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Al Demaree, Leading Twirler of Southern League.

Combing the underbrush of the minor leagues are several scouts who are on the trail of young pitchers for the New York Nationals. No league is too small to be explored, no tip so humble as to be ignored, and no price too big if the goods are delivered. The ivory hunters have been fanning the jungles for many weeks, and now, with drafting days are here, they are springing their traps.

Manager McGraw recently announced the purchase of Pitcher Al Demaree from the Mobile club of the Southern League, and of pitcher Bader from the Dallas club of the Texas League. Larne Kirby, the Michigan bearcat, is already on the job. Demaree and Bader and some others may show in the fall. But the whole mob will be in Marlin next spring.

Demaree is the leading pitcher of the Southern League. He is no raw youngster, but this is the best season he has ever had. He has been roaming around in the minors about five years, and once had a brief trial with the Yankees. No Southern League pitcher has held the enemy to as few runs and hits as Demaree. He has eight or ten shutouts to his credit, and it is largely through his efforts that Mobile is in second place.

Demaree was one of the pitchers who shut out the Giants for thirteen innings in Mobile last spring when the champions played a scoreless tie with the Sea Gulls. He is a right-hander with ability to "mix 'em up," and knows how to work batsmen. His speed is not remarkable, and he is not a big chap.

STARS AT INITIAL CUSHION

Hoblitzel, Red Player, Ranks High With Major League Base-men—Good With Stick.

Lacking in years, but already ranked as one of the excellent players of the day, is Richard Carlton Hoblitzel, the heavy port side hitter and able first baseman of the Reds. "Hobby" is only 22 years old, but if a man was asked to pick a better first-sacker, counting in hitting ability, winning spirit and general disposition, he



First Baseman Hoblitzel.

would be hard put to find a name to place ahead of that youngster from West Virginia.

Two brief years ago "Hobby" was an unknown quantity. When he reported to the Reds at Atlanta in the spring of 1909 it looked for a time as if he would be beaten for the first

base job by Chick Autrey a left-hander and a player of much more experience than Richard, but, by dint of sticking to his work with tenacity, "Hobby" won out in the fight for the position, and now there is not a club in the league which would not be proud to number him among its regular players.

AROUND THE BASES

Tim Jordan is wanted by the Pittsburgh club.

It is said that Joe Jackson, Cleveland's great performer, draws only \$3,000.

"Polly" Parritt, the best pitcher of the Fort Worth team, has been sold to Los Angeles.

Thirty-five extra-inning games have been played in the National league this season, 26 in the American.

Charles Murphy is credited with saying: "The more I hear from my scouts, the better I like my present club."

Pitcher Keefe of the Reds should help Rochester immensely in its race for the flag in the International league.

Claude Rossman and Charlie Carr, a couple of veterans, are fighting for batting supremacy in the American association.

Kid Eberfeld, who was in a bad way last spring, is playing the game of his life for Montgomery in the Southern league.

Rafael Almeida is acting as scout for the Cincinnati team in the Southern league. Among others he has recommended himself.

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