

PHILLIES, BOSTON AND BROOKLYN IN GREAT SHAPE BUT HANDICAPPED BY SCHEDULE

GREAT PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THREE EASTERN TEAMS IS NULLIFIED BY N. L. SCHEDULE

Phillies, Braves and Dodgers Lose Advantage Gained in Spring Training by Playing Against Each Other for First Month

BOSTON, Brooklyn and the Phillies trained in Florida and the teams came home in such wonderful condition that the admirers of each are predicting a pennant, but the time-worn custom that the East shall play the East and the West vs. West before the inter-sectional clashes begin will prevent any of these teams from getting the benefit which ordinarily would be derived from splendid condition in the early part of the season.

If Chicago, which also trained in Florida, had returned North in the same condition, it would have been able to get off to a flying start at the expense of the West were the other Western teams in as poor physical condition as reported. The Cubs, however, returned in poor shape and are far from their proper stride.

The Phillies, Braves and Dodgers, who are in such wonderful form, will be playing against each other, each finding a soft spot occasionally when they meet the Giants, whose pitchers are not in fit shape, until the first swing around the West starts on May 11. Thus the schedule gives the Western teams more than three weeks to prepare for the invasion of the powerful Eastern teams.

By this time the Western teams will be in perfect shape, and the grand condition of the Phils, Braves and Dodgers at the present time will have accomplished nothing. It is true that splendid condition is necessary to each of these teams to enable them to hold the pace set by the others, but the advantage which ordinarily would have been enjoyed is nullified by the schedule.

Washington in Shape, Despite Miserable Weather

On the other hand, we have Washington, of the American League, which trained at Charlottesville, Va., and which was forced to remain idle more days than it practiced because of the miserable weather encountered. Although handicapped to such an extent by the weather, the Griffins returned to Washington with a pitching staff apparently as well conditioned as any in either league. The rest of the team is below form, but the pitchers will enable the Senators to get an excellent start in the pennant race.

The Athletics are another example to be considered in trying to dope out the value of spring training. The Athletics regulars started the championship season with less practice than any team in the country, but the Mackmen have played excellent ball. Three games have been lost, but that was rather expected, even if the team had been in perfect shape, as it is admittedly a weaker team than Boston.

Judging by the results of the first week of the season, no team in either league is going to profit by superior condition. The Braves have won both games, the Phils have won 2 out of 3, while the Dodgers have lost twice. Physical condition had nothing to do with the work of any of these teams and apparently has not affected any other teams.

The Phillies Are Playing Intelligent Ball

Some baseball fans are never satisfied. A few were heard finding fault with the way the Phils won from the Giants Saturday. They remarked that they liked to see a team win on hits and earn the winning tallies. That is just the difference between a good and a poor ball team. The poor team must slug at all times to get its first runs, while the good team, by forcing the breaks and playing up-to-date baseball, can win even when the men are not hitting at top speed.

It was pleasing to see that the Phillies are going right along on the lines which won the pennant in 1915 and which would have won the world's series had the same tactics been adopted against the Red Sox. The squeeze play, such as Paikert pulled Saturday, would have won the second game of the series against Foster and the third against Leonard in Boston, and it was Paikert who was given an opportunity which he failed to grasp in each game. Taking advantage of the opposing team's mistakes and continually catching it napping is the kind of ball which compels an opponent to be vastly superior in natural ability to win, the breaks being evenly divided.

Mike Murphy Said Whole Training Idea Was Wrong

One begins to wonder if this spring training idea is not mostly bunk and a publicity-gaining scheme of greater proportions than is generally believed. Mike Murphy, the greatest conditioner of athletes and judge of condition the athletic world has ever known, always scoffed at the idea of spring training in the South. He said that a team would be better off at home; that it was wrong to train a ball team as modern managers do because the race is of 154 games, and condition should be gained gradually, and that it should train at home, advancing to the proper stride with the weather.

If such a rule were followed out, thousands of dollars' worth of advertising would be lost and many managers would be deprived of their annual alibis. The best conditioned team ever to represent Philadelphia was the Phillies of 1895, who trained at Gloucester, N. J., much to the amusement of the critics. This team went off with a long lead, and probably would have clinched the pennant if it had not been for injuries.

Weak Hitting Handicaps Penn Team

Pennsylvania's baseball team is making a sorry showing. The pitchers have been doing well, but miserable batting of the team has been too much of a handicap. Some of the twirlers who have been baffling Penn could not win from half the prep school teams hereabouts. Just why Penn should have such a poor hitting team is a mystery, but the men do not even appear to have the form noticeable in good clubbers.

Unless there is a sudden brace, the Red and Blue probably will have the most disastrous season since Roy Thomas has been coaching the team. Burby, the youthful Haverford pitcher, held Penn to one hit Saturday and another shutout was registered. Even Berry, who looks like a natural hitter and a splendid ball player, has been in a slump.

Sherwood Magee made but one hit in 15 exhibition games in the South, but he has won both National League games for the Braves. Magee's batting slump became the joke of the Braves' training camp, and when he was about to step to the plate in one of the games against the Athletics, one of the Mackmen yelled, "When are you going to get a hit?"

Magee replied, "Just as soon as they start counting them in the averages." The former Philly star surely made good his boast. He is still a wonderful ballplayer, and the throwing arm which provided much humor for the left field bachelorettes here in 1914, has come back in grand style. Two years ago Magee could hardly throw to third base, but now he is lining the ball to the plate with great speed and accuracy.

Hal Chase made a debut with the Reds yesterday. Mollwitz kicked himself out of the game—a foolish thing to do with a man of Chase's ability sitting on the bench—and it is not likely he will get the job back. Chase went to the plate three times, making two hits and stealing two bases. This temperamental star is a wonderful player, and if he is satisfied to go along with Herzog, the Reds will surely be pennant contenders. It is barely possible that Chase has learned his lesson and also that a fighter like Herzog may be able to handle this disturber where kindness and kid-glove methods failed.

Tris Speaker's great throw to the plate cut down what would have been the winning run for Detroit yesterday and the former Red Sox star also made three hits, including a double, and stole a base. The Indiana won in the tenth inning on Graney's triple. As 25,000 fans attended the game, it is easy to see that Speaker is quite a drawing card in one city at least and it may prove "a deal for the good of the league."

The elite of the motor world gathered at the dinner of the Philadelphia Motor Speedway Association in the Bellevue-Stratford Saturday night. Fred J. Wagner, official starter for the A. A. A., was there and assured those behind the project to establish a motorsport near Willow Grove that they could count upon the full support of the American Association to send big auto meets to this city as soon as the track is completed. Fred also pointed out that Philadelphia is the logical place for such an enterprise.

The release of Baumgartner and Tincup to Providence was expected, and it is doubtful if either will return to the Phillies, although they are out under optional agreement. Tincup is as good now as he ever will be, while Baumgartner has failed to develop as well as expected. Baumgartner has a great amount of natural ability and probably would have developed into an excellent twirler if he had been with a tail-end team instead of a winner. He is another of the collegians who does not appear to absorb baseball knowledge as well as the players from the lot.

LEONARD-WHITE GO GETS OFFER OF \$11,000 PURSE

Kansas City Promoter Would Hold Bout to Decide Best Contender

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPS

A collision between Charley White, Chicago's premier knock-out, and Benny Leonard, the New York lightweight, who has come to the fore with leaps and bounds, is next on the pugilistic cards. These boys right now loom up as the best of the contenders for Fred Walsh's crown, and a meeting between them over a distance, with a referee's decision if the go went the limit, would clarify the runner-up question.

Such a clash is desired greatly by Gabe Kaufman, the Kansas City promoter. He has bid \$11,000, with a privilege of 65 per cent of the gate, for a White-Leonard bout. At Kansas City boxes may go 15 rounds or less and referee's decisions are permitted by law.

Kaufman's \$11,000 bid was made to Nate Lewis, manager of White and Leonard, and immediately accepted terms for Charley, Charley's portion of the \$11,000 will be \$6000 or he may have 55 per cent of the house.

The matter now rests with Billy Gibson, Leonard's business agent, who is considering the Kaufman proposal of 15000 or 20 per cent of the gate for Benny's end.

Darby Kelly has wired Gabe Kaufman, of Kansas City, that he will show Johnny O'Brien to meet Charley White for half of the \$2000 guarantee offered Benny Leonard, if the latter turns down the match. "And White'll beat Johnny no sap, either," says Kelly. O'Brien has been beaten by Pete Darby, a rugged Indian fighter, at Buffalo tomorrow night a week.

With the exception of tonight's show at the Olympia Club, there will be no boxing attractions this week.

Another new face has joined the local fight team. Harry Price, a Brooklyn lightweight, is here looking for scraps and shiekies.

Frankie White will resume training today. His nose is in good shape again, and he expects to be ready for ring action in two weeks.

A return match between Lew Tendler and Benny Kaufman has been clinched, and Phil Gassner, the newboy's manager, says that the fight will take place in the near future. Phil believes Lew will come near stopping Benny.

Homer Smith, the big Paw Paw, Mich., heavyweight has returned home. He and Willie Meehan proved to be a pair of good bit fighters, although the Michigan kid got the best of the fight as the Fat Boy.

Champion Kid Williams has arranged for two bouts. He will meet Billy Brann at Wilkes-Barre, Pa. May 1, and then will leave for Hagerstown, Md. for a mix with Frankie Mason. May 9 Williams was offered a date here with Benny Leonard, but no definite agreement was reached.

Jack Brazzo, the up-State lightweight, will meet Young Brown in New York Thursday night. Brazzo has been beaten by Willie Meehan and Phil Bloom. Leonard's following fray will be here in two weeks.

SCHUYLKILL IS ALIVE WITH ROWING SHELLS

Great Activity Shown on the River—Vesper Has Five "Eights" Out

The garsmen are showing signs of life. Yesterday afternoon the Schuylkill navy was on the river in force, and although there was a stiff breeze blowing and the water was rather rough, a great many of the men showed up very well for so early in the season.

Boathouse Row was alive, and singles, doubles, fours and eights were coming and going in every direction. The Vesper Club alone had five eights on the river and its prize crew did some work which showed that it will not take them long to be in challenging shape.

Jack Kelly, Philadelphia's champion sculler, was stroking a four from the Vesper Club, manned by Graef, Costello, Kelly and himself.

"Pop" Willis, of the Tindine Club, literally broke the ice for the Boathouse Row swimming season. He plunged into the river and tore off a few yards. When asked the time-worn question, he replied: "Well, it's not so bad, but I wouldn't want to do mile," which is very encouraging indeed.

Schuylkill Navy oarsmen put in their busiest day of the year yesterday and favored by good weather the various clubs are expected to turn out many promising crews for the regatta on the Schuylkill River and other places.

Coch James Bond has charge of the eight-oared crew which will represent the Bachelors. Jack Kelly hopes to win the national senior single sculling championship this year.

Malta Boat Club has 190 new members. Coach Ed Marsh intends to select active rowers with crew candidates this afternoon.

The American Regatta will see many veteran crews in their first test in local waters.

Vesper and Malta promise to be very active this year.

Captain Walter Smith wants Vesper crews to win 20 victories this year. He will row in senior double sculls race with Jack Kelly. He has a big house full of candidates, veterans, as well as novices, to select crews from.

The Demsey brothers, Jim and Joe, again will coach the University and Philadelphia Regatta Club oarsmen, respectively.

The Yale oarsmen, who are expected to arrive tomorrow and take their first practice run on the Schuylkill River on Wednesday, may row from the Tindine Regatta Club. The same organization has as its officers George G. Mellor, of the Schuylkill Navy.

Much new rowing equipment has been secured by the clubs of the Schuylkill Navy.

Every club from one end of Boat House Row to the other will be represented by strong crews in the various local regatta races, but the real test will be in the Schuylkill Navy regatta, in June.

Olympia A. A. Harry Edwards, Pres. ANDY BURNS vs. KID TEXAS TOMMY O'KEEFE vs. BUCK FLEMING YOUNG GOVERNOR vs. JIM FLYNN FRANKIE DEBENS vs. GUNNIE LEWIS Joe Borrell vs. Eddie Revoire Adm. 25c. Bal. Res. 50c. Arena Res. 75c. 25c.

NATIONAL LEAGUE PARK PHILLIES vs. BOSTON Game at 2:30 P. M. Admission, 25c. 50c. 75c. Seats, 10c. Sale begins 12:30 P. M.

WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND



YALE FOOTBALL CAPTAIN MISUNDERSTOOD REGARDING THE NUMBERING OF PLAYERS

By GRANTLAND RICE

With a face as green as the heart of Spring, The Fairway calls us home; Back once more to the old-time swing That rips through the fragrant loam; Back to the Ancient Green, Back to the Out-Door Map— To the gladi of the Cuppy Lie, And the squawk for a handicap.

With a sky as blue as the eyes of dawn, The Estivany calls us out; Back once more to the Emerald Lawn And the creak of the brassie cloot; Back to the Ancient Green, Back with a buoyant soul To the cuppy lie for the alibi And the lie of the Nineteenth Hole.

With a voice as clear as the winds that blow The Fairway calls us far; Back once more to the thrill we know When the putt drops in for par; Back to the Ancient Green, Back to the Open Way, Back to the curse of the dubs—and score— Neck high in a trap all day.

"What has become," queries an exchange, "of the old-fashioned fan who used to call for the scalp of the umpire?" Offhand, we should say there were only five or six million of him left in this tender, pacific age.

According to those on the inside at New Haven, Captain Cupid Black, of the football team, came in for a lot of unjust

JAWN NELSON MAKES GOOD IN BATTLE WITH DONAHUE; MIDDLEWEIGHTS TO CLASH

Benny Kauff Makes Many Friends on His Last Day in Philadelphia

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL

JOHNNY NELSON has taken his place in the foremost rank of Philadelphia lightweights. For the last year he has been striving to enter the league surrounded by the spot light, but never seemed to make it.

He wore a confident smile, which showed his gold teeth to good advantage and kept on smiling until the last round. Then a right cross landed on his jaw and he hit the floor for a count of four and the happy laughter was rained forever.

Nelson was thrown heavily to the floor in the fourth round and this slowed him up considerably. He had not recovered in the fifth round, and Donahue pitted up a big lead. This was the only round the visitor had to his credit.

The other bouts were good. Eddie Wagon won a slam-bang bout from Shamus O'Brien in the semi-windup and a terrible showing against Jimmy Kilbane, beat Stanley Hinkle.

Dougherty Is Through

The Kilbane-Chaney 15-round battle at Lelperville is off, so far as Jimmy Dougherty is concerned. James is rather indignant over the treatment he received at the hands of the Baltimore challenger, and gives vent to the following:

There has been a great deal of controversy regarding the promotion of the Kilbane-Chaney fight, and I want to state that I am through with it for good. I had arranged for the building of a quarter arena, large enough to seat 20,000 persons, and offered a purse of \$10,000 for the bout. Kilbane was given \$7,000 and the remainder was to have referred the contest.

I agreed to put up a \$5000 certified check with the Evening Letters of Philadelphia to guarantee the bout, but the boxes put up \$2000 each for weight and appearance. Kilbane was satisfied but Chaney would not talk business. He has resorted to excuses and alibis so long that I am convinced that the alleged marvel from Baltimore is afraid to meet the world's champion.

It seems strange that a challenger should assume the attitude of Chaney, but perhaps he is the custom made, and I want to state that I am through with it for good. I had arranged for the building of a quarter arena, large enough to seat 20,000 persons, and offered a purse of \$10,000 for the bout. Kilbane was given \$7,000 and the remainder was to have referred the contest.

I have done all I could to get the boys together, and now that I find it impossible

Evening Ledger Decisions of Bouts at the National

Johnny Nelson defeated Harry Donahue, Eddie Wagon out-fought Shamus O'Brien, Frankie Fleming won from Leo Vincent, Ah Chung and Darby Casare drew, Frankie Conliffe beat Stanley Hinkle.

to drag Chaney into the ring. I wish my hands of the whole affair.

Middleweights Meet Tonight

Eddie Revoire and Joe Borrell, the local middleweights, will put on another dust at the end of the show at the Olympia tonight. Borrell had the better of the last fight, at Norristown, but Sir Edward hopes to turn the tables tonight. The other bouts on the card look good.

Kauff Makes Friends

Benny Kauff left a host of friends in Philadelphia when he departed for New York Saturday night. Benny went through the first series as a National Leaguer with a batting average of .250 and a perfect fielding average. For two days he listened to the jeers of the crowd and the "ridling" of the players, but he took all that was coming to him without showing the white feather. In fact, he fought back.

Last Saturday he received a round of cheers after he struck out and an ovation was tendered him when he was caught sleeping off first base. After he took his position in center field the rosters came worked on him as only true rosters can work.

Benny did when he departed. He tried to deliver, but failed. The crowd realized this in the ninth inning, and as he stepped up to the plate he was handed a genuine cheer—a cheer that is given only to the deserving. Kauff has explained that he is not responsible for the great "I am" stories published about him and is trying to live down the unwelcome reputation. He has made a good start, and before another has gone the fans will have an opportunity to judge him for his true worth.

Wonderful Fielder

Kauff is a wonderful fielder. In the last series he was playing against strangers, yet he fielded his position perfectly. In the first game he robbed Eddie Revoire of a sure double when he made that running catch, and another time he fielded a single so rapidly that he threw out a man at the plate.

Benny is a fielder who seldom plays a batter. Instead, he watches the pitcher and moves according to the balls that are pitched. He did this against the Phillies and did not make a mistake.

When Kauff took a swing at the ball and missed Saturday it was the first time in the series that he failed to connect with the horsehide when he tried to do it. He also missed a foul or hit the ball fair, but a missed strike was not in his repertoire.

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EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—IF THAT'S THE CASE, TIOGUS, CONNIE MACK CERTAINLY HAS A SUPER-HEATED TEAM

MIKEL THE MANAGER WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU TODAY HE SAID YOU WERE A HOT BALL PLAYER. YES I KNOW THAT HE USES ME TO KEEP THE BENCH WARM! LOOK OUT FOR THE SUB-MAR-OONS!