

CK ONCE MORE WIPES SLATE CLEAN AND BEGINS ALL OVER AGAIN TO BUILD UP WINNING TEAM

MINNIS IS LAST OF THE A'S WHO PLANNED GREATEST BASEBALL MACHINE IN HISTORY OF GAME

Member of Championship Teams Now Trails With Tailenders, With Only Memories of Past for Company; Connie's Latest Deal

LINES TO STUFFY MINNIS

Stuffy, I've often wondered how it seems to you, looking around in the cellar, part of a tail-end crew; for the Yanks and Indians, visiting even the Browns— You who were part of the Cossack Guard That raided the captured towns.

Stuffy, I've often wondered, here in my Harlem den, the ghosts of the last years ever Gather for you again in the cellar, Ghosts of the vanished legion, Back ere the bubble burst, With Collins, Baker and Barry Popping 'em out to first!

A BLANKET of snow covers the Phillies' park, the playing field is obliterated and the deserted stands have a cold, barren, shivery, dismal appearance. The scenery at Broad and Huntingdon streets typifies to a certain extent the prospects for the 1918 baseball season.

At Shibe Park conditions are the same, but it's an old story out there. For three years the opening of the season has been welcomed like a condemned man greets the firing squad at sunrise, so the recent loss of Strunk, Schang and Bush is nothing new or unusual. Additional suffering means nothing at Shibe Park.

Yet as we gaze upon the remains of the once wonderful baseball machine we cannot help but sympathize with Connie Mack. Only a few know how the lean leader has suffered and how hard he has worked to reconstruct his club. He never quit. He never overlooked a bet so far as ball players were concerned.

Now Stuffy alone remains. The greatest of all first basemen, who is "piking along with the trailers" and "hanging on to a dream," has stuck with Connie through the dark, dismal days, played his game and always gave his best. He is the nucleus for the 1918 team.

Mack Virtually Was Forced to Sell His Stars THE players, outside of Minnis, never realized how hard Connie Mack was working nor did they understand him. He wanted to keep an American League club in Philadelphia, and it is no easy task to do it and lose money at the same time.

He has not seen or talked with Connie Mack since the baseball season closed last October, but from our own observations in the training camps and traveling with the team we can see how the sale of Strunk, Bush and Schang came about. In the first place, there always was a salary question, which never was settled.

With Bush and Schang it was different. Bush made the best of things, and while it was an open secret that he was dissatisfied, he always gave his best. Schang loves the game too well to lie down on the job, and he, too, was in there playing every minute.

Last year whenever a player was sold to another club we have often heard one of the trio say: "Gee, there's a lucky guy! I wish I would be sent to a club like Boston or Chicago or New York."

Sometimes the fans rise up in protest because they figure that the players have been traded unfairly. Sometimes they are, but in this case Connie is conferring a favor on Bush, Strunk and Schang. Just ask them what they think of the sale.

Retrenchment Policy Seems to Have Been Abandoned WHILE the Winter League was running in full blast it was said that big-league baseball would be run on a different basis this year. Expenses would be cut to a minimum, salaries would be sliced, the training trip abandoned, players must sleep in upper berths, the schedule trimmed to 140 games and only eighteen players to each club.

Instead of putting through these radical changes the clubs voted to go on the same as before, take a chance and in reality began to spend money like Federal League barons in the palmy days. Charley Weeghman appeared on the scene with \$250,000 in regular money which he announced would be spent on ball players, and made good his threat by snaring Alexander and Killefer from the Phils.

But there will be a come-back, and it will come in a couple of months. The spirit of confidence also will take hold of the players, and when the time comes to sign new contracts the owners will discover it to their dismay. For example, if John Jones, of the Phillies, asks for an increase in salary he won't agree with President Baker when he tells of this uncertainty of the game, the huge expense and the prospect of losing money this year.

THE same goes for Connie Mack, Weeghman, Branch Rickey, Clarke Griffith and the others. The magnates have shown their confidence and the chances are they will have to pay for it. There are stormy times ahead.

James, 1914 World-Series Hero, Wants Another Trial BILL JAMES, hero of the 1914 world series which resulted so disastrously for the Athletics, wants to stage a come-back. The big right-hander, who has been ineffective since his great year when the Braves won the pennant and the world's championship, has written Manager Stallings, requesting another chance to show that his injured right arm was a handicap, and that he was unable to take his turn on the mound during the 1914 campaign, but he received his salary just the same.

James was unable to take his turn on the mound during the 1914 campaign, but he received his salary just the same. When he was in California, he pitched in a few exhibition games on the coast and these few workouts are said to have convinced him that he is able to mow down big-league batemen.

INDOOR GOLF HELPS THE GAME

Evans Says It Is Possible to Concentrate More on the Stroke

POPULAR IN THE WEST

By CHARLES (CHICK) EVANS

My first experience with indoor golf was an example of that necessity which is said to be the mother of invention.



CHARLES EVANS

I could play winter golf only occasionally. In the attic of my home I discovered an old mattress. This I hung up as a target, and there from day to day I worked to keep my golf hand in.

It was years after this little, purely personal experiment of mine that the real indoor golf, with an interesting array of various nets and complicated putting courses, began to appear.

Reasons for Indoor Game Of course the outdoor golfers felt keenly the limitations of the outdoor game, but as there could be no southern golf for the majority of players, and winter golf, which is spreading in favor, had not then a good start, the new form of the sport rapidly increased in popularity.

Indoor golf really consists of but two parts—shots off the floor and putting. Every man, of course, is ready to practice putting at any time or place.

Will Improve Game I know that golfers frequently say that when playing indoors they cannot tell whether they are sinking or missing, or committing all the other golfing errors. Out of doors, of course, their weaknesses are demonstrated by results.

Phil's May Lose PITCHER RIXEY Tall Virginia Southpaw Volunteers for Service in Gas-Defense Department

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., Dec. 17.—The Phillies are to lose another mound star, Eppa Rixey, Jr., the tall Virginia southpaw, has in all probability made his last appearance on the diamond.

Boys Donate Services "Y' see, the boys ain't workin' on Wednesday nite. They ain't buttin' in on the show, an' I am here to donate their services or something. We want to help you do, an' we can't help a better cause than yours."

The Volunteers Whitey dropped the list on the desk and we looked it over. Here is the group of volunteers: Whitey, Billiken, Counting Monk, Calhoun, Roy, Matt Henderson, King Joe Waxman, Able Joe Crar.

AMATEUR NOTES The Philadelphia A. would like to arrange a skatol game with second or third class teams in Philadelphia. For information, contact the Philadelphia A. at 2222 Chestnut street, or phone Harling 416 between 9:30 a. m. and 5:30 p. m.

ANOTHER FLINGER GOES Eppa Rixey, Phil Rixey's star pitcher, has been traded to the Cincinnati Reds.

THE DAYS OF REAL SPORT



TIDIES - DEDICATED TO MY SON JACK WHO IS DOING SOME KATING.

TICKET SCALPERS DONATE SERVICES

Boys Will Do Something for Smoke Show by Doing Nothing

USE THEIR OWN TICKETS

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL

The "grease" have fallen in line and will do their bit for the tobacco fund by donating their own tickets to the boys who are doing the "grease" for the boys.

Enter the Plot The plot of this story was furnished this morning when "Whitey" called on me and said: "I'm in a bit of a fix."

Gets the "Dope" Whitey dropped four crisp dollar bills on the desk and received two ringside seats.

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TENNEY AND CHASE GREATEST OF FIRST BASEMEN, BUT HONOR GOES TO OLD BOSTON PLAYER

George Sisler Only Modern Star Who May Displace Him, But Among Firstsackers There Is No Buck Ewing or Mathewson

By GRANTLAND RICE

HELD comes the one doubtful position of the team; the one position where there was greater difference of opinion.

From Charley Comiskey to George Sisler is a long gap, and in that gap it seems that no one man has ever risen to undisputed heights.

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INDUSTRIAL CAGEMEN DECIDE ON CHANGE IN PLAYING NIGHTS AND WILL USE TRAYMORE HALL

American League to Feature Dancing With Games Beginning Tonight—Hancock Has Strong Line-Up With Return of Bill Miller

TRAYMORE HALL, Franklin street and Columbia avenue, is now headquarters for basketball activities in this city. The American League has been playing there since the opening of the season, and at a special meeting of the Industrial Basketball League yesterday afternoon it was decided to finish the schedule at Traymore Hall and instead of playing on Mondays and Fridays will contest their games on Thursdays and Saturdays.

This Is Ladies' Night The American and Industrial Leagues are taking advantage of conditions, and as Traymore Hall is used for dancing, have decided to utilize the facilities and make the game real social affairs.

Hancock's Lineup Good While the center of play in the American League has not reached the standard set by the Eastern, nevertheless at least three teams have been able to win the large majority of games played throughout the State.

Change in Industrials This Industrial Basketball League will not play this evening, as there has been a big shift in the schedule of the organization, also a change in nights and a shift in playing quarters. It has decided to finish the remainder of its

Two Pros in State League That there is little chance for the Scranton team getting the consent of the other managers in the State Basketball League to continue to have the use of four professionals after January 1 became known when several magnates were asked about the matter.

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION REDUCES ITS SCHEDULE Will Play 140 Games Next Season Instead of the Customary 154

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 17.—Reduction of the playing schedule from 154 to 140 games next season was determined by the directors of the Southern Basketball Association. It was decided not to reduce either the salary or player limit. The season will open not later than April 18 and close not later than September 8.

For Christmas give cigars of recognized quality - cigars that are sure to please

Eisenlohr's Cigars The standard of quality for sixty-six years Henrietta ADMIRALS 10¢ Straight Box of 25 \$2.25 Perfectos 3 for 25¢ Box of 25 \$1.90 Cinco SIX CENTS LONDRES - PANETELLAS - CONCHAS Box of 100 \$5.50 Box of 50 \$2.75 Tin of 25 \$1.40 On Sale Everywhere