

CANTILLON HOPEFUL

Expects Nationals to Finish in First Division.

MUCH DEPENDS ON JOHNSON

Manager Confident that if Crack Pitcher Can Round Into 1907 Form Washington Will Be Among First Four Clubs at End of Season—Gossip of Washington Ball Teams.

TO-DAY'S GAMES.

Detroit at Washington. Chicago at New York. Cleveland at Philadelphia. St. Louis at Boston.

STANDING OF THE TEAMS. W. L. Pct. New York... 15 12 .556 Chicago... 13 15 .463 Cleveland... 12 16 .431 Detroit... 11 17 .393

While the ante-season dopesters unanimously assigned Washington to one of the two rear positions in the American League race, Joe Cantillon believes that the Nationals will be in the first division when the curtain is rung down in October.

"I have seen every club in the league, with the single exception of Cleveland, in action, and although I believed from the start that we stood a good chance of being well up, I am now satisfied that, providing we meet with no mishaps, we will be among the first four at the end of the season.

"This business of taking hold of a tail-end team and reorganizing it in a year is not all it is cracked up to be. We spent all of last season in sizing up the proposition and weeding out the undesirable, and getting new blood, until I really think that we have a chance of getting a better place than Washington has been accustomed to occupy in the American League.

"The great question now, is how long will it take Walter Johnson to round into his 1907 form after he joins us at St. Louis in about two weeks? Had Johnson been able to report at Galveston and take his regular turn in the box, it would have meant that we would have won about five more games. Place five victories to our credit, and subtract five from the other side of the standing, and you can readily see that we would already be ahead of some of the clubs picked to beat us.

"Even in its present form, our pitching staff is about as good as any in the league, and when it comes to fielding, I fall to see any club that has four men who can beat our regular infielders. The fact that such a man as Clymer is on the bench is a pretty high tribute to our regular outfield."

The announcement that Washington has obtained Pitcher Wood from Kansas City is premature. When Cantillon turned Pitcher Clyde Goodwin over to Kansas City he obtained an option on any member of that club, but he said last night that he has not made a selection. Wood has been doing great work in the American Association this spring, and he may eventually land here, but Cantillon has his eye on an infielder, and will not exercise his option in either direction until later. He and the players got a thorough try-out before naming his man.

"Poor shape of the pitching staff is the answer," is the way Hughie Jennings accounts for the failure of the Detroit Tigers to be up in the race from the start. "When the season opened our pitchers were not able to do themselves justice, and the result was that we dropped back into the rear. Summers, whom we got from Indianapolis, has shown remarkable cleverness in every game he has worked, and with the other fellows showing more every day, we have commenced to get back into the stride that carried us to the front last year.

"I am supremely confident that we will be up among the leaders before many weeks. The Detroit Tigers will close their series here to-day, and to-morrow the Cleveland Naps will make their initial bow at National Park.

While Lajoie is not satisfied with the way his pitchers have been going, his club has succeeded in getting second place. Cleveland has the same slugging outfit as of yore, and with a better spirit in the club the Naps have been able to keep up in the race.

Last year, when Stovall broke loose and made a swipe at the American Association in a hotel corridor, the Naps were pretty well broken up internally, but Stovall promised to be good, and has made good. He has been batting better than ever, and according to reports from the West, is doing some tall fielding.

While many fans are bemoaning the fact that Bill Shipke is a weak hitter, it might be well to remember that the silent third baseman is leading such stars as Fielder Jones, Jack Kleinow, Jiggs Donohue, and Freddy Parent.

Even old-timers concede that Shipke is one of the grandest third basemen that baseball has ever known, and he will kill about as many hits in a season as an ordinary third baseman will make.

The majority of the Detroit players believe that "Dutch" Sterzer, the Washington boy, who trained with the Tigers in the early spring, has the making of a great pitcher. Sterzer injured himself early in the year, and was farmed to Grand Rapids, where he is being watched by Jennings.

The Washington Union club plays at Paterson to-day, and then goes to Philadelphia. On Friday the Bandits return to Washington, and will remain here until the last of June. Two games will be played with Paterson on Decoration Day.

While even the most ardent admirers of the outlaw team do not contend that they would cut a dash in major league company, the Bandits have been furnishing a good sample of ball, and the best of it all is that they have been winning.

Washington has a good chance of winning the pennant, or at least finishing two-thirds, and the club will probably be well patronized while the Nationals are on the road.

Considering the miserable baseball

BASEBALL WEDNESDAY

Metropolitan Club

AT Georgetown Field

4 P. M. 50c

Costello Family Liquor Store,

Sixth and G Sts. N. W.

SPECIAL—Kentucky Reserve Rye, 75c. Golden Crown Whisky, full quart, 50c. Costello Standard Rye, bottle, 50c. MEMBERS—Blackberry, 75c. Port, Sherry, Rhine (10 years old), full quart, 50c.

M'HALE WINS GAME

Elizabeth Unable to Solve Bandit's Twisters.

DARING BASE RUNNING HELPS

Efforts of Zanelli and Gilbert on the Cushions Aid Materially in Winning Game—Manager Irwin's Latest Recruit Gets Fast Support, While Home Club Falls to Back Luyster.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS.

Washington, 5; Elizabeth, 2. Washington at Paterson. Baltimore at Elizabeth.

STANDING OF THE TEAMS. W. L. Pct. Washington... 12 10 .545 Baltimore... 11 11 .495 Elizabeth... 10 12 .455 Paterson... 9 13 .409

Special to The Washington Herald. Elizabeth, N. J., May 24.—Washington won from the Elizabeth club in rather hollow fashion here to-day, the score being 5 to 2.

McHale, Manager Irwin's latest recruit, was on the slab for the visitors, and while not possessing much speed had something up his sleeve, the locals being simply unable to hit the sphere when needed. The visiting slabsman also had the advantage of fast support in the field, which pulled him out of several ominous-looking positions.

On the other hand, Luyster, Elizabeth's boxman, was unable to keep the visitors' hits scattered. In addition, his team did not give him the best of support, especially in the fourth and seventh innings, when two hits and an error or two permitted the visitors to tally twice.

Another factor in the victory of the Bandits was their daring base running. Zanelli and Gilbert doing especially commendable work along this line of endeavor.

An interesting feature of the contest was that the home club, which made only two runs, got the only extra base hits of the game, a triple and two doubles. Their other two hits were singles.

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