



ST. LOUIS SIFTINGS.

THE PENDLETON PARK MATTER FULLY EXPLAINED.

Why President Von Der Ahe Has Pursued the Course He Did in the Matter—The Boss Now Out of the Horse Racing Game, Etc.

St. Louis, Dec. 29.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Base ball and horse racing does not mix. Chris Von der Ahe, president of the St. Louis Browns, has found this out, and he has decided to give up the management of his turf enterprise. The chief of "Der Browns" reached this conclusion last Wednesday, when he declared off the races at Sportsman's Park, and leased the grounds, privileges and everything else inside the inclosure to another man, one Louis Cella, a bookmaker. From now on the most talked-of man in sporting circles will confine his efforts to base ball and to his "shoot the chutes" and other summer resort enterprises. The race track will not be a dead weight on the St. Louis chief. On the contrary, if the new lessees are successful in drawing the people to the park and getting enough bookmakers to draw on, they will pay Chris a rental of \$1000 a week.

IN HARD LUCK.

It is said that Von der Ahe is in very poor health and has been greatly discouraged over his misfortunes, but those who were aware of the facts do not express surprise that he should lose money in some of his ventures. It is said that he will devote his attention to base ball, and the lovers of the national game hope he will. If he had worked half as hard to get together a good base ball team as he has to establish a "dinky merry-go-round," St. Louis would now have a permanent winning club. It will require the outlay of considerable money to build up the team in 1897, as considerable new blood is needed in the club. Just how President Von der Ahe and Manager Dowd will secure the needed strengthening material is the question that is puzzling the local public.

THE PENDLETON PARK SUITS.

Chris Von der Ahe had two writs of execution issued against him on the suit of Elliott Pendleton and others of Cincinnati, one for \$1250 and the other for \$450. On the request of the plaintiffs the writs have been stayed indefinitely. The execution is on account of the rent of the old Pendleton Park, which Chris rented for the American Association in 1891 when that organization was fighting the National League.

Von der Ahe rented the grounds and signed the lease as Chris Von der Ahe for five years, and his partners in the association signed an indemnifying bond, which they gave to him. The long-continued fight which Chris has had with the Wagners, of the Washington, and Vonderhorsts, of the Baltimore Clubs, is the result of the failure of their owners, who were partners to this bond, failing to live up to it.

WHY CHRIS DEFAULTED.

When the fight between the League and the Association was ended by a consolidation the Pendleton grounds were of no further value to the Association, but the Pendleton people would not release Chris from his bond, and he was forced to pay rent by a decision of the Superior Courts.

He paid a couple of years' rent, but then defaulted purposely, it is said. The lease lapsed last March, and at that time Von der Ahe owed the lessors to the amount of the execution. Mr. Von der Ahe's lawyer said that the execution was issued at the request of Mr. Von der Ahe. That gentleman at present has a claim pending against the Washington and Baltimore Clubs for a large sum, which he claims is due under the provisions of that indemnifying bond. The claim is at present being arbitrated by a special committee appointed by the National League for that purpose. Von der Ahe is using the fact that a writ of execution has been issued against him as evidence of his expenditures before the arbitrators.

GOOD WORDS FOR CHRIS.

Billy Kissinger, who pitched strong ball for St. Louis the latter half of the past season, writes from Bellevue, Ky., that he is in good condition and confident of doing even better than last season. Kissinger also has only praise for Von der Ahe, and he is authority for the statement that every other player on the team also has a good word for the Teutonic magnate. "There is not a player on the team who is not satisfied with the treatment he has received at the hands of Von der Ahe this year," writes Billy. "He was an entirely different man from what he was in 1895, and there is not a player who is unwilling to go back to St. Louis next season. When we received our envelopes the final pay day containing our last salary we found that all our fines that had been plastered on during the season were embraced in our checks. Was not that clever?"

There is no other team in the business that was treated better and few so well. Is it a wonder that we feel kindly toward Chris?"

ST. PAUL SIFTINGS.

Comiskey Talks of His Club and of the League's Prospects.

St. Paul, Dec. 28.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Captain Charlie Comiskey is a very sick man, and is threatened with pneumonia and other complications. It all had its start through an injury he sustained at Aurora Park on Friday morning, when he was superintending the removal of the snow from the rink. He was directing the plow, and it struck some obstruction on the ice with the result that the end of the handle was sent violently into the side of his abdomen. He has not since been able to walk, and on talking to his bed a violent cold in the lungs set in.

THE TEAM MAKE-UP.

Mr. Comiskey, however, even if sick, finds time to talk about his team for next season. He says: "The St. Paul team will be considerably strengthened. The deal with Chicago for Preston and Connors gave us two excellent men and materially strengthened the positions where they play. McBride will be strong in the outfield, and the infield, if all goes well will be a regular stone wall in my opinion. If I am able to close the deal for Billy Hulen the infield will then be composed of Jack Glascock at first, Connors at second, Hulen at short, and O'Rourke at third. The outfield will consist of Preston in left, McBride in centre and Billy George in right. Spies and Kraus, who showed such excellent form last year, constitute the backstops, and I have secured pitcher Ithau, of the Southern League; pitcher Kelb, of last year's Toledo, and have on the string a fast man from one of the big League clubs, whom I expect to sign later on. Tony Mullane will be one of the pitching staff, and it may be that I will retain one or two of last year's pitchers, if they show a disposition to pitch winning ball. What is to be done with Stratton, Shugart, Burns and some of the others remains to be seen. That is a detail of subsequent date."

BETTER DISCIPLINE.

Regarding the recent legislation of the Western League Mr. Comiskey said: "The moral tone of the game will unquestionably be improved from the fact that the managers are determined to impose heavy fines for dalliance at the bar or too much levity in the wrong direction, and I for one propose to see that the men of my team play ball and attend to their bibulous inclinations after the season has ended. There was hardly a club in the Western League this year that didn't suffer from this sort of thing, and there were one or two that would have been nearer the top had their members played the ball they were capable of playing. Owing perhaps to lack of discipline the game has been retrograding to some extent in the past several years, and the new spurt is due. One reason is that the public is entitled to a better return for the money it has invested and another is that managers find that it does not pay to keep ball players who pay more attention to their personal pleasure than the work they are employed to perform. There isn't a better class of fellows in the world than professional ball players, and their popularity cannot be measured when they get down to business and show that they mean business."

LEAGUE PROSPECTS.

Regarding the outlook for the Western League Comiskey said: "The meeting at Chicago and the circumstances which preceded it has promoted a better feeling in the Western League than it has ever known and the management is on a far more friendly footing than ever before. The fact that they stood together for the common good and were brought together in a common cause, reinstated them in each other's friendship and unquestionably this will be communicated to the players and result in a letter state of feeling throughout the League."

"It gave the people and the players to understand that the Western League was no temporary structure, but has come to stay, and the ties of friendship and good feeling cemented there cannot be shaken unless untoward and unexpected events come to pass. Every team will go into the field with new life in '97, with new resolves and new ideas, and if the League doesn't pay the people who keep it alive with some of the finest base ball ever witnessed anywhere, then I miss my guess."

SCRANTON SCRAPS.

A Stronger Team For Next Season is Assured.

Scranton, Dec. 28.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Base ball "news" is a mighty scarce article in this section at the present time, but it is not to be inferred from that that the officials of the local club are idling away their time. That the Scrantons of 1897 will be a stronger team than that of last season seems certain, but just what changes are contemplated is a matter not yet made public. The roster of the club to date comprises Gunson, Berger and O'Neill, catchers; Harper, Brown, Gilson and Willner, pitchers; Massey and Shafer, first basemen; Bonner, second; Maguire, third; Moss short stop, and Eagan, O'Brien and Meaney, fielders. There are pretty sure to be several changes in the above list before the playing season begins.

That man from Syracuse seems determined on capturing an Eastern League pennant at any cost. He is corraling a great lot of hitters, sure, but even then he may fail.

And so Buffalonians are figuring on our Pat Meaney as a probable ornament for their right garden. Well, many more unlikely things have come to pass. There is one player on the Bisons that Scranton would like to have, and a deal may be arranged. But I don't think either Lewee or Cannon will figure in it.

Wonder what our Wilkesbarre friends think of their pride, the champion batsman of the League, coming back next season to line out base hits for another club? Ahe hardly got a fair show from Pittsburg.

IRWIN'S CHANCES.

He Claims to Have a Number of Good Things on Hand.

Arthur Irwin, the ex-manager of the New York team, says the report circulated that he was signed to manage one of the Western teams is untrue. Irwin has received five offers from base ball clubs in the West, but he has not as yet decided which one he will accept. When Irwin was released as manager of the New York team President Freedman said at the time Mr. Irwin had taken a vacation for three weeks. Irwin has had a long vacation.

A Rare Bird.

A regular corker—the ball player who in winter works in a bottling establishment.

REACH Boxing Gloves Striking Bags

QUALITY—THE HIGHEST. PRICES—THE LOWEST.

Makers of the FAMOUS CORBETT BOXING GLOVES A. J. REACH CO.

CATALOGUE FREE.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

SPRING PRACTICE

IS THE SUBJECT NOW ENGROSSING MANAGERIAL MINDS.

Only One League Club Has Definitely Settled on Its Spring Training Place—The Others Still Considering the Advisability of Staying at Home.

Maps, railroad guides, calendars and weather statistics now are most interesting to base ball magnates. The matter of practice trips now is uppermost in the minds of club presidents and managers. They realize that the success of a season depends on the team getting into proper condition as early as possible in order to stand the pace down to the finish. Therefore it is of paramount importance that a place shall be selected where a team can get in the best possible shape before the season opens in order that it may get a good start and do itself justice to the end.

Cincinnati is the only team that is certain of its spring training quarters—New Orleans. The Baltimore probably will go to Macon, Ga. Anson expects to land his Colts somewhere in Texas. Boston is undecided whether to take Hot Springs, Ark., or Charlottesville, Va. Pittsburg and Philadelphia are considering various portions of Virginia, but may go farther South. Louisville and Washington threaten to train at home. Cleveland may go to Hot Springs again. Brooklyn and St. Louis has not gotten into the Southern trip agitation as yet.

New York has considered several places, but President Freedman is of the opinion that Lakewood, N. J., is good enough. Mr. Freedman might do even better and have his team train at Hoboken or Weehawken Heights.

VETERANS GONE.

Old-Time Patrons Pass Away in Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Philip F. Meschutt, who died December 15, at Jersey City, N. J., was one of the pioneers of base ball in New York and vicinity, being a member of the Monument Club, which had its grounds at the Elysian Fields, Hoboken, upwards of forty years ago. He kept at that time a popular restaurant on Broadway. At the first convention of base ball clubs, held March 10, 1853, Meschutt represented the Monument Club, of New York.

Clinton G. Hancock, who died December 20, at his residence in Philadelphia, Pa., was for several seasons a prominent member of the Equity Club, of that city, which claimed to be one of the first to play base ball in the State of Pennsylvania. He represented the Equity Club at the tenth annual convention of the National Association, held in New York on Dec. 12, 1866, when delegates were present from seventeen States and the District of Columbia. He was 51 years old, and had been general passenger agent of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad since 1869.

COLCOLOUGH'S CONTEST.

His Disagreement With the Wilkesbarre Club Fully Explained.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Dec. 28.—Editor "Sporting Life":—That ubiquitous pitcher, Colcolough, is determined not to give the local magnates any peace, but keeps up a running fire of protests to President Young of his treatment by the "Barons." First he dates them Buffalo, then Pittsburg, Charleston and "any old place." That those not on the inside may be in a position to judge the case from the facts, the declaration and principle of the evidence, I take pleasure in submitting them herewith.

THE TICKET BUSINESS.

On July 2, 1895, Colcolough was telegraphed at Pittsburg by Manager Dan Shannon, that \$300 per month for the balance of the season would be paid him if he would report in time to pitch the Fourth of July afternoon game. He replied that "a wreck" detained him. As a matter of fact investigation failed to show "a wreck" where he had located it. At all events he failed to show up for service until the 9th, from which date he was paid at the rate of \$300 per month for the balance of the season. His name was placed on the reserve list, and a contract sent him in the early spring. February 20 a contract was sent him which he received, at \$200 per month. Of course he kicked on the \$100 reduction, notwithstanding he had made no murmur when his reservation was handed him on September 14. Finally, however, he agreed to report, and did on May 1, though he had been ordered to report April 15. The management had agreed to pay railroad fare both ways between Wilkesbarre and Charleston, providing, of course, he reported when ordered to do so. As he did not report when ordered to do so was told that he must stand that expense him-

self, and he made no objection during the season nor at the final settlement.

NOT TO BE DENIED.

His appeal to the Arbitration Board for release from reservation because a lesser amount was contained in his contract than had been paid him the preceding season was decided adversely to him. Now he makes another appeal to the Board for the difference in salary, the railroad fare and also release from reservation. On the merits of the case, and they will undoubtedly govern, this appeal will also be decided against him. "Coke" is an obstreperous youth, and requires a "heap sight" more disciplining than most players.

LOCAL NOTES.

The management, as is their custom, isn't giving out a line in the way of base ball.

Scranton is getting a hustle on such as they never had before, and if they don't scoop up their ancient and ever successful enemy next season it won't be the fault of the present management.

Kelly, the erstwhile right fielder of the "Barons," is under the serious charge of robbing freight cars. The way things look now he will spend some time looking through a stationary catcher's mask.

PEDANT.

McKEAN WON.

The Cleveland Short Stop Beats Frank Henry at Wrestling.

Painesville, O., Dec. 28.—Ed. McKean, the shortstop of the Cleveland Base Ball Club, won his wrestling match here last Monday night with Frank Henry, of Richmond, O. A large audience was present, including a big delegation from Cleveland. It was agreed to wrestle catch-as-catch-can, best two out of three, strangle hold and flying falls barred.

Both men went to work hard. Henry was far the heavier. In just 30 seconds he placed McKean on his back. McKean was more cautious when they got together again. By good work he escaped out of many tight situations. After one hour and two minutes Henry refused to continue unless an improved mat was provided. The match was then given to McKean.

Both men displayed great skill and endurance and the contest was thoroughly enjoyed by the spectators. The arrangements were not such as they should have been. The mat on which the men wrestled was simply a Brussels carpet stretched over a platform. It was a hard proposition and both men suffered severely from being dragged over it. A return match will probably be wrestled in Cleveland.

ANOTHER TED SULLIVAN

Is the Much-Discussed, Truly Good and Guileless Deacon Ellis.

The Western League magnates have been a long time catching on, but at last they are convinced that "Deacon" Ellis, the erstwhile owner of the Grand Rapids Club of the Western, is a second edition of Ted Sullivan so far as his ability to get everything possible out of base ball is concerned. Those magnates who were under the impression that there was some base ball sentiment in the "Deacon" now have had their minds disabused. Ellis was out for the coin, good and strong, and nothing else would suit him. By purchasing Cassidy and Eustace from Louisville the "Deacon" made a strong bluff at strengthening his team, hoping thereby to obtain a four-year franchise from the Western League. He secured the franchise for four years, immediately sold it for more than \$2000 above what he originally held it, and now he claims that Cassidy will not play in Grand Rapids unless Messrs. Leadley and Glenalvin pay a good price for him. If they refuse Cassidy will be taken to Ellis' Newark Club in the Atlantic Association. Taken all in all, Ellis worked as fine a coup on the Western League and Messrs. Leadley and Glenalvin as ever a green goods man turned.

A MEMORY OF '74.

How American Base Ballists Fared at Cricket Abroad.

Tim Murnane in Boston "Globe." During the last year I have been asked several times about the cricket games between the American ball players and English elevens, on the visit of the American to England in 1874. I was a member of the American team, and here are the dates and scores, as I kept a scrap book in those days:

Aug. 3 and 4—Lord's grounds, London, eighteen ball players, 107 in one inning; Marylebone twelve, 105 in two innings.

Aug. 6 and 7—Prince's ground, London, eighteen ball players, first inning, 110; Prince's club, first inning, 21; second inning, 39.

Aug. 8—At Richmond, twenty-two ball players, 45, with six wickets down; Richmond thirteen, 108, one inning; drawn game.

Aug. 13 and 14—Kennington oval, London, eighteen ball players, first inning, 100; second inning 111; Surrey Club, first inning, 27; second inning 2, with four wickets down; won in first inning by 73 runs.

Aug. 15 and 17—Bramall lane, Sheffield, eighteen ball players, first inning, 130; Sheffield Club, first inning, 43; second inning, 45; won in one inning by 42 runs.

Aug. 20 and 21—Old Trafford grounds, Manchester, eighteen ball players, first inning, 121; second inning, 100; Manchester Club, first inning, 42; second inning, 53; won by 126 runs.

Aug. 24 and 25—Irish champion athletic club grounds, Dublin, eighteen ball players, first, 71; second, 94; All-Ireland eleven, first, 71; second, 47; won by 86 runs.

Method in Madness.

Wigwag—"Why do these players always give you cigars?"—Base Ball Critic—"Oh, just for a puff, I suppose."