

### RECRUITS WANTED.

Major League Baseball Teams to Strengthen Weak Spots.

### MINOR LEAGUES LOOK RIPE.

Great Number of Promising Ball Players in West and South Are Likely to Be Either Purchased or Drafted During the Coming Fall.

While the baseball season of 1908 is scarcely half over, the various teams in the big leagues are beginning to send out their scouts for new players with whom to strengthen their teams. There is hardly one of the sixteen clubs which is willing to stand pat, and in the majority of cases the clubs are anxious to land promising young players for the remainder of the season.

An important feature about this hunt for players is that the attention of practically all the scouts is centered on a sextet of players, all of whom are playing ball in the west. So many of the western players that have been tried out by the big league clubs have made good that the scouts have apparently decided that the best of the minors are to be found there.

The young players who attracted the attention of the scouts thus far are Pitcher Bomar and Infielder Niehof of Des Moines, Pitcher Fitzgerald and Infielder Patterson of Pueblo and Pitcher Bono and Infielder Gagner of Lincoln. Aside from Marquard, signed by the New York Nationals, Bomar appears to be the one most sought after. It is said that while he was pitching for the Decatur club in the Three I league last year he won twenty-one games. The best portion of the youngsters who come from the south are not sticking, but many of them are delivering more than their share of the goods. This season's count finds Sid Smith, Wilhelm, Ball, Atz, Manuel, Graham and others not only holding their own, but ranked as stars around the major circuit.

While nothing but a guess can be delivered thus far in advance, the dope would indicate that the 1908 crop from the Southern league will run about as follows, listing the players who are practically sure to go up:

Atlanta—Ford, Castleton and Jordan, with a chance that Moran and Becker may be included.

New Orleans—Lord and Bartley back to Philadelphia. Ryan has already gone to Cleveland.

Nashville—McElveen, almost to a certainty; Hunter to Brooklyn; Bay to Cleveland if he goes good the rest of the year; Daubert likewise; a chance that Hub Perdue will be lifted if he can only hold his present clip.

Little Rock—Speaker to a certainty. A chance that Buchanan and Collins will be tried out.

Memphis—Chappelle looks good for a trial, while Frank Owen is practically another certainty, as he is undoubtedly one of the best backstoppers in the league. Cranston is the only man on the infield with a chance.

Birmingham—Mack Robinson, possibly Rahn.

Montgomery—Pepe had a great show if he had only taken care of himself. Persons started out as if he intended to leave the league, but hasn't been doing so well of late. Hub Hart may revert back to the Sox.

Moblie—Fisher figures that Benson will go up at least.

There isn't any doubt from our lowly viewpoint that Owens is the best backstopper in the league by a couple of laps; Ford, Castleton, Robinson, Chappelle, Perdue and Ryan, not overlooking Bartley, the best pitchers. Jordan is the best second baseman on Dixie's map, but so far as we have seen there are no Balls or Jakey Atzes on tap around the circuits. McDonald has the third sack overshadowed by a block, while Speaker and Lord have the call over any outfielders we have seen up to date. Every one of these earnest athletes should make good under the big tent or the bulk of them at least.

All of the clubs that are after players are paying more attention to pitchers than any other department. The majority of the scouting which has been made public thus far has been done by American league teams.

The Cleveland Americans have been traveling in such hard luck of late in the matter of injuries that the club is very anxious to land some good material. Since the accident to Stovall the scouting work has been taken up by the club in more earnestness than before. The Chicago Americans are also anxious to strengthen their team, which plainly shows that they are far from feeling confident in their ability to win the pennant this year. These are just two of the clubs that are known to be on the hunt for ball tossers, and it is safe to say that all the others have their eyes on one or more of the promising minors.

### No Mercy For Rowdy Ball Players.

Rowdiness upon a ball field in the Eastern league is certainly not going to get a foothold if President Powers has his way, and from the string of punishments he has dealt out the players in this organization must feel that he means business. Owing to the mix-up at Jersey City, in which Umpire Murray became involved with Pitcher Brown and Fielder Mertes of the Toronto club, Brown was suspended for three days and fined \$10, and Mertes was fined \$25. The Umpire Moran-Pitcher Dessau-Manager Dunn wrangle has cost Umpire Moran his position as an umpire, the indefinite suspension of Dessau and a fine of \$25 for Manager Dunn.

### RUBE WADDELL REPORTS.

Eighty St. Louis American Pitcher Promises to Be Good.

The trouble baseball managers have had with Mr. Charles Edward Waddell, better known as "Rube," would fill too many books to enumerate. Connie Mack of the Philadelphia Americans had all he could stand, and this season the St. Louis American field



RUBE WADDELL.

generals have been staying awake o' nights to try to hit on some scheme to keep Rube within bounds.

Rube's latest escapade was to desert the team to go shooting water snakes with a rifle in Missouri. Whether water moccasins were the only kind of snakes Rube saw is not known as yet. However, he has returned to the fold and has promised not to bother with snakes of any kind hereafter.

### LEEVER'S GREAT RECORD.

Pittsburg's Veteran One of the Most Consistent Twirlers in League.

For consistency in the pitching line no one has anything on veteran Sam Leever of the Pittsburg Nationals.

The fans may some day cease talking about "Lucky Leever" and give that veteran credit for being what he is—one of the greatest twirlers the game has ever known. Look over the records, and you will discover that it is mighty hard to find a man with a record as good as that of the former schoolmaster.

This is Leever's eleventh season with the Pittsburg baseball team. He joined the Buccaneers in 1898, but had a sore arm and pitched but a single game, which he won. He went back to Richmond, from which team he had been secured by the Pirates, and remained there until the next spring, when he again joined the Pirates and has been a Pittsburg twirler ever since. He is the only player now on the team who was with Pittsburg prior to the coming of President Dreyfuss and the consolidation of the Colonels and the Buccaneers.

Leever has a record that cannot be duplicated—that of winning almost two-thirds of his games every season he has been in the league. His average since he joined the Pirates up to the beginning of the present season is .661, he having won 164 games and lost 81.

### NO COLLEGIANS FOR DOVEY.

Boston's Owner Partial to Ball Players Graduated From Lots.

"College players? Not for mine. Give me the boys from the lots—the chaps who know that they must either make good in baseball or go back to carrying the hod," said Major George B. Dovey, Boston's owner. "These college fellows are only in the game as an alternative for pulling teeth or doing civil engineering. They don't have to play baseball, and they know it. So it's the boy from the lots for mine. Don't see any rah-rah boys on my team, do you?"

Major Dovey, unlike his fellow magnates in the National league, has not gone into the gate receipts of 1908 to make opulent the exchequer of various minor league clubs which are supposed to possess talent of superlative merit.

"I haven't an option or even a hot tip on any bush league wonders," said the king of the Doves. "And I'm not accumulating a sinking fund to be invested for the benefit of the needy bush leaguers later in the season either. Of course I will try to improve my team for next season, but it will not be by lining up a string of rookies so long that I'll have to number them in order to be able to designate them when I want them.

"Last spring we went south with twenty men. My instructions to them were brief and to the point. 'Every one of you fellows is a regular,' I told 'em. 'Now pitch in and do the best you know how.' Of that entire bunch Young Pfeiffer and one other, I believe, are the only ones I've kissed goodbye. I don't expect to have a larger army next spring, but I do expect the results to be quite as satisfactory as those obtained by clubs having thirty or more men out for spring practice."

Barrett Has Eye on Ball. Jimmy Barrett, who was released by the Boston Americans as a back number, is playing great ball for Providence and batting nearly .300.

### ATHLETIC SURPRISES

Irons of Chicago and Hayes of New York at Olympics.

### ALMOST UNKNOWN BEFORE.

These Gallant Yankee Lads Bearded British Lion in His Den and Got Away With Treasured Track and Field Prizes.

Every one of our modern Olympiads has furnished the opportunity for some young American athlete hitherto unknown among the world's champions to spring a tremendous surprise and in a single hour leap from obscurity to the proud position of Olympic champion.

Way back in 1896 at Athens Robert Garrett of Princeton competed in the discus throw, though he had never seen a Greek saucer before. To the surprise and dismay of the throng of Greeks gathered in the stadium, Garrett hurled the discus forcefully if not gracefully and beat their champion out by a few inches.

At St. Louis in 1904 Jim Lightbody of Chicago was the unheard of one to jump into the limelight. Before this meet Lightbody, on his own admission,



JOHN J. HAYES, WHO WON MARATHON RACE had never run a half mile faster than 2 minutes 3 seconds, yet he cleaned up the 800 meter championship in 1 minute 56 seconds after one of the most grueling races ever seen in any country. Besides this, Lightbody won the 3,200 meter steeplechase and the 1,500 meter run.

Paul Pilgrim of New York was the sensation of the Athens Olympiad in 1906. Paul went to Greece a good second rater and trimmed the world's best middle-distance runner twice in a style that dumfounded the athletic world.

The London games just finished furnished two as great surprises as any of them in little Frank Irons of the Chicago Athletic association, who won the broad jump with a marvelous leap of 24 feet 6 1/2 inches, and John J. Hayes of New York, who won the twenty-six mile Marathon race. Almost all known about Irons was that he won a high jump at the Pastime A. C. sports in New York last winter with an actual leap of 6 feet. Enjoying a small handicap, Irons took the event quite easily. Therefore we put him down as a first rate high jumper—that's all.

When the news came from London that Irons had made such a wonderful leap in the long jump it seemed unbelievable. Irons, though looked upon as a 10 to 1 shot in the high jump, had never been considered for an instant in the long jump, and his triumph was without a doubt the sensation of the London Olympiad.

When the details of Irons' great jumping feat come out it will probably be the same old story—Mike Murphy. One of Mike's specialties is developing a man to fill a gap in his team on short notice, and it looks as if he has done this with the little western high jumper.

Hayes had never done very much on this side either. He trained for the Marathon race on the top of a New York department store.

### Five Hits For Twelve Bases.

Ote Johnson, the "wooden shoe" lad, who covers the keystone sock for the Portland (Ore.) club, certainly did some damage with his willow recently at Los Angeles. In five trips to the plate the husky Swede lambasted the horsehide for a four sacker, a three bagger, a couple of doubles and for measure sandwiched in a single, making five hits for a total of twelve bases, which is going some in any man's league. This is the star batting feat of the season, and it will be some time before another player lines out five safeties in a single game, not to mention rolling up a total of a dozen bases for this number of safe swats.

### New Four Track Circuit.

Curley Brown the western horseman and the builder of the City Park track at New Orleans, makes the announcement that a four track circuit is planned in the south to replace the tracks at the Crescent City. Brown says that a number of capitalists of Cincinnati are the financial backers of the circuit and that it will be ready before the snow flies. The tracks will be situated at Norfolk, Va.; Charleston, S. C.; Jacksonville, Fla., and Savannah, Ga. In addition to these four, horsemen will be able to race at Tampa, Fla., as they did last season.

Manager McCloskey of the St. Louis Nationals has looked the Western league over and has secured options on several Omaha infielders.

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