

# Connie Mack in Earnest---Griff Begins Hard Work---Evers a Shortstop

## LOOKING 'EM OVER BY LOUIS A. DOUGHER

### Connie Mack In Earnest

For one thing, Connie Mack is downright in earnest about bettering his ball club. Not only has he the largest squad in the major leagues, but he began work the first. With two practice sessions daily and a flock of exhibition games coming with the St. Louis Cardinals, the Mackmen hope to be in shape to hand out some punishment on and after April 14.

With the exception of Ralph Perkins behind the plate and Amos Strunk in the garden, no player in the big squad now working out at Lake Charles, La., is sure of his job, or even of sticking with the club. Tilly Walker comes the closest after the two mentioned, but no one else is certain of working at Shibe Park. In other words, they've all got to show Connie.

Beginning with 1915, Connie Mack has steadily finished at the bottom of the heap each October. When he scrapped his famous world's champions, he knew it would be difficult to make another, but it is unlikely that he realized quite how difficult the task would be. He does now, though.

The fading away of the minor leagues has much to do with the failure of Connie in rebuilding his Athletics. You can't use players when there are none. You can't buy players when there are none for sale. You can't trade players when there are none. And that's been exactly the trouble with the Philadelphia Athletics. Connie sold too many of his players. He was unable to fill their places.

However, there's a chance for Connie this year. In the past five years the scarcity of players has affected the other clubs, too. The others have slowly but surely been coming back to the Mackmen in lack of class. It is safe to say that the big leagues have been slowing up ever since the supply of speedy youngsters dropped off. Today several clubs look much stronger than the Mackmen, but there are more closer to their standard than they were in 1915.

**Tries Out Many Kids.**  
Connie, following his announced policy, is trying out many youngsters this season, but many of these new players have had some experience. Take, for instance, Bryan Harris, the big pitcher from Houston, and Pat Martin, the southpaw from Birmingham. Harris is without major league experience, but he has been performing under shrewd managers in the bushes for several years, and has cut his eye-teeth. The same goes for Martin. These pitchers are not young boys off the lot, but players who have faced the music, even if not the full symphony of the big show.

By Griffin, who will probably be the first baseman in the new lineup, is the Oregon-bred George Burns, played in the bushes last year. His fielding is said to be fine, and the only mystery about him is the mystery accompanying every candidate at every big league camp. "Can he hit?" But Connie has a little arm in addition to them, and may find other good ones in the lot.

If Connie can finish as high as seventh this year, he may consider himself fortunate, but many fans outside of Philadelphia believe the Mackmen will do even better than that.

### COMPANY C GUARDSMEN ANNEX LEAGUE'S TITLE

Win Eight Games and Silver Cup in District Circuit in Basketball.

Company C, of the District National Guard, is today winner of the D. C. N. G. Basketball League title. The team has won eight straight games and lost none. In recognition of the successful win of the league honor the team will be presented with a silver cup.

### BROKERS HURL DEFI IN STARTING UP BASEBALL

The Brokers baseball team has organized for the season. Harry LaFontaine has been elected manager, and George Barnholdt, captain. At a meeting held at W. B. Hibbs & Co. recently the Brokers decided to put out a team, and expect to play on one of the Monument Lot diamonds.

### TRINITY IS IN LINE.

Trinity A. C. baseball players are expected to have a successful season with two teams in the field. A meeting will be held tomorrow night at the residence of William Cronin, 2402 M street northwest, at 7:30 o'clock to talk over plans for the season.

### HINKEL AT SPRINGS.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 8.—Matt Hinkel, the Cleveland sportsman, who recently attempted to buy the Red Sox from Harry Frazee, will have a chance to look over Ed Barrow's squad training here. Hinkel has arrived for a short vacation.

### WILL START UP TEAM.

Linworth A. C. members are meeting Wednesday night at the Epiphany Chapel, Twelfth and C streets southwest, to start their baseball campaign.

### LOANS HORNING DIAMONDS, WATCHES, JEWELRY

South End of Highway Bridge

## GRIFF SEES MANY TRIUMPHS COMING

Thinks His Team Will Wallop World's Champions More Often Than Not.

TAMPA, Fla., March 8.—A week of intensive training opens today for the Washington Griffins in preparation for the long series of exhibition games booked to begin March 17. President Griffith declares himself satisfied with conditions and predicts more victories than defeats for his lads, once they are hooked up with Pat Moran's champions of the universe.

Though Trainer Mike Martin went sailing in an airplane with Capt. Ralph Johnson here yesterday, climbing some 3,500 feet to perform flip flops, side slips, tail spins and nose dives, President Griffith frowns on permitting Walter Johnson to fly to St. Augustine to pitch two innings. "That may be all right for Mike, but it will never do for Walter," says Griffith.

Walter says nothing either way. MIAMI, Fla., March 8.—Nine members of the world champion Red Sox started training at 9 o'clock this morning. The rest of the team, minus holdout Henne Groh, will arrive some time today, among them Walter Reuther, who has not signed a contract, and Jimmy Ring, figured by Manager Moran to be his headliner this season.

DALLAS, Tex., March 8.—After encountering excellent weather up to today and having a wealth of material with which to work, Manager Branch Rickey firmly believes the Cardinals will journey into St. Louis in April as a real pennant contender.

HOOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 8.—Mike Meposky is the only outfielder in the Red Sox training camp. Hooper, Hendryx and Marsens are the only others in sight. Wally Schang hasn't reported yet, and good catchers are needed here.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 8.—The Giants began their second week of spring training today, with morning practice and evening sessions in chill weather. All hands are now at camp.

JACKSONVILLE, March 8.—Though satisfied with his playing material, Manager Higgins admitted, as the Yankees began the second week of training today, that he has a problem to solve in deciding on his line-up. The Yanks' first practice games will start tomorrow.

JACKSONVILLE, March 8.—Burling Grimes, Zach Wheat and Hi Myers were still missing when the Yodgers resumed practice today after Sunday's rest. Manager Johnson will still line-up into shape for the first exhibition game with the Yankees next Saturday.

PASADENA, Cal., March 8.—Real major league performances are to be required of the Cub rookies Tuesday, when they play the Venon Pacific Coast League champions. Link Bailey and Martin Stolz are the new hurriers to be tried out.

NEW ORLEANS, March 8.—Despite the fact that the opposing hurriers had been working all winter and were able to mix curves with speed, the Red Sox won the decision over the Pelicans yesterday, 11 to 6.

MACON, Ga., March 8.—Bernie Roland and Bobby Veach led the reinforcements to the Tiger squad arriving today and by nightfall all the regulars except Ty Cobb and "Dutch" Leonard are expected to be here.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 8.—The Pittsburgh Pirates reached here today to start spring training. Word was received from Catcher Walter Schmidt, the hold-out, that he intended to play semipro ball on the coast.

LAKE CHARLES, La., March 8.—The Athletic regulars are being hard pressed in their daily sessions with the rookies. Most of the pitching staff is showing well. "Toga" Burns is the latest arrival in camp.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 8.—With practically all players on hand, the Phillies, tired and train sore, commenced their spring "gruelling" at the Birmingham fair grounds today. Manager Cravath forthwith issued stringent training orders.

### WOULD TRIM YANKS.

Sixty-third Infantry basketball players of Potomac Park are out after the scalp of the Y. M. C. A. Yankees, and will play them on the date of March 15. The infantrymen have won fourteen games in a row, defeating the Ingram team by 38 to 27 in the last engagement.

### BLOOMINGDALE READY.

Bloomington A. C. baseball players are ready for the season. H. Irwin, 72 U street northwest, is manager.

### WILL DELAY SQUAD CALLS.

High school baseball squads will delay their initial calls until more seasonable weather.

### ORGANIZE FOR SEASON.

St. Dominic's baseball players have organized for the season. Games can be arranged with Harry Frazee, 261 I street northwest.

### WALTER REED PLAYS.

Walter Reed Hospital basketball players will meet the Y. M. C. A. Yankees in the boys' "Y" gymnasium tonight.

## Here Are the Tech High Champion Basketers



McKinley Manual Training School lads meet the McKeesport High players of Pennsylvania on Friday. Standing—McNulty, Heine, Wilbur M. Apple, coach; Neviase, House and Joynes. Sitting—Gude, Parket, captain-elect; Gosnell, captain; Loehler, and Hutchinson. Lying—MacCartee and Shaw.

## TECH IS UNBEATEN BY SCHOOL QUINTS

Manual Trainers Have Unusual Record to Show McKeesport High Friday.

McKeesport High School basketball champions of their section in Pennsylvania, who play here Friday afternoon at Brookland in the big C. A. gymnasium, will face a first-class team in Tech High, champions of the Washington High School A. A. League.

The Washington schoolboys have not been beaten by a scholastic quint this season. Independent teams have scored but three wins over Tech's players, and all of these were early season games, where Tech played out of its class.

In the league engagements Tech cleaned up for Business, last year's titleholder; Central, Western and Eastern. In every game but one Tech doubled the score of its opponents.

The Manual Trainers present Hutchinson, rated as the best forward in scholastic ranks; Loehler, the strongest center in the high schools; Gosnell, Parker, Gude, Neviase, House, Shaw, Joynes, McCarty and McNulty. This is the first squad also coached by Wilbur M. Apple.

Tech also possesses a first-class reserve team, which has lost but three games this season. The freshman team has also been victorious in a majority of games. The teams practice at the Y. M. C. A.

The record of the Tech basketers in scholastic games is as follows: Technical, 26; Army and Navy Prep, 14; Technical, 39; Alumni, 11; Technical, 24; Business, 15; Technical, 83; Martinsburg, 11; Technical, 22; Central, 11; Technical, 25; Western, 12; Technical, 27; Episcopical, 12; Technical, 33; Business, 16; Technical, 40; Army and Navy, 12; Technical, 29; Central, 27; Technical, 31; Manassas, 15; Technical, 21; Baltimore Poly, 12; Technical, 25; Eastern, 17; Technical, 37; Episcopical, 20; Technical, 19; Eastern, 6; Technical, 62; Martinsburg, 19.

The Manual Trainers have been without the services of Hutchinson who has been out of the game with the "flu" for a week. He is expected back in the line-up for Friday.

The McKeesport High team will start this way today. They are expected to tackle Baltimore Poly and Tome before playing here Friday, although their plans are uncertain. A large following of high school basketers are expected to attend the game.

## CHICK HOLBROOK WORKS PREPARING FOR CONTEST

Chick Holbrook, Washington's promising batsman, is working out these days in order to be in shape for his coming bouts. Frankie Mann, his manager, is anxious to land the little fellow for a star bout at Ardmore, and there is a chance that Kid Sullivan, the Ardmore impresario, will talk business now.

Holbrook is easily one of the best boys in his class in this section of the country, and he has many followers who would like to see him in action at Ardmore. The little fellow is in good health and ready for anything.

## VIRGINIA ENTERS C. U. TRACK MEET

With Georgetown, Virginia, Hopkins and Catholic University runners competing in the South Atlantic intercollegiate events, and Central, Tech and Western upholding the scholastic end against Baltimore Poly, Tome and Staunton Military Academy, the big meet at Catholic University set for Saturday night promises to be a real meet.

Georgetown is making a great bid for South Atlantic honors, and seems destined to grab off the largest share. In point of numbers and class of competitors Central appears to have the edge on the other schools.

More than three hundred entries have been received by Raymond Rutledge, of the games committee at Catholic University. Those in charge of the meet promise exceptional facilities for handling the athletes.

The list of officials to be given out shortly promises to leave nothing to be desired.

The open events, South Atlantic intercollegiate A. A. events, those in which the schoolboys participate and the many relay races scheduled insure exceptional competition.

## CADDOCK MEETS LEWIS FOR CHANCE AT TITLE

NEW YORK, March 8.—Earl Caddock and Strangler Lewis have today been matched to meet in a finish wrestling match at Madison Square Garden March 15. The winner will then be in line for a crack at Joe Stecher's championship crown.

## NICKALLS IS BACK.

Guy Nickalls, who left New Haven in 1914 to take his place as an officer in the Lancashire Fusiliers for service against the Boche, is back at Yale in charge of the crew candidates. He was wounded by shrapnel while serving in Italy shortly before the armistice was signed, but has completely recovered.

## WILL PLAY FOR TITLE.

Baltimore City College basketers and those of the Friends School, of Baltimore, are playing for the Monumental City title. B. C. C. won in its section, and Friends in its section. The Baltimore City lads won the first engagement by a 3 to 2 score.

## GALLAUDET GOES OFF.

Gallaudet College basketball players go to Akron, Ohio, this week to play Akron Regulars and the Firestone Silents. The games will be played Saturday and next Monday.

## DROPS RAY KEATING.

Ray Keating, the veteran pitcher, has been released to Los Angeles as the Braves' reply to his demand for higher salary.

## TO USE IRON HEEL.

"No more of this 'big brother' stuff for me hereafter," says Charley Comiskey to Chicago scribes. "After this it's the iron heel for my players. I'm cured." This is one effect of the spring holdout among the White Sox.

## COUNTS ON NOYES.

Though Winn Noyes proved a failure with the Red Sox, Kid Gleason says he thinks the twister will make good with the Chicago club this year.

## THEY SELL BONDS.

The Syracuse International League club is selling \$75,000 worth of bonds among the fans, guaranteeing 6 per cent interest.

## EVERS STARTED AS SHORTFIELDER IN HIS FIRST BIG LEAGUE CONTEST

By FREDERICK G. LIEB.

On the night of August 31, 1902, a lean, undersized lad in his late teens left Troy, N. Y., bound for Philadelphia, where he had received instructions to report to Frank Selee's Chicago Cubs, who then were playing in the town of Billy Penn.

After riding all night in a stuffy smoker, the youngster arrived in Philly on Labor Day morning. It was the first time he ever had been in a major league town.

He went down to the Bingham House, in Philadelphia, where the Cubs were stopping and reported to Selee. "I'm the new infielder from Troy," he announced.

The youngster weighed only 105 pounds and when the other Chicago players learned that he had been engaged to play an infield position they didn't know whether to laugh or get sore. It wasn't very easy for a youngster to break in those days, but when a kid happened to be only a hundred-pounder the sledding was still tougher.

They had a Labor Day parade in Philadelphia on the morning of September 1, 1902, and instead of playing the usual morning and afternoon games a doubleheader was put on in the afternoon. When the Chicago players dressed and got into the old-fashioned two-horse bus which was to take them out to the park the veteran Cubs refused to let the rookie ride in the bus with them, but made him ride alone on top of the vehicle.

One may imagine the thoughts of this boy as he bounced on the roof of the bus, listening to the cruel laughter of the players inside.

He Sent Him to Short.

When the players lined up for practice, Selee sent the little fellow to short. He overheard Jack Taylor, the old-time pitcher, remark to the Cub leader, "You'll be held responsible if that kid gets hurt."

And then the little fellow's jaw snapped. He showed these old birds something. And he had quite a jaw to snap, for the rookie we refer to was Johnny J. Evers, Troy's most famous citizen.

Evers never had seen a big league ball player until that Labor Day afternoon. He had a pretty bad case of butter fingers in his first big league game, but managed to get eight of his ten chances. At bat he made one hit, drew a base on balls and struck out.

Doc White, the left-hander, who later pitched for the White Sox while Evers was at the height of his career with the Cubs, was the first big league pitcher that Johnny faced. Dusty Rhoades, who later starred with Cleveland in the American League, was Chicago's pitcher in this game. In the second game of the doubleheader Evers batted against Chick Fraser, who later became a member of the Cubs.

It is interesting now to look back to Evers' first big league box score and note that he broke in as a shortstop. Joe Tinker played third base in the same game. Later when Johnny was moved over to second and Tinker to short the combination became the most famous in the National League.

Was a Baseball Accident.

Evers really was a baseball accident. The Cubs had a scout up in the New York State League, who was sent to look up a Pitcher Hardy. Selee then sent him a message that he needed an infielder immediately, so he sent him the nineteen-year-old kid, Evers.

Johnny's start with the Cubs

## Evers Is a Shortstop in His First

(At Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 1, 1902.)

CHICAGO NATIONALS					
	AB	R	H	P. O.	E
Jim Slagle, lf.	4	1	2	2	0
John Dobby, cf.	4	1	2	2	1
John Kling, 1b.	4	1	2	1	0
Joe Tinker, 2b.	5	0	1	4	1
Frank Chance, 3b.	4	0	1	2	0
John Evers, ss.	4	0	1	2	0
Bob Lowe, 2b.	4	0	0	5	3
Andy Hunslett, 3b.	4	0	1	0	0
Art Williams, rf.	4	0	1	0	0
White, p.	4	0	1	0	0
Totals	35	3	14	21	5

PHILADELPHIA NATIONALS					
	AB	R	H	P. O.	E
Roy Thomas, cf.	5	1	2	2	1
John Wolfenb., 2b.	5	1	2	2	1
John Barry, rf.	6	2	3	1	0
Henry Krug, lf.	5	2	2	1	0
Paul Hunslett, 3b.	5	3	1	1	0
Hugh Jennings, 1b.	5	3	3	2	2
Franklin Robinson, c.	5	1	2	0	0
W. B. Douglas, c.	3	0	1	2	0
Clarence Childs, 2b.	2	0	0	3	0
Due White, p.	4	0	2	0	0
Totals	39	11	14	27	4

Chicago, 1; Philadelphia, 2.

Philadelphia, 1; Chicago, 2.

Chicago, 2; Philadelphia, 1.

## JOE SUGDEN HAS JOB.

Joe Sugden, old-time catcher, is acting as coach and scout with the St. Louis Cardinals this season.

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