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NEWS OF ALL BRANCHES OF SPORT

EDITED BY ROBERT EDGREN

M'GRAW TELLS WHY HE FEARS CHICAGO IN THE PENNANT RACE

Cub Machine Full of Fight and Has the Staying Qualities—The Infield Is Perfect and the Pitching Staff Well Handled by Archer and Bresnahan—Philadelphias Have Too Many Double-Headers Later in the Season, Which Is Sure to Kill Off Their Twirling Staff.

BY JOHN J. M'GRAW
(Manager of the Giants.)

JOHN McGRAW

THE Cubs now shape up as the strongest pennant contender outside of the Giants. In spite of the excellent prospects of Pittsburgh before the season opened, or the desperate dash of the Phillies, the Cubs look like the toughest club in the league for us to beat to-day. It is strange that, with all the changes in the teams and managements this year, the race again threatens to narrow down to the old Giant-Cub battle.

Why do I fear the Cubs most? One good reason is because they are the only team which took two games from us on the Western trip. They looked better on the field than any of the other Westerners. They are thinking all the time and playing "Evers baseball," which is the fighting brand and hard to beat.

When his pitching staff cracked, Evers still kept the Cubs in the race, and now that he has more reliable twirling he is as apt as not to shoot them up to the front to mix it with the Giants to a finish. They are a team which is never licked and one that will take a lot of beating and still come back.

The clever Cub machine has more fight and staying qualities in it than any other team in the East or West, to my mind. Archer, behind the bat, is a bundle of strength and one of the shrewdest catchers at working his own pitcher that ever put on the chest protector. He is largely responsible for the recent good showing in the box of both Humphries and Smith.

Archer is always talking to a pitcher and steadying him and keeping him out of the hole. Besides this defensive work Jimmie is hitting better than he was and is becoming very important as a run getter. He showed up particularly well in that branch in the series with the Giants.

PERFECT INFIELD AND CUBS' PITCHERS ARE GOING WELL.

Tinker has turned out to be a good first baseman and fits into the Cub style of play very well. He is a bulldog for hanging on, although he has not the aggressive manner of some of the other more pronounced Cubs, such as Archer and Evers and Zimmerman. Evers and Bridwell are working smoothly around second base, and Al appears to have completely recovered the use of his legs and his old-time speed.

Zimmerman, who is having some trouble with the management, is said to be back in line. He thinks there is a great chance of the club pulling out.

The infield is a beauty. The outfield is well balanced and smooth, with Schulte, Mitchell and Leach, all old stagers and smart and dangerous at the bat. The pitching staff has needed bracing all season, and Humphries, Smith and Cheney look as if they might deliver some reliable ball for a time. If Overall can get back into shape he would round out the corps in fine style. The natural ability of these pitchers is increased by the excellent handling they received from both Arthur and Bresnahan.

From now until they come East, on July 5, the Cubs will be playing weaker clubs than the Giants are meeting. The strong opposition lies in the East this year and not in the West, as formerly. The good showing all the Eastern teams have made on this trip just finished proves that they represent the stronger section.

The Cubs will be playing St. Louis, a rapidly falling club; Cincinnati, a team that has failed all season to get into its stride, and Pittsburg. The Pirates will be the toughest contenders for Chicago, as they have always been.

PIRATES NEVER HAVE TROUBLE BEATING THE CHICAGO.

It is a strange thing that the Cubs will always give the Giants a tooth and nail battle, while the Pirates can go up against the Cubs and kick the stuffing out of them most any time. Then we turn around and beat the Pittsburgh team consistently. It is one of the unexplained things of baseball. The Pirates have always looked easy to us. The Cubs have never resembled a cinch.

Experts all over the country are trying hard to diagnose the disease that has attacked the Pittsburgh team this year, and have given it up as an unknown ailment. The most glaring fault in the team which I can discover and point to is the lack of efficient catching.

Gibson hurt his leg very badly in the first part of the season, and he was always the steady strength behind the bat in Pittsburgh. Kelly has caught very bad ball, what games I have seen him work, and Simon is extremely slow. Kelly's throwing has been away off, and his work probably has upset the temperamental pitchers being carried by Pittsburgh at present.

With Gibson behind the bat the pitching staff would doubtless be steadier. It is true that Gibson is working now, but he is appearing with a leg just out of splints, and is only catching because the rest of the staff is entirely out of commission. It has been a tough year on catchers. Miller Huggins lost the use of his entire staff in St. Louis earlier this season and had to work the rusty "Heinie" Peitz.

The Pirates look to me like the only club in the West, outside of the Cubs, which has a chance to come along. The Cincinnati and St. Louis teams are in very bad shape, and neither one has much chance of climbing out of the second division. Therefore, the only team the Cubs will have to fight in the West now is the Pirates.

In the mean time the Giants will be battling with Boston, Brooklyn and Philadelphia—three tough birds. Both Boston and Brooklyn have made wonderful showings for those teams this season and have effectively crossed the critics. Against all the Eastern clubs the Giants will meet good pitching. But the New York staff is in shape again now to offset this.

Fromme showed on the Western trip that I had not made a mistake in picking him up to strengthen my team. He went into two tough games, one in Chicago and the other in Cincinnati, and hurled wonderful ball. Marquard had a good trip, and Matty was the same old, dependable bird he has always been.

At the same time the Giants' pitching staff recovered the hitters got back their eyes and began to clout the ball. Therefore, my team is going very satisfactorily at present.

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WHERE THERE'S PEP THERE'S HOPE

By VIC

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Two Important Bouts To Be Decided To-Night

Coulon to Defend Bantam Title Against Burns, and Britton and Duffy to Clash.

By John Pollock.

TWO important bouts will be fought to-night at out of town clubs. In one of these scraps the champion of the bantamweight class will be called upon to defend his title, while in the other go two prominent lightweights will battle for supremacy. In the former contest Johnny Coulon, the king of the little fellows, will meet Frankie Burns, the fast bantamweight of Jersey City, in a ten-round bout before the Kenosha (Wis.) A. C., while in the other go Jack Britton of Chicago will exchange punches with Jimmy Duffy, the crack lightweight of Lockport, N. Y., in a ten-round session before the Queensberry A. C. of Buffalo, N. Y.

While Ritchie, the champion, [illegible] recently retired, Duffy [illegible] the lightweight affairs of Buffalo. Ritchie is [illegible] July Fourth [illegible] manager of Richie Ashburn Nolan.

The McMahon brothers have made a shift in one of the bouts [illegible] put on at the Lyceum Athletic Club to-night. Jack McMahon, of Providence, R. I., formerly a pupil of Professor Tommy Brown, but who [illegible] young Irish, the star [illegible] Brown, but the McMahon, who is [illegible] of the Providence A. C. on the [illegible] night [illegible] let him out.

A match [illegible] between Johnny Dundee and Jack White, the Chicago lightweight, [illegible] Lakeside Club, which will be [illegible] on the afternoon of July 4.

Gus Platts, the English welterweight who [illegible] Tommy Malone at the St. Nicholas [illegible] Wednesday night, was [illegible] to-day to his [illegible] Platts's opponent in this [illegible] of Kansas City, who [illegible] turned out to be the [illegible] town, together [illegible] Ohio, at the [illegible] of July 18.

Jimmy Clabby, the clever Milwaukee welterweight, and Tony Ross, the Chicago [illegible] who has lost two-thirds of his battles [illegible] have been in the fighting business [illegible] series of exhibitions calling for [illegible] Clabby should have no [illegible] in outpointing Ross.

LEACH CROSS OPENS TRAINING CAMPAIGN BEFORE 3,000 FANS

(Special to The Evening World.)

LOS ANGELES, June 23.—Before a curious crowd of three thousand fans Leach Cross, the fighting dentist of New York, opened his training campaign at Doyle's for his bout with Bud Anderson here on July 4. After some pretty bag punching and light gym work he boxed two lively rounds with Charley Ledoux, the French champion, who meets Campi here to-morrow night. Ledoux showed better than at any time during his training. Leach next took on Norman Stone, a local middle, and slugged three rounds with him.

Cross's condition is far from perfect yet, but his showing was very favorable and he was loudly applauded upon being introduced at the termination of work. Cross showed himself to be a fast and heady two-handed boxer with a snappy, effective blow in either hand and possessed of ability to handle himself well in in-fighting.

The Cross-Anderson bout promises to be a lively betting affair, the latter being a 10 to 8 favorite in the early betting.

There was some hitch as to the time of weighing in, Anderson wanting 128 pounds at noon and Cross 128 pounds ringside. Bud carried his point. The men box at 8 in the afternoon.

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I have just purchased the stock of Edwin Tolles, 49 Ann Street, Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Tolles, whose death recently was recorded in this paper, was for years in the wholesale woolen business in Hartford, and his woolens came direct from the finest mills in this country and abroad.

The principal part of this stock was from the Broadbrook mills, located within 75 miles of this city. He carried nothing but the finest of stock. His death necessitated the closing of his doors.

At this season, when woolens are a drug on the market, I bought these goods for about fifteen cents on the dollar. I consider them the finest line of staples ever shown by a Merchant Tailor—blue and black clays, grey serges, Shepherd plaids, narrow and wide wale; pencil stripes in blue, black, grey and brown—practically all this season's goods.

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