

THE TAR HEEL.

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ATHLETICS,

Approaching Game. Coach. League Players.

In the last issue of the *Tar Heel* was an article taken from the *College Topics* on "Baseball at the Big Four Southern Colleges." The writer pointed out that Cornell, on her Southern trip, would play the "Big Four" and as Virginia came last a comparison of the scores would be interesting. The interesting point of the article to us is the fact that it calls to mind the nearness of the approaching season. Only sixteen days are to elapse before the game with the Oak Ridge Institute is to be played, only eighteen days before the games with Lafayette.

This is a short time, but if every moment possible is utilized in practice, as has been the case during the past few weeks, we will doubtless be ready for the contests. While the earth was submerged by snow the ball men did effective work in the Gymnasium, and since its disappearance, there have been some intensely interesting games on the field.

There are many points that presage a successful season for us, (1) the number of men to select from, (2) the captain and (3) the coach. During the early part of the football season last fall, we were constrained to ask the students to manifest some spirit, some interest in the football work. This has been absolutely unnecessary thus far this spring. The number of contestants for the different positions, and the keen rivalry, inevitable under such conditions, gives an interest to the students in the games, that no other conditions could afford. Every afternoon the diamond is surrounded by spectators, and well repaid are they for coming out.

The two contestants upon which all eyes are at this period centered, are Wilcox and Sweeney. These twirlers are closely matched, and the students are eagerly watching for a manifestation of superiority in one over the other. Both are calm and confident in appearance, but to the eye of the close observer, a feeling of uncertainty is seen occasionally to lurk out.

The contestants for the position of catcher are also attracting attention. This is generally considered the weakest point in the prospective make-up of our team, but the feeling doubtless comes from comparing all catchers to the incomparable catcher, Graves E.

The coach is confident that from the four candidates a good man will be secured. Council feels that, after securing his position on every other team he cannot fail in this, while Graham, Wilcox and Patterson feel equally confident of success. In the meantime the students are observing with interest

the development of the men. For third base there is some doubt and therefore interest in the contestants. Smathers is superior to his competitors in every respect except one. He can't hold a pop-fly. This deficiency will doubtless be overcome.

At every position, for that matter, there is rivalry. In next week's issue a criticism of the individual players will be given.

As for the Captain all are familiar with his history as a baseball player and his qualification for the position he now holds.

But a few words with reference to the Coach may be of interest. Ashenback was born in Cincinnati in 1872. In early boyhood he played on amateur teams in his native city, and before his eighteenth birthday

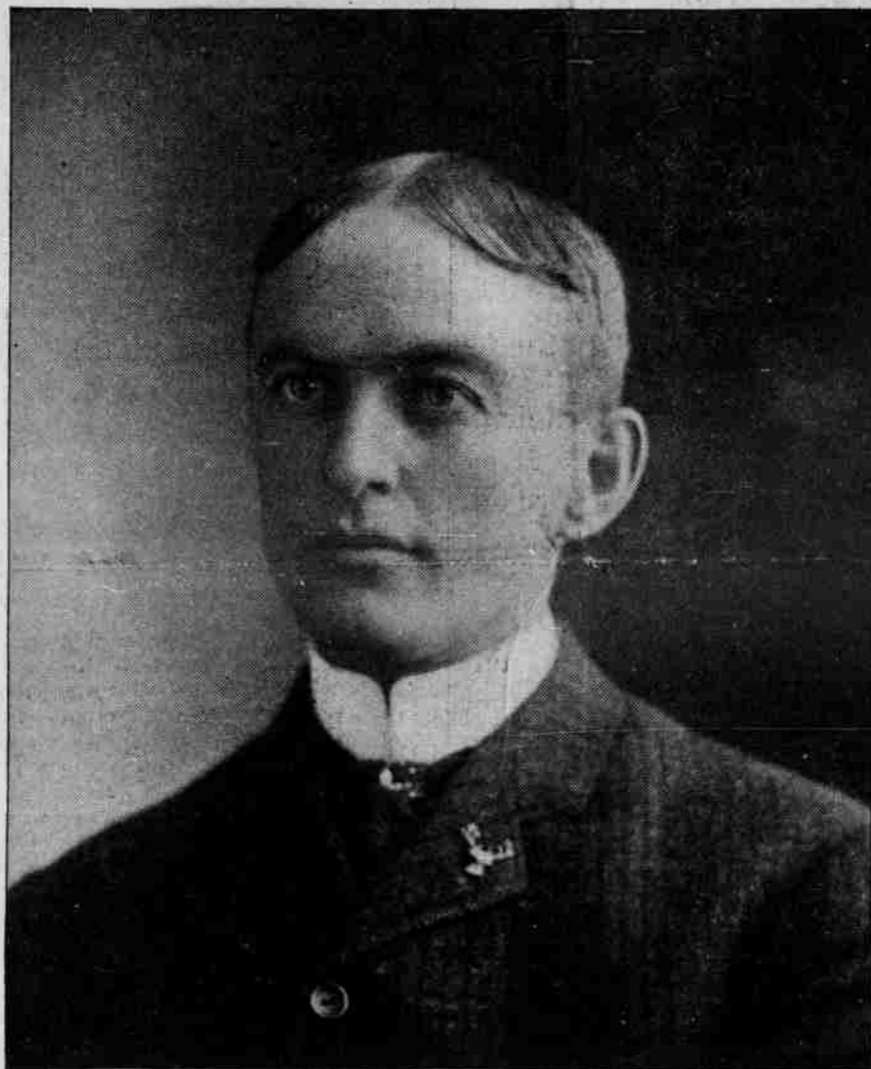
of the Va-N.C. League.

Ashenback is engaged this year to play on the Charlotte team, and as soon as the season opens, he will leave for that city.

From the above facts it is evident Ashenback is eminently qualified to coach our team to success. He has an exuberance of wit, which though often displeasing to the victims, still enlivens the game and affords a novelty to the students.

He proposes to pay explicit attention in the near future to base-running and the development of a catcher.

Another factor of importance in the development of our team and one that will increase interest for the next few weeks, will be the presence of the Philadelphia American League players. If the weath-



COACH E. M. ASHENBACK.

was engaged to play on the team of Canton, Ohio. This team was at that time a member of the Tri-State league of 1890. Associated with Ashenback on this team was Cy Young, one of the speediest twirlers that ever faced a batter.

In 1892-'93 Ashenback joined the Allentown team of Pennsylvania State league, at that time the strongest minor league in America. In 1895 he went South and joined the Rollers club. At that period the club was under the control of Ted Sullivan, and the team turned out was no other than Sullivan's famous "Texas Steers" which has gone down in baseball history as a world record breaker. Twenty-four consecutive games were credited to them before they finally lost in a sixteen-inning contest.

In 1898 Ashenback was engaged to play on the New Castle team. Here he distinguished himself, in fact winning the pennant. When the Virginia State League was formed in 1899, he became a member with control of the Hampton nine. Here he made great success and in 1901 was the chief promoter

er permits work we should derive incalculable advantage from practice with these veteran ball players. Barnhard, the famous All American, is among the number that will be down here, and many points will doubtless be gained from this great player.

A. W. Mangum, well known some years back as a Varsity baseball player, has returned to College with the intention of again playing ball. He was a few nights ago elected captain and coach of the scrubs, and with the following men who compose his team, is doing some brilliant work: Catchers, Wilcox, Council, Patterson, and W. A. Graham; pitchers, Mangum, Smith, McDonald; infield, Brem, Pritchard, Graves, Worth, Cheshire, and Graham, G.; outfielders, Hill, Fenner, and Jacocks.

The track work begins March 27th. Next week's issue will contain a list of the different candidates, but in the meantime it would be well for the management to consider the condition of the track.

Prof. Cobb's Lecture.

Sand Reefs of the North Carolina Coast.

For a number of years Professor Collier Cobb has spent portions of his vacations on the sand and coral reefs of the Atlantic coast, and on Thursday evening last he gave a most interesting lecture on the Sand Reefs of the North Carolina Coast to a crowded house in Gerard Hall. The lecture was illustrated by more than sixty stereoptican views from photographs taken by Professor Cobb in his several trips to our coast.

These reefs constitute a chain of long and narrow islands, lying off the mainland and extending for three hundred and fifty miles of our coast, a barrier between our sound and the sea. The waves, rolling in from the sea, break when they strike shallow water, and deposited on the slightly submerged continental shelf the sand which they hold in suspension. In this way these Banks, which form such a peculiar physical feature of our coast, have been formed. They vary in breadth from a few yards to five miles, and in length, two to thirty-two miles.

The views, after the maps, began with a photograph of the old Fry-pan Shoal light-ship, anchored upon a shoal at the extreme southern point of the state some miles from land. The palm trees and other tropical plants on Smith's Island were a revelation to many of us, as were also the broad sand-waves which have been slowly and stealthily marching across many of the islands since the cutting of the live oaks for ship masts about the time of the Civil War. Many of these islands have upon them wild goats or wild sheep, and herds of small marsh ponies roam over several of them. These ponies are a hardy breed native to the island, and receive no care from the inhabitants except at the annual pony-penning. The wind-mills, the small straw-thatched huts and the bull-pens of the fishermen together with the live oaks, palms, and fan palmettos, make one think of Holland and of Africa more than our own country. The fan palm is found on Hatteras, which is the northern limit of the palmetto, though no palms of any kind are found on the islands south of Hatteras until Smith's Island is reached.

Numbers of small islands within the reefs were occupied by attractive club houses of northern hunters, but the account of Hatteras was the most important portion of the lecture. This island is more than 25 miles from the nearest point of the mainland, and 65 miles from the nearest town of any size. The tall lighthouse, the wireless telegraph station, the Weather Bureau signal station, the life saving stations, and the new light-ship on Diamond Shoal, furnished with electric apparatus which sends a perpendicular

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Dr. Venable