Oeschger, Niehoff and Paskert will annually adopt Cappy Ricks' slogan—"Ireland Over All."

Southern Baseball Scores of Spring Training Games

Table with columns for location (e.g., AT JACKSONVILLE, AT MEMPHIS), team names, and scores.

PHILS' REGS AND YANS TO PLAY FULL CONTEST

Moran Gave Players Two Monotonous Workouts Yesterday

DEVORE HAS SORE FEET

By a Staff Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., April 1.—Director Moran will put his road company through two more rehearsals at Coffee Pot Park this afternoon, as he did yesterday.

The Irish impresario will recompense the public for the unfulfilled date by presenting a nine-reel feature this afternoon.

From the wings, yesterday's performance was rather monotonous, as it lacked variety, the principals being restricted to a colorless repetition of one number, but from the manager's viewpoint the day was profitably employed.

While the slapstick was welded to the detriment of the higher form of baseball entertainment, the subtle art of pitching was not totally obscured by the limelight, as one of the foremost actors in the country and eight lesser luminaries basked in its rays.

Josh Devore, the principal comedian, spent the day in dabbling his feet in the mud, being unable to don his dancing pumps as a result of lacking some all-too-solid skin on the tips of his toes, as a result of wearing tight shoes.

RICE DECLARES PHILLIES ARE NOT TO BE IGNORED THIS YEAR

By GRANTLAND RICE

VERY few are taking the Phillies seriously this spring, but still fewer took them seriously a year ago. When they won 12 of their first 14 games or something of that sort, merry laughter went up around the circuit as the cry arose—"Watch them blow!"

Where the Phillies may finish this coming campaign is not known to us, personally or impersonally. But any one who refuses to consider a ball club that carries Alexander, Cravath, Luderus, Bancroft, Whitted and Burns or Kilfer, may soon be calling for a new hand in the prophetic deal.

An "If" or Two Extremely few on the outside are picking the Phils to repeat, but suppose in addition to Alexander, Chalmers, Mayer, Rixey and McQuilian, Mr. Charles Albert Bender, the stoical Chippeva, should happen to round to nicely for about 15 or 18 victories? Charles Albert is only 32, his arm is in good condition, and his ambition is reasonable. No one in the game knows better how to pitch.

And there is George Chalmers. Chalmers at the finish looked to be almost as good as Alexander. In the world series he worked like a star. Yet, through a late start, he won but 8 games for Moran's squad. He is said to be right and ready this spring.

We are not picking the Phillies to repeat—but neither are we scoffing at their chances.

Let's settle an argument, who was the hardest hitter—Corbett, Fitzsimmons, Jeffries, Johnson, Willard or Moran? Kindly rate them according to their hitting power alone?

We should say Fitz was the hardest puncher of the lot—he had more leverage and could certainly hit a harder blow from a short range. Jeffries would follow Fitz as the lustiest wallpaper. Neither Corbett nor Johnson was a hard puncher and there is no great snap back of Willard's blows. Moran has to get set to put through his punch, which is robust enough when carried along by a full swing.

The ideal puncher was Fitzsimmons, who could tear away part of a rival's roof with a jab that traveled less than 15 inches.

Baker's Speed Sir: In 1911 Frank Baker stole 35 bases; in 1912 he stole 49; in 1913 he stole 23; but in 1914 he stole but 19. Doesn't this show pretty well that he was slowing up before he left the Mackmen?

LARRY. Not necessarily. When we saw Baker knock out at Mason, Ga., he was looked to be as elastic as ever. He looked to be just about as fast. In 1911 Ty Cobb stole 43 bases. In 1914 he stole but 35. Slowing up? Not exactly. For in 1915 he stole 58, 15 above his best previous year.

In 1913 Cobb scored 79 runs. In 1914

MACKS TO PLAY SOUTHERN FINAL AGAINST BOSTON

Connie Will Send Crowell in to Break Athletics' Losing Streak

CHARLESTON GAMES NEXT

By CHANDLER D. RICHTER

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 1.—The Athletics will play their last game in Jacksonville today and after yesterday's exciting battle it is likely that a large series will be played with the Charleston South Atlantic League team.

"Mi" Crowell is slated to twirl six or nine innings for the Mackmen on getaway day, and Manager Mack is confident that the long string of defeats at the hands of Stallings' team will be broken.

Inexperience in the pitching box cost the Athletics a victory over the Braves after one of the most sensational spring games it ever has been our good fortune to witness.

FINAL AT CHATTANOOGA

Thomas' Athletic Youngsters Finish First Series Today

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., April 1.—The first series of games to be played by Ira Thomas' squad of White Elephants on the way north, will be brought to a close this afternoon with the third contest with the Chattanooga team.

Harry Weaver, of Philadelphia, probably will be Thomas' first choice for twirling duty this afternoon. Knoxville will be the next stop of the Yanigans, games being booked there for next Monday and Tuesday with the University of Tennessee.

ST. JOE L. AND D. WINS

Fast Passing Marks 18-14 Victory Over St. Ludwig Five

The St. Joseph Literary and Dramatic Association defeated the strong St. Ludwig Five, 18-14, on the former's floor. This closed a successful season for the St. Joe quintet. Only one game was lost out of the 10 played.

Line-up: St. Joseph's. Hiller, forward; Gruber, center; Korte, guard; Hendric, forward; Dieder, forward.

THE ORIGINAL RECORD

Some day we will write an original yarn; We will start a new lead that will hold you in thrall; For we'll open a baseball story like this—"Play Ball!"

Who says there is nothing in propinquity? Even T. R.'s secretary has developed a punch.

The Joe Stecher-Frank Gotch jubilee hasn't been launched yet, but there is a distant rumble which indicates that it is on the way. It will arrive shortly, unless the fact that Stecher recently tossed Doc Holler twice in 10 minutes persuades Gotch to stick to the farm.

Jeas Willard is now a horseman in the circus, but two years from date, if his weight continues piling up, he will not be able to ride anything but the stags each or a strong elephant.

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