

BRANTFORD, CANADA, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1914

Finds as Much Class in The Leading Minors as In The Major Leagues

By Hugh S. Fullerton.
HOT SPRINGS, Ark., April 1.—Class in baseball is a subject that has been discussed ever since two leagues named themselves majors and lettered the others. This spring there is a lot of discussion as to whether or not the Federal League will class with the majors.

There is a glorious opportunity to study "class" here at Hot Springs right now and it is interesting. I'll wager that not one in a thousand baseball fans can go to the three parks here and tell by their playing whether they are watching the Boston Americans, the Pittsburgh Pirates or the Indianapolis Association team unless they know the men and the uniforms. An expert might find blemishes in the individual actions of the Indianapolis team, but the article of baseball that Jack Hendrick's boys are exhibiting is just as good as that of the Pirates and, frankly, just between us, and fearing to be accused of heresy, it is more advanced, modern and up to date than the kind the Boston Red Sox are showing at the other end of the valley.

Jack Hendricks is a major league manager. He has proved this fact with every club he has ever handled: Springfield, Fort Wayne, Denver. He knows a ball player and he knows how to handle ballplayers. He gets results and it is an experience to see him this spring handling a bunch of players mostly unknown to him, whipping a new team into shape and making a team that must fight for prestige in Indianapolis against the

Feds, and in the Association against stronger teams.

Hendrick's team is composed of cunningly chosen players. He has five men who a year ago, were looked upon as major league promises. Evidently Hendricks spotted them at the time, and thinks with a year more of experience they are better than when the major leagues found them wanting in something. He has a corking pair of youngsters, one in the infield one in the outfield, and it looks as if he had a pretty fair array of pitching talent.

The Indians have, to my way of thinking, the best training grounds at the Springs, sheltered between two mountains. It is protected from wind on three sides, and gets the sunshine.

The catching staff is good enough. Paddy Livingston has been a corking catcher for many years. Vanu Troy is very promising.

The pitchers are getting a chance to show their merits. Willis and Burke, who once were with the Cardinals, and Harrington who once promised to be a Chicago find, are with the team. La Roy, the Indian, Mertz, Schardt, Gaskill and Wetzel make a promising array.

The infield is complete. Metz at first, is well known. Grandall is at second. This fellow will hear watching by the scouts. He hits a ball as solidly almost as his brother Otis does. Kelleher, once with the St. Louis Cardinals, has class enough for the majors. Galloway is another Cardinal recruit.

Cole, from Lincoln, Niles and Reilly make up the outfield.

Sport in Review

The Toronto Canadian League will report here April 20 and will work out at the Island until they take the road on May 7.

There are 11 Indians, six Cubans and one Hawaiian trying for places on the big league teams. Most of them will make good, too.

It is said that Bill Bradley has 8 outfielders who can hit the ball. Since he can't use them all he might pass a few along to the Chicago White Sox.

Los Angeles automobile enthusiasts are anxious to secure the 1915 Vanderbilt Cup and International Grand Prize races for their city for next year.

"Lefty" Farr of the Wyehwood team of the Vermont League leaves shortly for Springfield, Ohio, where he will get a try out with the Central League team of that city.

Kelly, the new leaf catcher, owns a large chicken farm outside of St. Louis. He had 3,000 hens laying for him last winter. The Feds flirted with him, but he prefers organized ball.

Joe Jackson is a regular plutocrat. He skips to the Nap training park each day in his grand new seven passenger machine. He likewise travels back to the hotel in the same machine.

"Pug" Cavet, Claude Williams and Harry Covalski are three porters trying to gain regular positions on the pitching peak with Jennings' Tigers for the coming season. They all hail from the Southern League.

Jeff Tesreau is the latest of the Giants to take up golf. Jeff still refers to his clubs as "sticks," and calls the shafts "handles." In golf, as in pitching, he possesses plenty of speed but lacks control.

There's no keeping a good man down. Johnny Evers has been made captain of the Boston Braves with all the oratorical perquisites accruing to the position. There'll be some rare sport when Johnny starts operating on old "Hank" O'Day.

Joe Kelley put his men through a hard sliding drill yesterday. They'll pick up that branch of the game readily enough. Maybe Sir Joseph will have to put sand on the track and apply the brakes to keep them from sliding past Jersey City.

Lightweight champion boxer Fred Welsh of England owns two belts that are worth \$7,000 each. One is the trophy he won when he defeated Hughie Meegan for the Australian title, while the other is the Lonsdale belt emblematic of the English championship. He is anxious to arrange a bout with Willie Ritchie, the American champion.

Manager Harry Smith of the Newark International League club has tendered his resignation to Chas. H. Ebbets, owner of the Brooklyn and Newark Clubs. The recall of Outfielder Dalton from Newark to Brooklyn and the action of Outfielder Myers in jumping the club is given as the reason for Smith tendering his resignation.

Pitcher Lefty McTigue has informed the Baltimore International League management that he probably will not be able to play ball this year. He is a sick man, his illness dating back to mid-season in 1913, soon after he had been secured from the Boston Braves in exchange for Briscoe Lord.

The first of the Intercollegiate rowing races for this year will be the annual contest between the University of Washington (Seattle), the University of California and Leland Stanford University crews on the Oakland Estuary on April 11. The Washington crew intends to compete in the Poughkeepsie regatta against Syracuse, Cornell, Columbia, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin again this summer.

The Toronto baseball club yesterday announced the release of Eddie Holly, Pitcher McGinn, Infielder Charles Isaacs and catcher T. C. Burns. McGinn and Isaacs are all Toronto boys. Burns and McGinn were with the Don Valley League last year, while Isaacs was with the New York State League. The release of Eddie Holly settles the question of the manning of the local Canadian League team.

Ty Cobb made a pinch speech in the Mississippi Legislature when rain prevented the game which the salons wanted to attend. In these days of banquets and around the world tours, no ball player can afford to neglect public speaking. Since there is already a large crop of Rudyard Kiplings writing for the newspapers, it is well that a few Daniel Websters and Wilfrid Lauriers be developed among the players.

A recent post mortem, credited to Mordecai Brown, seeks to switch the credit for the famous "touching second" play of the 1908 season in the National League from Johnny Evers to Artie Hofman. The minor claims that it was Artie who first noted the situation and returned Bridwell's hit to the infield, and that Evers happened to get the putout because he was nearest second base. However, there is no discussion as to who failed to jog on down to the second bag.

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