

BRAVES TO MAKE HOT FIGHT FOR FLAG



MAINSTAYS OF BOSTON NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM.

(BY JACK VELOCK, International News Sports Editor.)

The Boston Braves have somewhat of a reputation as a fightin' ball club. The Braves are fighters on the field of play, and in this year's campaign they may be counted upon to make a hot fight for the rag.

But whatever may be said of these Braves, one thing stands out as an unusual feature:

They have more temperament and nervous energy anchored around second base than any club in the two big leagues.

With the veteran Johnny Evers on second and that little pepper box, Walter Maranville, at short, it can be truthfully said that there is more energy and fighting spirit to the square inch represented by these joint guardians of the keystone cushion than any other club can boast of.

Evers is entering upon his sixteenth year in baseball, and he hopes to make 1917 one of the best seasons of his long career. Nervous temperament on the field of play is a characteristic of Evers, and no doubt his high-strung nerves have helped to keep him in the game this long, although last season a breakdown threatened to put an end to his career.

Maranville is a little cyclone of energy. He is the ranking shortstopper of

his league when it comes to all-around ability, and like Evers he will fight for a point at the drop of a hat on the field of play.

If Evers has a good season his presence in the Braves lineup day in and day out will mean much to Boston. It will also mean much to Maranville, for with Evers on second the little Rabbit is said to play a snappier brand of ball because they work together with machine-like preciseness.

During the winter Evers attended the National league meeting, and at that time he looked to be in good health. He said he had high hopes of a banner year, and if he succeeds in keeping his health all season he may make this his last year in the majors. C. Evers is the last of the grand old Cub infield. He stands alone as a landmark of one of the greatest infield combinations ever got together, for Tinker, Chance and Steinfeldt have passed.

Evers and Frank Schulte are the only members of the Cub champions of 1908 who played in the memorable game in which Fred Merkle pulled his famous boner in New York by forgetting to touch second. Evers' presence of mind in that game marked him as a brainy player and today there is no smarter man in baseball than the little Trojan.

IS MOST WONDERFUL PLAYER

That is Opinion of Manager Fielder Jones Who Was Inclined to Belittle Sisler at First.

Manager Fielder Jones of the St. Louis Browns is out with a declaration that he never will use George Sis-



George Sisler.

ler in the pitcher's box again. After pitching Sisler finds that his shoulder muscles tighten up for several days, throwing him off his batting stride. Sisler is a wonderful pitcher, but he is more valuable to the Browns as a batter. Jones, who was inclined to belittle Sisler when he first took hold of the Browns, now hails the collegian as the most wonderful player he ever saw. "Greater in some respects than Cobb," says Jones, "and before the year ends likely to replace Cobb as the Best Ever."

Morton Rounds Into Shape.

Guy Morton, star hurler of the Indians staff in 1915, and who injured his arm last summer, is once more in great form, according to reports. This means much to Lee Fohl, possibly a pennant, as Joe Woods and Tris Speaker are there to help out.

BASEBALL STORIES

The average youngster in the big leagues is about one to a club.

They used to call them "another Ty Cobb." Now it's "another George Sisler."

The Newark International league team hereafter will be known as the Bears.

Fielder Jones thinks he has an iron man in George Pennington, a recruit hurler.

Sam Rice, Senator outfielder, is being made over into a first-sacker by Manager Griffith.

Matty doesn't want to pitch for Cincinnati. He hates to see himself going back that far.

Take away George Sisler and Roger Harnsby and the two St. Louis teams would have to quit.

Difference between Carl Sawyer and some other ball players is that Carl is funny on purpose.

When Benny Kauff is hitting he quits ordering bats and orders another new suit of clothes.

Warren Adams, Pittsburgh's new first baseman, is a lad of distinguished South Carolina connections.

Reds and Cardinals would still be playing off the tie for last place if they were in the Class A Billiard league.

The Athletics have bats, balls, uniforms, masks, gloves, a ball park, and everything, just like a regular big league club.

Christy Mathewson's idea, it is reported, is to take a slice out of the Reds' pay envelopes for the time they are all at sea.

Baseball pitchers will study hypnosis, which will enable them to throw the umpires into a trance so they will call every ball a strike.

Oberlin college will have the largest endowment of any college in the United States, when it assumes full control in the near future of the funds willed by the late Chas. Martin Hall, the Pittsburg millionaire.

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