

IF NUMBERS COUNT, THE GIANTS, WITH SEVENTEEN PITCHERS, HAVE THE PENNANT CLINCHED

ONLY WEAKNESS OF M'GRAW'S CLUB IS IN PITCHING STAFF

New York Camp in Gainesville Crowded With Seventeen Pitching Prospects—Despite High-Priced Cast Pennant Chances Are Always Uncertain

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1919, by Public Ledger Co.

Gainesville, Fla., April 2.

EVERY time you turn around in the training camp of the Giants here in Gainesville you step on a pitcher. John McGraw has collected a great assortment of hurlers—long and short, left-handed and right-handed, lean and fat—in fact, every known variety, in an attempt to select seven or eight who can stand up under the strain of a tough major league baseball season.

McGraw is making no bones about the weakness of his club. The pitching department needs some bolstering, and he has exactly seventeen twirlers gathered from all parts of the country to show him their curves and slants twice a day on the athletic field of the University of Florida. This is an unusually large squad, but the boss of the Giants is taking no chances. He said he would be glad to look over a dozen more if there was a chance to discover one good moundman.

Failure of the pitching staff to come through when the going was rough cost the New York club a few pennants, and McGraw is taking no chances this year. His outfield, infield and catching corps are well taken care of, so most of his time is spent with his hurlers. Christy Mathewson is on the job as an assistant, but Jawn himself is doing most of the work. George Gibson is lending some valuable assistance.

There is a spirit of optimism down here, but the men show no traces of overconfidence. They are seasoned veterans—too old in the game to take anything for granted at this early date—but realize they have a fighting chance to win the pennant and horn in on the annual divvy which follows the playing of the world series.

IT IS a heavy-hitting team, the men are fast on the bases, and on the attack should be the strongest in the league. Defensively the Giants also look good, with the exception of the pitching. That is the one and only problem to contend with.

Giants Always Uncertain Proposition

IN WRITING about the New York club one cannot grow overenthusiastic about its chances to win the pennant. However, it must be admitted that McGraw has an unusually strong aggregation of ball players and the future looks exceptionally bright. The outfield, which consists of George Burns, Benny Kauff and Ross Young, with Jim Thorpe as utility man, is a fast-fielding, slugging gang of fence-busters. Hal Chase, Larry Doyle, Arthur Fletcher and Heinie Zimmerman comprise a quick-thinking, steady, hard-hitting infield, and Lew McCarty and Earl Smith are high-class, brainy catchers.

That's the present layout, and it certainly looks good on paper. Arthur Irwin, who now manages the Rochester club, was down here for a few days and said it was the best ball team he ever had seen. Perhaps Arthur is right, but one cannot forget the last three seasons—principally 1916 and 1918—when the Giants also looked good, but did everything but win the pennant.

The New York club has been an uncertain proposition. With the best players money can buy, it is likely to crack at any minute and cause misery and despair from the Battery to the Bronx. In 1916 the team won seventeen straight games on the road early in the season and came back with twenty-six straight, but finished down in the race. Last year it looked as if the Giants were easy winners when they won eighteen of the first nineteen games and were far ahead of the others until the first week in June; but the well-known explosion came and the highly advertised ball club hit the skids.

TWO years ago, after winning the pennant, they went into the world series a heavy favorite, but lost to the White Sox for no apparent reason whatsoever. It is virtually the same team this year with only a few exceptions.

Recruit Winters Looks Good to McGraw

M'GRAW has six of his old standbys for pitchers. Ferdie Schupp, Jess Barnes, Rube Benton, Bob Steele, George Smith and Cecil Alpron-Causey are showing lots of stuff and probably will form the first squad. The others are Winters, who looks very promising despite his inexperience; Brogan, who came from Rochester; Neal, of Wilmington; Clary, a Cornell man; Rommel, of Newark; Ryan, of Holy Cross College; Lyons, of Baltimore; Hubell, of Newark; Jones, who led the Texas League in 1917; Ross, of Newark, and Terhune, a semi-pro of New York.

In addition, we must not forget Fred Toney, who is a guest of the state of Tennessee and will leave the house party which he has been attending about May 1 after a stay of four months. Fred has been taking good care of himself—no late hours or anything—and should be in good condition.

Schupp seems to have recovered from the ailment which put him on the sidelines last year and really looks good. His arm is strong and he is pitching every day under the watchful eye of McGraw. If Ferdie comes back to his 1917 form he will be a valuable man for the Giants. Benton also looks good and is fifteen pounds lighter than last year, which shows the army life agreed with him. Jess Barnes should have a good year, for he is considered one of the best moundmen in the league. Causey and Smith will improve, but the others are uncertain.

Winters looks good to McGraw. This youngster stroled into the training camp at Marlin last year and asked for a tryout. He worked with the Giants and made a big hit.

WINTERS went into the army last spring, but Muggsy kept track of him and ordered him to report this year. McGraw says he is the most promising kid he has seen since Mathewson broke into the league.

Chase Playing Wonderful Ball

HAL CHASE, despite his thirty-six years, is playing a wonderful game at first base and looks like a youngster. He seems faster than last year and apparently is satisfied with his new job. Although on the same team with Mathewson, his old manager, he does not seem to mind it and hasn't spoken to Matty yet. Hal wants to make good, and it's a safe bet he will.

The other kids, Doyle, Fletcher and Heinie Zimm, are thirty-three years old, which gives McGraw the most venerable infield in either league. They are frisky old birds, however, and have a few more years of baseball in them.

"The team looks very good at this time," said McGraw, "and I expect the boys to make a hard race. The league is much stronger than last year, and Chicago, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh must be considered seriously. I believe the Cubs will be the team we will have to beat, but Cincinnati and Pittsburgh also must be watched. If my pitchers come through I will feel easier. Schupp looks good and I think he will do some good work this year. "Don't overlook that kid catcher, Earl Smith. He has all kinds of ability, is a great batter and I shall work him quite a little this year. He is a left-handed batter, but hits in any field. Just watch him. Heinie Zimmerman is working harder than ever before and is taking more interest in his work. In fact, all of the men are in excellent shape and we will get off to a good start. "This is the greatest training camp I ever have seen and an ideal spot to get the men in shape. We have the college gymnasium, the athletic field and the people of Gainesville are very hospitable. The boys are working their heads off to please the crowds.

"I DON'T like to predict anything, like my friend Huggins, but I am forced to say we have an excellent chance if we beat the Cubs."

Thorpe Finally Gets a Homer

TIM THORPE, the shortstop handy man around his camp, played his first game at second base yesterday. He allowed virtually everything to go by his station. But he was satisfied with his day's work and had a laugh all to himself because he got his circuit clout at last. Jess Barnes, the pitching ace, was the one to suffer. Thorpe has been trying for a homer every day, and yesterday almost got two, but failed to touch first base on one and was declared out.

He was first up in the second frame. He caught the pill on the nose and lipped the ball half way out to the college gym. He might have circled the bases twice before Georgie Burns paged the ball, if he had not been so particular en route as to call the attention of the umpire to the fact that he was touching every base. He didn't touch them lightly, he didn't pretend to careless them, he used them despitely and cut them all up with his spikes—just like a Bowery bum treats his fifth wife.

FRAY slugging on the part of some few of the illustrious veterans saved today's practice contest of seven innings from being a tragedy. No fault could be found with the Giants, yet the performance did not give a true line because of the waste of time at the opposition.



DAVIS LEADER OF SHIP LEAGUE

Former Athletics' First Baseman Elected President at Annual Meeting

SIX CLUB CIRCUIT

The Delaware River Shipyard Baseball League, which plays a most successful season, took a step in the right direction last evening when they unanimously ratified the selection of Harry Davis, the former Mackinac, as president of the organization.

Mr. Davis was in attendance and was immediately inducted into office. His selection means a big boost to shipyard baseball, as he is well qualified to fill the bill, and many who have not been caused contention and strife last year will easily be goaded under his jurisdiction.

In taking his place at the head of the league, Mr. Davis said: "It is up to you men to make the rules by which you desire to be governed and then you can rest assured that I will enforce them. After carefully studying your by-laws and playing rules, I am convinced that they are very fair and do not favor any particular club."

Regarding Lieutenant Mosier

A letter, which gives very comprehensive information as to Lieutenant Mosier's stand in the fight in the Argonne Forest on September 28, has been received by the dead officer's father, R. O. Mosier, from Colonel L. Ristine, of the 139th Infantry.

My Dear Mr. Mosier—I am in receipt of your letter dated January 28, regarding Lieutenant Everett B. Mosier. The report that you had of his being missing in action was correct at that time. Recently, however, I started a personal investigation of the case, sending men to search the Argonne battle field.

The result of this investigation is that Lieutenant Mosier's grave was found at the following location: 700 yards east of Chaudron Farm, which is located about three-quarters of a mile northeast of Baulny, France.

From various sources I understand that Lieutenant Mosier was the most fearless officer. He was leading two companies of the Second Battalion of the 139th Infantry against Exermont, France, when he saw he was in danger of being surrounded by the Germans, and warned his men to get out. But he

was killed in the action. He was the only officer of his rank to be killed in the Argonne Forest on September 28, 1918.

It is a great pleasure to hear that you are so satisfied with the results of the investigation. I am sure that you will be proud to know that your son's sacrifice was not in vain.

Very truly yours, L. Ristine, Colonel, 139th Infantry.

Young Sandow Beats Zulu Kid

Hot Springs, Ark., April 2.—Young Sandow, the champion of the world in the 220-pound class, defeated the Zulu Kid, a champion of the world in the 220-pound class, in a wrestling match here last night.

McHenry and Lawler Draw

Washville, Tenn., April 2.—Jack Lawler, the champion of the world in the 147-pound class, drew with McHenry in a wrestling match here last night.

Northwest Tennis Champ Enters National Tourney

Miss Mame MacDonald, of Seattle, to Make First Eastern Trip This Spring

MAJORITY ARE IN FAVOR

The special meeting of the Interscholastic Lawn Tennis Association to decide the post-graduate question will be held this afternoon at 3:30 at the William Penn Charter School. This conference was called by President Clinton A. Strong at the request of the minor sports committee of the public high schools.

It is virtually a certainty that the rule barring post-graduates from competing will be passed. The big fight, however, will come when the question of when the rule should take effect comes up for discussion. Some of the members are in favor of having the rule go into effect at once while others are anxious to hold it over until next season.

Bill Tilden, runner-up to R. Lindley Murray for the national singles championship last fall, will come over from the national indoor championship, now being held in New York, to lead the fight for those who desire the rule to be held over until next season.

PLAN POUGHKEEPSIE RACE

Collegiate Regatta Will Be Resumed Next Year

New York, April 2.—The Poughkeepsie regatta, which was dropped when this city was organized under the direction of John A. Donahue, consisting of present of four teams with players ranging in age from fourteen to eighteen years.

The first game will start next Monday at 6 o'clock, and due to the daylight-saving time, the game will continue throughout the summer months. A pennant will be awarded the winning team and individual trophies for the players.

RESEMBLES CRICKET SCORE

Kappa Sigma Beats Phi Kappa Psi by Count of 33-4

The Interfraternity Baseball League got under way yesterday at the University of Pennsylvania when the Kappa Sigma beat Phi Kappa Psi by the overwhelming score of 33-4. Evidently the "Phi Kaps" were hounded, or something, for they offered very feeble resistance. The game only went four innings.

WARWICK-CROSER Claims Title

The Warwick-Crosier fencibles closed a most successful season without losing a game by taking the Memorial Hospital Regatta into camp to the tune of 40 to 9. They won 15 straight contests and now claim the 15-16-year-old championship of the city.

MEINHART Stars Again

Standard Roller Bearing Company team won the third and deciding game of the series from Clifton Heights last night, by a 27-to-25 score. The game went into an extra period and Meinhart won the contest on two free throws.

FIRST Christian Club Wins

The three C's Juniors of the First Christian Church defeated Mount Hermann last night, by 30 to 20.

TENNIS LEAGUE TO MEET TODAY

Delegates to Decide Post-Graduate Question at Penn Charter School

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SOUTHPAWS SUPREME IN MANY SPORTS, BUT TRAIL IN GOLF FIELD

Cobb and Ruth in Baseball and Lindley Murray in Tennis Reign, but Left-Hander Can't Hit Golf Ball Properly, Writes Rice

IN THE SPORTLIGHT—By GRANTLAND RICE

THERE are two pulsating queries which we desire to put before students of anatomy, bacteriologists, homeopaths, osteopaths, biologists or any other experts who are interested in mysteries, all moving picture plot hunters barred.

Query Number One—Why is it that practically all left-handed golfers slice almost every shot—even the best left handers? Why should a left-hander be addicted to the slice more than a right-hander? Query Number Two—Why is it that practically every left-handed thrower has a wide curve or a big drift to the ball?

WHY should a ball thrown by a left-handed outfielder or infielder curve more than one thrown by a right-hander? THESE two queries are based upon actual conditions. To begin with, there are very few left-handed golfers who are any good to speak of when it comes to first-class golf. Here and there one may find an isolated exception. But they are as far apart as Allied outposts along the Siberian frontier.

This always has been another mystery to us. In baseball the left-hander predominates at bat. Cobb, Speaker, Collins, Baker, on down the line, left-handers lead the lot. In lawn tennis Lindley Murray has proved more than once that a left-hander can rank with the elite. Why is it, then, that a left-hander can't hit a golf ball properly and hold his own with a right-hander?

There must be some physical barricade which he can't hurdle, but we can't find any one who can supply the answer. AND why a left-hand swinger always carries a big slice attached to driver or brassie is beyond us.

Left-Handed Throwers Use Overhand Delivery

THIS SPEAKER, one of the few left-handed peggers in outfield ranks, is one of the most accurate sharpshooters in the game. Yet even Tris has a wide drift to the ball and has to allow for the same. We have talked to infielders who worked with left-handed first basemen, and they report the same phenomenon.

This ballistical mystery, however, isn't so much of a mystery. A large part of it is due to the fact that few left-handers have an overhand delivery. But why shouldn't a left-hander be able to employ an overhand delivery as easily as a right-hander does? So, after all, settling one mystery, we merely plunge into another.

A Query

When they have finished storming us, When they have done reforming us, When they have made us Perfect Men—And Perfect Women, too—

When we, who once were lawless tribes, Are assailed then and flawless tribes, I wonder how we'll like a world Where everything is Blue!

THIS was to be a Fiction Fight, Willard wouldn't have a chance. Ever read a fiction story where the Big Bloke knocked the dome off the Little Guy?

THE Race is not to the swift—nor the Battle to the strong. Perhaps. But those who are waging still insist upon looking in that direction to get their money back.

Golf Advice

He whose caddie Picks his club, Will always be The Perfect Dub.

FLYING across the Atlantic Ocean is another sport that keeps one out in the open air—provided the machine doesn't sink when it hits the water.

THE United States of America will enter no international lawn tennis carnival this season, but there will be sufficient furore here at home among Dick Williams, W. M. Johnson and Lindley Murray—plus three or four others—before the season fades. There are enough crack youngsters coming on to give the best competition any tennis season has ever produced—barring international affairs.

The youngsters may not have climbed quite high enough yet, but two or three of them have gotten far enough along to make a vast amount of trouble for even such stars as Williams, Murray and Johnston.

EDGING into the Upper Ten, this season is not going to be any placid undertaking.

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