

A Gila's a Gila, But Not a Monster

By "Bud" Fisher



MATTY'S BIG LEAGUE GOSSIP

BY CHRISTY MATHEWSON
THE GIANTS' STAR PITCHER

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It was not so very long ago that a picture of "Connie" Mack in the newspapers was a rarity, but lately many fans are getting fairly well acquainted with the Athletics' leader by seeing photographs of him on the bench directing the Athletics during a game, and holding the inevitable score card with which he is supposed to give his signs, although I doubt this very much. I believe the score card is mostly a stall. "Connie" has broken himself of photographer's shy-ness to such an extent now that he is no more timid in front of a camera than are the moving picture actors. I have seen him running around the streets of Los Angeles going to "locations."

What is the explanation of this, and of such talks as this by "Connie" long known as the sphinx of the game? "If Joe Finker is worth \$25,000, then I had I have covered second base for my club, Eddie Collins, is surely worth four times that amount, which, at \$100,000," said "Connie," recently, according to interviews with him which I saw in the coast papers. "To prove that I am right, just look at the two records of the players."

It takes only a little thing now to set Mack off interviewing, whereas, in past years you could not get an interview with an opinion out of him with a pair of dentist's forceps. He is ready and willing these days to give his views on matters pertaining to baseball. And the reason is that the Philadelphia owners believe that the club will draw better if the fans hear and see "Connie" more frequently, and he seems to be working along these lines. In other words, the development of baseball in the last few years has proved that the team with the most "color" is the best business proposition and that the fans like the intimate stuff.

They tell a story about "Connie" Mack after the world's series of 1910 when the tall Irishman won the world's championship for the first time by beating the Chicago Cubs. He was riding down town on the Philadelphia subway when two young men started discussing the team. They fell to talking about Mack, and he overheard the conversation. "I don't think it is so much 'Connie' Mack as his players that win for him," said one of the conversationalists. "How can he amount to much when nobody ever sees him, and he just sits on the bench?" "They say he frames up all the plays," declared the other. "He may frame them up, but who puts them across?" asked the first. "Why, I have been watching the Athletics play for years, and I wouldn't know 'Connie' Mack if I saw him."

The tall Irishman, who was hanging to a strap, directly in front of where the two young fans were sitting, leaned down and said in his drawl way:—"Get acquainted with me, I'm 'Connie' Mack, and I believe you are right when you say the boys should get the credit."

Both fans were startled into dumbness when they realized that the great manager had listened to their frank talk. He left the train at the next station before they had a chance to reply.

The picturesqueness is what the fans like in managers and players. The teams with "color" are the most magnetic at the gate. The Athletics are a great ball club, but they do not carry much "color." Even their uniforms are deadening, like the sky on a dull day. Once, "Ty" Cobb, in a fit of wrath, after he had been charged with intentionally spiking Baker, went over to the Philadelphia bench and bawled Mack out in front of several of his players, according to the stories that I heard from American leaguers at that time. Nothing was ever in the newspapers about it, although the fans like to read about such personal conflicts. They say "Connie" was just as strong on the rampage as "Ty," too, when it came time for a pinch runner, but he did not talk then where the acoustics are susceptible.

Unintentionally, McGraw was the first man to put "color" into a team by his methods and personality. All the fans know him, and he is recognized everywhere, even in his street clothes. He cannot go into a hotel without one man nudging another and whispering:—"There's John McGraw."

The Giants' boss was really the first one to attract attention to himself and his team, and the result is that the New York club is one of the best known in the moving picture actors' line, running around the streets of Los Angeles going to "locations."

In a letter just received, Harry Stevens, who has the privileges at the Polo Grounds, tells me that he has signed a contract for the Polo Grounds privileges which has ten years to run and another with the New York Americans for the same period. This makes a continuous engagement of thirty years for Mr. Stevens at the Polo Grounds, which is some indication of what they think of his handling of the job. They say he can push more peanuts than any other concessionaire (I guess that is a good word, and I looked it up in the dictionary to make sure of it) in the country. I agree with Mr. Stevens in the hope expressed in his letter that I am still pitching for the Giants when this contract of his expires.

The bank in which "Ty" Cobb had his money, or some of it, in Augusta has been failed. Things certainly break bad for ball players at times.

Montreal Stars—Ottawa has pronounced the New Glasgow hockey organization legally dead, and in order to avoid funeral expenses, it is removing to the capital members of the dead departed club. The club may be dead; the players who composed its team seem to be very much alive, and Ottawa is alive to their good qualities. But 's it right to kill anybody, or anything dead, without giving the supposed dead one a chance to speak?

Crescents Defeat Socials. The Socials went down to defeat before the Crescents in Halifax last evening by a score of 7 to 5. This is the second time the Socials have lost to the Crescents this season. The game was fast and clean, only three penalties being given.

Wonderful Advance in Decade (Bangor, Conn., special.) The Aero club recently tendered a reception to Orville Wright, the date marking the tenth anniversary of the first successful flight of an aeroplane driven by man. That first flight was one of 82 feet, very insignificant as com-

SPORT NEWS OF A DAY, HOME AND ABROAD

THE TURF A Unique Colt.

The New Zealand broodmare, Lady Darling, has produced a five-legged colt foal to King's Guest. The youngster is doing well, despite his malformation. The extra leg, which is small and well defined, is attached to the knee of the off foreleg, and seems to cause the foal no inconvenience.

CURLING Coming East.

D. M. Braden and F. J. Rochon, of Winnipeg, left on Friday night with two strong rinks to take in the Lindsay, Ontario, bonspiel, and also play in other Ontario towns.

BASEBALL Knabe Denies the Report.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 3.—Otto Knabe, second baseman of the Phillies, denies that he has signed to manage the Baltimore team of the Federal League.

Larry No White Hope.

Larry McLean, the Giants' catcher, took part in a bout in a Harlem hotel on Saturday night with Cy Semour, a veteran ball player, and lost the decision. His hopes for mastery over Jack Johnson are shattered.

With the Federals.

It is said in New York today that if New York is admitted into the Federal League, Toronto will be dropped, though that city is anxious to retain its franchise.

The Federals continue their raids on the major and minor leagues, and the names of six prominent players are announced who have decided to affiliate with the new league. Jack Miller, recently traded by Pittsburgh to St. Louis, will manage the Toronto club, if that club is retained, or, if not, he will manage the St. Louis club. Catcher Johnnie Kling will go to Kansas City, and shortstop Bob Fisher, at the Toronto Internationals, will play for Pittsburgh. King Cole, a Yankee pitching recruit is said to have jumped to Chicago, and Frank Smith, of Montreal, has signed with Pittsburgh. Harry Howell, formerly of the Pittsburgh Fed-erals, and a minor league umpire, will manage the Indianapolis team.

Freddie Litchfield of Montreal puts little faith in the story that Frank Smith has signed a contract with the Pittsburgh team. "Smith is too sensible a ball player to do anything so crazy as that," he said today.

Carlstrom Released to Royals.

Albion Carlstrom, first baseman of the Boston American team, has been released to the Montreal Royals, according to an announcement made by Secretary Reilly, of the Boston Americans. Six players were released to minor leagues, including the veteran pitcher, Chas. Hall. The Boston National management has signed for next season, Jack Martin, a former twirler of the New York Americans, who was later with the Rochester club in the International league.

HOCKEY Must Come East.

Toronto, Jan. 3.—George McNamara, of the Toronto professionals, received a wire from John Murphy, manager of the Halifax Crescents, stating that Walker and Kyle, who have been out with Jack Marshall's Toronto professionals, must report to the Maritime League. These players both played with Montreal last season and the league has decreed that all players who belonged to the defunct Montreal aggregation shall become the property of the Sydney team.

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The Middleweights

(FROM T. S. ANDREWS)

Milwaukee, Dec. 31.—If Tom McCarey, a Los Angeles promoter, has succeeded in matching Jimmy Clabby and Jack Dillon over the invasion route during January, he is to be congratulated. The match is one that should attract attention from one end of the country to the other, and if it is made at the legitimate middleweight limit of 154 pounds, or even 158 pounds, four hours before the contest, it should be recognized as a match for the American championship in the legitimate middleweight class, thus settling the question of a title holder. Let the winner defend the title against all legitimate middleweights.

There will no doubt be a protest from a few middleweights about the country, such as Frank Klaus, George Chip, Leo Houck and Eddie McGorty (who is in Australia at present), but it will be the best way to get matters straightened out and have a recognized champion once more. The winner should be bound to meet the rest of the recognized aspirants and give each a chance at the title. The title has been in dispute ever since Stanley Ketchel was killed, simply because Billy Papke, who succeeded him to the crown, outgrew the class, as did Johnny Thompson, who defeated Papke, thus leaving all in a muddle. However, if Clabby and Dillon can meet over the long distance route it will do away with some argument about the title. It will also be a fight worth going to see, for it will bring together one of the cleverest boxers in the class and one of the best fighters, which is usually a pretty good combination.

Bob Mola, considered one of the toughest fighters in the ring, either bumped into a tough nut at Brooklyn, N. Y., the other night, or Bob has gone back, since he fought Jack Dillon. Bob met a young middleweight, named Johnny Howard (not Jimmy Howard of Memphis) and the young man put Robert down twice with well-delivered blows, but not for more than a count of one or two. It only goes to show that, no matter how tough he is or how much a man can stand, there will come a time when he cannot resist the punch that floors. A year ago Bob was considered a star middleweight, but he took on flesh and soon developed into a "commission weight." Now he says he is back around the 160 pound mark, but he will have to train more and show better form if he expects to class with the rest of the middleweight stars.

Atlantic traversed by aeroplane, the machines in common use in military service and carrying the mails and landing places for planes common in every large city.

ICE BRIDGE OVER THE RESTIGOUCHE

Dalhousie, N. B., Jan. 2.—(Special)—As a result of two days of severe cold weather, the ice has formed in the Restigouche river, a distance of three miles across, Quebec people crossing today. There is no great activity among the snail fishermen on both sides of the river, and the town's trade with Bonaventure will soon be resumed.

With such progress in a single decade it is idle to say that the culmination of air flight has been reached. Orville Wright, but a few days since, stated that it would soon be an unusual accomplishment for a man to fly and with the perfection of motors air flight will become much more common. There is every reason to suppose that the passage of another decade will find the

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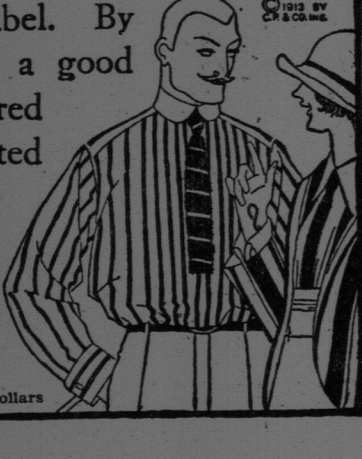
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