

Fourteen Teams Will Open Baseball Season in Two Major Leagues Today

INDICATIONS ARE THAT SEASON WILL BE BIGGEST EVER

As Usual, All Managers Are Predicting Success for Their Clubs.

By HENRY L. FARRELL
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NEW YORK, April 13.—Fourteen tend hopes start out Wednesday to get "busted."

Fourteen battle scarred hands reach out for a plum that only two will get their fingers around.

Fourteen managers transplant 140 men from their northern training grounds of the south to the sod of their northern ball parks, a baseball plant doomed to die before the frost hits it.

Baseball of 1920 is on its way Wednesday over the old 154 game course to October 3.

The National League debut comes, the National League has the champion Reds and the Cubs at Cincinnati; the Braves and the Giants at New York; the Pirates and the Cards at St. Louis; and the Phils and the Robins at Brooklyn.

Inaugural Ceremonies.

The inaugural ceremonies in the American league will be in charge of the Tigers and White Sox at Chicago; the Browns and the Indians at Cleveland; the Yankees and the Athletics at Philadelphia, and the Senators and the Red Sox at Boston.

Just like the circus press agents, the oracles of the diamond are predicting a season—"bigger'n better's over."

Baseball had one of the most successful years of history in 1919 and the records should be broken this season," John A. Heydler, president of the National league said today. "The teams are all evenly matched and it seems to be anyone's race."

"Everything points to a banner season in baseball," said Charles W. Murphy, former owner of the Chicago Cubs and an ardent fan. "I look for a great renewal of interest in the national sport and think many will find a welcome relief in these days of industrial and commercial chafing and straining."

The pessimists claim the "boost in the gate" will cut down the tempo of the turnstiles' song but it is not likely.

With the exception of the Babe Ruth deal, very few changes have been made in the personnel of the major league clubs. They all go to the wire with practically the same make-up that finished last season. They are all evenly matched.

All Confident.

The club bosses and managers, of course, are all confident of winning as is indicated by these "before the battle" statements.

August Herrmann, president of the National Cincinnati Reds: "Manager Moran, as is characteristic of him, isn't making any promises or predictions. But I am optimistic. We have the same team that won the championship last year."

Charles Comiskey, owner of the White Sox: "During accidents, I expect to see the White Sox at the top all the way through the season. We have a stronger pitching staff than last year and the team just is strong in other departments."

Manager John McGraw, of the Giants: "With out of the best in the team, the bunch is strong. The prospects of the Giants were never better. We will finish at the top I believe."

Manager Huggins of the Yankees: "The Yankees are the strongest team in the league. With good luck we should win."

Frank Nash, president of the Tigers: "Detroit has to be reckoned with this season. The Yankees and the Indians are the only ones to bother us. I think we'll win."

Trie Speaker, manager of the Indians: "Everyone is picking Cleveland to win the pennant. If we don't it probably will be a big disappointment. We have a strong club, a better balanced pitching staff than last year and you know what a race we made then."

Nothing But Cubs.

William Veeck, president of the Cubs: "There's nothing to it but the Cubs. They have the best team in the years and they are in line to win the pennant. It's going to be the biggest season in baseball history."

Barney Dreyfuss, president of the Pirates: "Manager Gibson isn't making any rash statements. Neither am I. We have a strong club and we'll be up close to the top."

Manager Robinson of the Dodgers: "Brooklyn is strong where the club was weak last year. Our pitchers are in excellent condition and we have a lot of reserve power. We'll be in the first division."

Branch Rickey, president and manager of the Cards: "Don't count the Cardinals out of it too soon. The Reds proved that anything is possible. We're growing."

Manager Cravath of the Phillies: "Count on the Phils to make a good race. We'll be there with the rest of them when the gong rings."

Manager Stallings of the Braves: "Everything depends on the Boston pitcher. If they live up to hopes we'll be in the first four."

Branch Rickey.

Manager Burke of the St. Louis Browns: "We have a ball club that will keep the boys busy to keep ahead of us. We are not much on claiming pennants but we will try and let the rest of the clubs know we are in the league."

Manager Mack of the Athletics: "Our club is composed of young players entirely. I think we'll make them and feel sure we'll make a good race."

Harry Frazee, president of the Red Sox: "The Red Sox are not booked for the cellar. We still have a strong club."

Clarke Griffith, president and manager of the Senators: "Washington is going to be heard from this year. This season I'm not claiming a pennant or anything like that, however."

Jay Gould, president of the Red Sox: "The Red Sox are not booked for the cellar. We still have a strong club."

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