

BRANCH RICKEY IS PAYING NO STOCK IN REPORT HE IS TO SELL MILTON STOCK TO GIANTS

ATHLETICS PUT ON A. M. AND P. M. ACTS FOR CORRESPONDENT

Poor Weather Conditions Fail to Put Damper on Mackmen, Who Hold Heavy Practice at Lake Charles. Twenty-eight Players Answer Rollcall

THE 1920 baseball season was officially opened for your correspondent yesterday with two separate and distinct performances. The contesting club was none other than our highly touted Mackian Athletics, who got away with a pair of monologues in the morning and afternoon, which is slang for a. m. and p. m. We have learned through careful research work and close questioning that our noble Athletics have been right here in this town for more than a week, but that has nothing to do with the official opening of the season for your correspondent. That is our story and we will stick to it.

But this is not a slam at the weather. The Lake Charlesians are proud of the climate down here and the oldest inhabitant will tell you it was the coldest day they have had in thirty years. Ordinarily, the climate is wonderful, but this is something out of the ordinary. We are penning these lines because of a social error perpetrated last night. We asked an innocent bystander who happened to be a native if he thought it would rain or snow.

THE five missing persons are George Burns, Tilly Walker, Frank Welsh, Wingo and Roy Moore, the left-handed pitcher. They are expected here this week and then will start the hard work. Connie has a job on his hands to select the varsity out of such good material.

The lean leader is overlooking no bets, however, and with Danny Murphy, his able assistant, he is putting every man through the paces. Nobody has his job cinched. He has got to go out and win it, proving he is the better man. That makes the practices more interesting.

Up to this year Connie always has been up against it for pitchers. He usually had one or two who could deliver, but the others would stub their toes and fall by the wayside. This year it seems different. There are an even dozen twirlers toiling on the mound, and it would not be at all surprising if one-half of them made good.

Scott Perry is back on the job and the big boy is working his head off. He said he made a mistake last year when he jumped to Franklin, Pa., and is glad to be back again. He has forgotten that escapade, made peace with Connie, signed a good contract and looks like a world-beater. No man on the field works harder than the mammoth moundman, and he should be a great help to the club this season. Naylor also is showing up well. He has gained in weight and seems stronger.

Pat Martin, who was purchased from Binghamton last year, has every appearance of a stellar southpaw. Patrick has had lots of experience to mix in with his twisters, and Connie thinks well of him. Walter Kinney, his portside partner, also looks promising.

STILL, you never can tell what will happen to a finger after the season starts. They all look good at this time of year, when they are out there all alone and with no competition. They may be morning glories which bloom in the spring, or they may be flowers which have been discovered in the training camps, but this time it would not be at all surprising if the dope was crossed.

THAT'S how Harris broke into the limelight, and unless we miss our guess he should be a great performer. His control is good, for in looking up his record last year it was discovered that he did not walk many batters. If the strong arm continues to de-clap, Connie will have a pretty sweet pitching staff with which to start the season.

Varsity and Scrub Nines Hold Infield Drills THE infield practice yesterday was snappy. There are two of these things—the varsity and the scrub. For the varsity, Griffin plays first, Joe Dugan second, Galloway short and Brazil third. Burrus is the initial sacker for the second stringers, Jimmy Dekes second, Robert E. McCann, a Philadelphia boy who used to play at West Philadelphia High and Brown Prep, is at short and Fred Thomas at third.

Griffin looks like a real player and should stick around for some time. It reminds one of Stuffy McInnis, and Stuffy is no slouch when it comes to first-basing. Dugan looks second base better than short and will stay there. Galloway is fast, fields well and, although he can't be called a slugger at the plate, his defensive work more than makes up for his weak hitting.

Third base probably will be a problem. Brazil looks good now, but you never can tell. Thomas always was a great fielder, but his poor stick work will be held against him. Perhaps Connie will have to call Whitesy Witt from the outfield and place him on the far corner.

Captain Amos Strunk has been playing center field, with Witt in left. George Burns probably will be used in right, for Connie wants to utilize his hitting. Still, there are others to be considered, like Tilly Walker, Welsh, Wingo, George McKnew and Charley High. It will be hard to eliminate Walker, but it looks that way now.

The Athletics are satisfied with conditions here and cannot say too much for the town. The citizens have welcomed them with open arms and cannot do too much for them. The ball park was built over again, a new locker room installed and every day workmen are improving the playing field. The Athletics are the guests of the town and are having a nice time.

THE first real ball game between the varsity and the scrubs will be held on Thursday. That should give Connie a line on the players, or whatever he gets on them.

SPORTS AMONG AMATEURS

The Twentieth Century Club, of Germantown, after a year's absence from the baseball diamond, will again be represented this season with a fast semi-professional nine. The team will be under the leadership of Edwin N. Ritter, who for the last five years has devoted himself to handling the well-known First Dutch team of this city. Citizens solicited with such teams as Christ Church A. A., Logan A. A., Pitman, David Lupton A. A., Lansdale or any other teams of the same caliber. For game dates and other information, contact address Edwin N. Ritter, 2407 North Park avenue.

The Boston Reds, champions of the junior baseball championship of Kensington, have just won their second consecutive title, offering fair guarantees. Walter Mills, 3128 E. street.

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AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'?



NAP LAJOIE WISHED ON PHILS IN 1896

Al Reach Had to Take Frenchman to Get Phil Geier, Star Pitcher

Table with columns for Philadelphia Phillies and Washington Nationals. Rows list players like Dick Coffey, William Hallen, Ed Delahanty, Al Schehn, and Nap Lajoie with statistics for AB, R, H, E, etc.

IN midseason of 1896 Al Reach, president of the Phillies, sent Scott Nash up to the Fall River club to get Phil Geier, a pitcher. Nash asked Charles Marston, owner of the Fall River team, what he'd like for him. "I won't sell Geier alone," replied Marston. "But you can have Geier and Lajoie for \$15,000."

THE Philadelphia Phillies have a new pitcher in the lineup, one of the game's greatest sluggers, as good measure in an deal for a pitcher who soon faded out. King Larry broke in on August 12, 1896. Lajoie had played mostly in the outfield at Fall River, but Billy Shettsline, who then directed the team, placed the young slugger on first base.

Larry in his first major league game got only one single in five times at bat against Win Mercer, the Washington pitcher. He handled ten chances in the field without an error. Only Eddie Collins has the right to challenge Larry's claim to being the greatest of all second basemen, and the only thing Eddie had on King Larry was speed.

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SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

THERE is an ambition in everybody's life—especially that of a boxer. Johnny Dundee is a mittman who has a pair of ambitious. Of course, the Italian wants to be the champion of his division; that is natural with all fist flingers. Dundee's other ambition is to become a registered big league and reputed promoter. The frisky lightweight is trying to procure a permit from officials of the Sixth Regiment Armory, Orange, N. J., for the purpose of conducting boxing there. Dundee now is an inhabitant in the Orange Mountains.

THE main mix was won by Hank McGovern, who was too strong for Bobby Doyle, of New York. McGovern forced the Gotham lad to clinch at every opportunity. Hank won all the way. Joe Marks put on a brilliant battle in winning from Johnny Martin. The former looks like a class performer, and his new manager, Bill Silverman, expects to get the bigger bout for Marks in the future.

THE full show of the Olympics for St. Paul's will be held at the Olympic Club, Madison St., Philadelphia, on Monday night, March 17. In one of the bouts Dave Astey will face Joe Angelo. An effort is being made to match Johnny Kilkenny with Frank Lightfoot for the National's March 17. In one of the bouts Dave Astey will face Joe Angelo.

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KELLY QUILTS, SO SECONDS SOCK HIM

Just because See-saw Kelly, high diver, decided that Carl Herz, a clever negro boxer from Boston, had given him sufficient punishment in three rounds, quitting cold when the bell sounded for the fourth, his seconds became peeved, enraged and sore at the Auditorium last night. So Kelly got a lot more scallops, the socks coming from his handlers.

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LEOPOLD GETS BIG JOB ON "ALL" FIVE

LEOPOLD at Center Although South Philadelphia High's aggregation worked together like a machine throughout the season, during the first half with Benny Dessen and Lebo Goldblatt in the line-up, and even with them after they graduated, but one player stands out prominently as a first team's choice. He is Billy Leopold, captain of the championship team. Leopold not only played the floor splendidly, but he also was a good shot from amid and from the foul line as well. He stands second for individual points scored and leads for the number of two-pointers caged. Thornton, of Central, put on a swell game after the graduation of Goldstein, and he is given the job on the second five.

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Leader of South Phila. High's Championship Team Selected as Center and Captain of Mythical Scholastic Team—Patton and Young for Forwards

Evening Public Ledger's Selections of All-Scholastic Basketball Teams

Table showing basketball team selections. Columns: First Team, Positions, Second Team. Rows list players like Patton, West Phila., Young, West Phila., Leopold, South Phila., etc.

By PAUL PREP SOUTH Philadelphia High School's basketball team performed the wonderful feat of not only winning the 1919-20 interscholastic league championships for first and second teams, but also of going through the entire team schedule in their respective circuits undefeated. With the finish of the season's league championship, both Central and Northeast, show clean slates, with winning averages of 1000 each.

It was rather a coincidence for all three winning teams yesterday to pile up scores of 39 points in each case. South Philadelphia High and Northeast, both defeating West Phila., Germantown High and Frankford, respectively, the latter aggregations totaling 34, 21 and 27.

For an reason whatever an All-Scholastic team usually is selected at the finish of all school league competitions, all of which brings a mythical basketball five into the limelight at this time.

Although South Philadelphia High's aggregation worked together like a machine throughout the season, during the first half with Benny Dessen and Lebo Goldblatt in the line-up, and even with them after they graduated, but one player stands out prominently as a first team's choice. He is Billy Leopold, captain of the championship team.

Leopold not only played the floor splendidly, but he also was a good shot from amid and from the foul line as well. He stands second for individual points scored and leads for the number of two-pointers caged. Thornton, of Central, put on a swell game after the graduation of Goldstein, and he is given the job on the second five.

Looking over the field of forwards, Patton and Young, West Philadelphia, get the nod. This pair has played well together it would appear they would be virtually lost if separated. It was mainly through the excellent showing of Patton and Young that West Philadelphia was able to finish the season in the runner-up position.

Other forwards who played brilliantly during the first half and who would have to be taken seriously for all-scholastic selection had they been in the league in the last five games were Goldblatt and Fischer, of Central. Fischer, of Central, was able to finish the season in the runner-up position.

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Harris, despite his snubness, also is worthy of mention among the crack forwards. Although this led, whose first name is Barney, weighs but 65 pounds, he got into the game with the bigger McGuckin, of West Phila., who being on the go from whistle to whistle. Almost throughout the latter part of the schedule Tom set the pace for scoring until the very last game, when Lebr and Leopold beat him out.

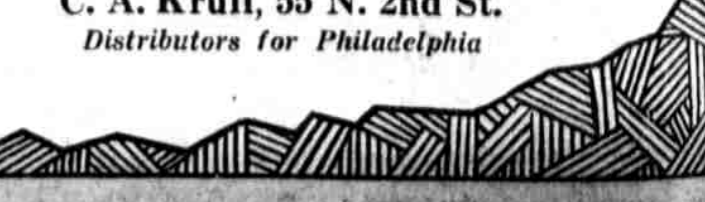
Bobby Aaronson, of Central, gets the nod for the other guard position. Although somewhat awkward, Bob would make an ideal mate for O'Brien. Aaronson proved himself one of the hardest working guards in the circuit. Often Bobby's great defensiveness staved off more frequent scoring by the opposi-

Table titled 'Final Standings of Teams in Interscholastic League'. Columns: Team, Won, Lost, P.P.T. Rows list South Philadelphia High, West Philadelphia High, etc.

Table titled 'Individual Scoring'. Columns: Player, P.P.T., P.F., F.T. Rows list Lebr, Frankford, Leopold, South Phila., etc.

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