

IN PITTSBURG

SOME GOOD FORTUNE FOR THE PIRATES.

Despite Inability of Many Veterans to Serve the Ball, the Team Made a Fine Record—Coffers Filled by Home Turnouts—Mad Solons.

BY A. E. CRATTY.

Pittsburg, May 2.—Editor "Sporting Life."—The getaway in a championship race cuts a large sized figure. Artistic and financial rewards come with a good start.



A. R. Cratty

Pittsburg's nine cannot complain of the way things broke for them in the first ten days of this chase now on. Notwithstanding the fact that some of the old time twirlers of the team were ailing the club won six out of the first ten combats. Not all were landed on merits, but then those are the fortunes of base ball play. The team got away so well at home, was blessed with such high class weather and attendance for the first series that Secretary Locke was forced to remark, "Where is the man who declared that the season was opened too early?" Of course the Pittsburg monied man was quick to say that May might bring forth a bad spell of weather. Few base ball men are deeper in weather lore than Locke.

SEEKING REVENGE.

One thing to jar the minds of the Pirate owners during opening week at home was the revengeful attitude of City Solons. The management expected trouble when season books to Councilmen were cut off. The attack came like a flash. Crafty Councilmen, by manipulation, managed to get a genuine reformer to introduce their measure, taxing the team to the skies for playing in now Greater Pittsburg. This man had never sought a season book, in fact returned a street railway pass tendered to him yearly. Col. Barney outwitted the pass hunters by taking out the annual license, now in vogue \$150, before the season book chasers caught onto the fact that they were to be off the free list this year. This ruse balked the club pesterers for the present season as far as a license fee is concerned, but they are up to other means of revenge. The fight between the club and the Councilmen was voted such a news item of importance that nearly all papers put the story on the first page. Some "led" with it. Graft has been an important topic in this city's affairs for some years. One Councilman is now serving sentence for trying to grab money in a railroad scheme. The controversy between the club and Councilmen brought out many letters to papers from patrons. Col. John D. Pringle, well known as a base ball paragrapher ten years ago, unsolicited wrote a scorching communication to a local journal rapping the graft brigade. Chances are that the City Solons will harass the team all summer.

NOT UP TO SNUFF.

Sorry to say that Cecil Neighbors, the young man so admired by Southern correspondents, has not displayed talent up to the liking of the local management. Col. Dreyfuss was heard to express regret over this fact. He wanted to keep the lad, but there were unmistakable defects so pronounced that one could not hope for a change inside of a year or two. Neighbors isn't a half bad ball player by any means, but as to being up to National League calibre there is decided doubt in the mind of the Pittsburg owner. Chances are that a trade will be figured on ere long.

ROBINSON IS INTERESTED.

Looked like old times to see Frank de Haas Robinson with the St. Louis nine. It recalled the days when F. de R. took keen interest in his aggregation. The veteran magnate has taken a new lease of life in the recreation and venture. He will give the club more time hereafter than was his wont for a period about of five or six years. "We are putting the team operation in Manager McCloskey's hands and feel sure that he will develop a fast nine in a season, or so," said Robinson. "The ball playing game belongs to the young element. You take a player, and when he gets over 30 years he isn't exactly the worker when early in the sport." This is also Manager Mack's idea.

GILBERT'S EAGERNESS.

"Billy Gilbert was too quick in getting rid of his overweight, and thus weakened his vitality." So said Manager McCloskey. "There is no person more eager than myself to see Billy get back into form. I know his worth when in shape. He tried to jump into the game and play ball with all speed at the start. That really cost us the spring series. We had to put Hoelsketter in the infield and his play lost us a game; started things to the bad." Echoes of the spring season series between the Cardinals and Browns were still waiting around when the St. Louis nine was here. The undersigned asked Secretary Locke if the defeat of the National League men had not been a severe blow to the getaway of the old union in St. Louis. "Well, it does hurt a nine to lose in that series, but then there is such a demand for the games on the part of home patrons and a nine cannot afford to ignore the interest. Do the games draw? Well, the spring bouts held several weeks ago are made memorable by the fact that one game drew the largest crowd ever in attendance at a base ball bout. The count

was over 26,000. I know there have been assertions of bigger crowds than that, but they are not borne out by figures. St. Louis has the largest field in the country, and is able to handle such a concourse of people."

BYRNE WILL STICK.

Manager John Mac, of the Cardinals, is through experimenting in the matter of third base. Last winter Bill Abstein, who wintered in Mound City, kept telling reporters that Byrne was a better short stop than third baseman. He had played with the boy in the South and knew his fine points. Manager Mac, to appease popular fancy, put Byrne at short for the spring battles. The result was not exactly gratifying. Hereafter Byrne will stand guard at third. Mac will do no more experimenting. "I have developed Harry Raymond, Bill Joyce, Jimmy Collins and other star third basemen in my time, and am also pleased with the way Byrne has turned out," says Mac.

A UNIQUE SLABSTER.

"Bugs" Raymond! The handle fits erratic Arthur. This Chicago boy is a marvel if reports on the rounds here are true. They tell that two hours before the youngster drove Pittsburg to a shut out here he was standing in front of a down town railing and blowing foam from cool and refreshing drinks. "Fine pitcher when he is right," declared Col. Dreyfuss. Bugs was right the afternoon he faced the Pittsburgs. He enabled his comrades to win their one game out of seven from the Pirates. Manager Mac thinks that Arthur will cut out all foolishness this summer. Last year Raymond struck out 351 men in 50 games at Charleston, S. C.

DAVE FOUTZ' DOUBLE.

Great things are being predicted by the St. Louis men for Fromme, the long youth who can twirl some. Old stagers declare he is a reminder of David Foutz in actions and looks. There is also reason to think that he will prove equally as skillful and reliable as the veteran long since passed away. Fromme is young. It's a fact that he has just neared 22 years of age.

DR. VAUGHANS VIEWS.

A missive from Dr. Milton Vaughan, of Little Rock, just at hand makes good reading. The Arkansas patron says among other things: "Pittsburg beat us to three men we wanted: Starr, Kane and Wilson. These men were highly touted by the writer to the management of the Little Rock nine, especially was this so of Wilson, whom I saw down in Texas. We got him and then loaned him to Des Moines. I was anxious for Pittsburg to get S. Smith, Sweeney or McDonough as a catcher, for I thought that Pittsburg was weak behind the bat. Rather was a corking good catcher, but rather young and light, but a sure comer. My old prospect, Ralph Tozer, of Los Angeles and Buffalo, seems to have caught on. Wait until things get ripe down here, and I will try and give you some live ones. Wish you could get Fred Clarke to let us have a short stop and outfielder. Little Rock is weak there. We have one outfielder who looks to be a wonder." Col. B. read Dr. Vaughan's letter with keen interest. "Loaned Wilson to Des Moines, eh? Covered him up would have been better. 'Twas in Des Moines where Fred caught on to the player." Dr. Vaughan, in his letter, suggested that if Wagner didn't sign that Pittsburg should try to get Ball for short stop, a lad who had the goods. "Tried to buy Ball last year, but my offer was turned down," commented Col. Barney.

SUMMER WAVES.

John Harris, the score card man, is guessing. He was inveigled into trying a new score system this spring. Patrons kick on the idea. Many refuse to purchase the record keepers.

"No more fire arms for me," said Cap. Clarke, when a friend told him of the coming introduction of a new revolver. "Have so many guns now that I can only empty them once a day."

The inventor of a new fangled indoor base ball game has been pestered the bosses of the Pittsburg team for testimonials. Last letter was in the form of a hurly-burly for the recommendation. The writer said that "he was holding back the press in order to get the boost from the Pittsburg men."

Stanley Robinson is also out for bear in base ball now. He watches points once overlooked in the old days of pleasure tripping. The veteran secretary looks the picture of health. "We haven't such a bad club," remarked Stanley. This youngster idea is a dream Stan picked out three or four years ago. Veterans disgusted him by their soldiering.

Mr. Street, inventor of that pitching machine from Yanketown, made his home at headquarters for several days. The purchase of a twirler was up to Cap Clarke. Once Fred thought of putting up the \$500 but shifted his mind to advocate the scheme of laying a canvas cover over the infield during rainy days.

Fast to first base men seem to be plenty this year. Becker, of Pittsburg, and Shaw, of St. Louis, go down that way rather rapid.

Under old rules any holder of a newspaper season book imagined that he had a right to invade the scorers' roost. Doesn't go any longer.

Joe Deleahanty is the smallest edition of the noted brothers. He doesn't recall the lamented Ned in many ways. Now and then one may be able to discern that characteristic walk of the Deleahantys.

Harry Plagmann, Cap. Clarke's right bower at Winfield, has just sent his chief word that he will prefer charges against Harry Arkel and George Leonard Moreland. They gave him their word that they would mail him copies of Pittsburg papers, containing accounts of the great day on the Little Pirate ranch. "Our Board of Trade wants them for the files," says Harry.

Word has been received that Trainer La Force has had his injured leg put in a plaster cast. Ed. will be able to travel in about four weeks.

Banny is all there with the goods. He has just written Cap. Clarke, thanking him

These Leagues

American League

American Association

Southern League

South Carolina State League

South Atlantic League

Empire State League

International League

Union League

Penna.-New Jersey League

Tri-State League

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John Lush handled tickets for the Charley Pittinger affair when here. He managed to dispose of a number of cards. Lush vows that Pitt should be given a solid boost. He is a deserving veteran.

Feuds between local newspaper men do not seem to local. A new organization, the county league, has aroused a stir. One promoter threatened to go over the head of a well known sporting writer. There will be a day of reckoning for this fellow.

GREAT CATCHERS.

Are So Scarce in These Times That a Real Star Would Bring an Enormous Sum If on the Market.

By Elmer E. Bates.

Cleveland, O., May 1.—How much salary could a catcher like Lou Criger, Billy Sullivan or John Kling command were he to offer his services to one of the major league teams to-day? Ten thousand dollars a year? Yes, and more, too. The scarcest commodity in the base ball market to-day is backstops. That is the one department of the game that has not kept pace with the others. There are many good catchers, but

FEW GREAT ONES.

There are, however, some promising young men behind the bat to-day. Schmidt, of the Tigers, is one of them. Three times in Friday's game—when any kind of a slip meant a lost game—he sent the ball whizzing down to second to keep the Nap base runners from getting gay. How many catchers since Mike Kelley's day have had the nerve to do that? Not over a dozen. "Pop" Warner was the last one to make that hazardous play repeatedly—barring, of course, the great trio—Criger, Sullivan and Kling. There is room in the major leagues for a

DOZEN FIRST CLASS CATCHERS,

and they could name their own salaries. There is no position in the athletic world that offers as lucrative a future to the ambitious young player as that behind the bat. Almost every young man breaking into the profession sets his heart on becoming a great pitcher, while the purses of the magnates are wide open to the men who can prove themselves worthy to fill the places once honored by a Ewing, a Kelly and a Snyder.

BASE BALL BATS.

Are the Object of Care and Solicitude to the Players.

A ball player uses more care in choosing his bats than any of the other implements of his trade, according to those who deal in base ball goods. The balls are all the same, the gloves they wear do not make much difference, because after selecting one the player uses it a long time. The clothes he wears are of little importance. He isn't particular about the spikes in his shoes, but his bats—there is where he is fidgety as a grandmother. The ball player uses many bats. His standing with his manager and with the fans depends largely on how many hits he gets, and the bats make the hits. It is small wonder that the ball player, always superstitious, should regard the bat with unusual care. If the player isn't hitting he at once attributes it to the bat. He never recognizes the ability of the opposing pitcher or fielders, or anything wrong with his eyes. It is the bat.

DETROIT'S DANGER.

Too Much Systematic Gambling on Base Ball Permitted at the Home of the American League Champions.

By Charles H. Zuber.

Cincinnati, O., May 1.—The salvation of base ball has been to keep it out of the hands of gamblers. Years ago, when gambling on base ball games was encouraged, the game fell into disrepute, and for a long time after betting on contests was stopped it required much argument to convince some classes of fans that certain games were not "fixed." Within the past year or two Detroit was resurrected from the base ball graveyard, where it long reposed as a "dead un," and was made to give its club owners an even break. Now these same club owners are giving poison to the goose that is learning to lay the golden egg by offering no objection to open betting on games in various saloons in the Michigan metropolis. One may go into any one of half a dozen saloons in Detroit and secure any sort of a proposition on any game or games that are on tap in the United States. Here's the slate one saloon recently made up:

AMERICAN.	NATIONAL.
Detroit, 1-1.	Boston, 6-5.
Cleveland, 3-5.	Brooklyn, 1-2.
St. Louis, 6-5.	New York, 3-5.
Chicago, 1-2.	Philadelphia, 1-1.
Washington, 1-1.	Pittsburg, 2-5.
Boston, 3-5.	St. Louis, 2-5.
Philadelphia, 1-1.	Chicago, 1-3.
New York, 3-5.	Cincinnati, 2-1.

The American League combinations on that day were:

1. Detroit, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia 6-1
2. Detroit, Chicago, Washington, New York 5-1
3. Detroit, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia 6-1
4. Detroit, Chicago, Boston, New York 4-1
5. Detroit, St. Louis, Washington, Philadelphia 10-1
6. Detroit, St. Louis, Washington, New York 8-1
7. Detroit, St. Louis, Boston, Philadelphia 6-1
8. Detroit, St. Louis, Boston, New York 5-1
9. Cleveland, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia 12-1
10. Cleveland, Chicago, Washington, New York 7-1
11. Cleveland, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia 8-1
12. Cleveland, Chicago, Boston, New York 5-1
13. Cleveland, St. Louis, Washington, Philadelphia 20-1
14. Cleveland, St. Louis, Washington, New York 10-1
15. Cleveland, St. Louis, Boston, Philadelphia 15-1
16. Cleveland, St. Louis, Boston, New York 11-1

Should the "books" have a few good days the cry will immediately go up that the gamblers stand in with the club owners—and when that accusation gets strong, farewell to Detroit as a paying base ball town. So it's up to Mr. Navin to see that the authorities do something to keep the game above suspicion in Detroit, where it certainly needs nurturing.

LUSH DONE.

William Says He Is Unable to Play Professionally Any More.

Cleveland, O., May 1.—Billy Lush, the great sun fielder, will never play base ball again. This spring his contract with Yale having expired, Lush was sold by Cleveland to Nashville. He reported to his teammate, Bill Bernhard, a few days ago, but found he could not play the game. His eyes, injured last year when he was struck with a stone, failed him and he had to give up. The knowledge that he can no longer play base ball has just about broken Lush's heart. Lush was a former outfielder on the Detroit team, coming here when Ed. Barrow was manager. He was considered the best throwing outfielder the game has ever known.