

AS UMPIRE RIGLER SAYS, BASEBALL IS A GREAT GAME AS LONG AS THE FANS DON'T WEAKEN

EARLY SEASON SPURT ON PART OF DODGERS SHATTERS THE DOPE

Acquisition of Magee and Konetchy and the Shifting of Low Malone to Third, Plus Efficient Work of Powerful Pitching Staff, Make Brooklyn Contenders

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

THE persistent telephone pest was on the job yesterday, having been driven indoors by the calling off of the ball games because of rain. Only one topic was discussed—Brooklyn and the big upset in the National League standings.

It is not our intention to impress upon the dear, kind reader that the early-season spurt is all wrong and Wilbert Robinson should be arrested for winning so many games. True, one is forced to burst into a glorious giggle when one notices the roasting place of Brooklyn in the won and lost column.

When I visited the Brooklyn camp in Jacksonville this spring Robbie was on the verge of tears every time his noble athletes came out for practice. The outfield was fair, the pitching staff showed promise, but the infield was terrible.

But things changed as the opening of the season drew nigh. Lee Magee was sent from Cincinnati in exchange for Billy Kopf, who was holding out, and Ed Konetchy was purchased from Boston.

ALMOST in a day the team was changed from a second division aggregation to league leaders, and the work of the Dodgers has been the big surprise of the year.

Robby Has Collected Strong Pitching Staff

BROOKLYN should not drop out of the first division, and probably will be up there fighting it out with the leaders until the final bell unless some unforeseen accident occurs. The reason for this guess is that Robinson has a good ball club now, but it will be much stronger in a few weeks when the soldier players return from France.

First, take the pitching staff, which looks as good if not better than any in the league. Pfeffer, Cadore, Munnix, Cheney and Grimes are the right-handers and Marquard and Sherrod Smith are southpaws.

Then comes the infield, which, instead of being woefully weak, is top-heavy. Ray Schmandt has recovered and can play either at first or second.

The outfield, with Zach Wheat, Hy Myers and Tom Griffith, will stick, but a pair of utility men, Jimmy Johnson and Hickman, may soon be on the market.

BROOKLYN really looks like a real ball club now and has an excellent chance to stay out in front. Outside of Cincinnati, it looks like the class of the league, and with a month on its home grounds it should make the other entries step aside.

Giants Lead Phils in Opening-Day Wins

HOW do the Giants and Phillies stand in opening-day games? was another question propounded by another seeker of information who sought refuge in a telephone booth to escape the moisture.

The first game of the season from New York, and if so, when? New York now leads the Phillies in winning opening day contests, the musty old files divulging the dope and placing the score at 6 to 5. It was a deadlock up to this year with five victories each, and the 9-to-7 victory scored by the Giants on April 23 gave McGraw the advantage.

The first opening-day game was played on April 28, 1887, in New York and the Giants finished in the lead. Many noted pitchers appeared in the game—Amos Rusie, Keefe, Mathewson, Alexander, Kid Gleason, McGinnity, Moore, Corridon and others.

Gleason, who now manages the White Sox; Frank Corridon and Earl Moore were the only Philly pitchers to score shutouts, while Mathewson wielded the brush for the only whitewash put over by New York.

Sherwood Magee in 1914 soaked two homers off Marquard in the opening conflict. Two years later Alexander averted defeat for himself and his teammates by nipping three men off the bases.

Here is a list of the first games played between the Phils and New York: PHILLY VICTORIES OVER GIANTS ON OPENING DAY

April 19, 1890, in New York, 4 to 0. Gleason against Rusie. The Kid allowed only two hits.

April 11, 1907, in New York, 3 to 0, eight innings (game forfeited to Philadelphia in ninth because crowd swarmed on field, no police being allowed to enter Polo grounds). Corridon against McGinnity and Ames.

April 12, 1911, in New York, 2 to 0. Moore against Ames. April 14, 1914, in Philadelphia, 10 to 1. Alexander against Marquard and Fromme. Sherwood Magee made two home runs.

April 12, 1916, in Philadelphia, 5 to 4. Alexander against Anderson and Stroud. Phillies won in ninth. Alexander would have been beaten if he had not picked three men off the bases.

GIANT VICTORIES OVER THE PHILLIES

April 28, 1887, in New York, 4 to 3. Keefe against Dailey. April 12, 1892, in Philadelphia, 5 to 4. Rusie against Keefe. April 17, 1902, in New York, 7 to 0. Mathewson against Felix and Voorhees.

April 22, 1906, in Philadelphia, 3 to 2. Ames against Lush. April 14, 1908, in Philadelphia, 3 to 1. Mathewson against McQuillan and Brown. Matty won his own game in the sixth with a single that scored two runs.

April 23, 1919, in Philadelphia, 9 to 7. Barnes against Jacobs. THE Yanks and Macks had an off day yesterday, as a heavy rain storm was the only thing that prevented the ball game.

JACK COOMBS was presented with a chest of silver and a shotgun over in Brooklyn on Tuesday. His admirers knew he needed something to protect the first gift.



CHARLES WATSON UNABLE TO PLAY

West Philadelphia Star Confined to His Home—Meet Hill School

ON THE CYNWYD COURTS

By ROBERT T. PAUL.

Charles Watson, 3d, the West Philadelphia High School athlete who indulges quite extensively in tennis, will be unable to take part in the exhibition tennis match between a picked team of local juniors and the Hill School combination this afternoon out on the Cynwyd Club's clay courts.

Charles—who by the way is no relation to Mule of the Phillies and Johnny of the Athletics—rapidly is becoming one of the best of the younger players of the Philadelphia district. He has won the boys' championship for this season two years.

Crosses the Plans

William T. Elden, 2d, junior representative of this district, and Dr. Clinton A. Strong, president of the Interscholastic Tennis League, were so impressed by Watson's splendid showing this season of winning every league match, that he was selected to play single against the strong Hill School team.

But Charles the Third had to upset, spoil or do something like that, to be picked on the All-Star team that he went out and celebrated by getting sick. Some say he has the chicken pox. No one knows what the trouble is, but the fact remains that he is confined to his home and will be unable to play this afternoon.

Stanton May Play

With Watson on the side-lines, or rather inside the house lines, Tilden and Strong found it necessary to change their line-up. Either Stanton, the Haverford School player, or "Stew" Valentine, of Germantown Academy, will jump into action at sixth singles today.

The teams will take the clay in the following manner:

SINGLES

Philly: W. Sherrod, Hill School, vs. Earl Pfeiffer, Hill School. vs. Andy Morley, Germantown High School, vs. M. J. E. Howard, Hill School, vs. Milt Miller, Penn Charter.

DOUBLES

Sherrod and Howard vs. Harper and Fischer. Oliver and Lakin vs. Morgan and Sather. Stanton and Quinn vs. Miller and Seltzer.

AMATEUR BASEBALL NOTES

NORTH PHILADELPHIA BROWNS

The Philmor A. C. would like to hear from Kaywood C. C. Fralinger and Harry A. C. for May 10, 17 and 24. Officers: Lesch, 2747 North Front street.

Bookwood Profs. a first-class traveling team, has open dates, James W. McBride, 3048 North Front street.

Spare & Triest A. C. has open dates for May 10, 17 and 24. Officers: Lesch, 2747 North Front street.

Dave Robertson Must Play in the National League

President John Heydler Says Giants' Star Outfielder Has No Chance to Join an American League Club This Season

Invite Two Thousand Gobs to Phillies' Game

By EDWIN J. POLLOCK. Special Staff Correspondent Traveling With the Phillies.

Brooklyn, May 8.—The clever work of Eddie Sicking, erstwhile Giant utility infielder and now a Phillie regular, has impressed Jack Coombs, the former New Yorker stands a great chance of landing the second base job if he continues to wreck rival pitching.

Sicking made his first appearance in the Coombs line-up on Tuesday, when he held down the short-field post in the first of the series against the pacesetter Robins. He had been slated for the minors by McGraw, who had arranged to send him to Rochester where the Phils grabbed him. With another chance to stay on the big circuit, Eddie is determined to make good.

The former Giant has been noted as a sweet fielder, but he never got much of a reputation as a hitter.

Starts to Hit

In his recent exhibitions, however, he has surprised the talent. He held down short for McGraw in the first game of the New York series against the Phils last Friday, and he turned in a record of two hits out of four times up and two runs. Afield he handled nine chances cleanly.

Against Brooklyn, in a Phillie uniform, Eddie collected three solid singles out of five opportunities, and one run.

Up to the time of the death of his baby daughter, Harry Payne had been playing a great game afield for the Phils and had been hitting hot. On Tuesday he was still on the top of his holding game, but failed to connect safely out of four tries. In the ninth, with two on, Coombs sent Whitted in to bat for his second baseman.

Fine Fielder

It is believed that Sicking has an edge on Pearce in holding and if he continues to slug the ball he may be changed over to the middle sack when Dave Bancroft recovers from his sprained ankle. It will be a great race between the two for the job.

The Phils have been extremely fortunate in getting the crowds on the present trip. It is estimated that more than 60,000 saw the four games. Twenty thousand turned out for the opening National League battle at the Polo ground Friday, 22,000 witnessed Saturday's game and a capacity crowd of 35,000 visited the Stoneham Stadium Sunday.

There was no game Monday, but Tuesday, 15,000 greeted the Phils at Ebbets Field. This brings the total to 92,000. It is safe to say that 100,000 will have seen the Coombsmen on their short stay away from Broad and Huntington streets.

Watson to Pitch

Coombs probably will start Mule Watson against the Robins today and save Elmer Jacobs for Friday's work in Phillie town. The mention of Watson recalls an incident after Mule's last start.

It will be remembered that Watson was walloped unmercifully by the Giants last Friday. McGraw's sluggers patted him for sixteen hits, but Coombs let him go the distance because he was short on pitchers and the game was hopelessly gone.

The Mule had displayed great form and won against the Giants only the week previous and Coombs was anxious to know what was the trouble with his big right hander. He questioned him after the game.

"What was the matter, Mule, were you nervous?" he queried. "Nope." "Did the crowd get your nerve?" "Nope." "Didn't know there was any one in the park?"

"Did you notice the New York York Club?" "The Mule gave Coombs one look, saw the right, pulled down his cap and walked away."

SICKING STRIVING FOR REGULAR BERTH

Former Giant, Slated for the Minors, Making Good With Phillies

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WADDELL AND RAMSAY REAL LEADERS AMONG CURVE-BALL HEAVERS

Thirty-three Years Ago Louisville Produced Sensation, and Fifteen Seasons Ago the Rube Was Baffling Batsmen—Modern Pitchers Trail

IN THE SPOTLIGHT—BY GRANTLAND RICE. Copyright, 1919, all rights reserved.

THE "curve ball," writes a contemporary, "has made phenomenal strides in the last few years—sufficient to astonish the old pitchers of ten or twenty years ago, who believed they had developed the curve completely." This sounds logical enough. But while it may cover freak varieties of curves, it doesn't cover the real art of curve pitching.

We have not yet reached the advanced age where we believe that the dim and musty past had it all over the present.

BUT for all that, the past developed at least two pitchers who had a better curve ball than any man carries in the game today. And by a healthy margin.

Tom Toad Ramsay

THIRTY-THREE years ago—in the campaign of 1886—the Louisville club had a southpaw who carried a curve ball that has never been equaled. His name was Tom Toad Ramsay. Ramsay made no pretense toward condition. Training was apart from his philosophy. But for all that he had a curve ball that broke faster and deeper than the modern game can show.

Ramsay was almost unkillable. In 1886 he fanned 496 men, more than 150 beyond the best record of Walter Johnson and Grover Cleveland Alexander. Old-timers will tell you that Ramsay's curve broke so steeply and at such speed that even the great sluggers of that time were tied up in true fovea's knots, helpless and bewildered.

The next year Ramsay, facing Cleveland under the four-strike rule, fanned seventeen men in one game—a record equal to twenty-two or twenty-three strikeouts at the three-strike pace.

Ramsay's career lasted only a comparatively short period, as lack of condition soon dropped him from the main arena.

BUT any man who knows a curve will tell you this ancient bird had a curve that was curve, plus.

George Edward Waddell

AND then, in the way of curve-ball pitchers, there was George Edward Waddell, the renowned and eminent Rube. The Rube was at his best around 1904—a matter of fifteen years ago. He could start a curve ball for a batsman's head and drop it among his shoestrings, while the baffled athlete was swinging in vain to connect.

Waddell had a curve that was sheer, sharp and bewildering. When he unfurled that deep hook at full speed he had the best batsmen in the game floundering like young amateurs.

We've seen batsmen such as Nap Lajoie, Elmer Flick and many of the keen-eyed wonders of that day helpless before the magic of the mighty Rube. In 1904 he fanned 343 men, working at irregular intervals when the lure of fishing or serving snags across the bar was not upon him.

AND in 1907, after he had been released by Connie Mack, he turned upon his old club, working with St. Louis, and struck out seven men with that back-breaking deep hook which helped to make him famous.

Modern Curves

THE Knuckle Ball of Summers, the Emery Ball of Russ Ford, the Shine Ball of Eddie Cicotte—the last few years have brought out a great variety of new curves, but the main line is either pointing the ball, nicking it with the finger nail or roughing its surface with emery or sandpaper.

There is no great trick in this art of curving. The outside substance turns the trick.

But the curve balls of Ramsay and Waddell were the natural product, the result of big hands, powerful wrists and enormous leverage in fingers, wrist and forearm—leverage mixed with a certain resilience of muscles that carried a tremendous snap.

Ferdinand Schupp, of the Giants, has one of these natural dips that breaks when he is in shape. In fact, McGraw says that Schupp has the best curve he ever saw.

TO BACK this up he shows the record of some few years back, where Schupp was harder to scare off than Walter Johnson's or Alexander's best season found them in.

IN THE way of sheer speed, we've heard old-timers mention a few who had something on Walter Johnson. But we've never believed one of them yet.

THOSE German pege delegates who brought their golf clubs to Versailles very likely will find more bunkers, hazards, traps and pits in the peace terms than they ever could hope to play out in several years.

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

THE Gayety boxing tourney is on again. Dozens of boys can trace their start to the amateur sessions staged at the Gayety and these tourneys did much to keep the game alive.

The late Joe Tully, Battling Murray, Battling Leonard and many other stars donned the gloves there for the first time.

Walter Schlichter is in charge of the tourney. The bouts will be held on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The first show was held last night.

The wind-up at the Atlantic Sporting Club tonight will feature Jimmy Walsh and Jack Russo. Mealy has faced the headlines and will meet Joe Torres and Jimmy Hughes against the good boys. Mealy insists he is a professional and will not fight for money. Jack Russo and Jimmy Hughes will be the main attraction.

Max Williamson will receive his second chance against Battling Leonard when he meets the conqueror of Ed Moore at the Empire A. C. tonight. Promoter Nate Smith will present Little Red and Jimmy Ryan against the good boys. Mealy insists he is a professional and will not fight for money. Jack Russo and Jimmy Hughes will be the main attraction.

Jimmy Burns will send Andy Harns, of Kensington, and Bill Brennan, of Philadelphia, to the Cambria wind-up tomorrow night. This will be Calender's last wind-up. Joe Torres and Jimmy Hughes will be the main attraction.

K. O. Joe O'Donnell never has a chance to rest anything easy. All he is assigned to do is to fight for the national title. He is the hard-hitting Jimmy Murray, of New York, who has won the national title. He is the hard-hitting Jimmy Murray, of New York, who has won the national title.

Low Tandler and Cal Delaney will do the currying at the Olympia Monday night. Delaney long ago asked for this tender meeting and after the showing against Joe Phillips he proved he was the goods. Joe Tully and Packer Hummer meet in the semi-final.

Nate—Jimmy Liggett states that he fought in New Bedford under the name of Jack Blackburn. Liggett insists that it was George Ward who rushed along to no substitute duty. "Never lost a fight in my life" is in print of my name, explains Liggett.

A special wire from the coast this morning confirmed the report that Jess Willard has returned to the States. He is expected to arrive in Philadelphia on May 10. He is expected to arrive in Philadelphia on May 10.

The annual season will be opened officially with the staging of the Low Tandler game on May 10. The game will be held at the Olympia and will be followed by a few days later with his opponent at the Phillies' park.

Joe Fox will be seen at the Atlantic City Sporting Club on a week from tonight. His opponent has not been named. Joe Fox will be seen at the Atlantic City Sporting Club on a week from tonight.

Yesterday Dr. George W. Wintner announced that he was going to visit the Willard-Dempsey battle via the "Hermit" train. He is expected to arrive in Philadelphia on May 10. He is expected to arrive in Philadelphia on May 10.

Joe Phillips and Frankie Conifrey will close in the Empire on Monday night. Promoter Nate Smith has not completed the arrangements for the fight. Joe Phillips and Frankie Conifrey will close in the Empire on Monday night.

Almer Wilder isn't challenged for a fight. He is expected to arrive in Philadelphia on May 10. He is expected to arrive in Philadelphia on May 10.

