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VICTORY FOR ATHLETICS IN WORLD'S SERIES WITH BOSTON NATIONALS PREDICTED BY EDDIE COLLINS

EDDIE COLLINS SAYS ATHLETICS WILL TRIUMPH

Mack's Star Declares There Is No Overconfidence in Camp—Locals Will Enter Series in Shape.

Weakness and Strength of Braves Has Been Discussed at Daily Meetings Held at Shibe Park.

By EDDIE COLLINS

Second Baseman, Philadelphia Athletics. Copyright, 1914, by Evening Ledger. As the day draws near for the opening conflict of the world series predictions as to the outcome are being voiced by nearly every one who is supposed to know anything about baseball at all, and I will wager I have been asked the question, "Do you think you will beat those Braves?" almost a thousand times. Now, just how I or any other member of the Athletics would be expected to answer this query other than in the affirmative is beyond me. Even if we did not think so, it is a cinch we would not publish the fact.

However, in order that I may make myself understood, I do hereby solemnly declare that I honestly believe the Athletics will beat the Braves in the series. Having disclosed this interesting bit of knowledge, I will proceed and attempt to enlighten the readers as to the "whys and wherefores" of such a bold statement.

Away back in 1910, when Connie Mack's present team first came into its own and won an American League championship, a schedule arrangement aided him materially in establishing a policy for shaping his team to the best advantage for the world's series. In that year the National League playing season did not close until October 12, or a week later than the American. Consequently, rather than have his team remain idle for that length of time, Connie Mack arranged to have an all-star team picked from the American League to play a series with his team previous to the world series. As history will tell, these impromptu games just put our team on edge, and its performance against the Cubs even surpassed its closest admirers.

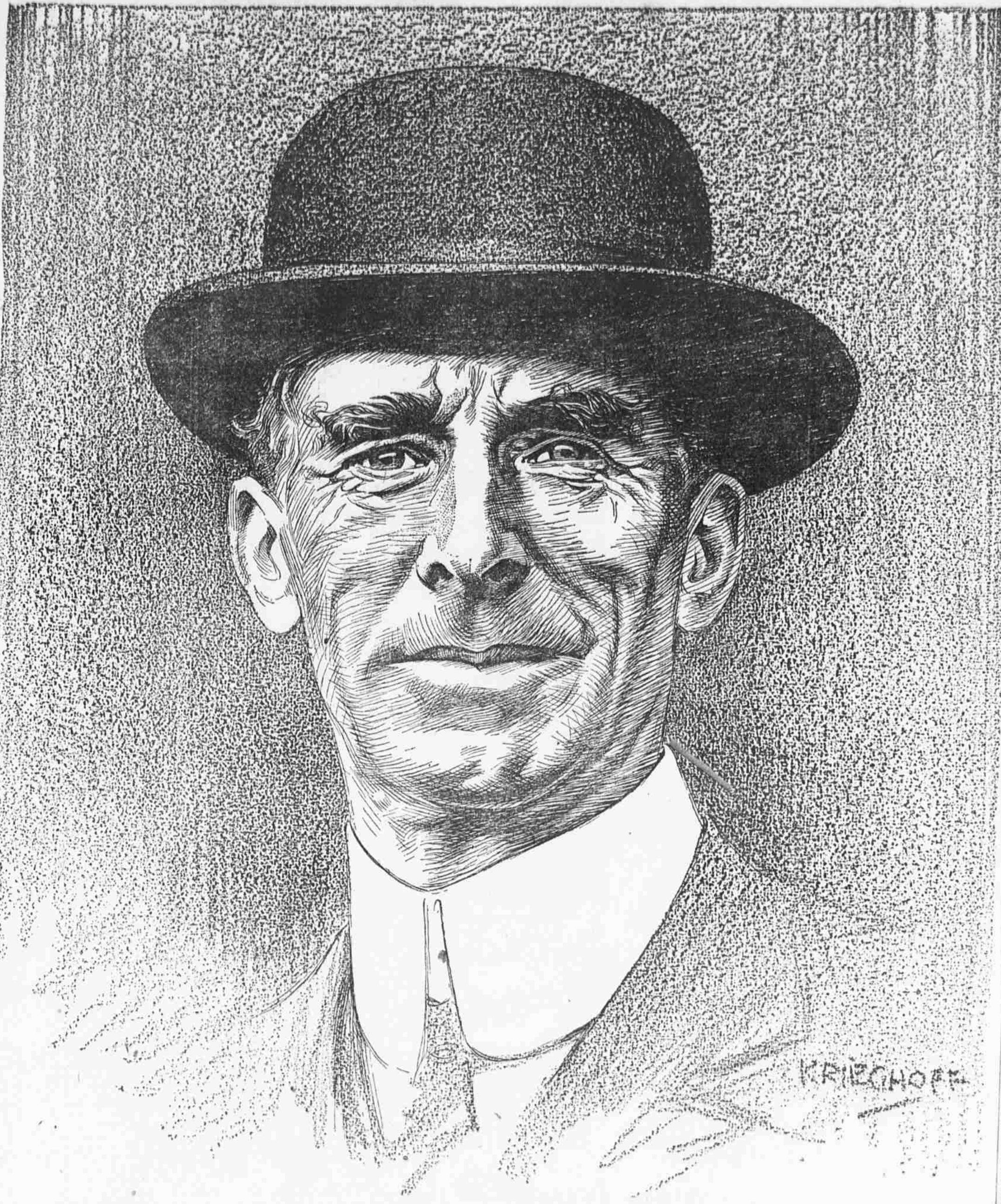
Like the following year, when we first met the Giants, we played a series with another All-Star aggregation similarly chosen, and again they brought us to the post in all condition. In 1912 we did not win the pennant, consequently were not contenders in the series.

Last year the seasons in the major leagues closed on the same day, and it looked like Connie was going to be up against it to pull his favorite stunt of having a "priming series"; but the Wise One was not to be fooled so easily. Fortunately we clinched the pennant a couple of weeks before the close of the season, and when the team left for its last swing around the eastern circuit all of the regulars were left at home and a bunch of subs and extra pitchers were used to fill in. Then when the club returned to Shibe Park to ring down the curtain for a three-game series with the Yankees all the regulars got back into harness, and thereby practically derived the same effects that an All-Star series would have furnished. Consequently, when we went to the mat with the Giants we were as fit as a fiddle, as the proverbial saying goes.

This year our course of procedure has been identically the same. We clinched the pennant in St. Louis, and all last week was a holiday for the regulars, or those players who are apt to get into the big games. Some of us frequented the ball park and took a light work-out daily, while others put baseball and thoughts of the same on the shelf entirely. But with the coming of the New York Americans on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday every one got down to hard work and serious thought once more.

WATCHED BRAVES PERFORM. It is no secret that some of us watched the Braves play the Giants during their last series at the Polo Grounds and endeavored to obtain some information that would be valuable to us in the coming series. In order that we might better understand one another, our daily meetings were resumed, in which we took up each Boston player separately, discussed what we thought to be his strength and weakness, argued how to play for him and what would be the best line of attack for us to employ.

So far as we have been able to observe, Manager Stallings' course has been entirely different. Circumstances, however, in the National League caused that. The fight of the Braves from the cellar position to the top has been a hard, as well as an admirable one. Any team that can go the route as the new National League champs have demonstrated they can do, necessarily demands a whole lot of respect, and rest assured they are accorded this by us, in spite of the fact that no small amount of the knowing baseball populace believe otherwise. To illustrate more clearly, only the other day a gentleman, whom I know to be well versed in baseball, spoke to me while I was sitting in the grandstand, something like the following: "Say, you fellows are going to put your full strength in against the Braves, aren't you, and try hard to beat them?" I did not know what to re-



CONNIE MACK

The man who has led the Athletics to six pennants and three world's championships in fourteen years.

Connie Mack's Career as Manager Most Brilliant in Annals of National Game

Philadelphia has the distinction of having among its citizenship the most capable manager that ever graced the baseball field. Connie Mack, christened Cornelius McGillicuddy, has won for this city six pennants since the inception of the American League in 1901. His championship years have been 1902, 1906, 1910, 1911, 1913 and 1914. His teams have competed in four world's series, losing to the New York Giants in 1905; winning from the Chicago Cubs in 1910 and from the New York club in 1911 and 1913. Brookfield, Mass., was the birthplace of Connie Mack. In 1882, he began his baseball career with the Meriden, Conn., club in 1884. The next two years he played with the Hartford team. Toward the close of the season of 1886, Mack joined the Washington club, playing with that team continuously from the time he became a member until 1890. In 1890 he was with Buffalo, while during the next six seasons he caught for Pittsburgh and acted in the capacity of manager for the Pirates from the latter part of August, 1894, until August, 1896. Mack took over the managerial duties of the Milwaukee club, then of the Western League, in 1897, and remained there until the beginning of the American League. It was the Milwaukee franchise, transferred to Philadelphia, which was used to organize the present Athletic Club, which has been so universally successful. The worst blow ever dealt Connie Mack was the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's decision, which prevented his using LaJole, Plick, Fraxer and Bernhard on his club in 1902. Despite that fact, he rose to the occasion, secured the services of the invaluable Danny Murphy, and produced a pennant winner. What has happened since then is too well known for repetition.

We finished under wraps, and our position at the head of the American League has never been in doubt since we went so far in the way early in August and were never threatened thereafter except by the Red Sox about the second week in September, and then the nearest they got to us was five and a half games behind. No one realized this better than Manager Stallings himself, as is shown by the fact that he kept his star pitchers, Rudolph, James and Tyler, working in their regular turn even after the pennant was clinched. In fact with the exception of Evers, the regular Boston team remained intact right up to the close of the season.

BRAVES' PLAYERS ARE CONFIDENT OF VICTORY Stallings Has Evidently Cast Out Thoughts of Defeat From Boston's Rank. Here is what a number of the Braves themselves think of their chances against the House of Mack: HANK GOWDY—We've had plenty of hard series this year and if the world's series can be any more than some of them, I miss my guess. We have the best little bunch of pitchers in the bus-

ness. I know because I have to catch them. The best hitters in the world can't touch them when they're right. And I guess the rest of the players have proved well enough that they are "there." CHARLES SCHMIDT—The Athletics are a great team, all right, but so are the Braves. I guess we've been fought just as hard in our own league as we will be this week. Anyway, we'll all do our best and there's nobody in the crowd the least bit afraid of what's coming. Personally, I think the Braves are going to be world's champions. RED SMITH—I've always noticed that

a team that fights the hardest generally comes out on top, and there never was a team in baseball that could fight harder or better than the Braves. We've had so much hard play this season that nothing can seem any worse. And we've won despite that, so we ought to keep right on. JOE CONNOLLY—If hard play and good team work will beat the Athletics, the Braves are sure going to be world's champions. We have kept right on improving all season long and the easy way we have been winning lately makes me think that not even the world's champions can stop us. We'll all be on the job, no matter what happens. George Stallings himself has repeatedly stated that the Braves will give the Athletics the hardest fight of their careers. Furthermore he has insisted this belief into the men on his club. It is probable that, with one exception, the Cubs and Athletics of 1905, no two clubs ever entered a series with more confidence on both teams. When a man of Stallings' ability to diagnose any baseball situation leads him to hold a team that his club will win it is safe to say that the series will not be finished in four games.

They All Look Alike Brothers, fans of the Mauling Marls, out of the Northlake battleships, on Ocean's rushing waves. Leaving a wake of battered hulks that Storming down from the high they come, a strait for the bitter fray. Brothers, look to the battlements and tell us what ye find. The bowitzers are all in place, the barrow has been mined. The madders wait in grim array for the cultured foe to strike. Chanting the oldtime battle hymn, "All of them look alike."

MACK'S METHODS DIFFER GREATLY FROM STALLINGS

Athletics' Leader Does Not Censure His Players, While Braves' Manager Scores Men Often.

Boston Man Raves on Bench, But His Rival, Connie, Never Allows Emotion to Interfere With His Judgment.

What part managerial ability will play in the world's series which begins here tomorrow afternoon is difficult to estimate. In the past series it has played a minor part, the reason being that it so happened that the contending teams were rarely in a frame of mind where judgment played an important part. If this happens again this year, neither Connie Mack nor George Stallings will be able to display any of the powers of finesse for which they are justly famous. If the series depended upon generalship absolutely, the Athletics would surely have an inestimable advantage, for no man ever adorned the players' bench with as much judgment, discernment and quick-thinking baseball ability as Connie Mack. This does not mean that George Stallings is a second-rater. He is one of the great leaders of baseball as his success of 29 years as manager indicates. His knowledge of the game equals that of his rival, McGillicuddy, but the latter is gifted with a foresight amounting almost to clairvoyance.

The methods used by Mack and Stallings to arrive at the head of their profession are the direct antithesis of each other. Mack works on the theory that the less a baseball player is censured the better work he will do. Thanks to Mack's personality, this system has worked well through the years he has been at the head of baseball clubs. It has enabled him since the beginning of the American League in 1901 to win six pennants and three world's championships and to develop some of the greatest players the game has known.

STALLINGS SCORES HIS MEN. Mack assumes that if a player has done something wrong in a game, and realizes it, the best thing to do is to let the matter drop without more comment than is necessary to tell the player just where in he should be careful next time. Contrary to this, Stallings is one of the most profuse "pansers" that ever sat at the helm of a club. He yells at his men, calling them many things which he would not dub them except in the heat of battle, and which he does not mean any more than if he had left them unsaid. Stallings, according to reported statements made by his men, is a wild man on the bench. He is so nervous and overbearing during the game that his flow of language almost reaches the point of raving. He is apt to tell his most finished ball player that he is a "dum" of class C calibre and to amplify his verbal broadside with a combination of adjectives not found in Webster's Unabridged. All this time Stallings is vigorously chewing a quid of tobacco.

Connie, as seen by his players, is just the opposite of Stallings. At times he squirms just a little, but says nothing which is not intended to expound some baseball theory or to logically correct a fault which has been committed. On the bench Mack never censures a player, even in the mildest terms. He may explain to him what he should do next time, but neither his words nor his tone indicate that he is in the least "peevish" at an error or a "bonehead" play. If a man pulls off a bad play which loses a game, Stallings will rave at him until he is blue in the face, but after the game it is all forgotten. George Connors on these plays to the perpetrator only during the contest. He neither praises nor blames after the game. In the hotel in the evenings Stallings does not get into arguments with his players at any time. He leaves them severely alone.

MACK'S DAILY MEETINGS. Mack also has little to say during the off hours to his players. The Athletics have daily meetings on the road and at home, consequently all matters pertaining to strategy are thrashed out there. But there are times when Mack does talk to his men, singly or in groups, after the games while on the road. He always keeps in mind that the player is human, and if there is one of his men who is downcast because of having been the medium of losing, he helps him to cast off this feeling. Ira Thomas once told the following incident, which shows how Mack treats his men: "Soon after I joined the club after having been at Detroit," said the Athletics' captain, "I let loose a wild throw which was the cause of our losing. Well, I was feeling very blue that night about my poor play, especially as it was my game. I was so downhearted that I didn't go around the other fellows at all. Connie saw me standing by myself and came over to me and asked me why I was looking so downcast. I told him the reason. And say, would you believe it, after he had got through talking to me I thought that after all I wasn't there up that lost that game. He brought up a lot of plays that occurred before my wild throw, showing that if somebody else had done what he did, some of my play never would have come up at all. The end of it was that he put new life and confidence in me when I really deserve a better one. That is one of the ways Connie keeps close to his men and gives them the confidence to make great ball players out of themselves."

Not only in these ways do the managers of the world's series contenders differ, but in the essential methods of keeping the men in shape. For instance, as soon as the Athletics had clinched the pennant in St. Louis, Collins, Baker and O'Rourke located the train for home. They were allowed to do just what they pleased to eat in shops and bars on the way for the series. So were the other regulars. Members of the regulars went to Washington last week except Jack Lapp and one or two of the pitchers. Mack believes that each man knows best what to do to get into the best playing shape, and his men believe, from experience of previous years, that they can do better work after a lay-off of a week, followed by a few games just before the series to get them back in the playing habit. This method they followed this year.

Stallings has an entirely different method. He believes that a player who has had a week's rest will be better off than a player who has had a week's rest and then played a few games just before the series. He believes that a player who has had a week's rest will be better off than a player who has had a week's rest and then played a few games just before the series. He believes that a player who has had a week's rest will be better off than a player who has had a week's rest and then played a few games just before the series.