



CINCINNATI CHIPS.

HOW WILL THE CLUB FARE IN THE SCHEDULE?

The Club's New and Aggressive Policy as Regards Local Counter Attractions—A Few Words About the New Pitcher, Damman, Etc.

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 11.—Editor "Sporting Life":—We're getting mighty hungry for that schedule. There is not a crumb in all the land who has not dissuaded the common viands of making up the teams, and unless there is some sweet little morsel forthcoming, like a trade for Cy Young or some such delicious bit, then our appetite is about satiated for the common things on the table and nothing more remains than to partake freely of the schedule dessert when it is ready to be served.

In that pudding how will Cincinnati fare for plums? I'll bet a nickel against Elmer Bates' year's salary that the Reds will not be disregarded when it comes to holiday games and such. Of course no one knows what the future and Uncle Nick Young have in store for us, and yet there are a few who can come mighty near guessing. One of these is President Brush, and when he asks for anything under the light of the sun it usually comes. Now, for the past three years Mr. Brush has been awfully slick in asking for dates that did not conflict with the races.

NO LONGER FEARFUL.

And the cost thereof was not what the doctor ordered. This season President Brush has adopted a far different plan and "the races be—" is about the feeling of the genial John T. Last season the close proximity of three race tracks did not have any perceptible effect upon attendance at the ball park, and a holiday game was lost just because there was a desire on the part of the base ball people not to mix up with the bang-tails.

In this matter it might be well to see with what consideration the race track people viewed the national game. In the early part of the winter Business Manager Bancroft was asked to use his influence as far as possible so that base ball would not interfere with the holiday races. The track people wanted everything to themselves on Decoration day. That was a foregone conclusion that they would have it.

But the race track people did not say anything about giving way to Fourth of July and letting the base ball folks enjoy that event without opposition. Oh, no. They wanted that plum as well, and Cincinnati was scheduled away from home on that day also.

Then came Labor day. Again the greed of the race men became evident, and they wanted no base ball on that day either. Thus it was that Cincinnati went through the entire season without playing a holiday game at home. And that privilege was asked for because the races were sure to be on.

A NEW PITCHER.

During the past week a few things have transpired about as I had believed they would. Foreman, Gray and Kahoe have been "traded" to Indianapolis for Damman and Shriver has been recalled from Milwaukee. This gives Cincinnati a powerful battery strength, and it seems to me that there are few clubs that are as well fitted out for pitchers and catchers as the Reds.

Now just look at the matter fairly, brother scribes. Can you tell me where there are four pitchers in any one team who can be called stronger than Dwyer, Rhines, Ehret and Breitenstein? There may be teams who have one pitcher who is considered more of a star than any one of these, but there is not a quartette of twirlers who show such collective strength as these four.

And Damman is no slouch. Shrewd managers who have seen him at work acknowledge the Hoosier boy to be a coming Breitenstein, and he will take his little turn with Theodore whenever the left-handed batters come up in masses against the Cincinnati team. Our pitchers are all right.

ONLY ONE PROBLEM.

Then there is the other end of the batteries. Peltz is no slouch. In fact, he is about as near a star as any in the League. Vaughn is better than the majority of backstops. In fact there are but one or two better. And Shriver. He was the acknowledged star of the Western League, and the three will be a trio well able to cope with any of them.

The only thing that is bothering us just at present is that first base, and it begins to look as if Manager Ewing was determined to try it again himself, and if he is not able to handle the position, then Vaughn will be on first.

It looks that way at any event. Looks like a pretty good sort of first division team, too.

LIVING IN HOPES.

Of course there are any number of people

who are jealous of Cincinnati. The team failed to make them out good prophets last season, and of course there are any number who are sore. It will be only natural that they should place Cincinnati again among the tail-enders, just as they insisted the first season that Baltimore made such a spurt that they were playing beyond their strength.

Buck Ewing has hit the nail on the head when he acknowledges that Baltimore may win the pennant again next season, but that they will have to play a stronger game than they did then to beat out the Reds.

And that's no fairy tale. Last year at this time there was no one to be found who wanted to bet that the Cincinnati team would be in the first six. In fact, there were any number who believed that the Reds would do well if they finished twelfth. But they made the best of them hustle.

And now anyone who wants to gamble a little can find any amount of Cincinnati money that a team cannot be picked that will beat Cincinnati out, save Baltimore. This offer has been repeatedly made, and \$500 offered that no one can pick out such a team. Yet there seems to be no one who cares to try their luck.

THE REDS

will open the new ball park at New Orleans next spring, having as an opponent the strongest team Captain Abner Powell can get together. Dates have been arranged on the trip home for games at Shreveport, Little Rock and Memphis, and it is a good betting proposition that, with any kind of weather, the boys will more than make expenses down South.

Trust Banny for that.

F. E. GOODWIN.

ST. PAUL SAYINGS.

Comiskey in Real Hard Luck—What the Local Fans Expect, Etc.

St. Paul, Jan. 11.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Charles Comiskey is paying more attention these days to the reports of the bank examiner than to the bulletins of the presidents of the various leagues. He wots not whether Cuba shall or shall not be free, and he doesn't care whether that dinner at Sherry's in New York was an iniquitous orgie or a perfectly proper pink tea, writes George A. Baissabi. The St. Paul magnate isn't worrying about any proposed changes in the rules; has paid no attention to the schedule of the Western League for '07, not even filing a claim for the opening, Fourth of July, and other holiday games for his own grounds.

A GREAT INCONVENIENCE.

Comiskey has troubles of his own. While Prince Charley has quite a bunch of "the green" tied up in Chicago real estate, he had a little winter money—something over \$8000—his credit in the Bank of Minnesota. He rallied from his sick bed the other day only to discover that a bank examiner was in charge of affairs, and that his deposit could not be drawn upon for the purchase of promising young players. Friends of the St. Paul magnate will learn with pleasure, however, that he is not likely to lose much through the closing of the bank's doors. The worst of it is a little temporary inconvenience.

A PLAIN STATEMENT.

Now that the fall sports are over the base ball fans are beginning to figure on the chances for the coming season. St. Paul has developed into one of the best base ball towns of its size in the country. Manager Comiskey has said time and again that he would not exchange his franchise for any other in the League. There are a great many fans of the first water in the city, and they are now engaged in wondering what the Saints will do next season. There is no use disguising the fact that the majority of the fans were disappointed with the outcome last season. Not so much because the team did not win the pennant, but because they could not tell all through the winter how the team had been robbed of the flag which should have come to St. Paul. If Manager Comiskey will put in a team of men this year who will play ball and play all the time, the fans will support him, whether he wins the championship or not. If he won't—well, he knows what to expect; he got a taste of it last year.

TALK OF A DEAL.

There is considerable gossip going the rounds of the Western press relative to an exchange of players between Milwaukee and St. Paul. A trade is possible between the two clubs whereby Kraus, a catcher, will go to Milwaukee in exchange for "Buck" Weaver. Kraus, however, is not better behind the bat than Weaver and as a batsman he is decidedly inferior. It is more likely that Shugart would be taken by Milwaukee in a trade for Weaver. St. Paul claims pitcher Hahn, drafted by Detroit. Another job for President Ban Johnson.

SPRING PLANS.

The St. Paul team will begin its practice work in the vicinity of Louisville early in April, and when they open the season in May Comiskey expects to have them in the most aggressive condition. He will play them against the Cincinnati aggregation as soon as the Reds are in organized shape, and will also drop in on Louisville occasionally and take a fall out of them, just to make things pleasant for the fans in that neighborhood.

DUBUQUE DOINGS.

Manager Cantillon Rounding up His 1897 Team.

Dubuque, Jan. 11.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Manager Cantillon has been busy signing players the past week.

He signed H. S. Wolverton, a pitcher from Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He was with Columbus, Ohio, last season. He has good speed, is also a good all-around player.

Another battery has also been signed. I. B. Butler, of Traverse City, Mich., a pitcher, and Sullivan, a catcher from Atkinson, Wis. Butler was with the Pacific League and St. Paul last season. He has lots of speed. Sullivan has been on the reserve of Lotus. He is a good backstop and batter.

Manager Cantillon has also signed Jimmy Sharpe, who pitched for Dubuque in the Iowa-Indiana League in 1899. He played with Columbus last season.

Manager Cantillon is corresponding with Hollingsworth and Wheelock for shortstop. Also Monamacher, a pitcher, who was with Milwaukee last season.

No man will play the bench. The alternating pitcher and catcher will play in the field.

Manager Cantillon says he will have as good a club as we had last season. We all know that what Joe guarantees he fulfills. The club last season was all right, but it had too many elbow benders, and that don't go with Joe.

J. LIPPMAN.



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THE PAGE FENCE GIANTS

Expect to Cut a Wide Swath, as Usual, Next Season.

Adrian, Mich., Jan. 10.—Editor "Sporting Life":—The management of the Page Fence Giants are making a strong effort to make this colored aggregation the strongest in the field. Last season this team played 165 games, and won 21 of them. It is the intention the coming season to try and eclipse this record.

The past two seasons have been spent in Western territory, but as the East seems to offer a better box office attraction than the West it is the intention of extending the territory to the Eastern coast and there compete with the famous Cuban X Giants for supremacy. These two teams played a series of 17 games at the close of last season, and the Page Fence won 11 of them.

The season will open early in April, and dates have already been secured with nearly all of the Western League and Western Association teams. The team managers of the Western League take very kindly to these games, as it gives their men the necessary preliminary practice before the championship season opens.

The following players have been signed for the coming season: Bill Holland, the king of all catchers; George Taylor, who has few equals at first base and no superiors; George Wilson, the boy wonder; Patterson, Grant, Burns, Binga, Johnson, Shaw and Van Dyke. Lines are out for several more men equally as famous as the above. Mr. A. S. Parsons will continue as manager.

J. W. STEVENS.

HOOSIER HAPPENINGS.

Marty Hogan Transferred to the Grand Rapids Club.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 12.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Indianapolis has quite a base ball colony this winter. Manager Watkins, Billy Damman, Marty Hogan, Johnny McCarthy, George Griever, of last season's team, are here. Then there are Amos Rusie, John Grim, John White, "Kid" Hollingsworth, "Pop" McCauley, Ed Donahue, George Lurie and several other promising young players, who drift in and out of the base ball headquarters. Quite a respectable ball club could be got together from the Indianapolis talent. There would be Rusie and Damman, pitchers; Grim and Donahue, catchers; McCauley, first base; Lurie, second base; White, third base; Hollingsworth, short, and McCarthy, Hogan and Hogriever in the outfield. That team

would make thinks lively for any club in the Western League.

It transpires that Marty Hogan figured in the deal between the Indianapolis and Grand Rapids Clubs, and will play in centre field this year for Glenalvin. Hogan is the one really good player Glenalvin secured from Indianapolis, as he is one of the fastest outfielders and base runners in the Western League, and will greatly strengthen the Grand Rapids outfield. Glenalvin is now at Lincoln, Neb., negotiating for some Western Association players, and is coming to Milwaukee the latter part of this month to secure some of Connie Mack's surplus material, it being understood that he is particularly anxious to sign Taylor and "Buck" Weaver.

A deal was made whereby William Damman, the left-handed pitcher of the Indianapolis Club, will go to Cincinnati in exchange for catcher Kehoe, Billy Gray, the Reds' utility man, and Frank Foreman, pitcher. There was no money consideration, but it is understood the Cincinnati management still retains a hold on Kehoe, who is said to be a promising young catcher. Gray and Foreman are released outright to Indianapolis.

SUNBURY SATISFIED

That a Central Pennsylvania League Will be Organized.

Sunbury, Pa., Jan. 5.—Editor "Sporting Life":—It is an assured fact that the Central Pennsylvania League will be organized with Hagersstown, Chambersburg, Carlisle, Shamokin, Milton, Williamsport, Harrisburg and Sunbury and promises to be the strongest league in the State.

We have organized a stock company and will raise \$2000 to run the club by the opening of the season, which will be about May 1. The directors will hold a meeting about the middle of January to decide on a manager.

We have fourteen applications from managers all over the country, but if Russell can be engaged again he will be the man to handle the team. He was without a doubt the best manager in the league, and knows how the game is to be played and has lots of admirers here.

Harry Tate, our lightning centre fielder, has a position here for the winter.

Russell was wintering here but left on Friday for his home in Reading, but will spend the balance of the winter in Texas.

Dwyer has visited us twice this winter. Gradins is in Altoona at his home. Lipp is home in Baltimore. Wetzel is in New York State, Gill is in Philadelphia, Ely is home in Lebanon, Watts and Nattress live here.