

SCRANTON AND THE EASTERN LEAGUE RACE.

Sketches of the Prospective Players and Comment on the Club's Chances in the Struggle. Something of Interest for Non-Cranks.



JAMES MAGUIRE, Third Base.

BRIEF SKETCHES OF THE PLAYERS

Whatever kind of a practice season collection of players this city has had in past years, there is a rare selection to choose from this year from among 95 stock which played for Scranton or in other professional company or with semi-professional and amateur clubs. Their pictures and records are given on this page.

Manager M. H. McDermott possesses a record as a pennant winner that has not been excelled and is equaled only by Anson, of Chicago, and Seale, of Boston. The feat of the three was in managing clubs which won pennants for three consecutive seasons. McDermott's record was made with the Fall Rivers of the New England League. He is but thirty-four years old and was born and raised in the Massachusetts town whose club he managed into the three successive championships. In addition to his experience as a manager, McDermott has had the benefit of a long experience as a player, which gave him a valuable insight into and practical knowledge of the game. When 20 years of age he began his career as a player and pitched for the following clubs: 1874, Milwaukee; 1875, Newburyport, Mass.; 1876, Poughkeepsie; 1877-8, Manchester, N. H.; 1879, Auburn, N. Y.; and Louisville, 1880, Jersey City. In 1881 he found his arm was weak and he took a year's rest, and in 1882 pitched for Jacksonville, Ill. He managed the Fall River champions during 1893, 1894 and 1895. He strictly abstains from the use of tobacco and intoxicants and carefully watches the use of narcotics and stimulants by his players. His peculiar success as a winning manager has been attributed to his good judgment and



FRANK G. WARD, Second Base.

practical methods rather than to "systems" or theoretical playing.

Pat Meaney was last year probably the most popular player on the team. He ranked ninth in the league in hitting, was fourth in fielding among thirty-six outfielders and can pitch a winning game if not used too frequently in the box. Notwithstanding his value, he was somewhat missed by the National league draft. He was purchased from Harrisburg with Peter Eagan and Huston on June 13 of last year. Meaney's success with Scranton did not serve to make him vain; on the contrary, he remained the same modest, clever and honest little player as before, and this department probably accounts for his great popularity. He will be played in the outfield and put into the box in any emergency. Meaney's home is in Philadelphia.

Frank G. Ward, second baseman, was one of the unique characters of the '95 team, but, what is better, he ranked second among the Eastern league batsmen at the close of the first half of the season and stood sixth when the season ended. Considering the many trials of Scranton's players last year Ward's batting record is better, comparatively, than that of the players who excelled him with the stick. For the same reason his fielding rank as sixth among the fourteen second basemen is a very creditable showing. He knows every trick and subtlety of the game, but has never been accused of being vicious. He will weigh about 155 pounds in mid-season, but is one of the fastest men in the business on the bases and under a fashion that brings delight to the rooster. As a coacher he is equalled only by Tommy Johnson. Ward was born thirty-one years ago in Chambersburg, Pa., and in his youth was a railroad brakeman. His present home is in Altoona, where during the winters he works in a produce market. He played first base for



E. L. BRADLEY, Right Field.

Johnstown in 1887 and later played at second as follows: Shenandoah and Allentown, 1888; New Orleans, 1889; Galveston and Spokane, 1890; Sacramento and Minneapolis, 1891; Milwaukee and Baltimore, 1892. In 1893 he played right field for Baltimore and Cincinnati and in 1894 he covered second base for Washington.

Thos. G. Johnson is one of Scranton's '95 pitchers, and one who is relied upon to do much of the team's most effective box work this year. He had a fielding rank of ninth among thirty of the Eastern league twirlers and in batting ranked above twelve of the thirty. He vies with Ward for coaching honors and when on the lines is a terror to nervous pitchers. He is one of the young contingent, but gave such promise last year that Chicago and Pittsburg flashed for him during the middle of the season. He was born and raised in San Francisco, where he works at his trade of boiler-making during the winter. He pitched the shortest nine-inning game on record for Oakland against San Francisco in 1893; the score was 1-0 in favor of Oakland and lasted only forty-three minutes. He pitched for the Marinettes of the Wisconsin league in 1892; for the Salems (Oregon), 1893; for the Lincoln (Neb.), 1894.

Richard P. Brown, of Baltimore, is one of the eight pitching candidates who is certain of being retained. Last season he had a misunderstanding with Baltimore and took a leave to go into the Cumberland Valley league, where he pitched marvelous ball for Chambersburg. Brown is a left-hander and was born twenty-four years ago in Baltimore and in 1892 and 1893 occupied a regular position in the pitching department of the Orioles. He is speedy and has a choice assortment of curves. It is believed that he will prove one of the most effective of this year's contingent of Eastern league pitchers.

John Horner has been so certainly selected for the pitching corps which will begin with the season's opening that his season opens that he will not ac-



RICHARD P. BROWN, Pitcher.

company the team on the practice trip, but will be left in Scranton with Brown to get in good physical condition. He was a Baltimore experiment during a practice season of last year and "farmed" to Atlanta, of the Southern league. That club won the championship and Horner was purchased by McDermott from Baltimore. He is said to be one of the most promising pitchers of last year's minor league corps. Atlanta is his home. He ranked ninth among twenty-five pitchers and had a batting average of .273 in the Southern league.

Pete Eagan, last year's left fielder, will probably be retained. He is one of the quietest men in the business, is fast in the field and on the bases and last



JOHN HORNER, Pitcher.

year had a batting average of .304. He lives in West Troy.

Edward Rafferty caught last year for Governorsville, in the New York State league. He was the best backstop in that league and is said to have throwing and hitting ability which will make him a valuable man to Scranton.

Charles H. Flack, right fielder, ranked eighteenth among forty fielders in the New England league last year. His batting average was .263. He played with Lowell in 1893 and with Portland in 1894. From his practice work here it might be reasonably inferred that he stands a fair chance of an engagement.

John Hess, Scranton's backstop, will be especially valuable because of his hitting. It has been incorrectly stated

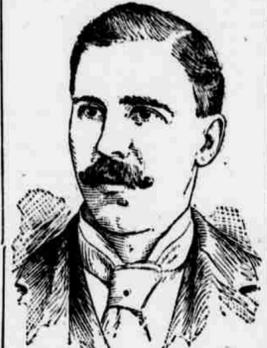


JOHN HESS, Catcher.

that his arm is gone. During his several weeks of recent outdoor and indoor practice he has given no indication of such weakness; on the contrary he appears destined to be one of the strongest players on the team. He had a conditional contract with Carbondale last year or Scranton would not have been able to obtain him. He ranked third in the State league in hitting and was third in fielding among the catchers.

A. M. Stemmell, pitcher, had his first professional engagement last year with Chambersburg, of the Cumberland Valley league. In Monday's game with the Young Men's Christian association there was nothing to indicate that his chances for being retained were not favorable. The opposite was really the case. He is a fast runner and is said to hit better than the average pitcher. His home is in Woodsborough, Md.

Pierce Chiles, who has been signed as an extra infielder, will be played on first base if Power fails to materialize.



WILLIAM HELLER, Shortstop.

struggle against being lost. It was almost as generally predicted that Scranton was, on paper, about the weakest club of the eight. Leaving Scranton out of the consideration The Tribune has contended that Toronto instead of Buffalo should be included among the four popularly supposed winners. Of Scranton's chances we prefer not to give any definite opinion until the regular season has opened. From the individual records of the men we see no reason for placing Scranton below the average quality of the eight clubs. Including Power, who has not yet signed, McDermott will have twenty men including eight pitchers to choose from at the close of two weeks of practice. Now, if it is found in exhibition games that most of the unassigned players are suited for only one or two positions and the other places in the field have to go begging for occupants, then it would be reasonable to view Scranton's chances as unfavorable. But if the candidates fit certain unfilled positions, then the team can be judged favorably and compared with the others according to relative team work and team strength. To make the point plainer, Scranton's prospects are bright if there are positions for the present apparently good material, but if the men are assigned positions for which they are not suited the result cannot be satisfactory.

There are two important conditions in Scranton's favor. Base ball players the country over are known to do phenomenal work for a manager who they

George W. Getts, of Waterloo, Ind., is a semi-professional pitcher. Little or nothing is known of his ability, although on Monday he pitched five innings for the Young Men's Christian association against his professional brethren and did well, considering he had not had a day's training or practice.

Edward Sweeney, of Brooklyn, who has been signed as an extra infielder, is a well-known quantity. He played semi-professional ball last season with the Bay Ridge team of the City of Churches, and among the amateurs was considered a fast shortstop, and a fair hitter.

John Cronin, of West New Brighton, Staten Island, is one of the coteries of trial pitchers. He was with the Brooklynians for two months last year and was then released. He pitched for semi-professional clubs during the remainder of the season. Cronin is a strapping, pleasured fellow and is touted to be handy with the stick.

James Maguire, who has been signed for third base, seems likely to be permanently engaged, in that position last year for Amsterville, of the New York State league, he outranked all of his competitors in fielding and was a noted slugger. Trenton, N. J., is his home.

Dan Mullarkey last year pitched for semi-professional teams in Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. His home is Cold Spring, O.

William Heller, of Fort Wayne, Ind., last year in the Michigan league, had his first professional experience. He made good fielding and hitting averages and showed himself to be active and speedy.

Edward Herr, a candidate for pitching honors, is also a one-year professional. He pitched last season with the Norwalks of the Virginia league. St.



EDWARD HERR, Pitcher.

Louis is his home. He is a large man and a good stickler.

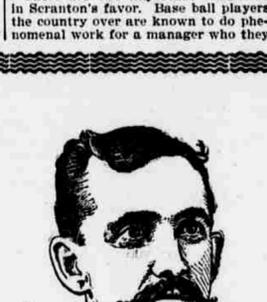
E. L. Bradley last year played right field for the Richmond champions of the Virginia league. His home is in that city.



WILLIAM HELLER, Shortstop.

There are four candidates for the outfield, Mooney, Eagan, Bradley and Flack. Mooney is certain to be chosen and Eagan's chances for left field seem good. In any event a choice among Eagan, Bradley and Flack for the two outfield vacancies would not be a mistake, as they are all fast and sure.

The club seems bound to be especially strong in its pitching department. So much has been written of Johnson, Brown and Horner, who will positively begin the regular season, that further comment is unnecessary. One, and possibly two other, twirlers will be selected from among Stemmell, Herr, Cronin and Getts.



M. H. McDERMOTT, Manager.

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There are two important conditions in Scranton's favor. Base ball players the country over are known to do phenomenal work for a manager who they

believe is a winner and in whom they have confidence; and the same results are obtained in cases where the financial backing is ill-considered and the players have the best of care and treatment. Manager McDermott before coming to Scranton was manager of the Fall Rivers, of the New England league, which club has won the championship three consecutive seasons, and the Scranton owners are business and moneyed men whose reputation is more than local. Under such encouraging surroundings, the moral is self-suggestive.

For first base Power is sadly needed, not so much on account of the position itself, but owing to the absence of any man who would make a fighting captain. The players themselves want a leader who will fight for victory up to the last of the ninth inning, and Power is just that kind of a half-pun. He is quibbling for more salary than has been offered him, but it is predicted that he will be seen in the first championship game. However, if it should happen that he fails to come to terms, Chiles will play the position. He could do it well as far as hitting and the duties of the position are concerned, but he does not compare with Power in base ball knowledge and in the qualities which make a successful captain.

Ward will play second. Combining his hitting, base running and fielding, he was easily the leading second baseman in the league last year.

For third or short, Maguire, Heller and Sweeney, and possibly Chiles, are candidates. It looks as though Maguire would be chosen for the position and that the other rests between Chiles and Heller.



JOHN CRONIN, Pitcher.

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THE LEAGUE'S OTHER CLUBS

Of the other clubs in the league, Syracuse and Toronto have been in practice for ten days; Rochester, Buffalo,



EDWARD RAFFERTY, Catcher.

Springfield and Providence began in earnest on Monday; Wilkes-Barre is ready. Scranton opens in New Haven tomorrow.

No little interest has been attached to the work of Syracuse; not that Kuntzsch's team was any more entitled to consideration than the others, but owing to the ballooning that has been given the club by the baseball writers of Syracuse and other cities. This was in part due to the presence on the team of First Baseman Carey who played with Baltimore last year, and Third Baseman Charlie Helly who was with the Phillies. It was predicted that the club would be the fastest in fielding in the league and if its hitting strength was a little better than ordinary Syracuse would get the pennant without playing for it. For over a week only one victory had been won in the practice games up to Tuesday. The field work has been first class but the batting has been weak. The Syracuse Post says Carey is not as handy with the stick as was Power who has not yet signed his Scranton contract. Excepting Delaney, all of the Syracuse pitchers are unknown quantities.

The Springfield champions were supposed to have been seriously weakened by the loss of four of the best of their number through the national draft, but this view cannot be accepted as positive, excepting the position of third and short. The club's pitching corps is very strong and there is a great advantage in possessing so capable and brainy a manager as Tom Burns. The team's practice schedule is completely filled some other teams to win. He is up to May 1. Manager Burns, in an interview with a correspondent, stated that although he had sold several of his best players, he has got others in sight who are wonders. He further said that his team may not win the pennant, but that he is willing to wager that they will finish no lower than third. Burns expects to attach a string to Gruber, Gilbert and Schaefer.

Providence will have practically the same make-up which made the Grays such a dangerous factor last year. It is denied that Pitcher Eagan has jumped the club or that he will play in the Pennsylvania State league. The other prospective pitchers are Hodson, Red Crane, Knorr, Tuedeman and Friel, a strong contingent which alone influences many in the belief that the club has a chance equally as good as some other teams to win the flag. Joe Knight, Lyons and Murray will compose the strong outfield.



GEORGE W. GETTS, Pitcher.

Buffalo's aggregation is similar to that of Scranton's. The practice season of the Bisons opened with only two of last season's pitchers and five of last year's infield and outfield. Pitchers Wadsworth and Herndon are retained as are Lewie, Bortens, Wise, Frouhart and Field. Manager Rowe will have ten more to choose from, pitchers excepted, when the regular season opens.

Up in Rochester Dan Shannon has gathered around him a lot of baseball candidates whose faces are strange in that city and will play most of the practice games there. He has a bigger collection of tried and untried players than any club in the league and will have quantity if not quality to pick from on May 1.

The Toronto have been playing exhibition games in the western part of the state and winning most of them. The club's former Pittsburghers are proving a splendid balance to the team. Buckenberger has the best of the '95 men and several phenoms under contract and if his pitchers pan out well, the company should be a strong one.

Wilkes-Barre has always been late in getting on its baseball clothes and this is true of this year. Diggins, Earle, Charlie Smith, Bonner, Abe Lezotte, "Pop" Lyttle, "Sandy" Griffin, Luckey and McGroarty are among the club's present material. The absence of it, however, is not serious with such a manager as "Jack" Chapman who has "found" more players on vacation lots than any man in the business. Anon possibly excepted. Chapman has been skrimishing around New York recently and it may be expected that he has procured some good material which has probably been stumbled over by many a manager.

Never before in its history has the league begun a season under more favorable circumstances. Individually, each club has good and lasting financial backing and the spirit of baseball in the eight cities seems to have increased to a great extent. All of this means that there will be none of the disturbances which surrounded the transfer of the Toronto franchise last year and which witnessed the transfer from Troy to Scranton in 1894. In addition, there is no disposition to antagonize President Powers during the playing season. A spirit of independence is all right in its place but works serious consequences if pushed forward in mid-season. Happily, there are no evidences of such a thing just now, and if it exists, it will be suppressed until the proper time and place after the season has ended.

LITTLE NOTES OF THE GAME

Horner and Bradley reached here yesterday afternoon.

President Powers expects to call his umpires together probably at Syracuse and give them thorough instructions as to their duties. Absenting themselves from a scheduled assignment this season without a satisfactory excuse will be considered a disgrace.



T. G. JOHNSON, Pitcher.

Of two evils—pitching ball for \$2,400 or carrying a hod for \$2 a day—Amos Rusie will not be parodic enough to choose the worst.

Base ball has not been dead in Scranton; it has simply been in cold storage. This was proved by the presence of six hundred spectators at Monday's practice game with amateurs.

"Mugsy" McGraw, the Oriole's third baseman, who was stricken with typhoid fever at Atlanta, is said to be improving. He is still at the hospital in that city. McGraw is one of the snappiest players in the business, a fine fielder, a good hitter, and a man who can play the game with his head as well as mechanically. No matter how good Donnelly, his understudy, is, it will require much time to get broken into the clock-work play of the Oriole field.

Catcher Otten, who was dropped by the St. Louis club, is playing a fast game and hitting and is being courted by the Newark club of the Atlantic Association.

During the row at Petersburg, Capt. Robinson, of the Baltimore club, lost his revolver, but did not use it. Nick Young should issue a new order to the



PATRICK MEANEY, Outfielder and Pitcher.

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Comiskey is being commended all over the country for doing away with the candy and peanut vendor nuisance in St. Paul. Other cities will follow suit.

A peculiar play was made at Cincinnati. Miller was on third base and Smith on first. Miller started to walk toward the home plate while the pitcher held the ball. Of course the ball was thrown to third and the Mobile team started in to run Miller down. On the play Smith started to make the circuit, and while some seven or eight members of the Mobile team were engaged in trying to put out Miller, Smith passed third and scored. Eventually Miller succeeded in getting back to third. One pure Sheridan decided that Smith was out, as he had run out of line in passing Miller.

Mark Baldwin's father has purchased the controlling interest in the Auburn, N. Y., base ball club. Mark will manage the team.



EDWARD SWEENEY, Infielder.



CHARLES H. FLACK, Outfielder.

will be Connaught, Van Hultren and Tiernan. Mooking, "Doc" Clark, German and Rusie (if he signs) will do the bulk of the pitching, while Farrell, Wilson and Zearfoss will do the backstopping. Stafford and Fuller will be the "subs." It's a strong combination.

President Powers has a special contract with John Gaffney, the king of umpires, whereby Gaffney is to forfeit three-day's pay for every game he absents himself from without leave.

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DANIEL MULLARKEY, Pitcher.

SCRANTON'S OPPORTUNITIES

The opinions of sporting writers of the Eastern league circuit have not materially changed during the last few weeks. As soon as spring weather opened the newspapers of all the league cities, excepting Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Springfield, began tipping their respective clubs as sure winners. The general opinion was that Syracuse, Providence, Springfield and Buffalo would finish in the first division and that Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Rochester and Toronto would be content to