

SAN FRANCISCO HAS TEAM THIS YEAR THAT COULD MAKE GOOD IN MAJORS; THEY LOOK LIKE WINNERS

Charlie Ellison has the San Francisco Seals setting the pace in the Coast league race for the flag. Oscar Vitt has the mount for the Salt Lake Mormons and is second, "Red" Killefer piloting the Seattle team has the Indians in third place, Marty Krug's Angels are fourth, Del Howard, at the helm for the Oaks tops the second division in fifth place. Duffy Lewis with the Beavers in sixth, Buddy Ryan in his first year as manager is coming along with the Solons in seventh place, while "Vinegar Bill" Kesick's Vernon Tigers are in the subway.

It is early in the season to make prediction but barring accident it does not take a long stretch of imagination to concede that the team that beats the Seals will not be far from the top of the percentage column. Sizing them up man for man they rank only a step from big league calibre. The infield is particularly strong with Ellison, Kilduff, Mulligan and Rhyme.

Pete Kilduff on second, only a short time from the big show came to the Coast league as a matter

of choice. He covers acres of ground in the field and swings the timber against the ball close to the flag. Oscar Vitt has the mount for the Salt Lake Mormons and is second, "Red" Killefer piloting the Seattle team has the Indians in third place, Marty Krug's Angels are fourth, Del Howard, at the helm for the Oaks tops the second division in fifth place. Duffy Lewis with the Beavers in sixth, Buddy Ryan in his first year as manager is coming along with the Solons in seventh place, while "Vinegar Bill" Kesick's Vernon Tigers are in the subway.

Gene Valla, lead off man and centrefielder for the Seals is only working in the Coast league because his employers put a prohibitive price on him. He hits from the left side and is fast in getting down to first.

Headryx has done time in the majors and is now pasturing in the left garden for the Seals. He slotted out 119 hits in 115 games last season for an average of .319.

Paul Warner, the fly bound in the regular line-up is a kid, in years, but a stellar performer at bat and in the field. He is hitting the ball at the giddy clip of .424 and is second to the larruping Frank Brant, who is leading the blindfolded welders in the league with an average of .455.

Sam Agnew, Yelle and Ritchie are doing the catching for the team and they are easily the class of the league on all-around work. Agnew was a first string major league catcher for years and even now though his old bald dome glistens in the sun he is far from being "through." He is a good backstop and a wicked old boy with the stick. Yelle is a consistent worker in all departments. Ritchie is the youngster of the string, but

is a good scrappy ball player. Mitchell, the Seals' southpaw is leading the league with unbroken string of five wins. Bob Geary, the Cincinnati policeman made one start and won. Williams has four wins and one loss to his credit. McWeeney has been sent four times and brought the bacon home in three of his battles. Monty Griffin has 3 wins and one loss. Monty started twice and has an average of .500.

Salt Lake with its clear box ball yard will win a lot of games. At the present writing Lazerte, shortstop, Frank O'Doul and Johnny Fredericks, outfielders, are murdering the ball and this in addition to Lee Shoshun, Peters, other fence busters scattered through the Seals line-up may cause sleepless nights for opposing slubsters.

Marty Krug's Angels have a good pitching staff and plenty of kick at the bat. He also has "Chewing Gum" Wrigley, owner of the Chicago Cubs with his ear to the ground should the Los Angeles navigators send out the S. O. S. when the race nears the judges' stand.

The Indians may be in the reckoning before the season is over. When Killefer sent Jimmy Welsh to the Boston Braves with a c. o. d. ticket on him for \$50,000 and Ray Rohwer to the Portland Beavers in payment for Brazil and Tom Daly he sacrifices a lot of Seattle team's offensive power. In addition to selling and trading those two clever outfielders he sent pitchers Elmer Jacobs and "Sheriff" Blake to the Chicago Cubs and the celebrated Yossie Grange back to the Sox. In the meantime, Washington on the world's champion, Washington Senators, Yossie Grange and Tom Daly were sent to the Sox and the Sox sent them to the Cubs. The Senators' Jacobs also took up his share of the burden and turned back the invaders, the teams finishing Seattle .545, Los Angeles .538 and San Francisco .537.

Skinner Killefer has in his line-up: Lane, Brady and Brazil with "Brick" Eldred in the clean-up hole, a rather formidable array of swatsmiths with plenty of speed. Added to that quartet is Herman, a firstbaseman sent from the Cubs in payment for Jacobs and Blake. Herman is making good. To the Seattle line-up also has been added McCabe, who is well known in Coast league circles as a good utility man and "Red" Baldwin and Tom Daly are well able to take care of the catching. The Killefer machine is moving along smoothly and with good pitching the 1925 Pacific coast race promises to be another driving finish.

Mitchell for Philadelphia. Jess Barnes for the Braves. Uhle and Edwards for Cleveland. Rommel and Gray for the Athletics. Johnson and Mogridge for Washington. Shocker for New York. Bush for the Browns. and Leonard and Collins for Detroit. With the veteran pitchers going good so early, and with a strong probability that many of the young pitchers will develop stellar proportions during the season, there need be no fear within reason that the present heavy batting will continue all season, or that the offensive will be disproportionately superior to the defense.

Washington Bolsters

Team With Joe Harris Prospects Brighten

The trade, whereby Washington draws Joe Harris of the Red Sox for Pitcher Paul Zahntzer and Outfielder Roy Carlyle, ought to be a mighty good one for the champions, as they get a strong right-hand batter and do not have to part with a valuable player, com-

ments Henry P. Edwards in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Like the Cleveland team of a year ago, Washington, this spring was decidedly long on left-hand hitting outfielders, and short on gardeners who hit right-handed. McNally being the only one of the latter class. Goslin, Rice, Matthews, Lohold and Carlyle all hit from the first base side of the plate.

Harris not alone can play the outfield but is a fair first baseman. Back Harris also can use him as a pinch hitter. Joe batted .301 for the Red Sox last season. Not a very pronounced average, but it is supposed Joe drove in 77 runs.

which shows he was an excellent batsman. With Harris on the job, Washington will not be handling any great extent if Joe trumps knee runs true to the keeps Judge out of the park and then. Whenever Joe forced to lay off in 1924, were weakened, as Harris has been his understudy only .234.

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Heinie Sand Gets Applause in Game For His Honesty

Many baseball fans at the Polo Grounds hoisted Heinie Sand, shortstop of the Phillies, who exposed the Dolan-O'Connell bribery scandal last fall writes Joe Vila in the New York Sun. The attitude of these persons is hard to understand. Do they favor crooked baseball or are they in sympathy with the banished O'Connell, now conceded to have been the "goat" of the attempted fixing? Sand was applauded by thousands of spectators who appreciated what he had done to keep the national game honest, but they couldn't overwhelm the hoots and jeers.

There is no doubt that Sand's exposure of Dolan and O'Connell frightened other players who had quietly winked at alleged sharp practice. Also, it served as a warning to "the higher ups," if any, to avoid suspicion in future. If the traitors of Sand had stopped to think what would happen if the general public should lose confidence in professional baseball, they would have joined clean sportmen in commending his fearless honesty.

PITCHERS ARE FAST ROUNDING IN SHAPE

The season to date has witnessed rather heavy batting all along the line—a fact quite pleasing to the average spectator; and indifferent pitching as a general rule—which is not relished by old-time patrons of the game. However, it is not unreasonable to expect that the pitching will improve very much as the season grows older and the weather warms. Singularly, all the really good pitching has been done by the veterans of the two leagues, notably Laque and Donohue for Cincinnati, Vance for Brooklyn, Neft and Scott, for New York,



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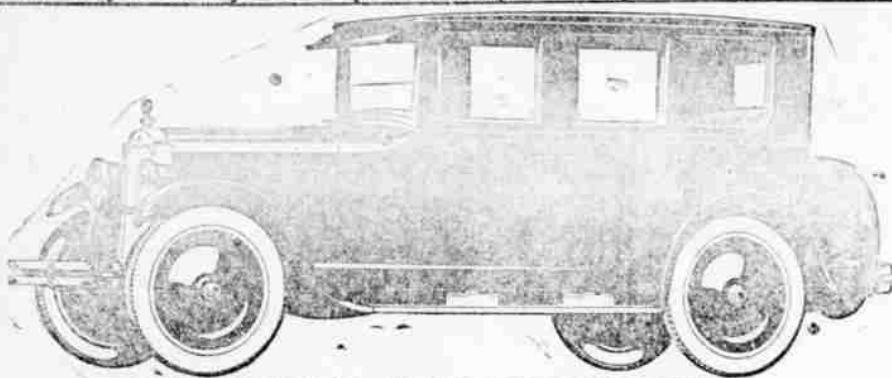
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