

EVEN JOHN M'GRAW WILL ADMIT THAT JACK COOMBS'S PHILIES MADE THINGS INTERESTING

COLBY JAWN PROVES HE HAS INTERESTING BALL CLUB IN PHILS

Coombs's Toolers, Counted Out of Pennant Race, Have Developed Fighting Spirit, With Nothing to Do Except Worry Rival Clans

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL, Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

JACK COOMBS was not crating through the brown derby when he remarked a short time ago that the Phils would have an interesting ball club this year.

For a long time McGraw had the Indian sign smeared all over the home folks. Alexander seldom could win a game, and when Big Pete fell down on the job the other pitchers on the club realized they had little chance to do anything, and acted as such.

Now there is a different spirit on the ball club. The Phils have started out with nothing to worry about. All of the experts have selected them to finish in last place, so they have everything to gain and nothing to lose.

Jack Coombs has proved himself a shrewd, brainy manager, and is responsible for the mental condition of the players. He knew he was undertaking a big job when he signed to manage the club and decided to use an entirely new system.

STRANGE as it may seem, the Phils have developed a fighting, aggressive spirit this year. It looks as if they are out to prove they have no eighth place ball club, and thus far have been successful.

Coombs's Shifting of Players Wise Move

AGAINST the Giants the local sluggers have soaked a huge flock of bingles, and that, too, has made a hit with the public. Hard-hitting baseball clubs always have been popular and the Phils have started out in the right direction.

Another good stunt was dropping Meusel to seventh place in the batting order against right-handers. Irish is a good hitter and has many chances to deliver a pinch. Timely slugging is needed down there.

The Phils will face a different proposition today against Brooklyn. At present the Dodgers have the best pitching staff in the league, having proved it by taking three straight from Boston.

Cincinnati, however, furnished the big noise with a straight run of victories over the Cards. Two weeks ago the Reds looked like starters in the Epworth League, but took a brace when Kopf and Rousch decided to sign and Babe Bressler got out of the army.

HANK GOWDY showed remarkable self-control when he passed up a fat contract on the vaudeville stage to play with the Braves.

Revenge Act On Between Ritchie and Leonard

BENNY LEONARD and Willie Ritchie are ready for their eight-round argument in Newark, N. J., tonight. Leonard is anxious to prove to the eastern fans that the battle on the coast was a big mistake, while Ritchie is confident he will demonstrate his superiority over the lightweight champion.

There probably will be no knockout tonight, but the men will show some scientific stuff which will please the fans. Ritchie has more confidence than in the first battle and may play a waiting game instead of tearing in to finish his foe at the start.

This is the first big-bout to be held this year and is the forerunner of a number of important ones to be held this summer. Boxing will have a big season, with Willard and Dempsey topping the card. Here in Philadelphia Leon Rains has planned some important matches for the Phillies' ball park and is working on a bout to be held late in May.

TONIGHT Lew Tendler, who probably will meet Leonard this summer, will box Jimmy Duffy at the Olympia. Lew is in good shape for the bout.

In Montreal Johnny Tillman is booked to meet Jack Brassica, the Canadian scrapper.

Relays Impressive, Despite Cold Weather

COLD weather prevented the breaking of records at the Penn relays, but there was some high-class competition just the same. Penn's victory in the one-mile event was impressive, as was Chicago's work in the two-mile championship.

Cornell showed strength in the hurdles, with Smith and Watt. Smith looks like a very good man and will make things interesting for Erdman, of Princeton, in the intercollegiate. Watt also will bear watching.

William Kirkpatrick, however, stood out above the others. He did the announcing on Saturday, and never before have the results been transmitted to the press box so promptly. Kirk more than made up for the bum work of the others on Friday.

SPACKMAN, of Mercersburg, looked like the best of the prep school athletes on Saturday. He ran the final relay for Mercersburg and showed excellent form.

THE Rhine is a very fine young stream. But it will have very few attractions to those doughboys still scattered along its banks as they begin to get the daily major league scores, with a chance once in a while to see the Standing of the Clubs.

WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND



NEW ZEALAND BEATS AMERICAN OARSMEN

Inches Separate Crews in Final on River Seine for French Trophy

Paris, April 28.—The American crew was defeated by the crew from New Zealand in the final heat of the regatta on the River Seine yesterday for the trophy offered by the Rowing Club of France.

In the first heat the French oarsmen finished first, Newfoundland second and Portugal third. In the second heat New Zealand finished first, America second and France third.

The New Zealanders nosed out the Americans in a heart-breaking sprint in the last fifty yards of the final. It was a grueling race throughout, the two shells alternating in the lead. Inches separated the boats most of the distance.

The New Zealanders finished much stronger than the American crew, and Private Royal Bird, No. 2 in the American crew, was on the verge of collapse at the end and the others were very tired.

Malone Breaks Up Game

Baltimore, April 28.—Brooklyn registered a 5 to 1 victory over Baltimore here yesterday in their exhibition encounter, but it required four extra innings before the National Leagueers were declared the victors.

Three Hits for Murray

Ardmore, Pa., April 28.—L. C. B. U. won from St. Louis' T. A. H. here yesterday, 3 to 1. Murray was the all-around star, with three hits and eight fielding chances.

Times have changed, as forcibly was brought home to Southampton Earl Hamilton, of the Pirates, yesterday. Hamilton won from the Browns to the Pirates a year ago, and then won six games of the 1918 championship without defeat.

Just about the best pitching exhibited thus far this season is that served by the Red Sox staff. By applying the stiff bristles of the baton to the right elbow, the Boston pitcher made it a habit to throw the ball with a certain curve which the White Sox get the decision.

Charles Dooin, boss of the Reading International League club, complains of a shortage of first-class talent. Dooin has had only a short time to get his pretzels in shape for the opening of the season, and is not only surprised that he has done so well, but he will usher in the season at Reading on Wednesday.

Babe Ruth missed getting a homer yesterday against Washington, but he contributed three of the eight runs toward the Boston victory. He hit a home run, which he had not done in four times up yesterday, and played off the ball.

So closely bunched are the clubs in the American League race that an average brass

PENN MAKES GREAT SHOWING IN RELAYS

Meredith Says Quakers Have Chance for Title in Intercollegiate, as Their Victories in Relays Plus Other Point-Producers Speak Volumes

By TED MEREDITH, World's Champion Middle Distance Runner. LAWSON ROBERTSON has every reason to feel pleased with the showing he made with his men on Saturday. Winning two relays, the discus throw, taking second in the javelin throwing, besides placing two men in the pole vault is no mean day's work, and was much the best showing of any of the colleges competing.

This, with the good work in the sprint moolay on Friday gives Penn a high score. Princeton looks very good this year in the distance runs. It looks as if the Red and Blue will be a contender for the intercollegiate title from the showing of the different teams at the relays. Penn did not impress me as being a well-balanced team, but they have several men that will be sure of going through in the events that they showed so well in on Saturday.

Another thing to be considered is the way that the others are going to split up the money. Princeton looks very good this year in the distance runs. Although beaten by Cornell in the four-mile event, they have a good bunch and will cut into the Ithaca points in the mile and two-mile.

There were several disappointing features of the two days' racing. First, the weather was against any good performance, and made it a very uncomfortable net to watch, because of the cold. Second, many of the champions failed to show their best.

Larsen, the Brigham Young jumper, could get no better than third, which was a big surprise, since he was looked to break the record.

Mercesburg Surprises

Jimmy Curran and his Mercesburg team sprung a surprise on Hill and Executive Curran came down with apologies and consoling stories for the old men that would run on his teams, told them that the war was to blame for the poor showing he was to make the next day, and I really believe that he felt that way. It was a different Curran, however, that went back to the Cumberland valley on Saturday with another inter-scholastic title.

Tellers vs. Ray

Sonnet will be a test for Jack Sellers, who has been winning all the indoor races this winter. He will meet Joe Ray in the Thirteenth Regiment Armory, Brooklyn, for a trial at the 1000-yard record. This will be a great race and I think that the record will go.

Ray is in the best shape that he ever has been and Sellers is a good man, who has all the confidence in the world, which will make him push Ray to his best to win.

PLAN ACTIVE YEAR FOR LOCAL JUNIORS

Nine Clubs Asked to Stage Tennis Tournaments for Younger Players

INTERCITY MATCH JUNE 7

Nine Local Clubs Asked to Hold Junior Tournaments

The following clubs have been asked to aid in promoting junior tennis by holding tournaments on the dates below:

May 27—Merion C. C. June 2—Germantown C. C. June 9—Belfield. June 16—Stenton A. C. June 20—Overbrook G. C. June 23—Philadelphia C. C. July 7—P. R. Y. M. C. A. July 14—Cynwyd. Pennsylvania State boys' and junior championship.

Can Only Win One

Every young player of this district is eligible to compete. Upon winning a tournament, however, a player becomes ineligible. The winners of the nine tournaments will then meet in the tennis center championship, which will be held July 21 at Cynwyd.

Howard Is Fine Player

A junior player who will bear watching by the local players in the future is Johnny Howard, the fifteen-year-old youth, playing with Hill School. Last week the Philadelphia and District Association sent a team up to Hill School for a match with the schoolboys.

Davis Shows Speed

Davis ran a great race. Those that saw it will remember he finished very strong, twice increasing his speed in the stretch. Gustafson here took up the race and put it in safe keeping for Smith by giving the anchor man a good twenty yards which he would not have needed.

The freshmen also ran away from their competitors, and Brown, who finished the race, was increasing his lead on every stride. The times of both the freshmen and varsity races—3:28 4-5 and 3:25, respectively, were exceptionally fast considering the strong wind that was blowing.

Advances to Final Round of University Courts Tourney

New York, April 28.—Vincent Richards and Allen Behr won their place in the final round of the lawn tennis doubles tournament on the courts of the University Heights Club yesterday.

Joe Tiptitz and Frankie Conifrey will be seen in the semi-final. Tiptitz's last showing here was against Joe Fox. Conifrey is capable of making it interesting for Tiptitz.

In the other bouts Johnny Clark meets Joe Kilpatrick, Frankie McKenna battles Johnny Hanna and Jimmy Snyder faces Kid Wagner.

Joe Tillman will see action in Montreal tonight when he engages Jack Brassica in a tough session in the National semi-final. Taylor, accompanied him to Montreal. Steve Latta at the Olympia. Tillman has two additional bouts scheduled, meeting Jack Britton in Baltimore on May 12 and Jack Molone in Minneapolis on May 20.

ED DELEHANTY MOST SCIENTIFIC SLUGGER GAME EVER BOASTED

Babe Ruth Is a Mighty Wallpaper, But Is Unable to Place His Hits With the Accuracy and Science of the Former Star, Contends McGraw

IN THE SPOTLIGHT—BY GRANTLAND RICE

Who Knows? "We who lie here have nothing left to pray. To all your prayers we are deaf and blind; We may not even know if you betray. Our hope, to make earth better for mankind."

Only our silence in the night shall glow. More silent as the stars grow in the sky; And, while you deck our graves, you shall not know How many scornful legions pass you by.

And yet, at night amid the weary hosts Who held stark woods with their unburied slain, On low, lost winds I've heard too many ghosts Above the dreary rhythm of the rain.

The Scientific Slugger JOHN J. MCGRAW says that he is no believer in the theory that all the old stars were the best, but he still contends that Big Ed Delehanty was the most scientific of all the sluggers.

Slugging and science are hardly synonymous terms. "Delehanty was different," says McGraw. "He could hit a baseball as hard as any man I have ever seen—but even when taking a terrific smash at a ball he could drive it into right or left, as the case demanded. I have never seen a hard hitter who could place his drives as Del could."

Quality and Quantity QUALITY and quantity in pitching generally go together. The two best workmen in baseball are Johnson and Alexander, and it is worthy of passing note that these two have also pitched upon the average a greater number of games than any other contenders.

There would be a great deal better pitching on the average if pitchers were worked once every four days. One of the main reasons why Stallings drew such effective pitching in 1914 was that he worked Rudolph, James and Tyler in turn—because he had no one to fill in.

The Umpire Laments Yes, peace has come on land and sea, But not for me; The war is won—the battle done— But not for me; Red gone no longer stains far lands; In some quiet nook the cannon stands, And fighting men hold out their hands— But not for me.

Simple Lies "A SIMPLE LIE," remarked Hob, "is the man who says he can bet one way and root another." And another simple liar is the man who says "I'm sorry" in a golf match when his opponent looks out of bounds.

Who Has? He hadn't slept the night before— No wonder that he couldn't score. His arm was sore—his back was lame— So he was badly off his game.

ITALY Balks. "What it? The umpires have virtually quit calling balk motions in this day and time."

THE result was that Rudolph, James and Tyler did better work than they ever did before—or ever will do again.

Over the world goes the clarion call, "Keep your eye on the ball!" I'll follow this tip as the wallops is due— If the caddie will, too.

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

THAT scientific southpaw, Lew Tendler, will exhibit at the Olympia tonight. For the first time since he trounced Harlem Eddie Kelly last February the shiftie Tendler will appear in a Quaker City ring. His opponent will be another New York entry, Jimmy Duffy, of the West Side, who has a trip to help entertain with the southpaw.

Joe Tiptitz and Frankie Conifrey will be seen in the semi-final. Tiptitz's last showing here was against Joe Fox. Conifrey is capable of making it interesting for Tiptitz.

Jack Russo and Al Thompson, the instructor in the League Island machine, met in the semi-final. Young Robideau faces Eddie Moran in the third eight-round fray. In the opener Sam Robson engages Young Mack.

Joe Burman will entertain in Cleveland Thursday night, taking on Jack (Kid) Wolfe, a protégé of Jimmy Dunn. Those boys are well matched. Johnny (Little) McKeen, a member of the Tommy Walsh stable, opposes Jack Britton in Buffalo on May 5.

A large delegation of Philadelphians will be present at the Benny Leonard-Willie Ritchie battle in Newark tonight. Many fans from London will be seen floating around here last week.

Leon L. Rains, the boxing headliner who will stage his bouts at the Phillies' Park this season, hopes to clinch the winner of the semi-final battle in Newark for a big show at park.

Advertisement for Tareyton London Cigarettes, featuring a man in a top hat and the text 'There's something about them you'll like' and 'Twenty to the package'.

Advertisement for Faultless Night Shirts, featuring a man in a white shirt and the text 'Rest assured - Faultless NIGHT SHIRTS SINCE 1881'.

Advertisement for National League Park Phillies vs. Brooklyn, featuring a baseball player and the text 'NATIONAL LEAGUE PARK PHILIES vs. BROOKLYN'.