

## BROOKLYN BITS

## THE SUPERBAS' ONE WEAKNESS MANIFEST.

More Batting Power a Supreme Necessity, Especially in the Outfield — Comment on Recent Deaths of Two Veteran Scribes.

BY JOHN B. FOSTER.

Brooklyn, N. Y., May 2.—Editor "Sporting Life."—Please observe that the Brooklyn Base Ball Club is not playing its star engagement at the present time of dropping all the ball games possible for it to lose at the beginning of the year. There were some who feared that the team was to get another slap in the face when it began to lose without much effort to the Giants. The New York team came to this side of the river and stung our young men for three straight as if it were the easiest kind of work. The "fans" began to acquire cold feet. They said the team was no good and never would be any good. Almost everybody was recommended for release. Then the Brooklyn went over to New York to open the Polo Ground. They lost over there, but it was a hard luck loss, and Brooklyn "rooters" consoled themselves with the belief that had it not been for the interference of the crowd



John B. Foster

might have won. The next game in New York was saved by the scantiest of margins. The Giants had a chance to walk away with it, but failed to do so with three men on bases and no one out. The game after that was lost by the Giants because Pastorius had one of his good days flinging up his easy floaters in a manner impossible for the New York team to solve. Then came a third victory over the Giants, Rucker doing great work. The results of the three games in Manhattan put quite another aspect on base ball affairs on this side of the river, and the "fans" again began to sit up and take notice, and predicted that the Brooklyn surely would be in the fight all the way. Probably they will, but it must be borne in mind that the Brooklyn team has indicated

## THE SUPERBAS

SOME WEAK POINTS

which will have to be bolstered up before Brooklyn can be placed in the column of the sure thing first division. It is a great and glorious triumph to beat the New York team, as the Giants are the natural rivals of the Brooklyn, but our eyes must not be shut to the fact that the Giants, as a team, are in a base ball way pretty fast compared with the outfit with which Brooklyn is struggling at the present time. Were it not for the good work of the Brooklyn pitchers the team would not be standing so well up in the race as it does. The fact that they have been so surprisingly strong is the greatest point in Brooklyn's favor that has developed since the team got back from Florida. It was expected that the team might show a little weakness in

## THE PITCHING BOX,

yet day after day the pitchers have held up well, and have had to do so in view of the weak hitting of the team as a whole. The base ball race for 1908 cannot be judged too much in advance on the good work of the players in the first twenty games in the race. It takes as many contests as that to get the machinery carefully oiled, and after the first twenty games are finished the class in teams will begin to tell. There is where the Giants are likely to be well up with their string of natural hitters. The outfield of the Brooklyn team is a good fielding organization as it stands, but it is not likely to be much of a batting crowd. Now and then the players in the outfield will make their hits but they will not make them with great regularity. The

## WEAKNESSES OF THE BATTERS

are too evident, and every pitcher in the league will be playing for them when the weather becomes warmer, and the pitchers begin to work at something like their mid-summer form. Brooklyn will battle with determination to hold the other teams down, and no game will be won from the Superbas before the ninth inning is finished, but there will have to be hard batting to get the runs to offset the attack of the enemy and Brooklyn seems to be shy on the batting end. The people are turning out better to patronize the players than they ever have. The improvements which have been made on the field are excellent. The more they are looked over the better the work seems. Charles H. Ebbets has been congratulated by everybody who has come along to look over his field. It is by far better than the ball ground of last year. On big days and on holidays there is reason to believe that Mr. Ebbets will have no trouble to pack the grounds. On other days there will be good patronage which will grow in the same ratio as Brooklyn plays successful ball.

## THE NEW YORK GAMES

would have been better patronized if the weather had been better. The first game was played to a little more than 16,000 spectators. The attendance would have been a record breaker for Brooklyn if the afternoon had been promising. By the way the Brooklyn management got a record breaker at the Polo Ground on the opening day in New York. The paid admissions were something immense. Not less than 5,000 persons were turned back after 3:30 o'clock, Fred Knowles shutting the gates, and re-

fusing further admission to the ground. As it was it was impossible to control the crowd which had already filled the place.

## THE BIG POINT

about the game was the good work which was done by Bergen behind the bat; in fact the good work that Bergen has been doing with the team all spring. He never has reported in better condition and he has been taking care of himself. The furthest that he has traveled has been over to New York and back to play the games, and he is one of the most industrious players on the team in morning practice. If Bergen keeps up the pace which he has set this spring, he will be ranking up among the best catchers at the end of the year. He has always been considered one of the highest type men behind the bat in the United States and he looks like a leader in 1908. Considering that Brooklyn is likely to have to play many of its games this year through the good work of the pitchers it is worth much to the team to have a man like Bergen behind the bat to keep them going right. Ritter is full of pepper and never handled a team faster than he has the Brooklyn when he has been in the games. "Maybe we won't win the championship," said Louis, "but there are some other teams in the league that won't win it either, and all of them will know when they have played against the Brooklyn this year. Our ball players aren't the easy ones that they were a little while ago."

## MANAGER ED. HANLON

was looking over the other day, and passing character criticism on the players. He likes the way in which the New York team shapes up, and thinks that they will be one, two, in the race this year in the National League, unless some of the men are put out of the way by accidents which will prevent them from playing ball. Hanlon, like McGraw, is an admirer of the work of Doyle at second base. "That boy has got base ball in him without a question," said the veteran manager. "The only trouble with Doyle is that he was put into major league two years in advance of his natural birthday. Had he been traveling with a minor league organization two years longer than he did every base ball club in the United States would have been bidding for his release. Before he gets through he will be one of the most valuable players on the New York team, unless my judgment is wrong, or unless he does not misbehave himself and make the most of his chances. Of course I am not saying that he does not behave. I am merely citing that as a reason which might retard the development of a great natural young ball player." This criticism of the veteran manager, who has seen ball players come and go for more generations than one, is worth publications it seems to me.

## HARRY PATTEE

has been impressing everybody favorably in the way he has been playing second base. He is fast on his feet and runs bases with intelligence. That is one thing, which is needed in Brooklyn, where there has been a little tendency not to exercise the best of judgment in base running. It will be noticed that the National League race has tightened up thus early much more than it had last year at this time. That begins to indicate a harder fight for the Chicago than they had last year. In 1907 at this time the teams were scattered like a flock of wild geese, the tail end stretching far away from the front of the procession. This season we find something quite different. There is a "closeness" which gives everybody some hope that the fight for the championship will not run into a two team affair, in which the only venture at stake is knocking one of the leaders down now and then, without a hope that the trailers will ever be better than trailers, no matter how long the season may last.

## CHADWICK'S DEATH.

No one can tell how much the base ball writers of the city will be likely to miss Father Chadwick in the years to come. "Sporting Life" wrote most eloquently of his gracious character and a tribute royally deserved. For twenty years I had known him personally, and during all the time of our acquaintance I cannot recall a harsh word that he ever uttered against ball player or writer. There were some things in base ball which he did not like and he was never averse to criticizing them. Nor was he the least timid in criticism when he was convinced that he was right. Some times he formed opinions of players which he was ever ready to change when he discovered that reason existed for it. My last conversation with him was at the Yale-Giant game on the opening day of the preliminary season in New York. He came away over from Brooklyn because he wanted to see the Yale players in action and was curious to note how the New Yorks would play with their changed line-up. He came to the press box and sat next me throughout the game. He was

## EAGER TO KNOW

by name the young players who had been brought by McGraw from Texas. When they were pointed out to him he was quick to see their good points and remarked to me: "Isn't it wonderful how our great game has developed. See the splendid appearance of those young boys whom McGraw has signed this year. They work with the skill of veterans and twenty years ago we would have called them stars." He was also greatly interested in the Yale Club, and said that it reminded him more of the old Yale teams than any he had seen in recent years. When he was told that many of the Yale players were also foot ball players last fall, he said, "Foot ball didn't spoil them for base ball. That is certain." When the game between the teams was about half completed he remarked that the air was chilly, and as he was shaking with the cold, it was suggested that possibly he was taking too long a chance to remain out late. "I'd like to see the sport through," said he, "but perhaps you are right and maybe I would better make my way home before the sun gets too low." He complimented McGraw very highly on the good showing which had been made by his players. "I consider McGraw to be one of the most intelligent managers who ever has been connected with the sport,"

said he when running over the names of some men who have made themselves famous by handling base ball clubs. Everybody loved him and he died with a regret that is universal so far as the name of base ball and Chadwick are known.

## THE PASSING OF MANDIGO.

Another most lovable fellow passed away shortly before—John H. Mandigo, the sporting editor of the New York Sun. No man ever lived with a kinder heart. I knew him years ago when he was a base ball writer, and have had the pleasure of his acquaintance for many years since then, and base ball lost one of the squarest boys of the old guard when the Umpire called for John H. Mandigo. The two almost inseparable companions of years ago—John H. Mandigo and George E. Stackhouse—have gone home and the old boys or 1889 are narrowed down to less than half a score.

## UMPIRES' TROUBLES.

William Evans, the Erstwhile Bottle-Thrower Victim, Says Tail-End Teams Are Hardest to Please.

"Umpiring in the major leagues is hard or easy, according to the conditions that arise," remarked Umpire "Billy" Evans. "Usually—you might almost say it is the rule—that it is in the least important games—assuming that any games are unimportant—that the most trouble arises, while in the games upon which a championship depends, sometimes seem to umpire themselves. Ask any umpire who has been in the business for years, and he will tell you that his troubles come when least expected, and that he has his easiest days when he might naturally expect one continued row. Silk O'Laughlin and I were assigned to the all-important series between the Sox and Tigers in Chicago last fall. The pennant virtually hung on the result and we decided in advance to take extraordinary precautions against any trouble. There were four games in the series, and honestly an old maid could have umpired them without hearing a word that would have disturbed her notion of the proprieties. It's when two tail-end teams perform before 397 people at the far end of a season that the umpire wishes he had gone into business or stuck to the old farm. The games that the umpires like are the ones in which there are about 49 easy pop flies, and in which every base runner is thrown out by 30 feet or more."



Wm. G. Evans

Central Association.

The Former Iowa League Under the Above New Title Is Meeting With Every Indication of a Successful Season.

By Carl Stanley.

Waterloo, Ia., April 30.—Editor "Sporting Life."—With the opening of the season in the Central Base Ball Association only one week away reports from all towns in the circuit are encouraging. The teams of the Central Association, formerly the Iowa League, have given a good account of themselves in games with the Three Eyes teams. Burlington has been playing with Peoria and Decatur, but was not able to do much in these two towns. Jacksonville has been bumping against Rock Island and the result was all that was expected, the Central team splitting even. Waterloo has played both Dubuque and Cedar Rapids, defeating Dubuque three out of four games and twice winning from Cedar Rapids, one of the games being a shut-out. On that dope Manager Boyle's Waterloo team ought to win the Central Association pennant hands down.

## News Notes.

Short stop Behringer, of Springfield, has signed with Keokuk for the coming season.

Three of Cedar Rapids' players this season are former Jacksonville players, they being Tess Allen, Bill Fox and James LeVelle.

Only two players were drafted from the champion Waterloo team, namely: Pitcher Hollenbeck by Omaha, and short stop Wilkes by Atlanta.

Tom Daley, of last year's Burlington team, who was drafted by Cincinnati last fall, has been turned over to Terre Haute. There is no doubt but what

Daley made good with the "Reds," but owing to the old fielders on the team, they were given the preference.

Geo. Harms, who was with Waterloo and Lincoln, Neb., a short time last year, is playing left field for Oskaloosa this season, and made a very creditable showing to date.

Wilson, the speedy outfielder who led the O.-A.-K. League in batting last season, has signed a Keokuk contract, and O. W. Bartlett, who was in the Illinois Trolley League circuit last year, has signed with Kewanee. He is credited with being a spit ball artist.

## TIGERS' DOWNFALL.

Attributed By a Cleveland Writer to the Excessive Use of Cigarettes By Nearly All of the Detroit Players.

By Elmer E. Bates.

Cleveland, O., May 2.—Is it the cigarette which is responsible for the downfall of the Detroit Tigers, or are they merely in the midst of a losing streak? The 1907 champions of the American League are now in last place. When they were training down South it was predicted they would make a poor showing this season, because nearly every member of the team was fondling one of the strength-absorbing weeds almost all of the time. When the Tigers played in Cincinnati this spring

## THE CIGARETTE

was certainly in evidence. Wild Bill Donovan smoked on the field. After Siever had pitched part of a game he hurried to the bench, rolled one of the weeds and smoked it on his way to the club house. Other Tigers worshipped the little creations of tobacco and rice paper. Cigarette smoking became so popular with the members of the team that it was remarked in every city they visited. They are still smoking, and they are also

## IN LAST PLACE

in the American League race. On the other hand, the Chicago Cubs have tossed the little weed aside. The Cubs realized that cigarette smoking and ball playing did not mix. They cast out the evil that proposed to ruin their chances of winning another pennant, and they are now the leaders in the National League race.

## ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION NEWS.

The Woonsocket players have all reported for practice. The team will be known as "The Trotters."

The Pawtucket Club has signed for trial twenty-four players from all sections of Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts.

The Lewiston Club has 27 men under contract, as follows: Pitcher Gatoomb, catcher Sullivan, pitcher Cassidy, shortstop Curtin, shortstop Way, second baseman O'Brien, third baseman Odway, third baseman Robbs, and Sullivan of Lowell, King of South Framingham, Teehan of Dorchester, Donovan of South Boston, Carlyn of South Framingham and McGeachey of Worcester.

## EXHIBITION GAMES.

## APRIL 23.

At Worcester—Worcester 1, Waterbury 3.  
At Wilmington—Wilmington 1, U. C. Chester 5.  
At Lowell—Lowell 3, New Britain 8.  
At Brockton—Brockton 7, New Haven 10 (10 ins).  
At Wilkes-Barre—Wilkes-Barre 9, Cuban Giants 2.  
At Scranton—Scranton 4, Utica 0.  
At Hartford—Hartford 9, Holy Cross Seconds 1.  
At Albany—Albany 5, Brooklyn Giants 7.  
At Troy—Troy 1, A.-J.-G. 2.  
At Rochester—Rochester 1, Philadelphia Giants 4.

## APRIL 24.

At Wilkes-Barre—Wilkes-Barre 6, Utica 5 (11 ins).  
At Scranton—Scranton 18, Wyoming Seminary 3.  
At Springfield, Mass.—Springfield 6, New Bedford 4.  
At Lynn, Mass.—Lynn 2, Meriden 0.  
At Brockton—Brockton 8, New Haven 3.  
At Lowell, Mass.—University of Vermont 8, Lowell 0.  
At Worcester, Mass.—Waterbury 6, Worcester 8.  
At Troy—Troy 5, Brooklyn Royal Giants 3.

## APRIL 25.

At Lynn—Meriden 5, Lynn 3.  
At Brockton—Brockton 6, Woonsocket 5.  
At Waterbury—Worcester 3, Waterbury 2.  
At Hartford—Hartford 5, New Bedford 1.  
At Troy—Troy 10, Albany 5.  
At Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—Wilkes-Barre 4, Utica 0.

## APRIL 26.

At Scranton—Scranton 2, Boston A. L. 0.  
At Albany—Albany 6, Troy 3.  
At Utica—Utica 15, Cuban Giants 2.  
At Waterbury—Waterbury 10, Worcester 8.  
At Schenectady—A.-J.-G. 6, Jeffersonian 2.

## APRIL 27.

At Utica—Utica 7, Cuban Giants 0.  
At Troy—Troy 12, Cohoes Stars 1.  
At Scranton—Scranton 11, Providence, Pa., 2.

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