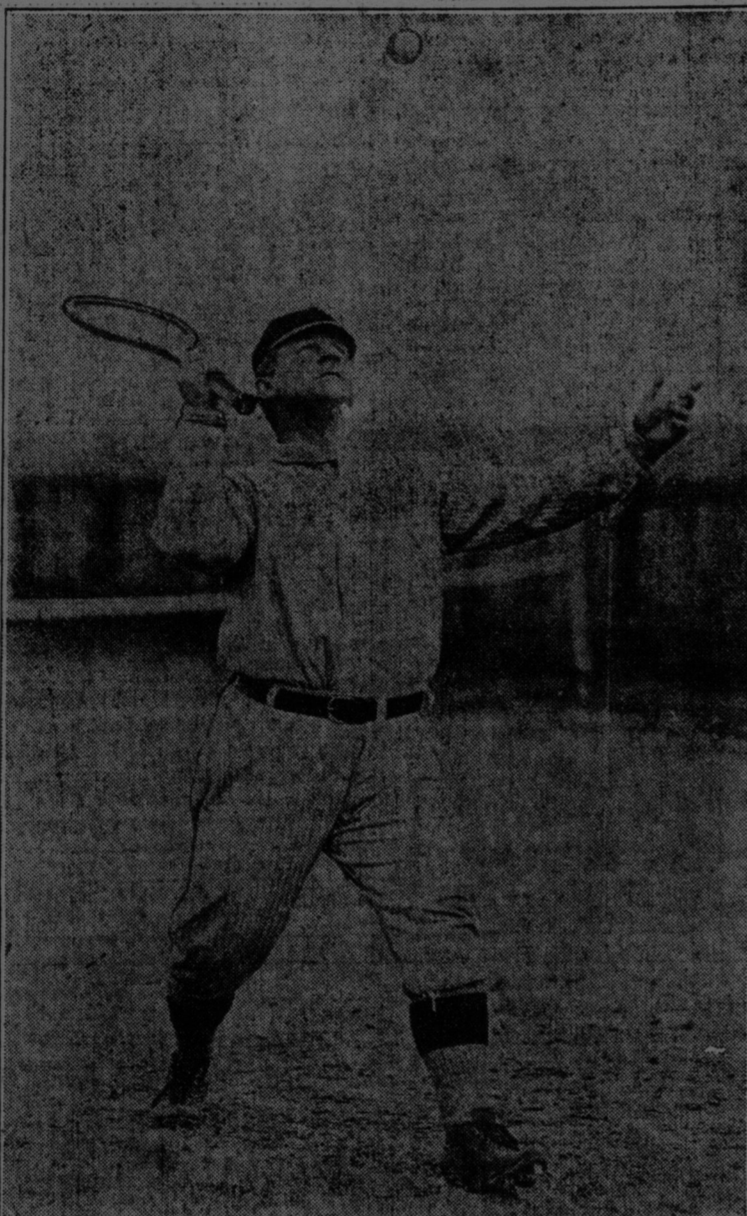


# CHRIS MATHEWSON'S NEW ERA SERIES—CROP OF '13

## THE SEASON'S OUTLOOK

By CHRIS MATHEWSON, of the New York Giants  
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The best a man can do in discussing the season's outlook is to make general comment. He might go into an analysis of the various teams and build his predictions on the promise of one known star, and then that star might be injured on the first day of the season and his whole symposium would totter and fall.



MANAGER MCGRAW'S FAVORITE EXERCISE

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Many experts have been predicting that the Pirates are scheduled to nose out the Giants this year. Now simply because I draw my pay from the New York club I am not going to declare that there is not a possibility of the Giants losing out.

From my angle now, it looks to me as if the Giants and Pirates will be the most resultative championship contenders, and the race may be much closer than it was last year. I look to see the battle settled in the final months, when the Pittsburgh club is likely to come strong and cut down a lead that the Giants should run up earlier in the season.

Some experts whose comments I have studied, principally those in the west, declare that the New York pitching staff is the weak point in the armor of the club. Personally, I believe it is stronger than last year, and I have made a more or less close study of big league twirlers for about thirteen seasons now.

or every second day, at least, because of his wonderful strength. To my mind, he will develop into an iron man who will rank with such pitchers as Walsh, Coombs and McInnis when it comes to constant work coupled with success.

"It's a great little idea," I told him. "A winning streak of unusual proportions is too wearing on the nerves," he answered, which is very true. When Marquard's work is summed up for the entire season this time, I think it will amount to more than his record last year in spite of the nineteen straight. The cold figures say he won twenty-six and lost eleven altogether.

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pitchers. He has a mastery curve with a good fast one, and a neat change of pace. Best of all, he knows how to apply these commodities, for he is a thinking pitcher who studies his batsman closely. They may talk all they want to about a man being tipped off and so to the likes and dislikes of a hitter, but I claim a pitcher has to find out for himself. He can get only general ideas from others.

That is the time I first faced the great Delahanty when he was still with the old Philadelphia club. Some friend told me he did not like a curve ball over the outside corner, and so I tried him on it, tried him twice, in fact, before I changed my mind. The result is painful to relate even after the years have tarnished it in my memory.

He is a hard luck worker," cry the fans of Pittsburgh. "See how many games he loses by appearing in his fielding error." I admit he falls to get the decision in many battles by the margin of one run, but that is not so much hard luck as a distinct inclination toward lack of control.

Wagner once more looms up as the strongest man in the Pirates' infield, as he has for several seasons. But I do not figure that the inner defenses of Pittsburgh are any stronger this season than they were last year. They are as strong. The only addition is Butler, the new second baseman who comes from St. Paul, Minn., in the American Association with a very nifty record.

for it to have this effect on Byrne, because he is made of the right stuff. Brennan received a very bad bang on the head some time ago, and when he got out of the hospital, it never bothered his batting, as most of the pitchers in the National League will testify.

The Pirates are stronger in the outfield than last year. Carey is a much better player today than he was when he started out at the beginning of the season. He is a magnificent fielder then, but he was not a good hitter. In fact, he was a poor batter. Under the careful coaching of such students of hitting as Dolin and Wagner, he has developed himself into a very formidable man with the stick, although he is not as good a hitter as he once was.

"If we had a shortstop like Fletcher last year, we would have been in the field for the pennant," one of the Cincinnati players told me this winter in discussing the race. That is how much he thought of Fletcher.

It is McGraw's plan to get away in the lead last year, and with this end in view, he has returned with the club in tip-top shape, better than it was last year because of his fielding error in Marlin this spring. He believes in getting the jump, although he admits it is harder holding the pace in front than it is to come from behind and grab off a team which has been out ahead all season.

they were at the beginning of the season last year, I look to see the Giants out in front by as big a margin in June. And we are better fortified with pitchers this year than last, so, in case we do have a slump, all the work won't be up to one man as it was to Tolan last summer.

The other three are the Cincinnati, Chicago and Philadelphia clubs. But the chances of these three are not very good. Cincinnati is laboring against present. It never has been a winner, although it looks as if "Joe" Tinker and the makings of a good team now. His two weak spots are the catcher's staff and third base. His pitching department is strong.

His Fickle Underpinning  
Evers has a weak pitching staff, the outfield does not look robust and the position of shortstop may well be filled or not according to the condition of "Al" Bridwell's fickle legs.

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the Athletics if "Connie" Mack can get any good pitching. It is a club with a terrible punch and gameness and fielding ability. All Mack needs is two or three twirlers to keep the other teams from making all the runs in the world. If Bender rounds out into form, the Athletics will put up an awful fight before giving the Boston boys the world's series money again.

There are going to be several interesting arguments settled by about October 1. For instance, of the debatable managers which ones are going to do and which are not? Will Chance come back and can he build up a club out of one fallen to pieces? What will the Cubs do without Chance? Can Evers get away with it or will he wear himself into a shell from managerial worries and fighting the umpires. How are the Chicago fans going to react to the new manager? Will they let him go or will they wear themselves into a shell from managerial worries and fighting the umpires. How are the Chicago fans going to react to the new manager? Will they let him go or will they wear themselves into a shell from managerial worries and fighting the umpires.

Let her go.

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