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Why the Athletics Won

Struggle for the World's Series Championship and Some of the Actors in the Play

By NORMAN PATTERSON



Carroll Brown, a Spitball Headliner, Came to the Athletics From the New Britain, Conn., Team in the Fall of 1911.



EIGHT OF THE GIANTS' BATTERS.
Line-up at the Beginning of the Season: Snodgrass, Shafer, Burns, Doyle, Murray, Merkle, Herzog and Meyers.

PHILADELPHIA Athletics won the championship of the American League this year and were thus entitled to play in the World's Championship Series against the New York Giants, the champions of the National League. As the American League team had won in 1910, 1911, and 1912, it seemed as if Philadelphia had the right to win. True, the National League teams won pretty regularly between 1884 and 1909, but those fifteen wins are now history. The American League wins are more recent and show that the players in the junior of the two senior leagues are quite equal to the best. American League players are as good as National League players. Therefore, it was natural to expect that the odds should shade slightly in favour of Philadelphia.

Nevertheless, the New York Giants were worthy opponents. They were champions of the National League, the senior league, in 1911, 1912 and 1913. The team that wins the championship of the National League three years in succession is a team which is individually and collectively great. The Giants are a great team in both respects. Yet they have not been lucky in the World's Championship games. Philadelphia beat them in 1911 and Boston beat them in 1912. Indeed, they have not won a World's Series since 1905. This year they looked stronger than usual, having won 13 games more than their two nearest opponents in the league series. Their pitchers were older than those of the Athletics, but had that experience which sometimes overcomes youth. Mathewson, Marquard and Tesreau are names to conjure with in the baseball world.

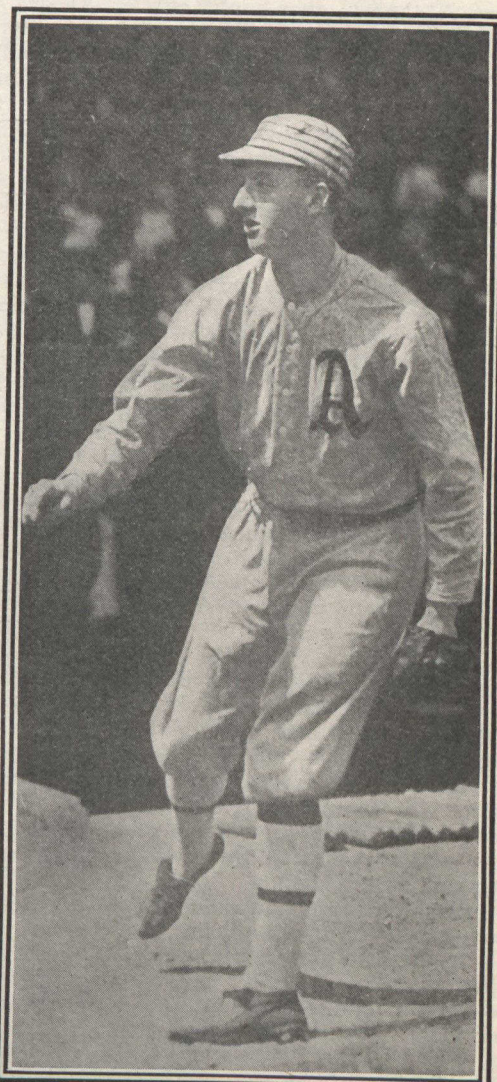
Before the series opened, it looked as if New York would win. Their pitching skill was greater than the pitching skill of the Philadelphia team, even though their batting power was less. Yet, as was the case last year, the patent reasons were not positive. In 1912, Boston upset the dope and the Giants were beaten. This year there was always the possibility that Philadelphia might repeat its performances of 1910 and 1911 and equal Boston's feat of 1912. Hence, popular interest was at fever height.

New York broke badly in the opening game. Marquard and Crandall were hammered hard by the Philadelphia batsmen, and Tesreau had to step in at the last to save a slaughter. The heavy hitters of the Athletics would not be denied, and the final score was Philadelphia 6, New York 4.

In the second game the mighty "Matty" went into the box for the Giants and pitched one of the greatest games in his career. He overcame his age by science, skill and nerve. He out-pitched Plank and also drove in the winning run with his own bat. He made home-run Baker fan the air when there were two on bases and only one out. He led a team crippled by the absence of Merkle on first, of Meyers behind the bat, and of Snodgrass at centre field. In a ten-innings match he won 3 to 0. Mathewson may be old, but he is not decrepit.

Leslie Bush, whose portrait is shown here, was the hero of the third game. He is one of the four young pitchers whom Connie Mack hoped would safely back up Bender and Plank. Coombs was in

(Concluded on page 16.)



Byron Houck, the Two-year-old Twirler From Oregon. He is the Oldest in the Mack Aggregation, Got From the Portland Team in 1911.



Leslie Bush, the Youngest of the Four Juveniles, Came to Connie Mack From the Missoula, Mont., Team in 1912.



Bob Shawkey is Serving His Second Term With the Connie Mack College of Talent. He Came From the Orioles.