



PHILADELPHIA NEWS

STALLINGS, THE NEW MANAGER, COMES, SEES AND CONQUERS.

He Spends a Week in Town Sizing up the Situation and Makes an Excellent Impression—What He Did and Said and is Likely Hereafter to Do.

Philadelphia, Jan. 6.—The new manager, George Stallings, has been in town for a week, which time he has spent in familiarizing himself with the local situation. He has had a number of conferences with the club owners, has visited and been duly impressed with the magnificent park where he is to hold sway this year; has talked with pretty nearly all of the players resident here, and has made the acquaintance of the local base ball scribes—a good week's work all things considered.

A CONSERVATIVE COURSE.
As becomes a wise and prudent young man, Mr. Stallings has been very chary in his talk with the reporters about his plans in connection with the make-up of the Philadelphia team. The substance of his remarks on this subject was:

"It is not my intention at present to take any decided step, as I want now to have a good look over the ground and see just what we have to build on for next season. My course will naturally be shaped by the condition of things as I find them. First, I shall make the acquaintance of the men who will compose the team, and carefully judge as to their capabilities. That part being accomplished, we will come to a mutually friendly and business-like understanding as to our mutual relations and what is expected of them. Pennant winners are not made in a day, but if I have the proper material in hand, and I know there are some great players on the Philadelphia team, I will endeavor to have the boys do themselves justice. Results will speak for themselves."

Mr. Stallings is an advocate of heady ball playing, and will endeavor to infuse his ideas into the work of his men.

AS TO PLAYERS.
Stallings praises Pitcher Fifield very highly and thinks he will prove a valuable addition to the pitching staff. He also thinks well of Pitchers Brandt and Johnson and of Gillen, who played third base for the Detroit last season and has been drafted by the Philadelphia Club. "Gillen is one of the strongest throwers I ever saw," was one of the praises Stallings gave the new man. Mr. Stallings stated that the players who up to date have signed contracts are Delahanty, Taylor, Carsey, Hulien, Wheeler, Fifield, Gillen and Brandt. Mr. Stallings further says that the matter of a location for spring practice has not yet been settled upon.

SOME POSSIBILITIES.
There may be some deals made and players exchanged between now and next April, but Manager Stallings announces that none will be released, at least not until all have been given a fair trial. Just who will fill the various positions has not been determined by the new manager and will not be until after he has tried all the material at hand. Mr. Stallings says no favoritism will be shown, and the men who do the best work will be made the regular members of the team. Nash is very anxious to remain here and play third base and Manager Stallings says he is pleased to hear that the ex-Manager of the Phillies wants to continue as a member of the team. Mr. Stallings considers Nash a strong player and as good as he ever was, and he will be given the same fair trial in the spring as the rest of the men under contract.

THE QUESTION OF NASH.
Apropos to ex-Manager-Captain Billy Nash, the "Record" has the following pertinent remarks to make:

"The new manager apparently has not yet made up his mind about Nash. Up to last evening the two had not met. Stallings speaks highly of Gillen, the Detroit third baseman, but when pressed admits that the youngster has not the fight in him necessary in a successful League player. Everybody knows that Nash has plenty of fight, and his record as a third baseman needs no comment. The only thing to be considered is what effect the thump he got on the head last season is going to have on his hitting, and what his presence on the team would lead to. The batting part of it can only be proved by trial, but if talk and general disposition go for anything, and they generally do, Nash would jump in and play ball for Stallings with the same earnestness that he would for himself. Nash's greatest handicap as a manager was the lack of that stubborn impassionate determination so necessary in dealing with a lot of ball players. Nash was too "good a fellow" for the team he was in charge of. He is not past his ball-playing days by any means, and is more capable of captaining the team than anyone on the club's reserve list."

Philadelphia base ball patrons would like to see Nash play third with nothing on his mind to worry him. However, it is a winning team that is wanted, and if

Manager Stallings can make up a stronger team without Nash than with him, no one should object.

THERE WILL BE A CHANGE.
Manager Stallings' contract is for one year, with an optional renewal clause. He is hopeful for success with the team and determined to make a name for himself in the base ball world. One thing is sure, namely, the team will be shaken out of its old ruts and made to get into line with the modern game. Stallings is an athlete and believes that ball players should be athletes, at least so far as keeping in good condition goes. The new manager played half-back for the Nashville football team against the Yale consolidated eleven on Christmas day and made the one touch-down scored against the Northern eleven. That shows the calibre of the man. He is furthermore a strong believer in morning practice, and will insist on every player being in uniform at 10 o'clock each morning. He thinks that is the surest way of insuring early-to-bed habits. A player may stay up late one or two nights, but after a time he will be tired enough to turn in early. Stallings does not propose to drive the men. He will simply ask them to follow. The new manager does not drink or smoke, and his looks cause one to believe him when he says he has pretty good wind.

PRESIDENT VANDERBECK the capable, hustling young owner of the Detroit Club, of the Western League, was in this city Monday, having followed close on the trail of his former manager, George T. Stallings. Mr. Vanderbeck is very anxious to secure some of the surplus material which the Phillies will have after they start the season. Last fall the Philadelphia Club, besides drafting Manager Stallings from the Detroit, also landed Gillen and Fifield, which leaves three holes in Mr. Vanderbeck's team to fill. To make up for this, Detroit now wants some of Philadelphia's surplus players. Pitcher Keener and third baseman Ellis are the men Vanderbeck wants, and he will probably get them. He may also bag Hulien, whom St. Paul is begging for, and Sandow Mertes. In this event Manager Sharsig's calculations would be rather spoiled.

GUMBERT REALLY RETIRES.
Ad. Gumbert, the noted pitcher, who was with the Philadelphia Club last season, has retired from the game. His official notification of retirement was received at the base ball headquarters yesterday. His letter read as follows:

John I. Rogers, Esq., Philadelphia, Pa.—Dear Sir and Friend:—Not knowing whether or no you might see of my appointment as Clerk of Court of Common Pleas, No. 1, of Allegheny County, I thought perhaps it might be well for me to inform you of the same, so that you would not count on my being a member of the Philadelphia Ball Club next season. I want to thank you, Mr. Reach, Mr. Shettsline, Mr. Nash and the Philadelphia press for your kindness of the past, and I must now say good-bye to all and our dear old national game. Very truly yours,
(Signed) AD. C. GUMBERT.

P. S.—A Happy New Year to all and best wishes for the club's success. A. C. G. Pittsburg, December 29, 1896.

Mr. Gumbert's retirement will be a distinct loss to the League, as he was in every way a credit to the sport. He was well connected, educated, of fine habits and a thorough gentleman at all times. My best wishes go with him in whatever walk of life he may now or hereafter enter.

PENNSY'S PROSPECTS.
are bright and there is a possibility that the Varsity may once more cut a big figure in collegiate base ball. The base ball committee has for its leader a level-headed and enthusiastic graduate who used to play for Pennsylvania himself, Dr. Henry Toulmin. Already a great deal has been done toward perfecting arrangements for the coming season. One of the most important things decided upon was that the team should only play two games a week, these to be on Wednesdays and Saturdays. As in recent years, Craig's Riding School, Thirty-third and Market streets, will be used for the indoor training. It has already been engaged. Work in this cage will start as soon as the mid-year examinations are completed, which will be about Feb. 8. A coach has been decided upon in the person of Mr. Jesse Allen. The schedule has been about half completed, but will not be published until practically filled. It includes games with Harvard, Cornell, Brown, Georgetown, Lafayette and Lehigh. The season will open with a Southern trip, which has been very hard to arrange. On this trip it is only intended to play three or four games, but these have been hard to secure, so many college and professional teams being in the South at the time it is intended to make the trip. Two games, however, are settled, one with the University of Virginia, and another with the University of North Carolina.

LOCAL JOTTINGS.
Centrefielder McVey, of the Athletics, made Manager Sharsig a New Year gift in the shape of a signed contract for 1897. It has been settled that Thomas and Burnett, drafted from the Detroit team, will be allowed to play with Detroit, while Keener and Ellis will also go to that team. Gumbert is also out of the game, which reduces Philadelphia's reserve list to 25.

It is said that the Detroit third baseman, Gillen will be tried at short field. Gillen can't play the position and doesn't want to. Col. Rogers says he has declined an offer from Cleveland of O'Connor, McGarr and Blake for Delahanty and Cross.

Local fans were pleased to hear of pitcher Carsey's re-engagement by the Phillies. Strange to relate, the "Kid" did not ask for advance money, and thus broke a record for players who sign at this season of the year. He got some advance money, nevertheless.

Pitcher Al. Orth writes from Lynchburg, Va., that a new phenom in the pitching line first saw the light of day a week ago in that city. The first name of the new arrival had not been decided upon when the letter was written.

There was a Christmas tree at the club



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house of the Phillies for the little folks under reserve to Secretary Shettsline.

Billy Hallman has been whiling away his time doing a sketch on the theatrical stage, and, incidentally, playing hand ball—a game of which he is very fond, and at which few can beat him.

Pitcher Orth wants the Phillies to do their spring practice at Lynchburg, Va. Sandow Mertes has written Colonel Rogers that he is having a great time on the coast this winter and playing ball once a week to keep in shape.

The contract for the score card privilege has again been awarded to Leo Meyer, who ably handled it last season.

Manager Stallings says the report that the Boston Club was to train at Augusta, Ga., was untrue, unless Selee expects to practice on the open lots of that place. Mr. Stallings says he has the option on the grounds at Augusta, and although it has not been definitely settled it is quite likely that the Phillies will do their preliminary work there.

Manager Stallings may give young Geler a trial at short. This would be a very good move, as Geler has all the earmarks of a crack infielder. All he needs, I believe, is practice and experience.

The Philadelphia Club has decided to take Bob Allen's name off its reserve list, and he was yesterday given his release, in order to enable him to sign with some other club, he having a good offer.

Pat Meaney, of the Scranton team, a Philadelphia boy, has gone to Galveston, Texas, to play winter ball along with Jack Huston.

LEHIGH VALLEY LEAGUE
Is the Scheme Now on Tap in Allentown.

Allentown, Pa., Jan. 6.—There is considerable talk of a Lehigh Valley League, to consist of Allentown, Catasauqua, Lehighton, Mauch Chunk, Lansfords and Freeland, the clubs to be composed principally of local players. The scheme proposed in a dispatch from Reading a few days ago to form a league of local players from Pottsville, Allentown, Reading, Harrisburg and one or two other places is not favored here, because the Lehigh Valley League would be the strongest one and the rivalry closer.

ANOTHER VETERAN GONE.

Death of the Once Famous Player, David S. Birdsall.

David S. Birdsall, who was a member of the first professional base ball club that ever represented Boston, died in Boston at his residence, 222 Harrison avenue, on December 30, from the result of an operation performed upon him a year ago. He had been ailing for a long time, and his last hours were very painful. A daughter, 16 years of age, survives him.

Mr. Birdsall was born in New York City on July 16, 1839. He was first prominent with the Harlem Club, with which he played three years as second baseman, pitcher and catcher. He then joined the famous Unions, of Morrisania, where, with the exception of 1869, when he was a member of the Nationals, of Washington, he played until 1871.

He was with the Boston Club in 1871 and 1872, playing in almost all of the games in 1871, his position being right field. The next season he acted as substitute catcher, McVey doing most of the catching that season. He retired after 1872, not being strong enough to face the more speedy pitching that came into vogue. After his retirement he remained in Boston.

George Wright, who was a member of the team with him, says of him: "He was always conscientious and faithful, and played hard to win. We could always depend on him."

The deceased was a member of the Boston Lodge of Elks, and the funeral, which took place from the residence January 1 at 2 P. M., was under the auspices of the lodge. The interment was at Elks' Rest, Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Proffered Crowns Declined.

"Scrappy" Joyce could have been a Justice of the Peace at St. Louis, but he felt that his temperament was not compatible with the office. George Davis refused the nomination for pound master of Cohoes on the Prohibition ticket, and had Kid Gleason said the word he might now be at the head of the Society for the Suppression of Vice of Camden, N. J. Jake Beckley would rather play first base than be chief building inspector of Barefoot Square. On this account the office was given to another man.

Quite a Difference.

"There is a difference between the actor and the ball player," says Captain Anson. "The actor makes a home run after failing to make a hit."