

CUBS HAVE NO CINCH.

Champion Chicago Nationals Not Having an Easy Time.

CINCINNATI'S BIG ADVANCE.

Little More Team Work and Manager Ganzel's Nine Will Be a Great One. Phillies Are Strong—Race For Pennant an Interesting Affair.

It is little wonder that the supporters of the National league are inclined to rave a bit over the closeness of the pennant race this year. It is a long time since the campaign in the old organization has been anything else than a walkover. Seldom indeed have there been more than two teams fighting it out at the finish, and sometimes the winner of the race was ascertained before the season was more than three-fourths over. As a result of this disparagement in the strength of the teams, interest in the season died about the fourth of July, and the crowds thereafter scarcely paid expenses.

The outlook now is, however, that there will be no premature dying out of interest, but that fans in at least six cities will be watching the results of the games with deep interest right up to the last week of the battle. A western writer predicts that there will be no long consecutive winning streaks in the National league in 1908. With the teams balanced as they are it will certainly be a difficult matter to win many games in a row. The team that wins three or four running may be fortunate.

This is a very pleasing state of affairs. It means that the fans will be furnished better baseball, for so long as the race is close and the fighting hot every man in the game will be on his toes, whereas when a team realizes that it has not a chance to gain anything by hard playing, once that it has fallen hopelessly behind, the men are not likely to overexert themselves in the slightest degree, for there is no incentive for them to do so.

Many think that the 1908 campaign will prove the closest in the history of the old organization and that the autumn days will be in sight before it is possible to pick the winner with any degree of accuracy. The weak teams of former seasons have been greatly improved, and many times have they jolted the leaders.

The New York Giants started out well, but fell by the wayside on their western trip. McGraw evidently sees the weaknesses in his team as clearly as the others who have been pointing them out. If he does not, he should consult an oculist at once, for some of them are glaring indeed. McGraw is already making efforts to add strength to the team. He offered to trade Pitcher Ames to Cincinnati for Lohbert, declaring that he wanted to use Hans on second base, this in spite



MANAGER FRED CLARKE OF THE PITTSBURGH NATIONALS.

of the fact that McGraw, Tenney and others have been lauding Doyle to the skies and declaring him to be one of the best second basemen in the business.

The Phillies are not overlooking anything that comes their way this season. In years past they have lacked the requisite amount of life and ginger to make them winners, but Manager Murray has made a few changes, and the team is playing 25 per cent better ball this year than in 1907.

The Pirates have been going along very well, but there is no doubt that still better things are in store for the followers of the Pirates. In the first place, nearly every man on the team will hit better than he has been doing of late, and, in the second place, the pitchers will soon show great improvement in form.

What is most pleasing to Manager Clarke is the fact that the Pirates, though encountering all varieties of hard luck, have managed to keep well up in the race. This is really a remarkable showing under the circumstances and leads Clarke to believe that when everything starts to going right there will be no stopping his men.

Followers of the Cincinnati team are aroused as never before over the splendid showing which Manager Ganzel's men have been making for the past few weeks. They are very much a factor in the race, and it is to be hoped that they will maintain their stride and continue in the fight. There

is plenty of good material among the Reds, and Manager Ganzel seems to be exercising splendid judgment in handling it.

MAY CHANGE SCORING RULE.

Rulemakers Said to Favor Giving Hit When Ground Ball is Fumbled.

In a quiet way the rulemakers of the big baseball leagues are getting the opinions of the players on the proposed amendment to the section regarding the scoring of errors. If the change is made next winter, as it seems likely to be, errors will only be charged for muffed fly balls, muffed thrown balls and wild throws that advance one or more runners.

In case of fumbled balls the batters will be given a hit in all cases. Although many players urgently advocate the innovation, the adoption of the proposed amendment would be the most unpopular move the rulemakers could make, for it would put the slothful and slovenly man on a par with the energetic and artistic player. Because two fans do not agree as to whether a fumbled grounder is a hit or an error is no indication that the play will not be correctly recorded by the experienced men in the scorer's box.

The handling of ugly bounders is an art acquired only by long years of patient work. It would be a manifest injustice to the marvelous infielders of today—the Wagners, the Doolins, the Doolins and the Lajoles—to match their work, as this no-error-on-fumbled-grounders rule would do, with the mediocre players who are too indolent and too indifferent to acquire the wonderful knack of going after the elusive grounder in the right way.

WATCH JOHNNY EVERS.

Chicago National's Second Baseman Fielding and Batting at Fast Clip.

Little Johnny Evers isn't satisfied with merely covering the second baseman's territory in brilliant style, but insists in addition on banging the ball all over the diamond, thereby annexing an imposing batting record.

Evers is now the leading batsman and base purloiner of the Murphy spuds. This means a great deal when one con-



JOHNNY EVERS, THE CHICAGO NATIONALS' BRILLIANT SECOND BASEMAN.

siders that he has to compete with such trusty sphere stabbers and base stealers as Steinfeldt, Sheekard, Chance, Kling, Slagle and Schultz.

No ball player in the game today works harder than this little bundle of nerves and muscles when a battle is on. He loves to win and fights to the bitter end before he will acknowledge defeat.

His individual playing materially aided his team in winning the world's championship last fall.

STRANG MAY WIN GRAND PRIX.

Will Drive American Car in Great French Auto Race.

Lewis Strang, when he starts on July 7 over the forty-eight mile Dieppe circuit to win the Paris Grand Prix race in a Thomas car, will tackle a proposition the difficulties of which he well knows. As mechanic for Walter Christie in the last Grand Prix he drove the circuit scores of times. He knows its turns and twists, its rises and declivities, as well as the turns and curves at Briarecliff.

His victory at Briarecliff was in a measure due to his familiarity with the Briarecliff course, and his familiarity with the Dieppe circuit will give him a tremendous advantage over any American driver save Christie, who might pilot the Thomas car. Strang is the type of driver to get the most out of a race. Beginning with Christie, he learned his lesson well. When he got the opportunity at Savannah to apply it he was not found wanting. He won at Savannah a conspicuous victory. He repeated that victory with the same Isotta car at Briarecliff by the same sort of tactics.

Zimmerman a Reliable Substitute. Chicago's substitute infielder, Zimmerman, is developing rapidly in all departments, but particularly in batting. He is a very reliable substitute batsman.

SCHAEFER A COMEDIAN.

Detroit Second Sacker Probably the Funniest Ball Player.

HAS PLAYED MANY TRICKS.

His Most Recent One Was That of Leaping Into Mayor Johnson's Auto. Startled the Spectators by Pretending to Take Their Pictures.

Possibly Arlie Latham was the funniest man that ever participated in the great national pastime. The old timers will tell you that Arlie was the prize cut-up, but those who patronize baseball of the present day are quite prone to believe that "Germany" Schaefer, second baseman for the De-



SECOND BASEMAN SCHAEFER OF THE DETROIT AMERICAN LEAGUE TEAM.

troit Americans, is about the most humorous fellow that ever broke in. It's a poor day when "Germany" doesn't pull off some funny stunt. In fact, his antics have become so much a part of the Detroit mode of play that if he is unusually quiet in any certain game the fanatics go home rather disappointed.

One of the recent games between the Tigers and the Clevelanders brought to light some of the comedian's best humor. The diamond was wet, and the game was deferred some three-quarters of an hour while the efficient ground keeper massaged and ironed the surface of the lot. The players, not being able to practice in the convenient manner, took recess as an occasion for fun.

Schaefer had been working near the third base coaching line, and the bugs that inhabit that portion of the stands had been having some fun with him. Schaefer saw a chance to get even, so he borrowed a camera, squinted through the view finder, requested the populace to look pleased and prepared to make a photograph.

As a matter of fact, Schaefer knew about as much concerning the taking of a picture as a Zulu does about Latin, but he went through with the joke. Some of the time the fanatics were standing up and grinning in great shape, no doubt expecting the papers of the coming morning to contain a huge view by "Germany Schaefer, photographer." Needless to say, the photo was never printed.

One of his favorite stunts is to coach at first base when that station is occupied and a run is necessary for Tiger success. On such occasions the actions of Schaefer are worth the price of admission. He runs about in a circle, and no mad dog ever had anything on him. His run more closely resembles a hot foot than anything else.

After the last game Detroit had in Cleveland Schaefer sprang after Mayor Tom L. Johnson's auto, clambered aboard and rode to his hotel in style. It is not known how he halted his honor's gasoline gig, but it would not be at all surprising if he yelled, "Hey, Tom, old scout, wait a minute and give a fellow a lift!"

With all his kidding and funmaking, Schaefer is never offensive; he never gets off anything that hurts, and he is a gentleman at all times. Schaefer plays ball just as he "kida"—for all he is worth. A few men like him on every ball club would do a lot toward keeping down strife and jealousy and in promoting a good feeling. The fans like him; he is a good scout. Arlie Latham may have been the king bee josher, but he had to go some to have anything on Schaefer.

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HAL CHASE A MARVEL.

New York Americans' First Sacker One of Greatest Ball Stars.

Hal Chase, the San Jose (Cal.) peach and the champion one mitt grabber of badly thrown balls, who can take care of things very nicely around the first stopping place of the infield for Manager Clark Griffith, is now the leading ball swatter and base purloiner of the New York Americans, besides being the most spectacular first sacker in Ban Johnson's league.

But what makes this young fellow one of the best first basemen in the game today is the way he handles the



HAL CHASE, SENSATIONAL FIRST SACKER OF NEW YORK AMERICANS.

ball around the first base. He has saved many a game. He has stopped the ball when it looked as though it was going over into the stands or some other place. He gets the balls, no matter how they are thrown—on the inside, outside or any old side. Baseball critics who have seen his work say it is a pleasure to watch the way he goes about things. He makes hard plays look easy.

Chase was born in 1884 at Los Gatos, Cal., but he now makes his home in San Jose. Hal started to get busy with the great game at Alviso, where there was no chance of his being noticed. No one would ever think that Chase made quite a hit as a pitcher. Once it looked as if he would make a success as a slabman. In 1904 Manager Morley of the Los Angeles club signed Chase, and right here is where he made a big hit on the diamond. He was unknown, but it was not long before he was the talk of the state of California. At the end of the 1904 season he was drafted by the New York Americans. It was a great draft. He had no sooner put on the uniform and gathered them up around first base when he was stamped as one of the greatest of first basemen in the major leagues.

Chase plays ball practically all the year around, and while playing in California it does not make much difference to him as to what position he is in. He has covered short in Los Angeles and has played that position well.

RIP VAN WINKLE.

Rip Van Winkle returned from his long sleep looking fresh as a daisy and made his way to the village barber shop, not only because he needed a haircut and shave, but also because he wished to catch up on the news.

"Let's see," said he to the barber after he was safely tucked in the chair, "I've been asleep twenty years, haven't I?"

"Yep," replied the tonsorialist. "Have I missed much?" "Nope, we bin standin' pat." "Has Congress done anything yet?" "Not a thing." "Jerome done anything?" "Nope." "Platt resigned?" "Nope." "Panama Canal built?" "Nope." "Bryan been elected?" "Nope." "Carnegie poor?" "Nope."

"Well, say," Rip, rising up in the chair, "never mind shaving the other side of my face. I'm going back to sleep again."—Success Magazine.

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