

AMERICAN LEAGUE

The Official Record of the 1903 Pennant Race, With Tabulated Scores, and Accurate Accounts of all the Championship Games Played to Date.

By Francis C. Richter.

The third annual campaign of the American League as a national organization, which began April 20, ended September 29, with the Boston team as the victor after a hard campaign, which was exceeded in excitement only by the spectacular capture of the pennant last year by the Athletics. While the 1903 campaign started all of the teams had strengthened so much that it was conceded that the race would be even harder than that of 1902, as at least six teams, with the exception of the Athletics, were likely to have an equal chance for the pennant. True to predictions, the race proved to be a grand one, although the Boston team soon showed that the writers will have to reckon at all times with Boston.

COLLINS' GREAT TEAM.

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THE PLACE CONTENDERS

were the Athletics, Cleveland and New York, who were all season the only real contenders with Boston for the champion Athletics made a game fight to hold the pennant until July, when it not only lost the lead, but dropped down to third place. August, when it remained until September, when it made a grand rally for the place, beating Cleveland out by a nose in the final series of the season between these two teams. The loss of the pennant was the result of a combination of Waddell's misbehavior and failure of young pitchers, a season-long batting slump, and the loss of Hartzell and Davis' valuable services for part of the season.

THE OTHER DIVISION TEAMS.

The powerful Cleveland team got a poor start, but made a brilliant mid-season run, and up to September seemed to have secured place clearly, only to lose it by a hair to the Athletics on the last Eastern trip, which had to be made without the services of the team's three star pitchers, who were all disabled. The team's pennant chances were twice destroyed in the early part of the season by Lajoie's illness and Wright's failure, and in the latter part by the break-down of the pitching department; also by the injury to the power road work. The all-star New York team proved to be the greatest disappointment in the League. It got a poor start, owing to the illness of Long, the disability of Fultz, the failure of the team to get their bearings, the friction with O'Connor, and a general batting slump. It was further heavily handicapped by its new and therefore rough ground. For half the season the team was troubled by an internal division, but finally Manager Griffith got things to working smoothly, braced up his infield with Elberfeld, and in the latter half of the season they not only held their own thereafter on the road but proved their superiority at home, gradually got into the race good and hard, and finished a very close fourth.

THE SECOND DIVISION

contained the other disappointments of the season. The Detroit team, with its splendid pitching staff and other added stars, could only pair two pegs over the preceding season, thus scoring a comparative failure. The team's downfall was due to hitting slumps, and in the second half, which necessitated constant experimenting to fill the places of Elberfeld and Smith, the partial failure of the original outfield and the season-long illness of catcher third baseman, the St. Louis team fell from second place last year to sixth place this season, owing to partial failure of the pitchers. In addition, the let-down of McCormick, the batting slump of the outfielders and a general lack of confidence due to lax discipline in the early stages of the season. The ex-champion Chicago finished with nothing, owing to Callahan's managerial inexperience, the lack of a third baseman, due to George Davis' return from the illness of catcher Sullivan, the general lack of hitting of the entire team. The Washington team finished last with even poorer record than last year's. Batting slump and other supposed strengthening. The causes of this lamentable failure were mainly the trouble with and final loss of DeLehanty, the failure of two pitchers, the loss of their key positions, owing to an unparalleled series of accidents to players, and consistently light hitting.

FROM A BUSINESS STANDPOINT.

The season was very successful, despite the heavy burden carried by the clubs in the way of high-salaried teams and generally augmented attendance everywhere was good, and in several cities

extraordinary. Boston and Philadelphia again carried off the palm for big profits, while Cleveland and Chicago are also said to have done well. St. Louis did so well on the road that the club is probably ahead of the season. New York, at one time an apparent frost, pulled up so grandly in the second half that the club will quit little, if at all. The loser on the season, Detroit, Washington are, of course, the sure losers of the season. In the matter of department the campaign left little to complain of, the players generally behaved well, while the umpires performed their duties to general satisfaction. Following is the complete 1903 record:

Table with columns for Team, Wins, Losses, Pct., Runs, Hits, Errors, and other statistics for the 1903 season.

As a matter of interest and for purposes of comparison we give the final record of last year and this season:

Table comparing 1902 and 1903 season statistics for various teams.

Games Played Monday, September 21.

ATHLETIC VS. DETROIT AT PHILADELPHIA SEPT. 21.—This was a nine-inning contest until the seventh, when M. Cross' base on balls, Murphy's single, Schreck's triple and Plank's infield hit yielded three runs and the game. The score:

Scorecard for Athletic vs. Detroit game on Sept 21, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

NEW YORK VS. CLEVELAND AT NEW YORK SEPT. 21.—The fielding slips were

in agreement in the local contest, and had Griffith had good support he would have given the Cleveland a hard run despite their harder hitting. The score:

Scorecard for New York vs. Cleveland game on Sept 21, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

BOSTON VS. CHICAGO AT BOSTON SEPT. 21.—Boston defeated Chicago in the twelfth

inning, when, with two out, Freeman cracked out a home run. The score:

Scorecard for Boston vs. Chicago game on Sept 21, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

Table with columns for Team, Wins, Losses, Pct., Runs, Hits, Errors, and other statistics for the 1903 season.

CLUB STANDING SEPTEMBER 21.

Table showing club standings for September 21, including wins, losses, and percentages.

Games Played Tuesday, September 22.

ATHLETIC VS. DETROIT AT PHILADELPHIA SEPT. 22.—Through poor play the Athletics lost the final Detroit game, and with it the series to that club. In the fourth Buelow's homer with the bases full sent

Scorecard for Athletic vs. Detroit game on Sept 22, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

NEW YORK VS. CLEVELAND AT NEW YORK SEPT. 22.—Luck played more than the

usual part and the visitors had all of this potent influence. The finish was most exciting, but Cleveland scored one, and had men on second and third, with no one out, but they could not win. The score:

Scorecard for New York vs. Cleveland game on Sept 22, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

BOSTON VS. CHICAGO AT BOSTON SEPT. 22.—Boston's long string of successive victories was broken by Chicago. Although

clever pitching was largely responsible, but with Collins taking a lay-off the work of the home players seemed listless. The score:

Scorecard for Boston vs. Chicago game on Sept 22, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

WASHINGTON VS. ST. LOUIS AT WASHINGTON SEPT. 22.—Patton proved an easy prop-

osition for the fielding of Washington was poor. Sudhoff pitched remarkably well for six innings, not allowing a single hit or a man to reach first base. The score:

Scorecard for Washington vs. St. Louis game on Sept 22, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

CLUB STANDING SEPTEMBER 22.

Table showing club standings for September 22, including wins, losses, and percentages.

Games Played Wednesday, September 23.

ATHLETIC VS. CHICAGO AT PHILADELPHIA SEPT. 23.—This was a ten-inning

pitchers' battle. Chicago's only run was scored on a wild pitch, and the Athletics got the winning run in the tenth, also on a wild pitch. The score:

Scorecard for Athletic vs. Chicago game on Sept 23, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

NEW YORK VS. ST. LOUIS AT NEW YORK SEPT. 23.—(P. M. AND P. M.)—In the first

game the Browns hit Wolfe at critical stages. Five three-baggers were harvested off his delivery, two of which Anderson made. With the exception of the ninth inning, each figured in the scoring. Gantz was put out of the game for kicking. Score:

Scorecard for New York vs. St. Louis game on Sept 23, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

Batted for Wolfe in ninth.

Table showing batting statistics for players who batted for Wolfe in the ninth inning.

The second game was a pitchers' battle

between Howell and Powell. The former had the advantage throughout, while Powell weakened in the eighth inning and was hit safely four times for as many runs. The score:

Scorecard for New York vs. St. Louis game on Sept 23, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

WASHINGTON VS. CLEVELAND AT WASHINGTON SEPT. 23.—Lajoie's batting enabled

Cleveland to overcome a long lead Washington gained in the first inning, but a poor throw by Goehman in the eighth inning gave the local club the winning runs. Score:

Scorecard for Washington vs. Cleveland game on Sept 23, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

BOSTON VS. DETROIT AT BOSTON SEPT. 23.—(P. M. AND P. M.)—Donovan kept Boston's

hits well scattered in the first game, but Detroit's errors made the score close. The score:

Scorecard for Boston vs. Detroit game on Sept 23, showing runs, hits, errors, and individual player statistics.

Batted for Dinen in ninth inning.

Table showing batting statistics for players who batted for Dinen in the ninth inning.

The second game was easy for Detroit, its

Winters was ineffective and wild, and his