

STIRRIN' the DOPE

By VEDDER GARD

CATCHER NEEDED BADLY BY TRIBE—SOME AMATEUR UMPIRING

BROWNS, MACKMEN AT TAIL-END IN AMERICAN

After First Week Form Is Scrambled—National League Running Along More True to Dope.

By Henry L. Farrell

United Press Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, April 19.—With the Philadelphia Athletics and the St. Louis Browns tangled up in a dispute for last place, things are not exactly as they should be at the end of the first week of the season in the American League.

Form has not been scrambled so bad in the National League. The champion Pittsburgh Pirates, of course, have no business in sixth place, but the St. Louis Cardinals, the New York Giants and the Cincinnati Reds are in the first division.

Most anything can happen in the chilly weeks of the early season, and there used to be a tendency among managers and players to give slight consequence to starting games, but a game counts just as much now as in late September.

Early Games Important

"Early season games are becoming increasingly important as the competition becomes stronger," John McGraw, manager of the Giants, said. "The team that gets the big jump this year before mid-season is the team that will win the pennant."

McGraw said he had observed particularly this season that the players on clubs standing for a slice of world series money were bearing down as hard as they could.

St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago White Sox played the best ball of the opening week and are holding first place in the major leagues. The Cardinals, aided by Bottomley's terrific hitting, won five out of six games, and the White Sox, hustling for Eddie Collins, lost only one game out of five. The Sox pitching has been high class.

Giants Winning

The Giants won four out of their five games, the Phillies four out of six and the Reds three out of five. The Pirates lost four of their six games.

The Washington Senators are holding third place in the American League, with four games won and two lost. This record is more impressive than the mere figures show, as the Senators have played all their games against their strongest rivals, the Philadelphia Athletics and the New York Yankees.

The Athletics won only one of their five games and the disappointing Browns have failed to win a game in five starts.

Detroit looked good in winning three out of four, and if Ty Cobb has been successful in strengthening the defense of the team the Tigers are sure to be in the fight.

Happy Atherton is in the best condition of his career, according to his handiwork, who are confidently predicting a win for the local bantams over Moore. Fans at the Arcade Sunday, after watching Glaser and Paglini in their training stunts, declared the semi-finalist of this pair is going to be rare sport.

PETE ENTERS

De Paolo Will Drive "Duesie" in Big Race.

Pete De Paolo again will be at the wheel of an Indianapolis-made Duesenberg in the fourteenth annual International sweepstakes at the Motor Speedway on Monday, May 31. Pete was the A. A. speed champion last year and the winner of the big Memorial day 500-mile race.

His last year's victory was made in the fastest time ever recorded here—101.13 miles an hour. De Paolo's car this year will be a duplicate of the 1925 speed buggy, except that the motor must be smaller to conform with the new regulations that say the maximum motor displacement must be 914 cubic inches.

Other entries announced so far: Ralph De Palma, two cars; three Schmidt Specials from France; Hamlin front-drive Frantz, Harlan Fenger in an unnamed car and Dave Lewis in a front-drive Miller. Entries close May 1.

They want the contestants to CARE whether they win or lose. A fine display of skill and uncanny ability in handling a baseball lose their charm if the spirit is not there.

The bugs idolize the players who try hard and want to WIN. Of course, none of the players wants to lose. It means bread and butter to them to make a good showing.

But it must be more than bread and butter. When baseball becomes a business proposition entirely to players as well as owners the turnstiles will not click in the endless song so pleasing to the magnates' hearts.

There must be something out on the field except pretty motions. There must be fire and enthusiasm. Mechanical perfection is not enough.

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