KID GLEASON COMES BACK TO PHILA. AS BIG LEAGUE PILOT

It Took Charles Comiskey to Find That Famous Diamond Hero Had the Managerial Qualities to Keep White Sox in the Race

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

KID GLEASON will be honored at Shibe Park this afternoon. The scrappy nanager of the Chicago White Sox will open a short series with our A's, and for the first time in his thirty-five years of baseball we will have a chance

to look him over as a regular manager. Gleason has been a player, captain and assistant manager, but Comiskey is the first man to place him in entire charge of a big league club.

The Kid has made good this year. Taking the same line-up which finished down in the race last year, he instilled a little fight and spirit, got off to a flying start and now is up ir the race, battling for the lead. He sprang a big surprise when the pitching staff was turned loose, and before the other clubs realized it many victories were piled up. Eddie Cicotte. considered a has-been last year, has won eleven and lost one; Lefty Williams came through with eight victories and four defeats, and Red Faber has a count of five and three. The pitchers have helped win most of the conflicts, but the slugging outfield also

Gleason is a Philadelphian and once played with the Phils. He started as a pitcher, but soon discov-

ered be was a better infielder. He has many friends here and today will be presented with some sort of a gift before the game stare. Herman Taylor has received healthy contributions from many admirers and will have change of the douating party. John Smith, chairman of the New Jersey Boxing Commission, has been asked to deliver the principal address.

KID GLEASON

THE White Sox will play only three games, leaving here on Tues-

Phillies' Team Batting Average Is Misleading

YOU never can tell the standing of a ball club in the pennant derby by taking a look at the official batting averages. It is said that figures never lie, but in the case of our Phils the figures certainly would put one on the wrong trail. A stranger, seeing the team batting and runs scored for the first time, would imagine the men of Coombs were climbing through the roof of the league instead of trying to bore a hole through the bottom.

The Phils are second in club batting, second in the scoring of runs and second in the total number of base hits. That dope can be found in the official batting averages, but it's a different story in the won and lost column. In that department the home folks are in seventh place and can't go any lower because Boston has the 1919 rights and privileges to the cellar.

Coombs has a mystery ball club this year. It should be up in the race. but it isn't. Instead of seventh, it should be third or fourth, because the men are hitting the ball, scoring many runs and doing everything except winning games. The Giants, who are leading the league, have spiked the pan 186 times in the 1919 season. The Phils have spiked it 183 times-only three less. In swatting base hits the locals have connected safely 365 times, Brooklyn being first with 396. This dope is all out of proportion and it surely looks strange and unusual

A ball club must register base hits and drive in runs in order to win games. The Phils are doing that very thing, but are not, winning. Three men-Cravath, Williams and Meusel-are among the first ten leading sluggers. Gavvy topping the list with .431. Williams is hitting .331 and Irish Meusel has compiled a mark of .308. In addition, Fred Luderus has taken a big brace and now has an average of .207, and Jack Adams is .291

There are five men hitting over .200, but another freakish angle is the scoring of runs. Cravath has registered twenty-three times, Meusel twentythree and Cy Williams twenty-five.

The present losing streak is due in a great measure to the absence of Bancroft and Sicking. These infielders were injured, Banny sutaining a broken leg and Sicking a sprained ankle. The infield has been shot to pieces, the players have lost confidence and that probably is the answer. Whitted is doing well at second base, but he is not a good infielder. Many hits get by bim at critical times and his throwing is not of the best. When Banny and Sicking come back the Phils will do the same thing-but not until then.

ALL of which goes to show that you never can tell in baseball. It is an uncertain game, the dope ofttimes goes flooie, but it is that uncertainty Chich makes it interesting.

Connie Proves He's Patient Plugger

ON THE other mitt, consider the A's. Connie's clan is firmly intrenched in the cellar, evidently believing that is the proper and most popular place after July 1, and rehearsing for a long stay.

Connie is a patient plugger, but must feel discouraged over the work of his hired men. They are not consistent in anything except losing. They play swell ball for six or seven innings, then hit the skids and don't recover until the other guys have scored enough runs to win. They perpetrate childish boners, foozle miserably on easy chances and just can't get going.

Bobby Roth has come through and now is slugging .324. He is going good now and should keep it up all season. Whitey Witt, the sensation of the league this year, maintains a high average and is among the larruping leaders with 329. But when you mention those gents you are through. The other players are down in the list, George Burns trailing with only .241. Tilly Walker is hitting .217, Perkins .205, Thomas .180 and McAvoy .136. Dugan is only .223 and Shannon .259.

With poor hitting like that the A's have no license to win. Only two men onn deliver the punch and it takes more than two to win ball games. Walker should be up around .300, Burns is a better batter than his average shows and if he regains his batting eye the club will improve.

But Connie needs a hard-hitting infielder and is on the job in search of Mack will stop at nothing to improve his team. He signed Barrus to play first base if necessary, dragged Harry Davis and Pat Livingstone out of retirement to assist in developing the squad and swapped Grover to Washington for Thompson, a left-handed flinger.

TWO more good hitters and a dependable pitcher will lead the Ath-letics out of the dismal swamp.

Rickard Now Must Select the Referee

THEY are passing the buck in the referee question at Toledo. The army and navy board of boxing control has sidestepped the issue, and instead f naming an arbiter to work in the Willard-Dempsey affair has submitted a list of names to Rickard, and Tex must do the picking himself.

Therefore, it can be safely assumed that the third man will not be named for at least two weeks. Rickard knows the value of publicity and there will he about twenty candidates extolled in the newspapers throughout the country, which will not displease the promoter. Our guess is that the matter will be placed in the hands of Governor Cox in a short time and the Ohio executive more than likely to name Matt Hinkel.

THAT SILLIEST FEELING



CRAVATH AND COBB STILL LEAD MAJORS; WITT AND ROTH WELL ABOVE .300 MARK

Phillies' Slugging Outfielder Only National Leaguer Hitting Better Than .400

PHILS HITTING HARD



LEADS PHILS IN HITS "Cy" Williams, whose forty-eight safeties top Coombsmen in number

OTHER big leaguers continue to slip, but there is one boy who just keeps whaling away consistently enough to maintain the pace-setting job in the National League. This is Charles (Cactus) Cravath. Despite a loss of nineteen points the veteran Phillie outfielder is miles ahead of his nearest foe with a rating of .431.

Cy Williams picked up six points, but

his gain was offset by the skidding of Meusel who has fallen from .333 to .308. Luderus is moving slowly toward the select, now being within three points

of the .300 mark. The averages, including the games layed Wednesday, follow: INDIVIDUAL BATTING Cady. Phils.
Magee. Brooklyn.
Sicking. Phils.
Hollocher. Chl.
Hath. Cin.
Smith. St. Louis.
Froeckel. Pitts.
Miller. St. Louis.
Maranville. Boston
Paulette. St. I.
Terry Pittsburgh.
Powell. Boston
Chase. New York
Malone. Prooklyn.
Schultz. St. Louis.
Creuser. Brooklyn.
Schultz. St. Louis.
Ageec.

Club Batting Averages in National League

Causey's Eight Straight Keep Young Giant Twirler in Lead in National

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cicotte's Eleven Wins and One Defeat Keep Veteran in American League Lead

AMERICAN LEAGUE Pitcher, Club Thor'shien, N. Y. 5
Nelson, N. Y. 2
Cicotte, Chicago. 11
Ruth, Boaton. 4
Quina, New York. 6
Gailla, St. Louis. 6
James, Boston. 3
Morton, Cleveland 5
Shocker St. Louis 5
Shawkey, N. Y. 5
Williams, Chicago 8
Seibold, Athletics, 2
Kerr, Chicago. 2 0 1.000
1 000
1 000
1 000
1 750
2 7750
7750
7750
2 7714
4 667
1 667
1 667
3 625
3 625
2 600
5 500
2 500
2 500
7 447
7 364
4 333
2 383
2 383
5 286
6 143
6 1143
7 125
7 000
8 000
8 000
8 000
8 000
8 000 Mays. Boston Wellman, St. L., Jones. Boston Shore. New York Russell, New York Harper, Wash. Johnson, Athletics Boland, Detroit

AMATEUR BASEBALL NOTES

The Auburn A. C. wants to hear from all

Veach Giving Ty Close Race for Batting Honors in American League

MACKS WEAK AT BAT



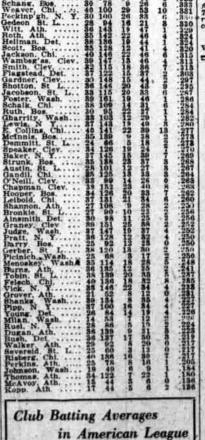
IMPROVES STICK SCORE Witt made a gain of 35 points in American League batting and leads Mack maulers *

THERE is more evidence that the attack alone is not sufficient to keep a team on top. Cobb and Veach, with ratings of .355 and .351, respectively, are one-two in American League batting, but the Tigers are not in the lead. This is another argument in favor of the

Whitey Witt and Bobby Roth, of the Mackmen, now are safely over the top. Whitey nailed the old sphere for a thirty-five-point gain, which is a con-siderable advance for any one. Roth started his dashing drive two weeks ago. His work last week was good enough to register a seven-point gain.

The averages, including the game

played Wednesday, follow: INDIVIDUAL BATTING



CLEVELAND ORIGINAL HOME FOR HARD LUCK TEAMS IN BASEBALL

With Strongest Club in League in 1904, 1905 and 1908. Forest City Entries Were Crippled in Stretch and Lost Out in Pennant Chase

> IN THE SPORTLIGHT—BY GRANTLAND RICE Copyright, 1919, All rights res

ONE of the main events of sporting note this season will be Cleveland's Ostruggle to reach and hold the top of the American League race.

This Citadel of Swat has been more harassed by unseemly fortune than any other big league township in the U. S. A., with the possible exception of

CLEVELAND'S unkempt luck has been even worse than Cincinonati's, for the former city has produced more great clubs that looked to have a chance before the grenade went off and the battleas

A Few Examples

THEY will tell you that luck is only a small part of the fray. How about Cleveland? In 1904 or 1905 Cleveland had a ball club capable of rumpling the rest of the league into a shapeless mass. The club had six or seven .300 hitters, led by Lajoie, with Joss, Moore, Bernhard and Hess pitching won-

Around this date in June, and even later on, Cleveland was 113 points ahead of the field, taking it in a romp. And then, late in June, Lajole was spiked and put out for the season with blood poison. Other accidents followed, and within six weeks the club was in fourth place.

The next year everything again looked as rosy as a June sunrise. A This time there were eight .300 hitters, with a cluster of good pitching. Out in front again, Clarke, Bemis, Stovall, Lajoie, Bradley, Turner, Bay, Joss and Moore-nine stars-were disabled within two weeks, and once more the club

CATCHERS, pitchers, infielders and outfielders dropped out-some of them for weeks and others for the entire year.

More of It

THIS is only a part of the story. In 1908 Cleveland had another great club. That year the finish was nip and tuck among Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit

St. Louis slipped first in the last week. Then with three games to play, Cleveland had her chance. This chance swung on one close decision that meant victory or defeat, which meant, in turn, winning or losing a pennant. Cleveland fans will swear the play was not even close. At any rate, it was given against them and Cleveland failed again.

LAST year Cleveland had a ball club coming at every bound. But with a fine chance to overtake the Red Sox the season was shortened just as the Indians were sweeping to the front, and they were nipped

Battle With Fate

So CLEVELAND always has felt that she had a battle against Fate as well as against the other seven contenders. If it hasn't been one thing it always

has been another. This season Lee Fohl has presented another strong club. He has shown an attack that has made more hits and scored more runs than any other

He has plenty of good pitching around, a strong defensive infield and a fine outfield, with Speaker still at his best. If Fate will let him alone he has a club that should be 1-2. But only recently Harris, his star first baseman, en route home from France, was badly injured and may never play again.

THAT was no soft blow in itself. But it hasn't been a crippling one, A and if Fate only lays off Cleveland again has a first-class chance.

Luck and the Game

THERE have been various and widespread estimates as to the part that We have had managers tell us it ran as high as 40 or 50 per cent. Others,

notably Connie Mack, put it far lower.

One might figure that luck would break fairly even over a season's span.

But it doesn't in the matter of accidents or injuries. If a club has one or twa stars hurt there is no possible way to replace this lost talent, as stars are entirely too scarce.

umpiring probably will even up in spite of the loud and raucous squawks of the infuriated athletes.

So will such breaks as long drives that barely fall fair or foul. But injuries, accidents and sickness are different matters.

IN THIS respect Cleveland and New York, in the American League, have suffered worse than any others, and the result is that neither

has ever won a pennant with all the stars they have tossed out upon the field.

BINGLES AND BUNGLES

wild pitched the Tigers to their the season over the Yanks. clan got down to a four-out four New York singers

Maine Trackmen Honor Pratt

You'll Prefer It FLOR DE 10° and ALLEN R CRESSMAN

ATT is a good referee and has powerful boiling in the state of