

SPORTING NEWS

Donovan Believes Fritz Maisel Will Develop Into Wonderful Outfielder



Photo by American Press Association.

BILL DONOVAN states that Fritz Maisel will develop into one of the best outfielders in the American league. For some time Bill was in a quandary as to whether to keep Maisel or Baker at third. Shortly before the Yanks started for the training camp Donovan made up his mind to give Maisel the first chance to make good in the outfield. Fritz made good from the start. In fact, the Yanks' leader believes that before the season is half over Maisel will be considered among the greatest in Ben Johnson's league. With Maisel making good as an outfielder and third base well looked after by Home Run Baker, the Yanks are bound to make a good showing this season.

SOME BASEBALL REFORMS FOOLISH

They Appear Ridiculous to the Ordinary Fan.

MOVING PITCHERS IS ONE.

Considerable Talk and Much Fuss Over Uniformity of Diamond Does Not Interest Fans to Any Great Extent. New Draft Plan Another.

Tremendous Improvement in the game of baseball is predicted by the magnates as a result of radical legislation since peace was declared, with a view to correcting past evils, says Cy Sanborn, the veteran baseball critic.

Some pitching slabs will be moved a whole inch farther from the plate, and all diamonds will be of certified uniformity. Tail end teams of one season are to become pennant winners in the following season if the dream of C. Hercules Ebbets of Brooklyn is realized by the simple expedient of a change in the draft system.

In spite of these vast improvements, if put in force, the baseball fan won't be able to notice even a flicker of change in his favorite pastime. They are all right in themselves, but extremely inconsequential compared to improvements demanded by the fans and overlooked by the legislators. There is considerable excuse for that, of course, as the winter has been pretty full of endeavor to restore baseball to a peace basis after the two year upheaval caused by the Federal league.

Make Mistake in Figures.

Uniformity in diamonds is highly desirable in the interest of absolute fair play, but it practically has existed in the past. An inch may be quite perceptible on the end of a man's nose, but imperceptible in a distance of twenty yards or so. The official layout of the playing field is distance between the home plate and the pitcher's slab is designated by these hieroglyphics, "60.5." Mathematically that means sixty and five-tenths feet, or sixty and one-half feet, which means sixty feet and six inches. Some ignoramuses have taken it to mean sixty feet and five inches; hence the great disparity in diamonds.

This error has been of greater effect in locating second base, which is supposed to be 127.2750 feet from the home plate and ninety feet from first

base as well as ninety feet from third base. Some ignorantes have tried to locate it 63.62945 feet from the pitcher's slab, as they mistook the official prescription, and consequently have been unable to fix it so that it would be equidistant—thirty yards—from first and third bases. All this is to be corrected by officially stamped, sealed and delivered surveys of major league diamonds this year, so everything is bound to be just perfectly lovely.

Here's Ebbets' Great Plan.

Ebbets' epochal reformation of the draft rule is merely a revival of the scheme to give major league clubs the right to draft minor league players in the reverse order of the way the teams finish in the pennant race—that is, the tail end clubs of each major league would have first crack at the draft, and the pennant winners would have last chance at minor league "prospects." This would entail postponing the drafting season, of course. At the present time of drafting minor league players the major league pennant races are in progress, and some of the positions in the race are in doubt.

That would not be a serious hurdle to overcome if the reformation would produce any particular benefit. It does not in the least change the fact that the club owners with the coin and the willingness to spend it will continue to get the cream of the minor league talent each year, barring accidents, if they have good judgment or good scouts. They can grab off the most promising youngsters by purchase before the drafting season opens, just as they do now. Only by eliminating the purchase of minor league talent and making it possible to obtain recruits from the minors solely by way of the draft can Ebbets' scheme make any great difference in the results previously obtained.

Must Abolish Options.

Also in order to have the draft result in obtaining much talent of value it will be necessary to abolish the leasing of players under option contracts, by which practice the pick of the minor leagues now is mortgaged to major league teams before the season starts.

One reform which might have been adopted by a simple expedient is the abolition of the pinch hitter, greatly to the improvement of the game. To the average fan the strategy of the average manager is a cause of peevishness. Much of it is not understood by them anyway, and when it is understood it is the occasion of a lot of roasting if the strategic move goes wrong. The fans simply grind their teeth in rage when an air tight pitcher is taken out to let in a pinch hitter strike out for him with men on bases; then the substitute pitcher gets the over-lasting tar jammed out of him. It is different, of course, if the pinch hitter delivers a clean hit that puts his team ahead and the manager substitutes another air-tight pitcher who proves able to hold the score down. But that happens an absurdly few times by comparison with the times it doesn't.

STANDING OF THE CLUBS.

Table showing National League standings with columns for Won, Lost, P.c., and team names like Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Boston, etc.

National League Games Today.

Boston at Philadelphia. New York at Brooklyn. Only two games scheduled.

American League.

Table showing American League standings with columns for Won, Lost, P.c., and team names like Boston, Chicago, New York, etc.

American League Games Today.

Washington at Boston (morning and afternoon). Philadelphia at New York. Detroit at Cleveland. St. Louis at Chicago.

YESTERDAY'S GAMES.

National League. At Brooklyn New York-Brooklyn, cold weather. At St. Louis Chicago-St. Louis, wet grounds.

Table showing yesterday's game results for National League and American League.

At Cincinnati—10 innings Cincinnati, 4 10 2 Pittsburgh, 3 7 2 McKenry, Scholz, Schneider and Clarke, Wingo; Adams and Schmidt.

American League.

At Boston Washington, 4 7 3 Boston, 2 5 1 Harper and Williams; Shore, Penneck and Agnew.

At Cleveland Detroit, 4 9 2 Cleveland, 3 8 0 Cveteskie, Dube and Stanger; Norton, Mitchell and O'Neill.

At Chicago Chicago, 7 10 0 St. Louis, 2 6 3 Faber and Schalk; Groom, McCabe, Park and Hartley; Severoid.

At New York New York, 4 11 1 Philadelphia, 2 7 2 Shawkey and Nunamaker; Nahors, Sheehan, Crowell and Mayers.

PULPITES TO MAKE DECISION TOMORROW

Meeting Will Be Held to Consider Having Twin State Ball Toss.

Bellevue—Newport: Wants to Stay. (Special to The Reformer.)

BELLEVUE FALLS, April 19.

Baseball fans will be asked to decide whether they want Twin State league baseball here the coming season tomorrow evening, when a meeting will be held in Banquet hall. They also will be asked to elect new directors for the coming year and to express their preference as to what teams should constitute the league.

There has been much baseball gossip within the past few days. It has become known that Newport wants to remain in the league and that some of the Claremont followers and supporters of the game are willing to have their rivals back in the game. Claremont is waiting to hear from other towns before it gets down to work.

It is an opinion here is stronger for baseball than it was a year ago this week, when a meeting was held in the town hall to decide whether the town would enter a team in the Twin State. Major E. M. Keves of Keene says that that city is anxious to have Twin State ball but there is a lack of "pep" and no one seems willing to step forward and start the ball rolling and to assume the responsibility of keeping it rolling through the season.

Greenfield wants to be considered when it comes to organizing the circuit. Jack Zeller's six-club league, stretching from Leominster to Pittsfield, and back by way of Northampton, and including Greenfield, is not looked upon with favor by the men back of ball in that town.

As usual, Bellevue Falls would like to have Brattleboro in the game again. It is thought here that if someone would emerge from the ameba stage long enough to call a meeting and get the fans together in that town the fans might see their way clear to raise money to re-enter the league.

BELLEVUE FALLS SCHEDULE.

High School Baseball Team Opens April 22 at Barber Park. (Special to The Reformer.)

BELLEVUE FALLS, April 19.

Manager Harry Duffy of the high school baseball team has arranged his schedule for the coming season. The home games will be played at Barber park this year. For the first time in several years the Memorial day game will not be against Vermont academy. The schedule is as follows: April 22, Vermont Farm Machine company at Barber park. April 29, Brattleboro high at Barber park. May 6, Keene academy at Barber park. May 13, Vermont high at Keene. May 20, West Rutland high at Barber park. May 27, Brattleboro high at Brattleboro. May 29, West Rutland high at West Rutland. May 30, afternoon, Norwich university freshmen at Barber park. June 3, Vermont academy at Saxtons River. June 10, Keene high at Barber park.

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TARGET PRACTICE RECORDS.

Company I, V. N. G., have engaged the Army targets in record practice, with Corp. Edward Cavanaugh, with a score of 136, leading this last batch of members. The following are the records of this squad:

Table showing target practice records for Corp. Edw. Cavanaugh and other members of the squad.

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RAN AWAY FROM TEAM B.

Team C Has Margin of 98 Pins on Masonic Alleys.

Table showing scores for Team C and Team B in the Masonic alleys.

LEWIS BREAKS BAILEY'S NOSE.

Exhibition Bout in New York Theater Was Strenuous Affair. George W. Bailey, suffering with a broken nose as the result of an exhibition wrestling bout in a New York theater with Ed (Stanger) Lewis, who appeared here a short time ago in a bout with Tom Draak, is now with Schilling's Athletes, a show connected with Sol's United Shows. This exhibition opened in Saratoga, Pa., Saturday evening. Bailey is one of a team of wrestlers who is willing to meet all comers.

DUNLEVY'S TEAM MAY COME.

Plan on Foot to Have St. Michael's College Play Memorial Day.

There is a little scheme on to have the St. Michael's college nine, of which Bernard Dunlevy of Brattleboro is captain and shortstop, run down to Brattleboro and play a game Memorial day. It hasn't been so many days since Bernard was playing with Brattleboro high school and later with the Knights of Columbus team of the Brattleboro league. Several men in town are planning to bring this little plan to a focus.

HANSON THROWS "UNKNOWN."

Former Brattleboro Wrestler Now in Wilmington, N. C. Fritz Hanson, who made wrestling popular in Brattleboro at one time and unpopular at another, is holding forth in Wilmington, N. C., and is very popular there, according to the Morning Star of that city. Hanson has been wrestling matches with an "Unknown" who has worn a mask. From the account of the last match, which Hanson won, he apparently lost the first two matches. The masked one is claimed to be Louis Larue of Plymouth, N. C.

SPORTING NOTES.

Both Boston teams slipped on the same day. Columbia university defeated Colgate at New York yesterday, 8 to 1. It is not often that Walter Johnson retires under fire as he did Monday under the guns of the Red Sox. Yesterday's defeat with home in Boston by Washington was the first time since 1914 that the Senators had been able to win in Boston.

A considerable part of the reason for the University of Pennsylvania team losing its games may be found in the team batting average of .111. Crowell made his first appearance on the slab yesterday and twirled two innings against the Yankees, escaping without a hit being made off him. He did not issue a pass either.

The Worcester, Mass., baseball club has been presented with home and traveling uniforms by the "Boosters" club of that city. Now that you think of it the Twin State league missed a chance to increase expenses by not having two sets of uniforms.

Ray Keating, the Yankees spitball pitcher, has accepted terms. It is said that the kid has got his mind off the wonders of New York, which he saw first when signed to play with the Yankees three seasons ago, and is willing to settle down and tend to business. If this is true Donovan has a valuable asset.

William Hanna of the New York Sun echoes the feelings of many readers of college baseball scores when he

Advertisement for Brattleboro Trust Company, featuring the slogan 'Put it Down' and text about safety and financial services.

Working Up to It. "What's the matter, Adolphus? Why you look nervous and you can't keep still?" "You notice it, do you? Fine! Fine! I'm smoking a hundred cigarettes a day, drinking about 20 cups of strong coffee, not to mention all the other things."

Advertisement for Empire Theatre of Quality, featuring the film 'Protea' and listing showtimes and prices.

Advertisement for Opera House, Brattleboro, Vermont, featuring '3 Big Days' starting Monday Mat. April 24.

Advertisement for Ben Loring's Big Musical Revue, featuring a variety of acts and listing showtimes and prices.

Advertisement for Barber's Music Store, 32 Main St., Wilder Building, featuring everything musical.