

TALKING IT OVER WITH JOE WILLIAMS

Early Season Collapse of Detroit Tigers May Lead to Shakeup

Nineteen Errors in First Seven Games Disastrous to Bengals.

FOTHERGILL BENCHED

Moriarty Intent on Knocking Off Rough Spots.

BY FRANK GETTY,
United Press Sports Editor

NEW YORK, April 18.—"Do you know what?" inquired the office statistician as large globular statistics popped out all over him and fell to the floor. It so happened I did not know what and this brought to the long, angular face of the office statistician a look of great pleasure.

Next to proving by his own carefully contrived formula that you are wrong, the office statistician's chief delight is in suspicion that you are ignorant.

It developed that the what I didn't know was that there had been more new players introduced in the opening day line-ups of the sixteen major league clubs this year than ever before in his history—and nobody had made any mention of it. Fancy that!

With a triumphant gesture the office statistician implied that but for his infinite zeal and intense interest in the more vital phases of civilization this astonishing phenomenon might have gone on unnoticed, uncharted and unexplored.

Nineteen errors in seven games! A high school ball team would be discredited by a record such as that. It undoubtedly constitutes a record for major league baseball. And a majority of the bobbles were costly and directly connected with opponents' runs.

Before the season opened, the Tigers were rated one of the strongest clubs in the league, an aggregation bound to make trouble and certain to finish in the first division, upon the heels of the leaders.

The Tigers still are one of the best clubs in the junior circuit, and they probably will finish fourth, but it will be some time before they get over the nightmare of their performances during the first week of the season.

Atrous Fielding

The Tigers have not been noticeably weak at bat, but have tossed away what opportunities they attained in the field by atrocious fielding. Paul Fothergill who took Fothergill's place in the field did some heroic tickling against Cleveland Tuesday, and Jack Tavares smacked out a home run, scoring the rookie from Seattle ahead of him, but four costly errors deprived the Tigers of the lead and the ball game.

It was not for the fact that the Athletics, owing to the weather and other difficulties, have not been able to win a single ball game this season, the Tigers would be so far in the cellar that even the Red Sox could look down upon them as from a great height.

George Moriarty is the fighting type of manager and promises to take the Tiger by the scruff of the neck and shake it until its stripes look like the black squares in a cross-word puzzle.

THE fact that sixteen lineups could be changed from one year to another to an extent involving seventy players indicates that the stability of baseball as a profession is slightly more treacherous than that of night-watching or working on mule cars. The boys sure do shift around.

One wonders how all the hero worship stuff is kept alive in view of the possibility that the bright particular star who sends the customers home gibbering in a strange incoherent tongue one week may be wearing an enemy uniform the next. The answer probably is that the customers don't care who they worship as long as it is somebody.

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peared at the time to be a bag of table salt and a peck of onions a large part of the citizenry banded together, organized a protest league, adopted awesome sounding resolutions and announced that from that time on they were through as patrons of the Polo Grounds.

As I remember the circumstances a gentleman by the name of Solomon headed the organization, launched the threatened taboo and wrote letters to the newspapers about it. Evidently the taboo has not been a complete success. More than 25,000 fans sat through chilling weather to see the opening game with the Braves, and more than double this number saw the Sunday game with the Phillies.

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Semi-Pros and Amateurs

Silver Flash players will meet at Washington St., Friday night, and the following are requested to attend: Newbold, Lynch, Dally, Ralston, McLean, Hopper, Epperson, Watson, Harry Collins, Arnold and Little. The Flashies, their season in Bloomington, Indiana, say they also are booked at Section 66, May 6. For games address W. E. Ferguson, 6151 Ferguson St., or call Humboldt 4-8622.

Red Men will open their season Sunday, the strong at Riverside A. A. at Riverside No. 1 at 3 p.m. They will hold an amateur practice this evening at Riverside. Friday night an important meeting will be held at the Capitol Bowling Alley, 10th and Market, urged on by the club. All uniforms will be issued.

A good battery would like to connect with Saturday afternoon league team or a Sunday morning league club. For information call Herlock 1881 after 5:30. Red and Marmons please note.

Midway players, playing in the 17-18-year-old class, have organized a fast, friendly and practical team. The club meets with fast city and state teams. For information call C. P. Oliver, 1805 Marion, and New Palestine.

Municipal Gardens team will hold an important meeting tonight at 8 p.m. The following players are requested to attend: P. C. Johnson, Patterson, Alexander, Noggle, Anderson, Weddle, Rightower, Niel, Benford, Bassett, Bassett, McLean, Kipp, McLean, Marks, Lierkamp and others desiring tryouts. For information call C. P. Oliver, 1805 Marion, 2022.

Dickens' A. B. C. have May 20 open and 20 open and will hold a special team. A. B. C. will play at 10th and 18th St. Following players are urged to attend: Becker, Oistley, Allen, Taylor, Shirley and Young others. For information call C. P. Oliver, 1805 Marion, 2022.

La Barba, a student, after the marriage the former champion's wife will enroll in the Stanford domestic science classes.

With the decision of his employer, L. E. Brown, the Illinois breeder, to retire, Alex Wishart, well-known colt trainer, has opened a public stable at the Indiana State fairgrounds here.

Third of A Group Lifts Baseball Lid

International's Hopes Glow as 168-Game Schedule Gets Under Way.

By United Press

NEW YORK, April 18.—The 1928 pennant race was to open in the International League today with prospects for the most successful season in history. The league belongs to the Class AA group, the other members being the American Association and Pacific Coast circuit.

President John Toole predicted one of the closest races in years and as many as six teams have high hopes of finishing in front at the end of the 168-game schedule. The opening day schedule was:

Toronto at Newark, Rochester at Jersey City, Montreal at Buffalo at Baltimore.

Minus the services of their manager, Walter Johnson, the Newark Bears were to entertain the strong Toronto club. Al Maumax was to hurl for Newark and Jess Doyle for Toronto. George McBride will manage Newark until Johnson has recovered from his illness.

Montreal was to make its re-entry into the league against the improved Reading team. Bob Shawkey, who was with the New York Yankees last season, was to pitch the opening of the season for Montreal.

St. Louis is expected to show

Thursday and Friday at Harry Coopers parlor in exhibition matches with Willie Hoppe.

Hall's style was reformed by Charley Peterson, noted fancy shot-maker and instructor, when he saw that the St. Louis youngs never would become a great player unless he softened his stroke.

Peterson, trying to overcome the defect, put Hall at the 18.2 game, where soft shooting was necessary. The improvement was tremendous and Hall quickly won some minor amateur three-rail titles and moved up into the professional class. In two years he has become one of Hoppe's greatest rivals.

Hall's success at three-cushions likewise is credited to the fine stroke he built up while he was ballkine champion of the world for many years. Hoppe and Hall will play four fifty-point matches at Coopers in the two days.

Balkine billiards receive the credit for developing the fine three-cushion style that Allen Hall, young

What Was That?

OMAHA, Neb., April 18.—The sixth annual convention of the Izaak Walton League is expected to uncover some of the world's greatest fish liars. A contest has been arranged, open to the world, to discover the best fish stories.

Roy Swanson and Charles Kellar of the Nebraska chapter have come forward with the story of the catfish they landed in the Mississippi a short time ago, which caused the stream to drop five inches.

"It's nonsense for the Government to spend huge sums of money on flood prevention work," Kellar said.

"All that is needed is to turn Roy

and me loose and take off the catch limit in the lower Mississippi. We'll keep the water safely within the levees."

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