

# OLD HEADS THE BEST

### Brains Count More Than Brawn In Winning Close Ball Games.

## VETERANS MADE BROWNS.

St. Louis Americans Greatly Strengthened by Ferris, Williams, Hoffman and Jones—Lack of Old Heads Cause of New York Yanks Downfall.

Old heads in the game of baseball are in demand. The old heads on the St. Louis Americans have kept the Browns to the front this season. Old heads advising the Chicago Americans have kept them well up in the race all season. It is the lack of old heads in important places that shoved the New York Americans way down in the second division. In a close race the old heads win pennants.

A tribute was paid recently to an old head by Fielder Jones, manager of the Chicago Americans, in securing the return of Frank Isbell to the White Sox. Isbell is one of the veterans of the game. Three or four years ago many thought he was getting too old to play the game longer. In fact, he was on the bench most of one season because it was thought he was all through. But recently he was sought with flattering offers by Comiskey. In Chicago they think the return of Isbell to the team will assure the Sox of another pennant.

Fielder Jones has two lively infielders, young in years, Atz and Purtell. They can hit, run and throw with finish. But he has them sitting on the bench since Isbell returned. The Sox have too many games to be won by one run, and one of these youngsters is liable to make a little mistake in judgment that will lose such a game. The old head doesn't make such mistakes.

See what a difference it has made with the St. Louis Americans. The accession of Jimmy Williams, Hobe Ferris, Charley Jones and Danny Hoffman has raised the Browns from second division to contenders for the pennant. Hoffman and Jones have not been in the game regularly of late because of a slight slump in hitting at the same time that the young players, Schwitzer and Hartzell, have shown a spurt in that department. But the veterans will be back in that lineup when their batting eyes return.

The Boston Americans' young players have been leading the league in hitting and are running bases like wild men. But Boston is down in the second division because the youngsters have thrown away game after game through lack of judgment as well as fielding errors. When this team has dragged through a couple of seasons in the American league and learned all the tricks it should be a winner. But the speed of youth has little chance unless head work is with it.

The Chicagoans have the lightest hitting team in the league, but they are winning games just the same. It's because there is brain work in every play conducted by such men as George Davis, "Jiggs" Donohue, Fielder Jones, Lee Tannehill, Billy Sullivan, Pat Dougherty and Freddie Parent. John Anderson, though a veteran, has never been famous for headwork, but he is hitting the ball so hard that he holds a place with those scholars.

Jimmy Williams and Hobe Ferris, now with the Browns, are not noted for their speed nor for any great strength in hitting, but the addition of these two men has made an infield for the Browns that can hardly be equaled, for with Wallace and Tom Jones they have formed a combination that is splendid in execution and judgment.

Clarke Griffith let Jimmy Williams leave the team, and the whole New York infield collapsed. Harry Niles, who replaced him, has a lot of speed and is a promising player, but he couldn't step into Williams' shoes and fill them the first year.

But the most important place of all for an old head is in the pitcher's box. That is the place where there is a think every half minute in every game. In a close game there is a course of reasoning goes with every ball that is thrown. It's a tough place for a beginner. Still, the beginner may have such tremendous speed and perfect speed and control that he will get through such a game with a victory. But every manager would prefer to have one of his veterans in the box at such times.

In the old days of free hitting and big scores the pitcher didn't need to think so much. It was generally a contest of batting. The team that could bat in the most runs was the victor. It was never talked of as the pitcher that could pitch the better ball. But today so much depends on the pitcher that he is under a terrific mental strain from the first to the ninth inning, except in contests where his side gets a big lead early in the game and permits him to take chances on letting the other fellows hit the ball.

Naps' New Catcher. Cleveland has a new catcher in Thomas Doran, who was with the Rochester club of the Eastern league last year. He will get a chance when Clarke and Bemis want a rest.

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## DONLIN LINING 'EM OUT.

New York Nationals' Star Outfielder Leading League With the Stick.

Captain Mike Donlin of the New York Nationals—every baseball fan the country over knows him and calls him by his first name. Donlin's reputation is national. At present Mike is the leading sphere swatter of the National league, with an average of .332. Donlin is one of the most natural hitters who ever handled a bat. That is his reputation among ball players, and opposing pitchers consider him about the most dangerous of batsmen to face. So fearful are they of his mighty



MIKE DONLIN, CAPTAIN AND LEFT FIELDER OF NEW YORK NATIONALS.

wallops that he is frequently passed purposely when men are on the bases.

Mike is a consistent .300 batter. He seldom falls below that high percentage. Donlin has a graceful, careless position at bat. He is never set. He places himself so as to either place the ball or fail it as the opportunity arises, and he is quick to take advantage of any momentary lapse of watchfulness on the pitcher's part. Donlin does not swing hard at the ball, only when he pulls to right field and when he thinks a long drive is the proper caper. Usually he just meets the ball, timing it perfectly, and with a little snappy wrist movement sends the sphere out like a shot. As an outfielder Donlin also shines and is besides a very speedy base runner.

## CRISS, GREAT PINCH HITTER.

St. Louis American Pitcher Leading League With the Stick.

Baseball fans are taking the greatest interest in the wonderful pinch hitting of Dode Criss, the big pitcher who is being used chiefly as emergency batter by the St. Louis Americans. Criss is leading the American league in hitting, with an average of .371. He has not pitched a full game this year, having started one and finished a couple of others. But he has been sent into nearly every game in which the Browns were behind in the ninth inning simply to bat, and he has made good more than one-third of the time. Recently he was hitting at the tremendous clip of .450, but has not been so successful lately and has dropped off .79 points. Manager McAleer intends to carry him all season, even if he never uses him in the box. Criss is a big fellow, standing six feet two inches, and of the most powerful physique.

He began his professional career in 1906 at Cleburne, Tex., in the Texas league, where he hit .396. Last year he was at St. Paul, batting .281. Manager Armour of Toledo said of him at the close of last season, "Our batters used to hate to see him going in to pitch, and our pitchers used to hate to see him going to bat."

Criss is a right hand pitcher and a left hand batter. He is only twenty-three years old.

Grant Quite a Sprinter. Third Baseman Grant of the Philadelphia Nationals is a rapid mover when running to first base and has a final long stride that gets him there all the quicker.

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# BIG TENNIS TOURNEY

### Stars of West and Middle West Play at Onwentsia July 22-25.

## EIGHT TEAMS ARE ENTERED.

Nat Emerson of Cincinnati, Western Champion, to Pair With His Able Rival Harry Waldner of Chicago. Value of Round Robin Meets.

Eight of the leading tennis teams to be found in America will be seen at an invitation round robin four day tournament to be held at the Onwentsia (near Chicago) club courts beginning Wednesday, July 22. The Lake Forest club takes the dates abandoned by the Wanderers' Cricket and Athletic association, which were to have filled in the week between the Illinois state championship tournament at Astor and the western championship tournament at the Kenwood Country club.

The announcement that the Wanderers' open tournament had been called off came as a big surprise to the tennis fans and was a big disappointment to outside players, who had expected three weeks of continuous tennis, only to learn that the middle week would be one of idleness.

The Onwentsia club therefore came to the rescue and filled in with the round robin invitation affair, which will afford entertainment for the eight best double teams that can be paired. A complete list of the entries is not ready as yet, but will probably be as follows:

Waldner and Emerson, McLaughlin and Gardner, Harvey and Paul MacQuiston, Peters and Hayes, John Neely and partner, Allan C. Ross and Wallace Johnson, one eastern team and an Onwentsia club team.

Champions in their various classes believe that the round robin tournament is the fairest and best way of getting the average of the teams. In this way every team must meet every other team and one defeat does not necessarily knock a team out of further competition, as in the state and western championship titles, where the matches are simmered down to the finals and then to the challenge round. A player might be a trifle off his play on one day and still win the match by playing good tennis the balance of the time. This was the case a few years ago when Harry Waldner defeated the two fastest players in a round robin tournament. These were the only games he won, and they were also the only games these two men lost, and they fought it out at the finish for the high honors. Waldner would therefore have eliminated them both in championship matches and deprived them of the opportunity to compete with any one else in the qualifying rounds.

By giving an all star round robin event it assures an interesting contest in every match, and as there will be about eight matches, each day it will give the guests at Onwentsia an opportunity to see tennis the like of which has not been played in Chicago since the tournaments at the old Chicago club were held under similar conditions years ago.

L. Harry Waldner, the Chicago star, and Nat Emerson, the tall sycamore from Cincinnati, who is western champion, will be the favorites among the Chicagoans unless Waldner's sprained ankle bothers him or is turned again. He is playing great tennis in practice—better than he ever did at this time of the season—and word comes from Emerson that he is keying himself up to perfect form.

McLaughlin and Gardner are the California champions in doubles and are two of the fastest men seen on western courts in some years. Harvey and Paul MacQuiston, champions of Mexico, will be another crack team to watch.

Allen Ross, who won the intercollegiate championship at the University of Chicago recently, will have as his partner Wallace Johnson of Philadelphia, winner of the national interscholastic championship this year.

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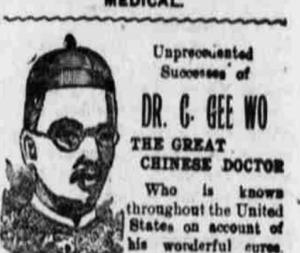
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