GOSSIP OF THE BALL FIELD.

JOY IN BOSTON OVER THE DOWNFALL OF THE CHAMPIONS.

What Is Going On Among Our Local Clubs—Will the St. Louis Browns Move to Washington?—Jerry Rusk as a Mascot.

The six-inning Boston-Indianapolis game on July 17 is causing about as much excitement in base ball as the championship. It is now known that President Day will make a hard fight to have the game thrown out, and in this he will be backed up by the Philadelphia and Cleveland managers. If such a thing as a five or six inning game is allowed to stand, when played on the same day as a regular game, what is there to prevent a club from arranging, say three five-inning games, for one afternoon, simply for the purpose of holding the lead in the championship race? To all fair-minded people it seems as though something should be done to right this wrong, and a rule made whereby a club can be fined for breaking the rules of the League, as the Boston Club has certainly done in this case.

Dave Foutz has proved himself one of the leading first basemen in the American Association, and the work that he has performed this season has not only been a credit to himself but to his club. Dave is not only a first baseman, but he is a pitcher as well. He says that he can go in and pitch as well as he ever did. This was shown in the game that he pitched against the Kansas City Club on Tuesday last. The club is now in a bad way for pitchers, and it is more than likely that Dave will take his turn in the box, and when not pitching will play first base. This don't seem to be a good move on the part of the Brooklyn managers, but they are in such a position that they cannot do anything else. Terry is a good man at first, but he cannot fill Foutz's place. It is rather unfortunate that the pitchers of the Brooklyn Club have turned out as they have, after showing up so well in the spring. The team itself is all right, and is playing the best kind of ball.

Manager Powers is having a hard time of it in making his Jersey City Club a go. Pat has held on about as long as any man could without becoming discouraged, and if he gives up now and goes to some other town, no one can blame him. The average sport in Jersey City does not seem to care whether the club wins or loses, or in fact plays at all. The Jersey City Club has been playing to empty seats so long that it is quite certain that the city will not support a club. Whether it will or not, it should, and Manager Powers deserves better treatment at the hands of the Jersey City people. With Sunday games the club could probably pull through, but whether the club will be allowed to play on Sunday remains to be seen.

Because the New York Club had bad luck during the earlier part of the past week there does not seem to be any good reason for being discouraged. All clubs are apt to pass through just such a spell. A glance at the record of the New York Club for last year and this shows that their chances for winning the pennant are about the same—in fact, slightly better, when one considers that this is only the middle of the season, and that the games to be played will be fought with more determination than those that have already been played.

The recent success of the Philadelphia Club has set the Quaker City wild, and the idea that their club has a chance to win the pennant is gaining ground rapidly. The Philadelphia Club makes just such a spurt every year, and the club is still without the flag. The only trouble with the team is that it don't keep up the spurt long enough. It generally gets about so high and then stops.

In an interview with Buck Ewing yesterday he said that in his opinion the pennant lay between New York and Boston, with the chances in favor of the New Yorks. He thought that the ability of the New Yorks to beat Boston would assist them very much.

WASHINGTON, July 27.—It has been a remarkably quiet week at League headquarters, and President Young has had very little to do in the way of making assignments of players or granting releases to those who are dissatisfied with their present positions. The reaction has set in, however, so far as regards the Senators, and after an exceptionally brilliant career for a couple of weeks at home they have taken a lasting grip on eighth place, and are holding to it with a desperation worthy of a better cause. After maintaining an average of two-thirds against Chicago and their old-time terriers from Indianapolis, a clean record of three straight from Pittsburgh, and but one scalp for the Babies, since their Northern tour they have become terribly scared and seem afraid to win. At least such is the opinion here among the cranks, and there are loud cries for reform and recruits to strengthen the badly weakened "Senatorial aggravation" as a colored enthusiast aptly termed them.

One of the most interested spectators during the sojourn of the Senators at Capital Park was Secretary Rusk of the Agricultural Department, whose long white beard seemed to be a talisman for the local team. He was termed the mascot because he has thus far failed to see them beaten, and since their return from the West the Secretary, by a singular coincidence, missed every defeat by being detained at his office until after the game. Another thing has been noticed in connection with the Secretary's visits, and that is the ball is always kept away from his seat, which is in the first tier at the right of the steps leading into the grand stand. A chair has been set apart for his use, and no one is allowed to take possession of it, no matter how great the demand may be for seats. The head of the Agricultural Department is usually accompanied by his private secretary, and both gentlemen keep score of the game and occasionally indulge in the inevitable disputes as to the merits of a base hit or error, and the Secretary is generally right in his conclusions.

All sorts of rumors are prevalent here at present, the most popular being the revival of the story that Von der Ahe proposes to remove his nine from St. Louis to Washington at the close of the present season. His reason for making the change is said to be that people in St. Louis will not accord him the patronage which he thinks his combination merits. "There is no use going out to see the St. Louis nine play," said a citizen of that place recently, "because it is a foregone conclusion that they will win. Once in a while they lose a game, but that is only for appearance's sake, and it is usually like a cent pie, all the fruit is on one side." Von der Ahe is not making money this year, for the crowds have fallen off, and he is anxious to come to Washington and take charge of a League team. He thinks that there will be money in it for all concerned, and when the next annual meeting of the League is held there is going to be some lively music and competition for a place "by der boss manager."

BOSTON, July 27.—There are hundreds of base ball enthusiasts in Boston who would have given half a dollar to have Jim Mutrie's face last Thursday when he looked at the score at the close of the Boston-Philadelphia game. His cool assurance that the Beaneaters would follow the fashion set by the New Yorks in permitting the ambitious youngsters from the City of Brotherly Love to smite both cheeks and then jump upon their prostrate forms, has made considerable talk in Boston, and now the cranks are certain that gentle "Jeems" is not a successful base ball prophet. He was so positive that Boston would be treated to a dose of the same bitter medicine as was administered to the New Yorks that some timid ones were inclined to share the same belief. Now, however, all doubts are fled. The Beaneaters close the week still leading the way toward the pennant. At one time the New Yorks made a spurt that really looked dangerous, but they ran against such a large-sized snag that it took the sand all out of them.

But all the base ball patrons of Boston know that the home club is going through one of the most critical periods of the season. New York has had its disastrous round with the Quakers and now the Bostons are tackling the same men. They started in well, but next week there are three more games with the same terrors. While this is going on the New Yorks will be giving their attention to the tail-enders. They may come up on even terms with the Bostons next week, but the present week destroyed their hopes in that direction when Boston took Thursday's game from the Phillies. If New York doesn't come to the front next week there are plenty of men who think that they will not again see the flag fluttering before their faces and eyes. If Boston can get away from the Phillies on even terms her chances for bringing the pennant city will be well assured. Manager Hart and Capt. Kelly are holding the men well in hand, and they have taken another spurt in good ball playing. In the three Washington games not an error was made by the Bostons outside the batteries. Capt. Kelly has braced up wonderfully, and is not only keeping himself out of mischief, but he is also doing some of the finest coaching ever seen in this city. His batting, too, has taken an upward turn, and, taken altogether, his work is excellent.

It is a pity that Kelly is the only good coacher now playing in the regular team. Quinn did pretty well in sending the players around the bases, but now that he is taken a vacation, Kelly is the only one who is not afraid of his voice. Poor coaching lost one of the Chicago games for Boston, and other games have been sacrificed in the same way.

Ray is rapidly picking up his skill as a short-stop, and is doing grand work by Wise's old position. He plays fearlessly, and without a thought of his record. His batting, too, is hard and well timed. As soon as he gets rid of his nervousness, he will be one of the crack short stops of the League.

CLEVELAND, July 27.—The Cleveland Club is very likely to go into the permanent ground business and equip a park for use in 1891. The lease of the present ground expires next fall and cannot be renewed. President Robinson is also President of the Payne Avenue and Superior Street Railroad lines. Six blocks east of the present ground there is plenty of available ground, and the cable cars will run to it from the centre of the town in fifteen minutes. A fine piece of land near Wilson avenue may be purchased and equipped with massive and elegant stands and fences—on the Philadelphia, New York, and Boston plan—and base ball have a permanent home here.

The Spiders have recovered their winning ways, and if the short Western trip pans out well will come back in position to meet the Eastern leaders and make a hard fight against them. Loftus thinks that at the close of the coming home series, a long one, the Clevelands will be in second place surely, and perhaps in first. "As the teams are showing up now," he says, "we ought to finish third." All the men are in shape, McKean ready to go back into his place on the team and the batteries on edge. The usual effect of weather on pitchers is reversed on O'Brien. His stomach is none too strong, and hot weather affects it and causes loss of speed. He is not likely to be put into the box very many times during the next three weeks, and will be able to finish strongly if Cleveland has a fight for a place. Sprague may be released to Toledo with an agreement to be returned at the end of the season. He wishes to be farmed out so as to get some work. Likely, Gruber and Beatin are in fine form, and ought to do nearly all the team work. Snyder will probably go in behind Gruber. Loftus fined and laid McKean off for insubordination and general ugliness. When the team returned he refused to resume his place at short unless the fine was remitted and he was paid for the time lost. The directors of the club refuse to interfere, and the matter will be settled by Loftus himself. McKean's batting was missed during the lay off. It cost at least two games.

The local cranks are beginning to look for the championship and mourn and kick when the Spiders lose a game though they are doing far better than the same cranks expected. So far it is estimated that Cleveland is about $7,500 ahead of the season's expenses, and if business continues as it is the $36,000 lost in two American Association campaigns will be more than made up. The case of Catcher Sutcliffe will be one of the sharp points to be discussed by the League and Brotherhood this fall. Sutcliffe was turned over to Cleveland in the Detroit $10,000 deal as a $2,000 man and classed in the C group. He had been drawing $2,100 the previous season, and this was, of course, a violation of the agreement made with the Brotherhood two years ago to the effect that no man should be paid less than he was drawing the previous season. But it was not Cleveland's fault. Gruber suffered in the same way, and his case will turn up later.

LOUISVILLE, July 27.—The engagement of Jack Chapman to manage the Louisville Club has created a small commotion among the cranks in this city. Opinions are divided as to the wisdom of the proceeding. One of the newspapers declares that Chapman has never taken hold of a club that he did not land low down in the scale before he quit it, and also cites the case of his first and only trial, when the crews the games when under his management as proof that he is not sufficiently watchful. On the other hand all the old-time players and lovers of the game think Jack Chapman the greatest manager on the face of the earth, and their support and patronage is worth catering to. Mr. Chapman did not want his engagement announced for the reason that he thought he could get some good players for next season by keeping quiet now. The directors thought likewise, but the secret leaked out, as these things invariably do. President Parsons is delighted with his coup, and thinks that Chapman will make the club one to be proud of.

A meeting of the stockholders and directors was held in President Parsons's office last Friday night, and the financial condition of the club was carefully looked into, and steps taken to close out the indebtedness as speedily as possible. A matter that is not yet settled, it is understood, is that of the fines and back salaries which Mr. Davidson would not remit when ordered by the Association. The statement that the funds for the sale of the club were attached in bank was incorrect. No legal proceedings were instituted against Mr. Davidson, but it was announced that he would settle the matter, and it was deemed best not to push him.

"We will have to work along the remainder of the season as well as we can," said President Parsons when discussing the club's prospects. "Of course the team needs strengthening, and we intend getting some new players, but it will be impossible to reorganize the nine as it should be and as we certainly will next season. We propose to be liberal with the men and liberal to our patrons as well, but we can't venture upon any radical changes now. Wait till next season, and then we will show you what we can do."

Much satisfaction has been evinced by the public with Mr. Parsons's course so far. He is a level-headed business man, and for several years has been general freight agent of the Air Line Railroad. He is the kind of a man that is a credit to base ball, and the Louisville Club is certain to have its interests in the Association well looked after by him and Mr. Zach Phelps.

Coming Ball Players.

Bates will leave for a short vacation in August.

Hammond, the Brooklyn L's pitcher, has a sore arm.

In the Manhattan League Station "E" has the lead.

Van Sant makes nearly all his errors on slow hit grounders.

Hammill is a good pitcher, but rarely receives perfect support.

Manager Conroy is in need of a player that can cover second base.

At Recreation grounds to-day, Leontine Reserves vs. St. Ranhaels.

The Leontines have signed Donaldson, formerly of the Little Rocks.

Strebeigh came all the way from Narragansett to play in Saturday's game.

Bell, who played such great games at second base for the Stapletons, is disengaged.

Joe Murphy has returned from his two-months' vacation, and is looking for a berry.

At Astoria—Astoria Rowing Club, 1; picked nine, 10. Struck out—By Smith, 2; by Levy, 15.

At Williamsbridge to-day (A. M.), Leontines vs. Belmonts; (P. M.), Leontines vs. Campless.

Livingston was in the box last Sunday for the Brooklyns "C" team, and was an easy mark for the Senators.

Hopkins, the ex-Atlantic Association umpire, says he will henceforth umpire Sunday games at the Long Island grounds.

Manager Ryan comes out with that old chestnut again in regard to having a grand stand at the Recreation grounds next year.

Will the Orange Club ever play on their own grounds? At present they play their championship games on vacant lots in the vicinity of Orange, N. J.

Open betting ought to be stopped at the Amateur League games for, should any player make a costly error, the cry will be that he threw the game.

The way it looks now Spalding will not play any more games this season, as he must still make use of his crutches owing to an injury received some time ago.

The Governors of Harlem hereby accept the challenge of the Young Crystals to play within two weeks from date. Address Pete Hitchcock, 163 East 114th street.

Arthur Moore played his first game last Saturday since he had his ankle sprained on Decoration Day. He is still lame, but made two hits, and hobbled around the bases on one leg.

The Echos of Melrose would like to hear from all clubs, whose players are under 16 years, for Saturday afternoon games. Address James Corbett, 1624 street and Railroad avenue.

The Roanokes, champions of Leo Park, defeated the Fairmounts by the score of 10 to 8, and would like to hear from all clubs with players under 19 years. Address P. Crook, 109 East 106th street.

The original Acmes have at present as fine a semi-professional team as there is in this city or vicinity, and are putting up a fine game. They have Aug. 10 and 17 still open to clubs having enclosed grounds.

Benjamin & Co., Lord & Taylor, the Gleason, Diamonds, and other commercial nines can be accommodated with Sunday games by addressing M. H. Jacobs, manager of Schwarzkopf & Ellinger Base Ball Club, 304 East Seventy-ninth street.

The Mount Vernon Athletic Association have Wednesdays during August open for ball games, but will pay no guarantees to visiting clubs, as the gate receipts do not permit of it. Our record is fourteen games won, one defeat. Address John F. Jarvis, Jr., manager.

The Carlstadt A. A. would like to hear from all clubs having enclosed grounds for Saturday games, the Brooklyn L, Staten Island A. A., New Jersey A. A., Babylon A. A., Long Branch Amboy A. A., Staten Island Crickets, and the Clinton proper. Address Martin Kiss, manager, P. O. box 36, Carlstadt, N. J.

The Union Base Ball Club would like to hear from the Peekskill Monitors of Woppinger's Falls, Brooklyn L, Newburgh Shamrock, Tuxedo, Tarrytown, and all other first-class clubs with enclosed grounds. Address Charles Riesler, manager, 155 East 102d street. They will play the Sylvans at Mount Vernon to-day.

A champion game of base ball was played at the State Camp, Peekskill, on Wednesday afternoon between two picked nines from companies F and H, captained by Sergeant Burnton and Private Gale. There were four innings played, when the game was called on account of the darkness. Sergeant Burnton side won by 23 to 6.

The Keene Base Ball Club of Castleton Corners, S. I., will cross bats with the County Fair Base Ball Club of New York at Foley's Grove, Staten Island, to-day. The Keenes defeated the Jefferson A.C. of Brooklyn on July 21 by 15 to 5. Jerry McGuire, Turner, and Vroom were in the points for the Keenes. The Keenes have postponed their picnic until Aug. 16.

An interesting game of base ball was played on Wednesday afternoon at Astoria, between the Heavy Weights, formerly the Schimmelpfeninges, and the Kleitz nines. The players of the former nine weighed, on an average, 230 pounds. The score: Schimmelpfeninges, 17; Kleitz, 13. The feature of the game was a long running catch by Heavy-weight Captain Schimmelpfening.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I notice in Monday's SUN the result of a game given you by the Volunteer Club—14 to 3 in six innings. Now, the proper story of the game is this: The Volunteers were ahead in the sixth inning, and, desiring to keep their lead, they took occasion to start a fight. They refused to continue the game, and after five minutes, the umpire gave the game to the Cowboys by 9 to 0. We had intended to use the Volunteers well. We had a lunch prepared for them after the game, but they did not prove themselves deserving of it. I desire you to publish this so that clubs reading it will know the true state of affairs, as it is the first club that has caused trouble here.
THOMAS F. SEXTON, Secretary, box 171, New Rochelle.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Following is a schedule of games formed last night by the Brighton Athletic Club Base Ball Club: Campbells, Cypress, Dauntless, Amboys, Atlantic Association umpire, says he will henceforth umpire Sunday games at the Long Island grounds.

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