

THE NATIONAL GAME.

The race for the pennant in the National league this year is one that will be long remembered by every baseball enthusiast as the greatest in the history of the game. Not since the game began has there ever been two teams so evenly matched as the present Baltimore and Boston aggregations. Taking both teams as they now stand it is hard to pick the winner, but the chances favor Baltimore. From now on, with the exception of three games, they play the rest of the season at home, while Boston has three games at Baltimore, and if they win half of them they will be in great luck. New York and Cincinnati cannot be considered out of it yet, especially the former team, as they have a long stretch of games on the home grounds and with Rusie, Meekin and Seymour in good condition and the addition of McCreery in the outfield they ought to get a slice at the Temple cup money, if not the pennant. Cincinnati is a great ball team at home but it is a well known fact that when the Reds reach foreign ground they play indifferently and are "quitters" and can consider themselves in great luck if they finish as good as third. Cleveland, Chicago and the Phillies are having a nice race for fifth place and if Chicago keeps up her present clip Anson and his colts will come very nearly finishing ahead of both teams. Anson's aggregation started in hard luck but the hoodoo has passed away and they are playing a grand game and the team that beats them out from now on will vouch for this statement.

Pittsburg, Louisville, Brooklyn and Washington are nicely bunched for eighth place with a little advantage in favor of Brooklyn and Washington, but Louisville may surprise them for the Colonels are now playing a game that no team has a license to win from them. St Louis is in last place and will never, as long as they are under the present management, reach a higher position in the race.

Indianapolis and Columbus are running a splendid race for first place in the Western league with the former a sure winner, unless some unforeseen thing happens, as it always does in baseball, to pull them down. Watkins has gathered a team together for the Indiana city that is hard to beat and they are entitled to their present good standing.

St. Paul and Milwaukee are having a hard struggle for third place but if the Brewers don't land there it will be a great disappointment to the citizens at Brexington and also to a great many of the fans in this city, as our old favorite Teddie Barnes, one of our own boys, and Kid Speer, the best catcher that ever donned a mask in this place are playing with them and both are putting up a fine article of ball. Detroit has fifth place cinched. Poor Kansas City, the team that last spring was to run away with the pennant, is the biggest failure of the year. Manning has certainly had hard luck this year, but if energy and hustle will do any good Kansas City patrons can rest assured that they will see a great team representing their town next season. Minneapolis and Grand Rapids have been in the same rut as K. C. and will probably finish the season in the seventh and eighth, but either team may nose Manning's aggregation out of the sixth place as only a few points separate all three of them.

BASE-BALL NOTES.

Clem Kimerer, who has been playing in the Texas league arrived home Sunday and from his healthy appearance it seems as if it agreed with him out there in the Lone Star State. Clem has been playing a great game and he will bear watching, for some day he is "Jug" for the big league.

Gettman, a Texas Leaguer, who signed with Washington, seems to be fast enough, for the big league in three games he got five hits against Anson's men. If this is a criterion of his mark he will certainly do.

Stahl, of Boston, still keeps pegging them out, and will keep all the heavy hitters in the league guessing if they beat him out.

A Louisville rooster remarked to the Boston manager the last time the Beaneaters played in that city: "Ob, Frank, let's have a Selee dinner and a Kloby Dance."

Cincinnati has five games to play each in Baltimore and in New York, and the Bostonians are confident, one and all, that they can hold their own with the champions.

"I think Mr. Kelley is the handsomest man on the Baltimore team," said a sweet young thing in a red bonnet, while the Orioles were limbering up before the game. Her opinion changed, however, after she witnessed one or two of his confabs with the umpire.—*Boston Herald.*

At a base ball game in New Jersey the other day a hot liner struck one of the spectators on the head and bounded into the air to a height of fifteen feet. This so amused one of the bleacherites that he laughed until he dislocated his jaw.

Though the average captain will instruct his players to overlook the first ball pitched and take a strike, this theory of batting is slightly contradicted by Delehanty, who, in the minds of many of the critics, is the best natural batsman that ever stepped up to the plate. Out of five times at the bat in a game at Washington, Del hit three times at the first ball pitched.

King Jack Crooks is hailed as the uncrowned monarch of Columbus, O., and the ace second baseman of the Western league. Jack has recovered from the lumbago attack that handicapped his work last season, and Tom Loftus doesn't regret the \$500 he paid Dr. Stucky for the moon-visaged second baseman.

Talking about the Brodie-Donnely-Stenzel deal being a gold brick affair, how about the Corcoran Ritchie-Smith Fisher deal being in the same class. Fisher has been sick all season, while the game put up by "Germany" Smith has been enough to drive a man to drink. Then take a look at the Cincinnati pair. Corcoran has been playing sensational ball since he joined the Reds, while little Ritchie, after covering short in masterly style until Corcoran reported, is now in the outfield and playing as well as the best.

The Nebraska State Fair for 1897 will commence Friday, September 17, and close Friday, September 24. Friday and Saturday, September 17 and 18, will be used as preparation days. The Fair proper will open promptly at 8 o'clock Monday morning, September 20. All entries except Speed will positively close Saturday, September 18, at 6 p. m. Positively no entries or exhibits will be received after this hour.

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