

FEW CHANGES IN MAJOR LEAGUES' BATTING RACES

Brooklyn Veterans Lead National Sluggers, While Tyrus Cobb Distances the Americans.

Chicago, Aug. 17.—Back in the old days they said that "Youth will be served." But that means nothing to "Zack" Wheat and "Jake" Daubert, veterans of the Brooklyn Nationals, who today are fighting it out for first place honors in the National league batting race.

Wheat, with an average of .341, is showing the way, with Daubert trailing him 20 points. Heinie Groh of Cincinnati, who gave promise of becoming the 1918 champion, has fallen into a tie for third place, according to averages including games of Wednesday. Wheat's drive to the top was not merely a "flash," for in his last seven games he cracked out an even dozen hits. Daubert also continued hitting, bagging nine safe blows in seven games.

The scramble for the honors in scoring is narrowing down to George Burns of New York, Max Carey of Pittsburgh and Groh. Burns has registered 70 runs and Groh and Carey 66. Carey, however, has a big lead in base stealing, his total of 53 remaining out of danger. Mollwitz of Pittsburgh drove Koush of Cincinnati out of the lead for sacrifice hitting, with a total of 26. Cravath of Philadelphia with seven circuit drives to his credit, is leading the trail for the home run hitters.

Cincinnati, with an average of .272, is leading in club batting and New York in team fielding, with .972. Leading batters: Z. Wheat, Brooklyn, .341; Daubert, Brooklyn, .321; Smith, Boston, .320; Groh, Cincinnati, .320; Merkle, Chicago, .316; Hollocher, Chicago, .314; Roush, Cincinnati, .314; Chase, Cincinnati, .301; Lee Magee, Cincinnati, .300.

American League. In the American league Tris Speaker, the Cleveland veteran, crowded George Sisler of St. Louis out of third place, with an average of .324. Sisler pulling up fourth, two points behind him.

Cobb, besides leading the league in batting and scoring, threatens to annex the base stealing honors. The Detroit star has 33 thefts to his credit, while Sisler and Bobby Roth of Cleveland are tied with 35 each. Roth, however, is out of the race as he has been suspended for the balance of the season.

Cobb is virtually certain of finishing the shortened race with the batting championship tucked in his pocket. His average of .384 today gives him a lead of 39 points over his nearest rival, Burns of Philadelphia. "Babe" Ruth of Boston and Walker of Philadelphia remain tied for honors in home run hitting with 11 each, while Chapman of Cleveland dethroned Shean of Boston for the lead in sacrifice hitting, Chapman, with 30, having a one point advantage.

Ruth is the only member of the Red Sox, the pennant contenders, with a .300 average. The Boston club is seventh in team batting, Cleveland leading with an average of .260. The Red Sox, however, are showing the way in club fielding, with .971. Leading batters:

Cobb, Detroit, .384; Burns, Philadelphia, .345; Speaker, Cleveland, .324; Sisler, St. Louis, .322; Baker, New York, .308; Pipp, New York, .304; Milan, Washington, .302; Demmitt, St. Louis, .302; Ruth, Boston, .302; Wood, Cleveland, .300.

Johnson Refuses \$300 Job in Shipyards for Farm

In spite of an offer of \$300 a game to pitch for a Duluth shipyard team Walter Johnson of Washington, says he thinks he will stick to the farm, believing that he can be of more real service to Uncle Sam getting into the crops than punching a clock in a shipbuilding plant. There's an honest ring in Walter's statement that is refreshing.

Walter Johnson on August 2 began his 12th year as a pitcher in the American league. Just to show that he is still good he twirled 18 innings at Detroit, as a sort of starter for his new year. The records show Johnson head and shoulders above all other pitchers in the American league and those who predict each year that he will go back have to subside as they read the figures.

Ban's Advice to American Loop Moguls Proves Sound

New York, Aug. 17.—Before the base ball season opened President Johnson of the American league made a wise suggestion that did not appeal to the magnates. Johnson, looking into the future, wanted to cut the playing schedule to 140 games, and also suggested one of 112 games. He advised the major leagues to end the campaign during the first week in September, feeling that a shortened playing season would meet the public's demands. Johnson evidently anticipated the clash with the War department over the eligibility of certain players, but the magnates turned him down. They figured that nothing could injure base ball, and that the popularity of the sport guaranteed protection. The advice offered by Big Ban should have been heeded, as things have turned out.

Caddock Wrestling Champ Until Peace is Declared

Des Moines, Ia., Aug. 17.—Premier wrestling honors of the world undoubtedly rest with Sergt. Earl Caddock of Anita, Ia., until after the war.

Caddock recently departed from Camp Dodge with the 88th division shortly after he had announced his intention to engage in no more championship contests until peace is declared. There is a possibility of course that Caddock may appear in a titular match while in France, but friends declare this unlikely.

Hitting High Spots on The Sporting Trail.

By A. K. DONOVAN.

President Weeghman of the Chicago Cubs is said to have offered several of his players jobs as managers of his Chicago "palaces." He agreed to arrange their working hours to allow them to play base ball around the Windy City on Saturdays and Sundays. Not a bad scheme, at all, at all. He could keep tab on them for future use.

I Guess Not a Fish.

The Boston Braves recently rang in a pinch hitter against the Chicago Cubs named Bass. He refused to bite at Dought's wide curves and merely smiled at the fans' shouts of "get the hook" when two strikes were called upon him. He connected safely on the next ball and started a rally that brought home the bacon for the Braves. Evidently Mr. Bass is not entirely a fish.

"Hi Say, Chappie, Some 'Snick." Those English sports writers have been having a tough time of it trying to learn American base ball nomenclature. But they have courage. They have already begun helping us out.

Look what they have dubbed a "Texas leaguer?" That name means nothing, absolutely nothing, to them. Indeed, some of them think Texas is still the abode of ferocious savages. But they've gone and called the "Texas leaguer" a "snick."

Maybe Barnum Was Right.

An army of major league "spavs" are contemplating an invasion of Cuba to combat the h. c. of l. by corraling all of the smooth dimes they can in the island republic. If they succeed in putting the jasho to the islanders the protectorate of the early '90s will seem justified.

Duty? Calls Grimm.

Patriotic service in the shipyards of Alabama called Charley Grimm of the St. Louis Cardinals. The first baseman chose a good way of serving his Uncle Samuel when you consider that his services as a timekeeper will bring in a monthly revenue of \$250.

Coffey Going Some.

The comings and goings of Jack Coffey, former manager of the Des Moines Boosters, have become the joke of the majors since he has landed safely with (someone). Detroit recently put up a big fight to secure the services of Coffey. After they won the decision from Jersey City before the National commission they released him. However, the Skeeters will not get his services. He goes to the Red Sox. Marty Kavanaugh has also been released again. Detroit lets him go this time with the return of Art Griggs to play first base. Bill Bailey and Charley Hall were another pair to draw releases.

Base Ball Not Dead.

Orders for more than \$300,000 worth of sporting goods for the American army overseas have been placed by the Young Men's Christian association. The order includes 180,000 base balls.

Why Not Croquet?

One of the plans suggested in the east for keeping the major league parks open this fall and into the winter is the organization of a soccer league. We now rise to suggest that Pa. Rourke get out his croquet set.

Some Sharpshooter.

The New York World sniper was sure hitting the bull's-eye when he alluded to the bullsheviks as cooties running around in the political under-shirt of civilization.

Grief for Griff.

Clark Griffith has reason to shed tears over the early closing of the base ball season. With the Senators in second place and running strong he has the first opportunity in quite some time of copping the bunting. The Senators have all the appearance of a real base ball team this year.

Turn on the Bright Lights.

A swimming carnival will be held in ill of N. Yawk this summer and 'is said the largest number of mermaids ever assembled will participate. They should prove some drawing card.

McCarthy Goes to Work.

McCarthy of the Giants is said to have signed up to play with a steel mill team in the shipyard league of Duluth and he will incidentally perform some manual labor in the mill during his leisure. He may have the same experience as Ed Monroe of the Yanks, who jumped to the shipyards and later was placed in Class I and has been called in the next draft contingent.

Back to the Farm.

Mike McNulty, former manager of boys of the padded mitts and who has been pounding rivets in a Superior, Wis., shipyard, has quit his job. Mike says it was not the strenuous life that caused him to leave but an S. O. S. from friend wife on the farm urging him to come home and help with the harvest. He is now getting up with the chickens on his Montana ranch.

Six Challenge Kingsley for Omaha Gun Club Trophy

Members of the Omaha Gun club apparently have considerable doubt about the ability of Ray Kingsley to retain the Omaha Gun club challenge trophy. The doubt is not centered in the ability of any one scattergun marksman to wrest the title but six members have issued a challenge to the trophy holder.

Sunday at 2.30 on the Omaha Gun Club grounds Kingsley will defend his title against Lew Adams, John Regan, Pat McAndrews, Dan Whitney, J. Br. wn and A. R. Keeline. The event should prove interesting to followers of the clay birds.

Iowa State Track Star Will Don Blue of the Navy

Ames, Ia., Aug. 17.—Arline Hawthorne, one of the greatest distance and cross country runners Iowa state (Ames) college has produced, has enlisted in the navy. Hawthorne was a member of the crack four-mile relay team that returned Ames victorious in that event, both in the Drake and Pennsylvania relays.

WILLARD SHIES AT MATCH WITH JACK DEMPSEY

"After the War" Are Enticing Words to Jess, Entrenched Behind Cornfields of Jayhawker State.

By RINGSIDER.

Chicago, Aug. 17.—Boy, page Mr. Jack Dempsey, the lad they're all talking about!

Even away down in Lawrence, Kan., the heart of the windy state where they raise wheat and cyclones with equal alacrity, the sound of the smash which sent Fred Fulton floorward and out was heard in the land particularly and specifically by Jess Willard—he of the championship yesterday, and now tamer to His Majesty, the American Will to Win the War.

Jess got down from his cultivator, took off his broad sunshade, mopped his brow and listened for a second thud. When it didn't come he knew that Jack had done what he did, and began to reconsider coming back into the glove war.

About the same time he heard also the sound of Pershing's fighters driving the Germans out of that pocket which now is not, and it put an idea into his head, to-wit:

After the War.

"I'll take on this Dempsey boy after the war is over—not before." Mayhap too, Jess could see the writing on the wall which became indelibly visible at the financial returns of the Dempsey-Fulton fight, and does not care to lose his farm for the honor of possible defeat at the hands of the new battling hero of the hour.

Friends of Jess who had heard and read of the oft-repeated desire of Dempsey to take him on for a war benefit got in touch with him after that fight, and tried to persuade him that now is the time for all good fighters to come to the aid of their soldier boys, but Jess turned a stone-deaf ear, and listened with the other one to the yawning of the corn.

"What's the use of talking about a big fight at this time?" he asked them. "Didn't we all of us get enough of that when Colonel Miller was trying to put over my match with Fred Fulton? Don't look to me as if the public was in the least bit interested in the ring fighters just now, excepting those in army camps. Naturally the show in New Jersey was a frost—just as our match would have been had we been able to go through with it. I could see the situation a week before Miller quit, and advised him to get out from under before spending any more money."

Admires Dempsey.

Then he turned to Dempsey. "Yes, I know all about Dempsey," he said. "Don't you remember some time back that I said I admired him, and since he has made Fulton look so foolish I am more than ever convinced that he is a great man. Still I do not consider his performance against Fulton any better than several of the others because I never considered Fulton a real fighter. He isn't constituted for the game."

So Jess, comfortably entrenched behind his corn, and fixed comfortably on his farm and happy in his hopes of oil, is not thinking of battle—just now. And there are those who say he is not thinking of it any time; for Dempsey, it looks to them, is not going to let Jess Willard or anyone else stand in the way of the championship tag being put on his mauler, and Jess knows it.

One of these voters for eventual Dempsey supremacy is Jim Corbett, undoubtedly the brainiest of the big fighters of yesteryear. "No one can keep him out of the lead," says Jim. "Why? Well, because there is no one good enough." Dempsey, he says, is the real fighting man, and not a freak, as are Fulton and Willard.

Dempsey Has Everything.

"What are Dempsey's assets as a fighter?" asked Jim, rhetorically. "Everything," he answered emphatically. "There isn't any question about it—he can do everything that a fighter should do and do it all very well indeed. I never have seen this youngster in any serious title, but I have seen him box, and have taken the trouble to learn a good deal about him from those in whose judgment I have confidence.

"He is clever in a way, not in a showy way, but in a mighty effective one. That is best proved by the fact that he seldom is hit solidly. Naturally, the first thing to be considered is the question of a man's boxing. Dempsey is a capable boxer. Next, consider his hitting. That I would say has been demonstrated satisfactorily on every occasion of this young man's appearance in the ring in the last year.

"There is a question of physical attainments. Look over a good picture of him and figure out his measurements, and you will discover that he is endowed amply in this respect. He has sufficient weight for a man of 190 pounds. And his other physical gifts are satisfactory.

"Best of all, he has the fighting instinct. He likes to fight, which some cannot be said of the majority of heavyweights of today. This indicates to me at the same time that he is game. You know, and I know that a coward does not love a scrap—in fact, he turns tail when signs of trouble brew, and is going the other way when the storm breaks.

"Summing up, Jack is a good boxer, can hit terrifically, is game, likes his work, and has the physical and mental qualifications for the wear and tear of the game. Can you think of anything else he ought to have to make him real championship material?"

"I can't."

Rick Should Worry.

Rick Woodward, owner of the Birmingham club of the Southern league, should worry about base ball. The government has agreed to finance a \$25,000,000 steel plant that his company will build at Birmingham.

Benny Leonard and Lewis Will Meet for Dual Title



BENNY LEONARD TED LEWIS

Benny Leonard, lightweight champion of the world, and Ted "Kid" Lewis, king of the welterweights, have been matched to meet in an eight-round bout at New Jersey. The pair will meet at the Harrison, N. J., ball park, where the recent Fulton-Dempsey match was held. The date will be announced later.

Eighteen-Hole Handicap Against Bogey at Happy

Action Begun Merely as Raid Becomes Organized Attack; Heavy Casualties Inflicted on Germans Pinned Off From Escape by Barrage; Enemy Replies Ineffectively to Artillery Fire.

An 18-hole handicap qualifying round was played at the Happy Hollow club Saturday, the 16 players having best match scores against bogey to qualify for prizes presented by W. F. Megeath. Following are some of the best net scores returned: A. W. Friend, handicap 9, 3 up. Guy Liggett, handicap 8, 2 up. F. J. Norton, handicap 8, 1 up. E. S. Folsom, handicap 8, even. G. M. Graham, handicap 8, even. C. B. Moser, handicap 8, even. W. E. Shaffer, handicap 8, even. R. C. Wagner, handicap 8, even. J. J. Fitzgerald, handicap 1, 1 down. E. W. Cornell, handicap 4, 2 down. R. W. Morrison, handicap 6, 2 down. J. W. Parish, handicap 6, 2 down. W. E. Rhoades, handicap 7, 2 down. J. E. Bertwell, handicap 6, 3 down. J. A. Epeneter, handicap 3, 3 down. R. L. Harris, handicap 8, 3 down. G. H. Nelson, handicap 3, 3 down. C. C. Sadler, handicap 3, 3 down. M. S. Williams, handicap 3, 3 down. The last six players tied for three places and will play off the tie. Pairings for match play and handicaps are as follows: (1) A. W. Friend against J. J. Fitzgerald (2).

All-Star Ball Club To Play Team Chosen From Army in France

Paris, Aug. 17.—It is announced that arrangements have been completed for bringing an all-star base ball team from the United States under the supervision of John J. McGraw to play through a season at the American centers in France against a team selected from former league players now in the army, under the management of "Hank" Gowdy. "Johnny" Evers, who recently arrived in Paris, has come to an agreement on the subject with Gowdy. The games will be played for the entertainment of American wounded.

Armours Return Full of Pep After Winning Series in Shenandoah

The Armours, tied for first place with the Murphy-Did-Its in the Greater Omaha league pennant scramble, came back from Shenandoah, Ia., feeling pretty confident of being able to take the measure of any team in the league in short order. The boys from the packing houses have been showing some speed of late and have just reason for feeling confident. In the last 12 games they have played they have humbled the colors of their opponents and they have not been choosing easy teams for their opponents.

Army and Navy Will Stage Crack Base Ball Program

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 17.—Plans for staging one of the most pretentious military base ball programs ever offered in this vicinity are nearing completion by the War Camp Community Service Board in this city. The contestants will be the Great Lakes Naval Training Station team and the army base ball team of Jefferson Barracks.

Major Leaguers Plan Big Invasion of Cuba in Fall

Cincinnati, O., Aug. 17.—Plans are already under way here for an invasion of Cuba this fall by a number of major league base ball players over the draft age.

Something to Worry About.

The annual tournament of the Manitoba Lawn Bowling association is to be held in Winnipeg the week of August 15.

KLINE TO COACH NEBRASKA UNI FOOT BALL TEAM

Wesleyan Mentor and Paul Schissler Will Replace Dr. Stewart, Now in Army in Italy.

W. G. Kline will preside over the destinies of the Cornhusker foot ball team during the coming season according to reports coming out of the university city. He will succeed Dr. E. J. Stewart who has been granted a leave of absence by the regents of the University of Nebraska in order to engage in war work. He has been assigned to serve on the Italian front and will have charge of all athletic training of the allied armies.

Head Coach Kline is well known and popular with followers of the game in Nebraska. For several years he has coached the Nebraska Wesleyan with success. During his services with this school he has several times copped the state championship for his team and has had a faculty of developing exceptionally fast players. Guy Chamberlain, whom Nebraskans allege to be the fastest player who ever donned mole skin at that institution, was developed under Kline's tutelage and later entered the state university. Kline is extremely popular with Omaha fans who have frequently seen his teams in action on local gridirons. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois.

Schissler Will Help. As an assistant Head Coach Kline will have Paul Schissler, who has had several years' experience as coach of smaller college teams. Assistant Coach Schissler played one year on the Nebraska freshman squad after which he was athletic director of the Hastings high school. He later served as head coach at Hastings, Doane and St. Viator's colleges. The new coaches are going up against a hard schedule this year and their mettle will be thoroughly tested. Enlistments in the army have made a big dent into the available material for a winning team and many new men will have to be developed.

Nothing to Worry About.

The marauders will not have to worry about training camps for their players next spring. Uncle Sam will attend to that.

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