

LATEST LOCAL

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GENERAL REVIEWS

NEWS

TIMELY COMMENTS

MAJOR LEAGUE CLUBS LINED UP FOR COMING BASEBALL BATTLES

Yanks and Giants Out to Repeat—Dodgers None Too Good—Pittsburgh, Detroit and Cleveland Possibilities—National Seems to Be Doubtful League This Season.

New York, April 15.—Far from having its pennant appetite dulled by the successive triumphs of the Klitties and Giants over the past three seasons, New York's baseball fandom has marshalled itself behind McGraw and Huggins in their attempts to set diamond history by making it four straight flag victories this season.

Across Brooklyn bridges, the third metropolitan entry, the Dodgers, have shaped their line-up for a vigorous campaign, but the chance that Wilbert Robinson's men will escape the second division is slim.

Of the two Manhattan teams, the American Leaguers appear the stronger, with their world's championship line-up intact for opening day to-day with the Red Sox at Boston. Except to add reserve strength, including a promising outfielder in Earl Coombs, Huggins has stood pat on his 1923 team.

The Giants have been substantially rebuilt by McGraw, who believes he has acquired new pitching strength in several rookies, notably Dean, Maun and Baldwin, besides Terry, a promising first sacker.

Baseball experts of Pittsburgh, after a critical analysis of the Pirate 1924 machine, are convinced that, with good pitching, the team will be close to the top of the heap when the season ends. Glen Wright, the sensational recruit shortstop, who will step into Maranville's shoes, had added great strength to the all-star infield of Grimm at first, Maranville at second and Traynor at third. Morrison, Meadows, Cooper and Krumer compose the pitching staff, with "Babe" Adams and Steiner helping out on the mound.

The Detroit Tigers will open the season with practically the same line-up that appeared in last season's opener. The infield remains intact. Apprehension is felt, however, as to the ability of Shortstop Rigney, who has had trouble with his hip, and Secondbaseman Pratt, who had a bad season last year. Blue at first and Jones at third are expected to contribute their share to the Tigers' success.

The outfield will not be changed materially.

Strengthened at first base by the signing of George Burns and with better hitters than for several years, Cleveland is sure in the fight for the American League pennant. In Jamieson, Stephenson, Speaker, Joe Sewell, Burns and Summa, the first six men in the line-up, all of whom have batted better than .300, the team has a "wrecking crew" that ranks with any other in the league. Myatt, Uhle and Lutzke may be added to the list of those within the circle of .300 hitters, or close to it.

With Frank Chance, who piloted the Chicago Cubs to four pennants fifteen years ago, as the new manager of the Chicago Americans, President Comisky of the White Sox predicts his team will be up there fighting. The principal change in the Sox line-up this season will be the appearance of Shortstop Dashiell of Shreveport (Texas League). Joe Rabbit, from Muskegoe, may yet force one of the veteran outfielders to the bench, and assistant manager, Johnny Evers, who conducted the spring training, feels that many of the young pitchers carried by the Sox last year are about ready for regular turns in the box, especially Blankenship, Leverette and Evengro.

President Veeck of the Chicago Nationalists thinks the Giants have been weakened just enough to make the National League race a great free-for-all between New York, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Chicago. He declared the Cubs would be in the running from the start, "with much stronger pitching than favored us last season." Alexander, in his sixteenth season, appears as strong as ever, with Aldridge good for twenty victories. Veech thinks, supported by Kaufman, Kreen, Wheeler and Jacobs.

As Walter Johnson goes the Washington American League team usually goes, and this year the manager believes the veteran speedball King is to have one of his best years. Beginning his eighteenth season with the club, Johnson this spring has shown better form than for some years past, and he will be aided by a promising corps of assistants, including Morrige, Zachary and Russell, veterans, and McGrew, Zahniser, Marberry, Wingfield, Martina and Speece, younger twirlers.

With George Sisler back at his old position at first base, the St. Louis Browns will present a squad stronger than that of 1923 when they open the American League at Chicago. There is one modified problem in the Browns' line-up at third base, which Frank Ellerbe appears to have taken over, with Gene Robertson to stand relief.

Rogers Hornsby has already commenced his walloping tactics for the St. Louis Nationals, bringing in the only run against the Browns yesterday with a four-base drive. Several new faces appear in the Cardinals' line-up due to the injury of Tubby Clemons, catcher, and the holdout of Thirdbaseman Milton Stock. Three

FROM THE OUTSIDE—LOOKING IN.

Our old friend from the Peterboro Examiner has burst forth once more with his joyous spring song. He modestly tells of the "flock of O.B.A.A. titides" annexed by Peterboro last year. Will he please tell us how many Peterboro junior clubs the Lakeviews came from? And if the rumor that the intermediate team worked the same way is true? Truly we have learned a lot from Jackie Solomon.

One of the things taught us by Solomon—Mr. Solomon, of Peterboro, no less—is that the O.B.A.A. constitution is like the O.T.A. It's the law all right—but even the high and mighty like to break it when opportunity offers.

There is a solemn man named Jake
A referee so funny;
He only arrives in time to take
His expense money.

Commissioner Landis says that pre-season statements are all bunk and, somehow or other, we are very much inclined to believe him. Of course, we'd not pay a man \$50,000 for describing our choicest adjectives in such a way—but then, great men must have their little whims.

The Toronto Leafs, after accomplishing great things on paper against "crack" teams of the south, have already started the old alibi list with a string of cripples and hospital cases a mile long. Barnum said a "whole big mouthful." He must have visited Toronto at some time or other.

Don't forget that the City Baseball League is going to be bigger and better than ever this summer. The meeting next Saturday night is going to bring out a great many interesting things and the report of the treasurer is but one of a few things to make baseball followers sit up and take notice on that occasion.

youngsters, Vick, Niebergall and Holm, are bidding for places in the catching department.

The Cincinnati Reds will open the championship season at home with exactly the same team which went through last year and finished in second place, except that the pitching staff has been strengthened by the addition of Carl Mays, former star of the Klitties; Jake May, crack southpaw from the coast league, and Tom Sheehan, from St. Paul, leading pitcher of all minor leagues last season.

On the eve of the opening of big league baseball the Philadelphia managers are reported to be looking forward with confidence to the coming campaign. Connie Mack is hopeful of a first division berth, while Arthur Fletcher is certain that his team will emerge from the cellar.

Speaking of the Athletics, Mack said: "My team is much stronger this year, and I look forward to staying in the race from start to finish. Our biggest problem is in the pitching box, and if the hurlers come through as I expect them we will fool some of the critics."

Fletcher is also optimistic. "During the winter we have made a few changes that helped a lot," he said, "and now are ready to go out and do our best in the National League race."

EVERETT SCOTT MAY START RACE AGAIN

At the close of the world's series last fall it was freely predicted that the Champion Yankees would commence their next season with a new figure at shortstop, other than the venerable Everett Scott.

Not counting the games he has played in the blue ribbon classic of the diamond—he has been in five world's series—Scott has compiled a record of 1,138 consecutive cham-

ampionship games. But they claimed his feet were giving out. Even Manager Huggins was dubious about the ability of Scott to start the 1924 season in his accustomed place.

The Yankee boss intimated several months ago that he would bench Scott at the outset in order to relieve the little shortstop of the tension of extending his record for durability.

But Everett is still cavorting around the short field as of yore, and it is an almost certain bet that when the Yankees take the field for the first game of the season a week from Tuesday, against the Red Sox in Boston—Everett Scott will then be roaming the precinct between second and third bases.

THE GAME IS PLAYED ENGLAND VS. SCOTLAND

London, April 12.—Scotland and England drew in their international soccer match at Wembley Stadium here to-day. The score stood 1-1 at the end of time. Cowan scored the first goal for Scotland in the opening half, while Buchan headed to Walker for the tying goal in the second half.

The weather was showery. Fifty thousand paid admission to see the match. England won the toss and played in the first half with a slight breeze behind them. Teams:

Scotland—Harper, Hibernians; Smith, Ayr; McCloy, Ayr; Clumas, Sunderland; Morris, Raith; McMullan, Patrick; Archibald, Rangers; Cowan, Newcastle; Cunningham, Rangers; Morton, Rangers.

England—Taylor, Huddersfield; Smart, Aston Villa; Wadsworth, Huddersfield; Moss, Aston Villa; Spencer, Newcastle U.; Barton, Birmingham; Butler, Bolton W.; Jack, Bolton W.; Buchan, Sunderland; Tunstall, Sheffield U.; Walker, Aston Villa.

BATTLE STARTING EARLY THIS YEAR

Peterboro Wiseacre Unburdens Himself—Belleville Also Has Snappy Remarks.

The Peterboro Examiner of a recent issue has the following:

"There used to be an idea that the funniest stuff about baseball was written by Ring Lardner, but the author of 'Letters of A. Busher' will have to give way to the individual with the never-silent typewriter who is press-agenting the Kingston Ball Club into the Central League championship six days a week via the medium of the sporting columns of the Kingston Standard. This busy bee lines the other clubs in the Central circuit each day and then pictures the Daley-Batstone-Evans combination riding triumphantly over them. He concedes Oshawa a slight chance, but Belleville and Peterboro can't even be detected on the horizon according to the Kingston dopest, who should, however, remember that both clubs have a habit of being somewhere round the finals each year.

"As far as Peterboro is concerned, the Petes don't believe in winning the honors weeks before the season opens through the sporting pages. They prefer to let the team speak for itself when it goes into action, but for the benefit of our friend in the Limestone City it might be mentioned that preparations are being quietly made for a strong team to represent Peterboro. This city has won a flock of O.B.A.A. championships in the past two seasons, and good material has been developed. It is more than likely that a number of youngsters who have come to the front will make the grade into Senior this year. At least every kid who desires to try will be given every opportunity to make good, and there promises to be a keen fight for positions.

"To help Heckman carry the pitching burden a left-handed heaver, new to this circuit, is available, and in the twirling department the Petes will not have to doff their hats to any club in the League. Max Swanson will do the receiving, and "Hap" Harrison, back in this territory, and able to take part in practices and games, promises to be a tower of strength at first base.

"The squad will start practice as soon as weather conditions warrant and a number of exhibition games will be arranged.

Under the heading of "Kingston Wins 1924 Pennant," a Belleville Buzbane says:

"It is nearly time the 'windy' baseball dopesters in the C.O.B.L. cities were rounded up by the 'fool-catcher.' It recently seemed certain that they would not always get away with the 'gaff' they were filling up their sport pages with."

YANKES AND PIRATES HOLD MARGEN RECORDS

New York, April 14.—In winning the 1923 American League championship by a margin of 16 games, the New York Yankees established a league record. Twice previously teams have won pennants by margins of 14 1-2 games. This mark was set by the Boston Red Sox in 1903 and equalled by the Philadelphia Athletics in 1910.

The record major league margin of victory is held by the Pittsburgh Pirates, who won the 1902 National League pennant with a lead of 27 1-2 games, over Brooklyn, its nearest rival.

The Yankees clinched the 1923 flag on September 20th, 18 days before the season campaign terminated:

NOW IS THE TIME

NATIONAL Base Ball Week

1924		APRIL		1924	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25
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THE HUMAN ZOO

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APRIL SHOWERS "Why, Jim, we are quarrelling just as though we were married."