

SIXTEEN BIG LEAGUE TEAMS READY TO BEAT 1916 BARRIER WITH A FLYING START

GRANDDOPE TAKES COUNT AS FANS SELECT FAVORITES TO WIN BASEBALL PENNANTS

Phils and Red Sox Will Open Season With Virtually 1915 Line-up—Both New York Teams Are Good and Other Clubs Plan Surprise

Will the dope be completely upset in the major league baseball races again this season? If so, which team or teams are going to do it and who will be responsible for the sensation? These questions are always uppermost in the minds of the fans throughout the United States when the season opens.

Harder to Dope Out Race

Last spring it was much easier to get a line on the relative strength of the various teams, but with so many changes in the rosters of almost every team, it is virtually impossible to dope out the coming campaigns, as prejudices for or against the Federal League away almost every one interested in the game.

In the history of baseball under the National Agreement there have never been two such open races. The work of one or two players—whether they be Federal Leaguers or youngsters from the bushes—may completely upset the dope. There are so many new faces and new combinations that almost anything may happen.

Phils Apparently Are Stronger This Year

The Phillies have added Wilbur Good, a steady and reliable veteran; Joe Oeschger and the famous "Chief" Bender. Baseball experts everywhere but in this city agree that the Phils will have to be stronger than in 1915 to repeat. Early spring games indicate that the team is moving along smoother at the present time, but much will depend upon what these three additions to the 1915 machine can accomplish.

Most other clubs have taken on from 5 to 15 new men and sensational work by two or three men can make any team in either league a pennant contender, barring possibly the Athletics and Cleveland in the American League, and the Pirates in the National League.

Last year Alexander, Cravath and Bancroft were sensations for the Phillies and their brilliancy carried the rest of the team along until the men got the needed confidence. After that there was no stopping the team. The Red Sox uncovered a wonderful pitching staff, which, while powerful in natural ability in 1914, apparently needed a great deal of experience.

Hard Hitting of Red Sox Made Pitchers

The success of Shore, Ruth and Foster was largely due to the number of runs scored by the Red Sox early in the season. The young hurlers were battered rather hard during the first month of the campaign, but when they were getting away with victories in games where the opposing team tallied four and five runs to a game, they became confident and soon the natural ability was brought out in a wonderful manner.

The addition of two or three players has made several teams pennant contenders which otherwise might not have been rated as dangerous. The Boston Braves have been playing wonderful ball this spring, and the addition of Knetsch and Wilhoit to the regular team and Knetsch and Allen to the pitching staff is believed to have been largely responsible for the return to form of the 1914 sensations.

Brooklyn plugged up a weak outfield post by the addition of Jimmy Johnston, while Hickman and Olson apparently are high-class utility men. The lack of strong utility material last season was one of the main causes of the slump of the Dodgers last fall. Dell, Mills and Appleton, three young pitchers, appear to have developed a great deal since last season, and they may prove equal to the task of carrying along a pitching staff which was erratic throughout the last campaign.

Tinker May Bring the Cubs Back

The Cubs have played miserable ball throughout the spring, but a sudden awakening on the part of some of the new talent may bring Tinker's team back to life. Overconfidence prevailed in the Cub camp when the training season opened, and Tinker has a great task on his hands to prevent dissension from creeping in since the Phils won those seven straight games.

If Tinker can keep his head and retain control over his players, the Cubs should gradually round into form. Too much was expected of the team. It is only natural that the combination of old Cubs and Federal Leaguers should fail to work smoothly early in the year. It requires time to build a system of team play and to get the men accustomed to each other.

Benny Kauff, Ed Rousch, George Anderson, "Chick" Rariden and several recruits of great promise have been added to the roster of the tail-end Giants, and the future of the team depends entirely upon what they do and how the pitching staff develops. The "it" again enters the argument, as McGraw will almost surely have his team in the running from the start if all or a large percentage of his recent purchases make good.

One Man May Put Cards in Race

St. Louis looked like a "bush league" aggregation many times last season because it had no shortstop. The value of a shortstop was brought home to local fans who watched the work of the team in 1914, when there was a hole at that position and then saw the position covered so capably by Dave Bancroft last season.

Manager Huggins has picked up Ray Corhan from the San Francisco Club who was touted as a better man than Bancroft by Pacific Coast League scribes, and a youngster named Roger Hornsby from the Muskogee Club of the Western Association. Corhan has been out of the game through injuries and Hornsby has been filling in. The sensational work of this youngster has completely changed the outlook for the Cardinals, and Corhan probably will sit on the bench for the rest of the season unless Hornsby blows up.

Cincinnati also has been strengthened by the addition of young blood, and a few Federal Leaguers. With a powerful pitching staff this team may get in the race "it" one or two young players can suddenly blossom forth as stars. Every team but Pittsburgh appears to have strengthened in the National League, and every team has a chance "it" the "spring bloomers" refuse to fade in midseason.

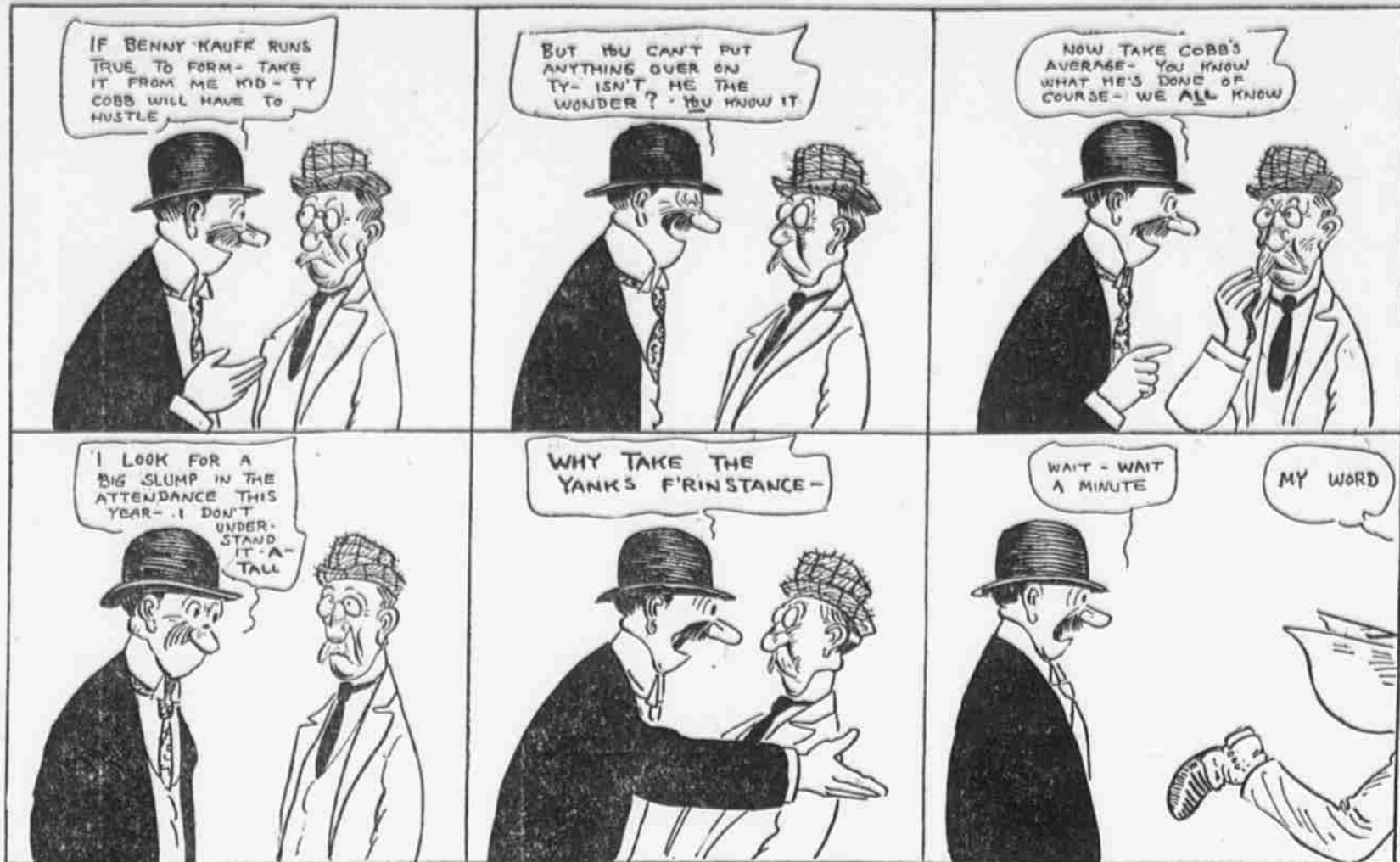
American League Race Also Open

The American League is in very much the same position. New York has almost an entirely new team. Manager Donovan has been allowed to purchase any player who was on the market if he wanted him, and if he does not have the team in the race from the start, it will be because he exercised poor judgment in the men he selected or because they proved "spring bloomers."

Washington has picked up several youngsters who are to be given a chance in the regular line-up. Joe Judge has won the first base position, and is touted as a star, while Jamieson and Harber, two more recruits, will be found in the outfield. With the wonderful Walter Johnson in his old time form, and a few young pitchers showing great form, the Senators also have a chance to upset the dope "it" the youngsters come through and fit into Griffith's system.

The Browns are in very much the same position in their league as the Cubs are in the National. Fleisher Jones has staked his reputation on the ability of his Federal League players to hold their own, and depends upon a wonderful pitching staff to gradually force the team out in front. Apparently Jones also has over-estimated the ability of the Fed players, but it will require time to prove that such is the case. The Phillies were beaten in the spring series by the Mackens last year, yet Moran's team won the pennant while the Athletics finished in last place. Therefore the victory of the Cardinals over the Browns in the spring series must not be taken too seriously.

SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE



COLLEGES SHOW GREAT INTEREST IN PENN RELAYS

Many New Marks Expected to Be Made at Franklin Field This Year

YALE HAS BIG CHANCE

The importance of the University of Pennsylvania's relay carnival to the track interests of the whole intercollegiate athletic world, was never shown to better advantage than this year. Almost without exception the leading universities of the East and the Middle West have timed the beginning of their track and field training to have their men in fair condition for this meet.

That situation has been steadily changing, until now all the leading universities may be counted upon to enter in one or more of the relay championships with just as much certainty as they will prepare for the "intercollegiate." This is because they recognize the relays as one of the two classic track meets of America, for it gives their candidates an incentive to work and develops them as no number of dual meets could.

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The record most easily broken is that for the two-mile relay. Strange to say, this event has seldom brought out together so many high-class teams as the one and four-mile relays. It seems easier for colleges to find enough sprinters and quarter milers to form one good mile team or to group a lot of distance runners into one credible four-mile team than it is to find four really high-class half-milers.

That this is so is shown by the records. The Pennsylvania team that did 1:18 for the one-mile relay last year averaged just 49 1/2 seconds to the quarter, which is, of course, a marvelous performance. When Cornell established the record of 1:55 1/2 for the four-mile relay in 1911 the Ithacans averaged 4:28 4/5 for the mile. That was a good average for the mile, but 4:28 4/5 for the mile is not in the class with 49 1/2 for the quarter. The two-mile record is 7 minutes 55 3/5 seconds, and was made by Princeton last year. To do that the Tiger had to average 1:58 1/2 for the half, virtually the same sort of an average that Cornell made for the four-mile event.

From the way the runners have been shaping up this spring it looks as though Yale would have a good chance to slice something off Princeton's figures for the two-mile event, and certainly Cornell ought to lower the figures another team from Ithaca made in 1911. The backbone of the Yale team consists of Overton and Barker, two men who ought to average 1:47 for the half. Assuming that two more men could be developed to do 2 minutes, Yale should get inside Princeton's record.

As for the four-mile, Cornell has three men in Windagle, Potter and Hoffman who should average close to 4:25. To link another man who can do 4:25 ought to be easy. It is a pity that the Ithacans were not harder pressed in 1911, for that team contained Jones, Berns, Putnam and Hunger.

BASEBALL BASEBALL OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON PHILLIES vs. NEW YORK "GIANTS" WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12TH Reserved Seats now on sale at Gimble and Spalding's

BAD WEATHER HALTS WORK ON LOCAL TENNIS COURTS

Schools' Plans Spoiled by the Recent Snow. Gibbons May Coach Penn Charter Racquet Wielders

By WILLIAM T. TILDEN, 2D

THIS April weather is enough to drive one almost crazy. However, joking aside, this snowstorm has just about ruined the school tennis season. This week should have been the opening of the school season, but from all accounts of courts the first of May seems to be the time for the real opening.

However, things are progressing for all that. We hear on good authority that Penn Charter is trying to get Mr. Gibbons to take charge of the tennis there in conjunction with Mr. Clinton A. Strong, their regular tennis coach. Should they succeed in getting Mr. Gibbons they are to be congratulated, for they will secure one of the best instructors in Philadelphia. On the other hand, Mr. Gibbons will be fortunate in having the best tennis material in the city to work with. Thoroughly instructed in the rudiments of the game and in schoolboy tennis tactics by Mr. Strong, the boys of Penn Charter are just ripe for advanced instruction of the type Mr. Gibbons will give.

Episcopal Academy has started in indoor work, and should put a star team in the interscholastic. Edward Cascard, Baird Hubb and Van Name will prove a strong combination.

The entries for the Germantown Academy junior tennis tournament were opened last week. The entry list, taken from the fourth form (1915) and below, includes 59 names. This is a remarkable showing for the school. Germantown has for the junior team this year David F. Beard, whose showing in the city indoor tournament, where he took a set from Seeger Wilson, the junior indoor champion, was so excellent; Stuart Valentine, the youngster who created a favorable impression at Cynwyd, and again in the indoor; Joseph Jelliff, Newton Beek and Lewis Smith. All these boys are steadily improving and should make a remarkably good showing in the league's competition.

This season Friends' Central has the largest tennis squad of its history. The number of younger boys who are out

Comfortable while you are smoking them and after you have smoked them—that's why they're sensible.



PALACE A. C.—NORRISTOWN, Pa. 15 Boston—The RIGHT—12 Boston—Danny Ferguson vs. Charles (Kid) Thomas 11 Ed.—Edna H. vs. Frank (Kid) Heaver 6 Ed.—K. O. Billy Mossman vs. Eddie Reiland LINCOLN A. C. Geo. Decker, Manager. FRIDAY, APRIL 14 AL. S. vs. H. O. W. FIGHTING BOB vs. ELO YOUNG

NORTHEAST OPENS BASEBALL SEASON WITH QUAKERS

High School Nine Will Meet Penn Charter at Queen Lane

The first clash between one of the Intercollegiate League teams and an Intercollegiate League nine will be staged tomorrow afternoon when Northeast High School and Penn Charter players meet at Queen Lane. This game should attract a large crowd and will afford comparison between the leagues. Penn Charter has already achieved considerable fame by its diamond conquests. The Northeast High nine is still of unknown quality.

The scholastic schedule for tomorrow follows: Northeast High vs. Penn Charter, at Queen Lane; Episcopal Academy vs. Swarthmore Preps, at Swarthmore; Jenkintown High vs. Cheltenham High, at Cheltenham; Brown Preps vs. Villanova Preps, at Villanova; St. Luke's School vs. Germantown Academy, at St. Luke's; Georgetown Preps vs. Toms Institute, at Toms; La Salle College vs. Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

OTHER SPORTS ON PAGE 14

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EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—YOU SAID AN AURICULAR LOBE FULL, HUGHIE, AND TOMORROW THEIR SENTENCES BEGIN

