

LOCAL FANS WILL SEE THE OPENER

Many Will Attend the Cubs-Reds Battle at Cincinnati, Tomorrow.

ROOTING FOR GRIFFITH

"OLD FOX" HAS SPEEDIEST TEAM IN NATIONAL LEAGUE, THIS YEAR, AND IS EXPECTED TO FINISH HIGH.

Tomorrow afternoon the National league season will be pried open with the usual formalities and the opening game at Cincinnati will find the Chicago Cubs battling with the speedy Reds. Richmond fans are rooting hard for the Griffith outfit and there will be a large local delegation at the contest. Speaking of the Reds, the Cincinnati Enquirer has the following to say today:

Gaspar Has Grippe.

Fromme or Gaspar, the two leading pitchers of last year's club, would be the natural choice for the opener, but neither of these crack twirlers is in shape to work. Fromme's rheumatic wing has prevented him from getting into the proper condition for the big test of a first championship game. He is coming along slowly and will soon be all right, but he hasn't anything like his real stuff at the present time, and it would be folly to send him into an important game when he is not ready. Mr. Gaspar, who led the pitchers of the team in 1909, is suffering from a bad attack of the grippe, and has not been at the yard to practice for three days, so he is out of the question for the opener. Griff therefore, had to look around and see what he could see among the others. The result of his cogitation was a choice between Beebe and Suggs.

Beebe Looks Good.

The former has had more experience in the major league and is better acquainted with the Cub batters. He was with the Chicago team himself before he went to St. Louis, and has often pitched against Chance's men. Beebe worked out yesterday for an hour and looked good. Griff caught his curves, equipped with a huge mitt, and they came through just to suit the Red leader. Beebe will be all right if called on to work.

Suggs is a recruit with the Reds, and he has never pitched a game in the National League. He was with the Detroit for a little more than one season, and pitched several games in the American league, but has never shown in the Nationals. He has shown such good form in the practice games with the Boston, however, that the fans may feel perfectly safe if the game is placed in his hands. Suggs, though a youngster, is not a green one by any means, and he is sure to give a good account of himself. Both Beebe and Suggs are as game as they make them, and either one will be proud to be chosen for the opener and will work his level best to land a winner.

The Regular Line-up.

The rest of the team has been picked, with the single exception of the right fielder. Tom Clarke will catch the game, with Hobby at first, Egan at second, Lober at third, Downey at short stop, Bescher in left and Mitchell in center. The batting order will be the same as in the games with Boston and Detroit. The only place about which Manager Griffith is in doubt is right field, for which there are three candidates, Paskert, Miller and McCabe. Griff said last night: "I have not made up my mind which man I shall send out there to face the sun. All three have their good points, and it will take a lot of thinking to determine which one will give us the best results. I may decide tomorrow, and I may wait until just before the game."

A BIG TRACK MEET

Quadrangular High School Event Will Be Held at Anderson, Ind.

RICHMOND IS AN ENTRY

Anderson high school will entertain the quadrangular field meet this year on Saturday, May 14. It is expected that a large delegation of roosters will accompany the local track team. A call for candidates was issued yesterday and a squad of about 30 reported to Prof. Hamilton at the play grounds last evening. While practically all of the material in the local high school is green and needs rounding out, it is thought that by hard work on the part of the coaches and the earnest cooperation of the candidates, Richmond will have a track team this year entirely up to the high standard of former years.

Orville Brunson, the boy's secretary of the Y. M. C. A. will have charge of the squad until the Anderson meet. In event the local team makes a good showing at the quadrangular meet, this city will also be represented at the state meet. The track at the play ground is not yet ready for use and for the next few weeks the squad will hold daily practice on Reid field.

An elephant in the wild state has such a delicate sense of smell that it can detect an enemy nearly a mile away.

The Marblehead, one of the oldest cruisers in the navy, has been commissioned in the service of the California state naval militia at Mare Island.

NATIONAL LEAGUE PITCHERS AND THEIR CHANCES



Mathewson, Brown, Camnitz, Adams, Willis and Others Top Heavy with Success in 1909 Must Bear the Brunt of Work in 1910.

By JOHN B. FOSTER.

Some pitchers who were successful in 1909 in the National League were topehensive with success. The question among baseball enthusiasts is whether they are likely to be able to repeat this season their good work.

Pfeister, the left hand pitcher, may also be well included in this list.

These pitchers were capable of more service than their four contemporaries in Pittsburgh. They took part in 119 games last year. Of these they won eighty-three and lost thirty-six. Their percentage of victories was just a shade lower than seventy.

As compared with the Pittsburgh quartet their work should be considered on a par with the four mentioned of the champions, for they took part in more games and their greater availability gave them a valuable asset for a baseball club to own. Hence the known pitching strength of the Pittsburgh and Chicago clubs may be said to be not far from equal.

Brown, of course, in the Chicago club stands forth as one of the great pitchers of the national game. He is an immortal whether he leaves the league or happens to be third or fourth in the league. He is a pitcher of such reliability that confidence is felt in him when he is in the box, and of so much useful experience that nothing can be done to his arm can render him anything but valuable assistance to the Chicago Club in 1910.

Were Reulbach gifted with the art of controlling the ball and with the confidence of his brother pitcher, he might be one of the wonders of the game, for nature granted him an arm which is made of stern strength, and his speed and nerve are two known quantities which are envied of all.

Overall is a steady, strong, stalwart worker. He is not always so even in the box as he might be, but his endurance makes him a valuable man, for he is able to pitch frequently if called upon to do so, and is seldom bothered by lack of confidence because his strength fails him.

For the last two years the best non-pitcher in the National League is to be found in the person of Willis, who is equally expert as Mathewson. If he is not com-
petent to retire before his time by reason of physical disability the indications are good that his record will make him the best pitcher in the National League.

Camnitz took part in thirty-one games last season, which is probably about all that can be expected from a pitcher of his style during the year. Left hand work is not his forte, but he is a valuable asset for a left hander. Adams was the principal in fifteen games and only assisted in some of those. Indications for this season point to the fact that the Pittsburgh management will have to make arrangements that he will become the leader in more contests in 1910 than he was in 1909.

The one most striking fact in regard to the Pittsburgh pitchers in 1909 is that the club thinks it can afford to go out with Willis, who had twenty-two victories to his credit in 1908, against eleven victories to the credit of the other two.

In the Chicago club there is a known pitching force, with Mordecai Brown at the head. His principal assistants are Overall and Reulbach. The expression "known pitching force" is used from the fact that all of these players have stood the test of hard work in more years than one, and their ability and merit are well

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