

## BASEBALL—SPORTS OF ALL SORTS—BOXING

### CUBS AND SOX PLAY TO GOOD CROWDS IN TRAINING

By Mark Shields

If the attendance at exhibition games is any criterion, this is to be a good year for baseball. Despite the talk of war and the threat of a railroad strike, large crowds are turning out to witness the efforts of the White Sox and Cubs in their respective endeavors against Texas league and Pacific Coast league aggregations.

Yesterday in Dallas the Sox, defeated 3 to 1, played to 4,000 fans. In Oakland the Cubs lost 9 to 7 before a crowd of 4,000, and in the afternoon they whipped San Francisco, 7 to 2, for the edification of 5,000 fans.

Such crowds for exhibition games are unusual. They not only point to enthusiasm during the coming season, but will help materially in paying the board bills and transportation tariffs of our ball clubs. Nine thousand people are more than the Cubs saw in a couple of seasons of spring training in Florida and vicinity.

The outstanding feature of the double bill of the Cubs was the work of the pitchers and the consistent hitting of Harry Wolter, the only fellow who could connect with timely effect. In the morning game Prendergast, Dawson and Hendrix were soft for the enemy. In the sundown contest Jim Vaughn and Phil Douglass were tight parties in every inning.

Prendergast and Hendrix have been in difficulty ever since they started training. Neither has been able to puzzle the enemy, and both have suffered from wild streaks. This is somewhat of a surprise in the case of Prendergast, who was an able pitcher last year, despite the small amount of attention he received from management and fans.

Hendrix must show something in short order, or he may get a bit of work in the minor leagues. Last season Claude was a sad disappointment and had none of the requisites of a big league pitcher. He was wild at all times, and nothing he threw disconcerted the aliens.

Either Vaughn or Douglass will be given the honor of hurling the opening game against Pittsburgh unless unforeseen obstacles crop out. They are the best conditioned men of the staff and are working seriously. Douglass has at last come to a realization of the seriousness of baseball as a means of earning a living, and if he can be kept in that frame of mind throughout the season he will be a good pitcher through the campaign.

Wolfe remains at short through the injury to Wortman. Chuck has a sore heel and the recruit is making hay. His work is excellent in mechanical results, but he lacks experience to combat the wiles of the big leaguers.

Poor baserunning is still confounding the White Sox. That and weak hitting lost a game to Dallas. Danforth and Scott pitched for Rowland. Risberg, Ed Collins and Felsch poled two hits each. Three or four more markers might have been rung up if the big leaguers had used better judgment on the baselines.

That failing must be overcome before the team gets into the thick of the pennant fight. Headless work on the towpaths was an outstanding liability last season that caused the loss of many ball games and set the club back in its flight for the top.

Eldred and Risberg have jobs on the first team and both are doing excellent work. Risberg was one of the baserunning offenders yesterday, but this fault can be knocked out. He is fielding all over the shop and his hitting has been strong.

Felsch has been the real swatter.