

ATHLETICS ARE AS STRONG AS ANY TEAM PLAYED THUS FAR, BELIEVES MANAGER MACK

MACKMEN HAVE CHANCE FOR HIGH POSITION IF EASTERN TEAMS ARE PLAYING TO FORM

Athletics Have Outplayed Three Clubs Which Were Considered Pennant Contenders in American League Despite Present Standing

IF THE Western teams of the American League are no stronger than those of the East, provided the latter group has played average ball against the Athletics, Manager Mack believes that his talented aggregation will surely finish in the first division; and local fans who have seen Boston, New York and Washington agree with him.

The Athletics have lost 13 out of 18 games to Boston, New York and Washington, but, as pointed out in these columns a week ago, at least six of these defeats should have been easy Mack victories.

In no series this season have the Athletics been outplayed. They have been outgeneraled and have had three very erratic days in the field; but as a whole they have played more consistently and shown greater improvement than any team in the East.

Johnson Responsible for Washington's Showing

OF THE other Eastern teams New York showed greater possibilities than either Boston or Washington. The latter team is close to first place and is playing good ball, but it is very little stronger than last year.

Every year since Alexander has been a member of the Phillies and Johnson of Washington these two teams have gotten off to an excellent start, for the simple reason that there are so many postponed games in the spring that these pitchers are working a larger percentage of the games played by the teams than they will be able to when the double-header days arrive.

Invariably they are selected to open each series. They pitch the opening game, and if it should rain for the next three days they open the following series, no rotation in working the pitchers being observed by Managers Griffith, Doolin and Moran in handling Johnson and Alexander in the past.

To date the Phillies have played 15 games, with Alexander pitching five; while Johnson has pitched six of the 18 games played by Washington. This is an average of one game out of every three, whereas, in truth, they have pitched this number of games in 26 days, rain and Sundays accounting for the small number of games played since April 12.

Washington a Mediocre Team Behind Other Pitchers

BOTH teams play a great deal better behind Alexander and Johnson than they do with any other pitcher on the mound. This is particularly true of Washington, as the Phillies departed from the old custom last year. Washington always has looked like a championship team with Johnson on the mound, but like the mediocre aggregation it is behind other hurlers.

Washington has been hitting far above its usual speed, while New York is below form. The best evidence that Washington is going faster than it knows how can be gleaned from the batting averages of Henry, Shanks, McBride, Moeller and Morgan. Henry is hitting .375; Shanks, .313; McBride, .295; and Morgan, .285.

The fact that Johnson has been on the mound six times, winning five games, and five players are batting on an average of 75 points above their normal gait, makes it easy to understand why the Senators have won 11 out of 18 games played. It also makes it apparent that Griffith's team is not going to be such a prominent figure in the pennant race when the team comes back to its normal gait, which it surely must.

New York and Athletics Below Form

NEW YORK is a team which will hit better as the season advances, and the same is true of the Athletics, while Boston and Washington surely will go the other way. The Athletics are batting for a team average of .211 at the present time, which is at least 40 points below their normal gait.

Oldring, a .290 average hitter for 10 years, is batting .212; "Stuffy" McInnis, with a grand average above .320 for seven years, is batting .190, while Schang, a .270 clubber, has a mark of just .056.

Donovan Blocking Moran's Attempt to Get Ainsmith

MANAGER BILL DONOVAN, of the Yankees, is blocking the efforts of Manager Moran, of the Phillies, to secure Catcher Eddie Ainsmith, of Washington. Moran is badly in need of a catcher at the present time, and the brilliant Washington veteran would prove a handy man for the Phils if he was in shape to catch, but there is little chance for him to get out of the American League.

Ainsmith has worn out his welcome in Washington, and for various reasons Griffith is willing to part with the man who became famous as the greatest receiver Walter Johnson ever pitched to. Waivers have been asked on Ainsmith twice, but each time Donovan refused to waive and the waivers were immediately withdrawn.

The greatest weakness of the New York team lies in the catching department, as Nunamaker, Alexander and Walters have not come up to expectations. The former is a hard hitter, but throws poorly and does not use very good judgment in handling the pitchers. Unless Donovan can strengthen the catching department the Yankees will have a hard time getting up with the leaders.

Griff Wants Ainsmith Out of American League

GRIFFITH says that the Yankees did not look as strong as he thought they would be, but that the presence of Ainsmith in the line-up of another American League team would necessitate changing the Senators' signals and style of play. He believes that the season is too well advanced to make such important changes, fearing it would throw his men off their stride.

According to the rules of organized ball, every team in the league in which the player is playing must grant waivers before a deal can be arranged with a team of the other league. In the American League waivers can be asked and withdrawn, while in the National League a player cannot be retained by a team once the waivers have been asked, but the working agreement between the two major organizations is not affected after the waivers have been granted.

Ordinarily Ainsmith would strengthen the Phillies a great deal, but under present conditions he would be of little value to Moran. Ainsmith is having trouble with his eyes and is now wearing dark glasses. He would not be in shape to catch for two weeks, and by that time Adams will be ready to go behind the bat again.

IF BILL KILLEBURN'S arm is as good as Manager Moran says it is, he should be able to take his regular position long before Ainsmith is in first-class shape, as the Philly star has had enough work and warm weather to bring his arm around, if it is ever coming back.

SIMPSON'S TIME IN HURDLES GOOD FOR LONG WHILE

Missourian Upsets Dope by Bettering 15 1-5 Second Record for Timber Event

DARTMOUTH SHINES

By TED MEREDITH

Intercollegiate track has started with a boom. The relays on April 29 was the signal for colleges to bring their men into form and get started, and last Saturday saw the teams all in good shape and establish performances which will go down as records.

Simpson, the Missouri hurdler, was the first to take a crack at the record smothering. He has now settled the much-disputed claim that a man cannot do better than 15 1-5 in the high hurdles. This record has stood a lot of cracks and has always survived.

Several men have done 15 flat, but have never been credited with it on the record books. There has always been something which has hindered it being recognized. Few people thought it could be done and claimed Kranzlein was the only man capable of such a performance.

Record to Stand

Even in the national championships last summer Simpson proved himself the fastest man over the high hurdles by beating this pair. He did not get the title, however, because he had knocked down four hurdles. Kelly will have to lower his colors now.

Simpson has proved the best performer and has not only broken the record, but has placed it where it will stand for some time.

When a man breaks such a long-standing record by 2-5ths of a second it makes you wonder just how fast it is possible to practice on several occasions. He believed such a thing a few years ago and it is hard to believe now unless you know these men and what they are capable of doing.

I remember once talking to Mike Murphy about Kranzlein's hurdling, and the late Pennsylvania trainer told me that Kranzlein had shown him 14 4-5 seconds in practice on several occasions. He remarked that it was a shame that the competition when Kranzlein was competing was not keener so Kranzlein could have hung up such a record. In those days, too, so much fell on the former star that he had to take things as easy as possible in the hurdles so as to go through with the other events in which he was entered.

Rare Ability

I do not know of the conditions under which Simpson ran. He displayed rare ability here at the relays, when he did 15 flat, and that is enough for me. At that time he knocked over one of our heavy hurdles, which kept him from the record and also slowed him up considerably.

Schultz, his coach, told me last winter when I was in Kansas City that Simpson would break the record this year. He also said Simpson had shown him 14 4-5 in practice when I met him at the relays, so there is no doubt in my mind as to his doing the time.

Was Surprised

We had quite a time beating Dartmouth. I expected we would win and that it would be very close, but had it planned a little differently than it came out. I did not expect Humphreys to beat Tucker in the mile, nor Colton to win the two-mile, but did think Mathews would be first in the hammer and Kaufman would win both sports.

As it happened we broke even on these changes in the dope and won. Earl Humphreys looked great, back again in his old running condition. He ran a fine race and looked like himself, a freshman in the mile. Colton in the two mile was also a pleasant surprise. He has found himself now and a little more speed will make him a bright prospect for the intercollegiate. He will be worked on speed the rest of the season.

Under the rules of our Athletic Association a man gets his letter if he wins an event in a dual meet. Saturday proved a Red and Blue letter getting day; five men in two events won their letter under this rule, due to ties. Thibault, Turner and Buckholz tied for first in the high jump and Swell and Newstetter in the pole vault.

Cornell made rapid work of Harvard in their dual meet at Ithaca, and beat them much easier than I thought they would.

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WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND



GOSSIP FROM BOATHOUSE ROW

American Regatta has 48 entries. Jack Kelly will row in three races next Saturday. George W. Allen is now a member of the Vidua Barge Club. Three Schuykill Navy eights will contest in a regatta race.

MATTY'S FIRST CONTEST THIS SEASON INDICATES GOOD YEAR FOR VETERANS

New Yorks Began to Tumble in 1914, the Same Time at Which Christie Started to Slip

By GRANTLAND RICE

Who's Next? (Concerning the arrival of Artie Hoffman, Art Davlin and Mike Donlin among semi-pro clubs) What sort of game is this, old dog? Who's here it says but yesterday? We cheered you in the Big Corral

Same Old Game - Baseball is still the same old game. The National League affairs have taken the broad highway of prophecy. Brooklyn and Philadelphia were as the best clubs in the circuit, and have been 1-2-3 alternately all the year

The Case of Mathewson - Christy Mathewson's 1916 debut a day or two ago was one of the most interesting incidents of a highly interesting year. Big Six was beaten, and yet, with the breaks all against him, he gave promise of at least a fair season, if not a great one.

Baseball's First Contest - The first week in May found the ball clubs in the National League and the American League less than a game apart. It's this a record for closeness. I do not care for Henry Strands; I'd like to see them fine him; For when a foul's caught in the stand, He always hollers "sign him!"

BASEBALL PARK SHIBE PARK AMERICAN LEAGUE GROUND Athletics vs. Washington Game Called at 3:30 P. M. Tickets on Sale at Gimbels' and Spectator's

DEVON HORSE SHOW May 30, 31, June 1, 2

Advertisement for Prince Albert cigarettes. Text: 'Your Money Buys Quality! Coupons or premiums have never been used as an inducement to smoke Prince Albert! Neither national nor state restrictions on the use of premiums or coupons can in any way affect Prince Albert's sale! It is not to be wondered at that when smokers consider a choice of tobaccos, their tastes—based on quality—instantly turn them to PRINCE ALBERT the national joy smoke'.

Cartoon strip titled 'EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—THERE ARE MANY, MANY CARNEGIE MEDALISTS OF THIS TYPE, LOUIE, IN FACT THEY ABOUND'. Panels show a man asking 'SAY RAYMUND LET ME HAVE A SHILLING' and another replying 'I WANTA SEE THE BALL MATCH'. Other panels show a man asking 'YOU WANT A QUARTER?' and another replying 'YES, A TWO-BIT PIECE'. The final panel shows a man saying 'GEE I'D DROP DEAD!' and another replying 'WELL THEN I'LL SAVE YOUR LIFE!'.