

IT IS TRUE, THE ATHLETICS HAVE VACATED LAST PLACE, AND FURTHERMORE THEY LOOK GOOD

REVERSAL OF FORM BY A'S GIVES CLUB MONIKER OF "MAULING MACKS" AND "COMEBACK" DOPE LOOKS REAL

Connie's Threat to Have Winning Team This Year Now Appears to Be Fact—New Players Wallop the Ball Hard

FOR the first time since early last June another club and not the Athletics was rooting comfortably in last place in the American League this morning. It surely was a strange and unusual sight, but Connie's players have shown such a reversal of form over last year's work that we will have to get used to it. In 1916 the home club was commonly referred to as the "Mauling Missing Macks," but this year we must hand them the title of the "Mauling Macks." The way they handled the ball on Saturday was a tremendous surprise, and it is beginning to look as if Connie was handing out the real dope when he pulled that "come-back" stuff early in the spring. His team performed with the bat better than any he had managed, including the famous world's champion aggregations. The fielding was rather ragged, but this was overshadowed by the twenty base hits garnered during the afternoon. Taking it all in all, we have every reason to believe that the A's will return to the spotlight and remain out of last place for some time to come.

They all look good when they are winning, but when they begin to hit the ball with patriotic zeal and fervor they look better than that. On Saturday the huge flock of fans enjoyed the sight so much that they imagined the 1914 team was on the field, and acted accordingly. In that year the Athletics had such an easy time of it that after the games began the spectators would devote most of their time watching the results of the other games on the scoreboard. They did that Saturday and emitted a few healthy cheers every time the Phillies scored. But they had excitement galore when the Maulers used the heavy artillery in the first and seventh innings, and the fans even went so far as to poke fun at the opposing players—something which hasn't been done in Shibe Park in years. It surely was a pleasing reversal of form.

THE new members of the team played a great game. Roy Bates astounded the natives with his four hits for nine bases, which drove in six runs. Thrasher came through with a double and two singles. Lawry obliged with a brace of one-basers and the well-known Ping Bodie startled the populace with the first home run of the season. In the field, Bodie made two sensational catches, one off his shoepots in the first inning, and the other in the second, when he ran in and grabbed Leonard's short pop-up.

Connie Now Must Perfect His Team Play and Instill Some "Pep" NOW that he has discovered a gang of fence-busters, Connie will spend some time in perfecting the team work of his infield. In the first three games there were evidences of sloppy work and the men did not seem to know what to do under certain conditions. Bates, Witt and Lawry were the offenders, but there is no reason why they shouldn't get working together in a week or so. Thus far the slugging third baseman reminds one of Frank Baker when the home-run king broke into the big show. Bates went after ground balls as if it was the hardest kind of work and there was nothing about him that even suggested ease and grace. His work is impressive, however, and under Connie's coaching he should even surpass Baker as a fielder before the season is over. Lawry is a wonderful fielder, but his hitting is poor. Mack believes he will come through in that department, however, and he will linger in the line-up. As far as Witt, he looks like a real star. While his fielding can be improved upon, his hitting is good enough to land him a berth on any of the big league teams. Stuffy McInnis is playing better and batting in better form than this time last year and is setting an example for the others to follow. Bodie's work Saturday almost convinces the critics that he is a good outfielder and can take care of the left garden. Strunk is doing wonderful work in center, and Thrasher seems to be improving in right. Frank caught two fly balls Saturday, one of them going to the fence. He still looks awkward, but we can forgive anything as long as he hits the ball.

THE delayed Spring Drive has been started, but something is likely to happen this week. The Red Sox, after taking two out of three games from the Yankees last week, are with us today, and the A's will have to show some more of that form reversal when they line up against Barry's men.

Phillies Made Clean Sweep of Series in Brooklyn OVER in Brooklyn the Phils grabbed all of the games—meaning two—and left for Boston with a perfect score. Moran's men also jumped to the front as sluggers and ruined four twirlers in the two games which were played. Manager Pat is well pleased with the showing of his men and expects more of the same against the Braves. His pitchers are in good shape, and with the wrecking crew on the job the team will be hard to beat. It must be remembered that the Dodgers were supposed to be in great shape and the pitchers in form to travel the full distance. That barnstorming trip with the Red Sox put the men in good condition and the performance of the Phils is all the more gratifying. However, we will have an opportunity to take another slant at the work of Moran's hirelings in the series with the Braves and then we shall see what we shall see. Pat says his pitching staff is in great shape, and thus far his hope has been correct. Both Alex and Rixey have held the enemy at bay, although they were wobbly at some stage of the game. Mayer, Oeschger, Lavender, Fortune and Flittersy will be seen in a short time, and much depends on their showing. In St. Petersburg these men appeared to have loads of "stuff," but no one can tell what they will do in the colder climates. Flittersy will be watched with interest, as the southpaw has been touted to the skies. The recruit from Salt Lake pitched 448 innings last year, winning twenty-nine and losing nineteen games. He is a regular "iron man" and even surpasses Alexander's record of endurance.

The passing of Ernie Walker leaves Moran with only one utility outfielder. Ernie had had luck from the start. The first day out he stepped into a rut in left field and twisted his knee. After Mike Dee pitched him up he caught cold, which settled in his tonsils and he was rendered useless for further work. Walker looked like a good ball player. He was fast and stood up at the plate like a good hitter. Moran will miss him, but there still is a chance that he will recover and take his place in the line-up.

THIS means that Gavy Cravath is slated to play regularly in right field. Gavy has walloped the ball in fine style this year, and probably will get that additional salary promised him by Baker in case he plays with the team regularly.

Baker's Injury Recalls Yankee's Hard Luck Last Year

HARD luck is again on the trail of Bill Donovan's high-priced Yankees. Frank Baker is on the sidelines nursing a broken thumb, and as he will not be able to play again for a month the infield is all shot to pieces. It's a tough break for Smiling Bill as it brings back sad recollections of last year, when a series of accidents ruined the chances of his club to win the pennant. The best men were on the hospital list before the season was half over. Baker ran into the grandstand and cracked a couple of ribs. Frank Gilhooley broke his leg, Fritz Maisel fractured his shoulder, Numanaker's thumb got in the way of a fast one, Mogridge sprang a muscle in his throwing arm, Nick Cullop became ill and had to go home, Alexander broke a couple of fingers and Slim Caldwell began to travel on high speed until he was dropped by the wayside—without pay. That was enough to discourage any club, but the remnants played a scrappy, uphill game and managed to finish fourth. It is almost a certainty that New York would have won the pennant last year if the players had not met with accident.

Will the same thing happen this year? Baker's absence will be keenly felt, as Donovan is experimenting with second base and he needs all the veterans he can get to play the other infield positions. Aragon is a fairly good player, but cannot compare with the Home Run King. It is possible that Baker's injury will bring Gedeon back into the game and Maisel will be sent to third.

THE Yankees will need their full strength in the Washington series, which begins today. Griffith has a scrappy and hard-hitting team and the Gothamites will have to play just as hard as they did against the Red Sox—and they lost two out of three.

Nick Altrock Has Decided to Remain Neutral

NICHOLAS ALTROCK is a ball player who can trace his ancestors back to the land of the Kaiser. He is a regular German, but thus far has kept it a secret. Now that there is a possibility of a mix-up between this country and Germany, however, Nicholas has taken it upon himself to be prepared and maintain an attitude of the strictest neutrality. He did not enlist, for that would interfere with his ball playing. Instead, he wandered into court in Washington recently and asked that his name be changed to "MacAltrock." Nick believes the little dash of Scotch will deceive the dear old public and save him from many unpleasant moments on the ball field.

"Yes, that's straight about changing my name," said Nick Saturday. "I can't take any chances these days, and if the fans don't take kindly to that 'Mac' name I am prepared to carry it further. As a last resort I shall go into court and have my front name changed to Michael. How would Michael MacAltrock sound?"

THIS SPEAKER and Tyrus Cobb are at it again, but Ernie has the edge on the betting for the first week. In three games he made six hits out of ten chances, averaging .600, while Ty grabbed but three bingles out of ten chances for an average of .375. Ray Bates, after going hitless in his first two games, hit his batting eye and in the next two games gathered in an average of .441 for the week.

THE Chicago Cubs had a terrible season last year. The league. For this season they are expected to do better.

THE DAYS OF REAL SPORT



K. O. MEALY PLANS OUTBOXING DUNDEE

Lad With Knockout Wallop Believes He Can Win on Points

AT OLYMPIA A. A. TONIGHT

By LOUIS H. JAFFE

Johnny Mealy doesn't have to admit that he is the hardest puncher of his weight and inches in Philadelphia. This opinion is almost unanimous with followers of fist-cuffs here. With this decision it was surprising to learn this morning that Mealy didn't plan to win from Johnny Dundee by powers of his punch. Mealy and Dundee box in the star scrap at the Olympia tonight and the Phils are right just as well have set off a bomb as announce that he was GOING TO OUTPOINT DUNDEE. Bobby Gunnis, manager, chief adviser and spokesman for Mealy, placed himself on record by predicting that his protégé would "bring home the bacon" as it were and it wouldn't be John's wallop but superior science that would turn the trick. It doesn't sound reasonable, or even natural, yet Gunnis believes that Mealy will box better than Dundee, and be the victor on points. "To a 'Well, how about a knockout?' query, Robert made reply that if a kayve were to be registered it would go to the credit of Mealy, but not until after Johnny first had shown himself the better boxer, by way of scientific system. "It would be almost a 50 to 1 shot to pick Mealy as the winner over Dundee on points; that is, unless the Gotham glove-man has gone back considerably since his last bout here, yet if a knockout were to decide the contest, Mealy stands out prominently as the one to accomplish the knocking out. And at that, Dundee scored a nine-round K. O. over one Jimmy Powers in New York last week.

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

For a slugging scrap the bout between Patsy Broderick and Eddie Wagon probably will result in the best battle on the Olympia program tonight. Neither possesses the speed, but as wallowing whoppers they are real bearcats. Joe Hirt is in good shape, and will box Jack Andrews, and other bouts are Jimmy McCall, Battling Mills and Young Borrell vs. Joe Brennan.

There is no question but that most American boxers will enlist. The mitt artists in England and France did. Even Hirt was expected to have succeeded in getting into a uniform, after many attempts to meet the army doctor. Poor James was so thin he hesitated about taking him. There is no doubt, England or France who haven't seen real action, and many of them have fallen in the defense of their colors.

Jess Willard, so early reports said, was refused by the United States army and navy recruiting officers because he was not a heavyweight champion, in that case, hasn't a thing on Benny Kanter's feet. Benny's name was turned down the other day because he was too small.

Tommy Tuohy came through with a brilliant rally in his hour Saturday night at the National against Johnny Mahoney, and while the Paterson redhead did not pile up sufficient points to win, he did not lose. It was coming out that Clay Turner the half-breed Sioux, again showed will, and he easily defeated K. C. Young. Harry Moore shaded Harry Boyle, Tommy Kane, of New York, won from Frankie McManus and Sammy Nelson and Tommy Manning drew.

Duhy Casner wasn't satisfied with the result of his bout with Bobby Reynolds because all the paper decisions weren't in his favor. Bobby Reynolds also was dissatisfied for the same reason. Each was given the bout in four papers, and to break up the even rating, the referee was anxious to mix again. Casner's knockdown over the head of Bobby Reynolds was a surprise. However, Reynolds clearly outboxed the Smokey Hollow lad, who, by the way, has greatly improved. It was a real hot, set-to, and interesting enough for a repeater.

Billy Hines, Little Italy flyweight, has been boxing in fine form recently. He is anxious to meet Joe Tubor, and in the event of a victory the South Philadelphia would endeavor to get on with Steve Finnerman, of Baltimore. Finnerman claims the flyweight title of America. He was given a fifteen-round referee's decision over Tubor in Baltimore two weeks ago.

Messy Taylor is the matchmaker of the club in Harrisburg, Pa., where bouts will be staged twice a month. His first show here was matched Jimmy Murray of New York, with Harry Smith of this city. The opening program is scheduled for April 25.

Jimmy Murphy will have no cinch in his bout Thursday night at the Broadway Club against Jimmy Gibbons. Gib is a good boxer and he can be depended on to make things interesting for Murphy. Young Lawrence and Frankie Williams need in the semi and it will be their first set-to in five weeks. Muckles Riley vs. Johnny Brown, Frankie Fadden vs. Tommy Friction and Young Fleming vs. Charley Hauber are other numbers.

Springtime brings open-air clubs and, as in other seasons, will be in operation this summer.

Havre de Grace Races APRIL 16-30 \$1.25 ROUND TRIP EXCEPT SUNDAY Baltimore & Ohio SPECIAL TRAIN Coach and Parlor Cars Leave Philadelphia, 24th & Chestnut 12:45 P. M. Returning After Races RACES TODAY AT HAVRE DE GRACE

Jess Willard Would Be Accepted by U. S. Army

CHICAGO, April 16.—(Captain F. R. Kenney, in charge of recruiting for the regular army in the Chicago district, said that he had received no reply from Jess Willard with reference to enlistment in the latter. A telegram to President Wilson offering the pugilist's services was made public a week ago. Willard on the same day left for Norfolk, Va., whether a letter from Captain Kenney followed him, saying that his services would be accepted. "Newspaper clipping quoting Willard at Norfolk as saying that he had been refused enlistment at Chicago because of his height and weight was shown to Captain Kenney. "Other records do not show such application," said Captain Kenney. "However, if Jess thinks his bulk a bar, I will see him and I have full authority to waive such restriction and will accept him by wire if he wishes to join the colors."

KILBANE AND WELSH SIGN FOR MATCH IN NEW YORK

CLEVELAND, O., April 16.—Johnny Kilbane, featherweight champion, and Freddy Welsh will meet at the Manhattan A. C., New York, May 5. Signing of the contract followed a conference here between Harry Pollok, Welsh's manager, and Jimmy Dunn, manager of Kilbane.

PIRATES AFTER FRED MERKLE

Pittsburgh Trying to Get First Baseman From the Brooklyn Club CHICAGO, April 16.—Fred Merkle may be playing first base for the Pirates within two weeks. That the Pittsburgh officials are dickering with the Brooklyn owners for the purchase of the former Giant star has been reported from a reliable source. Callahan could use Merkle to distinct advantage. The youngsters on the other infield positions require a balancing force, and Bill Hinchman is not likely to provide this necessity. Hinchman is always available for dependable outfield work.

Schoolboy Bowls Perfect Score

TOLEDO, April 16.—Gallard Farley, Scout High school student, bowling in a high school tournament here, rolled a perfect score of 300. Farley is a contender for the State championship of scholastic bowlers.

NORTH STAR III DERBY FAVORITE

English Colt Now Is Regarded as Peer for Kentucky Classic

SCHEDULED FOR MAY 12

LOUISVILLE, April 16.—Local trainers and racing enthusiasts are eagerly awaiting the arrival at Churchill Downs of A. K. Macomber's extensive racing establishment. They are anxious to view the five Derby candidates embraced in the string and draw comparisons between them and the other three-year-olds that are now in training at the local tracks for the big race. The stable, in charge of Walter B. Jennings, is due to arrive from Charleston, S. C., not later than tomorrow.

This curiosity is intensified by the fact that North Star III, the English colt that cost Macomber a good-sized fortune, is one of the lot that Trainer Jennings will bring here. This son of Sunstar and Angello was regarded as the best two-year-old seen in England last year, and his record in that country makes him the most formidable of the eastern-owned aspirants for the \$20,000 purse to be decided the afternoon of May 12.

His victory at Newmarket last fall over Mollie Demond, a daughter of the celebrated Preppy Polly, in the Middle Park Plate, again entitles him to serious consideration. In that race he carried 126 pounds, and won in a drive, after coming from behind. It is generally conceded that had the son of Sunstar remained in England he would rule a winter book favorite in the forthcoming Kentucky Derby.

As it is, North Star III is at present regarded with much favor to win the year's Kentucky Derby. According to reports from Charleston, he has wintered in splendid shape and will be ready for his first race on American soil when the bugle calls the horses to the post for the Churchill Downs classic.

RED SOX EASILY THE BEST CLASS IN EITHER LEAGUE, IF WORLD'S SERIES IS ALL THAT IS IN DOUBT

Seven Clubs in the American League First Have Tough Assignment Ahead to Flag the Champs, Who Will Probably Repeat With Safe Margin

By GRANTLAND RICE THERE is at least one situation which seven American League ball clubs might ponder with considerable earnestness, viz., the job of beating out the Boston Red Sox is going to be one of the toughest assignments that any league ever tackled. There were rumors about early in the year that the old machine was slipping. But after watching this club work through its first series you can take these rumors as being grossly unfounded. If the Red Sox are a bad club Rumania has been the winning factor in this war.

World Series Ways The Red Sox have proved before they carried all the essentials of a winning club. The one point was that, perhaps, they had slowed up. Not so as you could notice it at close range. Hooper, Lewis and Walker still have plenty of speed, and all three can throw. Hooper and Walker have two of the greatest outfield arms in the game. They are dangerous riflemen to foot with, and they are as good this year as they ever were before. The same goes for the infield. Hobbs, the veteran, is around like a youngster. He looks none of these years. He looked last spring. Jack Barry, still under thirty, is close to his best, and one of the game's stars. Everett Scott has all the brilliancy he has known before, with experience to steady him down. He is one of the great shortstops of the game.

As for Larry Gardner, this veteran is as active as ever. The tip was out that he was fading out a bit. You can erase this from the debate. He can hit, field and throw with all his old world series ways. The Champs of Christendom still maintain their old vitality. Make no mistake about that. Hooper and Hobbs have served nine years. Lewis, Barry and Gardner have served eight. Cady and Thomas have seen several years' service, but Scott and the pitchers—Ruth, Leonard, Shore and Mays—are all under twenty-six. The younger players are all under twenty-two years ago that Lewis and Gardner were slipping. They show no evidence of this today. They are apparently as fast as ever and can throw with the old-time snap.

The vital spark is still there—or we miss one of the easiest guesses in the game. Smart Club The smartest the Red Sox were easily the smartest, wisest club in baseball. They play the game, and they play every square inch of it. Their heads are up and they know what to do—and how to do it. With so much winning experience behind them, they are a wise lot. All they need for a manager is some well-liked leader to keep them hustling. They will under Jake Stahl. Bill Carrigan came along, and they went for Bill. Now Jack Barry is at the helm, and they still look like winners. Changing managers hasn't upset their plans a trifle. They still keep driving along, playing a lot of baseball and missing few openings to arrive.

One of the Gamest For two years now they have proved to be one of the gamest clubs in baseball. Hard luck doesn't break their spirit. Last year they lost Speaker, had two stars injured a big part of the year and then lost Jack Barry in the last main drive down the stretch. But they refused to wilt, holding the course with unbroken lines to the finish. It may be that constant victory has developed this esprit de corps to an abnormal extent. Whatever the reason, the Red Sox have it in copious quantities. They have developed the rare faculty of not losing heart, even under the most adverse conditions. There are few great players on the club.

RECORD ENTRY OF MARES IN KENTUCKY FUTURITY

LEXINGTON, Ky., April 16.—Nine hundred and eighty-three mares have been nominated for the \$21,000 Kentucky Futurity, to be trotted here next October. This is the largest number of nominations in the last ten years and exceeds the number of last year by sixty-three.

Seppala's Dog Team Wins Big Race NOME, Alaska, April 16.—Leonard Seppala, driving a team of Siberian wolfhounds, won the \$25,000 Time, 113 hours.

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