

BIG THREE HAVE ENVIABLE RECORD

Slugging Outfielders of St. Louis Americans Made It Trying to Bat Their Way to Pennant.

By JOHN B. FOSTER
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New York, January 29.—For five successive years the Big Three of the St. Louis Americans have been trying to bat their way to a championship. They have been so close to it that they could hear the birds sing; but that is all.

Not striving for the honor of winning a pennant, they have made a record as slugging outfielders that is one of the most talkative wordless performances in baseball. Not once in five years has one of them batted below .300, and only one of them ever batted that low. They have plastered a figure on the baseball blackboard that is likely to remain there a long time. If they can come through again in 1924, what a record will be theirs!

Look for a moment at what they have done. In 1919 Williams batted .300, Jacobson .323 and Tobin .327. That is the only season in which one of them batted as low as .300. In 1920 Williams batted .307, Jacobson .355 and Tobin .340. In 1921 all of them picked up. Williams batted .347 and Jacobson and Tobin .352 each. They dropped off a bit in 1922, Jacobson being low with .317, Williams .332 and Tobin .331. In 1923 Williams hit the top of his career with .357, Tobin made .317 and Jacobson .309.

This combination in five years has an average collective average at bat of over .330, and off-hand it is pretty safe to say that there is not another like it in major league baseball.

The St. Louis Americans seemed on the verge of a championship in 1922, and perhaps might have won it had they not cracked on home soil. There always will be a disposition to believe that the club could have pulled through had it not been nipped by the Yanks when a plunge ahead meant the most for the Browns. It is also firmly believed in St. Louis that the Yanks bought their way to the pennant, a thought which is seriously entertained by much of the Middle West, where the New York team are frequently accused of doling their way into championships.

While this wonderful trio of batters from St. Louis has been making a batting record that looms like the statue of liberty lighted up on a dark night, its individual members have accomplished some other little stunts of their own. Tobin has made more base hits in one year than any other player in his league, and Williams once threatened to spread himself on the home run canvas.

Each one of them at some time has batted over .350. Williams had to wait until 1923 to do it. Jacobson did it in 1920 and 1921 and Tobin also in 1921. The worst year they had collectively was in 1919 and the second worse in 1923. If they get their batting eyes back in 1924, St. Louis may again be snooping around the top of the pennant fight.

McTigue-Stribling Bout Is Uncertain

McTigue Has Contract to Fight Tunney Which Is Bothering Him Some

By FAIR PLAY
Copyright, 1924, by The Advance
New York, January 29.—Mike McTigue's decision as to whether or not he will fight young Stribling before he goes to Europe will be settled within a day or two. If he says yes the Jersey promoters will leave forthwith for Macon to whisper soft things in Stribling's ear.

Looks as if Mike, if he wants to fight anywhere in the big money zone, will have to do battle in Jersey because he has a contract, or some sort of agreement to meet Gene Tunney which was signed by Joe Jacobs, his former manager.

The opinion seems to be that the boxing commission in New York will insist that he meet Tunney before he fights anyone else. And McTigue doesn't want the Tunney game just now.

As for Stribling, his next Eastern appearance following last week's battle in Buffalo will probably be at the instance of Newark promoters, whether he meets McTigue, or someone else.

In an interview after his Boston fight with Roland Todd, the English

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middleweight champion, Jack Malone didn't speak as though he was surprised by the Britisher. "I was a good defensive fighter," says the St. Paul outfit artist. "He knocked enough of my punches to sink a ship. He didn't hit me to amount to anything and I think he was glad the fight was over when it ended. I don't think he'll ever be a world's champion. He is a good middleweight for England, and that lets him out."

AMERICANS IN WINTER SPORTS

Great International Games of 1921 Are on at Chamonix, France, to Last Until the Fifth of February.

By LAWRENCE PERRY
Copyright, 1924, by The Advance
New York, January 29.—With the beginning of the Olympic winter sports at Chamonix in the French Alps—they are to continue until February 5—Americans are brought to a realizing sense that the great international games of 1924 are on.

So concerned are we with the track and field sports, beginning at the Colombes Stadium just outside of Paris on July 5, that many of the twenty odd events on the Olympic program have, generally speaking, been overlooked in this country. All sports not strictly confined to one nation and peculiar thereto, such as baseball, cricket and the like, are upon the schedule, the bulk of which lies in June and July.

Victories in all branches of the registered sports count for points and it should not be overlooked that our success in the winter sports now in progress are of importance to us—just as important, as some one has cleverly put it, as baseball victories in April are to a big league baseball club.

Chiefly we are represented at Chamonix in skiing and in hockey. Interest will be particularly in the success or failure of our hockey players, because of the flurry occasioned by the selection of the United States team.

Stars might have been picked from several cities where hockey is expertly played by various teams, but the American Olympic committee wisely, as it may appear, decided to select a union; that is to say team that had played together as a splendid mechanism. It was precisely as though, in an effort to decide the football supremacy of the United States as among the various sections, an Eastern committee had selected the Yale eleven of 1923 instead of going about among the various institutions and picking an all Eastern team. The virtue of such a course was shown in a previous Olympic match (1920) when the Falcons of Winnipeg, Canada, trounced an American all star outfit, rated as superior upon the basis of individual merit.

So the Boston AA team was selected in toto. But when the time came two or three of the Bostonians were prevented from making the trip. And so Pittsburgh was drawn upon for Herbert Deury, and Clarence Abel was levied from St. Paul. It is not to be recorded that the Western teams were very happy over losing these two stars at a time when the national championship series was in progress.

The team is a very good one indeed, and is not likely to meet with

a great deal of trouble until it runs into the Canadian outfit which is known as essentially a club team, the Granites of Toronto.

ATHLETICS IMPROVE NATION'S UNDERWEAR

By WALTER CAMP
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New York, January 29.—One more credit for athletics. It has just developed that the spread of sports has vastly improved the quality and appearance of the nation's underwear. In the old days, these garments were very, very private, and were not always well kept. But now, with the publicity attendant upon bathing and dressing in club locker rooms, there has developed what the underwear manufacturers call an "underwear conscience." It certainly is a good thing.

Here's a chance for practical out-

door philanthropy. Forty miles west of Chicago is a school founded ten years ago on an estate of more than 1,000 acres, called Mousheart. A group of orphanage children from all parts of the country are taught the trades and dignity of labor. The children have all the advantages of farm life, trade, education and play, and receive the religious training of the faith of their parents. Think what children may become on a thousand-acre farm instead of crowded in city schools. James J. Davis, secretary of labor, is chairman of the board.

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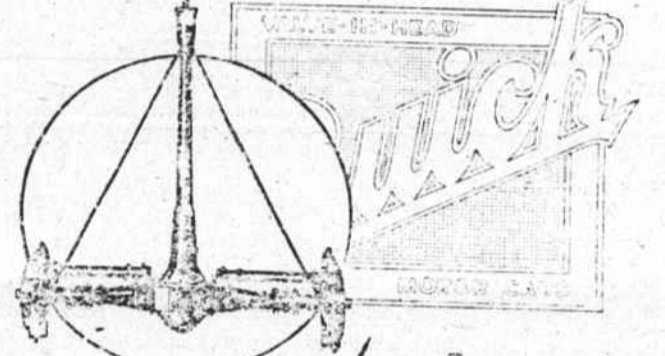
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