

A'S MAY BREAK INTO FIRST DIVISION IF MACK'S HURLERS GET THE RIGHT BREAKS ON CURVE BALLS

CONNIE ON VERGE OF ADMITTING HIS A'S MAY SURPRISE FANS

Mack Confesses Fair Pitching Would Put Club Into Position to Annoy Leaders and Possibly Open Gate to First Division

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL
Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger
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"I WOULD rather surprise than disappoint," said Connie Mack yesterday as he watched his hired men demonstrate the disadvantages of higher education to a group of University of Pennsylvania students at Shibe Park. "Yes, I would rather spring a big surprise with my ball club this season and feel on the verge of admitting that such is likely to be the case. Lots of things can happen and I can take a look into the future without fear or trembling."

The chilly chieftain pulled his overcoat tighter about his neck and smiled as Kinney baffled one of the collegians with an assortment of left-handed slants and hooks. It wasn't a difficult thing to do, for that particular collegian was out there for the express purpose of being baffled.

"Pitching," continued Connie, "is the making or breaking of a ball club. With a good hurling staff one can do many things; without a high-class delivery department you are licked before you start. That is the real inside dope on the 1919 edition of the Athletics. With fair pitching we will be up there annoying all of our adversaries and perhaps some one will leave the gate open so we can sneak into the first division."

"At present there are four men on the club who I believe will do satisfactory work this year. They are Scott Perry, Naylor, Watson and Kinney. Perry and Kinney seem to be in excellent shape, while Naylor and Watson still are too tender to stand the strain. Kinney not only will be a good pitcher, but also a great one, or I'll miss my guess. Watson did good work last year and should show a great improvement. Naylor is just out of the service, and while he has done no real pitching as yet, he has been working hard to get himself in shape and I might start him against Rochester. You know what Perry can do, and he'll be out there doing it."

"In addition, there are Jim Johnson, Harry Seibold and Bob Geary who know how to pitch and may develop later on. I have no fault to find with these men, for they are hard workers and close students of the game. As for the others I couldn't say anything about them at this time. They are young and ambitious and can't do enough work. Greenell is a likely looking kid and will be a valuable asset when he gets more experience."

"BUT right now I have hopes of seeing Perry, Kinney, Watson and Naylor come through, and if they do several of my worries will be eliminated. You don't know how restful a manager feels when he has a few dependable pitchers."

Mack Can Deliver With Few Deliverers

GIVE Connie some deliverers who can deliver and there will be plenty of excitement at Shibe Park this season. The lanky leader is one of the greatest little jugglers of pitchers the old game ever has seen and can put the stuff over big if there is nothing to crib his act. Back in the dim, distant past, when pennants were as numerous as bootleggers in Georgia, Mack had three aces up his sleeve in Coombs, Plank and Bender. These birds were kept under cover until some tough, chesty club appeared on the scene, and one would be turned loose to ruin a perfect afternoon. When second-division teams were on the docket second-string twirlers were assigned to mound duty, while the aces were held in reserve to step in and save the game when the going became exceedingly rough.

That was the system back in 1910, and Connie has learned new tricks since then. In the last four years he has been able to dope out a lot of good stuff on the bench because he seldom had to worry about the ball game. It usually became lost, strayed or stolen in the first or second inning. Now he has a chance to experiment with his recent reflections, and if past successes are any criterion our manager should be handed a speaking part in that little skit entitled "Why We Might Win the Pennant."

Connie knows how to manage his pitchers. He does not handle them collectively, but has a method of dealing with each individual case. Seldom does he jump on a guy for perpetrating a weird error in the game, but hands out encouragement until the battle is over. Then it is something else again, as they will say after July 1.

The other night when we were in the lobby of the hotel down in Charlotte and the engineer had squandered another shovelful of coal to maintain a southern atmosphere Jack Coombs spilled a story about Mack and his method of handling hurlers.

"One day in a close game there were two on bases and nobody out when I went to bat," he said. "Connie called me back and told me to sacrifice, and I tried to follow instructions. I gave the sign on the first ball and when it came sailing toward me the men on first and second started to run. I bunted that ball on the fly straight into the hands of the first baseman. He stepped on the bag, threw to second and completed the prettiest triple play you ever saw."

"DIDN'T go back to the bench and did not see Connie until the next inning. I expected a cold down, but, much to my surprise, the boss was smiling. 'Great work, Jack,' he said, as he patted me on the back. 'That was the finest sacrifice I ever saw. You only killed two men and yourself.'"

Connie Perfectly Satisfied With Other Players

IN THE other positions Connie feels safe and secure. George Burns, that noble, thumping Titan, continues to put on his first-basing act like the headliner that he is. Noble George has his eye on the pill even at this early date and slams 'em out like a regular slammer. Red Shannon, according to Connie, is a good second baseman, but if his foot slips there are others to make a bid for the job. Roy Grover is a great little player and Jimmy Dykes is no slouch.

It would not be at all surprising to see Joe Dugan step into the spotlight this year. Joseph has been coming for the last two seasons and getting better every day. He is likely to blossom forth as a sensational shortstop and a fair hitter. He had lots of confidence the latter part of last season and his playing showed it. Dugan looks good.

Jimmy the Elk is an ardent booster of Fred Thomas, the new third baseman. Jimmy says Fred performed wonderfully in the world series last year, and he wins, because we saw it, too. Thomas is a swell fielder and a fair hitter.

Yesterday Tilly Walker hauled his bum ankle over to an X-ray emporium and had a flashlight taken. No fractures were discovered, so the clever center-fielder probably will be available for the opening contest in the American League as a pinch hitter or something like that. In the meantime Whitey Witt will occupy the middle pasture, flanked by Kopp and Cap'n Bobby Roth. Cap'n Bobby likes his new job and change of scenery immensely and thinks he will like the town when he gets better acquainted.

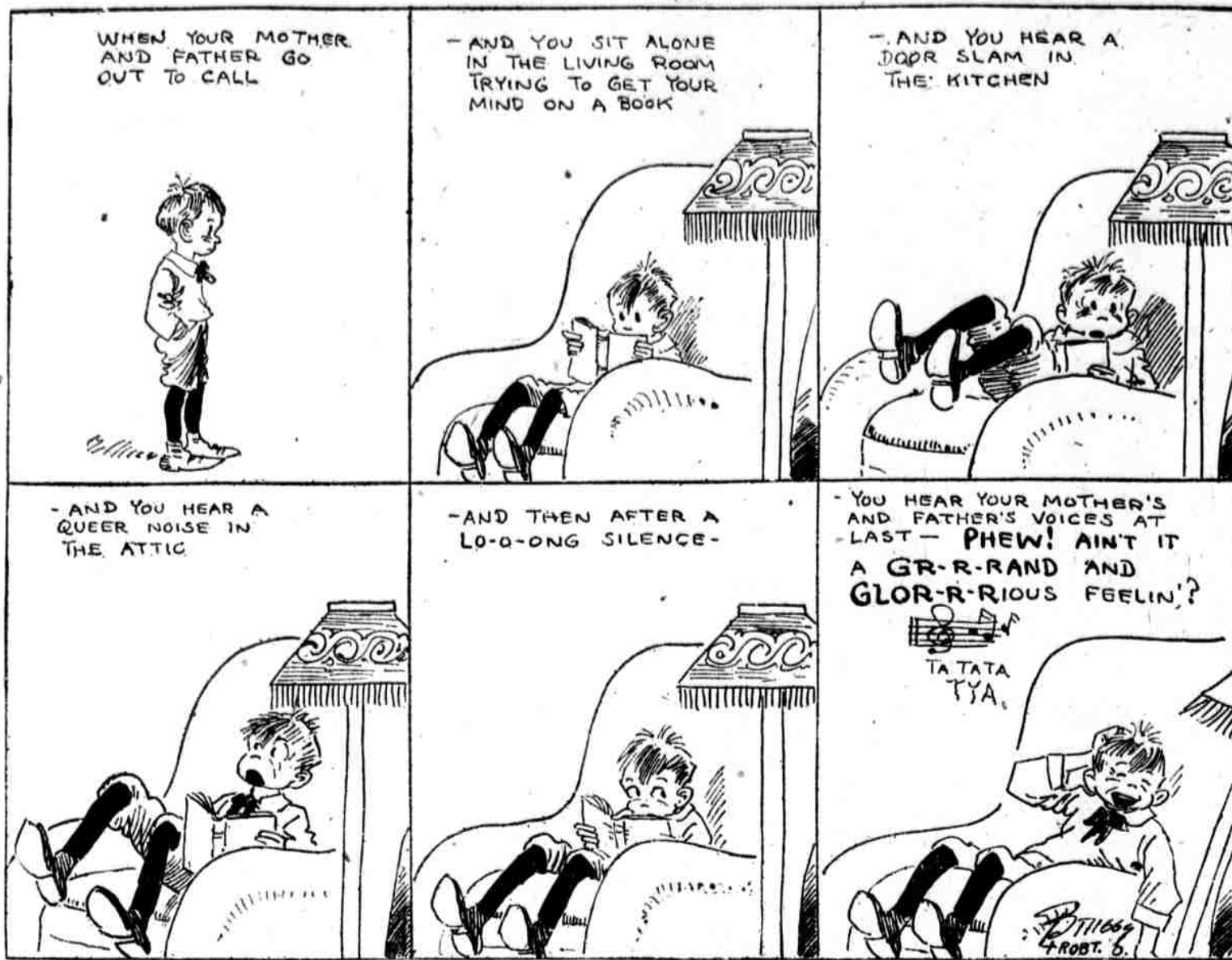
TAKING it all in all, our A's do not suffer in comparison with the other American League clubs. Connie has a good team, and maybe the other managers don't know it! When I was marching through Georgia and other "dry" states all I heard was: "Look out for Connie Mack this year. He has SOME ball club!" Perhaps he will land in the first division and spring that surprise.

Alex Comes Sailing Home After European Tour

GROVER CLEVELAND ALEXANDER, fresh from his triumphs abroad, is among us again and the stock of the Cubs has leaped above the barrier. Big Pete, as he is called by the Phils, will be ready to take his place on the firing line in the National League and convert the pennant race into a straggle procession. He is said to be in wonderful shape after his sojourn in our army and ready to burn up the circuit. Regular hours and military life have done wonders for him and Fred Mitchell should welcome him with open arms. With Alex, Vaughn, Tyler, Douglas and Hendryx the Cubs have a great pitching department.

DIXIE DAVIS, who was shipped to St. Louis by the Phils last winter and afterward chased to Louisville, showed a startling reversal of form the other day and beat the Pittsburgh Pirates in an exhibition game. Dixie never had a chance last year. He was taken sick down in St. Petersburg and before he recovered his health joined the navy. Branch Rickey probably would have told Davis to take the air.

AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'?



AMONG THE MISSING: ONE OLYMPIA WINDUP

Britt Beats Jackson in So-Called Feature, but Who Cares

O'KEEFE TROUNCES NORMAN

By JAMES S. CAROLAN

There was a windup at the Olympia last night but no one knew it. If Willie Jackson and Frankie Britt had been press-agented under other names, the last act on the card would have gone very flat. In fact, it would have been very difficult to put on a more monotonous number, but the boys zig-zagged about the ring for six rounds and ended with colors lowered.

Frankie Britt won, if that means anything. Jackson lost and that means about as much. Willie filed his alibi before the first round, displaying an injured right hand sustained in a battle with Ralph Brady in Syracuse last Saturday night. Britt made no pretense and mauling his way to a VICTORY.

O'Keefe Triumphs

Before the pseudo windup was staged Eddie O'Keefe and Jack Norman galloped for six sessions. The veteran found the range of Norman's body early, battered away all during the fight, and won a clean-cut verdict. This was O'Keefe's second start in his "comeback" effort. This second win was more decisive than the first. O'Keefe's endurance was better, his punching harder and cleaner and his judgment of distance much improved. Eddie now seems capable of giving the featherweights plenty of trouble.

Weinstein Scores

Jack Weinstein, O'Keefe's silent director, remained in the rear for two rounds. When he saw his boy had a chance he moved to the front and proceeded to scatter cigars among his friends. Jack lost more friends than was earned by the winning Eddie.

The battle of the evening was the bloody slugfest, which resulted in a draw, between Whitey Fitzgerald and Johnny Tymon. This was a battle all the way.

In the other bouts Maxey Green stopped Mike Lewis a substitute, in the third, and Kid Happy had the better of Young Medway.

Scraps About Scrappers

PATSY WALLACE, the clever little Italian boy, seems to have all kinds of trouble procuring work in his home town. The former amateur sensation made a big hit in the big shows in Cleveland, but simply cannot get started here.

Last night Doc Cutch, the FORMER manager of Champion Pete Herman, whispered that if necessary Wallace would take on Battling Leonard and Max Williamson the same evening, boxing each three rounds, and guaranteeing to trim the two.

Wallace is a classy little boy and one deserving of recognition.

Champion Johnny Kilbane will be in the city this week, returning for the fourth time since staging his comeback, to entertain Johnny Mahoney at the National Saturday night. Kilbane is going in great form and hopes to stop the hard-hitting upstate entry.

Another Clevelander will be seen here next week when Artie Root takes on Joey Fox. Root trounced Frankie Brown in his last start, and expects to lower the colors of the English featherweight. A victory will place him that much closer to a meeting with Kilbane.

Bobby Gunnis announces that Joe Welsh will face Young Joe Horrell in the semi-final of the Johnny Williamson-Patry Cline session at the Olympia on the evening of April 28. Herman Taylor also wishes to state that the date of the Tillman battle in Baltimore has been set back to May 13.

Frank (Pop) O'Brien, the official referee in Baltimore, says there will be the regular weekly show in the Monumental City Friday night. Johnny Ertle and Frankie Dwyer are down to entertain in the main bout.

Pete Herman was at the Olympia last night. The champion's engagement with Ross in St. Louis has been set back. Instead he will linger here, taking on Patry Johnson in Trenton on Monday night. Herman also hopes to get the wind-up date at the National on April 25.

Sherm Landers Capable of Setting Vault Record

Penn Star Likely to Break Gardner's Mark in Relay Games or in Intercollegiate—Is Concentrating for Competition Against Strong Field

By TED MEREDITH

HE intercollegiate pole-vault record has stood the drive of college vaulters for seven years, but it looks as if the figures are going to be in a dangerous position this season. There is an excellent field of vaulters entered in the Penn relays, and Gardner's record of 13 feet 1 inch is likely to be scratched from the books within the next two weeks.

Sherm Landers, who captained the Penn team until he was stricken with pneumonia last year, stands a great chance of ruining the record, and it is believed him capable of such a feat. However, he is going to be closely pressed by Wilbur Newstetter, another Penn athlete and Fred Ruben's red for All-American two years ago; Red Graham, of Chicago, and Easterday, of Pitt.

In the national A. A. U. championships at Newark in 1918 Landers, who then was representing the Chicago A. A., landed the pole vault title with a vault of 12 feet 10 inches. The bar was placed higher than 13 feet 2 1/4 inches, which is the world's record set by Marc Wright, and Landers was given a chance. He made one try and all but cleared.

Specializing Now

Since that time Landers has not concentrated on the pole vault, but has done a bit of running, hurdling, broad jumping and also has tried the hop-skip and jump. This year Sherm intends to specialize in the pole vault. He will not try for the one-mile relay team and will devote most of his time to vaulting.

Both Newstetter and Graham have done twelve feet six inches and Easterday has cleared twelve feet three inches. Last year Easterday tied for first place in the Intercollegiate championships. These men, together with the all stars in the relays, will force Landers to a high mark.

The manner in which the pole vault is run in big meets is not favorable to record breaking and it will take an exceptional man to beat the figures. In the relays, as is the case in the Inter-

JOHNNY GRIFFITHS WINS

Star Welterweight Beats Bobby Sullivan in Buffalo

Buffalo, N. Y., April 15.—Johnny Griffiths, the star welterweight from Akron, O., outbought Bobby Sullivan in a ten-round battle here last night.

Bud Christiana won over Young Mendo in the semi-final.

Kinley and Levinsky Draw

Newark, N. J., April 15.—In the best heavyweight bout seen in this state since the Harley boxing bill became a law, Ed Kinley, heavyweight champion of the United States army, fought a furious draw with Battling Levinsky at the Harrison A. C. last night.

RETURNS TO START ANOTHER WAR



Grover Cleveland Alexander, just back from France, was "caught" as he said (arrested) in the transport which brought him home.

QUAKERS FAVORITE FOR TENNIS TITLE

Penn Charter Has Well-Balanced Squad in Scholastic League

OFFICIAL OPENING TODAY

By PAUL PREP

WITH a week's lull in the Interscholastic Baseball League, owing to the annual Easter week vacation, interest in scholastic sports has turned to the Interscholastic Tennis League, the official opening of which is scheduled for today.

One of the twelve teams comprising the circuit will be in action. The championship Penn Charter team meets Northeast at the Archives' athletic field, Episcopal plays at Haverford School, Frankford travels out to Lower Merion, Cheltenham opposes West Philadelphia, while Germantown Academy plays Camden High.

Central High School and Germantown High got the jump on the other members of the organization by playing their match scheduled for today a day ahead of time. The Crimson and Gold players defeated the Clividen team by the score of 3 to 2.

Penn Charter Strong

Once again Dr. Clinton Strong's protégés from Penn Charter School go to the barrier a favorite for the interscholastic championship. The Quakers have won this title the last three years and with another well-balanced squad appear to be on their way to win the first leg on the new three-year title trophy.

The Penn Charter team opened its Interacademic League Schedule last Thursday by completely overwhelming the Episcopal combination, winning every one of the six matches. Penn Charter's hopes rest on Captain March, Miller, Repp, Balch, Taylor, Wentz, Bartlett and Martin.

Other Teams Fast

West Philadelphia and Frankford High should give Penn Charter a hard fight and battle it out for second honors. Last season Frankford finished second in the league standing. The Pioneers, however, have lost, through graduation, the services of their captain and star player, Herman Dornheim. Dornheim is in the East and it was his playing that kept Frankford up in the race.

The remainder of the team remains intact and all will move up one position. Charley Seltzer will play first singles. The other members of the team are Gilmore, Corson, Anderson, Gillin, Wentenhall and Bickley.

BATTLING MURRAY WINS

Local Boxer-Outfighter Johnnie Ertle at Trenton A. C.

Trenton, N. J., April 15.—Despite the fact that he was outwitted by more than five pounds and that his opponent had an advantage in reach, Battling Murray, of Philadelphia, out-fought Johnnie Ertle of New York, in the eight-round windup at the Trenton Athletic Club last night.

EASY FOR BURMAN

Hands Harry Coulin Lacing at Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 15.—Joe Burman, of Chicago, easily won on points over Harry Coulin, of Buffalo, here last night in a ten-round bout.

Patsy Kiline in Draw

Montreal, Que., April 15.—At the Olympia last night Patsy Kiline, of New York, and Paul Davis, of New Haven, fought one of the best ten-round bouts ever seen here to a draw.

Joe Lynch Starts Home

London, April 15.—Joe Lynch, the American lightweight, started for the United States last night. His departure caused some surprise, as he had several matches in prospect.

Pal Moore Beats Sandow

Memphis, Tenn., April 15.—Pal Moore, the local bantam who beat Jimmy White in London, defeated Young Sandow here last night.

DOES MANAGER MAKE TEAM OR TEAM MAKE THE WINNING PILOT?

Question Still the Big Open Debate, but Dame Fortune Has Contributed More Than a Trifle to the Destinies of the Great

IN THE SPOTLIGHT—By GRANTLAND RICE
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The Miracle

Once upon a midnight dreary—
(Wait—before you start to blose—
I, too, long ago grew weary
Of this parody on Poe),
But I'll let you down quite gently—
If you'll stick around a bit,
And will concentrate intently
Till I finish up my skit.

Once upon a midnight dreary
(As I started out to say,
Eve I saw that you were leery
Of this ancient roundelay),
You may take it for a joker,
Rounded up in foolish rhyme,
But I saw a game of poker
Where they quit on scheduled time.

The Big Debate

SOME day we hope to secure the best talent available, hire Madison Square Garden, Comiskey Park or a California glade and have a finished debate upon these issues:

First. Does a great manager make a great baseball club, or does a great baseball club make a great manager?

Second. Does a great football coach make a winning eleven, or does a winning eleven make a great football coach?

For example, Chance was a star with the Cubs, but a failure with the Yankees.

Ned Hanlon could sweep the field with Baltimore and Brooklyn, but he couldn't budge Cincinnati.

How would McGraw's pennant fortune have fared if Cincinnati had held on to Christy Mathewson in place of trading him for the venerable Rusie?

How would Haughton have made out if Brickley, Hardwick and Mahan had entered Yale in place of Harvard?

McGraw has proved his worth as a manager and Haughton his ability as a coach. But we are not speaking now so much of inherent ability as we are of comparative fame.

IT MAY not be a sound doctrine, but the "cock-eyed wench" known as Dame Fortune has contributed more than a trifle to the destinies of the great.

A Confession

Out of the blight that covers me
Upon the fairway or the stubble,
I thank whatever gods there be
When my opponent reaches trouble.

Let others say: "Tough luck, old chap—
I'm sorry that you had to strike it!"—
But when my rival finds a trap,
I'll tell you frankly that I like it.

WHICH reminds me of a match we saw between Nipper Campbell, the web, outspoken Scot, and some opponent.

The Nipper sliced one into a deep trap at the fifteenth hole when the match was all square.

"Tough luck," said his opponent. "I'm sorry."
"You're a dom liar," countered the Nipper, "and I'll be just as glad as you are if you find the same pit."

WE'VE often felt the same way about it, but never had the Nipper's old-fashioned Scottish nerve to put the thought into plain, unvarnished language.

TUB SPENCER holds one record, anyway. He was dropped from the Penn club in 1900, batted around various minor leagues for seven years and then came back to star again under the Big Tent. We recall no other player who has suffered a seven-year lapse to return and get going again in the polite society of the game.

WE ALSO observed another miracle recently. One of the playing-through entries who held a heart flush, when called merely said, "I have a flush," and laid down his hand. This is a world's record. Heretofore a flush always has been called "all green" or "all blue."

Golf Maxim

The bloke who lifts his well-known dome
Will let it hang when he starts home.
And he who finds missed putts are rife
Is no companion for a wife.

SOME one has quoted Willard as saying that, "win or lose," this will be his last fight. Ever hear that line before?

HARVARD HAS STRONG TEAM FOR PENN RELAY CARNIVAL

Crimson Will Be Dangerous in Two and Four-Mile Events. Flower and Moore Sprinting Prospects

PENNSYLVANIA carnival entries close today. This is earlier than usual by a day or two, but is made necessary because of the very large number of teams that have entered the races. Managers are urged to get the names of their runners in on time.

The Harvard team will be here stronger than ever before, as they will run in the two and the four mile relay championships and will also be represented in all the special events. The two-mile entries are Costigan, Douglas, Duggan, Hutchinson, Goodwin, Lucas, O'Connell and Stevenson. Duggan, Hutchinson, Goodwin and O'Connell will most likely compose the team. O'Connell is the fastest man and will probably run anchor.

The four mile entrants are Dugan, Hutchinson, Lewis, Lucas, Nally, O'Connell, Page and Werrall. Hutchinson and Lewis are the best milers in this squad.

Little is known of the other men, but they will have to be good to keep near the front with such fast teams as Lafayette, Cornell, Chicago, and Iowa State.

In the special events, Harvard should be prominent. Perhaps the athlete that will be watched with greatest interest is Flower in the 100 yards. Two years ago as a freshman, Flower was credited with ten seconds for the 100 and forty-eight and four-fifth seconds for the quarter.

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