

IF RUBE OLDRING SHOWS OLD FORM MACKMEN WILL HAVE STRONGER TEAM NEXT SEASON

WITH RETURN OF OLDRING ATHLETICS HAVE BUT TWO REGULAR PLACES TO FILL

Third Base and Short Stop Only Positions Mack Has to Worry About If Young Pitchers Come Through

LOOKING at the final standing of the American League, one will find that the Athletics finished a poorer last than any team in years, and the natural conclusion is that the Mackmen had few good players, but a glance at the runs scored and the pitching records proves conclusively just why the Athletics were a bad last.

The infield was absolutely undependable, and the inexperienced pitchers handed the opposing teams game after game, permitting four and five runs per game made by the Athletics to go to waste. The return of Rube Oldring, who had announced his retirement, leaves but two regular positions open, and, as the time for spring training season approaches, the chances of the Mackmen to finish a few notches higher look much brighter.

As Manager Mack readily agrees, Oldring, in condition and hustling, is one of the greatest players in the game; but as he played in 1915 Rube had only a bad influence on the rest of the team. Pride in his work, which had always been so noticeable in the big outfielder's play, was conspicuous by its absence in 1915, but Oldring has promised Mack that he would hustle throughout the coming season, regardless of the position occupied by the team.

The Oldring of 1915 Not Wanted by Mack

The Oldring of 1915 is not wanted by Manager Mack, who frankly informed Rube just where he stood, but the Oldring of 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919 will be welcomed with open arms. In his long career with the Athletics Oldring has had but one poor year, 1912, and that also was due to indifference and lack of interest. He recovered from that slump and played brilliant ball until last season. Mack thinks he will repeat.

It was the intention of Mack to trade Oldring, but Rube got wind of it and, hastened his "retirement," although last summer he often said that 1915 was his last year in baseball. If Mack had gone through with his original plan to sell or trade Oldring, it is doubtful if the latter would have returned to the game, but after being assured by Mack that his old position was open for him if he could show his old-time form, Oldring jumped at the chance.

Physically, Oldring is in better shape than ever before at this time of the year. He is not carrying more than ten pounds of excess weight, which is a small amount for a man his size. Rube has been living the simple life on his farm, spending most of his time outdoors, and appears to be quite capable of coming back.

If Oldring is able to fill his old post to the satisfaction of Mack, the maker of champions needs only a third baseman and shortstop to have his regular lineup completed as it will probably start the season. Third base appears to be the greatest problem, as Bill Kopf should fill the bill at short, if good men are secured to work with him. Kopf is young and getting better all the time. A good break at the start of the season probably would prove the making of Kopf, and he would soon blossom forth as a star of the first water.

Davies, Strunk and Oldring for the Outfield

It has practically been decided that Lloyd Davies will be the regular left fielder, with Oldring in center and Strunk in right. Mack's infield problem, which was the greatest he had to deal with last season, is still the only one which is troubling him. McInnis is, of course, certain to be on first, while Mack has decided that it is time for Louis Malone to be sent into the game regularly, and he will be at second base. Manager Mack and veteran members of the team are certain Malone will soon clinch this position. They look upon him as one of the most promising youngsters developed in several seasons.

Third base is still the great uncertainty. Mack tried out several recruits at this position last season, but of the lot there is not one who looks to be strong enough to hold down the job on a team which hopes to be in the running for the championship in 1917. There will be several recruits, not seen by local fans last season, who will try for Baker's corner, and if Mack has his usual luck with raw material, the fans may be surprised by the sudden appearance of a star.

Perkins Is Star Catcher

Wally Schang will do the bulk of the catching, with Young Perkins second catcher. This lad is sure to be a star, according to members of the team. It will be remembered that Perkins caught three or four games at the close of the 1915 season. He made a great impression on his team-mates and opposing players. Baseball men who saw the lad catch in the North Carolina League also feel certain that he is destined to be one of the game's greatest receivers in a year or two. Perkins is not 20 years of age, and should develop rapidly under the watchful eye of Mack.

But even with the rest of the team looking like a first division possibility, Mack probably will pilot another tail-end unless his pitching staff can show a 100 per cent. improvement over the 1915 form. Pitching is rated as 70 per cent. of the game, while control is considered 75 per cent. in summing up a pitcher's ability, so it is easy to see that the Mackmen will not figure strongly unless the youngsters learn to get the ball over the plate with something on it.

Youngsters Need More Confidence

Last season Mack had a large staff of youngsters who really had an unusual amount of natural talent, but every time they tried to cut loose with their best "stuff" they could not get the ball near the plate. After walking two or three men, the confidence of the youngsters would be shattered, and when they finally got the ball over the plate it had little on it, with the result that the batsmen found them easy.

If the training camp coaching of Mack, Davis and Thomas has the desired effect, American League batsmen will be amazed at the great improvement of the Mack pitchers. Wyckoff proved conclusively last season that he is due to be one of the best right-handed pitchers in the land in another year, and around him the new staff will be built. Joe Bush has shown enough to warrant the prediction that he will also be able to hold up his end. Too much prosperity and world's series success made Bush careless and indifferent last season, but he has learned his lesson and will report ready to hustle. If he doesn't Mack says he will not be with the team long.

Many "Unknowns" on the List

The other young pitchers are all more or less of an unknown quantity, but all who have watched Nabors and Myers, the lanky right handers from Dixie, are convinced both will develop into wonderful twirlers before the 1916 season ends. If they develop as expected, Mack may soon have another young and powerful staff, which may aid in winning pennants in the future. Not much is expected of the Mackmen in 1916 unless the pitchers develop more rapidly than is believed possible, but before the season is over Mack thinks his new machine, which he has predicted would be greater than the famous aggregation he broke up, will be constructed, needing only the balance to assure a pennant contender in 1917.

Mysterious Bowler Not in Philly

It was reported that Count Gengler, or Herr Getz, as he is sometimes known, had turned up in a local bowling alley, but the report was untrue. Gengler and Louie Franz, of Cleveland, who is one of the best-known bowlers in the country, are in Buffalo, picking up easy money defeating the Bison City stars. Gengler is after a match with Jimmy Smith for a \$5000 side bet, but Smith has left Buffalo, which is his home city, and is now in New York.

Cuba and Porto Rico Not Ripe for Independent Invasion

Joe Higgins, scout of the Detroit Tigers, writes that he has just returned to his Jersey home from a trip to Cuba and Porto Rico, where he was looking over the baseball field. Higgins planned an invasion of the Islands with a semi-pro ball team under the management of Arthur Irwin, but he has given up the idea because there are too many independent teams at both places, which are as good, if not a trifle better, than those of this city and vicinity.

The signing of Malcolm Galvin, the University of Wisconsin pitcher and fullback, by the White Sox, started a group of old timers telling the exploits of the famous southpaw, Jimmy Galvin, of the early '80's. They were unanimous that Waddell and Ramsey were the only southpaws in Galvin's class, in the history of the game.

BALL CLUBS AND PLAYERS DON'T CARE WHO OWNS THEM ANY MORE



IT'S REALLY HARD TO UNLOAD A BALL TEAM ON ANYBODY - B. M. 1669

FIELDER JONES ONE OF BEST MANAGERS IN BASEBALL

Browns' 1916 Leader Has Great Chance to Put St. Louis on Diamond Map Once More

By GRANTLAND RICE

When Spring returns in glory and smashes Winter's wood, and Pan re-pipes his story within his winter's store, do I dream then of flowers, or think of April showers, or turn to rose-rimmed bowers? Not on your breakfast food.

For Spring's the open season, Not only of the score, But where, bereft of reason, A greater joy is in store, Where each big-throated robber Can yell out "Thief" and "Robber," Or "Second-story jobber!" And seek the vampire's gore.

WHICH reminds us that spring is now only a yawn or two away; and yet it was only a day or two ago that Duffy Lewis and Harry Hooper took charge of the big mortars and closed out the last W. B. campaign.

Fielder Jones still remains one of the great leaders of baseball. Fielder has the mysterious knack of arranging a winning machine. Of all great managers, Mr. Jones takes along with him the most expert cheerfulness or joy. He is no part of his system. After winning the A. L. championship in 1906 and then whaling the tar out of the Cubs for the still higher title, Fielder saw nothing to call for any due cheerfulness or joy.

Mr. Jones is no dancing dervish. Flippancy occupies virtually no territory in his soul. But he has always been a great leader, a result producer, which is the main tonic.

Fielder for 1916 What Mr. F. Jones can do in 1916 has been up for discussion in more than one fan colony. He has two ball clubs to pick from, and between the two there is enough talent in sight to yield a pretty good machine. But hardly good enough to beat out Boston, Detroit or Chicago. If hope is worth a cent an acre, the three clubs should occupy the first three rungs of the A. L. ladder. Among them they have most of the good ball players.

With Lee Magee added to the Yanks, New York, Washington and St. Louis should set up the three-cornered battle for fourth place. The Yanks should be far above their normal stuff, and Washington, with Johnson, is no hum ball club. So his re-entry into polite American League circles after several years' rest should find the one-time world series king struggling to finish in the first division.

Mr. Jones has the knack of getting there with whatever they give him, or at least getting up there where the best people belong.

Mr. Yerkes was a good player in 1912. He has played good ball since that historic world series occasion. But Steve at his best is no John J. Evers.

Magee and the Yanks Between, or rather among, Bill Donovan, Lee Magee and Fritz Maisei the Yanks should at last begin to develop what they have always lacked—magnetism on the field.

The Yanks have always been rather too much of a plugging type to get very deep into the fanatical imagination. They

had any number of fine fellows enrolled, but the general pep of the squad was about as pronounced as that of a sponge. They have lacked color, whatever that may be. They have had only a few to appeal to the fancies or imaginations of the fans. Maisei and Magee together will mean quite a difference.

The Barriers "I am sorry I can't use Evers at second base, as I have Steve Yerkes for that place."—Joe Tinker. "I know I need a man or two." Said Connie Mack one day; "I'd like to find the proper one To help regain my sway; They banded me the Georgia Peach, But I forestalled their snark; What chance have I for Johnson when I still have Cyrus Pich?"

If the Willard-Moran bout is worth \$50,000, some one should have raised a purse of \$2,000,000 for the Sullivan-Corbett or the Corbett-Fitzsimmons affairs.

Yet there is a chance for Percy Haughton to revolutionize baseball, as some one predicted he would. He may be able to get Johnny Evers to express his admiration of Byron, Klem, Rigler & Co.

And then again he may not. R. L. F.—No, no; certainly not. Exactly the opposite.

"Griffiths doesn't want any Federal Leaguers." Whether they be Federal Leaguers or Mexicans, Griff might as well grab himself a pair of ball players who can bat in a run or so for Johnson if he ever expects to move up from fourth place.

Judging from the English press, Welch, Lewis, Ahearn and Thomas—all English fighters now in America—are going to receive a wonderful ovation when they go back home. They will be almost as popular as the bubonic plague or the black death.

West Branch Athletes Exhibit The members of the second division class of the West Branch Young Men's Christian Association gave an athletic exhibition before the members of the St. Louis Club on Friday night. The members of the athletic events were: Biddle, Anderson, Oswald, Crew, Pomeroy, Birwins, Frank, Israel, Yeager, Welch and Gonsler.

OLYMPIA A. A. Broad & Bainbridge. Harry Edwards, Mgr. MONDAY NIGHT—8:30 SHARP. JOE TUBER vs. JACK SAYLES. CLARIE MARSHALL vs. HARRY SMITH. WILLIE BROWN vs. BARNES HAHN. EDDIE MILLER vs. WILLY JACKSON. Lew Tandler vs. Eddie O'Keefe. Adm., 25c. Bal Res., 50c. Arena Res., 75c, \$1.

GREAT ALL-STAR SHOW SATURDAY NIGHT—SATURDAY NIGHT National A. C. Jack McGuigan, Mgr. FRANKIE McMANUS vs. JOE MALON. RUD THOMAS vs. JEAN CONSTANCE. JOE AVEY vs. BOB BILLY. PATSEY CLINE vs. PHINNEY BOYLE. WILLY MOORE vs. JACK PALMER.

Quaker City A. C. 20th & Dauphin Sts. TONIGHT—8:30 SHARP. Bill Nushel, Prom. SIX ALL-STAR BOUTS. Reserved Seats, 50c. Admission, 25c.

Bethlehem High Girls Win

BETHLEHEM, Pa., Jan. 20.—Bethlehem High school girls' basketball team had no trouble in defeating the Pen Argyl High School team today by the score of 16 to 2, due to the close guarding of the Bethlehem girls. Pen Argyl was unable to score a single field goal. Miss Reynolds scored 14 out of the 19 points.

Albright Football Dates

MYERTOWN, Pa., Jan. 20.—Manager Henry Dico, of Myerstown, has completed a schedule of 10 games for the Albright College football team, as follows: September 23, Rutgers, at New Brunswick, N. J.; September 30, Bucknell, at Lewisburg; October 7, Lehigh, at South Bethlehem; October 14, Dickinson, at Carlisle; October 21, Muhlenberg, at Allentown; October 28, Georgetown, at Georgetown, Va.; November 4, Susquehanna, at Myerstown; November 11, Lafayette, at Easton; November 18, Williamsport, at Williamsport; November 25, Pennsylvania Military Academy, at Chester. Requests for games had been received from New College, Syracuse; New York University and Franklin and Marshall.

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NEWCOMB IS FIRST IN PINEHURST SHOOT

Philadelphia Gunner Wins Preliminary Handicap, Breaking 95 Out of 100 Targets

PINEHURST, N. C., Jan. 21.—The preliminary handicap of 100 targets, one of the big events of the Pinehurst target tournament, was contested here yesterday, with 117 entries. Twenty-four men finished in the money, and Philadelphia, who shot from the back of the pack, was the victor. Newcomb had a good day, making 95 out of 100 targets. He was the only one to break 90. The other winners were: J. H. Johnson, 94; J. H. Johnson, 93; J. H. Johnson, 92; J. H. Johnson, 91; J. H. Johnson, 90; J. H. Johnson, 89; J. H. Johnson, 88; J. H. Johnson, 87; J. H. Johnson, 86; J. H. Johnson, 85; J. H. Johnson, 84; J. H. Johnson, 83; J. H. Johnson, 82; J. H. Johnson, 81; J. H. Johnson, 80; J. H. Johnson, 79; J. H. Johnson, 78; J. H. Johnson, 77; J. H. Johnson, 76; J. H. Johnson, 75; J. H. Johnson, 74; J. H. Johnson, 73; J. H. Johnson, 72; J. H. Johnson, 71; J. H. Johnson, 70; J. H. Johnson, 69; J. H. Johnson, 68; J. H. Johnson, 67; J. H. Johnson, 66; J. H. Johnson, 65; J. H. Johnson, 64; J. H. Johnson, 63; J. H. Johnson, 62; J. H. Johnson, 61; J. H. Johnson, 60; J. H. Johnson, 59; J. H. Johnson, 58; J. H. Johnson, 57; J. H. Johnson, 56; J. H. Johnson, 55; J. H. Johnson, 54; J. H. Johnson, 53; J. H. Johnson, 52; J. H. Johnson, 51; J. H. Johnson, 50; J. H. Johnson, 49; J. H. Johnson, 48; J. H. Johnson, 47; J. H. Johnson, 46; J. H. Johnson, 45; J. H. Johnson, 44; J. H. Johnson, 43; J. H. Johnson, 42; J. H. Johnson, 41; J. H. Johnson, 40; J. H. Johnson, 39; J. H. Johnson, 38; J. H. Johnson, 37; J. H. Johnson, 36; J. H. Johnson, 35; J. H. Johnson, 34; J. H. Johnson, 33; J. H. Johnson, 32; J. H. Johnson, 31; J. H. Johnson, 30; J. H. Johnson, 29; J. H. Johnson, 28; J. H. Johnson, 27; J. H. Johnson, 26; J. H. Johnson, 25; J. H. Johnson, 24; J. H. Johnson, 23; J. H. Johnson, 22; J. H. Johnson, 21; J. H. Johnson, 20; J. H. Johnson, 19; J. H. Johnson, 18; J. H. Johnson, 17; J. H. Johnson, 16; J. H. Johnson, 15; J. H. Johnson, 14; J. H. Johnson, 13; J. H. Johnson, 12; J. H. Johnson, 11; J. H. Johnson, 10; J. H. Johnson, 9; J. H. Johnson, 8; J. H. Johnson, 7; J. H. Johnson, 6; J. H. Johnson, 5; J. H. Johnson, 4; J. H. Johnson, 3; J. H. Johnson, 2; J. H. Johnson, 1.

West Branch 38; Madonna, 27. West Branch gained a notable victory over Madonna on the latter's floor last night by the score of 38 to 27. Madonna led at half-time by 22 to 9, but the Y. M. C. boys made a great rally in the second half.

Advertisement for Arrow Collars, featuring a large '1915' graphic and text: 'MARLEY 2 1/2 IN. DEVON 2 1/4 IN. ARROW COLLARS. 2 FOR 25 CENTS. CLUETT PEABODY & CO. INC. TROY, N.Y.'

Large advertisement for Newark Shoe Stores Co. featuring a large shoe illustration and text: 'Begins Tomorrow—The Long-Awaited, Popular SALE Discontinued Lines Broken Lots Newark Shoe FOR MEN. It isn't necessary to take a full page to emphasize the great money-saving offered by this sale, although its importance deserves it. The simple announcement that the discontinued lines, broken lots and odd sizes of the famous \$3.50 value NEWARK Shoe will be sold at \$1.95, is enough to pack our stores with eager buyers. That's because our sales are few and far between, and men know that they are BONAFIDE. When Clearance Time comes, we cut the price deeply so as to make short work of the stock. This famous \$1.95 Sale begins tomorrow morning. Don't miss this rare occasion to save \$1.55. Advance Spring Styles—57 advance styles of The NEWARK Shoe for Spring will be exhibited by us tomorrow—57 style and value surprises. See some of them in our windows. One Price \$2.50—no higher. Newark Shoe Stores Co. PHILADELPHIA STORES: 1221 Market St., bet. 12th and 13th Sts.; 2448 Kensington Ave., between York and Cumberland Sts.; 2714 Germantown Ave., between Lehigh Ave. and Somerset St.; 2625 Germantown Ave., near Chelton Ave.; 422 South St., near Fourth St.; 2336 N. Front St., near Dauphin St.; 424 Market St., bet. 4th and 5th Sts.; 137 N. Eighth St., near Cherry St. Camden Branch—1120 Broadway, Atlantic City Branch, 1225 Atlantic Ave., near Tennessee. Open Evenings to Accommodate Our Customers.'

EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—IT WOULD HAVE BEEN, O. K., HANNIBAL, IF YOU HAD PICKED ON YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW AND OTHER INSECTS

