

BASEBALL—SPORTS OF ALL SORTS—BOXING

SOX PRESENT STRONG FRONT AS TRAINING PERIOD BEGINS.

By Mark Shields

As the White Sox go into training camp for spring work preparatory to the American league campaign their chances of landing up with the leaders, if not copping the flag, are brighter than for many years.

Men of ability are on hand for every position. Not since Hal Chase was a regular has first base been so well protected, and the other positions will be as well guarded as last year. Strong defense at first base furnishes cause for the greatest optimism. Weakness there tossed away a pennant last year. Gandil may have trouble with his legs, but he will be in shape to play the better part of the season. He will probably hit around .265, but that is enough attacking power for him to furnish. With sluggers present in other positions, all that is asked of a first baseman with the Sox team is ability to field the position and play a thinking part.

Eddie Collins will be at second, of course, and Buck Weaver will occupy one of the remaining infield positions. If a rookie third baseman shows major league class, Weaver will play short. If no star develops, Terry will continue at short and Weaver will perform at third base, where he is one of the stars of the game.

McMullin is always in the offing threatening to cop a regular berth. He is a good third baseman and a far better hitter than Terry. But he is such a capable utility man that the line-up may remain as it was in 1916.

Terry is an unusually fine fielder, with all the flash and daring that marked Weaver when the latter was shortstopping, adding to those qual-

ifications a steadiness and ability to throw true that Buck did not always possess.

There is only one berth on the infield that can be considered open.

Two positions in the outfield will be filled by Joe Jackson and Hap Felsch. There two .300 hitters are certainties. John Collins, a regular right fielder last year, is not so sure of his job for the coming campaign.

John is a good fielder, he can run a long ways after fly balls and has a fine arm. But he hit in poor form last year and had mental lapses at times that were glaring. Collins is a streaky hitter, who can bat any pitcher for a period and then for days is easy for the most mediocre twirler.

Eddie Murphy and Nemo Liebold are out after his job and one of them is more than likely to land it. Murphy is not so good as Collins on defense, but he is one of the best attacking units in the American league. No club in the league can boast a better lead-off man than the former Mackman. He can bunt, he can wait out the pitcher and he can hit the ball on a line when called upon. He works well with baserunners. Once on the bases he is a tricky runner, can advance with a minimum of help from his own side and is a constant menace to the opposition.

Liebold is another good lead-off man and is also a good fielder, somewhat better than Murphy. His main asset as a lead-off hitter is his diminutive size, which makes him a difficult mark for a pitcher to throw at.

Brains are the big need this season. There were one or two places that could have been better protected by thinking men in 1916 and it is thought the lesson has been learned.

Ray Schalk will again do the bulk of the catching and the pitching staff will be about as last season, with the increased effectiveness that will come