

Griffmen May Journey North in Autos and Boats If Railroad Men Walk Out

RAILROAD TROUBLE WORRIES GRIFFITH

Threatened Strike Might Force Abandonment of Spring Exhibition Trip.

PITCHERS NEED MORE WORK

None Able to Go More Than Three Innings—Eight Remaining Days in Camp.

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

AUGUSTA, Ga., March 14.—Rumors of an impending strike on the railroads of the country have added to the worries of Manager Griffith, who may find himself compelled to remain somewhere in Dixie land, and result in the absolute end of his spring exhibition trip.

"I hope there won't be any strike," said the Old Fox today, "but if one comes and catches me without a chance to help myself I'll camp just wherever I happen to be until the strike is ended, or the opening date of the season forces me to start home. For cars and boats can take me to Philadelphia, where we are due to open the season on April 11. I haven't any doubt but that I could make connections satisfactorily, but the inconvenience naturally would be felt."

Players Like Drill.

Today was cool and cloudy, portending rain, and it was ideal for Corporal Dean's squad of rookie soldiers. The players are taking to the theory of marching formations rapidly and they put in an hour of hard work this morning. Manager Griffith hopes that military drilling will be continued throughout the spring by the ball clubs, as he believes all the players are benefiting.

Pitchers Need Work.

The Washington pitchers will need all their few remaining days before the season opens to acquire that form that makes for victory. This is being shown beyond argument by their work on the mound in the practice games played to date. Not one is in condition to toil for more than three innings. Most of them are not strong enough to go that far.

Counting today, eight more days will be spent here including one Sunday, which is a day of rest. If good weather continues as it promises, fourteen more practice games will be played before the camp breaks up and the two squads start Northward on their exhibition schedules.

Griffith Is Satisfied.

"I am well satisfied with conditions here and with the development of the players," said Manager Griffith today. "I don't want them to rush ahead. I'd rather have them take things easily than they'll be all the better when the bell rings."

The Old Fox admits that his pitchers are not strong enough to go far at this time, but he believes that they will constantly grow better and that the opening game will find them ready to deliver the real article on the rubber.

The Yannigans took both of yesterday's games, showing plenty of hitting strength against rather mediocre pitching. Mollie Craft was wild and when he found the plate was touched up right merrily.

Pitchers Weaken.

Claude Thomas was spanked unmercifully in the afternoon, displaying little or nothing. George Dumont, who was thought to have developed rapidly, staggered after going three innings in the afternoon sun and allowed five hits for as many runs giving the victory to the Yannigans, 9 to 8. Judging from what they have shown thus far, the pitchers are not yet in shape to give Manager Griffith much of a line on their abilities.

Joe Leonard's bruised thumb kept him off the third base line. In the morning he did not play at all, but in the afternoon he covered center field letting Zeb Milan show his class around third corner. Zeb escaped with his life, though he was the butt of much good natured kidding from the bunch.

Sizes Up Players.

Joe Cantillon had an excellent chance to study the form of the players he may want in Minneapolis next summer. He umpired the morning battle and watched the afternoon contest from the bench. He will not discuss his wants, but he paid particular attention to Sam Crane, Mike Moran, Jim Shaw, and Charlie Humphries.

This may or may not mean anything. George McBride helped the Yannigans to the afternoon victory with an error, but his hitting hammered over two runs for his team, in the fourth. His triple drove Smith and Shanks across the plate.

McBride Outclasses Crane.

The veteran shortstop is in wonderful shape, and there is no comparison between him and Crane, his principal competitor. It is a contrast all in favor of McBride.

Ed Charley's batting eye seemed clear yesterday. Out of six times at bat he crashed out four blows and a triple in the second frame in the afternoon game, scoring Eph Milan and Crane. His pegging is still unsteady, though, and he worked in a few bad throws to the bases.

The score by innings of yesterday afternoon's game. R. H. E. First team .. 010 340 00-8 10 3 Second team .. 022 000 05-9 12 7 Batteries—Jameon, Dumont and Henry; Ayes, Thomas, Phelerty and Charley.

GETTING READY.

Joe Stanley and Tommy Crooks, managers, respectively, of the Lynchburg club in the Virginia League, and the Fredericks club in the Blue Ridge League, are preparing for the coming season. Stanley left for Lynchburg Saturday, and Crooks will leave Washington in a few days.

LOCAL PLAYER SIGNED.

Wyatt Lee, a local ballplayer, will report to the Richmond International League club Tuesday. Lee is a former member of the Washington pitching staff, and has been pitching class A ball since 1900.

Big League Parks Seat Only 441,000 Combined

Figures On 17 Scattered Circuits Show That Not Three Per Cent of Population Could Be Accommodated.

The recent discussion relative to the high cost of baseball and the changes suggested as tending to reduce what in some cases is close to prohibitive expense has led to some interesting statements and explanations. That some are not based upon cold facts can be shown by a careful study of the baseball situation as it exists today.

It has been said that one reason for the heavy expense in connection with the management of a baseball club is the building of parks and stands considerably in excess of the prospective attendance as warranted by the population of the surrounding territory. While this statement may be true in one or two isolated cases, it is not borne out by existing figures in so far as it applies to the general run of major and minor baseball leagues.

Parks Not Too Big.

In recent years some elaborate and expensive ball parks have been constructed, especially in cities represented in the National and American League circuits. In no case, however, does a comparison of the park seating capacity and the city population show that the accommodations are out of proportion to the attendance possibilities.

Taking seventeen leagues, scattered throughout the country, as a basis for computation, it is found that the total seating capacity of more than one hundred baseball parks is but 3 per cent of the population of all the cities in which these parks are located. In the case of the larger class of cities the addition of the population figures of numerous suburbs would make the percentage still lower.

ROTARY CLUB WILL HELP KEEP GRIFFS

Joins Campaign to Have Players Train At Augusta Next Season.

AUGUSTA, Ga., March 14.—The Augusta Rotary Club has enlisted in the campaign to bring the Washington club here in 1918 for training purposes. At the club's regular weekly luncheon yesterday President L. B. Evans announced that the organization would make every effort to have the Washington club return, and hoped that Manager Griffith would see fit to make this city his permanent training camp.

E. G. Kahlbeck, president of the Augusta club of the Southern Atlantic League, was one of the speakers. He said that at first he was inclined to frown upon the coming of a major league club, believing the players would not be acceptable.

Had Wrong Impression.

"However, I must confess that I changed my mind," said he. "I have mixed considerably with the Washington players, and with the Washington newspapermen, and I see that I had an incorrect impression. I am sure that if Manager Griffith desires to train his team here again the Augusta club will be gratified."

Manager Griffith and Joe Cantillon, the Minneapolis mogul, were invited to the luncheon. Manager Griffith was unable to attend, not caring to lose a day's work at the ball park just at this time. However, he has indicated to attend next Tuesday's luncheon, and very likely at that time will make some reply to the Augusta Rotary Club's offer.

Too Much For Joe.

Cantillon's labor as umpire in the morning game proved too much for him and he failed to put in an appearance. The war correspondents were the special guests of the club. L. A. Dougher, of The Washington Times, representing the guests, addressed the club members, assuring them of the hearty support of the Washington papers in the effort to bring the Griffmen here again next spring. Following the luncheon E. C. Newcomb, of the Abilene Hotel, head-quarters of the Washington club, was the host for a motor party that covered most of the city, stopping at the country club and visiting the best residential sections.

Griff Likes Augusta Weather.

The ideal weather here has impressed Manager Griffith most favorably with Augusta as a training camp. He still says that he will take his club to Panama next year, but that is a long way off, and many difficulties present themselves. It is more likely the club will come back to Augusta, particularly if successful the coming season.

TO GIVE SMOKER.

The Westover Athletic Club, with a membership of eighty-five, will hold a smoker and entertainment tomorrow evening, at its clubrooms, 1323 Twenty-fourth street northwest. The club plans to put two baseball teams in the field this year, one to play in department ball, and the other in the Capital City League.

GETTING READY.

Joe Stanley and Tommy Crooks, managers, respectively, of the Lynchburg club in the Virginia League, and the Fredericks club in the Blue Ridge League, are preparing for the coming season. Stanley left for Lynchburg Saturday, and Crooks will leave Washington in a few days.

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TENNIS DATES OUT FOR DISTRICT MEN

Chevy Chase, Columbia, and Other Organizations Announce Time of Play.

Washington Tennis Association players will be the first in line for the regular summer campaign. Representatives from Chevy Chase, Columbia, and the Dumbarton Club will start the season with matches on April 14.

Thereafter, barring one date, there will be matches every two weeks or twice a week, in addition to the matches expected that the winner of the title will be challenged by the Departmental League winner which is holding an associate membership in the District circuit.

Others in Line.

Other organizations will get in line shortly after the initial engagement. Chevy Chase and Georgetown University are down for a tennis match on April 21.

The regular Chevy Chase tennis tournament, the annual invitation affair, will probably be played on April 29, at which time it is expected some of the best players in the East will participate.

Leagues Will Start.

The Departmental Tennis League, thought to be the largest in the country, will get under way May 7. Matches will be played between the thirteen teams every day except Saturday.

This is a new departure in the circuit as matches were played but twice a week. In addition the matches will be started at 5 o'clock instead of 3:30 p. m., and at 5:15 p. m. as formerly.

The Suburban League will start play this year on June 10, the eleven teams playing their schedules much the same as last season. Considerable interest has been manifested in the Suburban League during the past two years. In addition to the regular matches it is planned to enter a team in competition for the city title, the winner to meet the Baltimore winner.

Date for Columbia.

The date for the Columbia tennis tournament has been set for May 20 by Chairman A. Y. Leech, Jr. This is the big event of the year and is the largest local tournament of the spring season.

Those in charge of boys' tennis have asked for June 15 as the date to hold the District Junior title event. This will be the third year of competition for the youngsters, and will probably draw a number of first class players.

PROVIDENCE CLUB SOLD

Governor Beekman and Senator Gerry Among Buying Syndicate.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 14.—The Providence International League baseball club was sold yesterday by William H. Draper, its owner to a syndicate of local men for \$18,000.

The meeting was held at the office of Mayor Gainer in City Hall, and was attended by thirty business and professional men of the city.

Edward G. Barlow, president of the International League, was present with an option for the club given by Mr. Draper for the amount named. The sum of \$25,000 was subscribed with as much more in sight if wanted. Among the subscribers are Governor Beekman and Senator Peter G. Gerry.

A committee of five was appointed to distribute the stock, and a deposit was made. Another meeting to close up the business and for organization will be held soon.

OFFICIALS PICKED

Jockey Club Selects Men to Handle Maryland Meeting.

Sanction of the racing officials for the Southern Maryland Agricultural Association meeting to be held at Bowie, Md., April 2, has been received today.

Those who will serve are as follows: Stewards, E. C. Smith, representing the Jockey Club; W. P. Spurgeon and C. C. Hall, Judges; J. A. Murphy, J. H. Anderson, and George T. Miller, Starter; A. B. Dade, Handicapper; E. C. Smith, Clerk of course and scales; Joseph McLean, Paddock and goal judge; G. E. Hall, Patrol judges; W. W. Lyles and Herman Conklin, Racing secretary; Joseph McLennan, General manager; James F. O'Hara.

RECRUITS DO WELL

Monroe and Knaupp Almost Sure of Yankee Jobs.

Macon, Ga., March 14.—Of all the recruits striving for positions on the Yankees two stand out pre-eminently. They are Ed Monroe, the Louisville pitcher, and Chick Knaupp, a shortstop, having in connection with the Hopkins-Fifth Regiment meet will be run over.

Officials were unable to pick the men finishing after the first five and Carroll has agreed to stage the event here on March 31 at 10 o'clock. The race is to be held at 3 o'clock and will be held over the Carroll course.

WINNING HIS HABIT.

Palm Beach, Fla., March 14.—G. S. Bryan, Bridgeport, Conn., won the final match in the consolation singles of the Florida State tennis championship, which was postponed from last week, from John S. Phelps, New York, 10-8, 4-6, 6-0, thereby establishing a record, as this marks the third consecutive time Bryan has won this event.

DODGERS TO DRILL.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 14.—Hot Springs drill draws into the Dodge camp according to reports here, the National League champions will start learning how to be soldiers.

OLSON TO PLAY THIRD.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 14.—Ivy Olson looks to have Mike Mowrey's job at third base for the Robins stowed away in his kick.

BOB THAYER'S GOSSIP ON SPORTING MATTERS

Report has it that Yale purposes to protest the entries of Vere Windagle and Alma Richards, of Cornell, in the championships of the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes on Franklin Field in May. It is contended that as Windagle completed at the University of Oregon and Richards at Brigham Young University before they entered Cornell, both have completed their three-year terms of eligibility.

Observation at the national amateur championship billiard tournament at the Boston A. A. emphasized the fact that 400 point matches are altogether too long for non-professionals. Officials of the National Association of Amateur Billiard Players some time ago declared that the Boston tournament would be used as a basis for deciding whether the present limit was 100 or 200 points. The limit was set at 100 points, and the amateur billiard players should be asked to attain it.

It has been established that he who leads at 300 points is pretty certain to win the match. A 300 point contest is a sufficient test of skill and obviates the fourth hundred, which very often drives many a spectator into a fit of ennui and frequently from the scene.

Whether Tom Rooney, national sculling champion, professionalized himself by teaching in a playground for money will be decided at the annual meeting of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen here next Saturday. James Pilkington, president of the association, has appointed Harry Penn Burke, of Philadelphia; James P. Fox, of Boston, and Fred Fortmyer, of this city, to investigate Rooney's case, and report to the executive committee.

It is reported that the committee also is investigating the amateur standing of two oarsmen now out for the crew at a certain Eastern college. Whether the materialize a sensation is promised.

Many big league stars have gone their way this season, and if President Tener is to be taken seriously there will be many others who will find their way either into the minors or out of baseball altogether. The magnates want all players to hustle for their jobs, and if they fail there will be considerable hulling. There is much to be said on both sides the recent controversy which is now past history. Baseball can be brought into its own again if the right sort of handling of both players and public is indulged in by those in control.

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ALLEGED CHAMPION IS TOUGH FIGHTER

Al McCoy, Middleweight, a Joke, But No One is Able to Take His Title.

NEW YORK, 14.—Recently when Al McCoy was matched with Les Darcy for a bout in Madison Square Garden every fight fan in New York began to pan the pending meeting. Like-wise, most critics hopped into the paning brigade and gave the match a broadside or so.

The result was that Promoter Grant Hugh Brown decided Al wouldn't do as an opener for his club in the garden, and switched over to Jack Dillon when he had the chance.

Al McCoy has been laughed at so unmercifully since he luckily dropped George Chip in a single punch and came into Chip's alleged middleweight title that he behooves some one to slip in a word of commendation for him.

Is Tough Fighter.

McCoy is the toughest middleweight who has shown his wares in a New York ring for many a day. Dillon hit him with everything he had in stock, and he didn't more than make the Brooklyn boy blink. They were crushing blows that most of the heavyweights would have fallen under. Al took them, and at the end of the bout he was just as fresh as Dillon.

Had the bout gone ten rounds longer, it is very doubtful if Dillon would have been able to wear down his lighter opponent, and if it had been one of the old-time forty-five round affairs McCoy might have been a winner, although he was pitted against one of the toughest boys who ever stepped through the ropes of a ring.

McCoy Hard To Hit.

McCoy didn't hit Dillon hard enough for the Indiana scrapper to really feel the effect of it. His heavy right hand has been greatly overrated. But McCoy's style is a hard one to fathom. He is very hard to hit, and he is very dangerous. He can keep on and on where other boxers would falter and fade away.

McCoy isn't a champion, but he stopped the man who was credited with being a champion, and he fell heir to the title. But, although he isn't a champion, these isn't a middleweight title that he was pitted against in a ten-round, no-decision bout.

QUIMET NOT RANKED

Gullford Placed At Scratch By Massachusetts Golf Body.

BOSTON, March 14.—The handicap list of the Massachusetts Golf Association, which was announced today, places Jesse P. Gullford, of the Woodland Golf Club, State champion, alone at scratch.

The names of Francis Quimet, former national amateur champion, who headed the list last year at plus 1, and of J. H. Sullivan, Jr., who, with Quimet, was declared ineligible to compete as an amateur in national play, are not included in the list.

The players of the highest rank below Gullford are: Handicap, 1—J. B. Anderson, Braintree; W. C. Chick, Braintree; R. R. Gorton, Braintree; P. W. Whitmore, the Country.

Handicap, 2—R. W. Brown, Meadbrook; B. W. Estabrook, the Country; S. K. Sterne, Tatnuck.

MARIE WAGNER WINS

Defeats Mrs. Anderson in Indoor Tennis Title Event.

NEW YORK, March 14.—Miss Marie Wagner's quest of the national indoor tennis championship became more intense yesterday in the tournament in the Seventh Regiment Armory, when she defeated Mrs. Elsie Rayer Anderson.

The former title holder triumphed in straight sets at 6-4, 6-3, and joined the coteries of eight survivors. The others who still are contenders are Miss Margaret Taylor, Miss Caroma Winn, Miss Marion Vanderhof, Mrs. de Forest Candee, Miss Gladys Dowling, Miss Helen Pollak and Miss Eleanor Goss.

PASSES BOXING BILL

New Jersey Legislature Authorizes Six-Round Bout.

TRENTON, N. J., March 14.—The house last night passed Assemblyman Hurley's bill authorizing the governor to appoint a State athletic commission of three men to hold office for three years at an annual salary of \$2,500 each.

They will have power and authority to permit boxing and sparring exhibitions throughout the State, not to exceed six rounds each.

MCCLURE IS MEDALIST.

PALM BEACH, Fla., March 14.—Few of the 100 entries for the golf championship of Florida, the qualifying round of which was played here today, played consistent golf, although conditions were ideal. A. J. McClure, of Lakewood, N. J., medalist in the Lake Worth tournament last month, returned the best card today, 34-32-70.

CLAPP HAS CHANCE.

PINEHURST, N. C., March 14.—J. H. Clapp, of Chevy Chase, has a chance to overhaul the leaders in the tin whistle tournament which started yesterday. Clapp stands at 84 net for the first eighteen holes.

BOWLS WELL IN A. B. C.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., March 14.—Jack Reilly, one of Chicago's best bowlers, was the best performer yesterday in the A. B. C. tenpin tournament with a set of 661 in the singles. It placed him fourth.

SCHOOLBOYS READY FOR THEIR LETTERS

Five Teams Will Give Out Basketball Awards Within Next Ten Days.

Basketball letters will be awarded at the various high schools during the next week. Tech is scheduled to celebrate its championship at a general assembly some time within ten days.

Tech has elected Earnest Schneider captain of next year's team. Ten letters will be given out by the general organization at Tech. Of the ten players to be honored five will be given to the team, D. Pfeiffer, De La Vergne, Myers, Biggs and Borland are due to graduate.

Wine's First Title.

Tech's team, coached by Billy Martin, won its first championship in the first campaign. Catlin, Tabb, De La Vergne and Schneider have had experience before, but were molded into a fine combination by the former Georgetown star.

In addition to the five who graduate, Anderson, Catlin, Tabb, J. Pfeiffer and Schneider will receive the certificate and letter.

Others Make Awards.

Eastern will have six letters to give out for basketball next week. Cummings, Newman, Thomas, Baldwin, Powers and Earnshaw have played in enough games to get their letters. The Easterners came through with several notable performances, considering the size of the players and the handicap under which they played, having a poor floor upon which to practice.

Western will give out letters some time soon to Chamberlaine, Wight, D. Herron, W. Herron, Groves, Davidson, Johnstone and Manager King. Western will lose Johnstone, Chamberlaine and Davidson from the team.

Central Nominations.

Several players have been nominated at Centalton, Long and Kaplan will receive their letters. One or two others are in line for their letters, having played the required number of games.

The business players probably will nominate R. Wise, B. Wise, MacDonald, Perly, Raedy, Towbes and Glessner for letters.

WILL RACE AGAIN

Failure of Officials to Designate Winners Causes Challenge.

Firm in the belief that the Carroll institute athletes are better at cross country running than those representing Baltimore's cross country club, the race recently held in Baltimore, Md., will be run over.

Officials were unable to pick the men finishing after the first five and Carroll has agreed to stage the event here on March 31 at 10 o'clock. The race is to be held at 3 o'clock and will be held over the Carroll course.

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MATTY PITCHES WELL.

SHREVEPORT, La., March 14.—With the aid of the good right arm of Fred