System of Espionage to Be Used in Effort to Strengthen Nationals

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YANKEES HAVE BEST CLAIM TO RUNNER-UP POSITION

Other Contenders in American League Pennant Race Must Depend Upon New Players.

NEW YORK, January 8.—With the exception of a noble but ill-advised few, who figure not upon actual performances on the playing field, but upon the possibility of an Athletic blow-up, players and critics in both major circuits bank upon the mauling Mackmen to win their third successive championship.

The dissenters, prominent among whom is George Mullin, hang their hopes of an upset upon the outside chance that the Athletics, like the old Boston Americans and the more recent Cubs, will go to pieces between seasons; that the pitching staff that held the mightiest batsmen in the National League to the next thing to no batting average at all across a six-game series will lose the strength and skill that so completely baffled the Giants.

Banking on Experiments.

Careful dopesters, however, rate the world's champs as almost certain repeaters. They figure the fight for second and third places as the only argument likely to arise during the next campaign.

Detroit, Chicago, Boston and Cleveland have already claimed the runner-up position—the Tigers because of expected improvement in their infield play and in the pitching staff; Chicago partly because of an all-around bolstering and partly because Jimmy Callahan has succeeded Hugh Duffy as manager of the Knights of the Pallid Hose.

The probability that Lena Blackburne will return in some sort of shape to make a stab at earning his purchase price is a contributing factor, but Chicago, like Cleveland and Boston, hopes for higher rating next season chiefly because a new man will direct her diamond battles.

Naps Are Hopeful.

It is doubtful if any manager could have done more with the Naps last season that did George Stovall. Davis may show an improvement, but he has not the material to work with that Mack has in Philadelphia. Mack played the sacrifice, but not because he had to. The Athletics rank with the fastest base runners in the country, though their records of last year do not prove it.

The talent Davis had bequeathed to him does not possess this speed. It is a fair fielding outfit, hits well and knows as much base ball as it ought to. But the line-up is not one capable of playing a base-running game, for the simple reason that it not shifty enough on the hoof.

The White Sox haven't the pitching staff to carry them to second place. Ed Walsh was the only reliable slabist on the team the greater part of last season. Several good young men have been picked up, but when all the dope is sifted out Chicago really hopes for second or third place because of the reputation of Jimmy Callahan to the management.

Cal made such a success of his comeback as a player that no one would die of shock if he developed into a high-class manager. Jake Stahl, the new Boston leader, never set the earth and adjacent parts afire as a leader. He may have been born to the job and all that, but he has yet to prove that he knows how to handle a team so as to win pennants with it.

Yankee Prospects.

Buck O'Brien and Joe Wood give him a nucleus around which to develop a really great pitching staff. He has the niftiest outfield in either league. But the Red Sox have no really great catcher and the infield has been and, barring the advent of a brand-new star, will be weak.

The Yankees alone of all the clubs that figure as first division clubs actually needed only a new manager to put them up in the fight. There is a pitching staff that requires only proper handling to take rank as one of the strongest in the Johnson circuit.

The infield could very easily struggle along without a change, though it would be improved greatly by a switch that would transplant Hartzell from short to the outfield. The team can hit, field and run the bases. All it has ever needed was a manager with a sufficiently magnetic personality to give it a bit of fighting spirit. From all accounts Wolverton is such a manager.

Needs Only a Little Luck.

Even Chase could have finished closer to the real fussers had he been favored by a bit of luck. But each time his team did get started playing anything like real base ball four or five of his players usually bumped into a strained tendon or a dislocated joint or an illness of some sort.

Injuries and sickness necessitated so many changes that his team never did get a fair chance to develop teamwork. Harry Wolters played for weeks when he should have been on a farm somewhere resting up. Earl Gardiner was unfit for service most of the second half of the season, though pressing need kept him in the line-up a good part of the time.

New York had the team last year, but lacked luck and a manager. It has the same team and a regular manager. All it needs is a fair share of the luck to give six clubs in the league considerable battle for second. It is the only club, barring Philadelphia, of course, that need not depend on new players or new managers who have not already been put to the test.

WANTS COFFROTH TO HANDLE BIG MILL

Jack Curley Desires to Drop Out as Promoter of Johnson-Flynn Scrap.

CHICAGO, January 9.—Jack Curley last night announced that he feels that, as manager for Jim Flynn, he should not promote the world's championship battle articles for which were signed Saturday night by Jack Johnson and Flynn.

"I am going to propose to the men I represent that James Coffroth, the greatest promoter in the business and one whom the sports know to be absolutely square, be given entire charge of the arrangements for this fight," said Curley.

Curley expects to start for Salt Lake Wednesday to get the $10,000, which he is to post as a forfeit to carry out the conditions provided in the articles.

Flynn said that he expected to have the greatest defense that a fighter ever had when he steps into the ring with the big black.

"Johnson is so much heavier than I am that I shall need a great defense," said Flynn. "For this reason I am going to train under Tommy Ryan. I expect Ryan to give me a great finishing off."

Johnson spent the afternoon looking over a new automobile. He said he had made no arrangements for training yet and would do nothing until a date for the fight is set.

"I keep in condition all the time," said the big negro, "and I won't need much extra work to get in shape for Flynn or anybody else."

KAHOE TO SPY ON RIVAL TEAMS IN SPRING TRAINING

Griffith Anxious to Get Line on Youngsters on Trial—Cunningham Latest National to Sign.

BY J. ED GRILLO.

A system of espionage, in which Mike Kahoe will be the central figure, will be in vogue this spring. Scout Kahoe is to visit all the training camps of the American League during the month of March, and thus get a line on the young players that are being tried out by these teams. In this manner Manager Griffith hopes to have a correct line on all the youngsters, so that when the time comes to cut down the players to the regulation number of twenty-five Griffith will know those to pass up and those to hold up. Griffith realizes that he is not in a position to let any likely looking players go back to the minors. He figures that for the mere waiver price he may be able to pick up a few players who will help his team. Kahoe will start out on his new scouting duty just as soon as the teams begin to start south. He will be in constant touch with his manager and keep him informed on what his rivals are doing. It is figured that within a month he will be able to have a fairly good line on the young players on other teams. Every year some of the strong clubs, which are in no particular need of strengthening, turn back young players who have ability and would help the weaker teams, and it is to get some of these that Griffith has introduced the system of espionage on the training camps of the other teams.

The signed contract of Bill Cunningham, accompanied by a most pleasing letter, reached Manager Griffith this morning. This makes the seventh player under contract and every mail is expected to add to the list.

Cunningham's letter made a hit with Griffith. The youngster says that he is well satisfied with the terms of his contract, because he could not expect an increase on account of not playing up to his form. He says that he is satisfied he will earn the position of regular second baseman this year, because he proposes to be in better condition than ever before. He reports himself as being down to playing weight right now and says that the rubber shirt will not have to be brought into play to fit him for his work.

"That kid's letter has the right ring to it," said Griff with a smile, as he finished reading it. "I like to hear that sort of confidence from a young player; it means much for him. It would be great luck for us if Cunningham displayed the same form this year that attracted attention to him during the first fall that he played here. Cunningham writes me that he started out with Esmond, who will cover short for Cincinnati this year, and I only trust that he will be as good a ball player."

There will be no change made in the Washington uniforms. They will be the same as last year—white with blue at home and gray with blue on the road. For years Griffith has had a penchant for solid blue uniforms, but the ill luck which has followed all his ventures with teams wearing this color decided him to give them up. Griffith, like most base ball men, is superstitious. "We wore blue uniforms in New York in 1904, and the team had a fighting chance for the pennant right down to the finish," said he. "We gave them up the following year and finished in the second division, but came back with the blue in 1906 and were contenders. The players would not wear anything but the blue because they thought it was lucky, and I had the same color in Cincinnati. But I am through with the blue now because I doubt whether it brings good luck, and we will have white and gray, with blue trimmings, the coming season."

It would make a world of difference in the Nationals if Cunningham should be able to hold his own at second base. It was a pity that he was not played regularly last season, for the chances are that he would have greatly improved by such work, and would be a good ball player for this year. Griffith does not propose to leave any doubt about Cunningham. If he shows signs of being capable he will be kept on the bag, and if not he will not be carried very long. If Cunningham gets so that he hits the ball more frequently he is going to be one of the most dangerous hitters in the league, for when he hits it is generally for a great distance and these clean-up hitters are most valuable to a team. Cunningham is only a boy, and there is no question about his fielding and with proper handling he is almost certain to show improved form with the stick. It would take a great burden off Griff's mand to have Cunningham make good, for it would mean that at least two infield positions were well taken care of, as there is no doubt about McBride holding his own.

$25,000 OFFER FOR NOVELTY AND ZEUS

Daniel M. Gant, British Turfman, Sends McDonald to Buy Crack Racers.

NEW YORK, January 10.—It was learned yesterday afternoon that the offers to buy Novelty and Zeus from the millionaire manufacturer, Charles Kohler, came from Daniel M. Gant of England, who is represented here by George McDonald. Twelve thousand five hundred dollars was offered for Zeus and the same amount for the winner of the Futurity stakes.

Mr. McDonald, who was formerly manager for the crack English boxer, Matt Wells, was seen at the Hotel Metropole yesterday. He was, of course, disappointed in not securing the colts, for which he had crossed the ocean. This is the second trip that Mr. McDonald has made to this country in an endeavor to purchase Novelty and Zeus. Early in September last McDonald arrived here to look over the Hildreth horses and attend the auction sale of America's leading stable at the Sheepshead Bay paddocks. Bidding on the first two horses offered was unsatisfactory, and Mr. Hildreth called the sale off.

Mr. Gant's representative had, however, an opportunity to examine the colts he sought, and he was so impressed with their conformation, breeding and performances that he induced his employer to try to purchase the horses from Mr. Kohler.

Representative Sees Kohler Horses.

McDonald visited the course of the Coney Island Jockey Club a few days ago and complimented Trainer Leary on the appearance of the horses in the stable. He considers Zeus one of the best individuals he ever saw, and said he would run all day on the turf courses of Great Britain.

Adam, sire of Zeus, is, in the opinion of McDonald, one of the greatest horses ever foaled. On the maternal side Zeus traces to an especially good racing family, and when he is through carrying silks will prove a particularly desirable horse in the stud.

Mr. Gant maintains a string of thirty horses at Wantage, 120 miles from London. The Gant establishment adjoins Whatcombe Wantage, the stabling quarters of Lord Carnarvon's horses. The Gant stable was strengthened last autumn, when the proprietor purchased Mustapha and a number of two-year-olds at a cost of $100,000. Two of the juveniles bought at that time are considered of high class. They were bred and raced in Ireland.

Mustapha, a six-year-old chestnut gelding by Oberon or Uncle Mac, out of Chatty—Raconteur, fetched $7,500, an unusually big price for a gelding of his age. Mustapha is a handicap horse out of the ordinary. He packs weight well and is a clinker at a mile and a quarter. He finished second in the Cambridgeshire handicap three successive years, and the indications are he will race on indefinitely. Trainer George Boutell, who in his day was a rider, is in charge of Mr. Gant's horses.

Butwell May Ride in England.

Jimmy Butwell, the American jockey who rode in Russia last year, has been communicated with by Mr. McDonald, and the probabilities are he will done the Gant silks next season. Butwell is at present at Charleston, where he will ride during the winter months. McDonald thinks that Shilling and Butwell will make a hit on the English race courses. He says Wooton, Danny Maher, Trigg and Walter Griggs are the best jockeys now riding in England, but that J. M. (Skeets) Martin and several others are in fine form.

When the Lusitania departs today the passenger list will include Harry Payne Whitney, Charles Kohler and Mr. McDonald.

Harry ("Slim") Sallee, the lanky left-hander, who always has the Giants' number any time he is half way right, has signed the pledge. He claims to have been on the water wagon for several months already. If this is so, and he sticks to his resolution, the Giants will find a formidable obstacle every time they stack up against the Cardinals in 1912. Sallee is a felow who has a lot of brains, differing in this respect from "Bugs" Raymond and Rube" Waddell. Heretofore he has been his one worst enemy.

BOWLING BATTLES.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

Blues.	1st.	2d.	3d.	Grays.	1st.	2d.	3d.
Holtman..	97	97	97	George...	101	107	106
Reed....	79	91	89	Mullen...	105	104	95
Sonheimer	112	93	93	Binnix...	96	84	87
Crampton	83	108	89	Leach....	96	97	83
Carroll....	87	107	92	Gallcher..	82	89	113
Totals..	458	496	460	Totals..	480	481	484

TERMINAL DUCKPIN LEAGUE.

Ticket Office.				Adams Express.			
Hanson...	91	81	91	T.S.Ha'd'n	89	92	112
Morris....	105	87	94	Weekler..	97	106	78
Freed....	88	88	88	W.R.H'd'n	72	114	91
Sherman..	76	86	85	Philips...	89	104	104
Smith....	84	94	91	Jeffries...	95	119	104
Totals..	444	436	449	Totals..	412	535	489

COMMERCIAL DUCKPIN LEAGUE.

Wm. Hahn & Co.				Havenner Baking Co.			
Schofield..	98	105	88	King.....	100	99	114
Jules....	84	83	75	Fitzg'ld..	103	84	96
Ledman...	88	101	94	Withers..	86	93	81
Geier....	93	96	109	Small....	83	89	112
V'berger..	91	87	109	Work....	82	90	88
Totals..	454	482	475	Totals..	463	449	491

SOUTHERN RAILWAY LEAGUE.

Mechanical.				Traffic.			
Rober....	98	109	83	Richard..	92	76	98
Lounan..	114	129	81	Jones....	94	89	97
Chauncey.	85	90	85	Fulton...	93	71	83
Vernon...	79	106	98	Brown...	100	91	83
Barve....	98	104	116	Wine....	88	87	85
Totals..	474	526	463	Totals..	467	413	446

INTERDENOMINATIONAL LEAGUE.

Westminster.				Bethany.			
McKillen.	123	115	123	A.H'stall.	101	121	93
Davis....	100	126	103	Crow....	90	83	82
Holmes...	93	93	106	Travers...	78	116	80
Rolff....	84			E.H'stall.	91	104	106
McK'cher	...	104	104	Smith....	110	84	121
Jasper....	98	100	86				
Totals..	500	538	524	Totals..	470	508	482

Sixth.				St. Mark's.			
Litchfield	104	103	85	Fellinger.	82	92	108
Woltz....	126	134	107	R. Kluge.	75	77	94
Copeland.	86	84	86	L. Kluge.	103	100	94
Doyle....	100	89	89	Fried'ichs	84	86	108
J. Riston.	109	95	106	Howard..	99	99	99
Totals..	524	506	473	Totals..	443	454	503

Fifth.				Kendall.			
Richards.	121	95	108	T. George	86	91	103
Beavers..	85	95	90	Walters..	76	93	120
Cummings.	80	108	90	F. George	103	84	89
Kilett....	88	111	95	Leach....	103	110	111
E. Wyne..	111	95	92	Carroll...	97	95	86
Totals..	495	504	475	Totals..	465	473	509

DEPARTMENTAL LEAGUE.

Navy.				Aggies.			
Miller....	181	214	195	Gorman..	193	238	157
Crist....	168	216	162	Rose....	168	212	170
Bowsher..	139	185	167	Bauman..	138	176	166
Collins..	187	161	153	Dorsey....	163	202	187
O'Donnell	182	176	171	Field....	164	203	197
Totals..	877	952	883	Totals..	826	1031	877

DISTRICT BOWLING LEAGUE.

Acme.							
Armiger..	107	96	82	Loveless..	75	82	99
Bradley..	103	100	105	Leech....	82	86	100
McCline..	94	131	104	Blank....	83	94	85
Lewis....	103	127	94	Hurley...	99	86	86
McKnew..	120	104	105	Fraber...	92	87	106
Totals..	527	558	490	Totals..	431	447	478

SPALDING COUNCIL (K. OF C.) LEAGUE.

Sheehy's.				Nowymas.			
Burke....	94	77	80	Toulliville	99	94	88
Dun'gton	90	77	101	Daly.....	72	82	101
Carney...	90	90	90	Clary....	87	87	73
Biggs....	92	92	113	Handlboe.	92	92	92
Carr.....	91	91	91	E'k'ab'k'r	110	82	108
Totals..	465	427	475	Totals..	460	447	462

COLUMBIA LEAGUE.

Griffos.				Buffalos.			
Herbert..	103	86	98	Jones....	91	88	92
Keliher..	121	89	96	Pierce...	78	75	74
McElroy..	78	79	94	Seymone.	88	80	101
Sanders..	89	86	124	Nason....	88	82	82
Blind....	112	86	92	Pitcher...	92	100	98
Totals..	503	426	504	Totals..	437	425	452

PATENT EXAMINERS' LEAGUE.

Shoemakers.				Mechanics.			
Waters...	110	159	151	Preston..	131	150	201
Shaffer...	129	147	183	Weiker...	145	151	185
Minnick..	138	156	162	Wilburn..	165	180	112
Shantz...	179	197	189	Stone....	167	180	159
Frye....	171	117	107	Rowley...	169	182	192
Totals..	727	776	763	Totals..	777	799	806

ARCADE DUCKPIN LEAGUE.

Mohawks.				Holmeads.			
Schneper.	98	91	88	Oliver....	110	86	80
Sullivan.	94	93	85	Stanford.	93	..	105
Fratt....	88	84	95	Goodman.	120	99	116
Kamm...	92	124	89	Roberts..	99	99	...
Keefer...	80	109	107	H'lrworth	92	..	116
				Price....	...	95	...
				Rider....	...	100	122
Totals..	458	501	464	Totals..	514	498	539

NORTHEASTERN DUCKPIN LEAGUE.

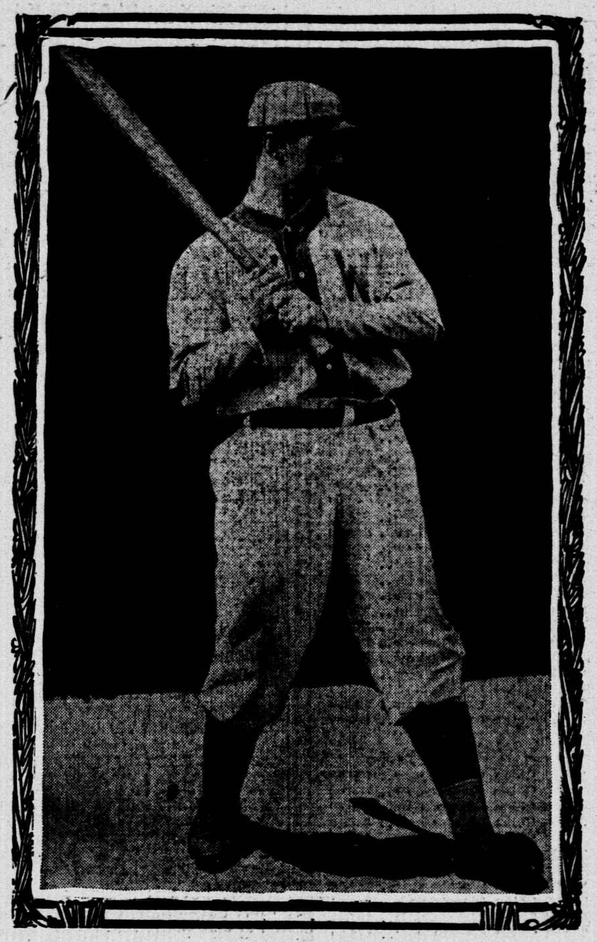
Lincoln Laundry.				Crescents.			
Kutin....	95	98	100	Hethinger	161	181	116
Crist....	92	124	78	Prender..	83	105	80
Kapp....	88	96	95	Bresnahan	90	89	98
Ferguson.	89	90	137	Tait.....	90	90	83
Roseco....	86	90	92	Adams....	85	95	95
Totals..	448	503	492	Totals..	467	504	477

ALL-AMERICA CREW

May Be Sent to Stockholm Next Summer for Olympic Races.

NEW YORK, January 8.—An all-American crew for the Olympic games at Stockholm next summer is the latest idea of the committee in charge of this country's athletic representation in 1912. While the plan is in its infancy as yet, it appeals so strongly to the members of the committee that unless insurmountable obstacles arise it appears certain that the United States will have crews in the Olympic meet.

IS CONFIDENT HE WILL MAKE GOOD.



BILL CUNNINGHAM.

STARS ARE THE BACKBONE OF INTEREST IN BALL CLUBS

But One Team in the American League Without a Luminary, and It Is Unanimously Picked for Last Place.

BY H. G. SALSINGER.

Coming in the same breath with the question that asks where a certain team will finish this year is the question relating to the individual ability of the star or stars of the team under discussion. The work hinges on the players, and the thing that occupies the base ball mind is who the real driving force of the team will be.

Take every team in the American League and you will find one or more men who are "hopes." They form the basis of the preseason "dope." The stars of the game are the fellows on whom the fan depends.

"What would Washington be without Johnson?" is often asked. Also, "What would Detroit be without Cobb?" And again, "What would Chicago be without Lord and Walsh?"

There is but one team in the American League that is without a real star. It is the one team that is unanimously picked to finish last this year. St. Louis is the club referred to. Still, out of the group of recruits may come one who shall lead them. That is the part of the game which offers the uncertainties in the preseason calculations.

No team in the American League would be the same if one or two stars were removed. But seven teams have stars, and it is the star who is the backbone of interest in a ball club.

Lack of stars on a club shows in the gate receipts. Detroit is the best drawing club in the league because it has the greatest number of individual attractions. Philadelphia's Athletics, with two world championships to their credit and a great playing machine, will not likely outdraw the Tigers in 1912, because Detroit can flash Cobb and Jennings, Crawford and Bush, Stanage and Donovan.

Connie Mack's team played wonderful ball in 1911. They started west with a wide gap separating them from the Tigers. Jennings' men had won twenty-three out of their first twenty-five games and piled up an enormous lead. The disheartening effect that a lead like that would have on the average team did not show in the Athletics. They put up the gamest sort of a campaign. Slowly and steadily they overhauled the Tigers. In July they passed them. Detroit hung close for awhile, but Philadelphia pulled away and marched on to the championship. They put up one of the most brilliant sprints in the history of the game.

Philadelphia, with the kind of ball the Athletics were playing against the article Detroit was producing, should have outdrawn the Tigers as a team. But they did not. Connie Mack said late in August that the Tigers were outdrawing the Athletics three to two.

"I can win world's championships and I can show them a wonderful base ball machine, but still the Detroit team, a club that never won a championship, is outdrawing us right along. I guess there is a reason."

Asked what the reason was, Mack replied:

"The young man in center field and a few others."

Philadelphia has the peer of second sackers in the league, Eddie Collins. This year Frank Baker, hero of the world series of 1911, should also be an attraction. "Chief" Bender will prove a "card," as he always has. The Athletics have other great players, Barry, Coombs, Plank, Thomas and three outfielders, but they are not the flashy type of players. They work together like a great machine, but they do not shine individually. There are no great characteristics that make them distinct. They look more evenly balanced than any club in either league.

Detroit possess for a manager one who has been base ball's greatest card in the capacity of leader. Picturesque, with his whistle and his original battle cries, waving his arms, pulling grass and kicking high, Hughie Jennings has amused and thrilled. Many people who do not care for base ball as a game go to see Jennings on the coaching line. His original style has added thousands to the Detroit club treasury.

Tyrus Raymond Cobb, after several years of brilliant playing, has made himself recognized as the greatest player of all time. That in itself should make Cobb a much desired party and a great attraction, but Cobb is also one of the flashiest players on the diamond. Lost is the day in which Cobb does not perform some spectacular feat, at bat, on the bases or in fielding. Backing up his ability to do the spectacular, Tyrus is an artist as a press agent. The Georgian wins more space in the newspapers than the President of the United States. He is always pulling off a stunt that causes people to talk. He does not confine himself to any particular stunt. Tyrus is versatile. He does things that compel publicity. It is impossible to get away from them or from the originator. He springs something at the psychological moment at all times. Since the balmy days of Theodore Roosevelt the star of the Detroit team has proven himself by far the greatest publicity man in forty-six states united.

This constant advertisement which Cobb secures, and which he backs up by spectacular feats, easily draws more people to the park than the work of any other player. Tyrus pulled off one stunt last spring which showed his genius.

The team was in Monroe. Ty joined late. Little publicity preceded his coming, for Tyrus had signed his contract and had said nothing of holding out, something which always brings publicity. Ty jogged around the race track at Monroe, La., where the team was training, batted a little, fielded a little, but paid more attention to running than fielding or batting.

The team started north, and in practice Hughie Jennings ordered his men to run from the plate to first. He wanted to instruct some of the youngsters in getting a quick start and he also used the stunt in practicing bunting.

While this was going on some one suggested that the players be timed in going from the plate to first. This was arranged. A comparison of figures showed the startling fact that at least four men on the team were getting to first faster than Tyrus.

Another trial was ordered and Cobb was closely watched. The Georgian was putting forth his best effort in sprinting from the plate to first, but again four men beat him time.

A third trial showed Cobb unable to beat his previous efforts. What was the conclusion? The only natural thing under the conditions—Cobb was losing his speed; he could no longer sprint as he did in other years; he was going back.

Big sensation! Stories spread over the entire country that Cobb's star was setting. He could no longer show his brilliant flashes of speed and his legs were giving way. The stories continued and they were tacking "30" on Ty's career.

Cobb said nothing. He took it all calmly and silently. He did not try to defend himself, only smiled. Quite unusual for Tyrus, and it was the only weak spot in the entire plot, but the fellows who were spreading the rumors could not be deterred; they were certain.

A few days before the training trip ended Ty announced that he would show as much speed as he ever showed in the afternoon game. Going into details Cobb explained that he thought the matter of training over during the winter months and decided on an original way to increase his speed. He had a pair of heavy shoes made. He also adjusted strips of metal to the soles of the shoes, adding nicely to the weight. Cobb calculated that the weight would strengthen the muscles of his legs. Training with those heavy shoes should harden the muscles and would better equip him for the playing season. After accustoming himself to the weight Cobb would substitute light shoes and, according to his way of figuring, he would be able to run faster than before.

The exhibition that Cobb gave that afternoon will long be remembered. He pulled off nearly a dozen different stunts on the bases. He ran like a scared deer. He caused general upsets on the infield. Cobb was himself again, as brilliant a performer on the base paths as ever and he looked even better that afternoon after the blanket had been removed. Cobb's record of stolen bases in 1911 and his various feats on the bases can be taken as proof that he did not go back nor slow up in the least.

Outside of securing an immense amount of publicity out of the stunt, Tyrus received invaluable training. Had he announced his plan of procedure in preparing himself for the season he would not have received half the publicity that he got by cloaking it in mystery.

Detroit does not depend on Cobb and Jennings alone. Sam Crawford has always attracted attention. The big fellow from Wahoo, Neb., can slug a ball as hard as any player in Ban's league. His healthy wallops are good to look at, and if he keeps his speed lever in the notch where it rested in 1911 Samuel will have other pleasing attributes besides those of smashing the ball to the far corners of the lot and out of it.

For spectacular playing no shortstop is the equal of Bush. His sprints behind the pitcher's box, over second, into short left and center, near third; his lightning pickups and throws made in the same movement, have made him popular. He has a style that thrills, and thrills are great assets of any form of amusement.

People always like to see Bill Donovan and his smile, and Oscar Stanage's elevation to the ranks of stardom have brought him out as a good attraction. Stanage is hardly to be hoped that Griffith will be able to pick up a Collins or a Baker, but he should, in course of time, be able to present a stronger line-up than has ever represented this city before.

The assertion that there are several men on the Detroit team who can beat Ty Cobb a hundred yards is perhaps correct and yet Cobb makes these same players look like cart horses when it comes to running the bases. Cobb's success lies in the fact that he uses good judgment on the bases, and furthermore it is a fact which experts have observed that Cobb has as much speed in his first step as he has in his last. He is a quick starter and this, together with his daring, easily makes him one of the foremost base runners of the game. Cobb will beat out infield hits which faster men are thrown out on, simply because he gets away from the plate with his swing. Base running does not depend entirely on speed. In fact some of the best base runners the game has developed were not fast men. Ed Delehanty could run bases, yet he was not fast. This was true of Buck Ewing and Bill Lange, but they had the judgment to get a start and that more than made up for what they lacked in speed.

Al Palzer's victory over Al Kauffman put him in the limelight, and there are those in New York who believe he has a chance to beat Jim Flynn, who is to be Jack Johnson's opponent next summer. According to Tom O'Rourke, Palzer's manager, Flynn will meet his man in a ten-round bout in New York within the next few weeks. Should Palzer beat Flynn there would be no occasion for him to fight Johnson, but it would necessitate a match between Palzer and Carl Morris, and the winner would then have to tackle the colored champion.

It does not take long for a ball player to lose his reputation. Jack Murray of the Giants did as much as any member of that team to win the pennant and yet because he fell down in the world's series, in which he did not get a single hit, he was marked for exit from the big league. Fortunately for the Giants and Murray, John McGraw is too wise a manager to allow himself to be influenced by public clamor, and Murray is assured of his job and the chances are he will make good. McGraw has a lot of patience with a ball player who shows him ability. He carried Fred Merkle along for years and finally developed him into a splendid ball player, and it took him three years to make Rube Marquard a star pitcher. Realizing that good ball players are scarce, McGraw hangs on to those players who give evidence of ability, even though they have periods during which they look like bushers.

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PERTINENT COMMENT on Happenings in Sportdom

BY J. ED GRILLO.

Notwithstanding the fact that for the greater part of the season there were scarcely any accommodations at the local ball park last year, and the team was showing no especially brilliant form, the club nevertheless had a healthy balance on the right side of the ledger.

For three months, while the stands were in course of construction, there was no covering over them, and there were other annoyances which tended to keep down the attendance. Had the team been up in the race there might be a reason for such good attendance, but when a team is down and no accommodations are offered it speaks well for a city which turns out crowds to its ball park.

Seventy-five per cent of the club's profits last season was spent for new material. Figures close to the twenty-thousand-dollar mark cover this item, and yet there was a balance. Now that the club has a modern plant the possibilities are difficult to imagine. A winning team in Washington would undoubtedly show this city to be the superior of several in the American League circuit.

There can be no assurances given that the Nationals of 1912 will do better than the teams which have preceded it in representing the National Capital in the American League, but it seems to be generally conceded that the effort to improve the team which is now being made stands a better chance to succeed than did the plans formerly in vogue here.

Having the nucleus for a winning team to start with, any competent base ball man should, in the course of two or three years, make a great improvement, but this cannot be accomplished without consistent hustling. Clark Griffith has already created the impression that he fills the bill. He has a team to build up here, and it will take time and a lot of work and incidentally a few smiles from Dame Fortune to bring this about. But having a nucleus is an advantage. Connie Mack built up a championship team around a fair nucleus. The team with which he won the pennant in 1905 was not a strong one. It landed in front because of the splendid work of Mack's pitchers, but had no class in any other department. That team went to pieces the following year, but showed again in 1907, only to fall absolutely in the campaign of 1908. But Mack had a nucleus and was fortunate enough to pick up some young stars, and by 1910 his team became one of the strongest in the history of base ball. It received wide recognition last year, and in the season of 1912 big Oscar should draw well.

Cleveland has a big three in Gregg, Lajoie and Jackson. Larry has been a mammoth card for years. In several seasons he was the one man who attracted attention to the Naps as an individual. Jackson's speed and batting now take some of the limelight from Lajoie, and the southerner keeps attention centered on right field. Gregg made a wonderful record last year. He is a remarkable pitcher, easily one of the best in either league, and will be a greater drawing card this year.

Ed Walsh always brings out the crowds when he pitches for Chicago. The big right-hander threatened to have a rival for Sox publicity this year when Ping Bodie broke into the big league, but the Italian from the Pacific coast proved any-thing but a fence-buster in 1911. Jimmy Callahan says that Bodie's style at bat is faulty, and that he will correct it this year and make a better batsman out of the eminent slugger. Ping still has a chance to break into the headlines. He may develop into a star.

Blackburne, "the ten-thousand-dollar beauty," is another White Sox fizzle of recent years. Blackburne, like Bodie, is expected to round into promised form this year.

New York will again have Hal Chase. Year before last it had Russell Ford to assist in accumulating the dollars, but last season Russell did not appear quite the same as in 1910. He may do better this year under Harry Wolverton. The spectacular style of Chase, however, will make him a great attraction as long as he lasts in the majors.

Boston did not have a particular star last year, but during the season of 1912 it promises to produce a wonder. The gentleman referred to is "Buck" O'Brien. Cobb says O'Brien is one of the greatest pitchers he ever looked at. "Buck" startled the major leagues late last season. He is in the same class as Marty O'Toole and Grover Cleveland Alexander. He was buffeted about several years before, he developed. He is one of those fellows who suddenly develop. There is nothing gradual about their elevation to stardom. They roam along in a groove until suddenly they burst forth as wonders.

Walter Johnson has been Washington's mainstay for a few seasons. If the Washington team is in a slump and playing at its lowest form the team can always look for a big crowd when the announcement is made a day in advance that Johnson will pitch. Johnson is undoubtedly the best attraction in the league as far as pitchers go.

But Washington has even a greater "card" than Johnson. The gentleman referred to is Herman Schaefer. As a base ball comedian Schaefer has it over the entire field. Herman is funnier than Arlie Latham ever thought a man could be. The German is a natural comedian, always pleasing.

In St. Louis there is no star. Bobby Wallace a few years back was a w