

HARD SLEDDING FOR ROOKIE

Recruit Doesn't Have the Chance to Show His Worth in These Modern Days, Says Menke.

HOW SOME GREATS WERE MADE

By FRANK G. MENKE. NEW YORK, March 4.—The chances of a "rookie" making good in the majors are smaller today than they were in other days when the clubs took only a half dozen youngsters—or a dozen at the most—to the eastern training camp.

It is the custom these days for club owners to send from ten to twenty-five bushers and turn them over to the manager for tryouts during the few weeks that the training season lasts. When a manager has that many youngsters to look over, it is certain that he cannot give much time to each.

One of the greatest pitchers of all time made a miserable showing during his "rookie" days and during his first season as a major. Had he been a youngster in this era he probably would have been dumped back into the bushers—to rise no more. But he lived his youth in the days when clubs didn't carry a small army of men, and so his manager had time to give him a thorough tryout.

The pitcher is Christy Mathewson. He joined the Giants in 1900 and was a success, but the same way that a score of bushers are heralded each year, Mathewson was given a tryout against Brooklyn in July and he was batted out of the box. He seemed to have nothing. Twice after that he was sent to the mound—each time he was walked.

Matty pitched three games in 1902—and showed nothing starting in any of them. In the spring of 1903 he was taken south, but he showed nothing flashy. There was nothing spectacular about him. He had been forced to fight it out in these days with a lot of brilliant looking youngsters, it is possible that he would have lost out and gone back to the minors.

But the old time clubs weren't ever burdened with minor league talent and every man who joined a big league club was given a chance to make good. In the next season—1905—Matty won thirteen games and lost thirteen, for an average of 43 hits in nine games and an average of .45 for three seasons—a miserable showing.

What do you think would happen in these days to a major league pitcher who, after three seasons in fast company, averaged only .45?

Tyson Daymond, who never may have become a major league star if the present day methods concerning "rookies" had been in force in 1905 when he joined the Tigers. The "Georgia Peach" arrived in the Tiger camp labeled a "real wonder"—but the labeling was no different than that which is applied to at least a dozen other bush leagues. It was up to Cobb to prove himself.

In 1903 Cobb worked in forty-one games, his fielding was atrocious. He had come billed as a slugger, yet in 150 trips to the plate in that season he hit safely only thirty-six times. His average was .246. Who would not think he would be sent to the minors in his first year as a major, and fielded in a way that made it seem as if he were burlesquing the art?

But Cobb lingered. Hugh Jennings gave a lot of time and attention to him. And he was why? Simply because Jennings' roster wasn't loaded down with a lot of high priced minor league talent in those days. He had to pick his team from a small assortment—and therefore he could choose more deliberately and accurately. He had a chance to study Cobb—and Cobb's "Chumps."

Cobb's batting average was .377 in 1904 when he joined the Athletics and he didn't seem to be able to play either short or third. But Cobb kept him, simply because Jennings' roster wasn't overloaded, thus giving him time to study each man thoroughly.

In 1905, Daubert, probably the greatest first baseman in the game today, got a chance with the Cleveland club some years ago. There was a large flock of rookies on the roster then and LaJoie, who was managing the outfit, didn't have time to watch each. Daubert rounded to slugger—too slowly for LaJoie. And LaJoie went back to the bushes, although he was as great a player as he now is.

The speaker hit only .230 for the Red Sox in 1906—his first year in the majors. Would any major league club today keep a .230 rookie outfielder? LaJoie and the Red Sox decided to keep Trane—and what has happened?

You remember the "Babe" Marquard case, don't you? It's our opinion that if a manager could make his choice from a small section, and give a lot of time to watching each candidate, he would do better than he does now when he has to select from a small army of youngsters—and make his decision without a chance to thoroughly investigate each applicant for a regular job.

PITTSBURGH COAL MINER WHO MEETS CHAMPION.

Fate of the Boxing Game in New York Depends Entirely Upon Approaching Battle.

GOVERNOR LOOKS INTO AFFAIR



FRANK MORAN.

UP TO WILLARD AND MORAN

NEW YORK, March 4.—The Jess Willard-Frank Moran fight, scheduled for Madison Square garden on March 25, will make or break the boxing game in this state. An indifferent exhibition by the champion will put the sport here into disrepute for so long that there will be a general exodus of mitt wielders, and once the metropolis is stripped of its boxing talent it will take years to cajole them into returning.

We have it on excellent authority that Governor Whitman himself will make drastic changes in the boxing law, if not before it altogether, should the bout prove unsatisfactory. The legislature will be in session until May 1, and the lawmakers, at the governor's behest, will be ready to jam through a measure killing boxing in New York (so we are informed) if the battle is not on the up-and-up.

So it is up to Willard and Moran to preserve the ancient diversion of mitt slinging to New Yorkers. At the present moment interest in the match is not so great as was anticipated. The cloud of uncertainty still hovers over the impending struggle, and not until there is reasonable certainty of the match taking place will great interest be manifested. And the fight-loving populace of this tight little isle is not to be deceived by its apparent lack of interest.

Willard's physical condition is not an open book. He forced two changes in the original date; so what is to prevent another?

Not Cold Feet. The claims of some so-called experts that Willard's cold is in his feet, not in his head, is ridiculous. Surely, Big Jess, with all the natural advantages he enjoys in height, weight, reach and vigor, does not fear a man who was defeated by his victim, Jack Johnson. Moran really has shown no exceptional ability in the ring, even if he is the most formidable of the Willard challengers—at present.

Aside from his two knockout defeats of Jim Coffey, Moran's record is not brilliant. True, he knocked out Al Palmer and Bombardier Wells, but Palmer was unfit to enter the ring that evening, and Wells was previously stopped twice by George Carpentier, who falls short of Moran's weight by twenty-five pounds. Yet Moran is the logical first opponent for Willard, these facts notwithstanding.

Dirge of Leach Cross. Hack, a man of the ring (pugilistic, of course), mounted a stand in the dirge for Leach Cross, champion of New York, veteran lightweight, for Leach is through with the ring game.

It took Milburn Saylor, a mediocre battler, to put the terminus to Leach's honorable boxing career of ten years' duration. Saylor accounted for Leach by dropping him in five rounds the other day. It was not the first knockout for Leach, but it was the first defeat by the knockout route he suffered since 1909, when he was stopped by Dick Hyland in forty-one rounds.

Previous to that, in 1908, his first year in the game, Cross was knocked out by Jack Doyle in two rounds and by Frankie Maddey in one. Leach evened up the Maddey score two years later, knocking out the heavy champion in five rounds.

In his time Cross fought the best lightweights in the game, including Champion Welsh, Willie Ritchie, who in the Californian was championed, Joe Shiverus, Joe Rivera, Joe Mandot, Battling Nelson (shortly after the Dane was dethroned by Wolgast), Ad Wolgast (whom he stopped in five rounds), Matt Wells, Tommy Murphy, Packer McFarland, Jim Driscoll, Bagley accounts of others. None of the above mentioned ever floored Leach, while he outfigured a number of them.

It is natural to presume that Leach will announce a "come back" shortly, but it will be only for one purpose—to enhance the family bank roll. Cross has won a title in the ring (boxing) and lost a title in another ring (Wall street). The ghetto veteran has saved his earnings of the last few years, and can live on his income. Only three years ago he bought a row of apartments, paying down \$80,000 in cash. Then, again, he has several big financial practices.

Adieu, Leach Cross, you have served your followers well, and never have you shown a trace of "yellow" or refused to fight gamely at all times.

CUBS HIKE SOUTH TODAY

Joe Tinker and North Side Crew Leave Chicago on Train de Luxe for Tampa Camp.

HAS BIG CORPS OF PITCHERS

CHICAGO, March 4.—Under command of Joe Tinker, once a private in their ranks, the rejuvenated Cubs depart from Chicago tomorrow for the spring training camp at Tampa. The party will include less than half the number of ball players on the roster, as the rest will go from their homes direct to the camp, but on the de luxe train which bears the Cubs south will be President Weagman and other stockholders of the new club and a number of guests.

Tinker's task this year will not be that of trying out recruits from minor leagues, but of watching veterans go through their paces. From the combined Cubs and Whales a squad numbering about thirty were ordered to report at the Florida training grounds, and nearly every one has had some major league experience.

The National League's rule imposing a limit of twenty-one players will be applied in part to the Cubs. It is now understood, though the national commission had practically agreed to let them and the Browns carry fifty each. The latest ruling obliges Tinker to name twenty-one men eligible to take part in championship games, but permits him to carry extra players instead of forcing their release to minor leagues—and incidentally forces the club to pay the salaries of those under contract, whether or not they are declared eligible.

Tinker will have a big corps of pitchers from which to choose a staff. Some time ago he floundered on having a dozen twirlers in camp with the prospect of cutting off nearly half of them, as his idea of a practical staff is one including no more than seven men. His slab squad at Tampa, he expects, will include Brown, Bailey, Packard, Frendergast, Hendrix, Lavender, McConnell, Vaughn, Zabel, Douglas, Seaton, Lewis, White, and Hogg. There will be no difficulty over the catchers, who are Archer, probably to be the club's main reliance; Flacher, who seconded Art Wilson with the Whales last year, much to Tinker's satisfaction, and Clemens, extra backstop on the North Side for the last two seasons.

Two Peds in Infield. Unless accident intervenes, it is reasonably sure the Cub's infield will consist of Seaver, first base; Yerkes, formerly with the Boston Americans and last year with the Pittsburgh Federals, at second; Mike Doohan, who gained fame with the Philadelphia Nationals, at short, and Helme Zimmerman, third. Besides these four, Tinker has five infielders, including himself, Zeider, Pechous, Mulligan and McCarthy. Until the training season is well under way, who will know whom he will keep of the extra men?

Aside from Allison, who, it is expected, will be taken by Memphis, the outfield consists of five men, ranging in experience from Schulte, the veteran, to Flack and Williams, whose major careers have been confined to two seasons. The others are Zwilling, well known as a slugger, and Mash, with the Boston Nationals, when they were the world's champions.

It is probable that five will be retained, and it is considered a toss-up among critics as to who will compose the regular outfield.

The Cubs have practice games arranged with the Cleveland Americans, the Philadelphia Nationals, the Milwaukee Association team and several Southern league clubs, before winding up the training season with a series at Louisville. They open the championship campaign at Cincinnati April 11.

Women's National Golf Tourney Dates May Be Transferred

NEW YORK, March 4.—Whether the date for the women's national golf championship tournament, scheduled to be held over the links of the Belmont Springs Country club, near Boston, on September 11 to 16, will be changed to a week in October, depends upon the pressure brought to bear by the women throughout the country.

An impression has gone abroad that the change is definite, but that is a trifling premature.

Howard F. Whitney, secretary of the United States Golf association, has not received a communication or a petition from the Boston to Philadelphia districts or from the west.

Miss Margon Hollins, secretary of the Women's Metropolitan Golf association, did ask Mr. Whitney if the tourney could be put off until October, but he replied that if a majority of the women so wished, he thought possibly the shift might be made.

Fred Tenney Makes Decisions in Rush. Fred Tenney's decision to buy into the Newark ball club was a sudden one, according to a New York story. Fred had gone to New York to attend the anniversary reunion. He dropped into the Waldorf and met old friends. "Well, what's doing?" he inquired of one of them, "and how are all the old boys?"

Husker Hops from Gridiron to Diamond



GUY CHAMBERLAIN

CHAMBERLAIN, who is a southpaw hurler of considerable ability, has signed to perform for Jimmy McGill's Indianapolis club. If Chamberlain is as much of a success on the diamond as he was on the gridiron, Indianapolis has secured a star of first magnitude. For Chamberlain was good enough on the gridiron to attract the attention of all the foot ball experts of the country, and a number of them, those not biased by a prejudice for the east, named him on their All-American elevens.

REDS GO TO TRAINING CAMP

Charley Herzog Will Take Seventeen Athletes on Special from Cincinnati Monday.

OTHERS WILL GO DIRECT

CINCINNATI, O., March 4.—Manager Charles Herzog of the Cincinnati Nationals with seventeen players will leave Cincinnati tomorrow for the Reds training camp at Shreveport, La. Nine other players have been instructed to go direct from their homes to Shreveport.

Herzog is not taking as many players to the southern training camp as some other clubs in the major leagues and therefore will not have as many to weed out. He announced before leaving that he would pay special attention to his candidates for second base and the outfield and to his pitchers. He expressed himself as positive that Fred Tenney would exceed his splendid pitching record of last year and insisted that McKenry would be a close second while he looked for great improvement in Dale and Schneider. These four men stood the brunt of the pitching near the close of last season.

Schultz, the Federal league southpaw, and Mitchell, a Denver left hander, showed great promise last season, and are expected to become fixtures with the Reds for the coming season. Both of these men have a peculiar style of delivery which Herzog believes will add to their effectiveness.

The players instructed to report at Shreveport from their homes are Dougan, Dale, Schneider, Killefer, Williams, McKenry, Mitchell, Toney and Wingo. Those who will leave on the Red special tomorrow are Groh, Griffith, Huhn, Anderson, Emmott, Louder, Rodgers, Moseley, Caparulo, Neale, Kummer, Dowd, Deal, Clark, Mollwitz, Schultz, Manager Herzog and Business Manager Frank C. Bancroft.

The players will stay at Shreveport until March 23 and while in the south will play the Shreveport team, Lafayette, La., and the Cleveland and New York Americans. On their arrival home they will play two exhibition games with the Columbus club of the American Association, then go to Columbus for two games and return for three games with Cleveland.

The Reds will open the season April 11 with the Chicago Cubs, here.

White Sox Reunion In Western League

As a ward boss once remarked, "Politics makes strange bedfellows," and baseball sometimes does the same thing. And it is equally true that base ball now and then brings about a family reunion, but not often does it result in one equal to that in the Western league this year.

As a result of the signing of "Doc" White to manage the Denver club and "Ducky" Holmes in Lincoln, four former members of the old Chicago White Sox will be seen in the circuit. Three of these players were members of the team which won the world's championship for Chicago in that memorable series of 1905. The four men are "Doc" White, Frank Isbell, Eddie Hahn and "Ducky" Hobbes.

New York Boxing Rules Recodified

NEW YORK, March 4.—The new State Athletic commission has recodified the rules governing boxing. In the main the rules of the old commission have been recodified and the decisions on various points which the new commission have made since its appointment have been incorporated in the new code.

A few changes of general interest have been made, among them slight alterations in the weight limits for three classes. The new featherweight limit is 123 pounds, the old limit being 122. The lightweight limit has been reduced from 135 to 133 and the welterweight from 145 to 144. The other classes remain as they were.

The Hypodermic Needle

By Fred S. Hunter

WHEN YOU'RE OUT TO DO THE PUBLIC GO IT GOOD. After collecting half of all the coin in the world, which thereby ceased circulation abruptly, the wrestling champion retired to his million-acre farm.

For six years he basked in the moonlight of retirement. Then lo and behold, another wrestler appeared before the calcium. A young wrestler, who cleaned up everything in sight and earned for himself the enviable honor of "honest wrestler."

The retired champion began to squirm under the quiet rays of the moonlight of retirement. He saw the young wrestler making inroads into the other half of the coin in the world.

"This will never do," declared the retired champ to himself. So he informed the public he would return to the game. He would wrestle again. In the meantime he signed up to appear with a circus at \$3,846.75 a week and a half interest in the big top.

The public began to clamor for a match between the retired champ and the new champ. It kept up its clamor till it claimed so long it believed the match was as good as arranged. It even began saving up to buy ring-side seats.

But suddenly—Oh, well, what's the use. It's the same old story of the public. When you're out to do the public do it good. It's collective dome is made of solid wood. It will fall for any fake. When all's money you can take. When you're out to do the public do it good.

This a Joke. "I notice the new boarder sneaking oranges whenever the old lady turns her head," quoth the star boarder to the one at the end of the table. "Yes," I guess he must be a poor chap," answered the one at the end of the table.

"Your dope's all wrong, he's an amateur golfer, retored the star boarder. APROPOS THE COMING MILE. Is Willard not an also ran, Or will it be that his Moran, Can slip to him the thinking can, Oh, yes, like Killy can.

Bulletin. February 25, 11 p. m., Willard in best of condition. Forty-seven thou looms nearer. THE REAL DOPE ON THE WESTERN LEAGUE PENNANT RACE.

The Rourkes will cop the flag if the Grizzlies don't beat them out while Dea Moines looks dangerous but probably will Hatten, Lansberry, Larsen, Newman, Stanley, Vialta.

Grand Island-Buettner, Davies, Englemann, Hefflin, Rasmussen, T. Smith and V. Smith. Hart and Wainhouse, Berg, Hines, Tidd, Simmons, Wender.

Nebraska City-Lester Anderson, Fred Benson, Crawford, High School-Bertram, Bradley Levensky, Lins, Morgan, Nelson and Wilson. Kansas-Althouse, Bess, Hines, Tidd, Simmons, Wender.

Nebraska School for Deaf-Blind-Cooper, Gomme, Koltisch, Krohn, Kuster, Stark, Wadsworth and Zabel. Ord-Batie, Cullison, Chamberlain, Geveloff, Halderman, Long, Nay, Peterson, Neumeister, Shaffer, Smith and Thompson.

Nebraska City-Bryant, Campbell, Clark, Deems, Reynolds, Shaffer, Weddell, Superior-Bertram, Erwin, Glick, Ginchick, Hanson, Hunter, Sanders, McCarry, Talmage-Batie, Doeman, Heineke, Morrison, Neumeister, Peterson, Seward, Tilden-Culvin, Fletcher, Hale, Osborn, Person, Powell, Tomchen.

Wausau-R Larson, R. Larson, Lundberg, Moeckelstrom, Peterson, Swanson, Wagoner-Horn, Carlson, Craig, Gibbs, Tenebeck, Horman, Olson, Ostrom, Potatile, Straka, Tindall, Williams, Valparaiso-Allen, Brown, Davis, Deane, Elmendorf, H. Odom, Ostrom, Ostrom, Teachers College High School-Anderson, Cochran, Ertle, Paul, Hoy, R. Sullivan, Wubbles, Sward.

Bill Hart signs up to ump in Southern Loop. Bill Hart, veteran pitcher, who resigned his job as an umpire in the National league last year because he could not stand the snaf, has now made application for appointment on the staff of the Southern league and with Charley Frank running the Atlanta team, too.

Steele and Concrete Stands for St. Paul. Contracts have been let for rebuilding the stands at the St. Paul ball park which burned last fall. The stands will be of steel and concrete and will cost about \$70,000. The park will have a seating capacity of about 12,000, or equal to that of the old stands.

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