

IF NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY WOULD WIN PENNANT, CONNIE MACK ALREADY HAS FLAG CLINCHED

MACK BELIEVES THAT IN NUMBERS THERE'S PLENTY OF STRENGTH

Connie Already Has Enough Men Under Contract to Complete Five or Six Clubs, Having Among His Collection at Least a Couple of Dozen Twirlers

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL
Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger
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LOOKING over the dope on American League clubs for next season, we discovered much to our surprise that Connie Mack had a bigger gang of athletes on the roster than any other manager. Connie is all set for the opening of the 1920 derby, and, outside of five or six teams, he hasn't a thing to begin work on.

Last year, it will be remembered, there were so many aspiring athletes at Shibe Park that special uniforms had to be rented to surround the talent. They—meaning the players—were long and short, fat and thin, old and young. Every time you turned around you stepped on a ball player or a person disguised as such. If the athletes sat in the stands there would have been a capacity crowd every day.

The same cluster of ball tossers will be among those present at Lake Charles this spring, with a few additions. Connie has decided he needs a flock of pitchers and will have a couple of dozen on the job. Kinney, Naylor and Jinx Johnson are hold-overs from last year, and Scott Perry also is expected to be in uniform. Among the new hurlers are Harris, of Houston, star pitcher of the Texas League; Eckert, of Suffolk; Pierson, of Atlantic City; Hasty, of Atlanta; Martin, who was purchased from Binghamton; Keeffe, of Reading; Rummel, of Newark; Moore, of Waco, and Higbee, who came from Seattle in exchange for three players.

There are others on the Mack roster, but space will not permit individual mention. He also has spare infielders and outfielders to look over down South.

All of the second division clubs in the league have strengthened their pitching staffs. Clarke Griffith has many new faces, among them being Rube Schauer, formerly with the Giants and A's and the sensation of the American Association last year; Snyder and Fisher, of Akron; Jordan, of Buffalo, and Golden, a Boston semi-pro. Johnson, Shaw, Erickson and Harper are the veterans.

THE Red Sox have fourteen hurlers on the list and the St. Louis Browns are signing everybody they can get. The fans will get acquainted with a lot of new twirlers next year.

Sharpe Willing to Step Down

DR. AL SHARPE at last has taken off the mouthpiece and has broken his silence concerning the football situation at Yale. The essence of his statement is that he is willing to step down and allow Tad Jones to take hold as head coach. If Jones accepts, Doctor Sharpe will still remain at Yale as athletic director and will coach only in a supervisory way in every sport with the possible exception of basketball.

Defeats pounded on Tim Callahan and his pals by Boston College, Princeton and Harvard have caused considerable adverse comment on the Sharpe system of coaching, but through it all, Doctor Sharpe held his peace until recently a story was printed in a New Haven newspaper to the effect that he had been fired. Then it was that Doctor Sharpe showed his good sportsmanship.

The Yale coach came out with a statement saying that he himself had written to Tad Jones, asking the Blue hero to return as head coach. He said he did this for the best interests of Yale. Jones is in business in Seattle, Wash., and it scarcely seems possible that he will be able to get East for the football season next fall.

The showing of the Yale eleven this season was a complete surprise. Sharpe had wonderful success at Cornell, and it was thought that he was in for a good year at New Haven. He has a system that is new and it takes more than one year to install it properly. Failure to use the forward pass ruined the chances of the line attack, but it was the fault of the man calling the signals and not the coach. That incident in the Harvard game showed how things were working. A signal was called for a buck off tackle, but the man with the ball tried to plunge through center and lost a touchdown.

IT IS said that Doctor Sharpe is not at all pleased with the treatment he received during the season, and whether or not Tad Jones returns, it is up to the opposing factors to get together and settle things.

Tough for the Three Insurgents

IT LOOKS as if the "Three Musketeers" in the American League, meaning Harry and Charley and Jake, muffed one when the Washington club changed hands right under their noses. Of course, it is safe to assume that they were kept in ignorance of the deal and knew nothing about it until the story of the sale appeared in the newspapers; but maybe they couldn't have started something had they purchased controlling interest!

There is only one way to settle the scrap with Johnson from the viewpoint of the "antis," and that is to get more votes on their side. As the Johnson men, meaning Phil Bull, Jim Dunn, Frank Navin, Connie Mack and Clarke Griffith, are standing pat, the purchase of one of those clubs is the only way out. This cannot be done now.

BUT it's a good thing for Johnson that Griffith did not put his proposition before Ruppert, Huston or Comiskey. The deal would have been put through in one second and Griff could have written his own ticket.

Centre College Ignores Charge

DESPITE the charges of professionalism hurled at Centre College by the University of West Virginia, the Kentucky institution is going along as before and making the best of things. The football authorities are elated over the prospect of meeting Harvard next year. The team which caused so much excitement this year will be back intact, which means that the Crimson will not have an easy time of it. George Joplin, Jr., manager of the team, issued the following statement recently:

"Virtually every member of the Centre College squad of this season will return next fall. Three letter men graduate, but as all three of them were in service last year they are eligible to play another season of football. Two of them have about decided to return and take an M. A. degree. Only one of these three was a regular.

"The Centre schedule for next fall has not been completed as yet. Georgetown University will probably be met in Washington, D. C., in November, and if dates can be conveniently arranged Centre will also face University of Pittsburgh.

"Coach Moran and Myers will both return. 'Bo' McMillan, All-American quarterback, has been re-elected captain of the 'Colonials.'

"Two men, Royce and Tanner, players of ability, who were ruled ineligible this fall, will be out next season. Tanner was with the University of Colorado last year, while Royce played with the Penn freshmen in 1918. Both of these players are backfield men and have worried the regulars considerably in practice this year.

"WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON and West Virginia are among the many colleges that have wired Centre asking for games."

Liberal Offer for Dempsey

WONDER if the Dempsey-Carpenter championship bout will be held in this country next year? It now looks as if the European promoters have the edge, and the battle—if it ever takes place—will be staged across the water. The offer of Theodore Vienne, of Paris, announced yesterday, will be a hard one to overlook. He is willing to give Dempsey a purse of \$200,000 and a percentage of the pictures, which is worth at least \$50,000. That makes a pretty hefty bankroll and Dempsey cannot afford to overlook it.

Carpenter no doubt will ask a bundle of coin to come over here, which means the purse for both boxers will be close to \$300,000. It will take a heavy promoter to hang up money like that, especially when it is difficult to find a place to stage a long bout to a decision.

THE fighters are out for the money and it's a cinch they will accept the best offer, even if it comes from South Africa.

TURANK POTTS, who organized the North Philadelphia basketball team and later sold out his interest to help Dave Bennett at Germantown, is said to have been asked to repurchase the team. When asked how much money he would pay for the franchise, Potts said he offered seventy-five cents. It was rejected.



CAN GERMANTOWN SIDETRACK CAMDEN

Major Pickering and Doctor Mackenzie Will Boost Game at National Collegiate Meeting

NORTH PHILS ARE BEATEN

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Germantown 11 1 107 2 10 4 383
Trenton 6 6 300 8 10 10 288

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK
Friday—Reading at Trenton
Saturday—Trenton at De Neel, Camden at Reading

Few Eastern League basketball games this season have excited the interest attached to the contest scheduled for the Camden-Germantown clash. The Skeeters have lost but a single game all season, and that away from home, but many of the conservative cage adherents freely express the opinion that the way Germantown is playing the outcome of tonight's clash is anything but certain.

The suburbanites will have their full strength on hand. At forwards will be Gerry Schmeck and Lew Powell; at center "Stretch" Mehan, and at guards Cy Simindinger and Pat Holman. Hobey Effe, Bill Black and Harry Franckle will also be present, although Franckle is yet unable to play. He makes his reappearance next Tuesday night at Germantown, with Camden also the attraction.

Smother the Phils
Germantown administered the sixth straight defeat to the North Phils last evening by the score of 35 to 15. The affair was all one-sided, as a glance at the score would indicate. The home talent gave the fans one of the best exhibitions of goal shooting in the first period, and at the end of the initial twenty minutes were leading by 23 to 8. In that time they compiled ten of their thirteen field goals.

It was the first appearance in this city of "Stretch" Mehan, and the critics and fans were all unanimous for once in their life, that the Poth-Bennis combination had grabbed off the best center man seen here for a long time. He invariably secures the jump points about his playing, one of which is his cleverness in caging foul goals. In fact, the entire Germantown club is especially adept at tossing in the penalty baskets.

Was One-sided
The home club secured a commanding lead in the first five minutes when every player in succession caged field goals, while the visitors were making a lone foul toss and the score was 12-1. Then Dunlop came through with a two pointer followed by goals again by every Germantowner with the exception of Simindinger.

The basket bordered on the sensational and the home fans cheered wildly at the performance. The second half was devoid of any great amount of scoring. Germantown added three field goals, while Jimmy Brown made the only one for the Phils, a sleeper.

PENN GIVES BACKING TO BIG BOXING BOOM

Major Pickering and Doctor Mackenzie Will Boost Game at National Collegiate Meeting

MINOR SPORTS THRIVE

By EDWIN J. POLLOCK
THERE'S a big boom for boxing in intercollegiate sports circles, and it will ride on the crest when the athletic bosses of our educational institutions gather for the annual convention in New York the latter part of this month.

The question of making the game a recognized sport among colleges in the East will be placed before the National Collegiate Association, with Pennsylvania and Penn State as backers. It will be thoroughly discussed, and the probability is that a committee will be appointed to draw up rules to cover a championship tournament.

Pickering Pioneer
Major Pickering has been one of the pioneers in the movement, and with Dr. Cecil Mackenzie will make a strong effort to float something definite at the collegiate conference. Major Pickering, assisted by some other Penn officials and a few alumni from State College, drew up the rules for the tourney last season, and it is likely that these laws will be offered for adoption by all the colleges.

Penn and State are sure entries for the championship tourney this season, and the Navy also may send a team. Meets have been arranged for the Red and Blue boxers to meet both State and the middies, but the dates have not been fixed.

Intercollegiate Sport
"I realize the importance of boxing as a body builder," said Pickering yesterday, "and we are going to make every effort to have the game recognized as an intercollegiate sport."

"Our plans on boxing is part of the program to boost minor sports here at the University. We intend to make this winter a big one in sports."

Boxing for the last several years has

ALEXANDER TOPS HURLERS IN N. L.

Former Philly Star Allows Only 1.72 Runs to Be Scored on Him Per Game

REUTHER'S GREAT RECORD

Grover Cleveland Alexander's rear in the army did not interfere with the prowess of the famous National League pitcher. Despite the fact that Alexander had a pretty hard time breaking into the victory column when he re-joined the Cubs last spring the official averages of the National League again have "Alec" at the top of the class.

Alexander did not appear in as many games as usual, but this was due to the fact that he had no chance to train and the season was the shortest in years. He appeared in thirty games, of which twenty were complete contests. He permitted 1.72 earned runs a game, which is one of the best averages he has yet hung up.

Dutch Reuther, of the world's champion Reds, is third with 1.81 earned runs a game, and Fred Toney, of the Giants, is fourth with 1.84. Sherrod Smith, of Brooklyn, ranking tenth, is the Dodger twirler with the best average.

Battling Murray Wins
York, Pa., Dec. 17.—Billie Angelo York, heavyweight, has a shade the best of it in his six-round bout with Mop of Allentown, last night. The fight to the low high boy throughout, was knocked out in the second round by Jack Perry, Philadelphia.

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JOHNSTON HAS GREAT VARIETY OF STROKES AND PERFECT TIMING

Tennis Champion, Possessing Frail Physique, Is Able to Give Best in Big Match When Critical Point Is Needed—Good Court General

By GRANTLAND RICE
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PENSHOTS OF 1919 CHAMPIONS
No. 4—William M. Johnston

IN 1914, when an American tennis team was to be thrown against the assaults of Wilding and Brooks, there were only two outstanding names mentioned in behalf of the defense.

These two names were Maurice McLoughlin and Richard Norris Williams. William M. Johnston wasn't even thought of. If he was at that time a tennis notable the news was beautifully suppressed.

A year later, with McLoughlin and Williams still the two spectacular features of American play, a slender, sandy-haired Californian drifted East. This was no important news, as California tennis players had been drifting eastward in select droves for quite a spell.

But it wasn't very long before this slight, sandy-haired youngster began to attract serious notice. Before any one grasped the full significance he had reached the semifinals round, but the two rivals still barring his way were Williams and McLoughlin.

Williams jumped to the front and took two of the first three sets. But Johnston came with his now famous rush and was not to be denied. The next day McLoughlin started off 0-6. But the cool and crafty Johnston immediately returned the compliment and won the next three acts.

THAT same season, with C. J. Griffin, he stepped out as one of the doubles champions.

Spirit and Style
SO THERE was no great upset attached when Johnston returned this season and became champion again.

Lacking the physique that so many tennis stars know, he had a combination of spirit, style and confident coolness that carried the day.

Johnston is the type that is able to give his best in a vital match. And, despite the slightness of his frame, he has such perfect timing that the ball leaves his racket at top speed, as if slashed by a man twice as bulky.

There is no American tennis player who carries a greater variety of strokes or who has finer control. And he has the confidence to put something on it in a big match when a critical point is needed. There is no sign of nervousness in his play; merely a sedate sort of confidence hooked to complete concentration on the main job in hand. It is easy to see that he has the competitive soul to a rare degree. He showed no perturbation back in 1915 when Norris Williams was leading him in the semifinals round by two sets to one.

He had no look of worry that same year when McLoughlin opened by winning a love set.

AND when he stepped out against Tilden, this last fall there were the same ease and coolness shown from the start.

Has the Stuff
THE GREAT little Californian may not have as fine a backhand as Teddy Penn, nor as husky a smash as McLoughlin used to carry, nor one or two of the best strokes of Williams and Tilden when they are at their best, but all in all he can do more different things well than any other tennis player now living. He has control of a greater variety of championship ingredients.

To this you must add the important fact that he is a great little court general, and that the game has never produced a finer fighter.

Johnston has the same air of confident determination about his tennis that Jerry Travers once had in his golf—and the two physically are something alike in features as well as in build.

There were those who used to marvel that Travers, weighing less than 140 pounds, with small hands and slight wrists, could tear into a driving shot for 240 yards.

In the same way there are many who wonder how Johnston can put such power into his forehand strokes.

THE answer is that proper timing puts the 140-pounder on even terms with the 200-pounder.

BILL JOHNSTON will be a vital factor in American and international tennis for some years to come. So much of his game is based upon judgment, generalship and sound style that he will be able to play high grade, for many additional seasons, and when our Uncle Sam goes back after the Davis cup some time next year—1920—Johnston will be the leading member of the invading team.

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