## IS A BALL TEAM ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS MANAGER? SEASON OF '17 LIKELY TO FURNISH A SOLUTION

Critics Will Be Watching Barry, at Boston; Mitchell, at Chicago, and Connie Mack for an Answer to the Eternal Question

JUST how much of a baseball team's strength-or weakness-is embodied in its manager? The question is a debatable one, but there appears to be no means of reducing an answer to figures, and any conclusion is simply a matter of opinion. There are those who insist that a good team cannot win with a poor manager and that a first-class leader can pilot an inferior team to a pennant by virtue of his own individual prowess. On the other hand, others hold that a great baseball machine is bound to win despite poor management and that no manager, no matter how efficient he may be, can get good baseball out of a team which does not pack good baseball in its luggage. The issue can be clearly drawn in this way: Is a team only as strong as its manager or is a manager only as strong as his team? Without making an effort to answer the problem, it may be mentioned that the coming season will furnish some good arguments for those disposed to take a hand in the debate. Up in Boston, Jack Barry will be guiding a team which has enjoyed years of success under "Bill" Carrigan. The Red Sox have the power to be up there, or thereabouts, from bell to bell. There is no factor of uncertainty so far as the Sox, as a team, are concerned. They have the goods, and if Barry fails to produce results, it is pretty good evidence that a good team cannot succeed under poor management. On the other hand, if they succeed it won't prove anything, for Barry's managerial strength will still be an unknown quantity. That is why it is maintained that Jack is in a somewhat difficult position. If the Sox fail he will be blamed, and if they come through in fine style the sharps will hold that most any manager could steer such a hand-picked lot of world-

Of course, there are other factors which must be considered. The other seven teams in the league may have gained strength during the winter, and a team to win the 1917 pennant must be better than the Sox of last season. At the some time, a ball club does not have to finish first to be considered a success. Only a collapse which will carry the champions below second or third place will be considered evidence of failure.

EVERYBODY in Philadelphia wishes Barry well. Baseball men all over the country realize that he is on trial, and the work of the Red Sox will be watched more closely than ever before for this reason

## The Cubs and Athletics Will Be Watched

TIRTUALLY the same situation exists at Chicago. The Cubs are a powerful baseball machine, and, on form, they should give the Giants a better fight than the other western teams. If Mitchell brings the Bruins through in fine style, it will be a good argument for those who insist that no team is good enough to succeed without good management. Another team which will be watched closely all over the circuit is our own Athletics. When Connie took his great machine apart in 1914 and spread the cogs all over the baseball landscape he promised to build up another pennant-winning team within a few years. Will he be able to do it? That is the question which is lurking in the minds of baseball sharps everywhere. If Connie succeeds it will prove beyond a doubt that it is impossible to overestimate the value of a good manager. The spectacle of a manager deliberately disposing of a flag-winner and then building another from the foundation up will just about convince every one that a team is only as strong as its

On the other hand, some critics point out the case of Wilbur Robinson and the Dodgers as evidence that a team can succeed despite the manager.

It has been contended that Robinson does not understand how to work a pitching staff correctly and that he has no place among the really great managers The same charge was brought against "Charlie" Dooin in 1913, when it was said that he worked Alexander and Seaton to death; but if this is true, it is evidence for the other side of the house, for Dooin DID NOT win a pennant in 1913 with an admittedly powerful team.

THERE seems to be little doubt that a good manager is worthy of his hire, for the cases where teams have won with poor directors are few and far between. In the last four years we have had the following pennant-winning managers: Connie Mack, Moran, Robinson, Carrigan, McGraw and Stallings. Is there a weak man among them?

## McGraw in the Role of a Comedian Again

NO ONE has ever accused John McGraw of being modest about his players, and probably no one ever will. Jawn is given to making rash and brash claims, and he gets away with it simply because he is McGraw; but when McGraw or any other manager stands up and shamelessly claims to have a ball player who is the equal of Ty Cobb he should be depressed. Everybody agrees with John when he says Davy Robertson is a wonderful performer. Dave bruises the horsehide in fine style, he makes circus catches and he is a flash on the bases, but to call him a second Ty Cobb is another thing again. Last season Robertson played wonderful baseball for several months, and just when every one was shouting his praises to the four winds he crashed into a slump, and his batting average shrunk with alarming rapidity. Dave ended with a mark of .307.

defore attempting to elevate Robertson to the pe stop and consider what happened to another outfielder on his payroll for whom like extravagant claims were made. If memory serves us correctly, one Benjamin Kauff one short year ago was going to make the Georgia Peach look like a piker. According to Mr. Kauff, Mr. Kauff was going to make the fans forget that a man by the name of Cobb ever played baseball. Everybody knows the sad conclusions of the tale. It is written in the batting averages. Kauff doesn't even belong in Mr. Cobb's set, and as a "climber" he proved a failure.

## Golf Becoming One All-Year-Round Game

GOLF is not only increasing by leaps and bounds in this country as to the number of players and fanatics, but it also is increasing so much in duration of season that it is rapidly becoming the one game that is possible through all the span of twelve months. This has been chiefly brought about by the incursions into the palm-bordered paths of the South, which have "bled," so to speak, the chilly northland of its golfers. The rollcall of the best golfers right here in Philadelphia would not find a very large percentage left in town. There are some stars here who have come back to the Quaker City and there are some who are still in the South. But most of those with the real or genuine fever have made the trip, batted a ball around the links where the sun smiled happily all around and have come away content.

Besides this southern stuff, the number is increasing yearly of those who cannot bear to wrap the throats of their clubs in flannels, as of yore, and tuck them away for a hard business session during the winter. There was a day when a player, bundled in quit-lined coating and swathed in various woolens, could not take to the links of a winter day in these parts without being hooted out as being of a more serious species than a mere common or garden variety of golf bug.

## It Was Crazy to Play in Winter

PERSONS thought he must be crazy to play with a red ball in the snow with the temperature down to cracking. They thought that there was a time for everything and that winter was decidedly not the time for golf. They thought that there was such a thing as enough of anything and that after a summer of goif it was time to lay off, get a rest and be in so much better shape to enjoy the game in the following season. But in all this haze of thinking these folks lost sight of one outstanding fact. They forgot that one of the chief considerations of the average business man in taking up golf is that he is able to get a full measure of exercise. This is all aside from the fascination and sport in the game. Golfers who began to get soft and flabby in the torso when they laid off golf in the fall cast around for some winter deal, and once they had been lured back to a winter-swept links at once saw the possibilities of winter golf and the error of their ways in abandoning for the nonce the ancient and royal pastime.

It all came under the head of education. Those not hardy enough to withstand the weather fluctuations yielded all the more gracefully to family appeals for a slesta in the South when the thought of the lovely golf to be had there fluttered before them. Most golfers are now fully aware of the possibilities of winter golf. and scoff at the idea that clubs must remain soused in oil during the period of ernation. The biggest single education along these lines is the South. Golf irses are cropping up there all around. Build an ice course and then surround it by bungalows. That's the formula for a popular winter resort in these modern nes. This season there were not nearly enough roofs to house the heads of travelers. Already plans are being laid for next year, and many resorts report scores of applications for quarters in the winter of 1918.

BASEBALL has a long span, from March training tours to world's series exultation, and takes up much athletic attention. Tennis has a long period outdoors, a scattering of winter matches in the South, but the only general work up North, or approaching it, is indoors: Football has g short season, with track and all the rest, so that golf seems to have the call on these all for the one game that is good outdoors all the year around.

## Looks Like a Title for S. S. White Gunners

PROSPECTS are rosy for the S. S. White Gun Club, of this city, winning the oters' League championship this season. The Quakers have won seven e matches, and, with only two more shoots remaining on its schedule, ere that they will make a clean sweep in the ten-team circuit. The are that they will make a clean sweep in the ten-team circuit. The I oppose the Clearview gunners on Saturday over the latter's traps at facir eighth contest, and a victory is almost certain. Their last match, is with the West Chester nimrods at Holmesburg Junction. "Billy" member of the "Whitee," and S. M. Crothers, of the Highland Club, it will be the "Whitee," and S. M. Crothers, of the Highland Club, it will be the property of the league. Both men to the start of their quots of 250 thrown from the traps.



## **BUSH LEAGUE BALL LOOKS PROSPEROUS**

President Barrow Thinks Interleague Series Will Boost Minors

OFFER A \$10,000 PURSE

NEW YORK. March 22. — Unless bad weather intervenes and repeats the playfu' stunts that gummed things up a couple of years ago, Ed G. Barrows, president of the International League, believes the coming baseball season will be the most profitable the minor leagues have enjoyed since the prosperous days before Jim Gilmore and prosperous days before Jim Gilmore and his gang threw their famous monkey wrench into the machinery.

Barrow today pointed out the coming test of interleague games between the Interna-tional League and American Association, the publicity that has been given to baseball during the winter and the settling down of the public to take baseball as it is without arguing the merits of the Federals as compared with organized baseball.

## Strong Hunch Player

"I didn't feel as if last year would be a good one." Barrow said. "and I didn't say it would. I've got quite a bunch of players and I've got an awful strong hunch right now that we've seen the last of those awful days,

thing that hasn't been greatly considered by the fans so far, but before it has been started there will be started there will be a tremendous am

The idea first originated in the brain of Garry Herrmann when he proposed such a series between the National and American Leagues. It fell through there, and then we began to talk if over with the American Association club owners, but the Federals came along and forced us to drop it. We were afraid to leave our terri-

it. We were afraid to leave our territory for such a long period.

"There will be some added mileage expense and the trip west for us will be
long and hard, but we firmly believe that
the added attraction will fully offset any
added expense. Bad weather is the only
thing that can prevent us from advancing
a long step toward the goal of popularity
the game enjoyed before the Federals the game enjoyed before the Federals wrecked things.

## Likes International

"I have confidence in the strength our clubs. In previous tests with the Amer ican Association we have shown ourselves stronger. In the two post-season series that have been played our teams have won, the last one being when Providence de-feated Columbus in 1907.

"Our pitchers seem to be the best. Men who cannot hit more than .270 in our league go to the American Association and immediately begin traveling at a .300 gait. "There will be some great baseball in this series, for the players will have the incentive in a purse of \$10,000, put up in equal amounts by each league."

## Rookies and Regulars

Het Springs. Ark. — The holdout squad of the Dodgers was reduced to one ione player to-day. Casey Stengel is the holdout. The signing of Zach Wheat took a big worry off Manager Robinson's mind. He believes Stengel will fol-

Georgetown, Tex.—The White Sox are here today for a game with the Southwestern University team. Tomorrow they will be in Smithville for a game against the town team; then will proceed to Houston, where the seconds will meet the first squad, and start the homeward journey Friday night. Meanwhile, Manager Rowland is whetting the ax for the superfluous talent.

Miami. Fla.—Some 3000 people flocked to Tatum Park today to watch the Athletics and Braves in the first real game here of the sea-son. Both teams were confident of winning. Rudolph and Tyler were slated for box work for the Braves.

Hot Springs. Ark.—Duffy Lewis made his first appearance today in his Red Sox uniform in an exhibition game of the Tanigans and Regulare for the benefit of St. Mary's Church. The Red Sox clan will be complete with the arrival of Dutch Leonard, who has wired he is on his way to camp.

Waxahachie, Tex.—Miller Huggins and his Cardinals will play the Tigers this afternoon. It is the first big league exhibition of the Tigers, and Jennings is anxious to make good. Ehkme and Boland will pitch for the Tigers.

## GRANDOLDDOPE IS THE WAY THINGS MANY ENTRIES IN WILL PAN OUT IN SPORTS EXCEPT WHEN THE GAME IS FINALLY OVER

Delving Into Past of Teams and Players Gives Great Line on Future—Then It's Best to Kick in With Alibi-More Form Stuff

## By GRANTLAND RICE

The Grandolddope

It's what should be—but rarely is;
If things go as they look to go;
It's framing up the future biz
From things you think you ought to know.

It's tipping off the future book From events that have gone before, Until said tipping gets the hook, Whereat you come again for more.

It's where you dip into the past And take the future on the fly; Until you finish up at last And kick in with an alibi.

It's showing where the Sox will win And where the Reds or Pirates won't. By mixing up the might-have-been With what they ought to do-but don't.

By sizing up the general scope Of what has been and what might be: You bump against the Grandolddope-And bump is right-grab it from me.

#### Form and Other Sports THE discussion of form in sports brings

I up the matter of grace, rhythm and ease other sports aside from baseball.

The golfer with the greatest grace— from the tee to the green—is Chick Evans. We know of no other who carries the same rhythm all the way in every shot.

On the green we have seen no one with the grace, ease and poise of Jerry Travers. His putting stroke is the last word in a rhythmical display. Oulmet is another golfer with natural grace, but the Bos-tonian gives more the impression of power than ease. Kirkby is another golfer whose long game especially is to be noted for its rhythm and beauty of execution.

In England the two golfers noted for their grace of all-around play were the late Jack Graham, killed in France, and There isn't a golfer in the game who surpasses Evans in the ease and symmetry

of his iron play.

Among the pros. Jim Barnes has superiors in this line, but in the main they go in more for crispness and power than for ase Mike Brady is another whose game is replete with rhythm.

## Tennis

It would be hard to find a greater com bination of grace and power than Maurice McLoughlin, serving as he did three years ago against Brookes and Wilding. There was a mixture of smash and sym-

There was a mixture of smash and symmetry to his play that has never been equaled. Both Norris Williams and William Johnston, the two present-day leaders, have an ease and sureness of motion that are part of the highest form.

## Football

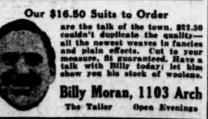
Football brings more the impression of power and speed than grace. Yet it would be harder to imagine a sight with fine rhythm or symmetry than Eddle Mahan starting back through a broken field after

Mahan turned running into poetry, minus ny touch of the vers libre attachment.

John Reed Kilpatrick's end play at Yale

Among the old-time ball players, the grace of Jimmy McAleer is remembered beyond that of any other, while the leading rhythm and dash of a throw across the diamond belonged to Harry Steinfeldt, with Monte Cross not very far behind.

These attributes of symmetry, in the main, are all natural. They are rarely to be developed. And while they do not always



BROADWAY A. C. TONIGHT Temmy Jamison vs. Al Thumms Bobby McCann vs. Harry Kilburs DARKTOWN BATTLE HOYAL

# **GRAMMAR RELAYS**

Seventy Schools to Be Represented in Big Games Next Month

ENTRIES CLOSE APRIL 1

A record number of grammar schools are entered in the twenty-third annual relay race carnival, which takes place the last Friday and Saturday of next month, Seventy schools are now on the list, two more than ever before, and there is still ten days before the entries close. The entries for grammar schools are restricted to schools from this city, as there is not room on the program for other outside schools of this class. Requests from grammar schools in New York, Washington and other cities have been received, asking tor admission to the races, but the management has been compelled to refuse. Even with two days for the meet, the program will be very full. The Philadelphia Grammar School class now has the following entries: Pedagogy Practice, the winners of last year, Belmont, Blaine, Willard, Southwark, Mitchell. Kenderton and the new big school, the Stetson Drexel and Dunlap, originally in this class have been transferred to one of the class races, as they feel that they are not sufficiently strong to have a chance for the championship.

The following parochial schools have to date entered: St. Elizabeth's, Visitation, Immaculate Conception, Cathedral and St. Stephen's. This is a very poor showing and an effort is being made to increase interest in track athletics throughout the parochial schools. Michael J. Slattery, who is so prominent in A. A. U. and archdio-cesan circles, has the matter in charge and no doubt several more parochial schools will get out teams. These schools are reminded that entries close on April 1.

Ready to Defend World's Court Tennis

WAR DEVELOPMENTS WON'T Walter A. Kinsella, professional at the AFFECT AMERICAN LEAGUE Squash Club and holder of the American squash tennis and court tennis champion-ships titles, has issued a statement in which BRUNSWICK, Ga., March 22 .- A declaration of war will not interfere with the plans of the American League for the 1917

The American League will open its championship race according to schedule," said Johnson. "We can make no departure at this late date."

DARTMOUTH AND PENN IN

on the Pennsylvania college grounds. May 12, and next year's will be held at Hanover.

Dartmouth's annual dual meet with the University of Pennsylvania has been set for May 5 at Philadelphia.

DUAL TRACK GAMES MAY 5 HANOVER, N. H., March 22.-Dual track meets between Dartmouth and Penn State College this year and next year have been

The Best Burning Cigar

add to general effectiveness, they certainly take nothing away, and are very likely to add something at least to the player's popularity with the crowd. assured. This year's meeting will be held

## KINSELLA CLAIMS TITLE

Honors, Relig uished by Gould

he laid claim to the world's open champion ship at court tennis, a title recently relin-quished by Jay Gould. Kinsella bases his acquisition of the title

n victories he has scored over players who are regarded as most eligible contender for championship honors, and declares that he is ready to defend such honors against

# MARKWARD COACH AT R.C.H.S. 15 YEARS

Catholic High Basketball Players to Honor Cage Tutor Tonight

GREER TO GET TROPHY

Fifteen years as coach of a basketban team that has won many championships is a long term of service for any one official. Tonight the Catholic High School alumni and players on the 1917 Purple and Gold first and second teams will honor "Billy" Markward, who is one of the veteral cage tutors in this city.

eran cage tutors in this city.

John J. Greer, who worked so hard with
the football players at Catholic High, will
be presented with a silver loving cup in
appreciation of his services. Spring football has started at Catholic High and will
continue this week and all of next week.
Baseball, track and tennis will add to the
list of outdoor sports, and a strenuous season will follow the big indoor celebration
at Broad and Vine streets tonight.

#### Girard Wins Swim Meet

Girard College swimmers again showed their class when they defeated the Catholic High School squad in the Girard pool late-yesterday afterncon by a score of 28 to 15 points. Girard showed form in all the events. Bud Northrop and Cunningham excelled for Catholic High.

excelled for Catholic Fign.

The Girard College swimming team ranks second to West Philadelphia High in line for championship honors. The collegians have meets with St. Joseph's College, Central High School, Camden Y. M. C. A. and the Central Y. M. C. A. Juniors. Coach Bernard has charge of the Girard swim-

## Await Friends' Indoor Meet

Youngsters in various sections of the city, students attending the various branch schools of the Friends' Central system, await with considerable interest the big indoor track and field meet to be staged in the gymnasium at Fifteenth and Race streets tomorrow afternoon.

This is a new event for the Friends' Central officials and tends to interest the juniors in the lower classes in competitive sports. John H. Bell, physical director of the school and coach of the track team, will the school and the will be assisted by J. Martin Kelschner, coach of the baseball team, and Fussell, assistant coach of the track team. Ray Critchlow, coach of the tennis team, will also officiate.

## No Eighteen-Year Rowing Rule

Imagination is a great asset and occa-sionally it works wonders in scholastic ranks. Some one imagined that all the Central High and Northeast High School oarsmen who were not yet eighteen years of age were barred from the sport, and slowing headlines told how the Northeast and Central High crews had been "torn

An inventive mind discovered that the rules of the supervisory committee on ath-letics merely state that students must be "mature" and that before they are allowed to ro. they must undergo a "physical and medical examination." There is nothing in the rules about eighteen years—there is, however, an age limit for all schoolboys of twenty years. So the Northeast and Central High oarsmen are not worrying.

## Weatherman a School "Jinx"

The weatherman is decidedly "in wrong" with the school athletes, captains, managers, officials and others. As this is the "off season" and the time for practice and preparedness, the school nines had hoped to make their initial bow yesterday after-noon. The rain saved them the pleasure. "Jinx" is a term applied frequently to the major league teams. The schools now claim that the weatherman is the only "Jinx" to

bother about and want something more like spring. Trades' School. Central High, Germantown High and Northeast High were all going to start outdoor work yesterday and because of the rain it is doubtful if they will get out now for the next few days

## JOIE RAY'S SPEED BEATS OVERTON IN GREAT FINISH

NEW YORK, March 22 .- Jole Ray, of the Illinois A. C., still is unbeatable. He turned the tables on John W. Overton, of Yale University, last night and defeated the swift collegian in the special one-mile race at the games of the John Wanamaker Commercial Institute in Madison Square Gar-

Each of the runners was confident that he could outspeed his rival, and the result was a loafing exhibition for half the distance and then a thrilling burst of speed for the last half mile. - Under these circumstances the time of 4:19, although three seconds lower than Overton's indoor world's record, was marvelous, and the intermediate times showed that the last half mile in which the men raced was covered in the unprecedented time of 2:02 3-5.

Brief figures tell the story of the pace, the times for the intermediate distances reading: First quarter, 1:09; half mile, 2:16 2-5; three-quarters, 3:17; mile, 4:19.

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