

ALEXANDER AGREES WITH THE LATEST AVERAGES IN THAT CRAVATH IS A KING OF SWAT

ALEX GETS PRESENT, THEN GETS WALLOPED FOR THIRD DEFEAT

Premier Pitcher Is Beaten by Phils When Cravath Soaks Single, Double and Triple—Sicking Hurt, but Eppa Rixey Signs Contract

IT ISN'T considered very good form to look a gift horse in the mouth, nor is it clubby to hang a jinx on a guy because he happens to be remembered by some of his admirers and handed a gold-headed cane, a silk umbrella, a floral horseshoe and other customary presents on the ball field.

Yesterday Grover Cleveland Alexander was presented with the floral horseshoe and a cluster of forget-me-nots and performed according to Hoyle. As a receipt he received a fusillade of base blows—ten in number—and a flock of misplaced runs—totaling seven. In addition, he was given permission to take his shower bath early in the afternoon, when he and his flowers left the field at the end of the fifth inning.

Alex pitched his first game against the Phils and was walloped unmercifully. The big boy had speed and his control was so perfect that his pitches cut the heart of the platter. Those were ideal for clouting purposes and the home-town boys surely soaked the pill.

The final score was 7 to 2, but that wasn't the only victory scored at Broad and Huntingdon streets. While Alex was getting his bumps, President William F. Baker was talking business to big Eppa Rixey and signed the huge hurler to a contract. Mr. Baker did not hesitate over the salary question, but allowed Eppa to write his own ticket.

Eddie Sicking, however, was lost to the team for a few days when he twisted his ankle in the third inning. The injury is not serious, but he will be out of the game for a few days. Whitted will play second and Pearce short until he recovers.

BUT the real highlight of the notable victory was the work of George Smith, recently obtained from the Giants. George pitched a swell game and showed he was a twister of clubs. He had splendid control, a fast-breaking curve and lots of speed.

George Whitted surprised the fans when he got away with the job at second base. The captain did not fool a single grounder and acted like a regular player. Against St. Louis last Sunday he made four errors; but that was last Sunday. He has improved greatly since then. George was an infielder when he broke into the fast set, and should be able to hold down the keystone job until Sicking recovers.

The Cubs do not look so formidable as we were led to believe. There is lots of room for improvement and Mitchell will have to step some to top the pennant. Incidentally, Chicago was shoved out of fifth place by our Phils—something entirely unexpected. The home team might not be so bad after all.

PRESIDENT BAKER was all smiles after the game. He had signed Rixey, his club had won from Alexander and Smith introduced himself as a regular on the mound. He was satisfied with the \$50,000 sale.

Cicotte and Faber Keep White Sox in Front

GLANCE over the big league averages discloses two perfectly logical reasons for the present social standing in the American League derby. They are Urban Faber and Eddie Cicotte, classy hurlers of 1917 who started the universe with sensational come-backs this year. Faber has won all four games he has pitched this year and Cicotte's mark is six victories and one defeat.

Lefty Williams also is assisting Kid Gleason, his victory over New York on Thursday being the fifth of the season. He has lost but two contests. Elmer Jacobs is the leading hurler of the Phils, but the real strength is in the walloping abilities of the outfielders. Cravath is breezing along at a .531 clip. Cy Williams is clouting .394 and Irish Meusel has a mauling mark of .370.

Eddie Sicking is the best whacker in the infield with .313. McGraw pulled the biggest bone of his career when he allowed Eddie to drift away from the Polo Grounds.

Jack Coombs is getting the hitting, and if a couple of high-class pitchers are uncovered he need not worry about the future.

On the other mitt, let's consider the A's. With Perry staggering along under six straight defeats and the other pitchers going bad, we have a perfectly good argument to spring when Connie's club is discussed. Then take the hitting. Whitney Witt tops the list with .343, and next in line is George Burns with .275. Bobby Roth, regarded as a leading slugger, has compiled a healthy average of .263. Walker is trailing with .158. Koop .148 and Thomas .140.

THE A's are absolutely last in team batting, the players are making many mistakes and how can Connie win under those conditions? He can't.

This Ford Springs a Watch Yarn

W FRED FORD, prominent clubman and ex-journalist, takes his pen in hand to dash off the following:

Elmer Smith, Penn's kid quarter-miler, has done something no other runner ever has done. He also has a great assortment of gold watches to prove it.

As a schoolboy at Boston High School he won a high school relay championship and a Penn relay watch. Next he ran for Merceburg and won the prep school title and another gold watch. As a freshman at Penn he got his third timepiece, winning the freshman relay. This year he was on the winning varsity team and got another gold watch.

Smith, therefore, has won every mile relay watch a runner can capture, and established a record which never can be beaten and I doubt even equaled.

THE late John B. Taylor won for Brown Prep, Central High and Penn varsity, there being no freshman races in his time. Ted Meredith won only prep school and varsity chronometers.

Alex and Killefer Boost Moran Day

ROVER CLEVELAND ALEXANDER and Bill Killefer are ardent boosters for Pat Moran.

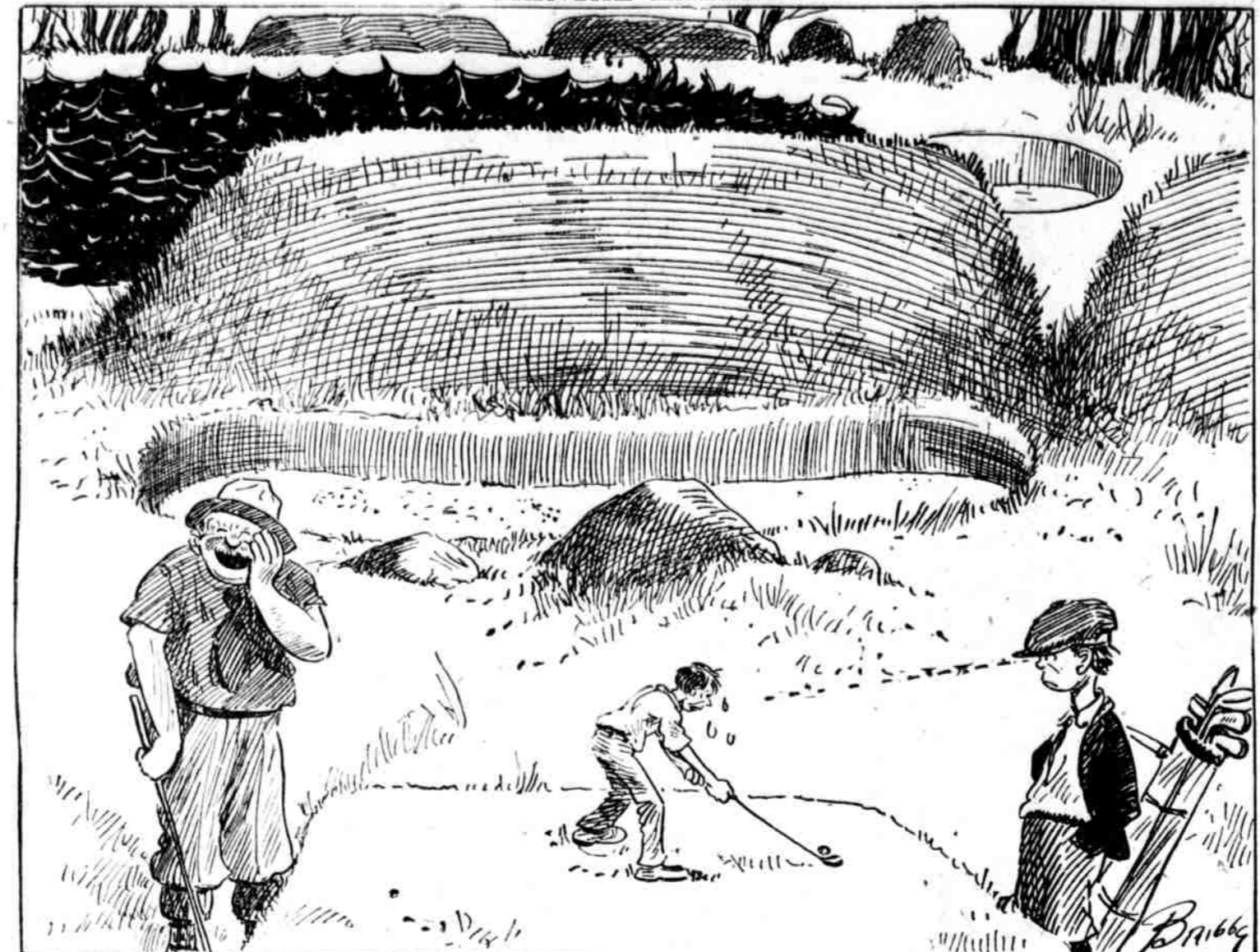
Here's hoping Pat Moran Day will be a big success on Monday," said Alex yesterday, as he donated \$5 to the fund to purchase a present for the Cincinnati manager.

Same here," said Killefer, and he, too, donated a like amount.

Dodgers Sign Collegian

Brooklyn, May 24.—President Ebbets of the Brooklyn club, announced yesterday that he had signed Lester V. Burdette, a pitcher of the Pennsylvania College of Podiatry.

MENTAL HAZARD



Club Batting Averages in American League table with columns for Club, G, AB, R, H, SR, P.C.

GAVVY CRAVATH AND WAMBSGANSS LEADERS

Cleveland Infielder Displaces Jackson in American League Batting With .407 Philadelphia Slugger Continues to Set National League Pace With Rating of .531

WATSON RELEASED BY THE ATHLETICS

Connie Mack Dissatisfied With Youngster's Showing—Sent to Baltimore

OTHER PLAYERS MAY GO

By EDWIN J. POLLOCK

Special Staff Correspondent Traveling With the Athletics

Cleveland, O., May 24.—The lean leader has turned lean lumberman, Connie Mack is applying the ax. The blade has fallen on John Watson, one of the A's lords of youthful pitchers.

John said his farewell to the members of the Mack family today and left this afternoon for New York, where he will join Jack Dunn's Baltimore club in time to be used, if wanted, in the International League game in Jersey City tomorrow.

Looked Good Last Year

Last season Watson looked like a good pitcher and won a few games for Mack during the 1918 campaign. His showing this year, however, has been a disappointment. Connie believes that a season with Dunn will help him immensely and that next year he may be back in the big show.

Watson started three games for the A's this year. His first exhibition was against the Senators in Washington. The Griffins got to him so hard in the sixth that Mack took him out when the score was tied, and Lefty Anderson, who is now with Louisville, finished the game and got credit for the win.

Lost Three Games

John made his next start against the Yankees in New York, and was handed the good-by in the second after the New Yorkers had pounded him for a pair of markers. He hurried against Washington in Philadelphia and dropped the decision there.

His only work in the West was confined to three innings as a relief pitcher in St. Louis. Watson is the second Mackman to leave the squad since the A's started west. The other was Jimmy Dykes, the Main Line infielder, who is now playing with Charley Folan's Atlanta club.

Three New Players

Despite the fact that two have left the club, there will be three more members in the clan when the homeward-bound journey begins, than when the young men went west.

Lee Fohl, manager of the Indians, also had the release spirit yesterday. He let out Joe Engel, also a pitcher. Engel, a Washington University player, is without any strings attached by the Washington club last winter and Fohl signed him. He developed a sore arm this year and has been of no value to the Indians. Engel is angling for a job in the Pacific Coast League.

Penn Wins Lacrosse Game

Harrisburg, N. Y., May 24.—Pennsylvania and Syracuse Universities played their lacrosse game here yesterday on a field that was covered with water to nearly every part and prevented spectacular play. Penn won, registering 2 goals to 1.

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Halifax Cup Competition Starts Today, With Two Matches Scheduled

INTERSTATE GAMES LISTED

There will be some real cricket in this section again this season, for the Associated Cricket Clubs of Philadelphia have declared their intention to revive the Halifax Cup Competition on the same scale as heretofore, which ought to bring a few veterans in line once more.

The season officially will be ushered in this afternoon if the crasses are in good enough condition after yesterday's showers. Two matches are on today's card, Philadelphia Cricket Club meeting Frankford at St. Martin's, while Germantown Cricket travels out to Havertown to play Merion Cricket Club.

Cricket still remains an attractive feature to certain sections of Philadelphia, though its popularity is nothing near so great as it was a decade or two ago. Those who remain, however, pursue diligently the even tenor of their way and make the most of present opportunities.

There also will be two matches in the Interstate Cricket League today, Richard Baxter meeting Robin Hood, while Centennial plays Tenyson.

BINGLES AND BUNGLES

It might have been Alexander Day yesterday, but 8000 fans and Alex himself thought otherwise.

There should head line: "Cravath's Hitting Wins Game," standing in type.

After George Smith's performance against the Cubs, John Jay Moran may be expected to act as a doubleheader. Also notice the Cubs in sixth place and still sinking. They are down out of the eight games they played in the East.

To set at rest all arguments as to the number of defeats administered to the Phils in the Bronx derby, it is understood that he has been beaten three and not four occasions. Hendrix, and not Alex, was charged with a Brooklyn defeat.

After seeing those Phils Roy Alex yesterday, how considerate the Phils were to give him a chance to perform for Jack Coombs incidentally. The clouted southerner grew heavier chasing the Phils. He put on at least twenty-five pounds.

"Some years ago, when I was young," said the guy in the brown derby, "I remember the day when Gaby Cravath didn't get a hit."

The "bird" who signed Alexander and Killefer yesterday was a slicker at that. "He knew what was coming to the club battery."

Ed Sicking, who was clouting the ball at a .512 clip and playing a smart game for the Phils at short yesterday, was a slicker at that. He knew what was coming to the club battery.

Gaby Cravath was not the only Phil who had a perfect hitting day against the Phils at short yesterday. He also walked once in three trips to the plate during the five-inning administration of Alex.

Yesterday's hit was the first appearance of Alexander at the Phils' Park since the second round of a doubleheader with the Phils which rounded out the season's sixth victory for him on October 5, 1917. That Phil Alexander beat the Phils by a count of 5 to 2.

Months by H. J. Cressman and Art Ebbets, who were in the crowd on Oct. 5, 1917, and were in the crowd on Oct. 5, 1917.

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EXPERTS NOW CLAIM TO HAVE DISCOVERED TY COBB'S SUCCESSOR

Ross, Young, Giants' Youthful Sensational Outfielder, Said to Be More Finished Player Than Tyrus and Speaker When They Broke Into Majors

IN THE SPOTLIGHT—BY GRANTLAND RICE

A Number of Things

The Latest Star

The Stardom Interval

IF ISN'T at all unlikely that he will not only lead his league this season, but that he will at last lift the National League up to the high standard set by Cobb or Speaker.

SPECTACULAR stars emerge at rare intervals. Cobb flashed in 1905, Speaker and Johnson in 1908, Alexander in 1911 and Sleser in 1915. Now we have Young popping out in 1918, with a strong chance that Hollocher also will hold the heights.

IN the last ten years, out of the thousands who have slogged along the highway, only three or four outstanding stars have lifted their noble domes above the throng.

THOSE German delegates who brought their golf clubs to Versailles must have been annoyed at the injunction, "Replace the Divots." They had been tearing up French turf for four years without replacing anything.

"KEEP your eye on the ball" applies to baseball as well as golf. Many an entry has remained a .210 hitter because he insisted upon shifting his orb from the ball on its way to the plate.

BACK in March and April the Giants looked to have a fine club, with a rickety pitching staff. After which, fine pitching held them up and sent them to the front. Such is the sprightly dog, always and forever.

Impossible Discoveries

ASWELL HEAD who has anything while to cause the inflation. A golfer who can be beaten minus either an ailment or the worst of the luck.

Revision

SO FAR, Willard hasn't given out any interview to the effect that he also cracked his left ankle and his right kneecap in either the Johnson or the Moran battles. But there are still a matter of six weeks left.

WE HAVEN'T the flabby statistics at hand, but we are willing to wager a mark against a centime that Washington has made fewer runs on the average back of Walter Johnson than any of the star pitchers ever carried, including Mathewson, Walsh, Waddell and Alexander.

SCHAFFER ESTIMATE \$3000

Famous Comedian, However, Failed to Leave a Will

Chicago, May 24.—Herman W. (Victory) Schaffer, comedian of the baseball field, left an estate of \$3000 according to a petition for letters of administration filed by his sister, Mrs. Margaret Hawley. It was stated today that Schaffer left no will his estate will be divided among his sister and four other relatives.

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