IN BIG BASEBALL

Doubtful If Strenuous Finish of 1908 Will Be Duplicated.

LEAGUES DISSECTED

Analysis of Fighting Strength of National and American Leagues In-That There Will Be Reversals of Form.

When the season of 1908 was completed the four heat contests for pennants in the history of organized baseball were finished with it.

the history of organized baseball were sinished with it.

Three teams fought in the National League for supremacy until four days before the supration of the schedule and two teams, before the National League championship was decided, were compelled to play an added and extra game subsequent to the regular season.

Three teams were in the race almost to the last day of the American League championship and two until the last series. The championship in the American Association was not settled until the frost was on the vine in that organization, and the Eastern League race, although a trifle more separated by teams, was a bitter gallop to the very jumping off place where baseball ceased and football began.

In the two major league races for 1203 baseball "fans" may not have noted that the pitchers of both the National and American Leagues were almost exactly divided in regard to their ability in the box. Almost half of the pitchers in the National League won 500 per cent or more of their games. Almost half of the pitchers in the American League did exactly the same thing.

When the pitching becomes so well equalized that 50 per cent of those who throw the ball are successful on the plus side, as against 50 per cent unsuccessful on the minus side, the owners of the clube have unconsciously handicapped their teams with even better success than they might have been matched had an expert and a professional student of odds attempted to achieve the same result.

Pitchers of the Present Year.

Pitchers of the Present Year.

If the championship races of 1909 are not so close as these of 1908, and another such nerve-racking strain would aimost separate families there is at least plenty of reason to believe that they will be much superior to some of the contests for the pennant which have taken place in the peast. For while there may be teams which may not quite most expectations, it is also to be taken into consideration that any slump on their part may not take them so far down the ladder as has been customary in other years, owing to the fact that very good auxiliary strength has been recruited from the clubs of the minor leagues.

Outlook in the National League.

Outlook in the National League.

Chicago comes first—the world's champlens—a title deservediy earned, as they have twice won it from the leading club of the American League which was pitted against them.

Ultimately the Chicago club on the field this year will not be far different from that of last season, unless there shall be serious injuries early in the campaign to some of the players.

In the beginning of the season Chicago will not place its nine in the race intact if John Evers, the brilliant second baseman of the club, persists in his determination not to play ball until the middle of June. If he does not begin the season with the team it is probable that Zimmerman will take his place. The infield will, therefore, be Chance, Zimmerman. Tinker and Steinfeidi.

There will very likely be a change in the outfield. Browne has been signed by the club for the coming season and is almost certain to be placed in center, with Schulte on one side and Sheckard on the other. His speed is great enough to warrant playing him in center, and the chances are that he will bat better for Chicago than Stagle Kane, last year with Cincinnati, is a Chicago player this season and will be used as a utility man. Behind the bat and in the box the Cubs are pretty apt to have much the same players as they have played for the last two years, unless there be young pitchers who appeal to Chance in Spring last two years, unless there be young pitchers who appeal to Chance in Spring practice.

Batting Strength Not Affected.

On the whole the batting strength of will not be affected disadvatageously by these changes if the players live up to the form of previous years. Zimmerman is a powerful litter and was well up with the best in the league in the games in which he took part last

The team work of the nine and its gen-The team work of the gine and its general system of play will not vary from the methods which Chance has insisted upon in the past. His team is essentially one of run-getters, depending upon good battery work to hold the attack of opposing nines at a profitable defensive level. His pitching staff must not show any deterioration if the champions are to maintain their pace of former years. to mainfain their pace of former years.

New York has made more radical changes than any nine in either league, with a record behind it of the quality of that which was made by the Giants

Bresnahan, one of the greatest catchers of his time, has been permitted to go to another team as manager, and McGinuity and Taylor, two veteran pitchers who have won their share of games in the past, have been released outright by the club.

The infield will be made up of Tenney at first. Doyle at second, Bridwell at short and Devlin at third, an infield identical with that of last year. Its work in general was a revelation to the enthustasts a year ago, for it then played together for the first time and so unitedly that it was one of the faster quantity. that it was one of the fastest quartets

Murray was obtained from St. Louis for the outfield. With Dealin in the game and if Seymour is able to make peace with the management, after his trouble in the South and Latham, the outfield is likely to be composed of Donlin, Seymour and Murray

sour and Murray. Schlei, "Jack" Myers, the Indian; Snodgrass and Wilson will divide the responsi-bilities of catching among them. In the box the Giants should be stronger than they were last year. With Ames in con-

SEASON'S OUT LOOK Some Big League Stars Who Will Soon Be in Action



Not untruly it has been said that if Pittsburg had possessed a competent first baseman last season the team might have won the championship. Don't over-look this fact in forming an estimate of the nine's chances.

Strength with the bat is a predominant trait of Pittsburg. Combine that with

the possible element of good battery work and Pittsburg will be found to fit into the scheme of play in the National League with an organization much to be respected.

Philadelphia will vary but little in its

1909 personnel from that of a year ago. The addition of Coveleskie is believed to have strengthened the pitching de-partment. There are some who are of partment. There are some who are of opinion that Coveleskie may not be found so uniformly successful throughout a season as he was against the Glants at the close of last Summer. Philadelphia is a well-balanced team, playing better ball than it has in some years. It can make runs it can field years. It can make runs it can field years. It can make runs, it can field well and it can bat.

In the Second Division.

The four second division clubs of last year will work with new managers this years. There is not one which pretends that it is of high enough class to win the

that it is of high enough class to win the championship.

Cincinnati proved that it had some class last year. Boston did not play to the standard which might have been expected from it. Brooklyn and St. Louis were both disappointments.

On general principles Griffith and Bresnahan may be expected to drive both Cincinnati and St. Louis better than they were handled a year ago. Bowerman, at Boston, and Lumley, at Brooklyn, are more experimental, yet with their long training in the National League and the caliber of the men who have been engaged to play under them this coming season, they should not prove to be total fallures, unless their teams are handicapped by causes which are not now capped by causes which are not now

The American League Race.

Frankly, the Detroit club seems to have a harder battle on its hands to win the championship this year than it had in 1808, and that is predicting a task for the Tigers and their plucky manager that means many a day of intense

The team will enter the season better equipped for a championship battle than it was last year. There are two vital changes on the infield. Bush will be the regular shortstop and Moriarty is expected to become the regular third base-

man.

Neither change seems to have de-tracted from the strength of the organi-sation. Conjointly they seem to have added to it. Schmidt has announced that he will retire from professional basehe will retire from professional base-ball. He may, but it is doubtful.

The club is essentially a run-getting or-

they were last year. With Ames in condition at the beginning of the season and with Raymond, who was secured from St. Louis in the trade for Breanahan, it is figured that the team has more reserve force to draw upon than it had.

It will be a nine of speed, fast on the field and dangerous at base running at all times by reason of the batting strength of nearly every player.

Pittsburg will present much the same and for the championship that played so ably in 1908. Therefore it is but necessary to take the work of the club last year as and deep not be and deep not be a winner in the season to come as he has been at any time of his life. His work with last he year to come, allowing for any

that the strength of his good right arm is still with him.

He is a winning pitcher. It is born in him, and until he is no longer able to command the speed that he has possessed in the past, and until he has lost his mastery over the batters, he will be a power for good to any team with which he is connected.

He won 21 games and lost 11 last year with a nine not ranked so high as that of Cleveland, not faking into consideration the pitching strength of either team. Joss won 24 games and lost 11 for Cleveland. These pitchers this season are on the same team.

Why not reckon that Cleveland has increased its possibilities by many degrees for the championship?

The combination of pitchers is a great deal little.

BROWN, CHICAGO

MATTONAL

can cling with such persistency to the leaders. If Jones' ability as a team executive were to be eliminated it must not be forgotten that his ability as a winning player is something which no team can well afford to lose.

Hard Task for Comiskey.

Comiskey's task, if he is finally called

upon to fill Jones' place, is the hardest of any owner in the American League.

The combination of pitchers is a great deal like that of Rusie and Meekin, who were paired in New York at one time, or like that of Mathewson and McGinnity, when both were going at their best speed for the Giants. Cleveland certainly must be given more than a passing thought.

that the strength of his good right arm

WALSH, CHICAGO - AMERICANS

St. Louis' Good Move.

Had St. Louis possessed Criger for a catcher last year, it is certain that the team would have made a better showing than it did. In any event, Criger will have abundant opportunity of any owner in the American League. Comiskey can direct a team and instil the best of team work into any organization of which he is the head, but whether he can accomplish in a single season such results as have been achieved under the direction of Jones, who has so long been with Chicago, is something which any man may well hesitate to answer.

Jones has the faculty of bringing his players to a rally, and when he has them there, to go far enough to clinch victory. Such men are born leaders, and when a basebail owner loses a player of that type he has to make many a weary step before he finds another to succeed him.

Cleveland must be given credit for

Criger will have abundant opportunity to show exactly what his personal value may be to any club which is fortunate enough to secure his services.

Review carefully the work of the St. Louis team in 1908, and, while it may have lost games here and there by the fortunes of baseball war, it is evident that the crying need of the club in its crucial games was a reliable and competent catcher—a catcher who not only could handle the pitchers, but who could direct the team.

only could handle the pitchers, but who could direct the team.

Hence the cleverness of the play to secure Criger for 1903. It is likely to place St. Louis among the contending clubs from the start of the race. It certainly is going to make St. Louis a team to be respected from the start. The Athleti's are always to be treated with respect. With a manager at their head of the acknowledged ability of "Connie" Mack they will keep many a game in the balance where less competent generalship would fail to preserve their unity.

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ANGELS MUCH AT FAULT

Wheeler Dares Any Man to Spike Him and Gets It-Graney Sought Trouble-Shay's Rowdy Out-

BY HARRY B. SMITH. SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., April 10.-(Special.)-This has been a week of scrapping in baseball on all sides. The Portland and Los Angeles teams started affairs last Sunday in Los Angeles. Then the State Leaguers had a little affair of their own on Tuesday, and Grancy, of the succeeded in having himself chased off the grounds by Umpire Mc

So far as the Los Angeles affair, I am satisfied that the Angel players were largely at fault. It appears that George Wheeler was chiefly at fault by making threats as to what he would do if anybody spiked him. Up to that remark nobody had been spiked, but the "dare" probably did Wheeler no good. At all events, it has resulted in a world of bad feeling. McCredie says that the Los Angeles papers gave him all the worst of it. Knowing the Los Angeles papers and their propensity for home affairs, I can quite agree with McCredie.

As to Graney's trouble on Tuesday, that As to Graney's trouble on Tuesday, that young pitcher brought it upon himself in a large degree. He seemed to be looking for trouble, and when McGreevy called a ball because of an unusually long delay, Graney "hollered" long and loud. First of all he was fined \$19. When he continued to protest, he was sent to the bench. Even that was not enough, and Graney was retired from the field.

Shay Has Violent Outbreak.

The State League in its outburst of Tuesday received the worst sethack of its short career. Danny Shay, who is aping Muggsy McGraw, was responsible, and Jack O'Conneil, the old Coast League umpire, was one of the central figures O'Connell had just signed with the State

League.

Shay showed his disposition to be nasty from the jump. He kicked at every decision. Jimmy Smith was the first man to bat for Cy Moreing's Oakland club. Shay came running in on the first ball called to say something When Smith was finally walked, there

were not enough words in the Shay vocabulary to express his centempt. "You blankety, blank, blank, blank," he shouted at O'Connell, at the same time treading on the "ump's" toes. time treading on the 'ump's' toes.
"Cal Ewing sent you over here to break

"Cal Ewing sent you over here to break up this league."

O'Connell ordered Shay and Catcher Frambes, who was also violent in his use of language, to the bench. Neither of them stirred. They kept on using vulgar language and O'Connell immediately declared the game forfeited to Oakland, \$ to 0. Then when some of the disgusted spectators filed out of their seats, it was agreed to play an exhibition game, which resulted in an Oakland victory.

Shay was fined \$50 by President Frank Herman, of the league, and was also called down by the managers of his own club. They told him plainly that they did not propose to stand for such rewdylsm and that, if there was

any more of it, they would secure a new manager.

Cy Moreing was more cut up over the disturbance than anyone else. His club has been drawing none too well as it is, and that sort of row does not help him. In fact he sides with O'Conneil in what he did, but admits that he wishes nothing of the sort had conwishes nothing of the sort had oc

Weak Sisters in League.

McCredie intimates that the continuous baseball racket at Los Angeles will

ous baseball racket at Los Angeles will not pay. He says that they only drew 2200 people on opening day in the Southern city and, as far as Vernon is concerned, it is an absolute frost.

"We only drew 211 people all told at the Sunday morning game at Oakland," said McCredie. "The grounds must be situated near a slaughterhouse, for the stench was something awful. The people simply will not attend the games there, and they might as well make a change at once. I will be mighty glad when we are at home once more."

The Vernon Club in the Coasters is admittedly the weak sister, and the base-ball writers say that something must be done to bolster up the club. Happy Hodone to bolster up the club. Happy Ho-gan, from having a happy disposition as his name indicates, is the worst grouch in the league. They say he "crabs" at his players every time he meets them. This is doubtless due to the worry that comes with the responsibilities of the

comes with the responsibilities of the managerial job, but it will not help his club play baseball. One of the experts who saw the last game at Sacramento tells me that the Vernon Club is badly disorganized, and that it is up to the league to take speedy action.

I suppose you have heard that Rollie Zeider is to be returned to San Francisco. As a matter of fact, he is expected to join the club at Sacramento. It was not a case of falling to make good. Comiskey has so many infields that he could not use Zeider. Rollie said he would rather play regularly with the Seals than warm the bench for the White Sox. Long needed him badly, and the switch was made. As McArdle is playing a phenomenal shortstop, Zeider will revert to his old job at third base. Mundorf will be retained as a utility infielder. He is far too valuable a man to be released, and, with Curtis gone to Santa Cruz, Long needs another infielder.

meeds another infielder.

Moreing, of the outlaws, who needs a catcher the worst way, made overtures to both of McCredie's backstops this week. This was only after Moreing falled to entice Berry or Williams of San Francisco or Mickey La Longe of Oakland. Up to Gate, the Portland catchers have not decided to take the hurdles, and the chances are that they will refuse any such step. The outlaws are losing money on their Oakland venture, and the playchances such step. The outlaws are losing money on their Oakland venture, and the players want to know where the cash is comers want to know where the cash is comers they decide on any such

move.

Aiready Berry and Williams of the locals are disabled. Williams is troubled with an abscess, while Berry was spiked in one of the games. Kid Mohler has to limp around, and Duffey Lewis, the Oakland outfielder, was spiked by the umpire the other day when there was a play at second, and has been obliged to lay off temporarily. Jimmy Williams, the Seal's outfielder, is temporarily under the weather, and matters are not running as weather, and matters are not running as smoothly as they might. The attendance at San Francisco has

been good. Last Sunday there were 2000 people in the stands, and the bleachers slopped over on the field. The weekly attendance has averaged about 2000, which is decidedly encouraging. Across the bay with the outlaws the average weekday attendance has been 200. On Sunday there were 2500 fans on hand.

Entries In for Breeders' Sale. Entries in the Eighth Breeders' Sale to be held here the last week of the present month indicate that it will surpass any sale ever held on the Pacific Slope. About 250 pure bred horses and more than 100 pure bred cattle will be offered for sale during the week of the auction. Included in the lists are some of the most celebrated animals in America, and there is every indication that the top prices paid a year ago will be equaled and possibly beaten when the present entries go under the hammer. The entry list closed last Thursday.

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