

WALTER D. BRATZ WRITES OF SALT LAKE'S PROSPECTS

HUGH FULLERTON DISCUSSES THE CHANCES OF THE CLEVELAND AMERICANS

HAPPY TERMINATION OF UNPOPULAR COOLEY REGIME. AND TIMELY COMING OF "HONEST" JOHN McCLOSKEY MAKE SITUATION IN SALT LAKE ROSIER THAN EVER

Stock in Baseball Association Sought by Utah Investors and Public Interest Is Keen—New Manager Has Good Veterans on Reserve List and Some Finds Under Cover.

BY WALTER D. BRATZ.
(Sporting Editor of the Evening Telegram.)

Salt Lake City, Feb. 22.—In its 29 years of varied experience with baseball leagues, both state and interstate, this old sport-loving town never awaited the opening of a season with more anticipation or with better prospects in view. If Salt Lake does not turn out crowds the like of which attended the game in 1911, or even better, I will certainly miss my guess, and I believe I have studied this state and her baseball fanatics as long and as closely as the next man.

Immediately after Dick Cooley undertook to supply baseball in person for this hungry baseball populace and permitted Cliff Blankenship to get away from him, there was something lamentably wrong. The fans did not seem to take to Dick Cooley's methods and when he began to throw the books into "bank" and later permitted him to go to Missoula, the camel's back was broken completely. In two, Cliff Blankenship was easily the most popular manager who ever handled a team here and we have had a few. There is only one other manager in this neck of the woods who occupies anything like Blankenship's position in the heart of fandom and that is John J. McCloskey. I believe Salt Lake fans are so strong for these two men because they are scrappy. The fact remains, at any rate, that they are "in right" to borrow from the vernacular, and it is fortunate for the league to have one of these men in Salt Lake for this, the biggest of the cities in the circuit, wants to win as badly as do the little ones. This reminds me—Salt Lake has never won a pennant in any kind of a league. On the other hand, it has usually spent the season fighting to circumvent landing in the cellar.

The Reasons.

There are two good reasons therefore why Salt Lake is smacking its lips for a great season—it has a live, hustling manager and its baseball interests are being financed by the best citizens and the biggest boosters in the town.

Going into detail and trying to tell readers of The Missoulian about John McCloskey's record would be wasting words and spreading too much ink so suffice by saying that "Old Honest John" has his mind set upon making good. "I have been taking what was left in this league ever since it was organized," is the way Mac puts it, "and now I have the chance. I have been looking for so long to me to make good." You know what that means, coming from John McCloskey, and that is just what the local fans are banking on. So much for John McCloskey.

The men who are financing the club for McCloskey are hustlers of the first rank and men who stand well in the community—so well in fact that they have raised \$15,000 in actual cash without hair trying. W. H. Booth, Jr., president of the new incorporation, is one of Salt Lake's leading life insurance men; D. C. McEntyre, vice president, is a mining man of repute; H. G. Hite, secretary and treasurer, is another mining man; J. E. Nelson, a director, is the senior member of the firm of Nelson & Langford, which owns and controls the Saltair and Salt Palace resorts, while Chester N. Sutton, another director, is a popular theatrical man.

Plans for 1913.

The incorporators of the new company agreed to pay Dick Cooley \$10,000 for franchise, park, players and all. Two thousand dollars of this amount has been paid Cooley and the balance will be handed over Feb. 27. The company is incorporated for \$30,000 and, among other things, expects to build a new park second to none in the west. It is possible that the old park will be used during the 1913 season. If so, additional ground will be rented just outside of the southern corner. The stands will then be moved so that they will be outside of the present enclosure and the diamond will be turned around so as to afford more open opera chairs for the grandstands have already been ordered and a sod infield will be provided. In other words, everything will be made so inviting for the fans that they will find it impossible to remain away.

Dick Cooley more than doubled his money in 1911 when Cliff Blankenship made his team a popular one, and the new owners of the club expect to treat the fans in such a manner that they will make a share of baseball stock in this city a valuable asset. Years ago we used to go up and down the street with a subscription list, begging donations for baseball, but it is different now—every man with a little spare change is willing to get in and, therefore, the new owners have had comparatively easy sailing. In fact they have had two offers to sell from persons who own resorts in the city and who would be tickled to bring baseball to their parks.



W. H. BOOTH, JR.
PRESIDENT



D. C. McENTYRE
VICE-PRESIDENT



H. G. HITE
SECRETARY & TREASURER



C. N. SUTTON
DIRECTOR



J. E. NELSON
DIRECTOR

OFFICERS OF SALT LAKE CLUB.

The local directors expect to decide within the next few days as to whether or it is to be the old park or a new one and immediately thereafter work on one or the other will be started so that a field will be in shape in time for the games with Comiskey's White Sox in early April.

As for Players.

Don't expect me to tell a great deal about McCloskey's probable lineup for 1913 because the old spring has never been known to divulge any names until reporting time. On the reserve list he has Ames, Morgan, Hummel and Bittorf, pitchers; Pondleton, Davis and Devereaux, infielders; and Spencer and Bauer, outfielders. Of the above mentioned Ames, Bittorf, Devereaux and Spencer, may be traded released or sold. Morgan is sure of his job and Hummel, who has always looked good to Mac and who is looking the picture of health this winter, is to have a regular berth. Pondleton will be a fixture with McCloskey and has signed his contract. Davis is also sure of a position unless Mac can get a good trade for him. Devereaux is anxious to remain on the coast and Mac wrote him the other day telling him that if Los Angeles is willing to pay \$500 for his release he may join Billy's team. Mac reserved the promise, however, that Brick is to divide the \$500 between his two babies and place it in a bank for them. Jake Ballier is working for a land company at Arco, Idaho, and says he will not be able to report until the middle of May.

New Material.

Since taking hold, McCloskey has acquired Howard Murphy and John Misse. Murphy will stick to be sure, but Misse may be traded to advantage for a younger pitcher. The other day Mac also signed Harry Thompson with Missoula and Helena in 1911 and with the latter club last season. Don't be surprised if "Hippo" I believe, graces one of the other outfield positions. Mac would delight in getting Fortier back from Portland, but cannot see a chance. Dressen may be brought back from Sacramento. If he is, Leo will be Salt Lake's regular first baseman. Mac says he has a young third sacker under cover who will "set the league alive." He expects to have, with a few exceptions, a team of youngsters. He is anxious to catch one experienced pitcher and also a catcher who knows how and can catch every day. If necessary (these two men have about been signed, but I have promised to keep the secret, so

"man" is the word. The remainder of the pitching staff will be composed of youngsters. "Talking about youngsters, Mac has just 11 of them on the string so far.

Ogden Looks Good.

Just a few words about Ogden. That city will be in line when the bell rings. The commercial club there is again behind the baseball organization and some of the men who are actively identified with the organization are live wires. They haven't a McCloskey to hustle them along, but they will be in line, I think, because men like Archie Blakeley and H. M. Rowe are hard to stop when they once get under way.

I had a talk with Mr. Bigelow the other day and he informed me that the choice for manager laid between "Kitty" Knight and Fred Stripp, with chances in favor of the former. Bigelow, however, has one of the best managers in the business, or at least in Salt Lake in "Dad" (Grim) Ghidin. Ghidin landed Boise last season and the latter club is willing to permit him to remain in the junction city if he desires to. Ghidin is just about as popular in Ogden as "Blank" is in Missoula or Salt Lake and, from a stateside point of view, he is the Jordan man for Ogden and the league. H. M. Rowe of Ogden cannot see Ghidin, however, and there you are.

Personally, I am glad to see the league going ahead with six proven towns. Payroll is a good Sunday town, but that lets it out, and Lewiston would be uncertain to say the least. With Boise in the league, Pondleton might have weathered the storm. Boise belongs in this circuit, and its drawing powers are needed. Perhaps they will be with us next season, for I do not expect the Western Tri-State to finish the 1913 season.

All told, I can see nothing but a bright prospect for a great season as far as this end of the circuit is concerned, at least.

BISCUITS WINS.

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 22.—Stanishas Zyzosko, the Polish wrestler defeated Jess Reimer of Iowa in straight falls here tonight. The first fall was scored at the end of 24 minutes with a scissors hold on the head, and the second in 30 minutes with a half-nelson on head. Zyzosko appeared to have the bout his own way at nearly all stages.

PINCH HITS

SPRING FEVER.
Feel tired and street by,
And tired of your work,
You've got it.
Would you just like to rest
And do nothing but shirk?
You've got it.
Like to go to the ball park,
And get lounge around,
Er stretch yourself out
On the damp, soggy ground?
If yer askin' the reason,
The answer is found—
You've got it.
Are you longin' right now
For them good old bleachers?
You've got it.
Or maybe you're dreamin'
Of long drives and seroachers,
You've got it.
You're wishin' right now that vaca-
tion was here,
Don't let the physician give you a
bad steer,
You know what you sit when the
spring time is near,
And—you've got it.
—Chicago Post.

It seems that we have done young Burns of the high school basketball team somewhat of an injustice by not sufficiently explaining the statement that "most of the blame for Missoula's defeat rests upon his shoulders." If an injustice has been done this column apologizes, heartily. Burns went into the game Friday night with a weak ankle. He had been on crutches early in the week and was able to practice only twice before the game. He was half sick from his injury and his ankle showed his play. We didn't know all of that—we understood most of it, our statement was not intended as a slur upon Burns. The statement was made as a matter of fact. Burns had an off day, due probably, to this injury, and as a result he couldn't do his share of the work. The weakness of this one cog in the high school machine lost the game for Missoula. Burns is a good player as anyone who has seen him in the season's games will testify. He did the best he could Friday night, but he wasn't in condition to play good basketball. He is not to be blamed for the defeat, for he couldn't help the fact that his weakness beat the game for the locals. If we have done a good, clean, player an injustice we are truly sorry, but that doesn't change the situation.

Some of the high school people were a bit disappointed by the fact that the Anaconda players weren't "crushed" for their rough playing. A protest of that sort is the cry of a poor loser. The visitors played a rough game, but they paid for it. Whistler called 25 fouls on the Anaconda team. Rough basketball isn't the best sort, but if a team is willing to play that sort of a game and pay for it, no one has a right to complain.

Here is a quartet of players who are on the big league black list: Elvader Jones, Hal Doucerty, Golden of the Cards and Seaton of Brooklyn.

A BLUE PRINT.

Yesterday's mail from Hamilton brought this: "I don't getcher, Steve. From yesterday morning's issue of W. M. G. N. 'I am not here.' Mr. Underwood replied, 'with any authority to speak, Sheriff, take this boy to an outst without having my special authority.' All of which goes to show what an inspired make-up man can do. "AKIN."

W. M. G. N., Mr. Akin, is Western Montana's Greatest Newspaper. The devil in correcting proof on Thursday's Missoulian, slipped the wrong slug into a story on a debate in the House, with the result shown above. Hal! Hal!

Pricefighting may be brutal, but it's popular. The public is willing to wait until morning for reports of the revolution in Mexico, but when there is a big prizefight every man, woman and child in the city must know the result before going to sleep. The telephone in this room rang 5,943 times last night and 7,942 of the people who wanted to know the fight results. The other fellow was the weather man with his daily report.

The regularity of the calls reminded D. Lever, sporting editor of the Intermountain Educator, of a call that came to the esteemed business office last fall. A young lady called Daddy Wilbur.
"Was there a football game today?" she asked.
"Yes," said the inscriber of the payroll, "the university beat the Aggies."
"Who was pitching?"
"Wait a minute and I'll see," said Daddy. He was gone for several minutes and when he came back he said: "I can't find out. They threw me out of the office upstairs when I asked."

The Missoula high school basketball team is to make a tour of the Cosumnes Delta this week. The five will play Wallace on Feb. 28 and Burke on March 1. This will give the team a week in which to get in shape for the state tournament.

A new scheme is to be tried at the tournament this spring, according to Coach McGough. A committee will go over the records of the season and pick the four best teams. Each of these teams will have a division of five and the semi-finals will be played by divisions. This method is expected to keep the best heart until the final games. Last year second-rate teams got the prizes for second and third places because they didn't meet a good team until they played in the final matches.

The Garden City Indoor Baseball League has returned.
It is time.

The Major League Races IV.—The Cleveland Americans By HUGH S. FULLERTON.

Cleveland for 1913 has possessed a ought-to-be but isn't ball club, and this season appears to have made a final effort to escape from that category and present a team that will look fairly well on the field, no matter how weak it may appear on paper.
For five years Cleveland's teams, on paper, have figured from first to fifth, and generally possessed strength enough to be close to the top if the best could be gotten out of the players. This season the team figures fourth or fifth on paper, with a possibility of going third and an outside chance of second.

Some of the elements that have prevented the club from giving its best to its patrons still exist, but their force has been minimized and the owners and the manager understand the difficulties.
Cleveland's past troubles have been: First—The annual attempt at serving two masters, because certain influences have interfered at times with the acting manager, which is sufficient in itself to wreck a team. Secondly—The tendency to individual play instead of team play, which has been indulged in by the best of the individual players, and third, discontent and indifference following spells of losing.

The fact that Lajoie himself one of the greatest players of all time, has failed to get into the spirit of the club and has been the leader among the indifferent ones has hurt more than anything else.
Ill-timed changes of management also have damaged the team. It now presents a club that at least will have enthusiasm for a time—a strong if uncertain pitching staff, a fair infield,

Johnson at first is not a winning ball player. He is a whitening in brief spells, but lacks the class for an entire season. This fellow is "bone," and I believe that if Cleveland fails this season it can be attributed as much to lack of brainwork as to lack of individual merit.
Two years ago Johnson was touted strongly by several major leagues, including Manager Evers of the Cubs, as a great player, but it was discovered that he could not hit much, except in brief streaks, and that his brain work was very slow. John Anderson, Cleveland took him over, tried him, and last fall brought him back. Mechanically he is improved. He is fast and makes the plays to second and third like lightning, comes in well on slow bouncers and fields the bag well, except for some weaknesses on low throws.

Lajoie will play second and a great deal depends upon whether or not his heart is in the game. If he is inclined to make an effort to hustle he will make the team at least one position higher. I have few hopes. Lajoie has grown accustomed to the careless system of ball playing and is indifferent at heart. It looks to me as if there is little hope Lajoie ever will play good ball for Cleveland and that the only hope of his ever being great except at bat is that he be traded.

There was quite a fight for the shortstop position last fall and it looks as if Cleveland has picked up one of the best young infielders in the business in Chapman, who was sent to Toledo under an optional agreement and recalled to replace Captain Olson and Peckinpaugh, who had shown weaknesses. He hit viciously, al-



JACKSON AND LAJOIE.

a spotty outfield weak in one spot, a rather poor catching staff, and a whole lot of material that cannot be used advantageously.

Birmingham showed himself a capable and enthusiastic manager last fall, with the respect of his players and the liking of the very elements that have been indifferent in the past. I believe the club will give the leaders strong resistance during the first four months of the season and finish with an improved percentage, if not a higher standing.

The makeup of the team is at present uncertain. According to the records, Cleveland owns 11 ball players, and has 22 on the active list for the spring training trip. Among these are seven of scarcely class A-A caliber, and three of unknown strength. Remember, however, that the Cleveland team finished strong last fall and showed a lot of improved pitching right at the tail end of the season.

I am figuring that the regular team will be made up of Jackson, right field; Lajoie, second base; Turner, third base; Birmingham, center field; Liebold or Beall, left field; Chapman, shortstop; Johnson, first base; Carisch, Land and O'Neill, catchers; Gregg, Blanding, Falkenberg, Cullop, Kahler, Baskette and Steen, pitchers. The others I have considered only as possibilities.

That makes a spotty and uncertain ball club, with a batting order that is enough to give any manager the willies to figure out. The batting order will have a very important bearing upon the strength of the team, as the hitting strength is so unequally distributed and the speed the same way.

Liebold may beat Beall out of a job in the outfield merely because he would be better to lead off. Chapman probably will hit second, and he cannot hit up to the gait he showed last fall when he batted 315 in 31 games. If Chapman could hold that gait with Jackson and Lajoie to follow him they would finish up a lot of pitchers. Cleveland was third in hitting in the league last season, which I believe was a bit above its real hitting strength, being lifted by the individual work of Jackson and Lajoie.
Studying the team individually,

though probably above his gait, and fielded fairly well after a ragged start. He looks a comer.

Turner in all probability will be a third, a man of brains and long experience, and an earnest worker who will be of value in steadying Chapman.

Joe Jackson, of course, will play right field. He is one of the greatest in the business, a marvelous hitter, a good fielder and thrower and a fast man, without great intelligence, although he has shown improvement since entering the American League and seems able to learn baseball at least. Birmingham is a good outfielder, and as he believes in a field manager he probably will retain his berth, especially as not one of his men can beat him at the game. He is a heady and clever ball player and a run getter, in spite of the seeming lowness of his hitting average.

The third position, left, is in doubt. Liebold, who is a fast and promising man, may get it on speed, but I give Johnny Beall a chance. Beall is rather a good ball player. He has been up a couple of times, once with the White Sox, and his failure to make good was due to being overlooked in part and ill luck in the other part. They tell me he is an improved player. He can hit, and has fair speed.

Reaching the catchers we strike an interesting study. Cleveland hasn't had a competent catcher in years, and has three problems now. Grover Land has the strength, everything, but he failed once just when he was commencing to improve and promised to become a good man. Failure to condition properly and a fight with an employe put him into the minors. Last season he took the pledge and had a corking year at Toledo, so he may be expected to come again.

O'Neill I don't think will do, and while Carisch is much touted he needs a lot more to be a top notcher. In justice to him he handled Cleveland's wild and erratic pitchers last season better than any one ever has done and has the strength, everything, but the strong showing of Carisch was due to him, and he can't hit and in timely fashion.
The pitching has, I believe, been

much affected by bad catching. Ven Clegg is, of course, the star of the aggregation. He is a great man and with better catching and proper encouragement would be a wonder. Mitchell, another strong possibility, failed miserably last season after promising to be great. If I had an American league club with a heady catcher this would be my first bid. Blanding is a winner and a nice worker who ought to improve. Big Jim Baskette is a puzzle. In fact a lot of the Naps' showing depends upon the behavior of some of the men. Baskette is young and a fire eater and during this winter took more than a mouthful of fire and got carried up to a knife battle down south. How much this will affect his work is of course hard to tell.

Personally I like Kahler. He was unsteady at times last year and developed a nice spit ball. He is a glutton for work and while his record does not show it, looks good. Steen was a fair pitcher. It would be a surprise if Cy Falkenberg, the tall veteran, came back and won steadily, and almost too much to expect, but his work in the association last year promises much. He pitched better than he has in four years.

Of the new men I get the best reports from Cullop, who is considered a wonder—another Nap Rucker, by some of the scouts who looked over the Appalachian league. Hallop, a giant right hander, and Wilson, a southpaw, are from the Appalachian and only experiments.

Olson and Peckinpaugh will be the little infielders. Olson probably getting plenty of work somewhere. Ryan looks a fair outfielder and Clancy from New Orleans has a chance to stay.

The team has chosen an excellent training ground and will try out a whole raft of youngsters, including two or three kid catchers. They do not promise to help the team strength to any extent.

RIVERS IS WINNER OVER TEUTON

MEXICAN LIGHTWEIGHT KNOCKS OUT "KNOCKOUT" BROWN IN TENTH ROUND.

Los Angeles, Feb. 22.—A right swing four times repeated ended the scheduled 20-round bout today between "Knockout" Brown, the New York lightweight, and Joe Rivers of Los Angeles with victory for the Mexican before the end of the tenth round. It was the first defeat for the blonde German whose sobriquet had been earned by the manner in which he had won scores of fights, and it was decisive. Five times Rivers sent Brown to the floor with his vicious right swing. In the concluding three times for the count of nine. The fifth time Referee Eytan stopped the fight without counting.

It was a sensational finish to a furious encounter in which Mexican and Teuton battled viciously from the opening gong. Brown's awkward style of milling due to the fact that he fights left-handed, soon was solved by the Mexican, who blocked cleverly with elbow and open glove. Brown's best blow was a left drape to the body which he used effectively.

Brown forced the fighting in nearly every round, but his open style gave the Mexican many opportunities to punish him about the head. Rivers being lightning fast with both hands and at times hitting the German viciously from seemingly impossible angles. Punishment, which would have stopped many, seemed only to act as a spur to the loser's aggressiveness.

Brown began leading in nearly every round. Sometimes Rivers would allow the German to do the fighting for the first minute, blocking and covering, only to cut loose with both hands at a savage clip that clearly bewildered the New Yorker. In the clinches Rivers had all the better of the milling.

After taking a hard drubbing for five rounds, Brown came back strong in the eighth, but began beginning to solve the Mexican's defenses against the puzzling right and he jabbed through the Mexican's guard repeatedly. A vicious rally in the last 10 seconds by Rivers did not overcome Brown's lead in the round.

In the ninth both landed hard and frequently Brown work his left to the stomach and jaw while Rivers retaliating with hard lefts and rights to face and body, making it an even round.

Both seemed tired when they came up for the tenth and Brown's performance in the previous two rounds made it look like either's fight. Brown sent two hard lefts to the head and planted the right in River's stomach. Then the Mexican saw the opening he wanted. He had repeatedly missed his long right swing which was intended to end the fight. This time he aimed with deadly accuracy and Brown was caught on the point of the jaw as he was trying to evade the blow. The glove, with all of Rivers' 133 pounds behind it, sent the New York lad spinning half way across the ring and he fell heavily in a neutral corner. He was upon one knee in a moment, shaking his head to clear his addled brain while the referee counted nine. Getting a two-way blow and another right sent him down again. This time for the count of three. They wrestled into the other neutral corner, where Brown twice took the full count. He was "out on his feet" when the last savage swing sent him flat on his back in the center of the ring and the fight was stopped.

Brown, still some, was on his feet a few seconds after his head struck the mat, and he left the ring without assistance.