

## PHILLY PROUD

### OF THE PRESENT SHOWING OF IT'S BIG TEAMS.

The Athletics More Than Holding Their Own in the American, While the Phillies Are Gradually Recovering Lost Ground.

BY FRANCIS C. RICHTER.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 4.—From an artistic standpoint the past week was the most successful one of the season to date for both of our local clubs, although the weather affected alike the play, the attendance, and the enjoyment of those who braved the cold and wet, to witness the games. The Athletics completed a round with each of their Eastern rivals, thus giving a fair line on comparative team strength; while the Phillies redeemed their totally unexpected slip-up at Boston by brilliant victories in Brooklyn and New York and thus revived the hopes and restored the confidence of their supporters. In the team's ability to make at least a stiff fight for the National League flag.



F. C. Richter

#### The Athletics' Steady Progress.

The Athletics had a stirring week at home with the rejuvenated Washington team, which was the first one to make an even break against the formidable Athletics on the latter's ground. For this, however, the Athletics made atonement by taking three straight to date from Boston, incidentally giving the "grand old man," Cy Young, his first defeat of the season. The Washingtons made the Athletics extend themselves to the utmost to win the first and third games each by a run, and captured the second game with a knock-out for Plank, and the fourth game with a lambasting for young Carter. All of the Washington pitchers made trouble for the Athletics, particularly Smith and Hughes. The latter should have two victories to his credit, as he alone threw away the first game he pitched. The series was remarkable for sensational happenings, which are dwelt on at greater length below. In the whole series the Athletics were outfielded and outbatted. The gratifying feature of the series and the week was the return to form of pitcher Dygert, who pitched in masterly form against the Senators on Wednesday and repeated against Boston on Saturday. Boston compelled the Athletics to go eleven innings to win Friday, but was comparatively easy on Saturday and to-day. The Boston series ends to-morrow and then the Athletics go to Washington for five straight games. On Tuesday next the Western teams come East for a round. Chicago will be the Athletics' opponents May 12, 13, 14 and 15. St. Louis appears the next week, on May 16, 18, 19 and 20, to be followed in order by Cleveland for four games and Detroit for three games. The Athletics then make their first Western trip, opening at St. Louis June 5. Before that time Mack's men should make much hay, as the team, barring pitchers Bender and Plank, appears to be in better condition than ever before at this period. It may also be said that the team is better balanced than ever, and far more powerful than the pennant-winning teams of 1902-05.

#### The Phillies Redeem Themselves.

The gloom in the Philadelphia camp caused by the loss of three games out of four in Boston, was dispelled by the brilliant achievements of the team in Brooklyn and New York, where they corralled four games out of six played to date. Three games in a row were captured from Brooklyn in clean-cut fashion through the effective pitching of McQuillan, Sparks and Richie, supplemented with splendid batting, in which Magee, Titus and Knabe starred. Titus thus vindicated the managerial judgment which returned him to the team, and incidentally Knabe demonstrated his fitness to be the leader of the batting order. One gratifying feature of this series was an encouraging victory for pitcher Sparks, in his first game of the season; the other was Richie's capture of his initial victory after a number of hard-luck defeats. Moren had the misfortune to lose the only game of the week on Thursday through sheer bad luck, as rain caused the reversion of the game to the fifth inning, with a score of 2 to 0 against the Phillies, after they had made five runs in their half of the sixth inning. This was one more striking instance of the peculiarly variable luck that haunts the Phillies. Friday's game with New York was prevented by rain, but on Saturday the Phillies topped off a great week's work by beating the powerful New York team in a splendid game marked by McQuillan's high-class pitching, timely hitting by Knabe, Titus and Magee, and magnificent fielding which time and again stopped the rush of the New York sluggers. This was the second victory of the week for McQuillan, who has become to the Phillies just such a mainstay as Mathewson is to the Giants, and is now the star of the Philly pitching corps. Of the five full games he has pitched to date he has lost but one—the opener with



Mike Doolin

New York—the club thus being indebted to one pitcher for fully half of its victories. Had but one more of the remaining six pitchers equalled McQuillan's work and condition, the Phillies would be leading the race to-day by a comfortable margin. The Phillies close at New York to-morrow, and then they come home for games with Brooklyn on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. These will be the only games at home until June 4, as on Sunday next they start for Chicago, where they open their first Western trip.

#### The Eastern American League Teams.

All of the Eastern teams of the American League have now been seen at Columbia Park often enough to afford a fair estimate of their strength. The Senators have been vastly strengthened, and now present the best team Washington has had since its entrance to the American League. Manager Cantillon has put together a powerful pitching staff, backed by good catchers, a steady infield, and fast, hard-hitting outfield. The team will shine particularly in batting, and when the team-work is perfected it will cut quite a figure in the race. The new Boston aggregation sizes up as a team of brilliant fielders and very fast base runners, but a trifle light at bat—so light in fact that its speed will have to be supplemented with very effective pitching to enable it to cope with a majority of its rivals. New York has a well-balanced, fast and hard-hitting aggregation, which, however, has yet to prove that its pitching corps has

delphia within twelve years. On the third day the Athletics were held to three scattered hits and no runs for six innings and then won the game by scoring three runs in the seventh inning on three hits. On the fourth day Umpire Connolly compelled the Athletics and Washington to play to a decision in eight innings, during which it rained incessantly and heavily—something never before seen in this town. On Friday the Athletics safely beat Boston in eleven innings, 5 to 4, despite the fact they made 14 hits to Boston's 8 hits. Finally, on Saturday, in the third inning, second baseman Murphy, of the Athletics, made an unassisted double play at first base. Carrigan, of Boston, singled and Winter, on an attempt to advance him, sent out a fly bunt which Davis overran. Carrigan thinking the fly would be caught, ran back to first base but meantime second baseman Murphy, who had started to cover first secured the ball on the bound, intercepted Carrigan as he attempted to pass back to first base and then stepped on the bag, thus putting out Winter also. We can recall no other week with such a successive series of remarkable happenings.

#### Local Jottings.

Eddie Collins is a lucky substitute batsman. He always reaches first.

Monte Cross' forecast of the American League race, with Athletic relegation to a seventh-place finish, has not been well received here, particularly among Athletic par-



DR. MICHAEL R. POWERS  
Catcher of the Athletic American League Club.

Dr. M. R. Powers, of the Athletic Club, is a college-bred ball player. Pittsfield, Mass., claims him as a citizen, he having been born in that city in 1873. After graduating from Holy Cross College in 1896, where he played for three years on the team, he entered Notre Dame College, where he not only played base ball for two years, but earned his degree. He joined Louisville in 1898, and played in that city the early part of the following year, when he was transferred to Washington. In 1900 he played for Indianapolis. In 1901 he joined the Athletic team, with which he has since remained.

been strengthened to par with the other departments of the team. However, New York appears to be the one Eastern team best fitted to make the race with the Athletics. The latter, by comparison with its Eastern rivals, looks more formidable than ever. What it lacks in mere speed of foot it more than makes up for by steadiness, catching strength, batting power, and a splendid pitching corps. To sum up, the Eastern contenders will surely be the Athletics and Highlanders, with the local team as first choice owing to slight pitching superiority—all this, of course, bar accident and without considering the important factor of luck.

#### A Week Of Wonders.

The past week was specially noteworthy for remarkable happenings at Columbia Park and particularly was this true of the Washington series. In the first Athletic-Washington game on April 27 the spectators were treated to a triple-steal—the first ever seen here, and the first of which we have any record that can be recalled. With Davis, Coombs and Olding on bases and one out, Davis, doubtless tempted by Hughes' slow and unnecessary wind-up, signaled his mates and the three started, and Davis slid safely into home base with the aid of a rather high pitch. On the following day in the first inning, with Wilson and Ganley on first and second, Delehanty, in an attempt at hit-and-run, batted a sharp, low liner to Davis, which the latter just managed to catch and before the runners could get back to their bases they were put out with the aid of second baseman Murphy at first base and short stop Nichols at second base, thus completing the first triple play seen in Phila-

delphia. What's the use of prophesying before the event, or at all; especially when it makes bad feeling?

Eddie Grant is developing as a third baseman who will command special notice along the circuit this season.

One strong feature of pitcher McQuillan's work is that he seems in shape to go in any minute and deliver the goods.

The Phillies played to bigger game receipts on their last trip to Boston than they did in that city all of last season.

Manager Mack says he is not figuring on Seybold for a month at least. The husky outfielder of the Athletics is fast recovering, however.

Vickers has succeeded Waddell as Mack's rescue star card. Vickers seems to be able to go in at any time and check the opponent's batting.

Geo. M. Cohan's latest waltz song entitled "Take Your Girl To The Ball Game," is making quite a hit among the bleachers, and is being whistled freely.

Bransfield, of the Phillies, was on Friday called to his home in Worcester, Mass., by the dangerous illness of his mother, so Courtney is once more back at first base.

Oldring is not yet up to his best form, judging long flies and fielding grounders, but he is the Athletics' best timely hitter. He won two games last week with opportune wallops.

For seven years Manager Mack has been looking for a third catcher, and he has at last found him in the person of Syd Smith, who has won his way to the immediate

favor of the public. Smith is always doing something behind the bat—something more than the mechanical habit of receiving and throwing the ball. He is also a good batsman.

Krause, the California pitcher, of whom Manager Mack expects great things, is a little short of work. He is said to have everything, and expects to be right in a week or so.

To date catcher Doolin has been playing the "games of his life" for the Phillies. His work in all departments leaves absolutely nothing to be desired. He has steadied marvelously.

President Pulliam on Saturday last promulgated the contract of Harry E. McCormick with the Philadelphia Club. His reinstatement by the National Commission made him eligible to play.

The fielding of the Athletics' young outfielder, Moran, is superb. He thinks that his batting would be on a par with his fielding were he to play regularly. The youngster handles himself well at bat.

Friday's game in the rain was not only a farce, but a dangerous proceeding for the health of all of the players. As it was several of the Athletics' men caught colds, and Coombs acquired a severe case of tonsillitis.

Manager Murray says pitcher McQuillan has fine control. "He can put them through a hole no bigger than that every time," said manager Billy, illustrating with his fingers an aperture the size of a silver dollar.

Pitcher Foxon, the left-hander, drafted by the Phillies' Club last Fall from Jersey, but turned back to that club without a trial, has been purchased by President Shettsline and joined the team at New York last Friday.

Appropos to the Phillies' defeat in New York to-day, it should be noted that Mathewson won his fifth victory. He has not been beaten this season. His scalps include Philadelphia twice, Brooklyn twice, and Boston once.

Says the New York "Sun":—"It's risky business taking a long lead off first on Mr. Doolin. The redhead can make the ball sing on a quick throw over to the bag, and it takes activity and vigilance to keep from being caught napping."

To settle all arguments as to the proper pitcher credit for the Athletics-New York game of April 25, Secretary Robert McRoy, of the American League, has decided that Carter gets the victory. This is in accordance with our claim in last week's issue.

After the four-game Brooklyn-Philadelphia series in Brooklyn last week, the New York "Sun" felt moved to remark: "Sherwood Nottingham Magee was a hard hitter last year, but compared to his titanic licks of this season his 1907 wallops were mere love taps."

Pitcher Charles Baum, whom the Philadelphia Club drafted last fall and then turned back to Altoona, was married April 27 to Miss Hazel L. Root, daughter of a very rich Los Angeles business man. Baum is pitching for the Fresno Club, of the outlaw California State League, this year.

Harry Kramer, of Eleventh and Mifflin Streets, and Joseph Levy, of 821 Walnut Street, were arrested to-day by Constable Johnson, of Magistrate Rau's office, on the charge of printing and selling counterfeit tickets of admission to Columbia Park. The accused will be given a hearing to-day.

Dygert and Vickers are the only Athletic pitchers that can be depended upon just now. Both Bender and Plank are out of fettle, with little likelihood of either coming round right until the advent of warm weather. Pending their recovery, much will depend upon Carter, Schlitzler and Maxwell.

Now that outfielder McCormick's disability has been removed by the National Commission, what use will or can Manager Murray put him to? The work of Osborne and Titus of late makes their displacement impracticable. Possibly McCormick's availability as a substitute outfielder may act as spur to the regulars.

#### "BUTTERFLY BALL."

That is What St. Louis Critics Call the Slow Ball "Dusty" Rhoades, the Cleveland Twirler, Pitches.

They have gone crazy over "Dusty" Rhoades' slow ball in St. Louis. The "Times," in discussing Rhoades' delivery the other day, said: "Dusty" Rhoades' slow ball was a wonder. It simply floated over the plate like a butterfly and when the batter swiped at it, it seemed to duck away also like a butterfly. We would suggest that Mr. Rhoades call it the "butterfly ball."

The "Post-Dispatch" said: "Rhoades never had anything like it before. Speed and curves had hitherto been his stock in trade, so that when he began in the first inning to unship this new thing in the shape of a pitched ball he had the Browns gasping. It was an eerie sort of a fooler. It was thrown with all the gyrations on the part of the pitcher that attended the delivery of a fast curve. But instead of showing speed it drifted up to the batsman like a puff ball on a summer zephyr, and with the same apparent uncertainty as to ultimate direction, only to drop peacefully into the catcher's mitt at the end, leaving the batter puzzled and discomfited."

In conclusion this paper said: "Sometimes the batsmen let it go scornfully by, only to have a strike called on him; sometimes he struck at it with a manslaughtering viciousness, only to miss it entirely or to pop up a puny fly. As the game progressed each batter became more confident that his next time up he would murder that miserable little toss; but pitcher Rhoades only fed the Browns more and more of the same sort."

The New Orleans Club has given third baseman Lave Cross his unconditional release, after every club in the Southern League had waived claim. He has gone to his home in Cleveland.