

THE ATHLETICS FAILED TO BUNCH THEIR HITS, BUT THEY EASILY BUNCHED THEIR ERRORS

FIRST-BASE HOODOO STILL PURSUES PITTSBURGH; DREYFUSS SELECTS FRED MERKLE TO BATTLE WITH JINX

Nineteen Players Have Failed to Make Good Since Kitty Bransfield Left the Team Twelve Years Ago—His Shoes Cannot Be Filled

THERE are many strange tales connected with baseball, but the yarn of the smoke-tainted, sooty hoodoo that roosts on first base in Forbes Field, Pittsburgh, is one of the strangest in the modern history of the game.

The hoodoo, or jinx—any old name will do—laid off the Pirates until the spring of 1905, when Dreyfuss pulled a "boner" and shipped Kitty Bransfield to Philadelphia in exchange for Del Howard, who was regarded as a corner, and Paul Krueger.

IN THE twelve seasons since Kitty Bransfield bade farewell to the City of Smoke no less than nineteen players have been used as first basemen by the Pirates. Will Fred Merkle be No. 20?

Long List of Candidates, but None Made Good

AFTER Del Howard and his successors floundered, the job was wished on Joe Nealon. Joe stuck around for the season of 1906 and was considered a regular—something strange and unusual. He played in most of the games and established a record which wasn't broken until 1912, when Jack Miller was shifted from second base.

Then came 1912, which brought to Fred Clarke a regular idea. Jack Miller, who had been coveting around second base, was sent to the fatal bag, but he startled the natives by lasting two seasons. He was a regular in 1912 and 1913, establishing a record which still stands.

HONUS was slated for the job this year and would be playing now had he come to terms with Dreyfuss. He looked like a regular person for the job and no doubt could have put up a good game despite his age.

Joe Bush Is Regular Hard-Luck Pitcher

JOE BUSH is qualified as the hard-luck pitcher of the American League. In the last week he has twirled two beautiful ball games, allowed but five hits each time—and was decisively beaten. He was stacked up against Walter Johnson on the first day and yesterday Ernie Shore was his opponent.

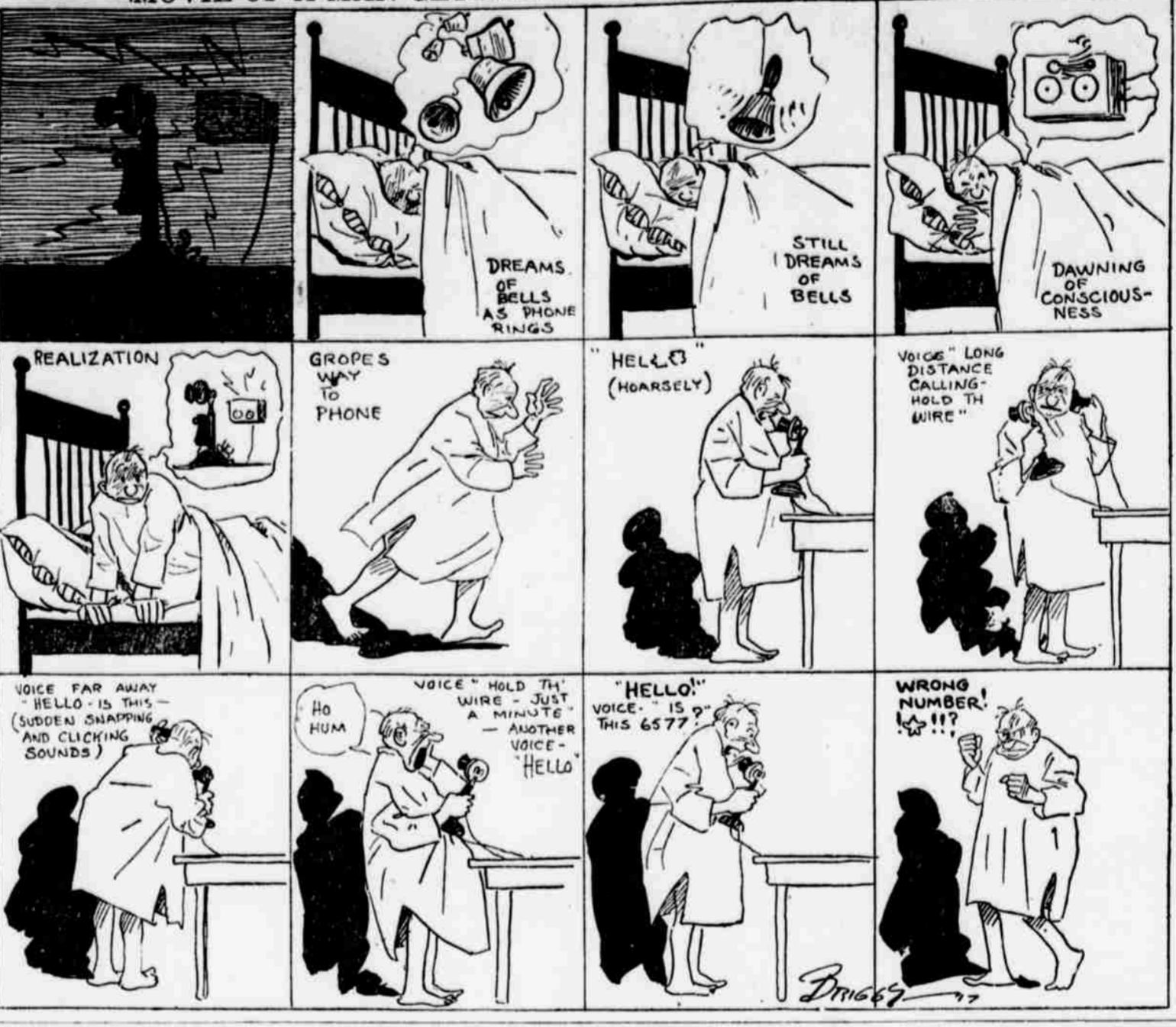
CONNIE'S pitchers are not in the best of shape. The cold weather has put them on the sidelines and it will take a few hot days to thaw them out. Elmer Myers is clogged up with a cold, Nabors is just as bad as ever and the rookies are complaining of numerous and sundry ailments.

Two-Day Golf Tournaments Gain in Favor

TWO-DAY golf tournaments to take place on the first two days of the week are gaining much favor in Philadelphia, and it is expected that some will be carded this year by the various clubs, most of which have not yet completed their schedules for the coming season.

THE scheme is said to have the hearty indorsement of Howard W. Perrin, president of the United States Golf Association. President Perrin has been quoted to the effect that he believes the two-day tournaments at the beginning of the week are an improvement not only for the convenience and saving of time to the business man, but also because they leave the golf course to club members at the end of the week when there is desire

MOVIE OF A MAN GETTING UP AT NIGHT TO ANSWER PHONE



NORTHWESTERN IS BOWLING CHAMPION

Defeats Adelphi in Roll-Off for Artisan League, Section A, Title

Northwestern won the championship of Section A of the Artisan Bowling League, following a roll-off with Adelphi. The teams were docked at the close of the regular schedule, and the odd game of a post-season series gave the title to the Northwestern. Northwestern easily won the first game, then lost the second by 16 pins, and came through in the deciding match by a slight margin of 9 pins.

Table with columns for Team, Games, Pins, Avg, High, and Low. Rows include Northwestern, Adelphi, Pennsylvania, and Germantown.

Table with columns for Player, Games, Pins, Avg, High, and Low. Rows include Underdown, Swisher, Hulshizer, and others.

Table with columns for Player, Games, Pins, Avg, High, and Low. Rows include McCarroll, Lambert, Fry, and others.

Table with columns for Player, Games, Pins, Avg, High, and Low. Rows include Durnell, Rodgers, and others.

Table with columns for Player, Games, Pins, Avg, High, and Low. Rows include Seeds, Bonfield, and others.

Table with columns for Player, Games, Pins, Avg, High, and Low. Rows include Mecke, Hartzel, and others.

Table with columns for Player, Games, Pins, Avg, High, and Low. Rows include West Philadelphia Boys' Club, and others.

THE CASE OF J. FRANKLIN BAKER GLITTERING EXAMPLE OF HOODOO THAT HAS TRAILED THE YANKEES

Trappe Mauler, Known as the Unbreakable, Injured Often in the Last Two Seasons

By GRANTLAND RICE THERE is no such thing in life as a hoodoo. Certainly not. You can put it down at 100 per cent bunk. And yet—well, where are you going to classify the new York Yankees? The Yanks for more than a decade have been cursed by misfortune—by the rawest type of luck.

Whereupon Whereupon, after a season's rest on the farm, John Franklin Baker joins the Yanks. You know the answer already. Just as the Yanks were upon the verge last summer of going out to grab a pennant, Baker, among others, became a total loss.

Another Instance A few days ago we had a long talk with Napoleon Lajoie, the eminent French batting eye, about the untrammeled ill fortune that always followed Cleveland.

There was the case of Joe Birmingham. The Cleveland Club had been battered and broke by Fate for three straight years. In this particular campaign it had lost eight regulars in less than two weeks.

Finally, Joe Birmingham was signed. A loud, lusty cheer went up. Not because Birmingham had any great record as a player, but because it was known that he had played halfback at Cornell for two

YOUNG PITCHERS STAR IN MAJORS

Sothoron, Russell and Schupp, All Kids, Show Up Veterans

Young pitchers promise to cut a big figure in the two major league championship races. The spectacle of Allen Sothoron, a Brownie speculation, holding the Indians to a single single; Al Russell, of the Yankees, downing the mighty Johnson, and Ferdie Schupp, youthful Giant, acting as the balance wheel of that collection of ball players is enough to make the veteran hurler grab a sun and go to war.

HOODOOED WITH YANKS During J. Franklin Baker's six years with the Mackmen he seldom was absent, but finds it difficult to avoid injury with Donovan's crew.

years without having as much as a second's time taken out for injuries. He was known as the Human Unbreakable. No metal could touch him. This was more important in Cleveland than than a 300 average.

The club was replete with talent that could bat 300—Lajoie, Flick, Bradley, Bay, Rossman, Clarke, Bemis, etc.

Of course, there is no such thing as a hoodoo. But what's the bally answer?

The time is coming, apparently, when it will be easier to get recruits for the frat-line trenches than it will be to get recruits for the Yanks. The average span of wounded in the first is only two out of five.

How to Put Get the right line for the ball Hit it hard enough—that's all.

A Beauty: BLUE SERGES to Your Order \$18.00

BILLY MORAN THE TAILOR OPEN EVENINGS 1103 Arch St.

BASEBALL TODAY SHIBE PARK Athletics vs. Boston GAME CALLED AT 3 P. M. Tickets on sale at Gimbel's and Spalding's.

RACES TODAY AT HAVRE DE GRACE 7 Races Daily, including Steeplechase SPECIAL RACE TRAINING: From 8 A. M. leave Broad St. 12:30 P. M. West Philadelphia, 12:45 P. M. E. O. leave 26th & Chestnut Sts., 12:45 P. M. Admission to Grandstand and Paddock, 15c. Ladies, 10c. FIRST BASE AT 8:00 P. M. BROADWAY A. C.—There, Night

MOVE TO MERGE CAGE LEAGUES

Eastern Moguls Will Endeavor to Form National Basketball Commission

PRES. SCHEFFER'S IDEA

The Eastern Basketball League held a meeting last evening at the Bingham at which constructive plans were launched for a consolidation of all the professional basketball leagues in the East. It is one of the best moves ever made by the cage moguls and the object sought is to form a working basis of all the cage organizations.

The general tone of the discussion was that the salaries of the players at present are too high and they must be reduced. Several managers reported they had already talked the matter over with the players and they are willing to work for reduced salaries.

Motion for Rule The subject of adopting the three professional and two amateur rule was advanced by Heald and Charles Schwartz.

The prevailing sentiment is to retain the five professional, as it is argued, will get better basketball from five out-and-out professionals, if five such men can be secured at reasonable figures, because the public in this section have been educated to a five-man professional club.

Commission's Good Move The merging of all basketball leagues is the best scheme ever attempted for the movement, if adopted, the players would be restricted to one league only.

POOR BAT NELSON! WELSH COULD HAVE STOPPED HIM

ST. LOUIS, April 18.—Batting Nelson is through. The former lightweight champion of the world won twelve rounds with Freddie Welsh, the titleholder, here last night through the charity of the Briton, who simply toyed with the once durable Dane. Had he so desired Welsh could have ended it almost any time after the first few rounds.

Advertisement for 'Living it over Again' featuring a picture of a man in a car, and 'Weed Anti-Skid Chains' with a picture of a car tire. Text includes: 'In a mental picture he reviews the accident—the result of his recklessness. He realizes too late that it is always foolhardy to motor on slippery roads and streets without equipping all four tires with Weed Anti-Skid Chains. The Only Real Safeguard Against Skidding. Strange, is it not, that some men laugh at peril—they do not seek to avoid danger—they have no fear because they have no prudence. They continue to motor over icy, wet roads and pavements with "Foolish Dependence Upon Bare Rubber Alone" until a false turn—a sudden meeting at a corner—a slip or a skid—brings disaster as the punishment for their imprudence. You motorists with reasoning brains put on your Tire All sizes—For all makes and styles of tires. Chains at the first indication of slippery streets, and the editors of the daily newspapers are urging all motorists to follow your example. For instance, the Public Ledger of Philadelphia, Pa., published by the owners of the Saturday Evening Post, in an editorial on August 1st, 1914, said that the simple adjustment of the Weed Chains on wet and slippery pavements "deserved to find its way into a law, and that law should by all means be enforced."

Advertisement for 'TYRONE—2 1/2 in. "ARROW" form-fit COLLAR'. Text includes: 'TYRONE—2 1/2 in. "ARROW" form-fit COLLAR. FORM AND SHAPE ARE CURVED TO FIT THE NECK.'