

Griff Tells Why 1915 Team Failed—Players Agree to Capture Bandit Villa

GRIFF MEETS FAT CHANCE AT CAMP



NUTTY NOTES
EDITED BY SIMON UTT
MANAGER NICK ALTROCK
OF THE ROCKIES, WHO
COACHED CHARLIE CHAPLIN
LAST WINTER, HAS RECOVERED FROM A SPRAINED TONSIL AND RESUMED HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES !!!

Norfolk Fans Know Doc Ayers on Sight

CHARLOTTESVILLE, March 11.—Doc Ayers, the Griffmen's big pitcher, accompanied Harry Harper to Norfolk last Sunday, and now the Hackensack southpaw says that everybody in Norfolk knows the sawbones. "Everywhere we went on the street," says Harper, "it was 'Hello, Doc.' Doc was kept busy shaking hands with fans, who wished him well. He's a hero in Norfolk, and owns the town.

White Sox Leave In De Luxe Train

CHICAGO, March 11.—A de luxe special, fitted up with phonographs, poker tables, entertainers, and numerous comforts and nuisances of the home, will roll out of the yards tomorrow for Mineral Springs, Tex., with a little old last year's ball team aboard.

Frank Moran Aids Promoter Rickard

NEW YORK, March 11.—If critics of Tex Rickard, the promoter of the Willard-Moran bout at Madison Square Garden, thought to embarrass him by compelling him to put up a bond covering the fight, they are disappointed.

G. W. U. Girls Will Play Gallaudet Team Today

The George Washington University girls' basketball team will meet that of Gallaudet today in the Epiphany gymnasium. This is the last big game the G. W. U. girls have before they meet the Swarthmore and Temple University teams in Philadelphia, the coming week.

Choose Morgan Again.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., March 11.—John E. D. Morgan, class of '17, of New York City, was re-elected captain of the Harvard hockey team at a meeting of the varsity players today.

Billy Smith Bothered With Federal Holdouts

According to dispatches from Richmond, Va., Billy Smith is having all sorts of trouble signing his three Federal Leaguers—Al Shaw, of Kansas City; Joe Azler, of Baltimore, and Walter Hays, of St. Louis.

Club Will Meet.

Members of the Cleveland Athletic Club are requested to be present at a meeting to be held at the residence of Robert Smith, 28 Randolph place northwest, tonight, at 8 o'clock.

MANAGER GRIFFITH EXPLAINS WHY TEAM FAILED LAST YEAR

Indisposition of "Zeb" Milan and Gandil's Arm Kink Ruined Outfit's Chances.

LOOKS FOR BETTER THINGS

Old Fox Believes Linden Flyer Will Have Great Season and Judge Will Shine.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., March 11.—To the continued indisposition of Clyde Milan and the utter impossibility of Chick Gandil to work the kink out of his arm, Clark Griffith attributes the failure of the Nationals to rise higher during the season of 1915.

After a winter's calm deliberation and planning to strengthen the most vulnerable parts of his machine, the Washington director today unbundled himself of his ideas as to what caused the situation that to many was disappointing.

"It's all over, of course, but a man who does not profit by experience is not making the most of his job," quoth the manager today.

"At times last year I was actually sorry for Milan, as I know that he was working under a handicap that few people realized. His health was so bad that at times I considered replacing him, but he was so anxious to stick that I kept him in hoping against hope. He deserved all the credit in the world for his efforts, for a less game man would have quit without so much provocation.

"This spring," continued Griffith, "Milan has had the benefit of his stay at Hot Springs and, if appearances count, he should be the Milan of 1913 and 1914 when we got to the scratch next month.

"Each spring since he has been in baseball Gandil has been troubled with his right arm. During the winter the elbow stiffens and there has been no treatment that would take the kink out. We used all sorts of liniments and Mike Martin rubbed it until it was nearly blue. But there was no use.

"I had a letter from Chick today and he tells me that during the winter he has exercised the joint every day since last fall, and believes it is cured. I hope it is, for his sake. If Gandil is ready in April he will be a valuable man for Cleveland, but if he has the same trouble as last year it will be midsummer before he can show real class.

"Ordinarily when a man's throwing arm is injured it interferes with his batting, but in this case it was his batting that suffered also. He could not get the healthy swing that carried him along and he was not in the mood to hit. He commenced to choke his bat, but this strangling style was never meant for a man of Gandil's strength and natural swing.

"While he closed with a good season's batting marks for you, you will find that the records bear out the assertion that his hitting was not what it was in 1913 and 1914. Then he came fast, as the arm improved, but it was too late.

"With such an ailment the older a man becomes the more likely it is to interfere with his playing, so I decided to lean on Joe Judge. At that, I hope Gandil will have a great year at Cleveland, as he is still far from being an aged man."

While yesterday did not prove to be one of the best days for a baseball team in spring training, the atmosphere was warm, without sunshine, and the beneficial workouts were afforded both divisions of the team.

On the main field the pitchers took ten-minute turns in twisting and turning who relayed themselves, caring for the infield and outfield positions. Griffith rarely let the pitchers break into a sweat before he ordered them to the club house. The fielders he permitted to loosen up to a greater extent, and for the first day here the Old Fox appeared to be well satisfied with the progress of the men on whom he depends to carry him through the season.

"Flashes of lightning and battling were seen constantly, Eddie Foster being particularly handy with the bat. He hit his full weight against some of Jim Shaw's best grounders, and long hit too deep for the gardeners were the result. Gallia and Hoehling also had little difficulty placing the ball through the fielders, but the pitching they faced, of course, was merely of the first-day variety.

Naturally much attention is directed toward the work of Walter Johnson, who was on the field a shorter length of time than any of the others. Griff let him work exactly fifteen minutes when he had him bundled up to civilian clothes. Walter is in exquisite condition and will let the throttle of exertion "in" very slowly, as he needs little work to be exactly right.

Commenting on the general condition of his men after supper last night Clark Griffith said:

"In no training season have my men reported in generally better condition. Eddie Foster is ready to go into the championship game tomorrow, and there is not a man on the club who has any real amount of fitness to train off. Some of the fellows have remarked that Jim Shaw looks to be overweight, but Shaw is a growing boy, and has developed wonderfully since last season. His shoulders and body are bigger and broader, but he has no fat in the places where fat hurts. Griffith continued: "Each spring the men appear to be stout because of an invariable fullness in the face which comes from a winter's lack of little work on the diamond, say two weeks, always pulls this off, and the players take on what we call a 'working aspect.'"

How Griffmen Face Virginia in Battle

GRIFFMEN.	VIRGINIA.
Milan, cf.	Berkeley, ss.
Foster, 3b.	Smith, cf.
Judge, 1b.	Stearn, 2b.
Barber, rf.	White, lf.
Roncneau, lf.	Thurman, 1b.
Morgan, 2b.	Stickley, 3b.
McBride, ss.	Carrington, rf.
Gharrity, c.	Green, e.
Gallia, p.	Field, p.
Harper, p.	Calloway, p.
Drummond, p.	Drummond, p.

championship is decided. The matter of weight will come about naturally, as the workmen continue, but right now what I am aiming at is speed, and plenty of it.

Leonard Schwab, the Cincinnati youngster who is to have a trial in Griff's infield, and who was unable to appear at Washington last fall, was the last of the belated players to arrive. He was at the clubhouse when the teams returned from the afternoon practice. Before Griffith saw Schwab he had a warm spot in his heart for the boy, as he is the brother of Matty Schwab, keeper of the Cincinnati Red Sox.

"Matty Schwab is, in my opinion, the best groundkeeper in either league," remarked Griff to the boys as they asked him who the newcomer is. "I saw him take an ordinary pile driver and knock down the old Cincinnati concrete grand stand before the new one was built. After half a dozen architects had said that it would take a crew of 100 men six months to remove the first concrete stand that was ever built."

Sam Gittings, the Washington youth who twirls them from the right side, today taken over by Griffith. The boy has been here on his own resources, but when Griffith heard the praise of Nick Altrock for him, he permitted him to come into the players' quarters and be a bona fide rookie.

Little Charlie Humphrey is another one who has made an impression on Altrock, and if the word of the veteran can be taken, Humphrey's chances in major league ball are good.

One of the chief diversions of the players when practice is over is muskrat hunting. Beyond the Virginia stadium a love place where the animals abound, and several have been caught. The skins are being cured by the ground hunters, and furs and fur pieces, discarded by the hunters, are being sold to Walter Johnson and Horace Milan are quoted as authority, and each of half a dozen others claim to be past masters in the science of furs, their curing and tanning.

The first diamond skirmish of the 1916 season is to be held this afternoon on the main field. Jack Ryan's Virginia Varsity nine tackling the big leaguers. Bert Gallia, who is in excellent condition, Harry Harper, who appears to have recovered from his recent cold, and "Doc" Sloan, the rookie from Linden, will be sent to the mound, each getting three innings against the collegians.

Coch Ryan plans to send three of his most promising pitchers to the rubber. Field, Calloway, and Drummond draw the assignments. These lads have been training for a month, and will undoubtedly use a few curves. The major leaguers may be bothered not a little by the benders.

While Manager Griffith will use his so-called first team at the opening of today's game, he is expected to make a few changes before the contest ends. He wants to see some of his rookies in action, and the only way to do that is to play them. Carl Sawyer and Jim Morgan at second, and Shanks may go in for Foster at third.

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Refuses to Have Him Put Up Bond Covering Guarantee for Big Ring Battle.

NEW YORK, March 11.—If critics of Tex Rickard, the promoter of the Willard-Moran bout at Madison Square Garden, thought to embarrass him by compelling him to put up a bond covering the fight, they are disappointed.

Taft Will Again Lead.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 11.—Charles P. Taft, second, has been re-elected captain of the Yale basketball team. Taft is the son of Prof. William Howard Taft, and last year played guard on the championship team. This year, as captain, he played center, and the five did not have as good a season as in 1915.

Dillon Shows Mercy.

NEW YORK, March 11.—Jack Dillon's early training asserted itself in his fight with General Jim Flynn, an ancient fireman. Rather than stop the old man, Dillon let up now and then in their ten-round bout to let him stay the limit. Flynn, a mere punching bag, stayed.

Tinker Pardons Them.

CHICAGO, March 11.—Frank Schulte's excuse for tardiness at the Cubs' training camp was satisfactory to Manager Tinker, who reinstated him today in the regular line-up, according to a dispatch from Tampa. George Zabel, the pitcher, pleaded that examinations at the college he attends at Baldwin, Kan., had delayed him, and he, too, was pardoned.

McConnell a Manager.

UTICA, N. Y., March 11.—The Utica baseball club, of the State League, today accepted the terms of the Syracuse club, and will purchase the release of Second Baseman Ambrose McConnell for \$1,000. McConnell, a former Boston American player, will manage the Utica.

Capital Lads Make Good on College Teams

Central, Western, Tech, St. Albans, and Army and Navy Prep Schoolboys Land Regular Berths With Baseball, Track, and Crew Squads.

By BRYAN MORSE.

The selection of Palmer Stearns, last year's captain of the Western High School baseball team, to play second for Virginia today against the Nationals at Charlottesville, reveals the fact that a small army of Washington lads are making good with college teams this year.

Virginia boasts a host of first-class material, and the choice of Stearns is a distinct honor for scholastic athletics here. Stearns heads a list of capable athletes sent out in the last two years. Bob Foster, of A. N. Prep fame, probably will hold down an infield position with West Point this year. Foster was one of the hardest hitting infielders in scholastic ranks last season.

Another local boy making good at college is Peyton March, who is at Lafayette. The former St. Albans School lad is expected to be taken South with the team this spring. Kendall Meyers, also at Lafayette, is unable to take the spring trip on account of an injury received in February, but will be along as soon as he is all right. Meyers has been counting upon a regular on the Michigan track team this spring.

Right here at home are several former high school athletes and local boys making good. Catholic University has "Reds" DeLahun and Joe Hanlein, of Tech, making a bid for the team. Not man Roddy and Frank Greer are being counted upon by the Brookland coach. Pat Rooney, another Tech lad, is out for the nine.

At C. Lyman Oberlin, former Central High athlete, is sure of the first base job. Earle Boyer, a Western High youngster of two years ago, may be able to land the catcher's position. At Georgetown "Bus" Haggar, "shorty" Strahl, Lem Owens, and Mike Cantwell, products of amateur baseball here, are fighting it out for battery positions.

Word comes from Wisconsin that Robert Harrell, former Tech track captain, and Chase Donaldson, former Western track captain, are almost sure to land berths with the track team. Eimer Harrell will run in the mid-distance event, while Wallace is entered in the shot.

Catholic University is sending a relay team composed of Horne, Sullivan, Keane, and Field, which will run against the Lehigh quartet.

Advisory marks were sent in yesterday at the high schools, and some losses to baseball teams are expected. There will be several additions to the ranks, according to reports.

Business, Eastern, and probably Western will take trips through Virginia during the Easter holidays. As the high school series starts before the holidays, the schools will be fairly well advanced. Promising athletes are absent from other Virginia towns will be visited by the schoolboy baseball teams.

Tech closed up its basketball season yesterday by receiving a 32 to 22 defeat at the hands of the boys' Y. M. C. A. team. Tech line-up, and half the offensive strength was gone. The score stood 14 all at the end of the half.

MINCE PIE.

A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING. By "Bugs" Bear.

Learn One Thing Each Day. PITCHERS WOULD RATHER HAVE THE BATTER MISS A STRIKE THAN THE UMPIRE.

Only ten seconds between being a cool fighter and a cold one.

Frank Baker has dropped the thin veneering of neutrality he wore last year.

Feeble Fables. Generally upon a time there was a philanthropic individual whose system was conglutinated with kindness.

He was so short circuited with benevolence that the sight of a lady standing up in a subway car made him so weak that he could not get out of his seat. He was among the first to send full dress vest buttons and high hats to the starving Belgians.

Every Christmas Eve he allowed the poor to disport themselves on his painful speedway. It made his chest throb with commiseration to see a dumb animal suffer and the tenants in his apartment houses never had cause to complain about the apartments being cold in July. When it became his turn to wear a two-toot granite watch chain the most prominent portion of his attire was a collection of medals he won for being the best live pigeon shooter in his ward.

MORSE—NEVER SIGN ANY PAPERS OVER A TELEPHONE.

Writer says Hoppe is running amuck in billiards, so Capablanca's chess column can be nothing less than frenzied.

Although not marked so far, Willard is sure to emerge from the big fight with a cauliflower pocketbook.

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Where to Enjoy a Pleasant Afternoon or Evening

SUNDAY

GO TO THE

GAYETY

AND SEE FASCINATING

MOLLIE WILLIAMS

The Queen of Burlesque

...With...

Bob Manchester's Burlesquers

NEXT WEEK—HARRY HASTINGS BIG SHOW

