MEREDITH DOESN'T HAVE TO JOIN THE AVIATION CORPS—HE ALWAYS HAS BEEN A FLIER

IT WAS A SAD DAY FOR NIEHOFF WHEN SCOUT WOLF CLAPPED EYES ON A YOUTH NAMED McGAFFIGAN

Bert Only Member of Holdout Trinity Who Played in Hard Luck, and His Cause Is Hopeless—Nicholls a Real "Comeback"

WHEN Ed Wolf, the genial scout of the Phillies, ambled out to the Pacific coast last fall and found a diminutive youngster named McGaffigan cavorting on the ball field for the Vernon club, Bert Niehoff's place in the sun became very shadowy. About the same time Bert was having a wonderful time figuring out just how big a salary raise he could worm out of President Baker, his employer, without a thought of the dire thing that had come to pass. When Wolf returned East he assured Pat Moran that the youth McGaffigan was a bear and Patrick lost no time gathering the Bruin into the fold, not because he imagined that the newcomer would become a potent club to wave over the head of Niehoff, but simply on the chance that the youngster would some time develop into a regular ball player. How Niehoff, Whitted and Stock went through with their hold-out program is now history, and at present the club is in the position of having to treat with Whitted and sign Stock because no sensational youngsters developed at St. Petersburg to take their places. Not so with Niehoff, however. McGaffigan has convinced Moran that he can play the keystone sack in big league style, and Niehoff is as popular with the Philly officials as a Teuton in London.

There is no more reason for condemning Niehoff for holding out than there is for leveling criticism at Stock and Whitted for demanding more money. Bert's loyalty to the club is no more and no less than that of the other pair. The only difference is that Stock has and Whitted will probably get away with it and Niehoff will not. The second-sacker played in hard luck and the other hold-outs did not. A little diamond worker who can play second base in a manner to bring smiles to the face of Pat Moran swung the scales against Niehoff, and he has just as much chance of getting the money he demands as Maxwell has of making the bantam limit.

* * *

STOCK and Whitted are invited to drop into the training camp at St. Petersburg for a talk with President Baker and Manager Moran; Niehoff is told that he can continue to enjoy the scenery in Colorado until he decides to sign at the club's figures.

Niehoff About Ready to Surrender

NIEHOFF has played and lost, and the quicker he discovers it the better it will be for him. Every day that he stays away gives McGaffigan another chance to tighten his grip on the second sack, and the youngster is making good. There is evidence that Niehoff is beginning to appreciate his status in his frequent communications to Pat Moran and his request for the Phillies' itinerary in order that he may join the club at any time. No man likes to be the only one left out in the cold, and it would not be surprising if the second-sacker ambled into camp at any time, with his pride in his pocket and his signed contract in his hand. That he will be welcome is undeniable, for despite the work of McGaffigan a veteran infielder of Niehoff's ability is a valuable bit of baseball property. The youngster might beat him out for the position, but Bert would still be a salable or tradable asset and both Moran and Baker know it.

The fact remains, however, that the club has Niehoff on the ropes simply because of Wolf's acuteness in digging up McGaffigan. He, of all the Philadelphia players who held out, played in hard luck, and if anything he will be treated with greater severity because of the success which attended the hold-outs of his teammates.

* * *

YOU simply have to hand it to the members of the Phillies who held out for their gameness. No other club, with the possible exception of the Red Sox, had three regulars sticking as long as Stock, Whitted and Niehoff, and two of them are still out.

Introducing Another Well-Known Come-Back

GIL NICHOLLS, Great Neck golf professional, evidently had a deep-laid plot up his sleeve to spring on golfing fandom during the season to come, but he just couldn't help letting it leak out at Asheville, N. C., this week. The result of the leak is that his friends and foes in golfing circles fear that he has in view the winning of the national open championship this year, which will be put on the boards at Brae Burn, Boston. The reason these tidings come out so early in the season is that it became officially known that Nicholls is going like a house afire when he led one of the fastest of professional fields to the money at the southern course this week when he landed top card with a near-record score of 277 strokes for his four medal rounds of the open country club championship at Asheville. Gil Nicholls, who used to be pro at Wilmington and played a great deal over the Philadelphia courses, is known as one of the most brilliant and at the same time erratic pros now playing in America. He was likely to go off at any time on the wildest kind of a tear, shooting marvelous golf all the way through a tournament. At other times he was liable to slip into the ruck and not even drag down any of the money.

There was a time when Gil was considered as one of the most dangerous battlers for any title run in which he was entered. Thirteen years ago Gil was runner-up for the national open title and three years later, in 1907, he was again a runner-up. He won a district open title here and there, and even as late as two years ago Gil took the first money from a great field in the metropolitan open. But last year he was given credit for being on the skids. His name was added by critics to the list of those famous in the past who would have to be content to finish behind the younger fields in the years to come.

* * *

GONE, said the critics, was that sang froid, that careless ease with which Gil batted off the record-wrecking scores of the past that drove him willy-nilly to the fore as one of our most spectacular golfers. Gone were the hand-raising shots which made the galleries to marvel as the doughty Gil laid one stone dead from afar, to bottle another birdie in a revel of shooting. Gone was the other stuff he uncorked, or was liable to uncork, at any old time.

But His Latest Doings Push Away the Grandolddope

NOW the Great Neck pro, who has plenty of admirers in this city because of some of the great golf he has shown in the past over local courses, looks to be in the come-back class. He has clearly shown that this year he is going out again for the national open title, the cherished ambition he has nursed for many years. He meant to keep his form something of a secret until that day when he was called upon to tee off, but he couldn't help spilling the beans at Asheville in his desire to strike the pace of some of the opposition he found on every hand. Walter Hagen, former national open champion and present holder of the metropolitan and western open titles, was among those present. Another was Jock Hutchison, the runner-up in last year's open conflict to Chick Evans and the runner-up also to Jim Barnes, Whitemarsh, for the professional championship of the United States. Others present were Tom McNamara, a Massachusets title-holder of parts and a former runner-up to Jerry Travers for the national open title. Mike Brady, too, who has figured up there at the top in national events, was teeing them up in other parts of the course. Nicholls was imbued with a healthy desire to win from the crowd. He played all he had and came home from the first round with a 69, marvelous golf. He kept to this pace throughout and actually ran away from the gathering, thirteen strokes separating Gil from those in second money—Charlie Hoffner, local star, and Wilfred Reid, the famous British veteran now coaching at Wilmington. Gil is back with the old stuff, and it used to knock 'em all dead.

* * *

THE office boy is authority for the statement that any golfer who can romp away from a field like that should have no trouble winning any old title "open or shut."

Poor Time for Kinsella to Claim Title

WALTER KINSELLA, national squash tennis champion, has issued a statement to the effect that he claims the world's court tennis championship. Kinsella's action is a little hasty, to say the least, for despite the fact that he has beaten some good men, he has never yet won an important court tennis championship. It is true that when in England he challenged Frederick Covey to a match for money, which Covey declined. There was no apparent reason why Covey should accept this challenge, since he had everything to lose and nothing to gain. When the challenge was issued Covey had only just returned home from his match with Jay Gould at the local Racquet Club, and to hurl a defi at him under the circumstances was premature.

Kinsella's move in claiming the championship at the present time is unwise. Jay Gould has decided to defend his title and has notified Covey to that effect, and if anybody has a right to claim the title certainly Covey has. At the present time, however, Covey is serving in the trenches, or will be shortly, and therefore is out of the game for the time being. It would certainly have been better sportsmanship on Kinsella's part had he waited until after the war before claiming the title. Certainly under the present circumstances the championship would be a very barren honor for Kinsella.

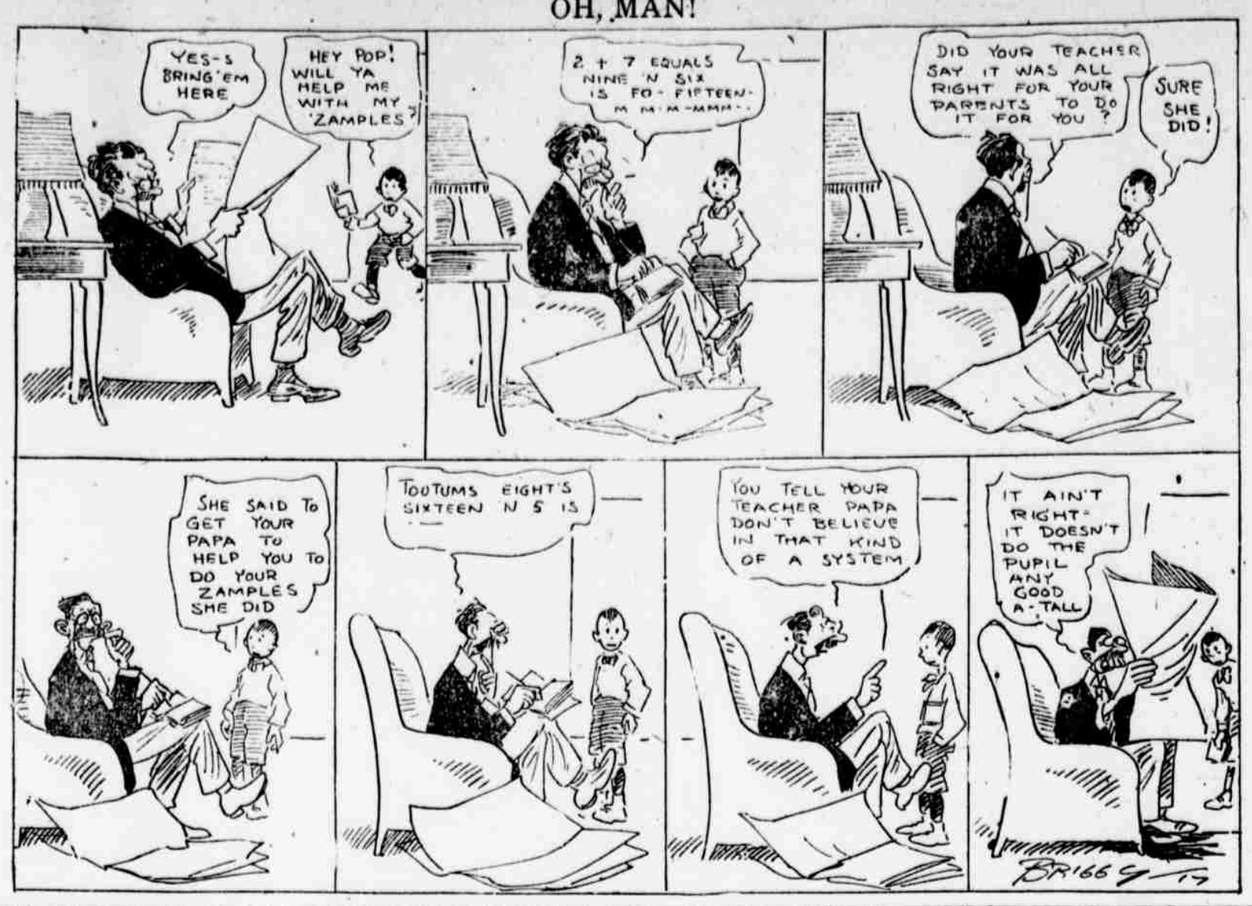
* * *

IT WOULD not be a bad idea for New York or Philadelphia to arrange a professional tournament and let the winner challenge Covey or the then professional champion of England for the world's title after the war is over.

* * *

BILLY SEVERN, of the S. S. White Gunning Club, of this city, bids fair to win the individual trapshooting championship of the Trapshooters' League, which embraces ten clubs whose representation goes above the mark of 300 marks-men. In eight matches at fifty targets each, Severn has scored 371, or nearly 93 per cent of his clay birds. Up to last Saturday the S. S. White's wingshot was in a neck-and-neck race with S. M. Crothers, of the Highland Club, of Edge Hill, who has 372 in seven [illegible] competition Severn [illegible]

OH, MAN!



WHITTED AT PHILS' CAMP FOR CONFAB

Stubborn Outfielder and President Baker to Talk Over Salary Dispute

STAR PITCHERS IN SHAPE

By a Staff Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 28. President Baker, of the Phillies, took another motor trip to this place today in the hope that he would have an opportunity to clear up the case of Outfielder George Whitted before he starts back to Philadelphia tonight to clear up matters pertaining to the opening of the championship season two weeks from today. Only a workout this morning was scheduled for the players. They have worked steadily twice each day since coming here without a single break, and they are looking forward to their half holiday with considerable satisfaction. The decision not to play a game this afternoon or next Saturday will give Moran's twirlers a chance to rest up a little.

Many of the players were going golfing or fishing, but some of them changed their minds, as it has been announced that Business Manager Billy Shettsline will ride at the head of the parade with Chief Nulty, of the Fire Department.

Alexander showed in yesterday's game that he will soon be in prime fettle for the opening of the championship season. Grover twirled for the Yanigans, and the Regulars were able to get a few hits and no runs off him in five innings. Rixey is also rapidly getting tuned up. He did not yield any runs in three innings, but he was wild in the fourth session, which is very uncommon for him, and his two wild pitches helped the regulars to make two runs.

Gandy slugged the horsehide for a triple and a double. This young slugger, though, appears to know little about playing the outfield, and Gene McCann, the manager of the New London club, to which Gandy has been assigned, will have hard work in polishing "Hank" up in this department.

NOTES OF THE PHILS

The Cubans with the Phillies pulled a neat play on the regulars. With Gonzales on first base and Rodes at bat, they pulled off the best hit-and-run play seen here this season. Commodore Plant, owner of the New London (Conn.) team, with which the Cubans will play this season, was so pleased that he peeled two $20 bills off his roll and gave them to Bill Shettsline with the remark, "Give one to each Cuban. They may need some spending money down here."

Business Manager Shettsline did not sleep well last night. Shettsline was invited to ride with Chief Nulty, of the St. Petersburg fire department, at the head of the big parade this afternoon and he promptly accepted.

Billy Killefer had his right leg slightly injured in practice yesterday morning, but in the game in the afternoon he whacked the ball hard.

Luderus's sun-scorched face is gradually healing and he hopes to be able to take his first shave in two weeks before leaving here next Sunday.

Killefer and Dugey are having great sport with Milt Stock's bats. Stock brought three of these bats and refused to permit any one to use them. Whenever Killefer and Dugey get a chance they sneak the bats out of the clubhouse and put them with the other sticks. Whenever Stock discovers the fact he promptly carts them back to the clubhouse.

McGaffigan, who played shortstop in place of Bancroft for the regulars, pulled off some swell plays in the field. McGaffigan gets over the ground like a jackrabbit.

Rookies and Regulars

Macon, Ga.—The Braves and Yankees planned another attempt to defeat Georgia weather today. They left for Cordele, Ga., for an exhibition game. Rain and muddy grounds have caused the postponement of two games to date.

Dallas, Tex.—The Dallas Texas Leaguers were out to break the Giants' winning streak today. McGraw's men continued their unbroken string of victories over Texas League teams yesterday, beating Waco, 3 to 0, in a ninth-inning rally.

Memphis, Tenn.—Uncle Wilbert Robinson, boss of the Dodgers, settled down to the serious business of beating the Red Sox today, thereby keeping up the precedent set by his club in Hot Springs. Marquard was slated to pitch for the Dodgers.

Columbus, Ga.—With but four more days in camp here, Manager Callahan started to wield the ax. Pitcher Jim Travers and Catcher Alfred Snyder received unconditional releases, while Infielder Anderson was sent back to the Charlotte, N. C., club.

New Orleans—Fifteen hits for twenty-one bases weren't enough and the Indians lost to the Pelicans, 8 to 7 yesterday. Chapman, with a triple, double and single, led with the ash.

Santa Rita, N. M.—The Cubs licked the Miami, Ariz., team, 5 to 3, yesterday and today are prepared to administer the same dose to the local talent. Tonight the Cubs will be in El Paso.

Houston, Tex.—"Brick" Eldred, outfielder, obtained from Seattle, will get one hour's trial [illegible] today. The Sox play [illegible]

G. STALLINGS, ROUGH ON BREECHES, HAS SEEMINGLY KEPT YOUTHFUL BY WORRYING OVER BALL GAMES

Braves' Manager Has Slid Up and Down Pine Benches, to Tailor's Despair, for Years and Years in Terrible Frenzy

By GRANTLAND RICE

The Barrier

I've seen kids who yearned to be big-league stars
Pirates and robbers and yeggmen and crooks;
Or to serve as conductors on trolley cars
Or even to get on as fancy cooks;
I've seen many a kid in the jamboree
Who wanted to serve at a raging fire,
But I've never seen one who would like to be
An umpire.

I've seen many a kid with a hearing yearn
To serve as a cop on a busy beat;
And others whose bulging breasts would burn
To handle a truck on a crowded street;
They have envied the sailor out at sea;
To hold up a train's been a big desire,
But I've never seen one who would like to be
An umpire.

YOU hear more than a trifle about the long reign of Honus Wagner and Larry Lajoie. Also concerning the extended managerial careers of John McGraw and Clarke Griffith.

There is still another who might be mentioned. When you take a look at George Stallings, of the Braves, you take him as one still well within his prime; hardly a day over forty. He not only looks to be around this age in physical make-up, but he has all the snap and enthusiasm of a younger man. Yet one of our first recollections of baseball—so far back it is dim and hazy—is that of George Stallings leading his Augusta team upon the field, back around 1894—a matter of twenty-three years ago. Stallings was then one of the youngest managers baseball has ever known, despite the fact that he won a Southern League pennant that season. Two years later, in 1896, he was manager of the Phillies, about the time Nap Lajoie broke in. Lajoie has served two decades and has passed on, yet here is Stallings, still looking about as young as ever and far from the end of his managerial career.

Worry and Age

They say that worry will bring on age quicker than anything else. Yet no man in baseball has ever worried as Stallings worries through every game. At times he becomes a wild man on the bench. He says himself that a pair of trousers lasts about a week or ten days after he has finished sliding up and down pine benches. For two days after the world series of 1914, when his Braves beat the Mackmen four straight, he was unable to sit still for ten minutes at a time, through excessive nervousness. Yet in place of aging him this constant worry has apparently acted as a barricade or barrier to age.

A ball game to Stallings is something more than an intense proposition. It keeps him nerved to the breaking point from start to finish. Yet here, at the end of twenty-three years' service, you find him looking younger than most men of forty-one or forty-two—a man who only three years ago was able to lift a ball club from last place in July to a world championship in October solely by the fire and spirit of an inspiration that has never been equaled.

There are few young leaders in baseball now. Mack is beyond fifty. McGraw, Jenning, Stallings, Griffith, Robinson, Rowland, Moran, Callahan and Jones are all beyond forty. Donovan and Hughes are around that mark. Christy Mathewson is thirty-seven. Jack Barry is the youngest of the tribe at thirty.

Youth may take the lead out on the field, but when it comes to generalship and authority, youth must give way to the older regime.

Leslie G. Nunamaker is another ball player who is confident that golf has improved his batting. Last season Nunamaker took up golf, played through the season, and his average jumped exactly forty points. From a fairly low mark he took his place at the top of his club, well beyond Baker, Magee and other first-class hitters.

Golf Motto

He who lets his club head lag
Should keep three niblicks in his bag.

STENGEL SIGNS CONTRACT; ALL DODGERS ARE IN LINE

NEW YORK, March 28.—Word has been received here from Hot Springs, Ark., that Outfielder Casey Stengel, last of the Brooklyn club's holdouts, had signed a contract with President Ebbets.

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Jack Blackburn vs. Harry K. O. Baker

Eastern Basketball League
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BALL PARKS FOR GOVERNMENT'S USE

National Grounds Open for Military Training in Event of War

WOULD BE OF BIG HELP

NEW YORK, March 28.

National League baseball parks may be thrown open to the Government for the training of soldiers. Governor John K. Tener, president of the league, today declared he had no doubt that if the need arises the National's magnates will be ready to do anything in their power to help the country wage war to a successful end.

"I do not believe the magnates are contemplating just now the possibility of their grounds being needed, but if that need should arise and the Government should call, our magnates, I am certain, would gladly give their grounds for purposes of training.

"It is a matter for individual club owners to decide. They own their grounds. I cannot speak for them, but knowing them and their feelings well, I feel sure that I speak what they themselves would say.

"It is hard for me to believe that the bloody struggle now going on in Europe will be transported partly to this side of the Atlantic, but we have no way of telling what may happen. We undoubtedly need a large army, and if it is necessary I believe baseball in general will throw itself in to help."

INDUSTRIALS PLAN A HOME DEFENSE

Local Ball Tossers Offer Services to Government in Case of War

LEAGUE SPLIT IN TWO

The big league baseballers are not the only ones that will receive publicity in the preparedness line. At a meeting of the Industrial Baseball League, at the Bingham, President Harry E. Cittel informed the more than forty delegates of having attended a meeting at City Hall last week at the request of Mayor Smith to prepare for home defense.

Cittel explained the details of the scheme and every one heartily approved of his suggestions. The managers of the various clubs are now enrolling players of the team, and men in the shops in the Home Defense League. They will serve the Government at their trades as machinists, clerks, stenographers or whatever their occupation may be in case of war. Under no circumstances will the schedule of the league be interfered with in case of trouble.

The circuit is divided into two divisions called the north and south districts. The North district is composed of Electric Storage Battery, Keen Kutter, Hale & Kilburn, J. and J. Dobson, Midvale Steel, Standard Roller Bearing, Henry Disston Sons and American Manganese Bronze. The southern section is composed of Hess-Bright, C. F. Houghton, Philadelphia Roll and Machine, D. L. Ward, Barrett Manufacturing Company, Miller Lock, David Lupton Sons and Quaker City Rubber.

The Industrial League amateur baseball of Philadelphia is an organization made up of baseball teams from the largest industrial concerns in the city playing strictly amateur baseball for the support it affords the team and their followers. All games are played under the rules of organized baseball with two experienced umpires having charge of the games.

The officers of the Industrial League are Harry E. Cittel, president; Richards Seeds, vice president; John Rule, secretary; Ervin Stein, treasurer.

Midvale Steel had ten players out practicing on Northeast Field yesterday afternoon. The steelworkers will open the season on April 21 at Roxborough against that club, and the batteries will be Stanley Baumgartner, pitcher, formerly of the Phillies, and J. Maley, catcher, who was given a tryout by Pat Moran last year. Maley was formerly of Girardville and prefers to play with Midvale rather than accept a berth in the minors.

Hale & Kilburn will have as their mainstay in the box Bemis, who received a tryout with the A's. Stewart, who won a pennant for Hale & Kilburn two years ago, will toss 'em over for J. & J. Dobson.

The champion Disstons reorganized for the season at a meeting yesterday, and an election of directors takes place today. There are four vacancies on the board of governors and ten candidates and the rivalry for election is tense.

Ball Club to Aid Red Cross

MILWAUKEE, March 28.—President A. F. Timme, of the Milwaukee Association baseball team, has announced that he would give 10 per cent of the profits of his club this season to the Milwaukee Red Cross to assist in equipping a base hospital of 500 beds, the donation being contingent on the event of actual warfare.

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