

IT HAS BEEN JUST ONE DAY OFF AFTER ANOTHER FOR THE BALL PLAYERS THIS SEASON

NUMEROUS POSTPONED GAMES THIS SEASON WILL CAUSE TROUBLE

Virtually One-Third of Scheduled Contests in Big Leagues This Year Have Been Called Off—140-Game Program a Failure, Magnates Insist

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL, Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

IT IS beginning to look as if some one pulled a bone when the 140-game schedule was adopted by the major leagues this year. Instead of sidestepping the spring rains and cold weather in starting one week later, the clubs have stepped into everything, including snow, and in seventeen playing days forty-one games have been postponed. This is an unusually big average, and the end is not yet.

Baseball magnates are very much peeved and already have voted the shortened season a failure. The financial end of it is all right, but they can see no value in breaking away from the 154 games which constituted the playing season in the past.

"Next year when the league meets," said a club owner the other day, "I am going to vote for an early opening and late ending of the season. We would have been better off this year had we adopted the 1918 schedule; but we wanted to experiment, and this is the result. We have had the worst weather in years, and I cannot see any use in trying 140 games again. In fact, I will be willing to vote to open the season late in March."

With almost one-third of the scheduled games postponed already, a big list of double-headers is on the docket for the future. Just how they will be taken care of remains to be seen, but it might be a good plan to play single games on off days and also work them in on the eleven Sunday games scheduled for New York and Brooklyn. Another stunt would be to extend the season in the fall, when the races may be close and the fans are aroused over the possible entrants in the world series.

AT ANY rate, the short schedule has proved miserably and even the managers are entering strenuous kicks. The players, too, are sure because of the two weeks' pay they are losing. The pointing is unanimous.

1918 Hitting Sensations Have Slumped

SEVERAL slugging stars stepped into the limelight last year and capped lists of laurels swinging the big war club. Exceptionally large swatting averages were piled up, and when the dope for this season's race was unworked the 1918 figures figured prominently in the musings. Some of the stars have hit according to form, but the majority have fallen by the wayside.

For example take young Southworth, who was looted so strenuously by Charlie Wiermuller last year and came through with an average of .345 for the season. During the winter he was hailed as a wonder, and Barney Dreyfuss almost jumped the dock when he learned the youth intended to jump the league. Southworth was given a big increase in salary when he signed the 1919 papers and started to play left field when the season started.

Then came the big surprise. The leading sock artist of 1918 acted like a blind man at the plate and was canned after compiling the heavy average of .071. Imagine a guy like that making only one hit out of forty-seven times at bat! There was only one thing for Hugo Bezdek to do, and he did it. The tinware was shined up, attached to Southworth and now he is resting on the bench. If he recovers his batting eye he will mingle with his playmates in the ball game—but not until then.

Others, however, are showing great form. Eddie Sicking, our new infielder, boosted his average 127 points since joining the Phils. Larry Doyle also is going good, adding 91 points to last week's mark. Cy Williams is the real leader of the league and also is the champion home-run hitter with three to his credit. Gavy Cravath is clouting more than .500.

WHITEY WITT and Eddie Foster went with hard luck in the last couple of days, slipping up on a prolonged hitting streak. Whitey had connected safely with a single or two in every game this year until Shaveley stepped him, and Foster hit the dust up in Boston Thursday, against Sam Jones's offerings.

Those White Sox Have Surprised

ONE of the biggest surprises of this early season has been the work of the Chicago White Sox. Instead of dropping into a comfortable spot in the second division as was freely predicted, the gentlemen working for Kid Gleason started to win ball games and now are leading the league. Gleason did not have the best team in the world on the training trip. There was a weak spot in the outfield, the infield was uncertain with Fred McMullin on the absent list and the pitchers looked terrible. Faber was called a has-been, Cicotte was counted out because of his age and the others did not measure up to the big league standard.

But the kid put in some extra hard links, started working on his fingers and got results. Cicotte has won four games in a row. Faber grabbed two and Lefty Williams won three out of four. A youngster named Kerr also broke into the victory column, while Danforth was trimmed the first game he started. Everything looks sweet and rosy in the Windy City and the spirit of the White Sox has made the American League race more interesting.

Speaking of pitchers, Scott Perry has started on another losing streak, dropping three in a row; but the big fellow is not worrying. Last year he lost nine in a row, but recovered in midseason and turned in a flock of victories. Dick Rudolph, considered one of the best pitchers in the National League, has been beaten in the four games he has started.

Hank Gowdy Now With Braves

HANK GOWDY, hero of baseball, joined the Braves at the Majestic today, and there is much joy in the camp of the visitors. The big catcher went to his home in Columbus, O., for a long vacation, but the bump work done by the team in the early games evidently caused him to change his mind and get back on the job sooner than he anticipated. He will not appear in the regular line-up until next Tuesday, when the Tribe opens with St. Louis.

With Gowdy in the fold, Stallings will have four catchers on the payroll. Hank is sure of a job and so is Art Wilson, so it looks as if John Henry or Walter Treggerson soon would depart on the long journey.

WITH the losing streak broken, Boston is confident of annexing some games here. Poor weather has affected the pitchers, but Jack Shatters says they are vauding into shape.

IT'S funny how times have changed. Two years ago a guy would have been arrested had he predicted that two alien teams would be playing in 1919, with Alexander in the box. Bill Killefer behind the bat and Dode Paskert playing center field for one side and Pat Moran on the coaching lines of the other. Yet that very thing happened in Chicago yesterday, when Cincinnati defeated the Cubs 1 to 0 in Alex's first start. Baseball surely is a funny game.

ACCORDING to advices from Toledo, the probable scene of the Willard-Dempsey championship bout on July 4, no individual promoters outside of Tex Rickard are in any way connected with the scrap. It is a municipal affair, with the city of Toledo assisting as much as possible to make the fight a success. No one expects to make a penny out of it and a certain percentage of the receipts will be turned over to charity. It is said that the money taken in at boxing shows this winter has been used to take care of the poorer classes and free ice and free coal funds have been established. This looks like a good way to regulate boxing.

GEORGE YOUNG, who was baseball editor of the Public Ledger for twenty years before entering the theatrical game a few months ago, has been promoted to the position of resident manager of Keith's and assistant to Harry T. Jordan.



WILLIAMS TOPS NATIONAL WITH .465; JOE GEDON'S .485 HIGH IN AMERICAN

Phillies Slugger Sets Fast Pace in Nine Games; Sicking Has Mark of .400; Pfeffer and Fisher Top Pitchers

Cy Williams, of the Phillies, is setting a dizzy pace for other National League hitters to follow. The elongated flycatcher of the Phils has clubbed his way to the top, with an average of .465 for nine games, in which he has made twenty hits out of forty-three times at bat.

Next to Williams in the batting derby comes Ross Young, McGraw's sterling outfielder. Young is only a step back of Williams, with a mark of .402.

Gabby Cravath, of the Phils, who is slated to be traded to the Braves, has put together a batting average that looks like a fielding mark, but he has clubbed the shish-ig in the face of opposing pitching on only twelve occasions. Cravath's record shows .583, he having registered seven hits out of twelve times at bat.

Sicking, the latest addition to the battle array of the Combs club, has clubbed the old apple at a .400 clip for seven games, six of which were played with the Giants.

The Giants is the best hitting club in the league. McGraw's sluggers have a team average of .310. In this department the Phils are third, with .271.

Jeff Pfeffer and Ray Fisher are the leaders of hurlers. Each has won four decisions without a defeat thus far. Pfeffer's fourth victory was scored over the Phils on Thursday and Fisher rounded out his quartet by defeating Elmer and the Cubs yesterday. These victories were turned in since the averages were compiled.

The National League batting and pitching averages, including games pitched Wednesday, follow:

Table with columns for National League and American League, including individual batting and pitching records for various players like Williams, Gedon, Sicking, Pfeffer, Fisher, etc.

BUDD TO PLAY INDIANA

The E. G. Budd Baseball team will play the Indiana C. C. this afternoon on the home field at Twenty-ninth and Somerset and after their fourteen-inning victory over Marshall E. Smith are sure of winning another at the expense of Indiana.

The line-up contains some of the best minor league players in the city and the Budd is out after the city championship.

THREE OF LAST NINE BOUTS WON IN LESS THAN 12 ROUNDS

Average Length of Heavyweight Title Combat Has Been Seventeen Rounds. With Johnson-Willard (26) Longest, and Jeffries-Fitzsimmons (8) Shortest

IN THE SPOTLIGHT—BY GRANTLAND RICE (Copyright, 1919. All rights reserved)

Some Ancient Advice If you'd like to seek a pipkin with a fine display of force, Keep your orb upon the pill; If you'd like to have both distance and direction down the course, Keep your orb upon the pill; If you'd like to see a mashie or a brassie shot career— If you'd like to thump a loobal to the middle of the green— If you'd ever care to qualify among the First Sixteen— Clamp your lamp upon the pill.

The Championship Route WHAT is the average championship route among the heavyweights? From the Sullivan-Corbett affair through the Willard-Johnson melee there have been nine championships of note—nine that were held to be test arrangements. These nine battles were built around Sullivan, Corbett, Fitzsimmons, Jeffries, Sharkey, Johnson and Willard.

The longest battle was twenty-six rounds between Johnson and Willard; the shortest was eight rounds between Jeffries and Fitzsimmons; the sum total of the nine combats was 155, an average of seventeen rounds to the meeting. Only three of the nine fights have been decided under twelve rounds.

THE championship route is certainly longer than this distance where the two are evenly matched, or fairly close to it.

The Twelve-Round Distance IN THE meanwhile a vast number of words will be employed to show whether the twelve-round distance will favor Willard or Dempsey.

It has been argued that Willard is a slow starter and that Dempsey may pile up a big lead over the shorter route before the champion gets going. On the other side of the partition it may be argued that Willard is no longer teaming with youth, and that the younger Dempsey would have a far better chance wearing the older man down as Willard did Johnson before letting the knockout.

These details can be argued back and forth until the debaters are blue around the gills, without arriving at a definite conclusion. You can take your pick in advance.

FOR both men have supporters who are confident their entry will fuddle the padding out of the other fellow before the twelfth stanza is ever reached.

THE drop from belonging to a conquering army down to the Boston Braves may be something of a dip. But in spite of this we believe Hank Gowdy will be able to stand up under the shock and draw the difference between a sergeant's salary and a catcher's pay check.

THERE is an outside chance, too, that Sherrod Smith would just as soon pitch three or four hours a week as to officiate eight hours a day as an M. P. in France.

The Difference When clerks, within some store or bank, May make an error, more than rank, The boss, perhaps, may call them down With harsh words or scowl or frown.

But harsh words, don't rise and shout 'Come on and take this bronch out!'

Few Loafers on Moran's Reds PAT MORAN may have no intention of winning a pennant, but he plans to annoy a few people who had picked Redland out for a soft spot along the right of way. Pat is not only a great man handling pitchers, but you rarely see one of his ball clubs loading. A club of this type always will get somewhere, even if the talent involved isn't quite as lofty as it might be.

Cincinnati has spent the vast bulk of its career in the second division. Once in a while she has popped in among the first four, but not often enough to call for any comment.

IF MORAN can keep his clan around third or fourth place they should get him to denude up the next game treaty and arrange the next table of contents for the league of nations.

The Sorrow-Maker The putt that stops two inches shy Leaves leaves within the roughest eye.

IN THE meantime George Stallings would like to get into sudden communication with the author of that ringing phrase, "You can't keep a good man down."

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

JOHN MURRAY, the sensational New York bantam, who was the first to put the slide under Frankie Clark, will be a windup entertainer at the National A. A. tonight. K. O. Joe O'Donnell, the slugging Gloucester bantam, will oppose the Gotham lad.

Battling Murray and Bobby Doyle, resting flyweights, should supply an interesting session when they come together in the third bout. This will be their fourth meeting. Each has a win and a loss in the third meeting was a draw.

Dick Griffin takes on Frankie Daly in the third battle. The other bouts will be together Joe Marks and George McMahon and Tony Friend and George Brown.

Cal Delaney will be here Monday night in the hope of breaking the winning streak of Mike Connors when they come together in the sixth round. Delaney proved in his six-round battle with Joe Phillips that he is a regular hitter.

Joe Tiptitz and Packy Hommey will be the featured attraction at the Olympic stadium on Monday night. Tiptitz will be the challenger and Joe Jackson will be the defending champion. The bout will be the first of the season.

At the Atlantic City Sporting Club Thursday night Preston Brown, colored featherweight, and Eddie Moroney, colored flyweight, faces Jackie Moore in the semi-final. The other bouts are: Kid Wolfe vs. Jimmy Menzies and Joe Stanley vs. Frankie Hooper.

Following Tiptitz's meeting with Cal Delaney Monday night he will journey to Wilkes-Barre where he takes on Al Murphy. Tiptitz will be the challenger and Murphy will be the defending champion. The bout will be the first of the season.

Three more appointments have been announced that they plan to make the "Herman Taylor special" in the Willard-Dempsey battle. The bouts are: Charles Hesh, Leon Rain and Ernest Jambor are the latest added to the list.

According to Nick Hayes, the National wind-up one week from tonight will bring together Jack Britton, the world's featherweight champion, and Steve Lattson, Britton's challenger. The bout will be the first of the season.

Jack Sharkey and Abe Friedman will be the Olympic wind-up act on the night of...

Max Williamson, the recent bantam headliner, now wants to take on Pete Herman. Williamson has engaged in three hard battles during the last ten days and now feels so well satisfied with his own ability that he wants the champions.

Southern Tossers Surprise Fans by League Victory, 10 to 5 For the second time this season Central High lost its baseball game with Southern High, being defeated on Houston Field by the score of 10 to 5. The weather was cold and windy.

National League Park Phillies vs. Boston "Braves" Seats at Gimble's and Spalding's

C. O. L. E. G. B. A. S. E. H. A. I. L. Philadelphia vs. Pennsylvania—Today, 3 P. M. Princeton Field, 33rd & Locust Sts. Also Track Meet. Pennsylvania Freshmen vs. Cornell, at 1 P. M. Spring Football Practice at 1:30. Pennsylvania vs. New York, at 7:30 P. M. at Gimble's and A. A. Offices.

NATIONAL A. A. SAT. NIGHT Tony Friend vs. George Brown Joe Marks vs. Andy McLaughlin Bobby Doyle vs. Battling Murray Frankie Daly vs. Dick Griffin Johnny Murray vs. K. O. Joe O'Donnell

Olympia A. A. Broad and Bainbridge Monday Night, MAY 12TH Clement vs. Frankie Kline Williams vs. Pennsylvania—Today, 3 P. M. Princeton Field, 33rd & Locust Sts. Also Track Meet. Pennsylvania Freshmen vs. Cornell, at 1 P. M. Spring Football Practice at 1:30. Pennsylvania vs. New York, at 7:30 P. M. at Gimble's and A. A. Offices.

Joe Tiptitz vs. Packy Hommey Low Tandler vs. Cal Delaney

Summer Boxing Tournament OPEN TO ALL—JUNE 25th and 27th Local Watchmen—John—Boeing Gloves Boxing Shoes 1st and 3rd Prizes PHILA. JACK O'BRIEN'S 8, E. Cor. 15th & Chestnut—Open All Year

POINT BREEZE PARK Phila.'s Wonderland—John Komic, May 10 Grand Opening, Sat'dy, May 10 GATTI AND HIS BAND