

JOURNAL WRITER THINKS BEAVERS BETTER THAN OAKS

OAKS LEADER CERTAIN TEAM WILL CAPTURE '13 PENNANT HANDILY

Honus Confidential Following 11 Inning Victory Over Chicago White Sox No. 2.

By R. A. Cronin. San Francisco, March 21.—Honus confided to win the 1913 pennant much more easily than we last year, was the confidential information imparted to me this afternoon at the close of the Oaks 11-inning victory over the Chicago White Sox No. 2, by Honus Mitzel, the scrappy leader of the equally scrappy Oaks.

Schirm is a squat sort of a fellow, no bigger than Bert Coy, but he is a lightning express alongside of Bert. The blazon is some figure, too, for he romped over the hilly valley of the old state league park with as much grace as Artie Krueger or Chet Chabourne. He is recognized as a .300 hitter.

First Casualty of Season. Ness is a rangy youngster, built something like Hughie Miller, the old senator. From what I saw of him today, I think he is considerably shaded by Fred Derrick, the Beaver first baseman, also a newcomer. But you must take into consideration that Derrick played in a double A league last year while Ness was doing time in a class C circuit.

Killian in Fine Form. It is generally admitted that Jack Killian pitched a bit over his head last season, but he is in fine form now, and Mitzel is counting on him. And last, but not least, there is Tyler Christian, credited with having more boshness on tap than the village blacksmith. Christian will never forget the afternoon in Portland in 1911, when the Beavers broke his winning streak of 13 straight, and, believe me, he has never forgiven us. He sends word that it will be his special delight to trounce the Mackmen on all occasions.

It is generally believed in Oakland camp that Art Guest, formerly of the Connecticut league, will be utility infielder, and that Abbott or Becker will be retained as utility outfielder. Now for a brief mention of former Coasters who are with the White Sox second team, under the Eagle eye of the venerable Kid Gleason. Rolfe Zeider, as he is called, and big nosed as he was with the Seals in 1909, is playing a nice third base. Rolfe is in a peculiar position, too good to release and not good enough to play regularly. He said that he would be pleased to return to the Seals, but it is a doubtful matter at this time.

Hitting Like a Fiend. Gleason is coaching Joel Berger, the ex-Angel, with all his might. They are banking on him to crowd Buck Weaver for the regular short patch position. Berger is hitting like a fiend, but his fielding ability is not up to his old coast standard. Jack Fournier, as heavily legged as when with Portland several years ago, has developed into a

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FITZ GETTING ARM BACK INTO SHAPE

By R. A. Cronin. Visalia, Cal., March 21.—Justin Fitzgerald would never have gotten out of the American league had he been possessed of a strong throwing arm. He "lost" his arm a couple of years ago and it has never been hardy since. He had it worked some by an osteopath last winter, but did not get the relief that he expected. He thought it would be all right to cut loose from the outfield to the plate in the first game against the colored Giants, but his arm nearly went with the ball, which did not carry even to first base, much less the plate.



Justin Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald immediately began worrying and sought McCredie's advice. Big Mac once had a sore arm, which he worked into his old time shape by throwing continually. "I'll tell you what I'd do, Fitz," said McCredie. "If I were you, I'd get out here every day and work on that arm. You don't have to keep a bat in your hand all the time, for you will hit .300 in any league in the world. What you want to do is to get out there and perfect yourself chasing fly balls and throwing to bases. An outfielder nowadays must be something else besides a hitter and base runner. He's got to pay as much attention to the defensive department of the game as the offensive, and unless he does, the hits that he makes will not amount to much in the general team play."

Takes Mac's Advice. "What you want to do is to start at a reasonable distance from the man you are throwing to and then increase it every day. Pretty soon you will be throwing from the farthest point of your field. It is the old story of the man who wanted to gain strength, and he started in by carrying a little calf around the corral. As the calf grew older it also grew heavier, and the man became stronger. Pretty soon he was taking all the cattle in the neighborhood for his ride on his shoulders, or something to that effect. Well, it is that way with you. I'd throw that arm clean off your body if it was necessary."

Fitz started out to follow this piece of advice, gained from 18 years of baseball. The first day he warmed up with the pitchers, and has been at it since. He threw every ball with almost all his strength. Then he started in the outfield to throw to the plate, gradually increasing his distance. Of course, the arm is not so tremendously strong now but it has gained in driving power until it does not pain him so much to wing toward the bases. He believes that by May or June it will be as strong as when he was a kid at St. Mary's college.

Fitz has also set out to improve his fielding. If he could field like Doane or Chadbourne and had an arm like Chad's, McCredie could sell him for \$5000 or \$10,000. He is young yet and no young player ought to have a sore arm. He is the fastest ball player in the Coast league, according to general opinion. That he has a bright future, nobody will deny.

Nick Williams has always cursed the luck that robbed him of Fitzgerald when the latter went to St. Mary's college. When Nick was appointed manager of the Portland Colts in the winter of 1910, one of the first young players in California that he approached was Fitzgerald. Nick offered the collegian the sum of \$200 a month, for he realized that he would be worth every cent of it. One Sunday afternoon Hal Chase, then manager of the New York Americans, took an all-star team over to the St. Mary's campus to meet the college nine. He saw Fitzgerald and some other students who were big league calibre. He approached Fitz, who told him that he had been negotiating with Nick Williams, but had not signed a contract.

Oaks Release Fitz. "Come with me," said Chase, "and I'll write you a contract for \$400 a month. It was a business proposition and the latter accepted it. But it was eventually to prove a sad experience to him. Up on the Hilltop in New York, where the Highlanders played, a cold wind swept across the field. He got rheumatism in his arm and couldn't throw. An outfielder without a good arm can't find a berth there. They shipped him to Sioux City of the Western league, then recalled him later and sent him to Jersey City of the Eastern league. Then when a chance came to get Harry Wolverton from Oakland, they traded Bud Sharpe, Harry Wilkinson, the old Columbian uncertainty first baseman of Portland, and Fitz for the present Sacramento manager. Fitz went hunting, got a touch of blood poisoning in his arm, later pulled Sharpe into believing that he could play any more, got his release and finally signed up with Portland, where he was a sensation last year, hitting away above .300.

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Krapp or West to Pitch; Bill Lindsay to Play Third Base in Contest.

Visalia, Cal., March 21.—Everything here is quiet. The last of the Beavers, under Captain Bill Rodgers, departed this morning for Stockton, Cal., where practice will be resumed tomorrow against the Quincy, Ill., team. Manager Walter McCredie left last night to have things ready for his players.

Manager McCredie is still a bit worried about the fielding of his infielders. Kores, who is a bear with the bat, was the weakest fielder in the practice games played here. He is very wild in making his throws across the diamond, but McCredie expects him to overcome this fault.

Oaks Win From Sox II. Oakland, Cal., March 21.—Oakland won out in the eleventh inning in a fast game with the second round of the Chicago White Sox, and the fans here today are banking high on the chances of the Oaks for the 1913 Coast league pennant. The day was marred by an injury to big Harry Ables, the Oaks' mainstay in the box. During the fiasco batting he struck out his left hand, took a speed burner from the bat of Gus Hettling and fractured a finger bone. He will be out of the game for six weeks.

Seattle, Wash., March 21.—The Multnomah Amateur Athletic club's boxers and wrestlers broke even with the Seattle boys in last night's interclub meet. Earl Miebus, the winged "M" light heavyweight, put Morrow to sleep in the first round. Miebus landed several good blows on the jaw and Morrow was on the mat, taking the count.

New York, March 21.—Hopes of a Willard-Smith match here in May were blasted this afternoon when Promoter Coffroth received a telegram from Jim Buckley, Smith's manager, saying that the Gunboat is practically matched to meet Willard in New York on April 4 and asking that the Murphy-Wolgate fight be set back to April 26.

London, March 21.—Declared to be one of the best men of his weight now boxing under the British flag, Herbert Synnot, the Irish-Australian heavy-weight, departs from here for America Saturday to challenge Gunboat Smith, the California fighter. Synnot fought a 15 round draw with Joe Jeannette and later was defeated by Sam McVey in Australia.

Los Angeles, March 21.—Accompanied by his new trainer, Earl Mohan, Bud Anderson went to Wheeler Springs today for a 12 days' stay in the mountains. After his outing he will return to Los Angeles to prepare himself for his second meeting with Knockout Brown.

Chicago, March 21.—Eddie McGoorty and Jimmy Clabby, middleweights, are matched here today to meet in a 10 round engagement in Kenosha, Wis., at 155 pounds, some time in April. The exact date will be set later.

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Los Angeles, March 21.—The co-eds of the University of Southern California, spurred by the victory of the university track team over Stanford last Saturday, have asked the faculty for permission to challenge Stanford and the University of California to a three cornered track meet for women. A team already has been organized here and last night 40 aspirants for honors "worked out"

likely send Frank Kestley against the Seals. Young Murray, the San Francisco boy, will be called upon to do the catching. The infield lineup will be Norton, first base; Mohler, second base; Coltrin, shortstop; and Gulgni, third base. Gulgni is a second sacker, but showed splendid form at the difficult corner yesterday afternoon. All the outfielders in camp will be given a chance to work out against the Seals. Nick expects the balance of his players by tomorrow night.

F. Burns After Match. San Francisco, March 21.—Declaring that he never felt better in his life and that ten days' training would make him as fit as ever, Frankie Burns, the Oakland lightweight, today is anxious for the San Francisco four round promoters to send him against Willie Hoppe. The Oaklander believes Hoppe is made to measure for him, asserting he could chop the Butchertown scrapper to pieces

with his left hand and put over the sleep producing right before the end of the fourth round. Sox Beat Angels. (United Press Leased Wire.) Los Angeles, March 21.—Opportunity hitting enabled the Chicago Americans' first squad to pile up six runs and a victory in their first clash with the Los Angeles Coasters. Ryan was easy for the White Sox, while Scott held the Angels at his mercy. The score: Chicago..... 6 10 2 Los Angeles..... 3 8 1 Batteries—Ryan, Crabbe and Brooks; Scott and Kuhn.

Paper Chase Tomorrow. The Portland Hunt club will hold a close paper chase tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The start will be made from Bertha station. Mrs. F. G. Bufum and Miss Mabel Lawrence will be the hares. Journal-Want Ads bring results.

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