

In the Kingdom of Sports.

LAME EXPLANATIONS FROM WILKES-BARRE

Trying to Evade Responsibility for Tuesday's Postponed Game.

EVIDENCE IS ALL AGAINST THEM

Wilkcs-Barre Evening Leader Seeks to Twist the Weather and Hears of the Day in Order to Bolster Up Its Absurd Claims--The Cause of Some Unseen Dirty Ball Playing Between the Miners and the Barons.

Wednesday's Wilkes-Barre Evening Leader contains a pack of falsehoods and juggling of words, o'clocks and other things in a brazen effort to bolster up a statement that the Wilkes-Barre grounds were wet and unfit for playing Tuesday's game:

WHAT THE LEADER SAYS: "Before 12 o'clock, when (President Bogert) was making a shower at 11 o'clock, with Powell before 12 o'clock, it was raining, and the manager (the ground-keeper) was in pressed the opinion that there would be no game, but he was advised to wait further developments in the weather, and the condition of the ground later.

At 2 o'clock it was a rain again, the weather was decidedly cold, the sky cloudy and a little cold. The sun everything indicated a clearing bright, and had been in full force since noon. There filled with showers, was not a sign of rain.

It was the damp-ground-keeper, the uncertainty that night, and in the case of Manager Greecel, that the Powell to the ground-keepers were in the game of. And good condition and this, too, after that he (Greecel) telephone message came for not playing the game, and the ground-keeper was wet and unfit to play upon.

More than this, the Wilkes-Barre ground-keeper, who had the bases in position and everything ready for the game at 3 o'clock. To a score or more of early arrivals at the gate the ground-keeper was unable to state why the players had not arrived or whether there would be a game or not. In response to an inquiry by a well-known and veracious gentleman at the gate the ground-keeper said: "Certainly, the grounds are all right. A shower this morning laid the dust and they (the grounds) were never in better shape for a game. I guess it's a case of being beaten again."

The Wilkes-Barre management had better bury the evidence of Captain Greecel and the ground-keeper if it wants to crawl out of its bar-faced film-dram of Tuesday.

The Scranton Tribune announces the following yesterday morning: "Pitcher Conkley, of the Wilkes-Barre club, became over-demotional during an interview with president Bogert yesterday and was fined \$25 for his indiscretion and for another reason. For the 'other reason' Betts, Diggins and Charley Smith were during the day in a condition which made them liable to a fine." We question the "other reason" as far as Betts and Diggins were concerned--Wilkcs-Barre Record. Yes, you "question" the "other reason," but why don't you say it is not so?

The penny-wise and pound-foolish idea has been put into play by the Wilkes-Barre management in the release yesterday of Second Baseman Sam Mills and Pitchers Roach and L. Smith. The release of the pitchers cannot be criticised, but Mills' case is different--Scranton Tribune. Mills played a fair game in the Scranton series--as the records go--but he did not cover anywhere near the ground that should have been covered. Wise, Bonner, Taylor, Egan, Dan Simpson, Bobby Moore or even novice Weigand would have eaten up balls that distanced Mills, and he was too slow on double plays--Wilkcs-Barre Record. The Record practically avers that on the strength of Mills' release, he is the poorest second baseman in the league. It was the opinion of players and spectators, and it is shown by the record of the games that Mills covered the bag at a National game. All but one play on the Wilkes-Barre team disapproved of Mills' release and it was the knocking of the player excepted--and who backs in the favor of the directorate--that had much to do with the giving of the conge. The Record's base ball editor is manifestly at fault in his statement.

They tell us that the charm of base ball lies in its uncertainty, but after a man has been hit in the jugular twice when he didn't expect it, some other word would do just as well as "charm" in describing the possibilities of the greatest of all sports--Wilkcs-Barre Leader. The jugular is, it is probably that of Captain Greecel, the polite and gentlemanly Wilkes-Barre college first baseman, who accidentally attempted to trip two Scranton players, and who received in return two accidental hits on the said jugular in the game in which all four of the said accidents took place. The word "charm" means "dirty," does it not?

This brings to mind the smallness of the Scranton management. Saturday was Decoration day in Scranton. It was the legal holiday observed by the banks of Scranton, the Grand Army and other organizations, while Monday was not recognized there as a holiday observed by any organization or business people. Yet when it came to a settlement with the Wilkes-Barre club the management would only allow the latter 46 per cent, which is a direct violation of the League constitution. The constitution explicitly provides that the visiting club shall receive 50 per cent. of all admissions, ladies included, on all legal holidays. And on Saturday ladies were charged admission. On Monday ladies were admitted free, but when it came to settling Monday's game the Scranton management were willing to allow 50 per cent. The difference in settlement of the two

games is something like \$90 in Wilkes-Barre's favor, and the management here is determined to see that that amount is paid over as was done last year on Labor day when Scranton tried the same trick but was called down and had to make honest settlement.

The action of the part of Scranton, in refusing to settle on the basis as provided in the League constitution, is, to place it in the mildest form, decidedly little and certainly dishonorable--Wilkcs-Barre Evening Leader. If the division of the proceeds of Saturday's game is in violation of the league rules then the Wilkes-Barre club has redress and the whimsing of President Bogert is more idiotic than it is bad business policy. The league constitution provides that the games shall be according to the schedule; the schedule provided that Monday should be observed as Decoration day by the clubs and this was done. Monday witnessed the observance of Decoration day in Wilkes-Barre and it is no reflection on the Scranton management that the Wilkes-Barre management failed to suggest a different arrangement before Saturday. All the present disputing is traceable to the snarling and snapping of President Bogert, who is angered because his club is a losing venture and in his jealous and petty over the matter of the athletic success of the Scranton team. He has become the Von Der Ahe of the Eastern league and is letting the public know it through the vaporings which appear in his paper, the Leader.

DIAMOND DUST: Walmer will pitch today. Down East people are picking Boston to beat out Baltimore.

The Miners haven't been below 500 per cent since the season opened. Trouble in the Bison ranks. The Buffalo Express says it's reported that Fields has resigned the captaincy. The Stars have not been beaten a game by Providence, Springfield, Rochester or Wilkes-Barre to date. O'Neill has been released by Rochester. He is under contract with that club and it will not be difficult to place him for the season.

Hartford has released Paul Radford because he would not play Sunday. Springfield has two Subbatarians in Stratton and Woods. By Manager Schmeiz's own admission the Senators are in need of another baseman and would like to get rid of Demonteville for a good man. Norton, left fielder of the Washingtons, fell over the ropes in chasing a foul fly and was knocked unconscious. He recovered in a minute and played out the game. We have no ground on Empire Knovies, who without doubt is the rank and dirtiest outfielder that ever drew Brooklyn in the Eastern league. Doehner is far preferable--Syracuse Courier. The treasurers of several of the Eastern clubs declare that money is not as plentiful as they would like to have it. Owners might wish Pittsburg and Chicago panned out fairly well, while St. Louis, Louisville and Cleveland were decidedly one-sided. "Kalexis" throwing at Brooklyn was a revelation. Ho stands entirely in a class by himself as the champion throwing outfielder of the league. So some people claim. He made a magnificent running fly catch that sent a thrill of excitement down the backbone of staid and sober Brooklyn, and shot the ball into second base so fast that a double play was missed only by the difference of opinion between the umpire and the spectators.

Burns has released Toft, the catcher who came from Zanesville. O. Toft has been suspended by the Wheeling (W. Va.) club and has notified and course Toft released him at once. Walter Wood is going to be put behind the bat for a while. This will give him a chance to use the stick and to run bases often than three times in two weeks. Stratton will be tried in the box. Burns is also negotiating for Fallon, the recently released Scranton pitcher--Springfield Republican.

Rain prevented all the games scheduled in the Eastern excepting the Syracuse-Springfield game, which the stars with a clean error column won. In the last inning by the shallow tally of 4 to 3. They are now firmly in second place and in a position to tie Buffalo for first today provided Scranton wins. The Miners must win two games and the Stars lose one in order to reach tie.

The race among the first four clubs is unusually close but with the advantage in favor of Buffalo and Syracuse who have ten straight games to play on their own grounds. After today the southern clubs will make their second jump in the trip away from home. Scranton going to Toronto, Wilkes-Barre to Buffalo, Springfield to Rochester and Providence to Syracuse.

Percentage Record. Buffalo..... 35 18 2 .664 Syracuse..... 35 17 9 .640 Scranton..... 25 15 10 .600 Springfield..... 28 15 12 .617 Providence..... 28 12 15 .653 Rochester..... 29 12 17 .614 Toronto..... 31 11 20 .614 Wilkes-Barre..... 22 9 15 .592

Today's Games. SCRANTON AT BUFFALO. WILKES-BARRE AT TORONTO. BROOKLYN AT ROCHESTER. SPRINGFIELD AT SYRACUSE. The Stars Defeat Springfield. Syracuse, June 3--The Stars took the second game of the series from Springfield here this afternoon after the greatest contest of the season. Inks was unshakable to the home team until the sixth. Score: SYRACUSE. A. B. R. H. O. A. E. Egan, 2b..... 3 0 1 4 4 0 2 Scofield, ss..... 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 Schelbeck, ss..... 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 Smith, 3b..... 2 1 0 2 5 0 0 Loftis, rf..... 4 1 2 1 9 0 0 Moore, 3b..... 4 2 0 12 4 0 4 Earle, lf..... 4 0 0 14 1 0 2 Ryan, c..... 4 1 2 4 0 0 0 Willis, p..... 2 0 0 9 2 0 0 Totals..... 30 4 9 27 15 0 0

PHENOMENAL LUCK OF "PITTSBURG PHIL"

Talk in Turf Circles Over His Brooklyn Coup. SOME OF HIS GREAT WINNINGS

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

With the score 6-0 in favor of Cincinnati the game at Baltimore was stopped by rain. Rain prevented the Chicago-Washington game. Of the eight clubs that played the only westerner to win was Louisa, and that club earned its victory by defeating the Bridgeport 1-nothing. The Giants took a double fall out of the Colonels, Seymour pitching the two games, and went up from sixth to fifth place. The Phillies go up from ninth to eighth. The Heatbeaters have firmly clinched the fact that for two weeks they have played better ball than any team in the league.

Results. Philadelphia..... 1 Boston..... 2 Cleveland..... 1 St. Louis..... 3 Brooklyn..... 0 New York..... 6 Louisville..... 0 New York..... 2 Louisville..... 6 Cincinnati at Baltimore, rain. Chicago at Washington, rain.

Percentage Record. Baltimore..... 32 W. L. P. C. 250 Cincinnati..... 35 23 12 .607 Boston..... 34 23 12 .687 Pittsburgh..... 29 18 15 .659 New York..... 31 17 14 .688 Cleveland..... 33 17 16 .673 Philadelphia..... 30 18 16 .650 Brooklyn..... 34 17 15 .688 Louisville..... 31 18 18 .631 Chicago..... 34 13 22 .603 Washington..... 31 9 22 .589 St. Louis..... 36 7 29 .564

Today's Games. Cincinnati at Baltimore. Cleveland at Boston. St. Louis at New York. Louisville at New York. Pittsburgh at Philadelphia. Chicago at Washington.

New York-Louisville. New York, June 3--New York jumped into the fifth place by taking two games from the Louisville players at the Polo grounds this afternoon. Score: First game-- 3. H. E. Louisville..... 10 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 3 4 Batteries--Seymour and Warner; McGee, Frazer and Wilson, Empire--Sullivan and Dexter. Second game-- 3. H. E. New York..... 3 0 2 0 2 0 0 1 6 6 Louisville..... 1 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 6 4 Batteries--Seymour and Warner; Cunningham; McGee and W. Wilson, Empire--McDermott.

Philadelphia-Pittsburg. Philadelphia, June 3--The Phillies bunched hits today and defeated Pittsburg by a big margin, as the club at Pittsburgh. Score: Philadelphia..... 10 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 8 4 Batteries--Tannehill, Gardner and Suggs; Taylor and Boyle, Empire--McDonald.

Brooklyn Shut Out. Brooklyn, June 3--The members of the reconstructed St. Louis team won their seventh game of the season at Eastern park this afternoon. Score: R. H. E. Brooklyn..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 2 St. Louis..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 Batteries--McMahon and Grim; Donohue and Murphy, Empire--Sheridan.

Atlantic League. Lancaster-Norfolk. Lancaster, Pa., June 3--Up to the seventh inning West field Norfolk down to two hits, one of which was a scratch. In the seventh inning the home side had Hayden's easy foul, the latter made a three-base hit and a single and two doubles in the same inning enabled the visitors to put together a run. Two hits in the ninth and batsman hit by a pitched ball gave them another. It was the first game West had pitched for over a week and he was in fine form. The locals hit Pfannmiller hard, West and Yeager leading; the latter had two three-baggers, while the locals had only one. Score: R. H. E. Lancaster..... 5 0 0 2 2 0 0 0 3 4 Norfolk..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 4 3 Batteries--Wright and Pfannmiller and Hayden, Empire--Betts.

AT THE BIG NATIONAL MEET.

Something About the Entertainment and Reception Committee. Philadelphia, June 3--From the visitors' standpoint, one of the more important committees in connection with the management of a national meet is the entertainment and reception committee, for it is to that body that the "strangers within the gates" naturally look for guidance during their outing.

Realizing the importance of selecting for the chairmanship of this committee a man who is in every way qualified to perform the manifold duties of the office, the executive committee in charge of the Eighteenth National meet, this afternoon, at the hotel held in this city Aug. 4-7, hunted high and low until they found a man who could fill the bill. He has been found. His name is J. Madison Rush.

Mr. Rush is well known locally, being at present captain of the Centaur Cycling club. A staff of assistants, composed of representatives of all the prominent clubs in the city, is necessarily a large one, and includes among others: Robert Herald, J. C. Coulston, G. C. Woodward, Carl Finger, J. M. McKinstry, J. H. Lehman, Harry Bowen, M. D. Witt, Dr. W. L. Jones, J. L. Weatherly, Mr. Roney, Thomas A. Pearce, Howard McGinley, A. L. Mulhern, Walter List, John Crout, Hart Ebst, Samuel C. Adams, W. D. Prouse, H. S. Montgomery, J. Garrigus, Walter Bonina, Louis Alexander, John George, W. W. Randall, George E. Gossler, Paul Eno, John J. Dougherty, E. B. Cassidy, J. M. Kelly, Louis Shuck, J. W. Johnson, M. A. Fryer, J. D. Haines, Jr., and J. H. Wright.

KEOGH-EBY POOL MATCH. For the World's Championship, in New York City Next Week. Jerome Keogh, of this city, will on Monday night begin his three-night match with Eby in New York City for the pool championship of the world. The games will open in the palm garden of George Lederer's Palace theater.

Win or lose, Eby will be matched against De Oro and their games will be played in Keogh's parlors in this city some time during the summer.

Scranton Base Ball Score. Base ball scores by innings of the Scranton club will be received at the Brunswick, 414 Spruce street. J. W. Barnes, proprietor.

PHENOMENAL LUCK OF "PITTSBURG PHIL"

Has Been Twelve Years on the Turf and Won Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars--Began His Betting Career in the Pool Rooms at Chicago--Won \$120,000 on the King Cadmus Race.

The "Pittsburg Phil" in having a luck horse eligible to last Monday's rich Brooklyn handicap, posting him as an additional starter during the afternoon, and winning the big race with him, is the chief topic under discussion in turf circles, says the New York Herald.

Many persons favorably entertained the theory that Howard Mann had been prepared for the Brooklyn and would have started instead of his stable companion, The Winner, no matter what the condition of the track, and that his owner had contemplated a coup with him over the race in question since early April. The majority, however, took a common sense view of the matter. They assumed that The Winner could not untrack himself in the mud, and that Smith started Howard Mann to make running for Belmar, and was agreeably surprised when he made a runaway race of the event.

HIS NICKNAME. George E. Smith, "Pittsburg Phil," has certainly enjoyed a fair proportion of luck in the dozen years he has been on the turf. He began his speculative career in the Chicago pool rooms, and there obtained the nickname of "Pittsburg Phil," since Howard Mann clung to him, from William Hiler, the veteran pool seller. There were so many Smiths buying auction pools in that dingy old Chicago room in those days that Riley, in order to keep their accounts separate, improvised a string of aliases, and accordingly the boyish looking plunger from Pittsburg became "Pittsburg Phil."

Ten years ago the Illinois legislature passed an anti-pool bill, and "Pittsburg Phil" came to New York. His first day upon an eastern race track was at Monmouth, July 4, 1887. He won \$10,000 that day backing Praelius and Ben All, of the Haggin stable. During the next three seasons his turf winnings amounted to \$250,000. "Phil" began buying horses in 1889, his first purchase of note being Kern. The first big haul he made with one of his own horses was over King Cadmus, who won by a head, enabling "Phil" to cash tickets amounting to something over \$120,000. Five years ago the victory of his Parvatus, at Sheepshead Bay, netted him upward of \$100,000. He won handsomely over his Candelabra and Applause at times during recent seasons, but Monday was the first time he has had his colors borne to victory in one of the premier turf events.

\$200,000 CHANGED HANDS. "The amount won by "Pittsburg Phil" over his "Phil's" bank account, says Hiler is still a matter for conjecture. Something like \$300,000 changed hands and was paid over to persons who had supported the Smith stable. One-quarter of this total probably found its way into "Phil's" bank account. His commissioners averaged three to one about the stable. Against Howard Mann, separate, the prevailing quotation was 10 to 1. A great deal of this was accepted by Smith, because he thought Howard Mann equally as good as Belmar he would certainly have withdrawn Belmar, and averaged six or eight to one about his fortunate candidate. Having a mudrak keyed up to racing pitch and eligible to the handsomeness of Brooklyn, had a number of "Pittsburg Phil's" luck, or turf judgments.

WHEEL TALK. The bearings sometimes get clogged up with oil and dust, and if the machine is only occasionally used, they may get absolutely stuck. This state of things can be remedied, according to an English rider, by injecting a little paraffin, which liquefies the thickened oil and causes it to run out if the wheels are vigorously rotated for a short time. When, after repeated doses, the bearings appear to be clean they should be carefully reoiled with some suitable oil, and will, of course, be found much better for the operation.

The wheels of a bicycle if the bearings are properly adjusted should spin freely and stop gradually with a rocking movement, yet have no side play. To test a wheel after adjusting, spin smartly, letting it run itself out, when the weight of the valve should stop the last almost complete revolution revolutions for the wheel to swing backward and forward until it stops with the valve at the bottom. Should it stop in any other portion, then there is a tight place in the bearing which should be loosened slightly to allow the balls to pass, otherwise one may jam and break.

Manufacturers have found that any alteration in the mechanism of the wheel is a deterioration rather than an advance, and consequently, this year the trend is toward multiplicity of ornamentation. For instance, this season black frames are the exception rather than the rule, and not only the frames, but the bells, tires and handle bars are shown in almost every color of the rainbow. The handle grips, instead of being plain wood, had rubber, have their ends mounted in silver fret work, and the lamps are repositioned in varried patterns, while the bells are enamelled in red, blue and green. Bells that will be sure to find favor with Miss Laastor, being continuously the revolution of the front wheel by simply holding the thumbs against a lever.

One of the most common mistakes made by the new rider, and, indeed, it is very often made by the old rider, is that of getting too high a gear. All most every new rider is imbued with the idea that it is absolutely necessary that the wheel should cover the greatest distance with the least number of revolutions for the pedals, forgetting in his ignorance that in doing this he is bound to increase the propulsive power in proportion. The old rider seems to think that each new mount necessarily means an increase in the gear, with the result that in many cases they have assumed ridiculous dimensions, and then they play the same old wheel model wonders why it pushes so much harder when the wheel he has just discarded. The manufacturers unite

PHENOMENAL LUCK OF "PITTSBURG PHIL"

in saying that the demand for exceedingly high gears has been more pronounced than ever before, and while knowing full well the evils of the increasing gears, they readily accede to the wishes of their patrons, but strive to counteract the tendency by fitting the machine with extra large cranks, which virtually lowers the gear to what it was before, but with the increased disadvantage of a loss of power, through the excessive knee motion and the making of graceful pedaling an impossibility.

In advocating walking steep hills instead of riding them, an authority says: In ascending a hill on a bicycle much of the driving force is wasted in pressure on the ground, and the steeper the hill, the greater the waste, until an incline may be so steep that all the efforts of the rider only press the wheel against the hill, in pushing this loss is much less, for the bicycle is lighter by the weight of the rider, and he is on his legs, the best of all hill climbers, for the waste of power in walking is less going up hill, the upward movement of foot and body not being wasted by a corresponding fall at the end of the step. Even if this waste of force in pressure on the hill could be eliminated, the bicycle would still be a little disappointing as a hill climber, for actual foot-pounds of work have to be done in ascending a hill, and this is, of course, no power developed by the bicycle to perform this work, for it owes its ease and speed to its almost frictionless action.

Every rider of a bicycle should cultivate the art of pedaling. The use of the pedal is an art and there is no part of the bicycle more important than this one thing. The art of pedaling is to push the pedal not more than half the circle, taking care to lift the foot immediately after it has done its effective work, so as not to burden the rising pedal. This necessitates the dropping of the heel at the top of the stroke, which helps the crank over the dead center, pushing right down to the bottom of the stroke and bringing the foot still with a clearing motion to get over the dead center at the bottom. A little practice in this line will quicken a cyclist's pace wonderfully.

AS OTHERS SEE THEM.

Buffalo Writer Says Nice Things About Sandy and His Team.

Manager "Sandy" is not much less popular abroad than at home judging from the following which was written by W. H. Lerch, of the Buffalo Express in connection with Wednesday's game: About the most popular man in Scranton at the present time is Sandy Griffin, the manager of the Scranton base ball team, and if he wished to be mayor, there is hardly a doubt but that he would be elected by an overwhelming majority. All the fans and the brothers of the fans would vote for him to a man.

Sandy has been popular in Scranton, but is especially so now, as he has put the Scranton in a leading position in the pennant-race, something which no other manager was ever able to do so early in the season. That explains why the cry, "Hats off," is heard wherever Sandy appears on the streets of Scranton. Some ball teams are very good, indeed, on paper, but are disappointing when they go on the field for actual play. Manager Griffin has reason to be thankful that his team is good both on paper and in the field, and he is to feel proud, for in it he has a collection of ball-players that will make any minor league team haste to join. Most of the players are old and seasoned, but not so old that they are afflicted with perennial charlie-horse and evergreen grass arms. Such players as Beard, Bonner, Boyd, Conroy, Meany and Daly are old in experience, but are sufficiently active to play the game up to the handle, especially when assisted by such youngsters as O'Brien, Egan and Walters.

Manager Griffin says that Walters is one of the greatest outfielders in the Eastern league, and can stick with the best ash-swingers in the country. Just at present he is laid up with an injured knee, and it may be some time before he can get in the game. He dates his trouble

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