

GOSSIP ABOUT THE FORM SHOWN BY THE VARIOUS BASEBALL CLUBS IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE.

ALTHOUGH the National league baseball season is not very far advanced, enough games have been played for a line to be drawn to enable one to make an intelligent comparison of the teams. Some of the fans are even daring enough to predict the standing of the clubs at the end of the season. There seems to be a very general opinion, and this is shared to a great extent by the players themselves, that the Brooklyn team has the best look in for the pennant.

Many a player on some other team will tell you that his club is bound to be first when the autumn leaves fall once more, but if you ask him which team will be second the inevitable reply is Brooklyn, thus showing that the aggregation from the City of Churches is the one they all fear most.

The teams are so much more evenly matched this season, owing to the reduction of the circuit from 12 to 8 clubs, and the games are so much more fiercely contested that the percentages of the leaders are separated by fewer points than in former years. The result of

more difficult for the improvement in batting to be appreciated. There will, however, hardly be any dissent from the statement that the five men who led the batting list at the end of last season are better in every way in their specialty than any similar aggregation of old timers.

E. J. Delehanty, the wonderful left fielder of the hard hitting Philadelphia team, led the list last season, and to do so had to eclipse all his previous efforts. He started out in great form, making 25 hits in the first 10 games and 49 hits in 25 games. He made five hits, including a double and a home run, out of six times at the bat; five times he made four hits in one game and 24 times he made three hits. He made 58 doubles, 10 triples and 9 home runs during the season, which is a magnificent record.

Second on the list of batters came Jesse Burkett of St. Louis. Burkett made 21 hits in his first 10 games and 50 hits in 25 games. Nine times in the season he made four hits in a game and 19 times three hits. He scored 29 doubles, 8 triples and 7 home runs, besides

NICKNAMES OF SOME WELL KNOWN CYCLISTS.

Many riders on the circuit today are known by names which bear no resemblance to those given them by their fond parents. Few indeed ever escape wearing sobriquets, except those that are practically new to the game. All the old riders, those who came into the game prior to 1890, enjoy some peculiar nickname. Perhaps the most common name, because more generally accepted by the public, was that of "Cannon" as applied to Eddie Bald, which fitted in so nicely with his last name as to give the impression of a "cannon ball." It was exactly the impression that Bald used to give the other contestants in races by starting from the push off as if shot out of a cannon.

Another well known name is that of the "Jersey Skeeter," as applied to Arthur A. Zimmerman. There was another name which Zimmerman wore before he attained the title of "King of Cyclists." In the old days, when he rode a Star machine and succeeded in winning prizes on it once in awhile, he won the name of the "Grinder." In the light of his subsequent fame this name was lost.

Another of these names quite generally known was that of "Wooden Shoes," as applied to Sanger. He was a big German, and the name fitted him

ATHLETICS INTERESTINGLY DISCUSSED BY AN EXPERT WHO SUPPLIES A VARIED AND APPETIZING MENU OF SPORTS.

PROBABLY the most interesting feature of the recent trip of the University of California athletes to the east was the wonderful work done by Plaw, their great hammer thrower. This young man, who, by the way, is only 19 years of age, is as phenomenal in the hammer event as Kraenzlein is over the hurdles.

Plaw proved himself the best hammer thrower in this country, and, in fact, in the whole world, for nearly all the records at weight throwing are held by Americans. He beat not only the collegiate and intercollegiate records, but also smashed the amateur championship record of America.

All indications point to a record breaking attendance at the twenty-first annual meet of the League of American Wheelmen at Milwaukee next month. It is somewhat of a coincidence that the year in which this organization reaches its majority should also be the one in which it relinquishes control of bicycle racing.

With the L. A. W. and the N. C. A. working hand in hand to make the affair a success the meet is assured of a large attendance.

Plans have been laid in the Brewery City for a fine, well banked indoor track, on which the races will be held. The various committees have done their work well, and a very interesting programme is laid out. Already many wheeling organizations have planned to attend the meet in a body, those that are near enough making the journey on their machines. It is also probable that a very liberal rate will be secured over every railroad running into Milwaukee and that special privileges in the way of time extension will be allowed.

For those who are interested in the racing end of the affair grand sport is promised, for, besides several national and international championships, many interesting match races and open events, both amateur and professional, have been arranged.

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JIMMY MICHAEL TO RACE AGAIN.



The return of Jimmy Michael to the cycle path is one of the most interesting sporting events of the year. A few years ago the "Welsh Rabbit," as he was called, was the undisputed king of the paced racers. Our wheelmen of those days, however, were inexperienced at the paced game, and it remained to be seen whether the "Midget" can maintain his superiority. When Michael was racing some years ago, he used to be noted for the faithful manner in which he did his training, and he is said to be working just as hard now. Michael's first race of the season will be 20 miles, and he will be pitted against two good men, each of whom will go half the distance. This race was arranged as a sort of test of his staying powers. If he emerges with flying colors, he will be matched against the best men in the country.

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THE FIVE HEAVIEST BATSMEN IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE.

playing a stretch of 39 games without an error.

Johnnie McGraw is easily the star base stealer and run getter of the League. He was third in the batting order last year and reached first base more often than any other player. Besides his great record at the bat, he played magnificently at third base. In 25 games he made but one error, and in another stretch of 39 games made but two.

In 1897 and 1898 Billy Keeler led the batsmen of the League, but the change in location last season worked ill with him, though at that he was fourth. He made 29 hits in his first nine games and batted safely in 24 straight games. He was easily the finest outfielder in the League, his percentage being .978. In his first 19 games he did not make an error, and in 42 games made but one mistake. From July 31 to Sept. 30 he took part in 47 straight games without an error, and his last 58 games were marked by but one, a showing hard to duplicate.

Jajole of Philadelphia did wonderful work as usual last season, landing in fifth place among the batters. Jajole often makes sacrifice hits, which play havoc with his percentage, but help out the team. He hit safely in 26 out of his first 27 games. In three consecutive games he made 11 hits. During the season he made 20 doubles, 8 triples and 6 home runs. His fielding percentage was .990.

Although Freeman of the Boston team, who last year played with the Senators, was twenty-ninth on the list of batters, he is undoubtedly the hardest hitter in the major league. Freeman's specialty is home runs. His record last year was nothing short of phenomenal, comprising as it did, 27 home runs, 24 triples and 15 doubles. He made 142 extra bases against 105 for Delehanty and 107 for Williams, though Delehanty outranks Williams, as he was at bat fewer times than the Pittsburgh player. Four times Freeman made three home runs in five games and twice made three home runs in six games.

ELBERT WOODSON.

THE AMERICAN LEAGUE.

The American league bears the distinction of being the only baseball organization in existence that embraces as many states as it has clubs in its circuit. Although the major league covers more territory, it has clubs in but six states, as Pennsylvania has two teams—Philadelphia and Pittsburgh—while New York has the Brooklyn and New York clubs. The other states represented are Massachusetts by Boston, Ohio by Cincinnati, Illinois by Chicago and Missouri by St. Louis.

The American league has New York, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Missouri, and four of the eight states have major league clubs as well.

New York is clearly in the lead as a baseball center, with two major league clubs, an American league club, Rochester and Syracuse in the Eastern league and a state league. Ohio is doing quite well with one major, one American and five Interstate league clubs, with Pennsylvania ranking next on account of Atlantic league clubs to the number of three.

THE STAGE IN SUMMER TIME.

The Barnum-Balley circus exploited itself in Hamburg by paying the street railway companies \$5,000 to stop all their cars during the five hours of a parade. Germany never had a big tent show, and this one amazed the people with its size and methods.

John J. McNally is writing a new farce for Frank McKee, not yet named,

which will be used to exploit in this country the latest European novelty, the Agouti family, a troupe of pantomimic comedians which has created a sensation in Paris.

A grandson of Joseph Jefferson is a musical composer in London. He is Harry Farjon, son of the novelist. At a recent concert of the Westminster

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no better than the shoes would. Jimmy Michael was called the "Midget" because he lacked the inches to be anything else. Fred Titus in his popular days was known as "Marble Heart" because he rode an individual race with regard to any other rider. John Lawson is known as "The Terrible Swede" because of his nationality and the fact that he was terrible in a sprint. Jay Eaton won his name of "Indoor King" by inaugurating a speed in indoor races possible to no other rider. Earl Kiser was called the "Dayton Dumpling" because he hailed from Dayton. The latter part of the name is said to have been given him by a woman who was much taken with his successful efforts at a race meet one day and who was impressed by his diminutive stature and his plumpness. Tom Cooper, last year's champion, was called "King" Cooper because of his ability to defeat other riders.

There is one man who won his title in a very peculiar manner. It was given to him in the manner of a slurping criticism, but today he wears it in all honor, being the only man in the world who has ever ridden a mile faster than a minute. "Mile a Minute Murphy," as other riders call Charles M. Murphy, was regarded as a sort of mild "crank" or "boaster" because he promised to ride a mile in a minute behind a railway train. Murphy got no end of advertising out of his proposed attempt, but it did him no good. People pointed out that other riders who had defeated Murphy on the track were better fitted to any such performance. Every one knows how Murphy demonstrated that he was the one fitted for this feat. He had what other riders lack—the courage of his convictions, a truly wonderful nerve and the ability to pedal with lightning speed where there was no wind resistance.

McGraw's Great Feat.

Speaking of players who have reached first and stolen second, third and home, a scribe says: "McGraw accomplished that feat in a game in Boston in the afternoon of the 'Glorious Fourth' last year. Clarke was catching. Two were out and nobody on bases when 'Mac' came to bat in the sixth inning of the game in question. He worked Nichols for a base on balls, stole second and third bases in succession, while Holmes was getting a base on balls, Nichols pitching wide in order to give Clarke a chance to catch 'Mac'."

"With 'Mac' on third and 'Ducky' on first, they started to steal simultaneously. Long ran in, getting Clarke to throw right behind the pitcher, and returned the ball to the plate, but Clarke got the throw about as high as his face, and before he could get the ball down 'Mac' had slid in and was lying flat on his face, with one finger on the base. That run won the game, the score being 5 to 4 in Baltimore's favor."

HELEN BERTHAM'S NEW PART.

Paula Edwards, Harry MacDonald, Julius Steger, W. G. Stewart and Helen Bertman will support Eileen Sykes in the new opera, "Foxy Quiller." Miss Bertman was the prima donna of the Bostonians last season and will fill the same position in the Klaw & Erlanger Opera company.

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HENRY JEWETT OF "THE CHOIR INVISIBLE."



Henry Jewett, who created the role of David McFarland in "The Greatest Thing in the World" in the support of Sarah Cowell Le Moine, is an Australian by birth and made his professional debut at Wellington, New Zealand, in 1889. For ten years he was a prominent figure on the Australian stage, rising from juvenile roles to the position of leading man with the most popular stars. In 1897 Mr. Jewett joined the Stockwell theater company, San Francisco, as leading man. His work there won him an engagement as leading man with Julia Marlowe. In the fall of 1891 Mr. Jewett joined Richard Mansfield's company and created the character of Sergius in "Arms and the Man." In December, 1895, Mr. Jewett created the title role in "Benedict Arnold" at the Fifth Avenue theater, New York. After a summer at the head of his own company in Kansas City, Mr. Jewett again supported Richard Mansfield for a season, and played the king in Fanny Davenport's production of "Joan of Arc." He then joined Viola Allen and won great credit for his portrayal of John Storm in "The Christian." During the early part of last season Mr. Jewett appeared as John Grey, the Kentucky schoolmaster, in his wife's dramatization of James Lane Allen's novel "The Choir Invisible," winning such a success that he will next season be featured in a fine production of the play.

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The players who gave birth to the greatest of outdoor sports formed themselves into an association to promote the welfare of the new game, and on Sept. 21, 1846, formed the first baseball club, to which they gave the name of Knickerbocker.

Thus our national game came into existence, and, although it has gone through many changes and endured many hard rubs, especially in recent years, it has continued to flourish like a green bay tree. The game quickly spread around New York, and a number of clubs were formed, with the result that the first match game, before mentioned, was played at Hoboken. Only four innings were played, as the rule then was that the club which first made 21 runs in equal innings won the game.

The growth of baseball outside of the limits of New York was very slow. It was not played in Philadelphia until 15 years later. Townball meanwhile continued to be played throughout the country, its adherents being very reluctant to substitute baseball for the old sport.

Baseball grew in spite of difficulties, however, and in time a national association, which was formed to govern it, made laws which were adhered to wherever the game was played. One of the first rules formulated by this organization debarred from membership in any club any player who played the game for emolument. The result of this was that between the years 1866 and 1871 baseball enjoyed its maximum of popularity. The grounds upon which the games were played were usually vacant lots, and crowds of from 10,000 to 20,000 were everyday occurrences.

The rivalry became so intense that all sorts of inducements were offered the best players to join certain clubs. It was then but a step to the open payment of salaries. Thus the element of professionalism set in and in time led to the formation of the National league and American association.

LEO ETHERINGTON.

JAMES A. HERNES' POPULARITY.

In addition to dedicating a new theater which is to bear his name, James A. Hernes has been threatened with the honor of having a new brand of cigars named after him. The amusing part of it is that Mr. Hernes does not smoke and had to take lessons in how to handle the pipe which he pretends to smoke in his latest play, "Sag Harbor."

It is a matter of passing interest that this stern official found nothing objectionable in "Sapho." In which play named play John Hare is to act in America next season.

However, "The Lady of the Camellias" is forbidden in England, where flares we marvel at censorial constraints.

Julia Marlowe denies emphatically the reports that she intends to marry again.

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Willie Collier will have a new play, Augustus Themas, entitled "The Decadence of Rome," in which he will make a tour of this country and be playing in London.

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