

BOSTON BRIEFS

THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1908 CAMPAIGN.

Good News From the Two Teams Shaping Up in the South—The Cases of Thoney and Brain—Current Gossip and Comment.

BY J. C. MORSE.

Boston, March 28.—Editor "Sporting Life."—The two thorns in the sides of the Boston Clubs have been Jack Thoney, of the Americans, and Dave Brain, of the Nationals. With Thoney it was not a matter of salary, but with Brain it was a case of a demand for a higher stipend. People here and elsewhere were very much puzzled to understand why Thoney did not respond with alacrity when requested to report. About his ability there can be no doubt and no one was more quick to bestow upon him the highest praise than Manager Joe Kelley, of the Boston Nationals, who had abundant opportunity to size the man up thoroughly when with Toronto last season. Kelley says this player has everything, and when that is said that is all there is to it. There is no doubt that Toronto very much dislikes to lose the player, but it is true that club was never so richly compensated for the loss of a player. I think that the player is justified in asking for a part of



J. C. Morse

THE PURCHASE MONEY and will not be surprised in the least if some day it will not be provided that the player shall share in transactions of this kind. Thoney will very much strengthen the outfield of the Boston Club. He is fast in all departments and a particularly successful man in beating out bunts. A man of his calibre means a great deal to a club. It looks very much as if Thoney, Barrett and Gessler will constitute the outfield. McHale has shown up very strongly, too, and there is no doubt at all that he will be retained. He can hit, and hitting is the thing.

IN THE PRACTICE

at Little Rock McConnell, the importation from Providence, had his chance to shine when Laporte was out of the game owing to a split finger and he shone all right. He is a ball player, that boy, from tip to toe and there is no doubt he can make good in Ferris' position if called upon to do so. He can cover ground, throw, hit and run, and is a hustler every inch of the way. Lord has shown up very well indeed at third. He is remarkably cool for a youngster, does not rattle for a cent, and handles the most difficult balls with remarkable ease. He will make a mighty good stab at clinging to his position.

MODERN BASE BALL.

I was talking with the veteran John Morrill the other day, and few men have watched the game more closely, and he said that it was a case of too much of the extremes in base ball nowadays. "In the first place," said he, "there is no need to take a small company to the training field. Some clubs have so many they actually get into each other's way. The best results cannot be had that way. In the desire to get a winner quality is sacrificed for quantity. Again, the men ought to be in good condition when they report for spring practice but instead they take

AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE

of the opportunity to get into shape at the club's expense. In my day they got along with fewer pitchers, fewer players, no extended Southern trips, and had about everything there is in the game—and better team work by considerable than there is seen in most of the clubs." Too bad, indeed, John did not remain in the game. He would have made a great manager. He often takes in games despite the fact that he is a great golf enthusiast and as such has little time for base ball. His favorite place is a front seat in the stand and his observations are always interesting to those fortunate enough to be in his vicinity.

THE WAR CORRESPONDENTS

continue to pour out ammunition and tell glowing stories of the goings on at the seat of war. Paul Shannon, of the "Post," has delved into poetry in a way that has tickled immensely his many admirers. By and by we will have it all in verse instead of in prosaic verbiage. Who will say the game is not being uplifted? Was there ever a time when we had so many devotees of the muse? We have Billy Kirk, Grantland Rice, Billy Phelan, Charley Zuber and Paul Shannon. More power to their pencils!

BRAIN'S CASE.

Last season young "Cy" Young had his little run-in with the Boston Nationals and he won. He held out for a healthy salary and got it. Col. Dovey held out for a while, but Young was needed and finally the matter was settled. Is Dave Brain emulating "Cy"? They tell me that Dave received \$3,000 and over last year, a very nice figure, don't you think? One would imagine he would be satisfied with that figure this year, but no! He wants \$800 more than he was given last season. That fetches it very close to \$4,000. How many players are getting that figure this year? And what is the basis for the player's claim? That he led the league in home runs last season by virtue of the shortest left-field fence in the two leagues. There is no doubt that

had Lumley not been injured he would have led in homers, and he was

THE VIRTUAL LEADER

at that. Brain did some very good work 'tis true, but he also did some very erratic playing, and at best there was nothing in his showing that justified the figure he desires for his services. I doubt if he will receive a penny more than the splendid contract calls for that Col. Dovey has offered him. He ought to feel complimented that he is held in such high esteem to merit such an offer. I doubt if any club would care to meet that figure today. Meanwhile Sweeney is playing third base and giving a most excellent account of himself. I am not the only one who thinks Sweeney has in him the making of one of the greatest third basemen the game ever saw. That splendid judge of ball tossers—Ned Hanlon—quickly picked him out as a coming star. He has a wonderful style and is the embodiment of grace and ease.

HUGH DUFFY

is back from the Eastern League meeting and is very optimistic about his club. He lost some very good material in Lord, McConnell and Joe Harris, but he has managed to pick up some exceedingly good material. He has two of the best New England League pitchers in Frock and Slone, both secured from Jess Burkett's club. Frock was very much disappointed that he was not continued with Boston, but other clubs of the majors had a chance to take him and did not bite. He will have a very good chance to show this season if any one was mistaken or not, and if that is the case he will not be the worse off for another year with the minors. The loss of Slone and Frock makes a big hole in Burkett's team, but Jess is not worrying a bit and is confident he'll be in the thick of the fight. Jess looks the picture of health.

SPOKES FROM THE HUB.

Charley Waldron, the popular proprietor of the Palace Theatre, says that Joe Kelley's team looks as good to him as any of 'em.

The fans are not yet through talking about the jubilee number of the "Life." Lantle Blum, Billy Locke's friend from Pittsburg, has laid \$300 against \$100 with "Sport" Sullivan that the New York Americans will not land the flag and asserts he will wager \$100 even the New York Giants land one, two, three. The bugs are at it already.

The amount the local clubs will clear by the cutting off of passes Saturdays and holidays will make a very pretty figure.

I heard with great regret of the recent death of Frank Holden in Paris. He was a member of the Harvard varsity team more than a quarter of a century ago and a resident of this city for many years. But soon after graduation went to Philadelphia where he practiced medicine for a while, afterwards becoming a banker with offices in the Bourse.

Gus Maher, of the "Journal," is booked to do the official scoring for the American League club the coming season. Maher succeeded Walter Barnes on the "Journal" and has been sending a series of very interesting letters from the South on this trip. During Gus' absence Peter Kelley is steering things. Tom Burke, the well known runner, is on the sporting end with Pete.

TOLEDO PROGRESS.

More Base Ball Diamonds Provided For the Boys.

Toledo, O., March 30.—The city of Toledo is going into the base ball business on an extensive scale this summer. More city diamonds are to be constructed and every available spot in the city parks will be turned over to the lovers of that sport. The

BOARD OF PUBLIC SERVICE

has instructed the Park Superintendent to lay out two additional diamonds at Central Grove Park and two more at Navarre Park. The city now has six diamonds, and it is the intention to double that number. Server Sabin said this morning that the city has been spending too much money on the golf links, which benefited but a few, compared to the many who enjoy the game of base ball. He wants the Board to spend less money on golf and give a little more to base ball grounds.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE

Is Started in the Buckeye State in Quinn's Territory.

Tiffin, O., March 24.—The Ohio Independent Base Ball League was organized here today by the election of the following officers: President, Nate Cook, Cleveland; vice-president, Charles Devarx, Toledo; secretary, Jack Hagerty, Tiffin; treasurer, William Otter, Ashland. Tiffin, Toledo, Cleveland and Ashland will be included in the league, with Fremont and Lorain probable members. There will be six teams in the league. The games will be played Saturday and Sunday, and the opening game will be played May 2. Each team will play 20 games.

Another Base Ball Fatality.

Clarksville, Ark., March 22.—During a game of base ball between Arkansas Cumberland College and Denning, Captain Ira Goodlet, of the college team, dodged into a swift shoot from the pitcher and dropped unconscious in his tracks. The accident occurred Thursday and the young collegian died twenty-four hours afterward. He was unconscious nearly the entire time. Goodlet was 18 years old and was captain of the football eleven last year. His home is in Buck Range, Howard County, where his remains were shipped.

Ball Player Takes Bride.

Hot Springs, Ark., March 24.—Miss Virginia Fields, of Chicago, married John MacArthur here this afternoon. The latter came here with the Detroit Tigers and was to have played with the team this season. The wedding was in the nature of a surprise. Messages were sent to the families of both parties breaking the news and asking for best wishes.

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THE OHIO LEAGUE.

The Lima Club Now in Good Hands and Bound To Be a Stronghold of the New Ohio League.

Lima, O., March 30.—As the season is fast approaching the fans of this little town are beginning to look forward to the initial bow of the new Ohio League, of which Lima is to be a member. William J. Clarke, ex-New York and Baltimore star, has secured a controlling interest in the team and will be manager-captain. Great things are expected of him. It will be a six-club affair composed of the following towns: Newark, Lancaster, Marion, Mansfield, Springfield and Lima, making an ideal circuit. One I think, much better than the Ohio-Pennsylvania League as it now stands. Manager Clarke is expected here today to take charge of the team. He has leased a cottage near the park for ground-keeper and players during the training season. Lima has been handed so many "lemons" in a base ball way in the past, but the backers of this team mean business and it is bound to be a success. "Mine Host" King, of the Lima House, and Lee Beeler are the only local stockholders. Manager Clarke and J. J. McIntyre, of Mansfield, O., having the controlling interests. Much credit is due Wm. Neupman, the well-known broker, who is a thirty-third degree fan and a hustler, for securing the Lima franchise. We are looking forward to a very successful season. If you desire a correspondent from this city for "Sporting Life" I will contribute an article twice a month just for the fun of it. Please let me hear from you at once.



Robert Quinn.

The Mansfield Roster. Mansfield, O., March 28.—The Mansfield team, of the Ohio State League, is the third to practically announce its line-up as follows: Doc Bailey, Lloyd, Yarnell, Bucholz and Edfelt, pitchers (all of these being of last year's team), with Clyde Rich, Irv Snyder, Carl Smith, Joe Phelan and Eugene Redmond as try-outs as twirlers. Catchers, Breimayer, Reilly and Morrissey, two of whom have not signed as yet. Tim Flood, formerly of Marion; Thomas McNellis, William Hoopes, Bobby Whisner, Eddie Boden and C. W. Yency, infielders; outfielders, Zeke Reynolds, F. J. Mahoney, Bobby Quinn, Dan Van Sickle, Jimmy Kettler and J. C. Cannell. As only 13 men are to be carried by the Ohio State League teams, Manager McVey will also have his troubles weeding out.

News Notes.

Bill Clarke, manager of the Lima Club, will give Louis Hadding, of Toledo, a trial in the outfield. Bert Biery, of Canton, O., Mansfield's crack first sacker, will be married April 2 to Miss Florence E. Crisswell, of Canton. President Bobby Quinn says there will be no slow-poke ball in this league. He means there will be no two-hour nine-inning games, which were quite common in the O.-P. League last summer. Fred Drumm, who was displaced from the Lima management through Bill Clarke's purchase of that club, will probably manage the Clarisburg Club in the new Pennsylvania-West Virginia League.

Yale Loses Best Twirler.

New Haven, Conn., March 24.—Arthur Merritt, the best pitcher on the Yale base ball squad, has been disqualified by the faculty, and Captain Tad Jones, of the varsity nine, said tonight that he saw no chance of Merritt being able to play this

year. Merritt was the former Andover pitcher, and is the only first-class twirler Yale has any chance of putting in the box this year. He has serious scholarship troubles.

EXHIBITION GAMES.

MARCH 14.

- At Dallas—Dallas 0, New York N. L. 2.
- At Macon—Macon 3, Cleveland 10.
- At Savannah—Savannah 0, Philadelphia 1.
- At New Orleans—New Orleans 7, Athletics 3.
- At Gulfport—Gulfport 4, Athletic Colts 11.
- At Houston—St. Louis N. L. 2, Washington A. L. 5 (12 innings).
- At Galveston—St. Louis A. L. 1, Wash. Colts 3.
- At Los Angeles—Los Angeles 8, Chicago A. L. 11 (14 innings).
- At San Francisco—Frisco 7, Chicago A. L. 6.
- At Monroe—Monroe 7, St. Louis A. L. Colts 8.

MARCH 15.

- At Fort Worth—Ft. Worth 0, New York N. L. 1.
- At Dallas—Dallas 4, N. Y. Colts 4.
- At Galveston—St. Louis N. L. 6, Washington 2.
- At New Orleans—New Orleans 13, Athletics 7.
- At Mobile—Mobile 7, Athletic Colts 6.
- At Vicksburg—Vicksburg 1, Chicago N. L. 0.
- At San Francisco—Frisco 3, Chicago A. L. Colts 0, and Frisco 3, Chicago Colts 10.
- At Los Angeles—Los Angeles 5, Chicago A. L. 12.
- At Monroe—Monroe 3, St. Louis A. L. 8.

MARCH 16.

- At Mobile—Mobile 0, Athletics A. L. 4.
- At Savannah—Savannah 0, Phillies N. L. 7.
- At Atlanta—Atlanta 9, Macon 2.
- At Los Angeles—Los Angeles 8, Chicago Colts 4.
- At St. Augustine—Ormond 3, Cincinnati 3 (10 ins.).
- At Macon—Cleveland 3, Cleveland Colts 3.
- At Jacksonville—Brooklyn 1, Brooklyn Colts 3.
- At Savannah—Savannah 1, Phillies 11.
- At Montgomery—Montgomery 2, Athletics 4.
- At Little Rock—Little Rock 0, Boston A. L. 6.
- At Atlanta—Atlanta 8, Macon 3.
- At New Orleans—New Orleans 8, Gulfport 6.

MARCH 17.

- At Montgomery—Montgomery 1, Athletics 11.
- At Vicksburg—Vicksburg 2, Chicago N. L. 7.
- At Los Angeles—Los Angeles 3, Chicago Colts 11.
- At Macon—Cleveland 2, Cleveland Colts 7.
- At St. Augustine—Ormond 6, Cincinnati 7 (14 ins.).
- At Birmingham—Birmingham 1, Athletics 7.
- At Atlanta—Atlanta 2, New York A. L. 9.
- At Jacksonville—Jacksonville 7, Brooklyn 17.
- At Calvert, Tex.—New York N. L. 3, N. Y. Colts 5.
- At Macon—Macon 3, Cleveland 17.
- At Los Angeles—Los Angeles 0, Chicago 0.
- At Houston—St. Louis N. L. 2, Colts 3 (11ings).
- At New Orleans—New Orleans 15, Gulfport 2.
- At Atlanta—Atlanta 4, Macon 1.

MARCH 20.

- At Savannah—Phillies 0, Phillies Colts 2.
- At Macon—Cleveland 4, Cleveland Colts 3.
- At Redlands—Redlands 5, Chicago Colts 8.
- At Jacksonville—Brooklyn 4, Colts 2.
- At Atlanta—Atlanta 1, New York A. L. 2.
- At Mobile—Mobile 15, Meridian 6.
- At Augusta—Augusta 1, Boston N. L. 7.
- At Houston—Washington vs. St. Louis, rain.
- At New Orleans—New Orleans 2, Chicago A. L. 7.
- At Dallas—Dallas 2, New York N. L. 2.
- At Memphis—Memphis 5, Athletics 8.
- At Savannah—Savannah 0, Philadelphia 7.
- At Jackson—Jackson 1, Chicago A. L. 8.
- At Macon—Macon 0, Cleveland 17.
- At Kansas City—Kansas City 4, Denver 3.
- At Los Angeles—Los Angeles 6, Chicago Colts 8.
- At Wichita—Wichita 11, Washington 12.

MARCH 21.

- At Dallas—Dallas 9, New York A. L. 12.
- At Fort Worth—Ft. Worth 3, New York Seconds 3.
- At Waco—Waco 0, New York Third 1.
- At New Orleans—New Orleans 0, Chicago A. L. 0.
- At Los Angeles—Los Angeles 7, Chicago Colts 4.
- At Kansas City—Kansas City 3, Denver 1.
- At Galveston—St. Louis N. L. 8, Minneapolis 5.
- At Wichita—Wichita 0, Washington 1.
- At Sherman, Tex.—Austin College 3, N. Y. N. L. 12.
- At Jacksonville—Brooklyn 1, Colts 9.
- At St. Augustine—Cincinnati 13, Colts 11.
- At Topeka—Topeka 6, Washington 11.

MARCH 22.

- At Dallas—Dallas 9, New York A. L. 12.
- At Fort Worth—Ft. Worth 3, New York Seconds 3.
- At Waco—Waco 0, New York Third 1.
- At New Orleans—New Orleans 0, Chicago A. L. 0.
- At Los Angeles—Los Angeles 7, Chicago Colts 4.
- At Kansas City—Kansas City 3, Denver 1.
- At Galveston—St. Louis N. L. 8, Minneapolis 5.
- At Wichita—Wichita 0, Washington 1.
- At Sherman, Tex.—Austin College 3, N. Y. N. L. 12.
- At Jacksonville—Brooklyn 1, Colts 9.
- At St. Augustine—Cincinnati 13, Colts 11.
- At Topeka—Topeka 6, Washington 11.

MARCH 23.

- At Sherman, Tex.—Austin College 3, N. Y. N. L. 12.
- At Jacksonville—Brooklyn 1, Colts 9.
- At St. Augustine—Cincinnati 13, Colts 11.
- At Topeka—Topeka 6, Washington 11.