Old Habit of Firing Baseball Managers During Off Season Ceases to Be a Pastime Among Club Owners

ONLY THREE NEW MANAGERS FOR 1918

Huggins, Donovan's Successor, Tackles a Tough Assignment in New York.

BARROW WINS SOFT JOB

Takes Over Ready Made Club in Boston—Hendricks Should Succeed in St. Louis.

By FREDERICK G. LIEB.

The custom of changing managers in the middle of the winter, which was so much in vogue a few years ago, is rapidly disappearing. The wholesale changes in managers, which used to feature the doings of the Winter Leagues, appear to be following the playing managers into the baseball discard. About four or five years ago it was a regular thing for about half of the clubs to start each spring with new pilots. Cincinnati, the Browns, the Yankees, Braves, Red Sox and Cubs (since the days of Frank Chance) made a specialty of changing managers on the slightest provocation, but since the war and the general unsettled conditions in baseball the tendency is to stick to the manager of the previous season.

There are only three managerial changes this winter, and all except one were due to force of circumstances. Bill Donovan, the former Yankee leader, was the only manager to be "fired" this winter. In fact, only three men have been forced to give up their commands since the close of the 1916 season: Joe Tinker, formerly of the Cubs, in the fall of 1916; Jimmy Callahan of the Pirates, last fall. This is the low water record for firing managers in the big leagues.

New Major League Managers.

The new managers for the coming season are Miller Huggins of the Yankees, Ed Barrow of the Boston Red Sox and Jack Hendricks of the St. Louis Cardinals. To this list also might be added Hugo Bezdek of the Pirates, as the hefty Chicagoan will be starting his first full season in charge of the Pittsburg club. He relieved Callahan last August.

As has been said, all except one of the new appointments were due to emergencies. Ruppert decided to let out Donovan here in New York and offered the post to Huggins, who led the St. Louis Nationals for the five years previous. When Huggins accepted Ruppert's offer, St. Louis was left without a manager, and Branch Rickey filled the vacancy by hiring Jack Hendricks, who had acquired quite a little fame as a minor league manager.

As Jack Barry, manager of the Boston Red Sox last year, has enlisted in the navy President Frazee of the Boston club offered the post to Ed Barrow, for five years president of the International League and a former manager of the Detroit Tigers. The appointment of Barrow was the biggest surprise of the Winter League season. Though Barrow says he has been engaged as the permanent manager of the Boston club, it is understood that with the return of peace, Barry will be given his old post and Barrow will be transferred to the business end of the Boston club and may be made president.

Miller Huggins's Task.

Miller Huggins tackles a queer problem in New York. He has inherited a team which finished sixth last season, but on which thousands of dollars have been spent since Ruppert and Huston acquired the club in the winter of 1914-15. It is estimated that the Yankees spent close to $150,000 in buying players to strengthen the team, and at the end of three years the Yankees finished in the same position as the season before Ruppert took over the club.

Many of the best managers in baseball have failed with New York, among them being Frank Chance, who won four pennants with the Cubs; Clark Griffith, who has since been a success in Washington; Hal Chase, Harry Wolverton and Kid Elberfeld. George Stallings, who won the world's championship with the Braves in 1914, also managed the club for almost two years, but Stallings cannot be included among the Yankee failures. He took over a tail end club, and in his second season had it running in second place, when he was let out.

A strange fatality always has followed the club which Huggins now directs. Players who go season after season without an injury get maimed as soon as they become Yankees. This accident jinx has followed every manager who has attempted to make New York a factor in the American League.

Huggins Well Experienced.

In many ways Huggins is better fitted to run the club than any other available manager. His experience in St. Louis has been most valuable, and taught him to win with very little financial aid from the business office. In St. Louis Huggins did not win any pennants, but he did something even more wonderful, at least to St. Louis eyes, when he piloted the club to two third place births. Before the Cardinals finished third under Huggins in 1914, no other St. Louis National League team had finished that high since 1876, the year the National League was organized.

Huggins finished in last place in St. Louis in 1913, but he was gradually building up and by the following season, thanks to a shrewd deal with Pittsburg, he finished third after an exciting race with Boston and the Giants. The Federal League tore his club apart, and he was down on the bottom again in 1916, but by 1917 he was back in third with one of the most formidable young clubs in either league.

In St. Louis Huggins had practically no financial backing behind him. The Brittons usually were in the hole financially, and sold players instead of buying them. Here in New York Huggins will have the biggest bankroll in the league behind him, and an owner who will not hesitate to take the rubber bands off it if it will help bring a winner.

Huggins is well equipped mentally to develop a winner. Always regarded as one of the smartest players in baseball, he has a shrewd insight into all baseball affairs, is a thorough thinker and has inside baseball on the ends of his fingers. If any manager should be able to succeed with the Yankees Huggins is the man.

Easy Task for Barrow.

Ed Barrow should find little trouble in winning with the Boston club which has been bequeathed to him. He has a ready made club, with the best pitching staff in his league in Ruth, Leonard, Mays, Bush and Foster, the second best catcher in baseball in Wally Schang, a consistent .300 slugger in McInnis, as good a fielding shortstop as is in baseball in Scott, two star outfielders in Hooper and Strunk and the services of Johnny Evers in an advisory capacity.

Barrow says he is glad to give up desk work to get "back in the game." Barrow has grown up with baseball, and was one of the most famous minor league managers in the country when he went to the Internationals as president. His fame as a minor league manager became so great after he won the championship with the Toronto club in 1902 that he was appointed manager of the Detroit club in 1903, despite the fact that he never played professional baseball. He held the post in Detroit until the middle of the 1904 season.

Barrow did not have much of a team in Detroit. He had the misfortune of managing the Tigers before Ty Cobb became connected with the club. Barrow, however, had the privilege of managing a team of which the great Hans Wagner, Cobb's leading rival, was the leading light. Wagner played with Barrow in Paterson, N. J., in 1897, and it was Barrow who sold the famous Flying Dutchman to the late Harry Pulliam, at that time secretary of the Louisville National League club.

Barrow is a forcible character, with a lot of punch in his actions as well as in his talk. He is a natural leader and a fighter. When he managed ball clubs in the past he was absolute boss, and it did not pay to thwart him. It was nothing but this man's fighting spirit that prevented the International League from going under three years ago.

The Fighting Edward also knows a lot of baseball and should make a big success of the Boston team.

New Major League Managers Whose Work Will Be Watched by Fans

Hendricks Most Prominent Minor League Leader Excepting Bill Clymer

Jack Hendricks is a prominent minor leaguer who deserved promotion to the big leagues more than any other minor league manager with the exception of Derby Bill Clymer. Hendricks, like the man he succeeds in St. Louis, belongs to that shrewd, educated type of baseball men, who make a study of baseball as though it were a science. Like Huggins, Hendricks is a college man and was educated to be a lawyer. He makes a splendid running mate to Branch Rickey, also a baseball barrister.

Hendricks is a graduate of Northwestern University and practised law three years in Chicago before he decided to throw his entire energies into baseball. He was a member of the Giants in 1902, and was among the bunch of misfits that McGraw released shortly after he took hold of the team.

Hendricks, who was an outfielder, later caught on with the Washington club, but the Senators cast him adrift in 1904. He began his managerial career with the Springfield club of the Central League in 1905, and since 1906 none of his teams ever finished out of the first division and in the twelve years only one fell as low as fourth.

He won one pennant with Springfield three with Denver in the Western League and one in the American Association with his 1917 Indianapolis club. It is not surprising that McGill, owner of the Indians, was not particularly anxious to let Hendricks go, as Jack worked for him both in Denver and Indianapolis. However, Hendricks felt he had won the right to promotion to the big leagues and finally McGill consented.

Hendricks is a smiling, good natured creature, something like Bill Donovan, and has the happy faculty of making friends wherever he goes. He is not a driver and gives his players a lot of freedom, until some one tries to take advantage of him, and then Jack puts his foot down hard. There are several minor league players who have found out that the usually mild Hendricks is a dangerous man to impose upon.

He is a fine judge of players and in the American Association and Western League much of his success was due to the fact that he was able to blend teams with castoffs from big league teams and promising youngsters, and the combination usually worked beautifully and played tidy baseball.

Unless the salary slashes on the Cardinals give Hendricks a dissatisfied club to start with he should make a success with the team. He is the type of manager ball players like to hustle for and should make a fine running mate to Branch Rickey, president of the St. Louis club.

Hugo Bezdek, the new Pirate pilot, is no stranger to big league fans, even though few ever heard of his name at the start of the 1917 season. Hugo rather belongs to the class of baseball freaks. There was considerable surprise when Comiskey hired Rowland, a man who never had played or managed in the big leagues, as his manager three winters ago. Rowland, however, has made his mark in baseball.

Bezdek, however, came to the Pirates with no professional experience whatever, his lone claim to distinction being success as a football coach. He was a great football player himself, playing halfback on the University of Chicago team with which the great Eckersall won undying fame as a quarterback. He also played baseball with the University of Chicago.

He went out to the University of Oregon as football coach and soon became known all over the coast. His Oregon team defeated the University of Pennsylvania at Pasadena, Cal., on January 1, 1917. Bezdek also acted as scout for Pittsburg during his odd moments.

He did very well with Pittsburg during the latter part of last season and promised to bring some order out of the chaos left him by Jimmy Callahan. He is a smart, aggressive chap and his work last season surely warranted a further trial.

JANOWSKI CHESS VICTOR.

Defeats Chajes in Seventh Game—Other Results.

In the seventh game of the chess match at the Manhattan Chess Club, yesterday, D. Janowski, the French chess champion, defeated Oscar Chajes, New York State champion, in a queen's pawn opening, which lasted forty-two moves. Chajes, who had the black pieces, again resorted to Tschigorin's defence, with which he was successful before. Toward the close of the game Janowski lost a couple of pawns, but succeeded in getting his rival into a mating net. The score to date: Chajes, 2; Janowski, 1; drawn, 4. The eighth game is scheduled to be begun at the Manhattan Chess Club this afternoon.

R. T. Black and A. Schroeder resumed play in their match at the Brooklyn Chess Club, yesterday. Black won after fifty-three moves. Each player now has won two games.

W. Ettlinger, M. Rink, C. L. Newbold, A. Lazinsk, L. Rosen and W. Malowan are having a close race in the annual handicap tournament at the Manhattan Chess Club. The standing follows:

Players.	W.	L.	Players.	W.	L.
Ettlinger	5½	4½	Davey	2	4
Rink	5	1	Campbell	3	6
Newbold	4½	2½	Frank	2	1
Lazinsk	4	1	Wormser	2	1
Rosen	3	1	Van Werweke	2	3
Malowan	2	2	Cross	1	8

J. H. Norwood, a Brooklyn policeman, again leads in the annual handicap tournament of the Brooklyn Chess Club. To date Norwood has won 6½ games and lost 2½ in nine games played. He is closely pressed by H. B. Sohn, 6—2; A. Raunheim, 5—2; H. F. Plumer, 4½—3½; W. S. Pitts, 4½—4½; J. Kolb, 4½—4½; F. J. Le Count, Jr., 4—4.

TIP O'NEIL HOLDS BATTING RECORD

Ran Up an Average of .492 in in Old American Association in 1887.

Canny individuals were those persons who used to get out the averages of the old American Association. No one ever was able to find a mistake in their batting percentages, for the good and sufficient reason that up to 1888 they were careful not to give the number of times a player batted, though they did give the number of hits he drove out.

James F. ("Tip") O'Neill, in the last year the association's statistician saved the compositors and the proofreaders labor by not including the times at bat in the official records, ran up the highest swatting mark ever made by a major leaguer, that mark being .492. Fast set players then (the year was 1887) were getting four cracks at the ball, and moreover the scorers had to record as a hit a base on balls. In the four preceding years passes had been charged as errors against the pitchers. In 1887 they were credited as hits to the batsmen.

O'Neill, working under Charley Comiskey out in St. Louis, is shown by the official averages to have taken part in 123 games, to have made 277 hits and to have had a percentage of .492. To get this percentage he must have been at bat 565 times.

That's the number of items he was at bat, according to one of the old files forming part of Charles Hercules Ebbets's wonderful baseball library over at Ebbets Field. Unofficial scores give "Tip I." 273 hits, give him the same number of long blows as the official figures, show he had 46 doubles, 24 triples and 13 homers, and show the number of passes he drew in 104 out of the 123 games in which he took part.

Drew 40 Complimentaries.

Jim drew 40 complimentaries in 104 games, and he probably got eight in the other 19 contests. Hence his average was in the neighborhood of .443, 5 points more than Hugh Duffy hit in 1894 and 23 points more than Ty Cob hit in 1911.

"Tip I." certainly could hit even if he only was able to bat .443 instead of the .492 with which all the baseball histories and historians credit him. James F. did something on April 30, 1887, in the game with the Cleveland Babies, that no other major leaguer so far as known has done. Going to bat three times in the fifth and sixth innings of that combat, which St. Louis won by a score of 28 to 11, "Tip" drove out three long hits—two homers and a tripe—for a total of eleven bases. The Cleveland curver was a chap named Morrison and apparently the Browns reached him for 36 hits for a total of 57 cushions.

The "actual hits" off Morrison, however, were twenty-six in number, for he gave ten passes, all of which were recorded as base knocks. Brudder Bill Gleason, who batted ahead of O'Neill, apparently kicked in with seven wallope, but really he got only three, being walked on four occasions. O'Neill batting seven times was credited with six hits, one of which was not an "actual hit."

His real record in this slugfest was as follows: At bat, six; runs, four; singles, one; doubles, one; triples, one; home runs, two. Total bases, fourteen.

Obtained 15 Safeties.

O'Neill must have enjoyed himself in that first series with the Cleveland Infants—babies was the scribes' name for them—since in four successive games he obtained fifteen simon pure safeties off Pechiney, Morrison and Billy Crowell. In another four game series against the Orioans later in the year Jim produced thirteen "actual hits" and in a three game set with the Orioles he deposited nine balls in safe territory.

Once on a time the National League in its averages reported the number of bases a player touched. O'Neill must have touched a great many thirty-one years ago, as he toured the circuit on 167 occasions. In the game of July 24 with Baltimore he scored five runs, contests in which he crossed the plate four times being as follows: April 30, against Cleveland, Morrison pitching; May 6, against Louisville, Ramsey pitching; May 7, against Louisville, Hecker pitching; May 12, against Baltimore, Knauff and Purcell pitching; May 19, against Athletics, Seward pitching; August 9, against Cleveland, Daly pitching; August 26, against Mets, Cushman and Jones pitching; September 3, against Mets, Mays pitching.

O'Neill in 1887 led the Association hitters in every way, scattering more singles, doubles, triples and home runs around the ball yards than any other pastimer. His "actual hits" were probably 229. His doubles surely were 46, his triples surely were 24 and his home runs were 13. "Tip's" 83 long hits were worth 133 extra bases.

O'Neill faced high grade pitching most of the time he was setting a mark modern batters always have been shooting at. The Metropolitans, for whom "Tip" once pitched, was the only team that did not have a curving star.

Cincinnati had Elmer Smith, left hander, and Tony Mullane, right hander, to say nothing of "Wild Bill" Serad.

Louisville possessed Guy Hecker and Elton Chamberlain, northpaws of parts, and Tom Ramsey, who ranks with the greatest of left handers and who was the greatest drop ball pitcher in the business.

In a space of ten days Ramsey, officiating in six games, struck out 56 men, whiffing 17 of the Clevelands on June 21 and 16 of the Browns on June 30.

Baltimore had two remarkable left handers in "Phenomenal John" Smith and Matty Kilroy.

Terry was the star of the Brooklyn corps, with Porter and Harkins not far behind him in point of ability.

The Athletics showed up with Gus Weyhing and Eddie Seward.

Bill Crowell was the star of the Cleveland staff. Bob Gilks, Yankee scout, frequently was impressed into box service, generally giving a good account of himself.

Went to St. Louis.

The Mets' pitchers were nothing to brag about. O'Neill went to St. Louis from the Mets, the Giants having released him to the American Association club. Then he was a pitcher, and it was as a pitcher Commy first used him. "Tip's" arm gave out, so Comiskey made an outfielder out of him. Jim played left in a rather diffident manner, but he was an efficient fielder nevertheless.

It was as a batter, however, that James F. shone. He hit the ball hard and he could hit a mile. He held the record for long distance wallops at most of the Association parks.

O'Neill quit the game in 1892. He then was a member of the Cincinnati club, of which Comiskey was manager, and Commy laid him off without pay because he was not in condition. Jim beat it to Montreal, his home—he originally came from Woodstock, Ont.—and never played another game of ball. He did some umpiring in the Eastern League when Pat Powers was its president, but his last playing was done for the man for whom he did his greatest hitting—Charles A. Comiskey.

Fans who wish for more hitting would have their wish gratified could the ivory hunters dig up some more O'Neill's. They only come once in a decade, however.

BASEBALL AT OLYMPIC FIELD.

Lincoln Giants Open Season Today With Double Bill.

The semi-professional baseball season will be opened in this city this afternoon at Olympic Field, 136th street and Fifth avenue, where the Lincoln Giants, winners of the Eastern title last season, will play a double header. The team, which returned last week from Palm Beach, where thirty-four games were played during the winter, will play the Chesters in the opening game at 1:30 and the Maujers in the feature game.

Cyclone Joe Williams, who won eighteen games in the South, will pitch against the Maujers. Williams again has been appointed captain of the champions.

New Sluggers Should Land Yankees Into Third Place

Detroit Picked to Round Out First Division in American League—Reds and Cardinals Awarded Third and Fourth Positions in National.

By SHORTSTOP.

A few weeks ago it was predicted that the Giants and Cubs would be the leading factors in the coming National League race, and that the Red Sox and White Sox again would fight it out for the American League pennant. The clubs which appear most likely to round out the first division in the American League are the Yankees and Detroit, while the Cincinnati Reds and the St. Louis Cardinals loom up most formidable for these positions in the National League.

If two of the Yankee pitching youngsters come through and have good seasons the club even may become a dangerous factor in the American League race. The same is true of Detroit, where the pitching problem even is more serious than with the Yankees. If Coveleskie can come back and big Erickson can pitch the way he did on the Pacific coast last season the Tigers will be a tough team to beat. However, with last season's pitching staff the team is unlikely to go much higher than the .500 mark.

The Yankees should have a powerful punch next season. If Bodie hits as well as he did in Philadelphia last season and Pratt comes through to expectations, the club should have a terrific offence. Baker, Pipp, Bodie and Pratt all have won fame as extra base hitters and Peckinpaugh also is no slouch at ramming out the long hits.

Depends Upon Outfielders.

A lot depends on the shape of both Gilhooley and Marsans, as Huggins considers them to be valuable assets. Especially does he think well of Marsans on the defence. He says the Cuban has no superior in coming in for low hit balls.

With fast men like Gilhooley and Marsans to lead off the attack, and that crowd of sluggers following in their wake, the Yankees should score more runs than in any other previous season. Pipp should be a different ball player with more hitters around him. Last spring Wallie looked as though he might become the most valuable first baseman in the game, but he slumped all through the latter part of the season and finished with an average of .244.

The promotion of young Al Walters to first catcher also will be of big assistance to the club. Walters has been the club's best catcher by far during the past two years, but he is slight of build, and Donovan worked him carefully. Walters may not be able to stand as much work as Schalk or Schang, but he should be able to catch more than fifty-seven games, which is all he worked in last season. Herold Ruel should be a valuable assistant to Walters. Little is known of "Truck" Hannah, except that he was a terrible bear for work in the minors.

Pitching Staff Outlook.

At the start of the season the Yankee pitching staff does not look as strong as it has been during the last two years. The men picked out to work regularly have been too undependable in the past. Caldwell should be a better pitcher under his present contract, estimated to be around $4,000, than he was during the three years that his contract called for $8,000. Caldwell often has promised to be good, but there hasn't been a season since 1913 that he hasn't had an outbreak.

Bob Shawkey had a great year in 1916, but slumped quite a bit last season. Mogridge at one time looked as though he would develop into one of the star lefthanders of the league, but he isn't reliable. For weeks he was unable to take his turn in the box last season. Russell has a great spitball when it is working, but frequently it goes on strike. Love has all sorts of natural ability but he is wild. Donovan saw great probabilities in young Monroe and predicted he soon would be the star pitcher of the club. Thormahlen and McGraw are promising rookies.

A big factor in considering the case of the Yankees is Huggins. The new manager has made a splendid impression since coming here. He has made a closer study of baseball than most managers, and in St. Louis proved a wonderful judge of talent.

Pitchers Tigers' Need.

Detroit again has a slashing club, with the only Ty Cobb its most brilliant light and other luminaries in Veach, Heilman, Bush and Vitt. Despite the loss of a number of valuable players Jennings took thirty-three men to the club's training camp at Waxahachie, Tex., of which no less than fifteen are pitchers.

As already mentioned the big hope of the Tigers is Eric Erickson, once tried out by the Giants, who pitched 443 2-3 innings with San Francisco last season (more actual work than accomplished by any other pitcher in the country) and wone thirty-one games and lost fifteen. Of the holdover pitchers from last year Jennings has Coveleskie, Dauss, Boland, Bill James, Willie Mitchell, Cunningham and Jones. With the exception of Dauss, all of these men are in and outers, though Boland is deadly effective against New York. Coveleskie, who first came up with the Phillies in 1908, when he euchred the Giants out of a pennant the year of the Merkle-Evers incident, was slipping fast last season and won only four games.

The club has picked up some youngsters who have done exceedingly well in the minors, among them Kallio of Des Moines, Hall of Joplin and Finneran of St. Paul. Bill Donovan will attempt to whip these men into regular pitchers.

The catching department is too top heavy, including the bulky Oscar Stanage and the rotund Tub Spencer, with Archie Yelle, a weak hitting assistant.

The sale of George Burns, the former Detroit first baseman, to New York in the Yankee deal, leaves a gap at first base. Dressen of St. Paul has been selected to fill his place, though this fellow could not hit enough to stick in the National League when Huggins had him in St. Louis.

Reds Look Dangerous.

Matty's Reds look very dangerous in the National League. Were the club certain of the services of big Fred Toney all season it might be given equal rating with the Giants and Cubs. Matty's team was the best looking club in the National League in July and early August of last year, but the Reds were too far behind and suffered a violent reaction from their belated effort to catch the Giants. After a sensational Eastern trip the club went back home and lost nine out of ten games that knocked the team completely out of the running.

Even with the puny hitter, Shean, at second base, the Reds of last season had the hardest hitting club in the major leagues. The club again should be a team of biffers this season, especially if Lee Magee plays anything like the kind of ball he formerly showed in the National League. One thing which has mitigated against the success of the Reds even before Matty's time was the small number of runs Cincinnati could score from its hits.

A Fine Outfield.

The Red outfield may threaten that of the Giants for the supremacy of the league. Roush, batting leader of last season's team, has a wonderful career in front of him, and so has Greasy Neale. Griffith, in right field, is a steady player, who has displayed a dangerous punch at times.

The infield, with Chake on first, Magee on second, Kopf at short and Groh at third, has few superiors in grace and all around batting power, especially if Magee comes back.

Wingo is one of the ablest catchers in the business, but Matty will likely experience considerable difficulty in the pitching department. Fred Toney has not yet been called in the draft, but after his unpleasant experience of last winter, when he was arrested as a draft dodger, he was placed in Class 1 A, and he will be called among the first men in the new contingent.

Matty, of course, still has Pete Schneider, a fine right hander and capable worker, and Eller and Regan, two youngsters who displayed much promise last season. For the rest Matty must depend entirely on green timber. He still has Reuther, a young left hander, secured from the Cubs last season, and Rube Bressler, who looked like a find with the Athletics in 1914, but blew after the great team was dismantled. Bressler did great work in the Southern Association last year.

Cards Weakened by War.

The war has weakened the St. Louis Cardinals somewhat, as Jack Miller is in the marines and Marvin Goodwin, the club's most promising young pitcher, has been drafted. Miller had a steadying effect on the Cardinals and his absence will be felt. The Cardinals comprised a young, aggressive team last season, which at times looked as though it had the makings of a championship nine. Hence the club may again make things lively next season.

The infield will consist of Gene Paulet, the former Giant, at first, the weak hitting Hetzel at second, Hornsby at short and Baird at third. In Cruise, Smith and Long the club has the makings of a splendid outfield, while St. Louis is very strong in catchers with Gonzales, the Cuban, and Frank Snyder. Either can play a nice game at first base in an emergency.

The pitching staff is a bit unsteady. Huggins jockeyed it in such a way as to bring splendid results last year despite the fact that Ames, ranking twentieth, was his leading pitcher.

The club still has Bill Doak, who no longer is as reliable as he was a few years back; the spectacled Lee Meadows and Muley Watson, who looked like another Toney when he broke in with Hornsby in the fall of 1915. Horstman and May, two youngsters, showed flashes of ability late last season. Huggins recently predicted a great career for Horstman.

It also is well to consider Jack Hendricks, the new manager of the Cardinals. He is a shrewd fellow, with a long list of successes in the minors, and appears to be a splendid selection.

Gossip of the Trotting World

By W. H. GOCHER.

One of the most peculiar features in connection with the Kentucky Futurity, to which the nominations for its twenty-eighth renewal close on April 15, is that over one-half of the events contested since Oro Wilkes was returned as the winner of the first one in 1893 have been won by men who made but very few nominations. An analysis of the returns discloses the fact that fourteen of the races for the three-year-old division, which is the most important feature of the event, were won by nominators who made only twenty-six entries.

The dams of Peter the Great, Sadie Mac, Grace Bond, Miss Adbell, Manrico and Etawah were the only mares named by the men who were recorded as the breeders of these winners in their respective years, while Grace Bond also won the two-year-old division and Peter the Great finished second to Janie T. in 1897. Of those who made but two nominations in the Kentucky Futurity the breeders of Oro Wilkes, Rose Croix, Nella Jay and Silko named winners, while Peter Volo would also have been added to this list if he had not been bred in partnership with the owner of his sire.

Boralma and Volga were named by breeders who had but three nominations in the Kentucky Futurity in their respective years and Volga also won the two-year-old division. The breeder of Beusetta, winner of the Kentucky Futurity in 1894, the year that it was worth $26,430, had but four nominations.

Clarence Cole is getting Jay Eli Mac, 2:02¼, ready for the races over the mile track at Indianapolis. Those who are expecting Ben Earl, Roan Hal and Single G. to win all the free for alls on the half mile tracks should not overlook this horse as he forced Ben Earl to his record at Columbus.

C. E. Pitman is busy training eighteen trotters and pacers at Trenton, N. J. The best known ones in the group are Ben Ali, Premier Witte and Judge Sale, which the Newbrook Stable purchased out of a race at Lexington last fall.

F. C. Burne of Presque Isle, Me., purchased Royal McKinney, 2:12¼, after he defeated Hal L. in a $1,000 match race at Fort Fairfield. He is a very fast sprinter and can step a quarter in 29 seconds.

The three-year-old colt Coldstream will be prepared for his Futurity engagements by Alonzo McDonald. As he trotted in 2:11¼ last season he has a chance in any company.

Azora Axworthy, 2:06¾, is still in Murphy's stable at Poughkeepsie. She was not started last year.

A. E. Dorsey of Findlay, Ohio, expects to duplicate Little Frank D.'s trip through the Grand Circuit with the Hedlac horse Un, 2:09¼, for which he paid $2,650 at the Chicago sale. Valentine will train him.

Of the nine renewals of the Ohio Purse at Cleveland, Lon McDonald won three with Bob Douglas, Lewis Forest and Star Winter. Marigold and Peter Scott placed two of these events to the credit of Tommy Murphy while he will try and win another one this year with either Kelley De Forest, Peter Vaughn or Peter Chenault.

Stout Bros. will race Blanche Carter over the mile tracks this year.

CUMMINGS' CATCHER DENIES HE CURVED

Jewell Adds an Interesting Chapter to an Old Baseball Controversy.

DIDN'T KNOW CREIGHTON

Though two weeks have passed since Alphonse C. Martin of the old Mutuals made the statement here that J. McSweeney of the Mutuals of 1886 was the first pitcher to curve a baseball nobody has come forward with any refutation. It therefore seems to be taken for granted that McSweeney really did perform the feat first in a game under rules.

The curve ball controversy has found an echo in Wisconsin. A. J. Schinner, sporting editor of the *Evening Wisconsin* of Milwaukee, some time ago reproduced THE SUN'S query as to the origin of the curve ball, in which a correspondent declared that Candy Cummings of the Brooklyn Stars had turned the trick first and that Cummings had got the idea from Creighton of the Excelsiors. Now comes Herbert S. Jewell, who caught Cummings, with the statement that Cummings probably never even saw Creighton. Jewell writes from his home in Milwaukee as follows:

"In a recent edition of your paper under the heading 'Cummings Caught Curved Ball Idea from Creighton of the Excelsiors' is an excerpt from the New York SUN, and in that article is the following paragraph: 'Would it not be a good plan to get some information from the still living members of both the Excelsiors and the Stars?'

"For many years I caught Cummings, and certainly ought to know something about the facts. The Creighton referred to was the greatest pitcher of his day beyond any question, and it was his great ability that made the trouble between the Atlantics and the Excelsiors in Brooklyn, which is past history. Creighton was also a fine cricket player, and it was through this game that he came to his death, which occurred many years before the Excelsiors left their old ground at the foot of Court street for the Capitoline.

"The statement by the party 'who prefers to be unnamed,' that he was informed by Cummings that he got the idea from Creighton certainly is unbelievable by the writer. Cummings must have been a very small boy at the time of Creighton's death, and in my opinion Creighton himself was unable to curve a ball, and it is not likely he could at any time have given Cummings an idea on that point even if the 'Kid' had any acquaintance with him, which I seriously doubt.

Creighton Did Not Curve.

"As a member of the Excelsior club for years and acquainted with many of the oldest players of the club, like Leggett, Ed Russell, George Flanley, Harry Polhemus and others, I never heard any one suggest or state that Creighton produced a curved ball in his pitching. The matter certainly would have come up at some time, because Arthur Cummings came into the Junior Excelsiors, which the club at that time fostered, and naturally with Cummings constantly before their eyes if Creighton had at any time developed a curved ball it would have been spoken of by some of these members who played with him. It is a sure thing he would have been unable to give any one any idea about the curved ball unless he himself could have produced it.

"George Flanley, a friend of Creighton's, and myself were quite intimate for many years, and he never mentioned the fact, which he certainly would have done had Creighton any idea that he had produced a curved ball. My own belief is that the curved ball was due largely to the way Cummings held the sphere, a grip he came by naturally. He frequently complained of a sore finger, and it was this finger which was the principal agent in producing the curve.

Caught Cummings at Star.

"When Cummings first came into the Excelsiors as a junior player I saw Chauncey of Brooklyn caught for him, if I recollect correctly. At the time I was playing right field with the senior nine. I afterward went to the Stars with Cummings and others, and most of the catching I did for him was while we were both members of that organization. Subsequently, when I decided to stop playing, I went back to the Excelsiors and I am at the present time a life member, it having been chartered as a social club a year or two after professionalism came into vogue.

"The statement that one player, Phelean, pitched semi-professional ball and was able to produce an in and out underhand curve possibly may be true, though I have my doubts about it at any rate, playing on the Excelsior grounds regularly myself, I had no knowledge of any such player. If such a party subsequent to my dropping out of baseball did play of course I would know nothing about it.

"The point I wish to make is that Cummings could not have possibly had any such information as the writer of that letter pretends, because it was absolutely impossible for him to have received any ideas from Creighton, for the reason that they did not play ball at the same time, and the further point is that none of those playing with Cummings for years received any such information from Cummings himself.

"This is my answer to THE SUN'S question. HERMAN S. JEWELL.

"581 Marshall street, Milwaukee, Wis., March 21, 1918."

C. C. N. Y. INSIGNIA AWARDS.

Twenty-two Athletes Receive Varsity Letters.

Twenty-two City College athletes were awarded their varsity insignia yesterday. Thirty-seven numerals and twenty team letters also were awarded athletes. The list of those honored by the stowal of insignia includes eight members of the victorious basketball team, eight swimmers and six track athletes. The awards follow:

Varsity Insignia—Track team, Nagler, Landis, Rosenberg, Rosetsky, Vrooe and Warner.

For Swimming—Baehr, Schreiber, Hoffman, Lehrman, Schenberg, Meyer, Richs and Schapiro.

For Basketball—Helman, Preiss, Trinsky, Schmidt, Fliegel, Lebofsky, Litton and Raskin.

Varsity Team Letters—Tennis team, T.—Cohne, Joffe, Kwelt, Agassi, Harris, Deutch.

Soccer team, T.—Rosenzweig, Taft, Lehrman, Roberts, Matthews, Cohn, Friedlander, Freitch, Hanlon, Pegin, Kaynay, Brummart, Rosenberg, Tow, Moore.

Varsity Numerals—Track—Haldane, Bergren, Donaldson, Friedman, McGuinn, Rudnick, Segal, Rosenblum, Seidel, Stimmitz, Biegler, Press, Cohen, Berg, Dicker, Pasvolsky.

For Basketball—Slavin, Biegeleisen, Bolotofsky, Munin, Cohen, Pegin, Fleisheim, Freiser, Krinsky, Lamm, Murrayheim, Schwartzman, Wolf and Warner.

For Swimming—Thuer, Jacobstadt, Cohen, Grasheim, Hinsen, Parker and Auerbach.