

PICKING THE NEW YORK GIANTS TO WIN IS LIKE SHOOTING SPARROWS WITH A GATLING GUN

IF FUTURE OF GIANTS DEPENDS ON MCGRAW THE 1917 PENNANT WILL WAVE OVER POLO GROUNDS

Critics Who Pick New York With Planted Alibi Would Hedge if They Had a Bet on Sun to Rise in the East

A HOST of citizens who perpetrate baseball dope for a living are consuming reams of white paper and miles of typewriter ribbon in the process of assuring their trusting readers that the Giants will win the National League pennant. As a matter of fact, "picking the Giants" has become one of the favorite indoor sports and virtually every scribe of note has secured a seat on the band wagon which plays only Broadway airs.

As an alibi the stuff would be funny were it not so pathetic. The idea of a ball club running away from John McGraw would go big if worked into a vehicle for Eddie Foy or any of our well-known comedians, but as a serious thought it is ridiculous.

THOSE who offer the suggestion that the Giants may run away from their manager point to the unfortunate affair at the Polo Grounds at the close of last season when McGraw virtually accused his men of not trying to beat Brooklyn. Our understanding of the thing is that it was McGraw who did the running on that occasion and not his players.

Where McGraw Is Manager McGraw Is Boss

JUST where can be found anything in John McGraw's career to support a suggestion that there is any combination of ball players in the country which he could not control? The Little Napoleon has always ruled his men with the mailed fist, and it must be admitted that he has handled some tough ones in his time. There is no reason for believing that he is not the same McGraw he was ten years ago or that he has lost his hold in any way.

It is generally conceded that McGraw has two or three bad actors on his payroll, but the manner in which troublesome players have been handled by John J. in the past left little to be desired. No player or players ever got the upper hand of the Little Napoleon, even in the days of the old Baltimore Orioles. He understands ball players and ball players understand him—his methods are his own and they have been unusually successful.

Two Golf Belts Pass On in Two Starts

HUGH L. WILLOUGHBY, former Philadelphia golf champion, has now come another cropper and is another "former," for he has just been despoiled of his title as champion of Florida. He held the Philadelphia title for one year and also held the Florida belt for one year. Willoughby stands as a living example of the ups and downs of golf. He is capable of giddy heights of remarkable golf when he is on the top of his game. He beat an exceptionally representative and classy field to the flag last year over the winter-resort course at Palm Beach for the title and looked good enough to repeat this year when the entry list was announced. The Merion player stood out above the field so that most of the fans on the palmy strand conceded him the right of champion before he had teed off.

IN BOTH challenge matches the very unexpected was the actuality. Few fans would have said beforehand that Willoughby would not beat Burton in the Philadelphia championship last year, though all might not have agreed that he would win the finals again. In the same way virtually none of those present at Palm Beach would have been hardy enough to announce that Willoughby would not even qualify and at least have the chance to defend his title at match play. Yet it was snatched from him by the roots, so to speak.

West Skeptical About Molla

OUT on the bright, sunny tennis courts of California they are beginning to be skeptical about the reputation of Molla Bjurstedt as a world beater. When the nimble Norse raquet "champ" goes into action east of the Rockies she digs through the field like a juggernaut and leaves a bevy of badly beaten contestants in her wake. This triumphant procession is limited to the East, for when the present national titleholder invades the coast to pit her skill against the native daughters her invincible pace is lacking and the conquest is unsuccessful. This year she was defeated by Mrs. May Sutton Bundy and Mary Browne in the round-robin event of the East vs. West matches and her showing throughout the tournament did not bear out the reputation for ruthlessness that she has collected throughout her eastern campaigns.

Ever since Molla Bjurstedt began her successful reign in the matter of national championships and minor titles there has been considerable speculation as to the showing she would make against Mrs. Bundy, who, as May Sutton, ruled over the feminine tennis players a decade ago. Miss Sutton won the national championship in 1904 and for five years was champion of her home section, the Pacific Coast. Since her marriage to T. C. Bundy the former ruler withdrew to a great extent from tournament play and has not attempted to regain her crown.

IN HER trips to California Miss Bjurstedt has opposed Mrs. Bundy five times and has only once been victorious. Now it is reported that Mrs. Bundy will be in the competition for the national championship at the Philadelphia Cricket Club this year. Should the former ruler make the attempt to regain her title, the Norse star will probably have more real opposition to the chief honor of the tennis year than she has experienced since being in America.

Whitman Has New York Boxing on the Ropes

ANY idea that any one might have had that boxing wasn't on his last legs and entering unsteadily to its corner for the final bell should be thoroughly dispelled by recent actions of Governor Whitman. Whitman was severely criticized in many quarters when he took his stand against Leslie Darcy, while in many spots he was highly commended. Critics declared he should not have shown opposition against Darcy, pointing out that Freddy Welsh, Tom Cowler, Ted Dwyer and others were allowed to box without interference. They are just as much against Darcy, for they are Englishmen, whereas Darcy is an Australian and a Scotchman. Whitman's action seems to have been taken because Darcy was a foreigner coming here and separating New Yorkers from their cash. The Scotchman already was in this country when war was declared. When he was allowed to box he was separating himself from Tim O'Sullivan who made his name in the ring. This action caused adverse comment and the people began to wonder what Whitman's intention naturally was called to what was going on.

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STECHEK AND HIS LEGS HURL DEFINITIVE

Scissorhold Wizard, Back in Condition, Will Defend Championship Claims

STANDS ALONE IN CLASS

"Bring forth the unwashed matmen from the Baltic shores or the demon grapplers from Greece and I will fetch them with my mull scissers," is the sentiment expressed by Joe Stecher, the husky Nebraska farmer lad, who has recovered from the illness that has prevented his appearance in several big wrestling matches during the last winter. Now he stands ready to defend his claims to the catch-as-catch-can title against all who may swap hugs on the padded mat.

Joseph Stecher stands very much in a class by himself when it comes to the gentle sport of wrestling. His powerful hips and legs have been so trained for the use of the body scissors hold that the cornfields have been passed up for the mat, and now Stecher is recognized as the peer of grapplers. It is the scissors that brings his opponent's shoulders to the mat. With his powerful limbs locked around the other man's middle the Nebraskan slowly crushes him into submission.

Many followers of wrestling who have never seen Joe work probably do not appreciate just what his famous crusher means to the wrestler who gets caught in it. Briefly, it is a rib-crushing hold. Nothing more nor less than slow torture.

Stecher has perfected the hold until he can clamp it on to his opponent from almost any position. He may be nearly down himself and still lock his man with those powerful limbs. Once he gets the hold the farmer will lock his ankles, bring his knees toward each other with a slow but powerful inward pressure and, if his man doesn't send out the s.o.b., he is rolled over on his back.

Frank Gotch reached the top of the ladder through his use of the toe hold. Gotch is a powerful rough-and-tumble wrestler, and the gorilla-like strength of his arms and shoulders and the employment of the hold landed him the championship. The big toe-holder is getting along in years now and Stecher is in his prime. Consequently those who know both wrestlers intimately are of the opinion that the Nebraskan would have defeated the old master had they met last summer.

MARIE WAGNER IN SEMI-PLAY FOR TENNIS TITLE

NEW YORK, March 15.—Miss Marie Wagner, several times holder of the women's national indoor lawn tennis championship, advanced nearer to another triumph at the Seventh Regiment Armory when she gained a semifinal round bracket in this year's tournament by defeating Miss Margaret Taylor decisively by a score of 6-0, 6-1. The rival to Miss Wagner in the upper half of the draw is Miss Caroma Winn, and the semifinal round match between them was the first scheduled for this morning.

In the lower half of the draw the semifinalist are Miss Marion Vanderhoef and Miss Eleanor Goss.

YATES, FRESHMAN STAR, IS ELIGIBLE FOR PENN NINE

Joe Yates, Penn freshman first baseman on last year's championship nine, has been declared eligible. Yates, it was thought, would be unable to represent the Red and Blue team this year.

PITCHER PFEFFER AGREES TO BROOKLYN CLUB TERMS

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 15.—Jeff Pfeffer is the first of the three Brooklyn holdouts to sign a contract. Pfeffer has agreed to the salary offered by the Squire of Flatbush with the addition of a bonus for winning twenty-five games, and half if he won five or ten less. As soon as the contract was signed Pfeffer went westward to Hot Springs to which he had been called.

GIANTS CHALKED UP NEW RECORDS IN STRAIGHT WINS, BUT TWO-THIRDS OF '16 ERA PLAYED TAIL-END CLIP

Won 43 Out of 43 Starts in Two Wild Dashes, But the Rest of the Season Played Jowl to Jowl With Cardinals and Reds

By GRANTLAND RICE

CERTAIN citizens one meets up and down the highway of this spiral existence always insist that figures are boring, dull and irrelevant. Perhaps so.

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HALPIN OUT FOR SEASON

Captain of Boston A. A. Track Team Goes Under Nasal Operation

BOSTON, March 15.—Captain Thomas J. Halpin, of the Boston Athletic Association track team, will be unable to compete during the rest of the indoor season, as a result of a nasal operation ordered. As a result, David S. Caldwell will be captain of the team, which will represent the association at the national indoor championships at New York on Saturday.

ROUSE, CAPTAIN OF FRESH FOOTBALLERS, QUILTS PENN

Penn has lost another good football man, Charles Rouse, captain of last season's freshman football team, and who was looked upon as one of the most promising gridiron players on the freshman squad, has quit. This is a big loss, as Rouse was expected to make a hard fight for a berth on the varsity next season.

Nationals Would Like Boat Ride

AUGUSTA, Ga., March 15.—The Washington Nationals are planning to get to Philadelphia via autos and boats if the brotherhood strike.

THRASHER SIGNS WITH ATHLETICS

Heavy-Hitting Outfielder Has First Workout and Shows Good Form

MILITARY DRILL AGAIN

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 15.—Preceded by the regular military drill, members of the Mack squad settled down to baseball affairs as the heat of the morning sun again beat down on the players. Sergeant Smart, who by this time has become more thoroughly acquainted with each individual, spent the entire forenoon watching the men in baseball practice.

After the short baseball session, which was sandwiched between drill and luncheon, several of the Athletics' players remained in the shade of the palms near the clubhouse. Mike Price, who was at one time a life guard and custodian of a string of bath-houses at Coney Island, served cold lunch on the managing table. On the exterior of the house were many of the rookies going through setting-up exercises. John and Tom Shibe and Albert Crump, a guest, have taken the military drill as a means by which to reduce weight.

Certain players lounged a trifle too long in the sun during luncheon hour, and as a result fell asleep. General Mack put his men through the usual paces this morning and appeared pleased to see Thrasher in the regular squad. Thrasher made his first appearance of the season this morning, having attached his name to a contract last night. The heavy-hitting outfielder will likely land a regular berth before any length of time, as he appears to be in fine physical condition. He has been spending the winter at his home in Madison, Ga. Mack was further pleased by the manner in which certain twirlers worked. The pitching of Southpaw Walter Anderson this morning pleased the crowd more than ever. It looks as though this young man of nineteen years will remain for the season. This partly solves the pitching problem, the only obstacle between Connie Mack and another winning team.

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PHILS ROASTED, BUT NOT BY FANS

Southern Sun Plays Heated Role in Conditioning of Moran's Squad

MIKE DEE IS BUSY MAN

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL. ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 15.—Pat Moran's athletes now are wearing compression suits which resemble hunks of raw beef. Five days under a tropical sun have ruined the faces of the players, and the worst is yet to come. The peeling process is expected to set in soon, and a pleasant time will be had by all.

Notwithstanding the loss of their attractive winter looks, the Phils worked hard and closely on the playing field, the temperature rising to ninety-five degrees in the shade and eighty-five degrees in the sun. When any shade was found, the players perspired freely during the workout, and Weather like this will get the men in shape in a short time, and Manager Moran believes they will be in good physical trim by the end of the week.

Reducing Belts

Trainer Mike Dee is doing great work with the players and is the busiest person in the camp. He has invented a new reducing belt which is quite successful and the heaviest men in camp are wearing them. Mike brought down several defective innersuits from extinct manufacturers and punched holes in each so that they could be laced. Cravath, Pat Moran, Eddie Hurst, Alexander and Bobby Byrne are wearing them every day and their sly-like figures are returning. It is a great stunt and we are trying the innersuits with satisfactory results. Dee is also the chief surgeon at the ball park and no complaints have been filed against his work. When Ernie Walker stepped in a rut in the outfield and twisted his knee Monday Mike bandaged the injury and had him in the field the next day. Walker showed no ill effects and got around as fast as before.

Daily Practice

The daily practices consist chiefly of preliminary training stunts. The regular line-up has been selected and the men are all taking trials at the various positions. First there is batting practice, where the pitcher is in the box and the batter is sent out to chop fly balls and get into condition. Then, under the twirling, infield practice usually closes the day's work and the line-up is Luderus first base, McGuffigan second base, Hancock shortstop, and Bobby Byrne on third. Duguey and Hagerty also take turns at second base. The outfield seems thinly populated, with only four regulars on the job, but the pitchers are sent out to chop fly balls and get into condition.

Bowling News

Artisan League bowlers resumed their tug-of-war with the Philadelphia team last night. In Section A, Philadelphia increased its lead to three games over the Phillies. A feature of Adelphi's scoring was Alexander's 201 and 200. Fry contributed 200 in his last game. Pennsylvania beat Progressive three games to one in the final round. In Section B, Philadelphia led by one game. In Section C, Union won two from Germantown. James of Union downed Logan with a 224 score, and Kline got 204.

In Section C, Union won two from Piddly, the leaders. St. Paul made a sweep of the entire season with Harmony, and Lehigh led Larchwood three games.

The first season of the Philadelphia Duck Pin League was brought to a close on Conant alley last night. Burkis is the champion. He won all three games from Zalus, who set the pace the entire season until the last two games. Zalus won from Bagley, who outrolled Teasers in three games, and scored 201 in his second game, and Graham of Germantown, rolled a 202 score in his first game.

Cann Breaks Swimming Records

NEW YORK, March 15.—Ted Cann created two American records at the New York Athletic Club in the fourth heat of the 200-yard handicap race. Cann continued on to the 300-yard point. He finished the 200-yard point in 2:48.40, which erased the old mark of 2:50.55, held by Perry McGilivray, of the Illinois A. C. field by Perry McGilivray, of the Illinois A. C. field in the 300-yard event. His time was 3:28. The broke the former record of 3:24.25.

Advertisement for Admiral Cigarettes. Text: 'In Command! Already those who really choose their smokes have been won by ADMIRAL EISENLOHR'S MASTERPIECE The new size of the famous Henrietta 10c Straight Go to any good dealer Exact size 5 1/4 inches. Otto Eisenlohr & Bros. Incorporated'

Advertisement for Spring Suits. Text: 'SPRING SUITS \$11.80 To Order. Peter Moran & Co. Merchant Tailors. 15th Market St. Entrance 15th. S. E. Cor. 9th and Arch Sts. Broadway A. C. Tonight Great Heavyweight Battle Homer Smith vs. Jack Taylor. Saturday Night-Saturday Night National A. C. Jimmy Murphy vs. Jack Burke. Dan Miller vs. Paul Hanson. Other All-Star Contests. Adm. 5c. Eastern League Basketball Tonight at Nonpareil Hall. Reservations at 10th and Market Sts. GAMBRIA A. C.'