

The Scranton Base Ball Team, 1897.

SEASON OPENS

APRIL 29.



FRANK BONNER, Second Base.



FRANK BOYD, Catcher.



PATRICK MEANEY, Pitcher.



CHARLES MORSE, Pitcher.



JOHN WALTERS, Center Field.



WILLIAM MASSEY, First Base.



WILLIAM WELLNER, Pitcher.



PETER EAGAN, Left Field.



STANLEY YERKES, Pitcher.



JOHN O'BRIEN, Extra Player.



JOHN O'NEILL, Catcher.



THOMAS GILLON, Pitcher.



JAMES DALY, Right Field.



JAMES MAGUIRE, Third Base.

One fact is worthy of particular notice in looking over the team that will represent Scranton in the Eastern League this year. There is not a position on the field without a candidate who is permanently slated for the place, and there is not among all these players a single one about whom there is any uncertainty regarding his ability to fill a particular position. This statement, of course, excepts a few of the pitchers, but that feature is always found in the early making up of any base ball team.

A further important fact to bear in mind is that the infield has an average batting percentage of .337 per cent, and the outfield an average of .317 per cent. This makes Scranton the heaviest hitting club in the league and is in a large degree responsible for the opinion current throughout the league that the team will finish among the first four clubs.

As to that vital department, the pitchers, there is no occasion for alarm. There are seven of them and of these Harper, Gillon and Morse have been positively selected to begin the season's work. Two more will be chosen from among Meaney, Yerkes, Wellner and Fallon. It is not unreasonable to say that while some other

club has one pitcher perhaps better than the best one on the Scranton team, no club can be said to possess three who will average better than Harper, Gillon and Morse. Scranton will have the benefit of the management of a tried and competent base ball expert—if the word is proper, Manager T. C. Griffin, known throughout base ball as "Big T," is a player himself, and an intelligent, practical business man, and one who has a thorough knowledge of the game and of the details peculiar to his profession. He is a total abstainer from the use of both tobacco and intoxicants and just the man who should command the respect as well as the obedience of his players and encourage them to win.

The team is well fortified with catchers. They are Boyd, O'Neill and Gannon, the latter at present holding out for an extra inducement to sign his contract. He has been offered the salary limit and has no possible chance of playing elsewhere. He must catch for Scranton or not at all.

Boyd has caught for Erie (93), Elmira (94), Buffalo (92), Cleveland and Buffalo (94), Detroit (95), Rochester (96). He owned and managed the Franklin team of the Troy and Ohio league in 1895 until the league's disbandment

in August, when he went with Detroit. Boyd is only 28 years old. He is temperate and well educated. Catcher O'Neill is a Minooka lad and has created such a good impression by his playing that he will be put behind the plate—and without any misgivings—if Gannon fails to report.

Pitcher George Harper is conceded one of the best pitchers in the league. Scranton secured the loan of him a part of last year from Brooklyn, which club bought him from Rochester. His release from Brooklyn was purchased outright by Scranton last winter. He is a quiet, unassuming player, thoroughly conscientious and to a person who doesn't know his profession he might be thought a doctor or lawyer. Tommy Gillon was bought from Rochester last year and was Scranton's most successful pitcher. He is the smallest pitcher in the league, but one of the most strategic and cunning. He is 23 years old and has pitched for Fort Scott, Kan.; Montgomery, Ala.; Nashville, Easton, St. Joseph, Mo.; Memphis and Richmond. Morse pitched for Lewiston, of the New England league, last year. He was signed to the team of the same name in 1895 until the league's disbandment

the base ball world. He is a left-hander and has remarkable speed for a south-winger.

Pat Meaney is too well known in Scranton to need detailed mention. For six or seven years he has played professional base ball, and has been with Scranton since the middle of 1895. He is an outfielder but has pitched with remarkable success at times, and it was intended to have him try for that position this year. He does not want to go in the box, however, and it is not certain that he will be forced to do so as he is a heavy and sure batter and is good trading material. Wellner is another candidate for the box and is looked upon to be successful. He is now nursing a split hand that will keep him out of the game for possibly ten days. He pitched last year for Austin, of the Texas league, and has played with Chattanooga, Mayville, and Miami college. In three games last year for Austin of the Texas league, and has played with Chattanooga, Mayville and Miami college. In three games last year he held clubs down to 4, 2 and 1 hits. The latter was against the Paris team the score standing 4-4 at the end of the seventh inning. Pitcher Yerkes, like Wellner, is a

big tall fellow. He first pitched for Marty Swift in Scranton in 1894. He has pitched for Carbondale, Lancaster and Pawtucket. He is only 25 years old. Fallon, the seventh Scranton pitcher, is a local man on trial. If he is not deemed experienced enough he will be farmed until next spring.

Of Scranton's infield, only First Baseman Massey and Third Baseman Maguire were with the team last year. They and Bonner, second base, and Beard, shortstop, are a quartette of sluggers, who will make it decidedly interesting for opposing pitchers. Beard will captain the team. He was with Rochester last year and stood sixth in hitting in the league, and ranked second among the shortstops. Massey had a hitting percentage of .337, a high rating considering that he joined the club toward the close of the season and after six weeks of idleness, following the disbandment of the Carbondale club of the Pennsylvania league. Bonner had a batting average of .327 with Wilkes-Barre, where he played last year as a farmed Brooklyn player. His release from Brooklyn was purchased along with that of Harper in January. Maguire is a season in a major league was last year

with Scranton. He had previously been in the New York league, and was the only good thing found by McDermott. He batted out .341 per cent, a good showing for a first year outside the smallest of small leagues. His arm is said to be among the best in the business.

Centerfielder Walters has the highest hitting percentage, .374, on the team, but it was made with the New Bedford club of the New England league, not nearly as fast a league as the Eastern, and so Walters' record will hardly stand comparison with that of Rightfielder Daly. The latter hit out .349 per cent, with Rochester in 115 games. Walters has played with several clubs in the old state league and the old cranks remember him well. He is a fleet runner, and a good fielder and these qualifications with his hitting should make him a valuable man. One good trait possessed by Daly is his ability to hit when hits are most needed. He uses good judgment in fielding.

Peter Eagan, with Meaney, been the longest time on the team. It is worth almost the price of a game to see him covering left field territory. He came here from Harrisburg in 1895, and has since then been one of the most reliable play-

ers on the team in his work in the field, on the bases and at bat. His batting average last season was .329.

"Jack" O'Brien is the last, but by no means the least, player to be mentioned. It is doubtful if any club possesses a player who can so successfully fill any position in the outfield and infield, pitcher and catcher excepted. He played with Rochester early last year and finished in 65 games for Scranton, playing first, second and third base, shortstop, centerfield and rightfield. No regular position has been assigned him, but he will be carried as a valuable extra player. O'Brien batted .288 per cent, last season, not so bad for one who was so shifted about.

This is a rather incomplete pencil picture of the club, individually, as it appears on paper. How it can finish a very promising season with so much hitting material and intelligence among the players, and with such competent management and captaincy as Griffin and Beard, respectively, will prove more than can be figured out. There is in addition the satisfaction of working for generous, practical and popular business men, and that, too, is a point in favor of the Scranton club.

JACK O'CONNOR ON THE BATTING ACT

It is a Natural Gift and is Not Acquired.

PRACTICE AMOUNTS TO LITTLE

If a Player Hasn't the Ability to Hit, He Can't Be Made to Hit by All the Coaching on the Planet--Several of O'Connors' Experiences --- If a Player Has a Good Trait He Ought to Nurture It.

Jack O'Connor of the Cleveland club was recently asked: "Is the science of batting natural or is it an acquired art?" "I should say that it is a natural requirement," replied the great player. "I have never known a weak batter to develop into a great slugger, but I have seen great hitters deteriorate through age or from other causes, such as dissipation, failure of the eyesight or injury. I never have seen a miracle worked by which a weak hitter developed into a killer of pitchers."

"Now, I do not mean to say that a player may not improve in batting or that he can not be taught something that will help him. Such is not the case. There are very few of the young players who come up to the big league who have not batting faults that must be corrected. But they are minor ones. The chief qualification of a good hitter are perfect eyesight and what is known to players as a good eye. The term good eye covers the entire case. It not only means good eyesight; it also includes good judgment, proper arm action; in a word, everything that goes to make a good and successful hitter. A good eye tells a man when to hit at a ball and when not to.

"Now, given a man with a good eye you can make a hitter out of him. If you see a young fellow that picks his ball well, that never hits at a ball that is not over the plate and between his shoulder and his knee, you know that he is the possessor of a good eye. If he is not hitting as he should you will know that he has some fault, generally in the position he assumes at the bat.

HIS POSITION WAS BAD.
"When I first joined the big league I was with the Cincinnati Club of the American association. I was accounted a pretty fair hitter in the Western Association where I had played the previous year. Imagine my surprise when one day Frank Pennelly, who at that time was captain of the Cincinnati team, came up and told me that I would have to change my batting position if I proposed to stay with the

club. He said: "Young fellow, you have the making of a great player in you, but you must stand up at the bat and get out after the ball. You crouch too low and you step off to the rear with your right foot instead of stepping off to the front with the left. In other words, you are retreating from the ball instead of going out to meet it with a swing, which has with it all that power of your body."

"I do not think that instructions from a competent man and constant practice would do a player any good unless he has the germ of a good batter in him, and if he has that it will surely be brought out of him when in the National league. Good managers never overlook a bat and a new man holds forth any promise they leave no stone unturned to develop any latent talent he may possess, particularly in a batting line.

"I know men who never will bat any better than they do now if they had all the practice and instruction in the world. Then I have seen many more batting ability without the ravages of time, tobacco and rum for years. I do admit, however, that to be a good hitter a man must practice continually. Good batters like Burkett and Delahanty are always hitting. They have a bat in their hands all the time and whenever they get on the diamond they have somebody pitching to them.

INDIVIDUAL PLAYING.
"I feel, however, that this is a trait of every man who excels in any department of the game. If you are a great pitcher you will want to be pitching all the time. A good fielder will not be satisfied unless he is catching flies and an infielder is eager to dig them up out of the sand. Even good throwers, who ought to save their arms, delight in throwing and take many a chance with their salary wings. So it is all along the line. I have heard that it is the same way in the other lines of business; the excellent men in any department are eager to practice those arts in which they excel.

"Of course there are men like Hughie Jennings who are stars with the willow, Jennings, when he was with Louisville, could not hit a flock of barns. Well, he went over to Louisville, and in a year or two he was one of the greatest hitters in the business. Now, I did not pay any particular attention to Jennings' style when he was with the Colonels, but it is perfection nowadays. He hits clean out with the wrists and cracks the ball through the infield every time.

"On the other hand, there is Tom Brown, of Washington, one of the grandest ball players I know. He is also one of the brightest men in the business. He can play the game all through. As a ball player who has

OPEN GOLF TOURNEY ENDS AT LAKEWOOD

One of the Best Affairs for Hospitality and Management.

GREAT PLAYS BY TYNG AND TOLER

Tyng Is the Morris County and Toler the Baltisrout Champion Toler Defeated in the Finals for the Laurel-in-the-Pines-Cup--Laroque's Consolation Prize and Brown Handicap--Forty-four Cards Returned in the Last Event--The Scores.

Lakewood's three-day open tournament on the Golf club links ended Saturday with the finals in the two cup events and a special handicap. It was one of the best managed affairs ever held at Lakewood, says the New York Sun, and, besides the details of the play, the Golf club made a record in its hospitable treatment of visitors.

The finals for the most important prize, the Laurel-in-the-Pines cup, brought Tyng and Toler together, the sole survivors of the forty-six who finished in the preliminary round on Thursday. Tyng is the Morris county and Toler the Baltisrout champion. They are home-bred golfers, and have for the past year shown the most consistent form of any of the Eastern amateurs, with the possible exception of Penn and W. H. Sands.

Tyng made only one mistake in the match, at the thirteenth hole, of 139 yards. He made it in two the first round, driving with an iron. The wind had increased, so he tried a brassie, but scuffed slightly, going to the left of the green, and overplaying the ball on his approach. Toler was dead for three, and Tyng lifted. When he made this hole in two, Tyng drove within six feet of it, Toler laying him a stimpie, Tyng made a curving put, drawing the face of his club, one of the bent putting clecks, well across the ball and putting it to the left, so that it twisted safely from the stimpie and into the cup. It was a great spectacular stroke.

A BAD STROKE.
He was four-up at the eight hole, and played the odd for five on the ninth, which would have given a record of thirty-seven to him for the round. It was only a two-foot put, but Tyng's ball went past the hole and a foot behind Toler's ball. Tyng's attempt to loft the stimpie overran. Toler won the hole in five, Tyng lifting, but as he was playing it is safe to approximate the home hole for him at seven, making the round thirty-nine.

The loss of the thirteenth hole left Tyng only two up. A long drive, followed by a splendid brassie shot that cleared the bunker, was the feature of Tyng's play for the fourteenth hole. On this and the fifteenth green Toler putted the odd from the edge and was down each time in five, leaving Tyng six-foot puts to halve in each case. Tyng's nerves were tested, but he made the strokes needed without a tremor.

WHO WILL SUCCEED FITZ?

Death of Championship Material in the Pugnistic Field.

Assuming that Fitzsimmons will keep his word and retire from the ring, the interesting question arises: Who is to succeed to the heavy-weight championship of the world? Of course it is doubtful if Fitzsimmons can successfully resist the temptation to enter the ring again, but with Fitzsimmons out there are no coming men. If Maher and Sharkey were to make the match they have been talking about the winner might deserve a right with Fitzsimmons if Fitzsimmons changes his views. Maher today has no claim on Fitzsimmons for a fight, and with the Australian out he cannot succeed to the title. The same statement applies in every way to Sharkey, who is deservedly unpopular. He is of the old type of the slugger and his reputation is unsavory. Jackson, Mitchell, Sullivan and Goddard are "has-beens" and will not do. Steve O'Donnell is incapable of rising to the championship standard.

There is a hope left in Kid McCoy, who, however, just now is not heavy enough. He has the height and frame, but lacks weight and muscular power. He has all the cleverness of a finished boxer and for his weight is a hard puncher. Billy Madden is in earnest in wanting to fight Goddard, but recent advisers were all to the effect that Goddard is physically unable to cope with Fitzsimmons. Fitzsimmons cannot make much money out of the theatrical business. He has never been a good drawing card, although now that he is the champion of the world in two classes he would be able to make money on the road for a year at least. Fitzsimmons, if he wanted to, could pick up many bundles of soft money by accepting the Jackson, Mitchell, Sullivan and Goddard challenges.—Philadelphia Record.

GOSSIP FROM THE BICYCLE WORLD

Current Facts of Interest to Riders of the Silent Steed.

SIX PRIZE RULES FOR NOVICES

They May Be Useful, Too, to Riders Who Are Not Beginners--How to Test by a Simple Process the True-ness of the Frame--Leakages Often Found at the Valve but They May Be Easily Remedied--Census of the Bicycle Business in Chicago.

An English publication, announcing a prize for the six best rules for cycle beginners, decided the following to be the best submitted: (1) When in the saddle do not grasp the handles too tightly. Sit upright, allow the head of the machine to move freely; have confidence. (2) Look a few yards ahead. Shun staring about until you are profligate, or you will "wobble" needlessly. (3) In pedaling, it is necessary to press during the whole revolution. A slight, even pressure when the pedal is descending is sufficient. (4) When inclined to fall, turn the machine gently in the same direction as that to which you are falling, otherwise the fall will be inevitable. (5) Avoid dismounting while the machine is moving fast. Allow it to come almost to a standstill, incline it slightly to the left, then dismount. (6) When the legs feel weary from the unaccustomed exertion, dismount and rest them by walking a short distance. On reaching home rub them well with a rough towel to prevent stiffness.

There are some riders who cannot tell when their frame is out of true, unless the case is an exceptionally severe one. Many collisions occur in which everything is thought to come out all right, so long as the wheels continue to revolve. Very often the front forks and the whole head of the wheel is pushed back an inch or a fraction of an inch, but this is never noticed. An easy way to determine this is as follows: Fasten a string to the rear part of the diamond, of the back stay rod, about six or eight inches above the hub of the rear wheel, then carry the string around the steering head to the other side of the wheel, and fasten the other end on the back stay rod, exactly the same distance above the hub as on the other side. If the frame is true the string on both sides of the saddle post tube should be equally distant from it. If the frame is twisted, this will not be the case.

Many tires show the loss of air, and give the rider the impression that there is a puncture somewhere, when in reality such is not the case. The whole trouble is at the valve. After pumping up a tire be sure to return the valve cap, which should be put in place with gentle pressure, not turned too hard. While it does sometimes prevent a leakage of air, its main func-

THEY HAVE GOOD ROADS THERE BECAUSE THEY KEEP 'EM GOOD.

An English writer says that the excellence of roads in that country is due to their constant and good supervision. Every county council has a standing committee on roads, which takes charge of the highways and keeps them in repair. The committee is divided into subcommittees, each of which is assigned to a division, with an inspector for each district, who employs a force of road menders and holds each responsible for the portion of a road assigned to him. The road mender lives in a cottage on the line of the highway, which he is required to keep in order. He goes over the road every day and removes in a barrow everything that is unsightly.

DOES THE USE OF NICKEL IN THE COMPOSITION OF STEEL HAVE A TENDENCY TO STRENGTHEN IT?

This is a question that has been studied by experts, and it would seem as though they have reached some conclusion in the matter. In our navy most of the armor used for the protection of ships has a part of nickel in its composition. In Germany when the reorganization of the military was effected the gun metal was changed, and the quality of tubular steel to reduce the liability of bursting when in action. While the use of nickel may add to safety in implements of war, this question is agitated as to whether the use of nickel-steel tubing strengthens the frame of the wheel to any considerable extent. By many it is claimed that the quality of tubing now used by most of the manufacturers of high-grade wheels is plenty strong enough to withstand the weight and strain that it is known to be subjected to and that the strengthening of the frame is not necessary, especially where the weight cannot be reduced. This is one side of the question. The other side takes an entirely different view.

THEY MAY BE USEFUL, TOO, TO RIDERS WHO ARE NOT BEGINNERS--HOW TO TEST BY A SIMPLE PROCESS THE TRUE-NESS OF THE FRAME--LEAKAGES OFTEN FOUND AT THE VALVE BUT THEY MAY BE EASILY REMEDIED--CENSUS OF THE BICYCLE BUSINESS IN CHICAGO.

A census was recently taken unofficially of the bicycle business of Chicago. There are twelve firms who do a general manufacturing business on a large scale, turning out from a few hundred to ten thousand or more machines annually. This includes those in the city proper and Chicago suburbs. One on the south side gives employment to 40 men and boys, two at North Chicago employ 25 men, and the air is forced out. If the nut is kept tightly in place this difficulty will not occur.

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