



## PHILADELPHIA NEWS

ALREADY PREPARING FOR THE CRUCIAL SPRING TRIP.

Officials and Manager in Full Accord and Everything Mapped Out to Mutual Satisfaction—The Task of Resigning the Players Under Way.

Philadelphia, Jan. 21.—Augusta having been settled upon by Manager Stallings as the spring training place for the Phillies there now remains nothing to do but sign the players and await reporting time.

Messrs. Rogers and Stallings have settled upon what players are to be retained and the compensation to be paid them. Secretary Shettsline has been kept busy for the past few days making out the contracts and sending them to their destinations. There is no truth, according to local officials, in the report of a deal with Louisville for an exchange of Cross and Clements for pitcher Fraser. There is but one deal with Louisville the Philadelphia Club would entertain and that is not to be discussed at this moment.

### THE SPRING TRIP.

Relative to the dispatch from Augusta in last week's "Sporting Life" to the effect that Manager Stallings intended taking the Phillies Southward Colonel Rogers said the other day that he did not think the players could be gotten together so early. The salaries of the players do not begin until the middle of April and they cannot be compelled to go South. Pitcher Carsey, however, was the only one who refused to take the trip last spring, and it is not believed any of the team will refuse to go this year, as it will do them no good to refuse the first request the new manager will make of them. Colonel Rogers is in favor of having the men play as many games at Philadelphia Park as possible before the opening of the season, in order that they may be accustomed to the ground before the championship games begin. Mr. Stallings, however, stated before leaving Philadelphia that he would leave here with the team in tow about March 10, as he desires to give the men at least two weeks of training at Augusta and then bring them gradually back North, so as to lessen the chances of attacks of "Charley horse."

### A MAGNATE'S VIEW.

Appropos of the many good things said about Manager Stallings Manager J. Earle Wagner, of the Washington Club, chips in with the following indorsement in the Washington "Post":

"Stallings is a calculating fellow with common sense, brains and executive ability, and those prophets who are predicting that he will flop had better quit discounting the future with fanatical forecasters of a booby finish for the Phillies. Stallings won about half the battle by obtaining from Reach and Rogers their assurance that they would not attempt to catch a crab by sticking their oar in. That is, Stallings will be the cook, the captain bold and the whole layout, from lookout to dealer, and John I. and Reach will play thinking roles in the background. If Reach and Rogers are content to allow Stallings to remain in the centre of the stage they must sink into perspective—keep out of the picture in fact."

As Messrs. Reach and Rogers have conferred full power on Mr. Stallings it is quite evident that the young man's success or failure will be entirely due to himself.

### THE ATHLETIC CLUB

as a member of the Atlantic Association promises to cut a much wider swath in local base ball affairs than it did as a State League organization. The team has been strengthened by the addition of five new men which, with the best of last season's team, should make a pretty strong nine. One more good pitcher is all that Manager Sharsig is now looking for. He is going slow about signing one until he knows just what the Philadelphia League Club will have to farm out. The Athletic team as it now stands has 13 men on its roll, and all have signed for the coming season, Childs having affixed his signature Saturday. The pitchers are Cain, Anes and Conn. P. Schaub, Fox and Berry will do the backstop work. Hamburg, Childs, R. Schaub and Rafter constitute the infield, while Moran, McVey and Lever are the outfielders. Last season the team played on the Philadelphia grounds in the absence of the Phillies. This arrangement may be continued this year unless a more favorable deal can be made. Manager Sharsig also has another big and gratifying surprise in store for local base ball patrons, which will be divulged in due time.

### PENN'S PITCHERS.

Pitchers and catchers desirous of obtaining permanent positions on Penn's base ball team have been summoned to the cage for preliminary training by Captain Blakely. All candidates will report on Feb. 8. The Quakers will be considerably stronger in the box this year than last, as King Dickson, who pitched for the Varsity in 1895, will again represent the University.

An able substitute for Middleton, the old catcher, will be found in Dicks, formerly of the freshmen nine. Altogether the outlook for a successful season at Pennsylvania University is most bright.

### LOCAL JOINTINGS.

Very little time will be wasted by the Phillies in the spring if Manager Stallings doesn't change. Of the 25 exhibition games mentioned about 12 games will be played at Augusta, and there will be very few one-day stands.

The Philadelphia Club has waived claim to Jack Crooks, late of Louisville. Jack goes to Columbus.

The Harry Wright memorial is to be ready for the Fund by May 15. It is the intention of the Association to hold the unveiling ceremonies during the first Eastern trip of the Western clubs. In this way it is hoped to secure a large attendance of players, managers and club owners, and to make impressive the last tribute to the sweetest character that ever graced the national pastime.

Jack Boyle complains to the Cincinnati reporters that first base at Philadelphia Park is the worst position to play in the League owing to the sun. According to Jack, no other sun field is quite so bad alike for its effect on a player's fielding and batting. And yet Jack is very willing, in fact quite eager, to play the bag once more regularly.

Colonel Rogers says that the Philadelphia Club did not draft Ollie Beard either for itself or for Detroit.

Sid Farrar, the former first baseman of the Phillies, is prosperous and happy in Melrose, Mass. He is somewhat of a power in politics as well as business, being a Councilman.

Al Orth is singing lullabies to that new boy at Lynchburg, Va.

From all accounts Dick Harley, the outfielder drafted from Springfield, is a wonder in every department, batting, fielding and base running. If all I hear is true it's a cinch that Harley will displace centre fielder Cooley. FRANCIS C. RICHTER.

### QUINCY'S QUIVER.

Is Now Full of Supposedly Good Base Ball Arrows.

Quincy, Ill., Jan. 18.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Manager Traffley has about made up his full team, though there may be some changes from the list herewith given. He has about seventeen men signed, including himself. He says he will catch a large portion of the games, so then he will be right in the push and the game. He don't propose to sit idle upon the bench. McFarland, of Chicago, was to sign for first base, but says the contract is too ironclad.

The present lay of the team is Paraty, first base; O'Connell, second base; McCormack, third base; Walsh and Mesmer, shortstop; Traffley and Rutledge, catchers; Haley, left fielder; Sickle, centre fielder; Frisbee in the right field. And the following pitchers: McGreevey, providing he secures a release; Morgan, Williams, LaBarge, Burgett and Lally. The latter is a left-handed twirler. Mr. Traffley proposes to have only eleven men on the pay roll, unless the directors decide otherwise. He claims that out of this list he will have just as good a team as any club in the Western Association.

Zeke Sullivan, who claims he is the best ball player in the country, made a flying visit to Quincy, and gave us a sample of his Indianism, and was successful. He introduced himself to most everyone he met and told them he was the man who would cover first base for Quincy in '97, but Manager Traffley says "nit." It seems strange that no one has ever heard of him strutting the world afore. He sat down in a quiet little poker game with a gang of back drivers and went broke and started a rough house. He said he was a prize fighter as well as a ball player. He was suddenly landed in the street and "he never came back." Traffley heard of his hoodlumism and presented him with his release. After touching the wires for car fare he took his departure for Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Harry Colburn, the southpaw, who pitched for St. Joe last year, wants to come to Quincy.

Marcum, who played first base for Cedar Rapids last season, also wants to wear a Quincy uniform.

Manager Traffley has received a number of letters from National and Western League managers, who want dates for exhibition games in the spring.

Captain Charley Lutenberg, of the Toronto Base Ball Club, is wintering in Quincy. He is keeping himself in fine condition by daily work in the gymnasium.

Jim Burns, the star centre fielder of Comiskey's team, and Eugene McGreevey are also members of the Q. A. A. C. BLACK DISPATCH.

### COLUMBUS CHOPS.

It Deserts the Southern League For the South-Eastern League.

Columbus, Ga., Jan. 19.—The slowness of Columbus to enter into the circuit of either League has caused considerable feeling of uneasiness among the local base ball enthusiasts. It was all well and good and, in fact, commendable for the Columbus Railway Company to stand by the now "defunct" Southern League, but too much of a good thing over-reaches itself.

Last week the franchise of the Columbus Base Ball Club was formally given over by Mr. Flournoy to Mr. James Smith Jr., of this city, who will organize a club and enter the Southeastern League. The transfer has been ratified by President Bosche, of the Southeastern League. It now means base ball and real snappy ball at that, for Mr. Smith has for some time been in communication with players of all classes, and has his eye on some of the best of them.

The full team of 1896 will not be retained, but four of the best have been reserved; these are left fielder Pedrose, short stop Hall, second baseman Trainor, and Gifford, the all-round man. He has also signed as first baseman an old Columbus favorite, Charlie Hamburg, who played left field when the "Stars" made themselves famous by winning the pennant. Wiseman, the clever little left fielder for the Mobile team of last year, is talked of as one of the new fielders on Smith's team. Smith says he can get him by writing his manager. For the box work he intends to select the best on the market, and says he has a letter from one who is willing to come and is a cracker-jack.

### Knows His Business.

"For a physician to successfully combat the trials of this world," says James McJames, the ball-player-doctor, "he must have patients."



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### ROCHESTER RIPPLES.

Dan Shannon Rapidly Getting His Team Into Line.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 19.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Items of base ball news are beginning to get ripe, and from now on the readers of the "Life" will be kept posted on the base ball situation in this city. The "Big Three" have been very quiet about the deals that have been under consideration for some time, and it has been hard work to get any news until this week.

Negotiations have been going on for some time with pitcher McFarlan, of the Virginia League. A contract was sent him, but the terms were not high enough to suit him, so he wrote a letter to the management, stating what amount he thought would be right to induce him to sign a contract. The terms we finally accepted, and a telegram to that effect was sent to him. It is understood that he led the pitchers of that League. He took part in 20 games and won 16 of them and tied one, losing three. His batting average was also good, and he should make a valuable member of the team.

Recent letters from Manager Shannon report him hard at work reducing his weight, and he will no doubt be in good shape to play a strong game at second base.

The pitchers under reservation are Herndon, Callihan, Tull and Murphy. Yerrick was signed as a member early after the season closed, and much is expected of him. He was with the Wilkesbarre Club a part of last season.

There are two new candidates for the position of short stop and third base in the persons of Barry and Henry. The former played with Hornellsville last season. Henry was the property of the Rochester Club for the past two seasons, but was loaned to Lancaster, where he has developed into a valuable man, and is pronounced by good judges to be one of the "comers."

Both of these youngsters will be given an opportunity in the practice games to demonstrate their ability. The management still has under reserved contract Joe Mulvey and Ollie Beard for their old positions. If the new men show strong the older men may be allowed to go elsewhere.

Catcher Boyd and outfielder Daly will be returned to Buffalo. It is understood that Manager Franklin had first claim on their services, having a string attached to them.

We learn that Charlie Dooley is again to be the guardian of first base, and we are glad of it, for we have much respect for Charlie as a man and player.

From this distance it looks as though Syracuse

was going to have a strong team in the field this season, and we are glad of it, for it will be all the more pleasant to the fans to see our team "do them," as of old.

Manager Griffin, of Scranton, is doing a lot of quiet hustling, and is going to have a good team to represent that city.

Indoor base ball is booming here this winter, and there are four different leagues represented. Billy Callihan, Sam Moran, Geo. Weldman, "Pony" Moore, Billy Heberling, Gribbock and a number of other well-known players are in the game. M. T. S.

### PALMER'S PLANS.

To Give St. Joseph the Longed-For Crack Ball Team.

St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 19.—Editor "Sporting Life":—That St. Joseph will be represented in the Western Association this season with a strong team is now an assured fact. Manager Fred Palmer, of Kansas City, is hard at work signing players for the team, but will not divulge the names of any of his players, except the captain, who will be Viox, the crackerjack short stop of the Kansas City Blues.

At the Burlington meeting last week Manager Palmer was on the carpet. He was asked to explain his connection with Jimmy Manning, of the Blues. He said Manning had nothing whatever to do with the team, and that he had only one Kansas City player and that was Viox, and that he bought his release from Manning. He also has five players from the Texas League, and three from the underbrush of Missouri.

Manager Palmer says he is going to have a first-class team represent this city, and from what I can learn he will do it. The work of remodeling the ball park will commence shortly. It will be made larger and more seats will be added.

I want to congratulate Varney Anderson of the Rockfords, on getting Dan Mahoney the Washington catcher. Dan played in St. Joe in 1889, when A. H. Truckenmiller had the team, and he has the honor of once belonging to a team that won 20 out of 21 games away from home, and the 21st game was a drawn game. That record was made by the St. Joe team in 1889. Dan is a good ball player, and a perfect gentleman, and is well known to the writer, who wishes him success in his new place.

The St. Joe Club will be incorporated in the laws of Missouri before Feb. 1.

N. E. EDWARDS.

—Umpire Tim Keefe will again coach the Harvard pitchers next spring.