

The WORLD of BASE BALL

DAMP REDLAND

AQUATIC DOINGS OUT AT LOCH HERRMANN.

Victor Willis is Himself Again—
A Cincinnati Claim to Fourth
Place—The Cardinal Bid for
Hans Lobert—General Comment

BY REN MULFORD.

Cincinnati, O., May 9.—Editor "Sporting Life."—The good old scow Redbird is anchored in the mud out at Loch Herrmann.



Ren Mulford, Jr.

With her prow pointed toward the Palace of the Fans and her stern turned toward Fairview Heights. Not since Noah pitched the ark has there been more doing in the way of continuous dampness. The Reds ran into five off-days, right off the reel, managed to sneak in one whitewashed affair with the Pittsburghers, and then hit another flood. Once upon a time when Pat Tebeau was in command at Cleveland, he and his Indians spent four consecutive days at the old Gibson House peering up at the leaking clouds. They called J. Pluvius a lot of things and then moved on. The Reds' Smoke-town experience gave Frank Bancroft a chance to warble that touching song "Everything Going Out and Nothing Coming In." Those who have been advocating postponement of inaugural games until May-day would have needed snow shoes on that afternoon in Redland. The weather has simply been unspeakably bad. League Park has been well fitted for aquatic sports, but it has been too wet for the diamond game.

A WILLIS MEMORY.

Some of these 33rds are sighing because they saw Victor Willis pitch a marvelous winner against Billy Campbell. The mourners' bench was crowded after that 1 to 0 upset. Willis' feat in chloroforming Huggins, Lobert and Mitchell, after Campbell had reached third on a clear triple, wasn't half as agonizing as one of his stellar performances on the South End grounds in the Hub a few years ago. He began that afternoon by countersigning free transportation to three over the Balls' Route. The cushions were jammed. "Zube" and I, who were touring with the Redbirds, were feeling joyous. The symptoms of an immediate blow-up were as well pronounced as the spots on the face of a lad ill with chicken pox. But the blow-up didn't come. Willis shot a mess of twisters across for two strike-outs right off the reel and the next batsman tapped a measly little grounder toward second base and the Reds were sewed up. After that most promising opening Willis stood the Ohioans on their nuts and he spun them around like an assortment of penny tops. The gang went back to the Quincy House that evening in the last stages of dizziness. The indications are that Victor Willis is himself once more. If so, Pittsburgh is to be reckoned with.

COUNTING RED CHICKS.

Captain Ganzel has put in his order for "lower four" and goes on record with the prophecy that before the Reds start East they will be mingling in the society of the first divisionites. On the very day that this forecast was made, the gang fell off the stoop and hit seventh place. That little catastrophe did not shatter the faith of the "Big Chief," and Garry Herrmann came out with his O. K. mark and, filled with the memories of a large sausage-stuffed birthday celebration, he also confessed that the Reds in fourth place was the spectacle he expected to gaze upon 'ere the June roses bloom. The crowd seems long on confidence. That ought to help. The Eastern contingent is not counted dangerous before the clash, and when Boston comes next week the opportunity will be before the Reds to prove that their estimate of the prowess and strength of the Eastern invaders is correct.

THESE LOBERT YARNS.

It isn't Uncle John Ganzel's fault that Hans Lobert is in such great demand. Chicago cannot prevent covetous and wistful eyes from being cast in the direction of Art Hoffman. The remote possibility of the trade of the Little Dutchman to the Cardinals, however, was responsible for several wild cases of fanphobia. If Captain Ganzel had been in town instead of Missouri, he might have been bitten. Some of the 33rds ran over the list of all the ex-Reds who had been let out to strengthen the teams, while Cincinnati hit the burnt skycracker route. Cincinnati would like "Bugs" Raymond and "Stony" McGlynn perhaps, but the idea of parting with Lobert is not popular. As Dietrich Dinkel might say: "Chohn Ganzel mebbe it is better you look a leedle out yet." The filling of the Cardinal gap at short is a very serious matter for St. Louis, but the weakening of Cincinnati's batting forces is the vital problem that interests Cincinnati.

THE TWIRLING SITUATION.

The signing of Herbert Sylvester Sin-

cock, the University of Michigan twirler, and the scramble for other slab talent, is calculated to make some of the box artists now on the Red roll ask themselves: "Vas ist los?" There are enough pitchers on Captain John's staff to get a team and play a game of scrub. Some of them are in evident poor shape. A thorough try-out has not been given Ralph Tozer. Neither Tommy McCarthy nor George Upp have had a chance. They will all get the opportunity to demonstrate their fitness for fast company. Up to date Bill Campbell is the one man who has risen to all pitching occasions. He is the biggest calibered box man on the staff if results are to be the measure of a pitcher's worth.

TWO NORWOOD TWIRLING SPROUTS.

Out at Norwood—the Magic City of Ohio—the place which saw Sam Loefer, Norman Elberfeld, Billy Kuhne and a few more lesser base ball lights make their earliest marooned sprint for the game, is once more in line of fan march. Lawrence Pope is a pitcher who is showing symptoms of winning out should his tastes run in a professional groove. The sensation of the year, however, is provided by George Schulte, a southpaw pitcher of the Norwood High School. This youngster—known to his compeers as "Mike," recently laid out Franklin School and he fanned twenty-one of these boys. Going into Kentucky the other day he "whiffed" fifteen of the Newport High Schoolers who faced him, and Norwood came out on top 1 to 0 in a beautiful twelve-inning battle. Schulte gave free transportation to three via the Balls' Route, but not one of them got round to Rubberville.

INCIDENTS IN "BUG SQUARE."

Once upon a time it was called Fountain Square. The magnificent Tyler-Davidson fountain, and the esplanade which Henry Probasco gave to the city, are now the Mecca of the 33rd degree fans. On the south side of the square are two of the biggest sporting goods dealers in the city—Spalding's and Roll-Crawford-Brendamour—the respective headquarters of scores of base ball teams. Nearby is the smokehouse of Miller Huggins and Cliff Martin—President of the Queen City League. The posting of the scores of both National and American Leagues draw tremendous crowds to the Esplanade every afternoon, and the new distinction of "Bug Square" has been given the spot.

RELICS OF '69ERS.

In one of the Roll-Crawford-Brendamour windows is a veritable museum of diamond relics. They are from the collection of George B. Ellard, who was one of those who coaxed Harry Wright to come out into the West. There are a dozen or more of the balls which the Reds of '69 won as trophies in historic games played during that never-to-be-equalled season of continuous conquest. It was a fad in those early days for the fans and teams to be bagged, and streamers of the old Unions, of Lansingburgs, Hickorys, Live Oaks, Riversides, Forest City, Atlantic, Athletics, Nationals, Mears and Buckeyes—their silken faces showing the stains of time—are in evidence. The display is attracting great attention and is Harry Ellard's contribution to fan-interest, for Harry has taken his place with the historians of the game. No city has been given more complete chronicle of the game than that which Ellard—"Poet of the Rockies"—has dedicated to Balldom's Cincinnati contingent. The remnants of the shirt worn by Harry Wright during that record-breaking season of '69, are shown in the window, which is attracting much fan attention.

MULFORDISMS.

The National Commission sort of used the old family slipper on Joe Cantillon. Mr. Upp is in a quandary. He doesn't know whether he is really up or down. Billy Campbell has tasted the nectar in the cup of the conqueror. That presentation of a diamond from his Smoke-town associates was a graceful compliment—one of the sort that makes life full of cheer. After the dual fall of the Cardinals Cub stock rose. Looks as if the Chicago would run away with the rag. Too bad. Redland is full of "Sporting Life" schedules, and "Sporting Life" buttons—evidences that Edward C. Stark made his presence felt when he hit this damp Red trail.

CHICAGO CHEER.

(Continued from the first page.)

wheels of Time do revolve in base ball! A few years ago, Anderson was the big man, in a batting sense, with Brooklyn, and a regular whale, while Jones was a sub-outfielder on the same team, trying hard to get a regular position, and envying the great and popular Anderson. And now Jones is a manager, and John Anderson a private in the ranks, subject to Jones' orders!

Always Alive to Opportunities.

President Herrmann, of the Cincinnati Club, is one of the contributors to the American Olympic Fund to the extent of \$50. Mr. Herrmann is the only active base ball magnate among the list of contributors, which includes Carnegie, Guggenheim, Mackey, Speyer, Pratt, Garrett and other millionaires. The ex-magnate, A. G. Spalding, contributed \$500.

The Lancaster, Tri-State League, Club has signed pitcher Harry Covalesski, late of the Phillies, and pitcher Leo Hafford, late of Baltimore. This club has also reinstated outfielder Frank Hemphill.

LATEST NEWS

AN IMPORTANT NATIONAL COMMISSION RULING.

No Leniency for Players Who
Play With Teams Containing
Ineligible Players—Boston
Loses Services of Thoney, Etc.

(Continued from the first page.)

McCloskey, of the St. Louis National Club, last night. I tried to get Lobert and Hoffman while on the trip, but there was nothing doing. While with Chicago, I offered Owner Murphy, of the Cubs, the pick of my team for Artie Hoffman, and this is the reply I got: "Lay down \$25,000 in gold and you can have the St. Louis boy." Cincinnati does not want to part with Lobert, so I don't see what chance there is of getting either of these. Catcher Hostetter, who has been doing good work behind the bat, was injured in Chicago, his left hand being badly bruised. Bliss says he is ready for work, and he will be given a chance to get in the game."

THE FIELD DAY.

President Ban Johnson Reported as Moving in the Matter.

Special to "Sporting Life."

Chicago, Ill., May 12.—President Ban Johnson, of the American League, has become a very energetic advocate of the proposed field day, when all the star players of the two major leagues shall try for new throwing records, fast sprinting marks and batting records. The suggestion that these events be held in Cleveland came from the National League people. But this does not mean that Ban has not awakened to the possibilities of the occasion. The most available date in Johnson's unique and wonderful schedule is July 24, and it is probable that this will be chosen as the all-important day. No definite plans have been agreed upon so far, the vast number of postponed games putting both clubs up in the air.

KLING'S INVESTMENT.

Is to Open a Pretentious Billiard Parlor in Cincinnati.

Special to "Sporting Life."

Cincinnati, Ohio, May 12.—Within a few days a deal will be closed for a building on Walnut street for Johnny Kling, the great catcher of the Chicago Cubs. Kling will open a pool and billiard hall and bowling alleys. Colonel Billy Thompson, bowling promoter, of Chicago, is in Cincinnati to close the deal for Kling. "Kling," said Thompson at the Havlin, "will instal ten bowling alleys and 35 billiard and pool tables. He will have the finest lay-out in the West. Kling is dead anxious to get into business in Cincinnati. He likes the town and its people, and will go it alone. He intended to take his brother-in-law into the business with him, but later decided to go it alone. We have not yet signed a lease for the building Kling is after, and do not care to tell its exact location at present."

DREYFUSS WINNING

In the Battle Against the Harrassing Pittsburgh "City Fathers."

Special to "Sporting Life."

Pittsburg, Pa., May 12.—Pittsburg's Board of Aldermen, which has been trying to hold up the club for \$75 a day license, has, it is said, cut its demand down to \$25 per diem. Barney Dreyfuss' attorney showed the politicians that as the Pittsburg club had already paid its license to the city for 1908 any further taxation for this year would be retroactive legislation and therefore unconstitutional. Hence the offer to compromise at one-third the original demand, but Barney is obdurate and says emphatically, "Not one cent of tribute." Mayor Guthrie is with the base ball club in this fight, it is said, and has promised to veto the ordinance should the city fathers succeed in passing it.

A CLUB SHIFT.

The Meriden Club of the Connecticut League Changes Hands.

Special to "Sporting Life."

Meriden, Conn., May 11.—Papers by which the ownership in the Meriden club, of the Connecticut League, held by Charles Smart, will be taken over by James J. Fitzpatrick, proprietor of the Narragansett cafe, have been drawn and the deal consummated. This deal has been in progress since Monday, and the papers were drawn

in Attorney C. J. Danaher's office. Mr. Fitzpatrick is an enterprising and hustling business man and a thorough sport. He will stand for nothing but the best of base ball, and his connection with the team is looked upon by the fans as a guarantee that Meriden will have a fast team.

ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION.

Decides to Go Ahead With a Week-to-Week Schedule.

Special to "Sporting Life."

Boston, Mass., May 11.—The managers of the Lewiston, Portland, Pawtucket, Newport and Attleboro teams, of the Atlantic Base Ball League, held a meeting at the offices of President Hugh A. McBreen yesterday afternoon and decided to stick. They will not quit. Each was determined to have his club stay. Owing to the absence of Secretary Lake, who is expected home this week, it was decided to defer the admission of a sixth city to complete the circuit. Several cities are under consideration, but the club managers wanted Mr. Lake to look the ground over before making a decision. A schedule was made out for this week and the season's schedule will be announced as soon as the sixth city is decided on. This week's schedule is as follows:

Monday—Lewiston at Portland, Attleboro at Pawtucket.
Tuesday—Pawtucket at Newport, Lewiston at Portland.
Wednesday—Attleboro at Portland; Newport at Pawtucket.
Thursday—Attleboro at Lewiston, Newport at Pawtucket.
Friday—Portland at Newport, Attleboro at Lewiston.
Saturday—Attleboro at Lewiston; Portland at Pawtucket.

CONDENSED DESPATCHES.

Special to "Sporting Life."

Ex-catcher Bill Clarke, late of Toledo, has signed to play first base for Minneapolis.

The Indianapolis Club has signed pitcher Andy Stevenson, recently released by St. Paul.

Outfielder Ty Cobb, of Detroit, has received notice from President Ban Johnson of a \$25 fine for umpire-baiting.

Charles V. Moran, the noted short stop, late of Rochester, has signed with the Scranton Club, of the New York League.

President Comiskey, of the Chicago White Sox, has farmed out pitcher Most to the Dubuque Club, of the I.-I.-I. League.

The Ft. Wayne, Central League, Club has released pitcher Boyd Chambers to the Rockford Club, of the Wisconsin League.

Manager Grant, of the South Bend, Central League, team, has farmed catcher Watson to Eau Claire, of the Wisconsin League.

The Worcester Club, of the New England League, has signed southpaw pitcher Cobeau, late of the Oswego, Empire League, Club.

The Augusta Club, of the South Atlantic League, has released the Indian pitcher Bender, brother of the famous Athletic Club pitcher.

The Pittsburg, National League, Club has released the young Zanesville catcher, Chas. Schriver, to the Zanesville Club, from which he was drafted.

Manager "Ducky" Holmes, of the Sioux City Western League Club, has turned pitcher Bergman back to Minneapolis, and has secured pitcher Crutcher from Kansas City.

Jack Loell, the University of Michigan crack foot ball and base ball player, has quit college to play professional ball with Webb City, Ia., in the Western Association.

Clyde Waters, the former Williams College catcher, basketball player and quarterback, signed with the New Haven Club, of the Connecticut League. Waters was with Montreal awhile last season.

Manager Lajoie is negotiating a deal whereby Perring and a young pitcher will be traded to the Toledo Club for shortstop Jap Barbeau, who is said to be now fast enough for major league company.

The Lynchburg Club, of the Virginia League, has sold Prof. Earl Holt, first baseman of the Lynchburg team for two years, to the Wilson Club, of the North Carolina League. He will manage and captain that team.

At Mobile, Ala., May 10, nine members of the Mobile and New Orleans teams, of the Southern League, and Umpires Fitzsimmons and O'Brien were arrested after the ball game, charged with violating the anti-Sunday base ball law. Bond was given for their appearance.

The Inter-State League has won its fight against the Ohio-Pennsylvania League for the Erie territory. The Erie owners of the Girard franchise, in the latter organization, announced May 11 that the Girard team would be transferred to either Steubenville, O., or Butler, Pa.

President P. T. Powers, of the Eastern League, has notified President Hugh McBreen, of the Atlantic Association, that an agreement must be entered into at once to keep the Atlantic clubs out of Pawtucket on days when Providence is scheduled at home, or protection will be taken from the Atlantic Association.

A dispatch from Denver, Col., says that Joe Corbett, who was the star pitcher of the old Orioles in 1897, and retired from base ball because he and Ned Hanlon could not agree upon terms, will sign with the Denver, Western League, team. His return to the game is due to the influence of his brother Jim. Joe is at present in business in San Francisco.