

Baker Can Help Griffis---Evers May Be Through---Western Trip Important

FISHING FOR THE OLD FLAG



GRIFFITH BELIEVES BAKER IS KEY TO AMERICAN LEAGUE

If Slugger Abides In Trappe • All Summer, the Nationals' Chances Look Good To Their Manager.

NEW YORK, April 26.—Manager Griffith believes that Frank Baker is the key to the American League situation. In other words, if the Athletics' slugger third baseman remains at Trappe, Md., the Griffins may have a chance to win the pennant, having no real competitor but the Boston Red Sox. If Baker decides to return to Connie Mack's team, it will immediately become a strong contender with the Griffins and the Red Sox for the premier honors. The Old Fox does not rank the Tigers as contenders, believing they are sure to crack before long and fall back into the second division.

"The Athletics need Baker more than he needs them, that's a cinch," is the way the Old Fox figures it. "If he changes his mind and joins the team, it will make a whole lot of difference in the general work of the ball club. If he remains away all year, I don't see where they'll get off. Indeed, they seem about done without him. Eddie Collins was a heavy loss, but the team could have got along without him, so long as Baker was on deck. But with Baker out of the line-up, the team is almost impossible.

"Coming Western Trip Is Important," Says Griffith

NEW YORK, April 26.—"A whole lot hangs on what we do on this first long trip," says Manager Griffith. "If we have luck, and if the majority of our games, we may return in a good position to hold. Boston doesn't seem to be having so much luck; neither does Philadelphia. Both these teams are being touted to beat us by some critics. Detroit is going fast, and as long as Cobb, Crawford, and Veach can hit over .400 that team will be a powerful contender. But can they keep it up for a whole month? Three of the first division teams are in the East. When they go West, will Detroit continue to smother all opposition? I seriously doubt it, anyway. Jennings has been having an easy time winning from St. Louis, Cleveland, and Chicago, but he'll find it hard to do in New York, and Boston harder foes.

"All I ask is that my pitchers hold their present form, and that the other boys bat and field up to their own proven standard. That will suit me. It will serve to make Washington a lively contender in this campaign. No race is decided this early, but if a team can stay up around the top now, it will be all the better off when the weak slugs slump back where they belong and the strong ones square away for the goal so far off. I am confident that my team is not one of the weak slugs."

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER. long race," says one of Griffith's veterans, who doesn't want to be quoted as criticizing another team. "That outfit has been playing a long time and must quit some day. Already Hooper isn't killing the ball, though the other two are holding up well enough. Scott is the best man in the infield, but he isn't playing now as he did last year. If you watch that team, you'll find that Ray Collins is not running around looking for work. Shore is a good pitcher, but he and Foster can't carry the team down the line to a pennant. The others are experiments, leaving out Wood and Gregg, who seem done already. Really when all is considered, I think we have the best chance to win a pennant since 1912. All we have to do is go along with the Athletics, putting up a good fielding game behind excellent pitching. Zeb Milan and Morgan will soon begin to hit and they'll turn the trick, with the rest of the boys doing just as they are now. No, I'm not claiming any pennant, but it looks to me as if we had a good chance.

The Griffins seem to be running along just now like a lathe, grinding two all rough places in the opposition. Eddie Foster never looked better, and New York critics are loud in his praise. He is hitting well and fielding in tip-top style. Ray Morgan and McBride, though neither is hitting hard, are putting up a wonderful fielding game. Gandall's hitting and fielding are good, but his fellow apparently come back strong after his short vacation. If the outfield holds up its own with the bat, the team ought to win a lot more games than it loses. Milan has not yet struck his stride with the stick, but Moeller, Acosta, and Rondor are doing well in this respect. Moeller is the best hitter on the team, according to the averages to date, and it is going to be a long time before he is out of the batting line. But, no matter who plays in the garden, the Griffins seem better than they were. They have been in four campaigns. This may prove the turning point in their fortunes, too.

EVERS MAY BE LOST TO BRAVES FOR GOOD

Physicians say that Johnny Evers, captain and second baseman of the world's champion Braves, who fractured his ankle in a game with the Dodgers a week ago Saturday, may never be able to play ball again. Even if the injury does not prove as serious as physicians believe, Evers will be out of the game at least twelve weeks. He hurt the ankle sliding into second, and had to be carried off the field. He was immediately sent to his home in Troy, where the leg was placed in a plaster cast. The physician who packed the leg in the plaster said he did not believe that the break would ever mend. It will be six weeks before the cast can be removed. Then an x-ray will be taken to see if the break has mended. If not, Johnny will never put on a uniform again.

MINCE PIE "LITTLE OF EVERYTHING" By "BUGS" BAER.

They say Walter Johnson has gone back 25 per cent. This brings him to the low level of 784,985,024 per cent. The Harvard baseball nine is one of the best football teams in the country. What's become of the folks who use to make a living at baseball grounds checking bicycles?

DAVID RUDOLPH "Rain prevented the Nationals from playing Friday, but we don't know what prevented 'em on Saturday." Eddie Ainsmith is willing to trade his motorcar for Ty Cobb's butcher.

HARRY DAVIS WINS PACIFIC CHAMPION

SAN FRANCISCO, April 26.—Harry K. B. Davis, of the Preakness Golf Club, San Francisco, won the Panama-Pacific Exposition golf championship yesterday by defeating Heinrich Schmidt, of the Claremont Country Club, of Oakland, at the San Francisco Golf and Country Club, 1 up. Schmidt, formerly of New England, has an international reputation, having competed in the British amateur tournament. He put Charles Evans, Western champion, out of the present meet. Davis is not well known outside the Pacific Coast States, but with splendid present contest, eliminating H. Chandler Egan, formerly national champion, in the semi-final.

Here Is Team the Giants Can Defeat PATTERSON, N. J., April 26.—The New York Giants defeated "Dick" Cogan's Atlantic League team at Totowa oval here yesterday afternoon by the score of 11 to 2. John Keys, formerly Tri-State League player, was the star for the locals, batting three singles, a double and a triple in five times at bat.

League Standing

Table with columns: Team, Won, Lost, Pct, Today's Standing. Includes American League and National League standings.

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Has Walter Johnson Gone Back in Speed?

Ainsmith Says the Kansan Has as Much Smoke as Ever, While Griffith Thinks He Uses Curves More Often.

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER. NEW YORK, April 26.—"Has Walter Johnson lost his great speed?" This question seems on the lips of every fan who has seen the league's best twirler in action this season. It was heard in Richmond, again in Washington and now in New York. Possibly, it will be heard in other cities when the fans have had an opportunity of seeing Griffith's leading mound workman. According to Eddie Ainsmith, his regular catcher, Johnson is as fast as ever. Clark Griffith says he hasn't noticed anything wrong, explaining the possible doubt by saying that Johnson uses his curve ball oftener now than ever before. Duffey Lewis and Tris Speaker dismiss the question shortly with, "He's still fast enough for most of us." Roy Hartzell, the Yankees' veteran utility man, says that Johnson may have slowed a bit, but he hasn't noticed it.

Nevertheless, the impression seems to be growing that Johnson's former bullet speed has gone forever, and that he will now have to mix up his fast ball with a curve in order to get away with his games. Johnson has been pitching for seven or eight years at express speed. Whenever he was in a hole and wanted to strike out an opponent, he used a fast ball that fairly whizzed past the batsman. No pitcher, outside of Amos Ruste, possibly, ever boasted of so much sheer speed in propelling a ball through the air. A man's arm cannot last for all time. It is possible that Johnson's has begun to show signs of wear. While he merely smiles when questioned about it, he has acquired a very good curve ball, and, what is more, is using it a lot. Owing to his speed, this curve breaks very sharply. It is possible that Johnson himself realizes that his speed is slowly but surely diminishing? Is this the reason for his increased use of curves? The first swing around the circuit should test this theory as to Johnson. While veterans like Hartzell, Lewis, and Speaker may be unable to notice any change in velocity, it may be explained psychologically. They have become so accustomed to his great speed that their timidity remains with them. If newcomers, warned of this speed, discover it less than their expectations and begin to hit it, then will it be proved beyond doubt. It may be a bit early to look for this evidence, but it is a fact that Pipp, Cooke, Boone, Mays, and Janvin, all new-comers, have not displayed much timidity in the face of Johnson's fast ball. They have stood right up to it and have landed on it. This continues, if all batmen get tepholds and swing on that fast ball, the Kansas Cyclone is in for a warm season, for they will drive it out of the lot from sheer rebound.

Nick Altrock, who goes to movies and reads the comic papers, has invented for himself a new caper to show the fans around the American League circuit. It is nothing more than a Charlie Chaplin walk and run. He showed it to the New York fans for a starter and it made an instant hit with them. Over here Charlie Chaplin is a hero, with dozens of imitators standing out in front of those theaters where his pictures are being shown.

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