GOSSIP OF THE RUNNERS.

TURFMEN UNANIMOUSLY CONCEDE THE GREATNESS OF COMMANDO.

The Domino Colt and His Stable Mate, Conroy, Are Public Idols Just Now—Big Gate Receipts at Gravesend—Work of Jockeys—Stake Events Scheduled for the Week.

Turfmen are agreed that Commando is a phenomenal three-year-old. His performance on Saturday when he won the Carlton Stakes in 1:39 2-5, though not at all extended, showed his true worth. There have been many sceptics who believed that Commando was somewhat overrated, but they are now, most of them, willing to swear allegiance. Had the track been fast on Saturday and if Commando had been extended, there is no telling what his time would have been. But as it is, the feat of covering a mile in 1:39 2-5 in what might be termed an exercise gallop and on a dead track, is enough to convince anybody that Commando is a great horse. Much disapointment was felt because the field in the Carlton Stakes was cut to pieces with the blue pencil. Many persons who went to Gravesend Saturday wanted to see Commando run with a good-sized field of contenders. They were also anxious to see The Parader meet the wonderful Domino colt again, even though the son of Longstreet had already been defeated by the champion. It was, therefore, disappointing to see Commando run against Blues which, though game and speedy had no chance. But nobody could blame owners from withdrawing their horses from the race.

That the public, completely wrapped up in racing, is growing better educated each day as to the ways of the turf, cannot be denied. Racegoers are quick to appreciate a crack colt or filly and once convinced that there is true merit, they back their favorites to the last dollar. It would appear that just now the public is ready to risk its financial life on both Commando and Conroy. Whenever either starts in the future he will receive tremendous backing, no doubt, providing, of course, there is a decent price to be obtained. Mr. Keene's two three-year-olds are idols which the public believe cannot be shattered. Banaster has gone from the public mind. He was an idol once, but his breakdown practically ended his career on the track. But with the rise of Commando and Conroy to fame, there is no place for former stars.

The other day it was said that Commando and Conroy would both be started in the American Derby of $25,000. Authentic information came from Chicago to this effect. Whether Mr. Keene will actually send the two colts on to the Windy City, however, is another matter. Little or no information can at present be gleaned from either Mr. Keene or Trainer Rowe regarding the matter, but some persons say that if either horse goes it will be Commando, though the Domino colt has enough important engagements to keep him busy here.

The remarkable attendance at the track during the past week again proves the truth of the statement that the American public has a bad attack of horse fever, and that the barred doors of poolrooms have done much to increase the gate receipts of the different associations. On Decoration Day, with 30,000 persons at Gravesend, it is said that the Brooklyn Jockey Club took in close to $50,000 in the box offices. This was at $2 a head for admission to the grand stand and 50 cents a head to the field. At the track it has been learned by hundreds that the chances for picking winners is increased fourfold over those in local poolrooms. As a well-known bettor said recently:

"In a poolroom you've got to take the odds as the owner chooses to give them to you after he has received the track prices. You cannot see the horses warm up, neither can you see them run. You are totally at sea as to the condition of the nags, the state of the track and the thousand and one other things that one can pick up at the track. Playing the races at the track is a game in which a bright, observing man can succeed if he keeps cool and uses his eyes and ears."

During the past week Jockey Shaw did some splendid riding. His employer, George E. Smith, Pittsburg Phil, incidentally made a fortune playing Shaw's mounts. Many experts who have been watching this rider closely declare that in time he will rival Tod Sloan in point of efficiency. Shaw is a careful, cool-headed fellow, who is an expert at hand riding. He seldom uses a whip and is at his best when driving to a close finish. Another popular and clever boy is Winnie O'Connor, who rode Conroy in the Brooklyn Handicap. Bettors place implicit confidence in O'Connor, because his career is free from scandal. Spencer, since his reengagement by the Keene stable, has been riding with the usual success and has an army of followers every time he has a mount. Odom, Bullman, J. Slack, McCue and Landry are also well up. For some reason Van Dusen, a boy of recognized ability, seems to have been overlooked. He rode some fine races at Aqueduct, especially on Sidney Lucas, and also did good work at Morris Park, but at Gravesend he has been unable to secure mounts and his many friends are wondering.

This week eight special events will be decided at Gravesend. This afternoon the Criterion Stakes of $3,500 for two-year-old fillies will be run. The distance is five furlongs. Among the entries are J. E. Madden's crack filly Blue Girl, considered by some to be the best shown so far this year, and the Messrs. Morris's Hanover Queen, that won the Hudson Stakes so handsomely on Saturday. It is a matter of regret that Lucline, Sister Juliet, Disadvantage and Sweet Clover are not also in this race, so that the question of supremacy among them might be decided definitely. To-morrow the Brooklyn Handicap at a mile and a furlong is the feature. Among those liable to go to the post are Conroy, Brigadier, Blues, Beau Gallant, Carbonele, Decanter, Dr Barlow, Motley, Kamara, Watercure, First Whip, Raffaello, King Bramble, Standing, Star Bright, Humboldt and Sidney Lucas.

The Gazelle Stakes of $3,000 for three-year-old fillies at a mile and a sixteenth will be run on Wednesday. Green B. Morris's Janice looks to be in a class by herself in this event. Among the other eligibles, however, are Donna Henrietta, Mintage, Trigger, Queen Pepper, Princess Pepper, Anecdote, Lady of the Valley and La Valliere. On Thursday the Manhasset Stakes of $2,000 for two-year-olds may bring together Jack De Mund, Meridian, Hyphen, Firing Line, Wild Oats, Sweet Bet, Locket, Andalusian, Scandonfield, Misleader, Sombrero, Whiskey King and Par Excellence.

Also on Thursday will be run the Empire State Steeplechase Handicap of $2,500 over the full course of about two miles and a half. A fine field can be provided with Draughtsman, Walter Cleary, The Driver, Dr. Catlett, Klondyke, Red Path, Passe Partout, Ochiltree, Old Tank, Self Protection, Ronkonkoma, Dr. Eichberg, Highie and George Keene.

The Myrtle Stakes for three-year olds and upward at one mile and 70 yards is on Friday's card. Among the better known eligibles are Kilogram, Himself, Royal Sterling, The Musketeer, Decanter, Choir Master, Outlander, The Regent, Latson, Seminole, Hancock, First Whip, Herbert, Isla, Hesper, and Intrusive. The attractions for Saturday include the Great American Stakes of $12,500 for two-year olds at five furlongs. This is the most valuable two-year old fixture on the Gravesend calendar and will bring out, in all probability, a better lot of two-year-olds than have been seen together this year. Foremost, perhaps, are Green B. Morris's Cunard, by Goldfinch—Lucania, winner of the National Stallion race, also Golden Cottage by Golden Garter—Pink Cottage and Rameses, by Goldfinch—Fleurette. Then there is:

J. E. Madden's crack filly Blue Girl, by Sir Dixon—Bonnie Dine II., winner of the Juvenile and Eclipse Stakes. F. R. Hitchcock's brown colt The Goldfinder, by Jim Gore—Dagpipes. Col. Pepper's ch. c. Whisking, by Santaka—Genevieve. Capt. S. S. Brown's b. c. Meridian, by Sir Dixon—Meridia, and b. c. Hyphen, by Himyar—Semaphore. A. Featherstone's b. c. Kaleidoscope, by Tithonus—Glenview; Julius Fleishmann's br. c. Wild Oats, by Requital—Reina Victoria, and ch. c. Challenger, by Halma—The Miner. James R. Keene's b. c. Telescope, by Morocco—Emma C.; a half brother to Commando; b. c. Poet Bard, by Kingsville Maurine, by Prophet, by Hermit—Royal Nun, by Adelaide Prince, by Tournament—Ben My Chree. James B. Haggin's ch. c. Speculator, by Golden Garter—Julia L., Edward Kelly's Locket, by Halma—Token. F. C. McLewis's b. c. Luck and Charity, by Hanover—Bonita II., by T. Patterson's b. c. Nugget, by Goldcrest—Grade. W. S. Whitney's b. c. Goldsmith, by Medfield—Leader, and ch. c. King Hanover, by Hanover—Lady Agnes. B. T. Wilson Jr.'s ch. c. Woodchuck, by Faraway—Princess Chaos.

The Broadway Stakes for three-year olds at a mile and a sixteenth is also on Saturday's card. It is possible that racing enthusiasts may see the following contenders: Conroy, The Parader, Beau Gallant, Bellario, The Musketeer, Blues, Gauntana, Outlander, Militant, Watercolor, Prince of Melrose, Frankfort, The Rhymer, Gold Heels, Smile, Janios, All Green, Humboldt, and Sadie S.

The entries for to-day are as follows:

First Race—Hurdle Handicap; $800 added; one mile and three-quarters over seven hurdles.

Monroe Doctrine	150	Bellamy	134
King Barleycorn	150	Bon Jour	134
Bob	147	Islingtem	132
Roxburg	142	Cephalalgia	130
Bermuda Hundred	137	Wandering Minstrel	130
Desperado	136		

Second Race—For two-year-olds; selling; $700 added; five furlongs.

Miss Hastings	110	James Fitz	106
Illuminate	108	Rossignol	106
Rightaway	108	Neither One	104
Wild Oats	107	Carrier Pigeon	102
Friar Tabor	106	Postillion	97

Third Race—Maiden three-year-olds; $700 added; one mile and seventy yards.

Gold Spinner	112	Your Grace	109
Ethics	112	Nones	109
Hengist	112	The Bluecoat	109
Satire	112	Dactyl	107
Dr. Preston	112	Anna Darling	107
Cespedes	112	Argonauta	107
Isaac Hopper	112	Golden Grain	107
Belvino	112	Egotism	107
Arden	112		

Fourth Race—Criterion Stakes for two-year-old fillies; $3,500 guaranteed; five furlongs.

*Blue Girl	124	Sedition	114
Hanover Queen	114	Chirrup	114
Grell	114	*Gunfire	114

*Madden entry.

Fifth Race—Handicap for three-year-olds and upward; $1,000 added; one mile and a sixteenth.

Alcedo	126	Gold Fox	105
Beau Gallant	122	The Amazon	104
First Whip	121	Wallabout	96
Dr. Barlow	110	Sailor King	95

Sixth Race—For three-year-olds and over; selling; about six furlongs.

Dr. Riddle	106	Manchuria	100
Candling	106	Drogheda	97
Bounteous	103	Yorkshire Boy	97
Bold Knight	103	Ante Up	95
Glennellie	103	Oliver Mc	95
His Royal Highness	103	Connie	87
Godfrey	110	Kid	87
Tinge	106		

NEW BLOOD ON THE SPEEDWAY.

Mr. Richards of California Shows a Mare That He Will Match Against Moth Miller.

A number of members of the Sunday morning brushing brigade were so thoroughly disappointed at the condition of the Speedway yesterday that they did some speeding on the macadam above Dyckman street, but the footing there was so hard that very few cared to run chances of injuring their horses. Mr. Richards of California, who arrived here a few days ago with several horses that he picked up in various parts of the country, turned two or three of them loose on the hard road. He showed one mare that he said could beat Moth Miller. So confident was his belief that she could head the pacing gelding that he offered to give the mare to the winner if she could not. Dr. David Randell heard of the offer and had both Moth Miller and his gray pacer T. N. B. brought down from the Empire City track, but they could not get together, presumably on account of the condition of the road.

The most interesting brush of the morning was between John F. Cockerill's Swift and Mr. Frankenstein's Grant. They started down from High Bridge, on the lower stretch. Swift got several lengths ahead and Mr. Cockerill took him in, until Grant went up to him. Then they made a good race of it to the finish, with Grant in the lead. For the second heat Mr. Cockerill was more careful and won by a close margin, although he lost some ground in pulling over from the inside to the outside of the course in order to avoid the mud. As they jogged back for a third trial down, Charles Welland approached Mr. Frankenstein and said: "You don't know how to handle that horse. I know him well, and if you'll let me drive, I can beat Swift."

Mr. Frankenstein was willing and Mr. Welland got up behind Grant. He got a shade the better of the start but Swift went at him in great shape and they had not covered more than one quarter of the distance, before he was on even terms. Then there was an exciting contest for the remainder of the way. They were head and head until within 100 yards of the finish, where Swift was called on for a little more speed. He responded and forged ahead, winning by half a length.

A majority of the road drivers were content to jog their favorites. The soft clay was excellent for the horses' feet and legs. A. B. Gwathmey jogged Tiverton, Nathan Straus drove Malacca, Dr. H. H. Kane jogged his new show horse King Rene, Jr. George Young drove Sandy, Dr. Tuttle drove his Temple Bar mare, Ha Mr. Stout jogged his pacer Teddy Look, John Donnelly gave a breather to Glenmere Boy, J. P. Baiter drove Clayton, Dr. Nelden jogged Whistle, Charles Willis drove his green bay gelding Col. Wilkes, and several others took a trip over the great drive regardless of the footing.

The footing improved somewhat during the day and by 3 o'clock hundreds of pedestrians were on the sidewalks and scores of vehicles of every make allowable on the drive jogged down the hill from the 155th street entrance. Both the up and down sides of the drive were crowded before 5 o'clock; but the turnouts were not of the speedy order as a rule. About the only members of the brushing brigade on the drive late in the afternoon were David Lamar and Dr. David Randell. The latter drove Moth Miller and put up one of the warmest brushes of the day on the lower stretch with Mr. Lamar's fast pacer Red Lawn.

Moth Miller was a few lengths behind at the start and Red Lawn was taken in to wait for him. They then made a good race down, finishing not more than a neck apart, with Red Lawn in front. They brushed two more heats, with Moth Miller the winner. The latter and the old trotting champion Azote, driven by Mr. Lamar, had a brush or two for exercising work.

The Kennedy brothers, one driving N. T. B., the other behind Ambidexter, had quite an interesting set-to. They started on even terms at High Bridge and Ambidexter won by a full length. Bernard Kearns, with his black gelding, Drex, astonished the spectators by heading the little mare Nettie B., driven by Mr. Lamar. The latter, however, pulled away from several mud puddles and lost considerable ground. Before the crowd thought about starting home a heavy fog came down the river and fell over the Speedway like a drop curtain.

Saxon Wins the French Derby.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, June 2.—The race for the Prix du Jockey Club, the French Derby, was run at Chantilly to-day. It was won by M. Edmond Blanc's Saxon. M. Deschamp's Jean Bart II. was second, and M. Caillault's Tibere third. The last betting was 13 to 10 against the winner, 10 to 1 against Jean Bart II. and 20 to 1 against Tibere. The three horses are among the entries for the Grand Prix de Paris, which will be run on June 16.

Austrian Derby Won by Carrasco.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

VIENNA, June 2.—The race known as the Austrian Derby took place here to-day and was won by Carrasco, with Magnes second and Cleofas third.

Stiffening the Hull of the Mineola.

BRISTOL, June 2.—The 70-footer Mineola has had the fastenings and planks of her underbody from the top of the lead keel up to the waterline removed for the purpose of putting on a sheathing of steel plate to stiffen the hull. Some of these plates are shaped and punched for the fastenings. An increase of displacement of the craft is prevented by shaving off the inside surfaces of the wooden planks to a depth the exact thickness of the steel plates to go on underneath the wooden planks. The fastenings will extend through wood and steel. The same improvement was made on the Yankee last fall, and was found to give the required stiffness.

Mechanics are pushing the work of construction well on toward completion on the new 46-footer for J. Rogers Maxwell. This boat is now more than three-quarters planked.

The 81-foot steam tender for Howard Gould is almost ready for putting overboard. Her boiler and engines are on board and nearly fitted up for running.

The racers Wa Wa, Ethelka and Quakeress are about ready to go in the water from winter berths at Walker's Cove. Sirocco, owned by Mr. Owen, and the Gladys, both sloops, are in Bristol harbor being fitted out for the season.

Cornell Men Who Will Compete at Buffalo.

ITHACA, June 2.—Twelve members of the Cornell track team will go to Buffalo to-morrow night to take part in the intercollegiate grounds on Tuesday. Sears, the freshman wonder in the sprints, will not be among the number. Trainer Moakley has decided that the young man has done his share of the work for the track team this year and does not wish to take any chances of overworking his star. The arrangements for the Cornell athletes are in the hands of the Buffalo graduates. The men who will go for the various events are:

Hastings, 440 and 880-yard runs; Gallagher, one-mile and two-mile runs; Belinger, 880-yard and one-mile runs; Young, 100 and 220-yard dashes, and broad jump; Walton, high and low hurdles; Lyon, low hurdles; Berry, 880-yard, one-mile and two-mile runs; Trott, one-mile and two-mile runs; Rogers, shotput; Longnecker, broad jump; James, high jump and Wales, hammer throw.

BACK AT OLD MOORINGS.

CONSTITUTION'S GOOD SPIN BEFORE LEAVING BRISTOL FOR NEWPORT.

Steel Mainmast, With Improved Back Stays, Tested in a Stiff Breeze—Sprit Topsail Tried for the First Time and the Cup Defender Sails at the Rate of Nine Miles an Hour.

BRISTOL, June 2.—All concerned express great satisfaction with the showing made by the Constitution during her spin yesterday. She certainly acted as though she was a grand boat, far and away better than anything that ever before came out of Herreshoff's hands. The principal purpose of the trip was to stretch the sails and give a test to the steel mainmast, now with improved back stays. It resulted in everything on board both aloft and on deck working perfectly well.

Nat Herreshoff was on board during the spin, inspecting the spars and rigging as the boat worked down the bay eight miles from Bristol before a breeze, at the start, of eight miles an hour. The wind increased to ten miles an hour on the beat home, heaving quite a path of the underbody out of the waters to windward. A feature of the spin was the setting of an intermediate topsail of the sprit variety. This is the first time that a sprit topsail has been used on Bristol Cup defenders. It is much smaller than the club topsail, but is similar, with the exception of the yard, showing only a few feet above the topmast head, although larger than a working topsail.

Capt. Rhodes and Nat Herreshoff went on board at 2:30 o'clock. The sailors began sending aloft the head sails in stops, which was followed by the removal of the mainsail cover. The mainsail was up at 3:30 o'clock and twenty minutes later the anchor was tripped, the yacht falling off on the starboard tack as the forestaysail and jib were broken out. Immediately she tacked to port and swung around, taking the wind over her port quarter as she headed south toward Bristol ferry. All sheets were held to windward until the north end of Hog Island was reached, when they were let off to leeward, sending the craft southward at a good clip. Two seamen were aloft during the trip, watching the spars and handling the sprit topsail. There was a slight buckle to the gaff, yet not enough to interfere with the set of the mainsail.

Capt. Rhodes held the steering wheel throughout the trip, sailing the boat less than four points to the wind on the thrash back to the harbor.

In fourteen minutes from the time the anchor was aweigh the Constitution began to turn the southeast spit of Hog Island, a distance of two miles from the anchorage. Here she came in contact with the strength of the flood tide in deep water, necessarily making her footing slower. In came the main sheet and over went the main boom to port, as well as the headsheets, when the craft headed a course toward Sandy Point. The sheets were still closely hauled in board as the boat slipped past Hog Island Lightship. It was there that the small club topsail was sent aloft and neatly set in short time by a dozen of the seamen. Just then the breeze began to blow stronger, while the weather was hazy and becoming thick all round. The boat was then beginning to foot along at a lively rate, but with her sheets aft, evidently to give spars and canvas a good test.

The wind fresher, the bay became a trifle rougher, but not in the least interfering with the progress of the defender. The spars of the topsail were extremely light, as was the canvas also. She bowled along in fine style, the pennant of the New York Yacht Club flying from her topmast truck and the owner's absence pennant from the masthead. Her speed at the time was fully nine miles an hour. When midway between Sandy Point Lightship and the east end of Dyers Island Capt. Rhodes wore ship sharply at 4.20 o'clock. The mainsail was jibed in short order, and on a close haul on the port tack she started back to Bristol. The wind was now ten miles an hour as she skirted along the fringe of land to the south. With the fling sets of the sails catching everything in the way of wind, she heeled well to leeward, but worked out of the water forward instead of settling as did the Columbia. The fuller form of the Constitution no doubt contributed to this feature. She, however, threw up quite a little suds under her lee bow, while the boat towed at the yacht's stern passed over a comparatively smooth wake.

The first time she came about on the beat back was at 4.30 o'clock, in sixteen seconds. Now on the starboard tack, she worked through the water like a racehorse toward the northwest. Capt. Rhodes stood quietly at the wheel, barely moving it and steading with much ease even though the deck had a large angle of heel. There was hardly a quiver in the mainmast, although the boat carried more canvas than she had at any time previously. It was not as limber as it was a week ago. A tack was made a mile east of Sandy Point lighthouse, when away she went with boom to starboard. She stayed in nineteen seconds.

The beat through the ferry was past Hog Island Lightship and was of short duration, the tack being at Mussel bed buoy at 4.45 o'clock. Up near the Mussel bed light the wind hauled more to the northward, enabling the boat to head up more. She went in stays just west of the Mussel bed and from there up to her anchorage in the harbor several short tacks were made, the boat arriving at 5.10 o'clock in thick weather.

The new hollow wooden club topsail is fourteen inches in diameter at the middle. It is heavier than the Ogdenburg spar.

NEWPORT, June 2.—The Cup defender Constitution is again at anchor in Newport Harbor. She arrived here shortly before noon from Bristol. It was a fine morning and the wind was light from the southeast, and Capt. Rhodes sailed down the bay instead of taking a tow from the Mount Morris. The No. 3 club topsail, the same as was used in the spin yesterday with Nat Herreshoff, was set and the yacht made a pretty picture as she beat down to Newport. Mr. W. P. Duncan, Jr., was not on board, but arrived here this afternoon from New York. To-morrow the Constitution will begin her work of tuning up with club topsails.

The sloop yacht Hester, owned by Rear Commodore C. L. F. Robinson, arrived here to-day and it is probable that she will be sailed alongside of the Constitution. She is an English yacht and last season proved very fast, although she did no racing except in the New York Yacht Club squadron runs.

Yachting Notes.

E. R. Ladew's steamer Orienta is in commission.

A. J. Pierce has chartered the schooner yacht Dagmar.

The special 30-footers, Esperanza, Hera and Carolina, are being overhauled at Jacob's yard, City Island.

The cutter Queen Mab, owned by Lucius Smith, is in commission and ready for the season's racing.

John H. Hanan's newly purchased steam yacht Taurus is at Greenport being thoroughly overhauled.

The Sing Sing Yacht Club has had its name changed to the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club.

John I. Waterbury's schooner yacht Saxon has had new masts at Tebo's yard.

James B. Ford's schooner yacht Katrina has been hauled out at the Greenport Basin and Construction Company to be cleaned and refigged.

S. Montgomery Roosevelt has purchased the cutter yacht Wenonah and is having her rigged as a yawl at Hawkins's yard, City Island.

Percy Chubb's yawl Vigilant is receiving her finishing touches at Greenport and will be ready for the early June races.

F. M. Hoyt's English cutter Isolde should be much faster this season. She has been refitted inside and out and is ready to race.

The 36-footer Grayling, built at the Greenport Basin and Construction Company for Robert Toland of Philadelphia, has been delivered.

J. Howard Hinkle's English cutter Senta has been fitted out at Greenport and is ready to meet the Isolde and Astrild.

Edward Kelly's 50-footer Huguenot, recently built by Huntington of New Rochelle, is hauled out at Jacobs's City Island yard to prepare for the coming regattas.

F. Augustus Schermerhorn's steamer Freelance, E. D. Trowbridge's steamer Altair, Latham A. Fish's steamer Magnet and William A. Hester's steam yacht Wilnada are in commission. They were overhauled and refitted at Greenport.

The schooner yacht Endymion has been sold by the estate of George Lord Day to George J. Lander of Pittsburg. The Endymion last summer made the fastest passage across the ocean from Sandy Hook to Land's End, 19 days and 20 hours. She is 126 feet over all, 100 feet on the water line, 24 feet beam and 14 feet draught.

The second annual regatta of the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club will be sailed on next Saturday afternoon. There will be races for all regular classes, 43 feet and under, for the special 30-foot class, the Larchmont 25-foot class, the Manhasset Bay racerabouts, Sea wanhaka knockabouts and one designs. The start will be made at noon, and the yachts will be sent off according to classes at intervals of five minutes. Entries can be made with Edward M. MacLellan, chairman of the Race Committee, at 90 Water street.

Oklavec Gymnastic Champion of Sokel A. C.

J. Oklavec won the all-around gymnastic championship of the Sokel A. C., held at the Bohemian Club, Seventy-first street, between First and Second avenues, yesterday. J. Bens was second, A. Herker third and K. Goldhammer fourth. F. Cadley won the twenty-foot rope-climbing competition in 8 seconds and K. Goldhammer put up a 40-pound dumbbell fifty-one times.

BASEBALL.

Unusual Number of Close Games—Hart's Agreement With Freedman.

Fully one-third of the championship games in the National League his year have been won and lost by one run. The season has been conspicuous for its unusual number of close contests, which have been the rule rather than the exception, forty-one of the games played having been those in which there was a margin of only a single tally between the winner and the loser. In other words, the nature of the play has been such, to an exceptional degree, to keep interest keyed up until the last man is out, and the natural inference from this is that the teams are more nearly evenly matched than is generally the case. Close games are, as a rule, interesting, but at that it is open to debate whether just a few more one-sided games now and then would not be a relief and allay the tension which besets the rooter when the result is uncertain until the last man is out. Two to 1 and 1 to 0 and 3 to 2 and 4 to 3 scores and so on can become too much of a good thing both to player and partisan. The showing of the teams in one-run margin games is as follows: New York, won 8; lost 2; Brooklyn, won 7, lost 3; Boston, won, 4, lost 7; Philadelphia, won 5, lost 7; Pittsburg, won 5, lost 6; Cincinnati, won 7, lost 6; St. Louis, won 2, lost 6; Chicago, won 3, lost 4.

The opinion that the new foul strike rule has improved the game is by no means universal. Elmer Smith, the Boston outfielder, does not fancy it, though he has not played the full season and may take to it better as he becomes accustomed to it. "Most spectators prefer to see big hitting, at least, I would if I were a spectator" says Smith, "and they prefer to see lots of action on the bases, more than they get with the foul strike rule. As things are now, the first thing you know you've made two fouls, which means two strikes, and the pitcher's got you leaning. The big hitting is queered and batters don't get on the bases often enough to get a chance to do much base running. When they do get on the bases, the games are so close they're afraid to take chances. It will be harder still to get on bases in July and August when the pitchers get better."

"President Hart," says a Western writer, "narrowly escaped having a heated argument with President Freedman over the long-distance telephone regarding the coming games at Chicago between the New Yorks and Orphans. When the news reached New York that President Hart would insist upon Nash umpiring the games he is scheduled to officiate at here Freedman called Hart for a chat over the 'phone. It was on Wednesday last and, fortunately or unfortunately, the wires were out of order. For thirty minutes the two magnates strained their voices in vain. They merely wasted their energies, for the machine was not working.

"President Hart then resorted to writing and in the afternoon sent a long epistle to New York explaining his position regarding the umpire question. He stated that he stands on the constitution, and will ask Freedman to abide by the rules of the League the same as any other magnate."

SUNDAY ON THE DIAMOND.

Pitcher Harper Keeps the Cincinnatis Down to Four Hits.

CINCINNATI, June 2.—Crawford was the only Cincinnatian who could hit Pitcher Harper of St. Louis with any success, and so the Reds met defeat before 15,000 persons. A wild throw by Catcher Nichols saved Cincinnati from a shut-out. Hahn received loose support and was hit unusually hard. Both sides kicked at Cunningham's decisions. Score:

CINCINNATI.	R.	H.	P.	A.	E.	ST. LOUIS.	R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
Dobbs, cf	0	1	0	0	0	Burkett, lf	0	2	2	0	0
Harley lf	0	0	0	0	0	Heidrick, cf	0	0	2	0	0
Beckley, 1b	0	0	10	1	1	M'Gann, 1b	3	3	10	0	0
Crawford, rf	1	2	2	0	0	Donov'n, rf	0	1	3	0	0
Steinf'dt, 2b	0	0	1	4	2	Padden, 2b	1	1	2	3	1
Irwin, 3b	0	0	4	2	0	Wallace, ss	0	1	3	4	0
Magoon, ss	0	1	1	2	1	Kruger, 3b	2	2	0	4	0
Bergen, c	0	0	8	0	0	Nichols, c	0	1	5	0	1
Hahn, p	0	0	1	5	0	Harper, p	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	1	4	27	14	4	Totals	6	11	27	13	2

Cincinnati	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	—1
St. Louis	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	—6

Two-base hits—Crawford, Wallace, Burkett, McGann. Home run—McGann. Sacrifice hits—Donovan, Nichols. Stolen bases—Padden, Kruger. Double plays—Hahn, Magoon and Beckley; Wallace and McGann. Struck out—by Hahn, 7; by Harper, 4. First base on balls—Off Hahn, 1; off Harper, 2. Hit by pitcher—Steinfeldt, McGann, Kruger. Left on bases—Cincinnati, 4; St. Louis, 10. First base on errors—Cincinnati, 1; St. Louis, 1. Umpire—Cunningham. Time—1 hour and 40 minutes.

PITTSBURG, 6; CHICAGO, 1.

CHICAGO, June 2.—Rube Waddell's old team mates gave him a thrashing this afternoon, the Pittsburg beating the Orphans in a decisive manner. Waddell was hit freely, while Leever had perfect control and did not allow any hits when they were needed. Score:

CHICAGO.	R.	H.	P.	A.	E.	PITTSBURG.	R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
Hartzell, lf	1	1	1	0	0	Beaum't, cf	0	1	2	0	0
Green, cf	0	1	1	1	0	Clarke, lf	2	2	2	0	0
Dexter, 1b	0	0	7	5	0	Wagner, rf	0	1	4	0	0
Dolan, rf	0	1	1	0	1	Brandf'ld, 1b	1	1	8	0	0
Childs, 2b	0	2	5	5	2	Ritchie, 2b	0	2	1	2	0
Raymer, 3b	0	0	1	4	0	Leach, 3b	1	2	2	2	2
McCor'ck, ss	0	0	3	2	0	Ely, ss	0	1	2	4	2
Kahoe, c	0	0	6	1	1	O'Connor, c	1	0	5	1	0
Waddell, p	0	0	4	1	0	Leever, p	0	1	0	1	0
Totals	1	5	27	19	4	Totals	6	11*	26	10	4

*Green out for interference.

Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	—1
Pittsburg	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	—6	

Left on bases—Chicago, 5; Pittsburg, 5. First base on balls—Off Waddell, 1. Struck out—By Waddell, 6; by Leever, 5. Three-base hit—Clarke. Sacrifice hits—Ely, O'Connor. Stolen bases—Green, Dexter, Ritchie, Hartzell. Double plays—Raymer, Dexter, Childs and McCormick. Umpire—Dwyer. Time—1 hour and 38 minutes.

THE RECORD.

CLUBS.	New York.	Cincinnati.	Philadelphia.	Pittsburg.	St. Louis.	Boston.	Chicago.	Games Won.
New York		2	4	2	3	1	2	2	16
Cincinnati	0		1	3	2	5	3	2	17
Philadelphia	3	2		2	3	1	3	3	18
Pittsburg	0	2	2		2	2	2	2	17
Brooklyn	0	2	4	2		2	2	2	14
St. Louis	2	3	1	3	1		2	2	15
Boston	2	0	1	1	4	2		1	11
Chicago	2	2	0	2	1	4	1		12
Games lost	9	13	13	15	16	17	15	23	

American League.

										R.	H.	E.
Washington	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	10	1
Chicago	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	5	10	4

Batteries—Lee, Carnick and Grady; Griffith and Sullivan.

AT MILWAUKEE.

										R.	H.	E.
Milwaukee	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	1
Boston	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	9	13	18	4

Batteries—Reidy and Leahy; Young and Schreckengost.

AT DETROIT.

										R.	H.	E.
Detroit	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	7	11	3
Philadelphia	2	2	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	11	11	4

Batteries—Frisk, Owen and Buelow; Bernhard and Powers.

THE RECORD.

Clubs.	W.	L.	Per Cent.	Clubs.	W.	L.	Per Cent.
Chicago	24	11	.686	Boston	13	14	.481
Washington	16	11	.593	Philadelphia	15	17	.469
Detroit	20	14	.588	Milwaukee	12	11	.387
Baltimore	14	12	.538	Cleveland	8	23	.258

Other Games.

AT CANTON.

										R.	H.	E.
Brooklyn	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	2	8	11	4
Canton	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	7	9	5

Batteries—Donovan, Kennedy and Farrell; Flanagan and Flood.

AT ROBOKEN.

										R.	H.	E.
W. N. Y. F. C.	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	7	12	4
Hoboken	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	8	9	3

Batteries—Hipkins and O'Neil; Norton and Burke.

AT JASPER OVAL.

										R.	H.	E.
Jaspers	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	7
Murray Hill	2	0	3	0	0	2	0	2	0	9	13	0

Batteries—McPhillips and Duff; Hartman and Farmer.

AT RIDGEWOOD, 2 P. M.

										R.	H.	E.
Brooklyn F. C.	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	6	6	3
Laurel A. C.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3

Batteries—Winham and Moran; Kriedy and Fleishman.

A