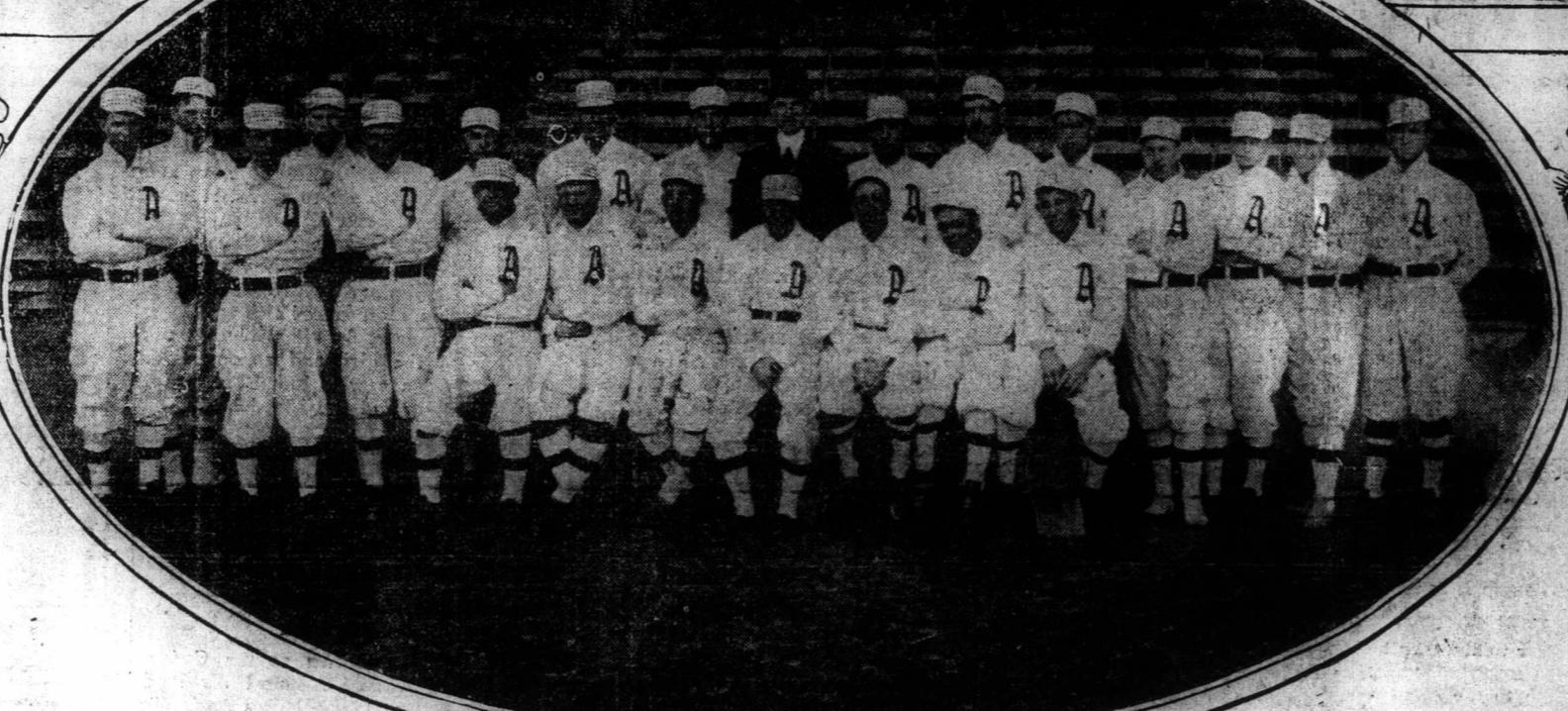


In the Realm of Sport

GIANTS VS. ATHLETICS WHO WILL WIN THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP?



THE GIANTS. National League Champions of 1913.



THE ATHLETICS. American League Champions of 1913.

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GIANTS or Athletics? (The more the old question pops up with renewed vigor and every baseball fan in the country has been trying to answer it weeks in advance.

Arguments as long as some of the hits that J. Franklin Baker poked out in the last world's championship series between the old rivals are being advanced by partisans to prove that the Athletics do not stand a ghost of a chance against the conquering Giants, or that McGraw's men will be travelling with horseshoes if they come through with two games, depending of course on the point of view.

Anyway, the baseball pot is boiling. It is the season of the year when a fan will gladly shelter a lot of business if he can induce his neighbor to join him in a debate over the respective merits of Giants and Athletics. And it takes very little inducing, for everybody, from the old gentleman who used to play rounders to the "kid" in knickers, is talking, arguing and sometimes dreaming baseball.

Giants and Athletics, their respective league pennants won, are about to meet for the second time in three years and for the third time since the world's series was introduced as a climax to the baseball season. Both teams are merely playing out their schedules, for the other clubs have been counted out long ago.

Looking back upon world's series history, one is impressed with the fact that the Giants have been rather unkind to the Athletics. Only once in three attempts have the Polo Ground men been able to live up to the big things that had been expected of them, for each time they entered the fray heavy favorites. And in 1905, on the occasion of their only triumph, fortune hardly figured, for the Giants so far outclassed the Mackmen that the latter were lucky to win one game in five.

It was six years later that the Athletics had their opportunity for revenge. This time the series was much more stubbornly fought. The Giants, entering the strife full of fight and confidence, were conceded by critics to have that mysterious something that for want of a better word has been termed the "edge." Then along came one J. Franklin Baker to spill the Giant beans with a vengeance.

Two home run drives nullified all the championship play that the Giants had injected into two memorable games and robbed them of two well earned victories. When it was all over records showed the Giants to have held their own in fielding and hitting, but the Athletics had exactly that margin of two. It was an individual, not a team, that beat the Giants.

Then came the series with the Red Sox that is still fresh in the memory of fans. Unexpected reverses were met by the Giants, for although they outbatted their rivals they couldn't win. The fact that the Sox gained an early two game lead made them fight all the harder. They rallied wonderfully, caught up with their opponents, and in the final game beat the Bostonians beaten—until Snodgrass snuffed a ball that ordinarily he might have caught with his eyes shut. Could Giant fans be blamed then for crying "Hut?"

Comparing the work of the rivals in the closing weeks of the league campaigns baseball fans fall to see why the Giants should not again be installed champions.

Fans have begun to discern signs of deterioration in that famous \$100,000 infield, and in the Athletic outfield, too. That matter, Athletic batting eyes do not appear to be as keen or arms as strong as of yore. The once mighty Philadelphia pitching staff has also been considerably riddled this season. Certain it is that in the last month or two the veteran twirlers have met reverse after reverse, the youngsters, erratic and unreliable, have failed to fill the breach, and the Athletics have been having rough slugging to maintain a 5.00 gain.

Far different, however, has been the work of the Giants. Improving as the season advanced, they have struck down all opposition in a manner befitting champions, and right now are considered to be as strong as any team McGraw has handled. The team is hitting well, and as for fielding, consistent critics everywhere have openly remarked upon the vast improvement in that department. As it stands now, the combination is essentially the same as the one that faced the Red Sox last fall, but the few changes that have been made have injected new life and vigor where it was most needed.

Out in left field George Burns has not only covered his territory as well as "Josh" Devore ever did, but has also proved to be one of the most reliable batsmen and run producers of the squad. On third base "Tillie" Shafer has turned out to be most formidable rival to "Charlie" Herzog, and where there is competition there is baseball life.

There is one other newcomer on McGraw's team, who, like "Babe" Adams, of Pittsburg, in 1909, may prove a big factor in the coming series. He is "Al" Demaree, the pitching find of the big league season. No fabulous price was paid for Demaree's services, but he has done far better than recruits who have come into fast company at almost incredible expense. Enough to say that he leads the league, and with his adoption of the Mathewson method of natural conservation is likely to last for many a year.

While on the subject of "Matty" it might be ventured that "Big Six" is likely to perform up to the standard he has set in previous world's series. Only once before has he had a more successful season. Tesreau, after an erratic start, has found himself and is now at the top of his form and ready for service against J. Franklin Baker et al. Marquard, while not the record breaking pitcher of 1912, is quite as effective as ever. As relief twirlers the Giants have Otis Conzall, Arthur Fromme and "Hooks" Wittes.

Compare this formidable array of twirling talent with the pitching opposition to be offered by the Athletics. "Jack" Coombs, "Giant Killer" of 1911, is out of the fray and may never pitch another strike. "Chief" Bender, the Old Reliable, is away off form, and "Eddie" Plank

seems to be following suit. On the surface of it, Philadelphia's hopes rest with Shawkey, Hovek and Brown, a trio of comparatively inexperienced hurlers whose records are far from startling. Taken as a team, the Athletics does not come up to the calibre of twirling in the other organization. Man for man, comparison of the two squads is a fruitless task, as it is all a matter of personal opinion. Is Collins better than Doyle? Is Fletcher better than Barry? Every man has his own special worth to his particular machine, and his comparative status is an unfixed and unknown quantity.

Besides, world's series have a habit of upsetting baseball "dope," and the coming tussle will very likely resemble its predecessor in that respect. Past performers very often go into the discard, and the best product perhaps of a single hit, turns up with the swing of a bat. An

Englishman upon whom waivers had been asked may deliver the telling smites, while a Spenger may find it hard to keep up a batting average of 200. "Giant fans" concede the Athletics an advantage in only one department—catching—and that only because of strength of numbers. Lapp and Schang make a strong set of backstops, ready to relieve each other, and while "Chief" Meyers is here to do the job better than either of his Philadelphia rivals, the Giants would be in a bad way were he injured. That is, unless Wilson or Hartley rose to the occasion.

Giants Confident, but Not Talking Arthur Shafer, third baseman and utility man of the Giants, in the clubhouse recently wrote to a young and enthusiastic friend in California that all he desired to do in the coming series for the baseball championship of the world was to plaster ten base hits upon the Philadelphia Athletics and then die. Undoubt-

edly Mr. Shafer believes the making of ten base hits in a world's championship is every bit as good as seeing Venice immediately before shuffling off.

Well, the letter about the ten base hits pleased Mr. Shafer's California friend immensely. He just couldn't bottle up the Shafer expression of the way the player felt about it and gave the letter to the newspapers. Now Mr. Shafer wrote as friend to friend and not for publication. The letter—or parts of it—was reprinted in big league cities, with the result that every day he hears something about ten base hits. He is annoyed and an annoyed baseball player is not at his best.

All this to indicate why John McGraw has issued an order against making statements for the press. The players themselves—Giants and Athletics too—are sure the team they are with will win the right to inscribe upon their banner, "World's Champions, 1913." A player is so trained that he never enters

agree with him in his estimation that his outfield, to use a sporting expression, "puts it all over" the other fellows.

"Expect Hard Fight," Says "Connie" Mack.

"Connie" Mack believes in action rather than words and is not given to saying who he thinks his team can do or will do. However, he ventures the opinion that the Mackmen will get the odd game at least from the Giants.

"It is going to be a pretty hard fight, whichever team wins," says Mack. "I think the Giants, when they are tuned up, are a stronger team than when we played them before, but the Athletics are more seasoned now and, barring the pitching department, are more formidable. I am expecting that Bender will be right on edge for the series, and when he is right you know there are very few better pitchers.

"The team that wins the first game naturally will have the advantage, and if we are fortunate enough to win it we should be able to get three others during the series. But, remember, whichever team does win, it will know that it has been in a real baseball game.

"I will have to depend a good deal upon a couple of the young hurlers, and there we may be a little handicapped and again we may not be. It will be a new experience for Brown, Shawkey, Bush or Hovek to pitch in world's championship games. Either Brown or Shawkey, I think, will be equal to the occasion."

"Harry" Davis, assistant manager, who has been through the mill and knows the Giants like a book, thinks the series will be a very hard battle and is likely to go the full seven games. Davis says that the Athletics will "outgame" the Giants. "As soon as the boys get their bats working again they will be terrors for the New York pitchers," says Davis.

"Davis does not think the Mackmen will suffer by comparison of the pitching. Bender, he says, is the one big bet of course. There is no doubt that "Connie" Mack expects a whole lot from "Bolt" Shawkey. Plank has about proved that he has not the "stuff" any more, and "Connie" is not banking upon the veteran southpaw.

"Eddie" Collins, second baseman, says: "Why, of course we will beat the Giants. We did it once and we can do it again. 'Matty' is not the pitcher he was two years ago, and the others are no better than they ever were."

Captain "Doc" Murphy is rather more conservative in his views, but, like the other Mackmen, can see nothing but the Elephants on top of the funds.

"We are not hitting any too hard just now," said Murphy, "but there is no need to worry—the Elephants have a way of getting there. I think our young pitchers will surprise a lot of them, and speed factors us. Take it from me, neither team will win the four straight games."

"Even Thing," Says Red Sox Catcher.

Chester Thomas, Boston Red Sox catcher, said to the Athlete: "In my opinion it is an even thing between the Giants and the Athletics in the championship. Neither of the teams is playing up to form, and neither is playing anything like the best that is being exhibited by the Red Sox. Had we not suffered from accidents, and got the speed two months ago, that we have now, we would be at the head of the parade. The Athletics' pitchers are not getting good. The team has better fielders, and hitters than the Giants, but it hasn't got the pitchers.

"As I figure it out it is about an even break. If the Athletics had the right pitchers I would pick that team to win."

"Joe" Wood, whose great picking helped to defeat the Giants last autumn, said: "I have been out of the game and have not seen the Athletics play lately. I would not give my opinion."

Another German Royal Romance



Prince Henry of Bavaria.



Grand Duchess Marie Adelaide of Luxembourg, who is to marry Prince Henry of Bavaria.

ONE of the latest romances of European royalty is that in which the Grand Duchess Marie Adelaide of Luxembourg figures as the heroine and Prince Henry of Bavaria as the hero. The Grand Duchess, who is nineteen, is the youngest ruler in Europe at present. Moreover, she rules her miniature kingdom with an absolutism that is causing

and plaintiff in the right of her own and the Regent of Bavaria. The betrothal of the young couple would be looked upon as a triumph for the Hohenzollerns, and the marriage would be a triumph for the Catholics.

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