

NEW YORK HAS IMPROVED STEADILY AND DONOVAN SHOULD HAVE TEAM IN RACE AT FINISH

YANKEES' OWNERS SPENT LARGE SUM OF MONEY FOR STARS, BUT GOT REAL TEAM IN RETURN

Bill Donovan Has Welded Collection of Highly Touted Players Into a Well-balanced and Powerful Pennant Contender

OWNERS Ruppert and Huston, of the New York American League Club, spent money lavishly during the winter for star ball players and they seem to have gotten the worth of their money. As a rule, when a magnate buys up all the stars in sight he is only borrowing trouble and dismemberment for himself and his manager. Such is the case in Chicago, where Owner Comiskey has tried to buy a pennant; but conditions appear to be just the opposite in the New York camp.

When the Yankees appeared here earlier in the season the teams impressed the fans as one of great possibilities despite the fact that Frank Baker and Lee Magee, two of the most expensive players purchased by Owners Ruppert and Huston, were badly off form in all departments. The Yankees had the speed, the fighting spirit, the harmony and the teamwork, and it was only natural to expect Baker and Magee to strike their stride. It also was evident that the team needed only consistent pitching to be a serious pennant contender.

For several weeks recruit pitchers and hurlers from whom little was expected kept the team up in the race while the star hitters were in a slump and the star pitchers were badly off form. Manager Donovan kept the team fighting in perfect harmony when conditions were anything but favorable, and has been rewarded by the comeback of his stars.

Frank Baker is eluding the ball as of yore, although he has been handicapped by an injured leg; Lee Magee is hitting and showing his old-time dash; "Slim" Caldwell and Ray Fisher, veteran pitching stars, are back in shape, while the rest of the team continues at a dizzy clip. The Yankees are now in first place, and it is not surprising that Bill Donovan's grin is broader than usual.

Donovan Does Not Talk About Pennant

BUT Donovan refuses to talk about the pennant, and does not want his players to think such a thing so early in the race. Donovan says that he is rather disappointed that his team is not further out in front, as he believes there will be a driving finish in the American League this season and he will need every game. Donovan also insists that his team has not struck its stride yet and that there is room for improvement in the general play.

When one considers that the Yankees have won 11 out of the last 14 games played, it is hard to imagine that there is room for a great deal of improvement. In the two games played here the Yankees have looked like a powerful team in all departments. They have the hitting, defense, speed, judgment and pitching. Keating pitched a poor game on Wednesday, but he is no longer considered one of the first four on Donovan's staff.

From midseason on it is likely that Caldwell, Shawkey and Cullop will take regular turns on the mound. All are in splendid shape, and the latter has been showing particularly brilliant form. The former Federal League southpaw has been invincible in his recent games and apparently is destined to be the major league pitching sensation of 1916. For relief work and to fill in on double-headers Donovan has five capable second-string pitchers in Keating, Russell, Marble, Love and Mogridge.

Mogridge has shown grand form at times, being particularly effective against Chicago and Detroit, two teams which may be very much in the fight in the closing weeks of the season. He has been troubled with a sore arm, but is now returning to form. All things considered, Donovan has a powerful and well-balanced team, and one which should improve as the season wears on. It surely will be a serious contender for the American League pennant.

Pitching of Shawkey and Sheehan Features Game

THE Yankees took another game from the Mackmen yesterday and as Cleveland lost to St. Louis Donovan's team increased its lead in the American League race. The game was devoid of interest, as it was a case of too much Shawkey. After the Yankees got to Jack Nabors for three runs in the first inning there was little to the game, as the result was never in doubt. After this inning it was almost an even game, but the Mackmen were so helpless before Shawkey that the fans gave up hope.

Shawkey pitched the best game of ball he has ever shown at Shibe Park, barring his debut with the Mackmen against Cleveland in 1913. Manager Mack, of the Athletics, said after the game that he never saw Shawkey with so much "stuff" and that it was expecting too much to hope for a victory for his young stars in the face of such a splendid exhibition of pitching. Only four hits were made off Shawkey and two of these were rather scratchy.

The Athletics had only one good chance to score, when two hits were bunched in the seventh inning, while Howe lost another, which may have caused trouble, because Schang failed to run out the play on a bouncer by the recruit to deep short. Schang slowed down until he saw the ball hop away from Peckinpaugh. Then he made a mad dash for second, but the New York shortstop recovered the ball and nailed Wally at second. The inning ended when Meyer sent a long fly to Lee Magee, leaving two runners stranded on the bags.

From a Mack standpoint the most encouraging feature of the game was the pitching of Tom Sheehan, who relieved Nabors after the first inning. Sheehan held the Yankees to two hits and one run for seven innings, the last New York tally being made off Hasselbacher, the former local schoolboy, who pitched the ninth inning. Sheehan had a world of stuff and the leaders were helpless before him. It was Sheehan's second great performance within a week, he having held the Red Sox to two hits for nine innings in Boston, only to lose through battery errors.

Phillies Come Back Strong

JUST when the fans were thinking about counting the Phillies out of the race, and it was being whispered that Manager Moran was going to shake up his team, the champions came back in great style by winning a double-header from the Giants. It was another instance of the great recuperative spirit of the Phils which was such an important factor in the winning of the pennant in 1915.

The five straight defeats were a great blow to the Phils, but as Brooklyn has not been able to do better than an even break on the home stand, the four-game lead of the Dodgers is not so large that the champions cannot overhaul them within a short space of time.

Yesterday the Phillies played the same dashing brand of ball that was so noticeable in the first three games with Brooklyn last week. The Giants were shown up badly by the hit-and-run and "squeeze" play, and also were helpless before the brilliant pitching of Eppa Rixey and "Chief" Bender.

Rixey has been pitching grand ball throughout the season, but yesterday he capped the climax, permitting only 27 Giants to face him in nine innings. As McGraw's men made four hits, Rixey's support was an important factor in the accomplishment of this feat, but the lanky southpaw hurled wonderful ball. The fact that Bender was just as strong in the ninth inning as at the start of the game also was an encouraging feature of the day.

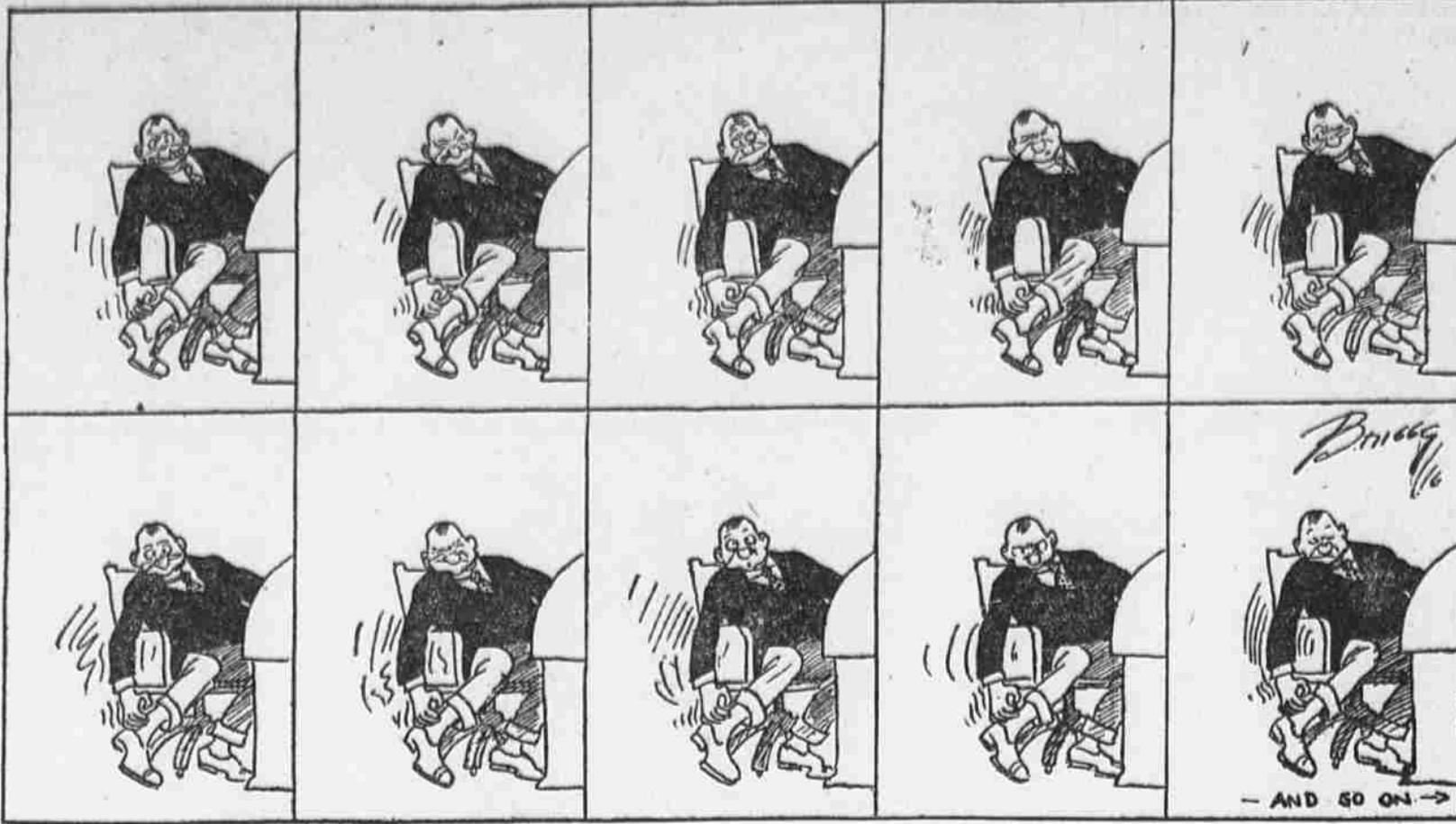
"Germany" Schaefer has become a golf bug. The famous baseball comedian always insisted that golf was one game he would pass up, but after being induced to try it Schaefer has fallen hard for the ancient game. Yesterday morning Captain Huston, half owner of the Yankees; Schaefer and Bill Hanna, Harry Schumaker and Fred Van Ness, three New York scribes, went over the new public golf course, playing 18 holes. When Schaefer was asked how he was getting along, he replied: "Great. I just made that last hole in a double, triple and three bunts."

The Yankees are one club which drew unusually large crowds on the road. Bill Bloem, of the New York Evening Sun, who is traveling with the league leaders, says that Donovan's team played to 130,000 persons in 15 days in the West, an average of more than 8600 spectators per day. As there are no 25-cent bleachers in the West, the Yanks made a lot of money.

George Wiley's victory in the 50-mile motor-paced race at Point Breeze last night came as a great surprise, as both Menus Bedell and Clarence Carmen were looked upon as the most dangerous contenders. Wiley came within two seconds of breaking the world's record for the distance, and if Carmen had not been forced to retire because of tire trouble and a broken chain, it is likely that the old mark of 1 hour 3 minutes and 21 3/4 seconds would have been shattered.

It was rumored about Washington Park that Benny Kauff, the Giants' outfielder, had wagered \$2000 on the result of the Dillon-Moran fight, and won his bet. Benny and Dillon were great friends when the former Fed star was playing with Indianapolis, and no doubt Kauff may have had a wager on the result, but those who know him insist that Benny would never risk even a very small percentage of this amount.

MOVIE OF A MAN WITH A MOSQUITO BITE ON HIS ANKLE



WHEN DRIVE BEGINS TIGERS, RED SOX AND WHITE SOX ARE EXPECTED TO PULL AWAY, BUT—

By GRANTLAND RICE

IT SEEMS to be agreed by the genial experts that when the drive begins in earnest the Tigers, Red Sox and White Sox will resume the pace and drop the remainder of the field well behind. This may be true. But for some quaint reason the Yankees and the Indians—meaning New York and Cleveland—insist on sticking around where they are not wanted. Won't some one let them know they are butting in on what would otherwise be quite a merry little party?

That Brave Uplift

Back in March George Stallings handed us this inside or outside tip: "I am going to do my best this season to get away to a fast start. Maybe I won't. But, however we start, from the middle of June to the first of July on the Braves will be playing the best ball in the league and by the first of August will be in front." The Braves failed to get the flying start just as they did in 1914 and 1915. But from the middle of June the variety of ball they have been offering upon public display doesn't make Stallings look to be the worst prophet in the land. Since Evers got back the Brave machine hasn't been any more dangerous than eight or ten Siberian tigers.

Where the Main Test Is
You may think what you like about Johnson and Alexander having slipped. But the test is in victorious achievement. The two pitchers who have won more games than any others this season are Johnson in the American League with 12, and Alexander in the National with 13. This may not be the entire answer, but it is at least close enough for the present.

Very few are picking the Reds and the Browns to win a pennant. And still fewer, among rival ball clubs, are taking them for the jokes they used to be a few years ago. There was a day when the mere mention of the Reds or Browns evoked a merry guffaw. Most of that laughter has now ceased.

The American League has gotten to be so tight that an early explosion is due. As a rule the debris begins its scattering course shortly after July Fourth, when some two or three start in upon the process known as "Cleaning up."

There is only one way that the rapid growth of golf can be checked. This way is to abolish the niblick. Whereupon nine golfers out of every ten would be forced to give up the game.

Who says this is a bun country to live in? Moran and Dillon collected \$40,000 last night for 30 minutes with padded gloves. Whereas the Russian mujik collects 4 cents a day for charging German shrapnel. And very little of this shrapnel is padded.

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And stamped upon the Giants.
He closed his eyes in retrospect,
He sighed with joy and then
He kindly shot him through the heart,
Before he woke again.

The Duffer Exclaims Again

However it be, it seems to me
(As some one has remarked before)
Though I may swipe them off the tee
I cannot get a winning score;
For though I took the bally ball
Beyond the intervening ruts,
And on the green my pitch shots fall,
I blow the putts.

And there are times that I can't miss
The tricky putts upon the green;
I watch them drop in grooving bliss,
The while I work like a machine;
But while I'm moving in this way
When I should be where pardon thrives,
When I get all the putts I play,
I blow the drives.

And there are times when I can drive
And sink my putts upon the round;
When I should cheer to be alive
And joy should seek me on the bound;
And yet the winning score's not there—
(You'd never think this verse was Byron's)
For still I curse and tear my hair
And blow my nose.

WILEY WINS LONG GRIND

Syracuse Flyer Finishes First in 50-Mile Motor-paced Race at Point Breeze

George Wiley, the Syracuse flyer, won the 50-mile motor-paced race at the Point Breeze Motorrome last night after the most sensational cycle battle that ever took place in the famous speed bowl. Menus Bedell, of Long Island, finished second, and Victor Linart, of Belgium, was third. Clarence Carmen, the favorite, finished last after riding a remarkable race for 20 miles, when he had to retire on account of puncture trouble and also on the breaking of a chain on his roller machine. The time for the race was 1 hour 3 minutes 21 3/4 seconds, nearly two seconds behind the record. Summaries:

Three-mile professional motorcycle race—Won by Billy Armstrong; second, Billy Vanderberry; third, Henri St. Yver. Time, 3m. 8 1/4-5/8.
Two-mile professional motorcycle race—Won by Billy Armstrong; second, Billy Vanderberry; third, Herman Velitz. Time, 1m. 27 1/2-3/4.
50-mile professional motor-paced race—Won by George Wiley; second, Menus Bedell; third, Victor Linart; fourth, Clarence Carmen. Time, 1h. 3m. 21 3/4-5/8.
Two-mile trial to best track record of 1 minute 22 seconds—Billy Vanderberry. Time, 1m. 22 1/2-3/4.
Five-mile professional motorcycle race—Won by Billy Armstrong; second, Herman Velitz. Time, 3m. 33 1/2-3/4.

Harry Johnson Wins Tennis Title
BOSTON, June 30.—Harry C. Johnson, one of this year's State doubles tennis champions, won the singles title by defeating George F. Gardner, Jr., in the challenge round, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

EVENING LEDGER MEET IS STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Best Possible Way of Advancing Standard of Athletes, Says Meredith

COMPETITION BENEFICIAL

By TED MEREDITH
Philadelphia will take a great step forward in promoting track athletics when the Evening Ledger schoolboy meet is staged on Saturday at Woodlands Park. They have taken hold of the right string and they have this the best possible way of advancing the standard of this city's athletes.

New York realized the need of well-regulated sport for the young schoolboys a few years ago and now has public school leagues which are doing wonders for the boys, not only in giving New York a host of good runners, but in developing all the boys, regardless of whether they are bent along athletic lines or not.

These systems in New York give the boys all kinds of exercise and keep them as interested by the competition that they naturally develop into good men.

This meet on Saturday is a step along this line and is a good move. The boys will get the competition and it will be rewarded by men who know how much and what they should do. In this way they will not be allowed to overwork, as is the case often with schoolboys.

The committee has made the events to suit the boys' ages and will not allow any of them to do too much. The saying "competition makes business" works out in athletics the same way as it does in business. You can't get and hold the interest of boys unless you have something to interest them, and if there are few or no means you can't expect the boys to train.

These meets will be for the schoolboys and will be big factors in strengthening the teams which will be called upon to represent Philadelphia in later years.

It is surprising how competition acts as a developer in track. I was once told by a trainer that one race was as good as a week's training, and I believe it is so after you have had a certain amount of the preliminary work. The New York runners often go through the season with very little training. They race every week and depend on that to keep them in running shape. The boys could go out by themselves and practice every day, but would develop very slowly. Under these tests they would just what they need, something which will put them on edge.

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EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—A MILLION AND ONE STARS WERE IN EVIDENCE, TOO, HUGH, BUT THEY WERE ALL UP IN THE AIR

