

GRIFTH'S LAWRY IS HAVING A HARD TIME STRETCHING HIS HITS INTO SINGLES THIS YEAR

"WHAT! FINISH IN SEVENTH PLACE? NOT WITH THIS CLUB," SAYS GRIFF; "WE ARE OUT TO WIN THE PENNANT"

Boss of Senators Scoffs at Critics Who Place Him Down in List; Says Athletics Are 30 Per Cent Stronger Than Last Year

CLARK GRIFFITH, manager of the team which won every game from the Athletics in 1917, has taken a firm stand against finishing seventh in the American League race this year. The plot of the Swatting Senators, or Willow Weeding Washington, denies that his gang of fence busters will fall so low as to be in a position to hobnob with the occupants of the cellar when the derby gets well under way. He has designs on a place not NEAR the top, but ON top of the Johnson circuit, and if the work of his hired men is any criterion the aforementioned designs will be carried out. From what we have seen of the Washington club in the pair of games against the Athletics, six other teams in the league will have to go some to put Griffith's artists down for the count. The pitching has been exceptionally good, the fielding is excellent, the players are filled with "pep" and fighting spirit and the batting—well, in this department they really SHINE. Every man on the team seems to possess a big-league batting eye and uses it to the best advantage. In yesterday's game those sincere wallopers which bounced off their bats in the first six innings were enough to ruin two pitchers and shove enough runs across the plate to win a couple of ball games. There was no fluke about the hitting. Each bingle was clothed in its own individuality and sent to the spot at which it was aimed. The soft spot seemed to be over second base, and out of twelve hits eight sizzled into that territory. This means that the batters met the ball fairly, hit it on the nose, as it were, thus proving that hitters can be developed if they work hard on the spring training trips. Three of the five bingles in the first inning went out to Strunk, and it was through the rapid fielding of Amos that only singles resulted. The terrific batting was enough to send Elmer Meyers scurrying to cover and Noyes came in for his share during his six-inning visit. When the Senators were all tired out, Nabors went on the mound and held them hitless for two frames. Lengthy Jack deserves credit for performing so nobly.

YESTERDAY'S bombardment showed that Joe Bush pitched good ball in the opening game Wednesday. Joe was nicked for five safeties, two of them being rather flunky. Elmer Meyers is considered good, yet he yielded five hits in one inning. Buller Joe wins out by comparison, especially when we figure that he remained in the game eight times as long.

The Mystery Is Solved by Mr. Griffith

OF COURSE, there was some mystery on our part to this sudden acquisition of batting optics at such an early date, but it was soon cleared up by Mr. Griffith when he consented to spill a few words for publication. At first Griff didn't see anything strange about the swatting prowess of his men, but after deep thought he dug up an explanation which explained it all.

"I know I have a hard-hitting ball club," confessed the invading manager, "and for that reason was not surprised when the men began to soak the ball. I admit they are hitting pretty good for this time of the year, and I must blame it all on military drill. That drill sergeant upset all my plans, and the only thing I am sore about is that he didn't appear three or four years ago. When it was decided that the players were to go through maneuvers in the morning, so much time was taken up that I couldn't give individual instruction to two squads as in the past. Before this year I would instruct one squad from 10 to 11 o'clock in the morning and the other from 11 o'clock until noon. That gave me an opportunity to correct the mistakes in the afternoon and in a week the squads were ready to play against each other. This year, however, I had to work on both squads at once and the only thing to be done was to play ball games. We have been playing since March 12 and staged a game every day until we left our training camp at Augusta, Ga. The players rounded into shape in a remarkably short time and in two weeks were ready for big-league stuff. My pitchers, who reported ten days earlier, were in shape and the batters were benefited by hitting against them. They soon had their eyes on the ball and that six-game series with Cincinnati put on the finishing touches. The men were in better shape ten days ago than they are now, because we have been kept idle by the wintry weather. I wish we could have started the season as soon as we returned from the South."

"NEXT year I shall try something different," continued Griff. "I shall send my pitchers to the training camp three weeks before the other players and get them in good shape. Then the others will be given seventeen days of fast work and we will be ready for any one."

Refuses to Finish Seventh, Despite Dope of Experts

I HAVE been interested in reading the dope furnished by experts, in which we have been unanimously awarded seventh place in the league. Let me tell you right now that there will be no seventh place with this ball club behind me. I know that a team always looks good when it is winning, but take it from me, it is no cinch to win from the Athletics this year. Connie's team is 30 per cent stronger than last year and as soon as the players settle down it will be 50 per cent stronger. Those fellows are fighting all the time and it required good playing on our part to win those two games. My club is better than in 1916, but any one can see that. I guess the reason we were pegged for seventh place this year was because we finished in that position last year. But did you ever stop to figure that I could have finished fourth had the team won two of the last three games? It was a tight race and a close finish, with everybody bunched except the Athletics. Harper's injury hurt the team considerably, and although I could have used him in the closing games I did not care to take a chance.

"This year my pitchers are in great shape. You saw Johnson and Gallia and you will see Jim Shaw and Dumont before we leave. Shaw is in the best shape of his career and Dumont is ready. And here is something else that you can use. Harper is in shape to take his turn in the box tomorrow, but I am going to nurse him along for two more weeks before putting him in the line-up. That injury last year was not so bad as reported. He was hit on the point of the shoulder by a pitched ball and one of the nerves was affected. There is nothing wrong with his arm, and in practice this spring he showed no ill effects. He can throw curves as well as before and all he needs now is a little more speed. He will have his fast ball working pretty soon and then watch us go! Harper will do a great deal toward winning the pennant for us this year."

GRIFFITH'S remarks again prove the value of spring training trips. He got his players in shape in the Sunny South and rushed them up here in midseason form. Although these March jaunts are rather expensive, the results justify the expenditures.

Colleges Tottering in Track Athletics

THINGS are so shaping themselves that it is getting to be almost daily dope. These reports of one institution after another throwing overboard its spring sports in order to—well, that isn't very clear just what is the large idea, but it is said to come under the head of military preparedness. One feature that has been brought up at more than one of the individual college conferences is to the effect that spring athletics are generally carried on at a loss, the athletic boards depending on football in the main to support the other sports. This may account in a large degree for the falling off of track interest among the college athletic directors.

The wholesale abandonment of sports is not only hitting the small colleges, but it is being followed even to the circle of the Big Six, where there is real interest in military preparedness. This is going to cut into the Penn relays, scheduled for Franklin Field two weeks from Saturday. Cornell, Michigan and Harvard, three mighty contenders wherever there is any cinder-path work to be done, have all withdrawn their teams from the relays, due to stress of martial preparedness. The absence of these teams will take much of the life out of the events, though there is still some of the finest competition left among the teams on the lists. Yale and Princeton have not been heard from lately, and, so far as is known, will not withdraw their crack teams from the stretches. The University of Pennsylvania will not abandon its sports and will have some fast fliers at work in the relays. Other colleges, including those from the West, will be present in Doros. Wisconsin, Chicago, Northwestern, Syracuse, Penn State, Missouri and almost a score of other colleges have been pestering the officials, anxiously hoping that things would not be called off. Indications are that some of the fastest men in the country will compete. There is the greatest of interest in the high-hurdle race, which will be run on the grass over a very tight and tidy turning. It is expected that a record will topple and the time may be near the cinder record of 14 3/4 seconds.

THE reason for these fond hopes is that Robert Simpson, holder of the above record, will be among those present and will put on some of his best greyhound stuff. Simpson is from Missouri. Hobbs, of Dartmouth, will give him a run for it, with Burke, of Chicago, and Ames, of Illinois, to help in taking the youngster over the hurdles in record strides.

PARSONS has scored another point in his attack on sport. The stewards of the American Rowing Association cancelled the American Henley, which was scheduled to be rowed on the Schuylkill on May 12. The abandonment of the regatta is due to the fact that it is primarily a college event and most of the crews have been disbanded. Because of the disruption of rowing among colleges it was necessary to drop most of the features of the regatta. Rather than hold a mediocre event the stewards decided to hold none at all.

Another man won a double-header yesterday. Rain kept the Phillies and the Athletics from playing and cold weather stopped the White Sox and Browns.



HENLEY REGATTA IS CALLED OFF

Philadelphia's Crew Classic Canceled Because of the War Conditions

MANY OARSMEN ENLIST

The American Henley is off. It was to have been the rowing classic of the season in Philadelphia.

The regatta was scheduled to be rowed over the Schuylkill on May 12. The board of stewards of the race held a special meeting in this city and decided to cancel the event for this year because of the war conditions.

For years the Henley has been the center of attraction to college and club oarsmen throughout the country. Last year six college events found a place in the regatta, in addition to numerous club and high school races.

The Childs Cup race, in which the varsity crew of Princeton triumphed over Columbia, Penn and the Navy, was the stellar event of last year's regatta. The special senior eight-oared race between Vesper Malta and Undine also played a star role.

The stewards decided to call off this great rowing gathering because of the withdrawal of many of the best entries. Princeton, Columbia, Yale and Harvard have all disbanded their crews.

Many of the club oarsmen already have enlisted and the crews are disrupted. For these reasons the Henley rowing heads thought it feasible to abandon this year's regatta.

The abandonment of the American Henley regatta makes the Penn-Navy race on April 21 the last scheduled collegiate race. All other universities, except Oxford and the Navy have canceled their rowing schedules.

KENTUCKY LICENSE BILL FOR RACE TRACKS PASSED

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 12.—A bill placing a license fee of \$500 per day on race tracks in Kentucky within twenty miles of cities of 200,000, and \$200 per day on all other tracks within the State, excepting those at State and county fairs, has passed the lower house of the General Assembly.

WHOLE PROGRAM OF SPORT OUGHT TO BE PUT UP TO WAR OFFICIALS BEFORE BEING ABOLISHED HASTILY

By GRANTLAND RICE

THE settlement of sport's future program—both in collegiate and professional lines—seems to be the simplest matter in the world.

A football squad is directed by a football coach; a baseball team is directed by a baseball manager; so the technical part of a war ought to be run by the War Department.

This being so, the entire program should be put up to the War Department for an answer—as to whether sport should be discontinued or whether it should be maintained for the common good.

Army and Navy headquarters in sport at West Point and Annapolis have already given the bulk of the reply.

The War Department should know what it wants. Following the department's request would then be the simplest thing in the realm.

If the universal service bill is passed the War Department is going to take the men it wants for service.

Those who are not taken and who do not go can still help in any number of ways. Here is one suggestion: All golf and tennis tournaments—even to invitation affairs—should have an entrance fee.

This fee, in place of being applied to prizes, should be turned over to army and Navy Red Cross funds. In this way not only would physical training be maintained, but thousands of dollars could be easily raised in the next six months. Sport in this way could be made to contribute financially to the war—and to the physical health of the nation at home—leaving the reserve forces in better shape for a second call to service.

A Fanatic Arises to Inquire

Dear Sir—Kindly explain this. The Giants are being picked far and wide as leading National League favorites. In many places they are being entered as sure winners. Now in baseball it is well known that a pitching staff is the most important department of a club. It is also well known that Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Boston have better pitching than the Giants. How, then, are the Giants going to beat out three clubs with better pitching? Last year Detroit averaged a run a game more than Boston. This is a wide margin. But Boston, with better pitching, won. Unless the Giants get far better pitching than they

have had since 1913 I can't see why they should be favorites. H. L. D.

One Theory of Putting

Tap the ball with a beer, But without any fuss; If it drops in—cheer; If it stays out—cuss.

Discussing the continuation of football schedules next fall is a risky undertaking. Too many events can take place now in fifteen minutes—much less six months—to set up the future for any target practice.

Good pitching is undoubtedly more important than any other department of play. The Giants got good pitching after August. Without it, they will have a hard time winning, in spite of their great strength in other lines. But with only steady pitching they should win in a canter.

A number of our leading ball players are willing enough to be pro-Americans as long as they are not called upon to be pro-imperial. Each known institution has a limit.

"Joos Willard too big to fight," which proves again the complications of modern war.

Which also proves the advantage of being a heavyweight as against the lightweight proposition.

The only argument against Universal Service is this—on second thought there isn't any.

BILLY NEILL, OF PENN., GETS NAVY COMMISSION

Billy Neill, former Penn star football player, from Washington has received an appointment as a lieutenant in the medical corps of the coast defense branch of the naval reserve. Neill is a graduate from the Penn Medical School.

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