

WITT IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR MACK TO USE AS A REGULAR WITH OPENING OF THE SEASON

CRITICS AND FANS SAY MACK ERRS IN BENCHING YOUNG WITT IN OPENING GAMES OF SEASON

Recruit, in South, Shows Fitness for Regular Work—Natural Hitting Ability Is Factor in His Favor

MANAGER MACK making a mistake in keeping Lawton Witt, the Goddard Seminary lad, on the bench? In the past Manager Mack's policy of keeping promising youngsters on the bench for several months or longer brought unusual results, but it is a question whether young Witt will benefit by his idleness.

No doubt Witt will learn a lot in this way, and there also is little doubt that he has plenty to learn before he is a Collins or a Barry for headwork, but the impression is general among the players and those who saw Witt perform in the South that regular duty is a necessity to the youngster at the present time.

When Collins, Barry, McInnis, Strunk and others of Mack's famous old machine joined the Mackmen they were kept on the bench for a long time before being assigned to regular duty. McInnis was with the team more than two years before he finally was placed at first base. Collins was tried at short, third and right field, and was with the Mackmen two seasons before he broke in as a regular. The same is true of Strunk and Barry.

A Big Puzzle to Public

The fans could not understand why these youngsters were kept on the bench so long when they were showing up so much better than the men who were being used regularly, but the wisdom of Mack's move was apparent when he started the new machine out in 1909 with the line-up which eventually became famous.

Of the famous \$100,000 infield, Baker alone was sent into the game as soon as he came to the Mackmen. Had Baker been allowed to remain on the bench for a year it is doubtful if he ever would have become famous as a star. A wonderful natural hitter belongs in the game, as his batting eye dims and he loses his swing when not given a chance to play regularly.

It might be argued that Collins was a great hitter who profited by remaining on the bench, but Collins was not a great hitter until he was sent into the game. He had several batting faults which had to be corrected before he became a wonderful clubber. Collins is a place hitter and does not depend upon driving power, as do Baker, Cravath and a few others. The latter is another example of a slugger who was almost ruined by being kept on the bench.

Witt is very much in the same class. He will never be a Baker or Cravath for distance swatting, but he has unusual driving power for a small man and is one of the most natural hitters picked up in years. Witt's disposition also is such that a few bad breaks right now would not trouble him much. Remaining on the bench will do more to destroy Witt's confidence than costly misplays or weak hitting before large crowds.

Never Saw a Major League Team

Undoubtedly, Witt would be at sea for a few days, as he has never even seen a major league ball park or played in one of the modern fields; but the sooner he gets in there and goes through this stage the better off he will be. Unless we are very much mistaken, Witt will be sent into the game before the team opens the home season next week.

The youngster fell off in fielding the last few days of the exhibition series, but he attributed his habit of overrunning balls to the slow condition of the sandy infields at Wilmington and Raleigh, and is supremely confident that he will have no trouble filling the bill, so far as fielding is concerned, on major league diamonds.

Witt's work in the final practice yesterday was so good that Manager Mack admitted that he was tempted to drift away from his old policy and send Witt into the game. Unless Crane has improved 100 per cent, since the series with Boston and Brooklyn at Miami and Daytona, Mack will have to use Witt whether he wants to or not, as Crane's work in both series was horrible.

The players and Mack rather expected Crane to have trouble hitting, but he was not only helpless before the Braves and Dodgers' pitchers, but also fielded so poorly that the entire team went up in the air. Crane was rated as a wonderful fielder at Richmond, and may yet come back in this department, but if he develops into a hitter there is hope for Karl Adams, Cy Falkenberg and others who hit about one-half their weight.

Burns Did It Once; He Can Do It Again

There seems to be a feeling among local fans that the Phillies are not going to start the season with a rush, because of the recent injury to Jack Adams, and the failure of Bill Killefer's arm to get in shape. Just why that view of the matter should be taken is not apparent. Virtually the same conditions obtained during the latter part of last season, when the Phillies were flying down the stretch, and needed him to transform all of their potential into kinetic energy.

Burns stepped into Killefer's shoes last year and put up a series of remarkable exhibitions. Bill could not catch because he had hurt his pegging whip, and Adams was not deemed sufficiently "ripe." Hence, Eddie did all the work, and did it well.

This season Burns is not only in good shape, but will be better from the extensive experience gained last season. Therefore, as far as the catching is concerned, we do not see how the Phillies can be considered one whit weaker at the beginning of this season than they were at the close of the 1915 term.

Weeghman Has One Correct Idea, Anyway

Experts differ on the amount of money that Charley Weeghman should have paid for the Chicago Cubs. Many thought and still think that \$500,000 was too much. But they rise and declare to a man that he did the correct thing recently when he publicly announced that Joe Tinker would be the manager and the only manager of the Cubs. "There will be no interference with Tinker's work from me nor from any member of the board of directors," says Weeghman. "He will run the team and we will run the business end of the game, regardless of the showing made against the other clubs of the National League."

Weeghman is known to his many friends and admirers in the Windy City as the "amateur magnate." Possibly that is the way he should be classified, but in giving Tinker or any one else who is manager full control does not indicate that he is a "busher" in baseball.

Charles, no doubt, got his one-man manager idea from his own business. He knows that the chefs in his restaurants know more about scrambling eggs and making buckwheat cakes than he does. Hence, by the same token, he realizes that Joe Tinker is more capable of handling a ball club than any owner in the game.

Not meaning Barney Dreyfuss, of course, but there are other moguls who might well follow Weeghman's lead.

Penn Must Improve in Batting

Much noise is being made in Penn baseball circles relative to the team's prospects being better this year than they were last, particularly as regards hitting. As a matter of fact several of last year's regulars are warming the bench because, it is alleged, there is better batting material in the new blood.

If such is the case it has not been evident in the games thus far played. In the game with Williams, Monday, the defenders of the Red and Blue secured five hits, and this against pitching of rather inferior character. Foster, who started the game for Williams, had little, and Young relieved him in the eighth inning without properly warming up. The latter threw just three balls and then stepped into the box. Penn made two of her hits before the Williams lad had a chance to even loosen up his pitching arm.

As a matter of fact, Penn has only one first-class natural hitter in the regular line-up as offered at present. Howard Berry, the Quakers' great all-round athlete, is a baseball player from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. Berry can hit from either side of the plate, although he usually elects to bat right-handed. He is a natural club swinger, and could compile a comforting batting average against any sort of pitching.

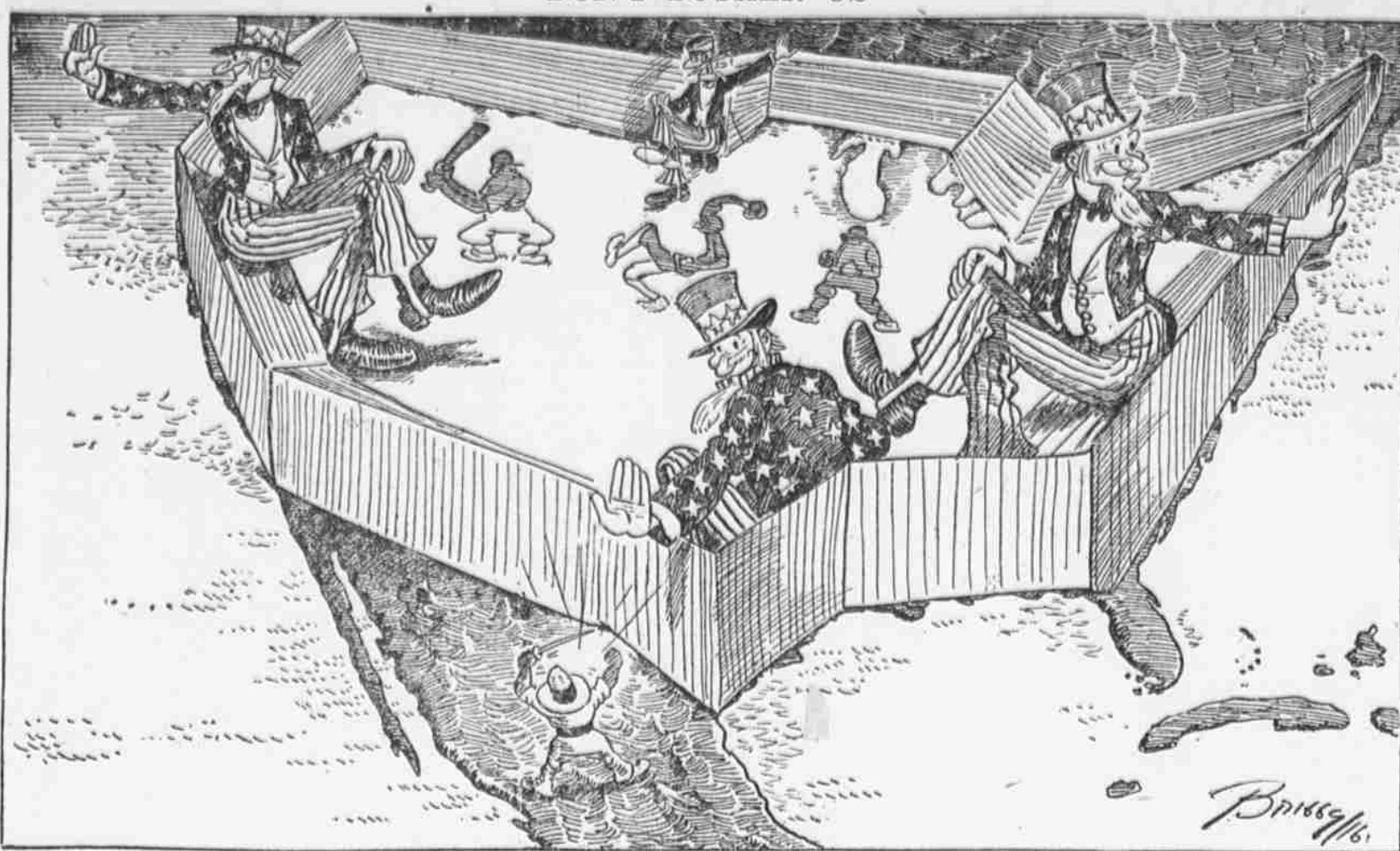
Smith Is Good Prospect

The only other man in Penn's line-up who even gives promise of becoming a real awat-smith is First Baseman Smith. The latter is far from a finished ball player, but it is likely that with the sort of coaching Roy Thomas will give him he will develop.

Incidentally there is a young person playing with Williams who is well worth a glance or six from any big league scout. Seibert is the youth's name, and he is cavorting around the mid-garden for his alma mater. In the game with Penn, Seibert scored a hit and a run, and generally conducted himself like a regular ball player. He bats and throws right handed, is six feet one inch in height, and handles his bulk in graceful, easy fashion.

Young Williams' big pitcher who beat Penn last season and also managed to ensnare the elusive no-hit game, did not make a great impression on the Mackmen who saw the Williams-Penn game. Young is slated for the Boston Braves as soon as he completes his college course this spring.

"DON'T BOTHER US"



MACKS TO MAKE FLAG ASPIRANTS HUSTLE—CONNIE

Six Teams Are Better Than Athletics, Says Lean Leader

NOT TO BE IN CELLAR

By CONNIE MACK

There are six better ball teams than the Athletics in the American League. Therefore I cannot see any chance for our team to be in the running for the pennant. There are seven teams who seem to have a good chance to finish ahead of us, but I don't think we will be last. At the present time we might not be in shape to win from any of the other teams in the league, but wait until July or August and we may show them a ball team which will make them all hustle.

It has been said that I am bitterly disappointed at the showing of my men, but that is not so. I am disappointed with the results obtained at the training camp, because we were unlucky enough to have the last week of the trip lost on account of the weather. I am rather disappointed at the showing of one or two recruits, of whom I expected great things, but that always happens in a training camp.

I was exceedingly surprised with the work of several lads and think that the training trip was well paid for in the discovery of Witt and two or three other youngsters who have not shown their best form yet.

There will be other new players on hand by the middle of June, and then the team will begin to find itself. Until then, I will be satisfied if we can go along making the other teams hustle. One thing I insist upon this season is fighting spirit. I don't want that sort of sulky, listless kind of sport, but the men must have ginger. I am convinced that I have at least one youngster who will star in Witt, and it will not be long before the fans will see two or three more.

Any Team's Flag As for picking the winner in our league, I must decline. I am not in the race and therefore am not entitled to criticize. I will say that six teams really have a splendid chance for the flag. The sudden development of one or two youngsters may give the pennant to any one of the six teams. I would not even venture a prediction on who will finish in the first division, but wouldn't it be funny if Connie was bossing a team that managed to crawl into the select class by making a sensational finish. Well, stranger things have happened. The fans can at least be assured that they will see a real ball game at Shibe Park every day this summer.

Opening and Closing Dates of All Leagues

Table with columns: League, Opening Date, Closing Date. Lists various leagues like National, American, International, etc., with their respective schedules.

Ted Meredith Wins 660

NEW YORK, April 12.—Ted Meredith, of the University of Pennsylvania, sold a 660 visit to Brooklyn last night for the 100th time, winning the 600-yard follow derby at the Brooklyn-Queens police games. He defeated Homer Baker.

Evers Sells Troy Club Interests

TROY, N. Y., April 12.—John J. Evers, captain and second baseman of the Boston National League team, has disposed of his interests in the Troy State League baseball team.

Advertisement for 'CARSpring TIRES' featuring an image of a car and text describing the benefits of the tires for city traffic. Includes 'THE B-A COMPANY' and address '1306 Callowhill St. Philadelphia, Pa.'.

Large advertisement for 'VIM DELIVERY CARS' showing a delivery van and text describing its features and availability. Price listed as '\$695 Complete'. Includes contact information for Colonial Rubber Co.

Last Night's Fight Results

NORRISTOWN—Chapley Thomas defeated Danny Ferguson, Eddie Hart won from Frankie McEvoy, Willie Slossman knocked out Eddie Roland. BALTIMORE—Kid Williams easily defeated Bartling Lahn. NEW YORK—Johnny Dundee won from Phil Wilson, Sturm Hoffman drew with Jack Traver, Johnny Hermann outpointed Stanley Herman, Joe Metrowan, shaded Frankie Bell. PITTSBURGH—Young Golie defeated John McCreely. ALBANY—Harry Gattie outpointed Jimmy O'Hagen.

Williams Beats Lahn Easily

BALTIMORE, Md., April 12.—Although he was groggy in every round from the fifth on and carried back to his corner at the close of the sixth, Bartling Lahn, of New York, managed to remain in the ring in a session last night with Kid Williams, tautan champion of the world. Lahn never had a ghost of a show with the titleholder, acting simply as a punching bag for Williams.

Umpire Selections for First Big League Games

NATIONAL LEAGUE Philadelphia—Miller and Harrison. Brooklyn—Klein and Emble. Cincinnati—Byron and Quigley. St. Louis—O'Day and Eason. AMERICAN LEAGUE Boston—Dinesen and Nallin. New York—Gunnale and Deane. Chicago—Hildebrand and O'Laughlin. Cleveland—Lahn and Chitt.

Amateur Baseball Notes

James F. C., first class, traveling Manager, James Clark, 1850 East Chestnut street. Thomas Robertson, 910 West 79th st. Lisimore C. C., first class, traveling Manager, James Neville, 4183 Pine street. Apollo H. C., 1213 1/2-year-old, traveling Manager, R. White, 2022 South Juniper street. Altonby H. C., first class, traveling Manager, J. A. Henry, first class, home Manager, William Klier, 1880 Landdowns avenue. St. Andrew's A., first class, traveling Manager, George W. Bittner, 1509 Moore street. W. T. Pritchard A. C., first class, home or away Manager, L. W. Fox, 2628 Pemberton street. Woodward Club, first class, traveling Manager, Keith Pagnullo, 2816 Lancaster avenue. Spokane A. C., 18-year-old, traveling Manager, Stanley Bellmore, 724 Lombard street. Marshall A. C., 15-16-year-old, traveling Manager, R. Leitchman, 710 West street. St. Patrick's I. A. B. Cadets, 15-16-year-old, traveling Manager, Daniel Kelly, 818 East Airy street, Norristown.

Otto Knabe May Join Reds

Otto Knabe, former member of the Phillies, who pitched the last season, may land a berth with Cincinnati if he secures the Reds' interest in him. The Reds' interest is uncertain and Manager Herzog believed Knabe will be the man to strengthen one of the weak spots. Knabe in a week was unconditionally released by the Phillies.

Lannin Will Not Retire

SPRINGFIELD, April 12.—Since the sale of HENKLEY, many stories have been circulated that John J. Lannin, owner of the Red Sox, is making his first step to sell the club and retire from baseball. The manager has declared he has no intention of retiring and more than he ever had of getting out of baseball.

Advertisement for 'KOSHLAND' featuring an image of a man in a suit and hat, and text describing the brand's quality and availability. Price listed as '\$9.95'.

Large advertisement for 'OLSON' delivery chassis featuring multiple images of cars and text describing the 'ONE-TON TRUCK' principle. Price listed as '\$125.00 F. O. B. Phila., Pa.'.

Advertisement for 'KOSHLAND' featuring an image of a man's face and text describing the brand's quality and availability. Price listed as '\$9.95'.

EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—YOW, BOYS! THE SEASON OF THE HORSEHIDE PELLET IS NOW AMONG THOSE PRESENT!

