



## HANDLERS OF MEN

ARE THE MANAGERS OF THE WESTERN LEAGUE.

An Exceptional Lot of Able Base Ball Men in That Organization—Some Facts About Their Experiences and the Estimate They Are Held in.

The Western League will soon be as well off in the way of managers as any of the clubs in the big League. William H. Watkins, of Indianapolis, remains in the Western League from choice. He has had several offers to go back into the National League, but none of them has been to his liking and he is willing to let well enough alone. He has been managing clubs for 13 years and probably knows the technical points of the game as well as any manager in the country. Base ball with him is a science, and there is not a play that comes up on the ball field that is not discussed by him and the players. A young player just starting out will learn more under Watkins' management in a single season than he would in half a dozen years under most men.

**JIMMY MANNING,** of Kansas City, is another close student of the game. He says that he received most of his base ball knowledge under Watkins, both in Detroit and Kansas City. Manning follows the game closely and teaches his players in the same style of base ball that is played in Indianapolis. He has been managing teams since 1887, but has had only one pennant winner, and that was in 1890. Manning has quit the diamond and says that he will never play again. The active management of the Blues next season will be in the hands of Jack Carney, who has managed clubs successfully for the last five years.

**CONNIE MACK,** who will direct the work of the Milwaukee Club, is another old-timer who knows the tricks of the trade. Mack will do very little playing himself, but will work out all of his young pitchers in the spring. He is still one of the best catchers in the business. Mack had charge of the Pittsburgh Club for three years, but last season had the same trouble as Nash, of Philadelphia. The players ran away with him. He is gathering a great team around him for next season, and it looks now as though the Brewers would finish close to the money.

**CHARLES COMISKEY,** of St. Paul, has been in charge of a ball team for 11 years. He made the St. Louis Browns famous the world over. That was before Chris Von Der Ahe lost his nerve in the Brotherhood war. Comiskey's success in Cincinnati was not all that could be desired, but since he has had the St. Paul Club he has made a hard fight. The team finished second in 1895, and for a time during last season had the other clubs on the run. The players went all to pieces near the close of the season, however, and threw away the laurels which they had won. Comiskey, disgusted at their poor work, "roasted" the team, and is now in very bad standing among his own players. He has set to work to gather a strong team for next season, and the outlook for the Saints just now is promising.

**WALTER WILMOT** was the surprise of the season of '96, and some of the cranks have not yet been able to figure out just how the Millers happened to win the pennant. Wilmot certainly did not display great ability on the ballfield, but somehow his team managed to win. It was the players, however, more than the manager who took the flag to Minneapolis.

**OLLIE BEARD,** There will be three new managers in the League next season in addition to Mack. Ollie Beard has succeeded George Stallings in Detroit. Beard has been handling ball teams for five years, with good success. He won the pennant in the Southern League in 1894, and ran second to Stallings with the Evansville team in 1895. Last season he was with the Rochester team, in the Eastern League. Beard is a good manager, but hardly equal to Stallings. With the assistance, however, which he will receive from the Philadelphia Club, he should be able to pull the Tigers well up in the race.

**GEORGE TEBEAU,** George Tebeau will guide the destinies of the Columbus Club. His success as a manager is yet to be proved, but with the aid which he will receive from his brother, Pat Tebeau, of the Cleveland Club, he should be able to do good work. Tebeau is a good ball player and will strengthen the Columbus team. Tom Loftus will not let him go far astray in handling the club.

**R. J. GLENALVIN,** R. J. Glenalvin, who, together with Bob Leadley, own the Grand Rapids team, are both old base ball men. Leadley was associated with Watkins when he had charge of the Detroit team, and knows the game thoroughly. He has been out of base ball, with the exception of a short time last

season, since 1888, but he has kept in close touch with the game. Glenalvin has been drifting in and out of the Western League since it was organized. He managed Detroit the first season, and since then he has played in Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Milwaukee and Grand Rapids.

**A RED-HOT BATTLE.** Of these managers, Wilmot, Carney, Tebeau, Beard and Glenalvin will play every day. Mack will get into the game occasionally, and Watkins and Comiskey will direct the work of their teams from the bench.

It looks now as though every team in the league would be stronger than last season, and there would be red-hot base ball from the latter part of April until September. The managers are all hard at work even now gathering their players together, and most of the teams will be completed in another month.

### BERRYHILL'S BOYS.

More Good Ones Added to Burlington's String.

Burlington, Ia., Jan. 3.—Editor "Sporting Life:"—Up to this date Manager Berryhill has eight men signed as follows: Raffert, catcher; Nichols, pitcher; Donovan, second base; Quan, short stop; Berryhill, third base; McQuaid, right field; White, centre; Ellis, left; Donovan, our second baseman, played last year with Youngstown, O. He was recommended to us by Watkins, of Indianapolis, who considers him a good one.

A. L. Nichols, "Old Reliable Nick," of our last season's team, has accepted terms, and will be here in the spring to try conclusions with other pitchers to see who will be permanent members of the staff of pitchers. "Nick," while a poor hitter (average for '96 was .109), is a good boxman. He won 10 out of 21 games, with fielding average of .893 out of 47 chances. He is third on base on balls, giving 30 in 21 games. He struck out 60 men, an average of three per game. He has good control of the ball, and when he is doing first-class work, and keeping the other teams down in the base-hit column his eyes seem to get crossed, and that means a game won for us.

Martin McQuaid, who is claimed by Berryhill, is a hard hitter and fast fielder. His average in batting, .347, is 16 points ahead of Purvis, of last season's Des Moines Club. He was with the New Yorks some time ago, and last season with Dubuque.

In regard to the signing of Jack Quan, our short stop, of Forrest, Ill., it seems that Leo Mesmer (who will play second base for Quincy in '97) had his address and kept it guarded so that he could take him to the club he (Mesmer) signed with, but one of the "fans" asked, "What's his first name?" Leo got the letter, showed it to said "fan," who noted the address, and when Berryhill was here he asked if anyone knew Quan's address. It was given with the result noted.

Manager Berryhill has signed at least a dozen men, but will not give their names out till he has the contract returned to him with the players' signatures to it.

It may be that this man Quan will turn out a first-class short stop, as we have developed several since 1890. Shugart was here in '90, Spratt in '95 and Hollingsworth last year, though Holly was considered first-class in '95.

Am sorry to hear that St. Joe has dropped out, but with Ottumwa in it will make the Association more compact, and come pretty near being called the "Burlington Route" League, as nearly all the cities are on that railroad. Cedar Rapids being the exception. Your correspondent at Rockford doesn't seem to think I can claim any right to being the first person to speak for the guarantee (\$500) that was adopted at Des Moines, and be deposited by the first of the year.

JAMES H. LLOYD.

### NOT A SINECURE.

Some Work Attached to That Umpire Inspector Position.

From an intimation let fall from an unexpected quarter recently it would seem that the new League job, Inspector of Umpires, will not be the sinecure that it has been pictured by irresponsible writers. From all accounts the duties of the new official will be manifold and onerous.

When the sun goes down the inspector will not be through with his day's work. In other words, his duty will not be confined to watching the work of the umpire in a game, but he will have to look after that individual both on and off the field.

Umpires will have to carry themselves very straight. The "Inspector" will be expected, so the story goes, not only to watch what the umpire does in the heat of action, but he will also report what kind of hours and the character of the companions the League staff of umpires keep when not on duty. There will be no red light pilgrimages or orgies with disreputable persons calculated to reflect on the great game that will not reach the ears of President Young.

Indeed, it was intimated that the conduct and companions of some of the members on last season's staff of umpires when not on the field was the cause of the creation of the new position, "Inspector of Umpires." If the Inspector, because of acquaintance or for any other reason cannot keep track of the umpires, it is claimed that he is empowered to engage detectives to do the gum-shoe act and shadow the knights of the mask and indicator.

If this is true it means that League umpires will be model men next season. There are several members of the League staff whose conduct both on and off the field has always been that of high-class gentlemen. It will do no good to place these officials under surveillance. Their conduct at all times is as open as daylight.

### PRACTICE VS. PREACHING.

A Critic Who Takes Issue With Mercer's Theory.

William Mercer, talking probably from his own experience, says that a young pitcher can get more valuable tips on how to pitch effective ball by watching the work of a seasoned pitcher in a game of ball than he can by throwing his arm out of joint in an effort to perfect himself through the medium of practice. The theory may work well enough in Mercer's case, for he is an observing and clever pitcher, but in nine cases out of ten practice is the only thing that will benefit a youngster. It is easy enough to sit by and see how it is done, but it is decidedly another thing to do it yourself. The stern reality knows a theory "for a twister."—Detroit "Tribune."

### No More "Gold Bugs."

The "Sound Money" campaign being over, Grand Rapids will reform. The uniforms of the Grand Rapids team next year will be black knee breeches and white shirts.

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## CINCINNATI CHIPS.

THE CINCINNATI TEAM IS NOW PRACTICALLY MADE UP.

The Addition of Infielder McIntyre as Substitute Rounds Out the Team, Although There May Yet a Deal be Made For Holliday.

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 4.—Editor "Sporting Life:"—Those who will root for the red legs this coming season can now get out their "dope" books and study on the team. It is practically made up, and the chances for further changes are few indeed. The drafting of young McIntyre from the Atlantic League on the last day of the year was likely the last act not now under advisement that will be done toward changing the personnel of the team.

**MCINTYRE.** McIntyre, has been drafted as a utility or emergency man, and is destined to fill the place of Billy Gray. He comes well recommended as one of the fastest youngsters in that hustling little Atlantic League. Whether he will do or not, of course, remains to be seen, but he will be warmly greeted, as are all newcomers to this city.

**BILLY BARNIE.** Billy Barnie, the bald eagle of Brooklyn, turned a nice trick on the Cincinnati people and captured one player who was slated to come here. Jimmy Canavan will play in the City of Churches instead of the town where beer is its one great stock in trade. And he will be a strong man for the Brooklynites.

**AS TO CANAVAN.** The team from Greater New York is to be congratulated upon securing the famous little polo player. Canavan was with Cincinnati for a number of years, and was one of the warmest favorites who ever donned the red and white. Perhaps no more honest or conscientious player exists to-day than he. Jimmy was always in the game, and could usually be depended to plunk out his little hit when it was needed. Cincinnati let him go for the same reason that Anson allowed Charley Irwin slip through his hands. A sore arm that grew no better as the season progressed caused him to be sent back to Indianapolis. The rest is known; how his arm came back to life, and his work was so good in Providence that big Leaguers began looking at him for strengthening. All of Canavan's old friends wish him the greatest kind of good luck.

**HOLLIDAY'S CASE.** No disposition has as yet been made of Holliday. He has been slated for a trade for a number of weeks, but as yet the right offer has not been made. And the "Bug" will not be allowed to go for a song. He is too good a man to give away. If the right offer is made Holliday will likely be sent out to some other town, but the offer will, of necessity, be a good one.

Two teams want him, and have made half-hearted offers for "Bug." Cleveland had the nerve to think Cincinnati wanted Harry Blake more than they did Holliday. But they failed to pan out. St. Louis has offered Connor, but the other considerations are not equal, and the ante will have to be raised before a trade will be consummated.

**NOT YET SETTLED.** There is absolute dullness in base ball circles. During the progress of the newspaper war, which has ceased, a bit of excitement was kept up, and questions arose every day which kept the cranks talking. Now matters are as dead as the inside of a morgue, and the fans talk of the spring-like days and wish the season had begun.

Of course it has not yet been given to the public that Foreman and Gray will be traded to Indianapolis for Dammann, and when one asserts that such will be done he does it on his own responsibility. Nevertheless, I think that will come about, and there are others who agree with me. Manager Ewing will neither affirm nor deny the story. So there you are.

**BUSINESS MANAGER BANCROFT** has resumed business at Hawley's, and his theatrical bureau is in charge of a "sub." Bannle is hard at work on exhibition dates, score cards and the forthcoming trip to New Orleans. What little news there is to give out he has it, but it is hard picking to get a line out of him these days.

**SOME SUGGESTIONS.** It never costs anything to suggest changes, and some of the would-be managers in these parts are continually offering new schemes. Some of them see print, while a large number never get farther than the waste basket. Here is how some of the quondam managers want the team made up:  
Trade Breitenstein for Rusia.

Get a trade of Burke and Miller for Delahanty or Hamilton.  
Swap Dwyer for Mercer.  
Foreman and Rhines for Clarke and Frazer  
Holliday to Chicago for Lange.  
And one misguided man wanted to trade the Cincinnati team for Cleveland.  
It might well be said that none has taken a medal for practicability.  
Did you all have a happy new year beginning. I did—with a big wad of influenza tied up in my lungs. F. E. GOODWIN.

### NEWARK NUGGETS.

How Burns' Sale is Received—The Team About Made Up.

Newark, N. J., Jan. 6.—Editor "Sporting Life:"—The reported sale of Captain Burns to Hartford has caused much talk among the "fans" of this city. Opinion is divided as to the wisdom of the move, if such a sale has been made, but the major portion of the cranks think it will prove a benefit to Hartford and an injury to Newark. Burns is a hustler, and well up in the line points of the game, not to mention his prowess at the bat.

**THE PROBABLE REASONS.** I have had no chance to verify the truth of the report, as Manager Ellis is in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Captain Burns is at Hartford. Rumor had it that Burns was asked to accept a reduction in salary, due, 'tis said, to the fact that the "Deacon" will personally manage the team this season. 'Tis said Tom refused to accept the salary offered, and this may have had something to do with the alleged transfer. If Burns should go to the Connecticut city he will have the best wishes of an army of friends here who appreciate the efforts he put forth to bring the pennant to this city. Hartford has secured in him a manager who will leave no stone unturned to give Hartford patrons the fastest kind of ball.

**THE TEAM.** Is now practically intact for next season, and that it is a strong one no one will deny. The make-up is:

Catchers, Hodge, Adam Rothfuss and Pear or Fear; pitchers, Lucid, Boyd, Setley, Wittrock, Carrick, Johnston, Lipp and Todd; first base, "Jack" Rothfuss; second base, Gilman; third base, Daly; short, Heine; outfield, Burns or Frank, O'Hagan and "Rasty" Wright. Bobby Cargu will be retained as utility man, and a good one he is, too. In the event of Burns going to Hartford Jimmy Gilman will captain the team and Frank, who is a good hitter, will play in the field. Frank led the Western League in batting in 1895, having an average of .472 in 37 games. He played that season with the Minneapolis team, which finished fourth. Last year he played in the Southern League until its disruption.

**OF THE NEW PITCHERS** Boyd is the best known. He was signed by the Washington League team for the season of 1895, but was not very successful. Last year he pitched for the Portsmouth team, of the Virginia State League, and ranked high among the twirlers of that League. He had for a running mate on that team pitcher Brandt, over whom Philadelphia and Baltimore are squabbling. Wittrock has played in the New England and Southern Leagues, and is well spoken of. The others are unknown quantities. The club will have eight pitchers, and out of this number Manager Ellis expects to corral four winners, at least.

**BEHIND THE BAT** We will have the two best catchers in the Atlantic League—Hodge and Adam Rothfuss. Both are strong in throwing to bases. The infield will be the same as at the close of last season, and it will stand comparison with any in the Atlantic League. The outfield will be well taken care of. There has been some talk of "Rasty" Wright going to the Western League this season, but I have it from good authority that he will be being out base hits in the East during 1897. We will be protected from the probable loss of Burns by Frank, and in O'Hagan, Wright and Frank we will have a trio of hitters that will give many a pitcher a headache.

**THOSE AVERAGES.** Isn't it about time the averages of last season were given to the public by President Barrows or ex-President Crane? Many people would like to hear how their favorite players stand. The pride of Newark, "Jack" Rothfuss, will come very near leading the League in stolen bases, and as a hitter—well, there isn't a first baseman in the League will lead "Johnny" in that respect, with the possible exception of Thornton, of Hartford.

**MINOR MENTION.** J. W. Dobbins, who caught for the Columbus, Ga., Southern League team last year, is open for an engagement with any junior league club. He is a good hitter. He can be addressed 478 North Sixth street, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Manager Glenalvin of the Grand Rapids team, has secured a hard-working catcher in Bob Elton, who caught for Paterson last year. He is a poor thrower, and that may operate to his disadvantage in the fast Western League. Glenalvin made a mistake in saying that he purchased Johnny Foreman from Newark. That young pitcher played with Cincinnati for a time last year, not with Newark.

Isn't Br'er Dill a trifle previous in parcelling it strikes me that way, at any rate. The Paterson team as at present outlined is surpassed by at least three teams—Newark, Athletics and Hartford. That man Sharsig has certainly gotten together a fine array of talent, and his team should be in the race from start to finish. But, fellows, keep your eyes on those Virginia clubs; they may fool us.

Here's that the Atlantic League may see the season out without a break in its ranks, and that "Sporting Life" may continue to prosper and that it will do so, with the aid of its fine staff of correspondents and its able editor, is the beller of  
JAMES A. GREALY.