

BASEBALL :: BOWLING :: BOXING :: OTHER SPORTS

EXHIBITION GAMES KILL THE TRAINING

Paul Purman Wonders Why Magnates are So Straight-forward.

By PAUL PURMAN.

I sometimes wonder at the shortsightedness of big league magnates who spend thousands of dollars on a spring training trip to get their athletes in shape for the start of the season and then ruin the entire results of the training by bringing their clubs north on a premature exhibition series to pick up a few paltry dollars.

I do not believe there is a manager in big league baseball who is not opposed to these exhibition tours, but many managers' opinions go for little when there is a little coin in sight.

After months of inactivity baseball players need several weeks of training if they are to start playing good baseball when the season opens early in April. This training can only be obtained in sections where there is warm weather and a hot sun. But the results of this training may readily be effaced, especially by the pitchers, if it is discontinued and there is a period of inactivity in cold climates before the playing season.

Every spring the newspapers carry the same accounts of scheduled exhibition games. Only about half of them are ever played, the rest are called on account of snow, rain, high winds or cold weather and the ballplayers suffer from the inactivity, while the magnates gain nothing.

I have in mind now a National League ball club, which was just rounding into shape when I saw it in March. The pitchers had not yet begun to "put anything on the ball" and the other players had not yet begun to exert themselves to the fullest extent.

Yet four days after I saw this club it started north on an exhibition tour which within three or four days brought it into Tennessee, Kentucky and cold weather.

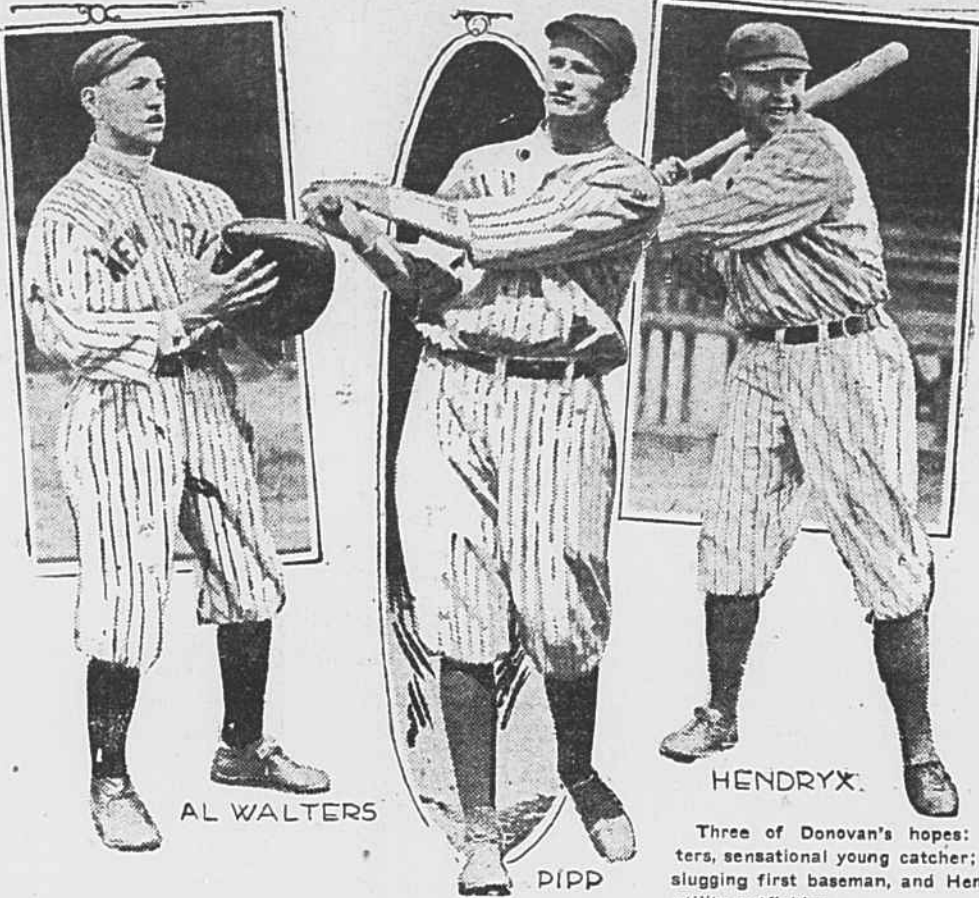
The reason was that this club was not ready when the season opened. Had the players been permitted to stay in the south another week or 10 days the result would undoubtedly have been different.

Then again, there is always the chance of injuries in exhibition games, the gates for which would not begin to reimburse any magnate for the services of one of his stars should he be kept out of the game for any length of time. This is particularly true when two big league teams meet.

I saw several exhibition games between big league clubs in the south and I found that the men were out there trying just as hard as if they had been in a regular championship contest. And many of them were not in condition to play the kind of baseball they were putting over.

Exhibition games look very much like a "penny-wise, pound-foolish" proposition and if the magnates don't wake up to it pretty soon the National commission should.

THE YANKEES, A REAL BALL CLUB.



AL WALTERS

PIPP

HENDRYX

Three of Donovan's hopes: Walters, sensational young catcher; Pipp, slugging first baseman, and Hendryx, utility outfielder.

By PAUL PURMAN.
(The West Virginian's Special Sport Writer Now Touring the South to Size Up the Major League Clubs in Spring Training.)

MACON, Ga., April 10.—When I visited the American league camps west of Macon I was constantly greeted with the question "Have you seen the Yankees?"

I was not surprised for I knew the Yankees of last year and how their possibilities were wrecked by a series of accidents which would have sent almost any other club into the scrap heap.

Then I came to Macon and saw the club Bill Donovan and Capt. Huston are pinning their hopes on an American league flag on this year.

It is one of the most brilliant aggregations in baseball this year. It is a club with possibilities for every branch of the sport. It should be a hitting club, a base-running club and a fielding club.

It has a pitching staff which should come through with some remarkable slab stuff and boasts of two of the most brilliant young catchers in either league.

I talked to several members of the club and to Capt. Huston and found a feeling of confidence, but not over-confidence. I found a young ball club, every member of which will demand the best from every other member.

Let us size up the Yankees as they

looked as they started out for their exhibition series.

The pitchers are in shape and the staff is well balanced. Caldwell, Cullop, Shawkey, Fisher, Mogridge, Love and Shocker will be carried and Russell may evade being sent to the sticks.

Caldwell, when I saw him, seemed a different man. Repentant over the loss of more than \$4,000 salary money last year as the result of his bad acting, Ray reported in great condition. Although he will not admit it, it is generally believed that he played winter ball in Panama, and when the Yanks left here he looked like the Caldwell of old.

Fisher and Shawkey are both in shape, and Shocker and Russell, the former a new addition to the staff, look like comers.

At Toronto last year Shocker allowed only 1.11 runs per game, and although Russell's record was not so impressive, Donovan believes he has all the requirements which make up a good pitcher.

The southpaw staff is composed of Cullop, Love and Mogridge. Cullop has been ill this spring, but hopes to be in shape before the season starts. Love, a giant over 6 feet 7 inches tall, won the only two games he pitched in the American league last year, and is expected to be one of the finds of this season.

Donovan has a brilliant catching

staff. Headed by the veteran Leslie Numamaker, the staff looks as good as any in the league, with Alexander, who proved his mettle last year, and Walters, who is said to be a second edition of Ray Schalk.

The infield is strong offensively and defensively. Wally Pipp, slugger extraordinaire, will be at first, Maisel at second, the veteran Peckinpaugh at short, and John Franklin Baker, the home run king, at third. The only possible weakness is at second, and the Yanks are betting on Maisel to come through.

Baker, who had a bad season last year on account of injuries, should be the best third sacker in the league this year and should bat above .300.

The outfield will be composed of Lee Magee, Hugh High and the sensational young Gilhooley, with Tim Hendryx and Elmer Miller in reserve.

In case Maisel does not pan out as a keystone sacker, Angel Aragon, a Cuban, and Bauman will be tried out for the job. They will be carried during the season.

It is hard to pick weak spots on this club. It is hard to figure where there is a stronger club in the league. This is especially true when the 1916 record is considered.

Barring accidents the Yanks should prove one of the greatest baseball organizations of the season.

the superintendent, removed his family to Connellsville, Pa., on Monday where he will be located temporarily. When leaving he expressed the opinion that he would be back here soon again to do other work but did not indicate just what or where it would be.

Personals.

Jas. I. Michael, who has been a patient in Cook hospital for several weeks, returned to his office here on Friday very much improved in health.

Misses I. McIntire and A. J. McDaniell were shopping in Fairmont on Saturday.

Thos. E. Minnear, of Annabelle, was a business visitor here on Saturday.

Lawrence G. Sandy left on Saturday for a visit with friends at Corry, Pa., and Lackawanna, N. Y.

Z. F. Davis, of Fairmont, is here this week assisting in the work at the First National Bank during the absence of Mr. Sandy, the assistant cashier.

Miss Grace Martin, of Shinnston, spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Finley Oakes, here.

A. L. B. Dudley, of Fairmont, was a business visitor here on Monday.

Edgar Bock, of Farmington, was visiting his son, LeRoy Bock, here on Sunday.

BASEBALL SEASON OPENS HERE TODAY

Normal and Rivesville Will Meet on South Side Park.

Scholastic baseball will be officially opened in Fairmont this afternoon at 3:30 p. m. when Fairmont Normal and Rivesville high school clash at South Side park. Both teams have been practicing but one week and neither are as yet in the best of form. For this reason the game will be for the most part a practice game, giving both teams a good chance to discover their defects before their active schedules begin.

Coach Ward of the Rivesville team, has developed some lightning fast material and will this year make a strong bid for the county high school championship. With the large number of candidates that are trying for the team the prospects are exceptionally good.

The Normal baseball team appeared at South Side park yesterday afternoon for the first time in their new uniforms. Because of the difficulty in deciding who would take part in the first game, the uniforms were not given out until yesterday. Among those who received uniforms were: Miller, Ramsey, Isehart, Denton, Park, Thompson, Bell, Hamilton, Kuhn and Watkins. Several of the new players who will enter the Normal have not yet enrolled and will

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Short Slants at Sports

Ramsey, the new six foot five Normal pitcher, who weighs 200 pounds, says he is a country school teacher. Pity the poor kids!

Ding Dong (Orrin) Bell, is one of the most valuable men on the Normal team. His duties are to keep the other infielders from going to sleep.

Even before good weather is here Monongah and Grant Town have begun arguing over their respective claims to the county baseball championship.

Baxter is planning to give some teams a run for their money this season, too.

It's about time something was being heard of the Eighth Ward Independents.

It is being hoped, uselessly it is feared, that a new chicken wire screen will be strung at the South Side park grand stands.

'Cause it's no fun to have your girl hit on the head with a ball and have to carry her out to the street car with everybody lookin' at yuh.

Colts Clouted Twice at Y M C A Last Night

Hamilton's Clouters and the Ruffs broke the Colts in two exciting games at the "Y" last night. The first game, between the Clouters and the Colts, was close and exciting from the first threatening contortion of Pitcher Pizer as he wound up to release the "pill" until the last inning when the Clouters scored three runs, making the score 9-6 in their favor.

In the second game the Colts, although tired from their exertions in the first game, made it very interesting for the Ruffs and succeeded in holding them to an 11-10 score.

Wesleyan Game at Marshall Called Off

HUNTINGTON, April 10.—Because Wesleyan insisted on playing Reeder, who is the coach of their baseball team, the game scheduled to be played here yesterday afternoon between Marshall College and West Virginia Wesleyan was called off. The Marshall management entered protest against the playing of Reeder and Wesleyan persisted in declaring that he was eligible.

BAKER MEETS WHOLE TOWN WHEN "COMING MAYOR" GETS BUSY



MACON, Ga., April 10.—If Bill Shakespeare had been in Dublin, Ga., the other day when the Braves and Yanks were booked to play an exhibition game he would never have written that little paragraph about there being nothing in a name.

When the two ball clubs arrived at the hotel there was a delegation representing half a dozen counties to look them over.

After gazing with the same admiration with which they might have sized up the pyramids or the capitol at Washington the crowd was broken as one man pushed through and inquired of a newspaper man where he could find Home Run Baker.

After Baker was pointed out the man approached and introduced himself as the coming mayor Dublin.

Baker good humoredly talked with him for a moment but his good humor vanished when the coming mayor dragged a delegation of about 25 out of the crowd and gravely introduced them.

Baker is one of the quietest men in baseball. He does not like to be singled out of a crowd and the demonstration in his honor was not at all to his liking. However he shook hands with the delegation and then escaped into his room as his teammates kidded him.

There is something in a name especially if that name happens to have come from winning a couple of world's series with a mighty bat.

Another illustration is that the bell-boys at hotels where Baker stops invariably page "Call for Mr. Home Run Baker."

Others.

Our talking much about ourselves shows how little we are thinking about others. If we are as much interested in others as we ought to be, others would seem to us to be talking of a stranger when they speak of us of ourselves. To talk about ourselves seems shallow and inane to us, when we see how much meaning there is in the word "others."

MORE RHEUMATISM THAN EVER BEFORE

Clergymen, Lawyers, Brokers, Mechanics and Merchants Stricken

Our old friend Rheumatiz is having his inning this year, and a few words of caution from one who knows all about it may not be amiss.

Wear rubbers in damp weather; keep your feet dry; drink plenty of lemonade, and avoid strong alcoholic drinks.

If rheumatism gets you, or sciatica, and you have sharp twinges, gnawing pain or swollen joints or muscles, you can get rid of all agony in just a few days by taking one-half teaspoonful of Rheauma once a day.

All druggists know about Rheauma; it's harmless, yet powerful; cheap, yet sure, and a 50-cent bottle will last a long time. Ask Holt Drug Co. or any druggist.

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WORTHINGTON.

Easter Observance.

Easter was observed in Worthington by the Sunday school of the Christian church. A very pretty program was rendered in the evening consisting of vocal music, recitations and drills by the members of the school with some solos, antems and duets by members of the choir.

In the morning Rev. A. M. Ritenour preached a sermon at the Baptist church appropriate to the Easter season.

Returned Home.

Mrs. Florence E. Tetrick, who has been spending the winter with her brother, Arthur L. Koon at Columbus, Neb., returned to her home here last week.

Work Completed.

A. L. Anderson & Bro. who had the contract for constructing the Fairmont-Helen's Run railroad have completed their work and J. R. Appleby,

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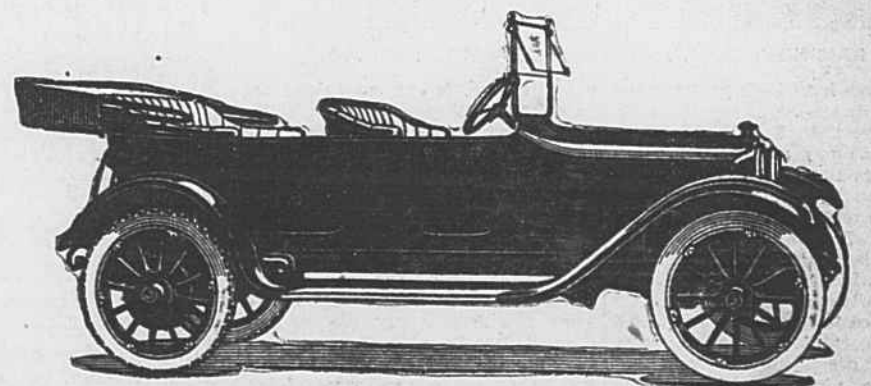
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