

Faces Change Rapidly In National League

ONLY FEW OF OLD GUARD LEFT NOW

Ebbetts and Dreyfuss Practically Sole Survivors of Old Coterie 25 Years Ago Brains of National Pastime.

By JOHN B. FOSTER
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New York, February 1—The changing character of the National League is graphically shown by the fact that of the four men picked at Chicago to prepare for the League's twentieth anniversary, to be held in New York in 1925, only one has been with the organization more than 25 years, and none more than 33 years. The committee consists of President Ebbetts of Brooklyn, Dreyfuss of Pittsburgh, Yastek of Chicago and Mathewson of Boston. Ebbetts' connection with the League dates back farther than that of any other official now connected with it. He became secretary of the Brooklyn club back in 1898. Dreyfuss comes next, having become president of the Pittsburgh club in 1900, and having been president of the Louisville club the year previous when that club was a member of the league.

Ebbetts and Dreyfuss are all that remain of the old coterie of baseball men who once were the wisest, shrewdest, most far-sighted and best equipped men mentally who ever undertook to control the national pastime. Others of the old group included the late Albert G. Spalding, Frank Dell Robinson of Cleveland, John T. Brush of New York, George W. Howe of Cleveland, James A. Hart of Chicago, Charles H. Byrne of Brooklyn, T. Hunt Stucky of Louisville and Col. John I. Rogers of Philadelphia. Able advisers of these men, still alive but no longer connected with baseball, include Arthur H. Soden, William H. Conant, A. J. Reach, A. G. Mills, Fred K. Stearns, John B. Day, Edward Hanlon and John G. Jones.

John A. Heydler, who is president of the National League, has held that office longer than any man now alive. John K. Tener, a former president, now is engaged in the banking business near Pittsburg, Pa., and Thomas J. Lynch, another ex-president, is in business at New Britain, Connecticut. The oldest secretary of the league is William J. Shettsline, who has been with the Philadelphia club since 1905; and the oldest manager is John J. McGraw, who has been at the helm of the Giant club since 1902. The oldest umpire is Robert Emslie, who is retired and yet not retired, and the oldest official scorer is the writer, who was appointed back in the days when Nick Young was president.

The league is the only organization of its kind in the world that in one year lost all of its players except two score, and that successfully fought for existence and overturned its rival and regained the very players whom it had lost. That was the war of the Brotherhood which was waged during the year 1890, and which nearly bankrupted a dozen men and did bankrupt some. It upset John B. Day financially and was the cause of his failure in after years. He had a championship team and a new ground in New York in 1889, with every prospect of becoming an owner, most favored by fortune of any, and proved to be hardest hit of all, although others sacrificed holdings worth thousands of dollars.

While this war wrecked some it gave John T. Brush an opportunity to enter into baseball more extensively than he had ever attempted before, and in the course of years made him the dominant figure in his organization. Nearly all the writers of this period of the stormy days when the National League was making history have passed on. Sam Crane, Joe Vila, William B. Hanna, Hugh Fullerton, Walter Barnes, Francis C. Reichster and the writer are among the scattered few who are left. Henry Chadwick died after the National League had regained its hold upon the game subsequent to the revolt of the players. Of these writers two have been officials in baseball.

The league's first president was the Hon. Morgan C. Bulkeley, former United States Senator from Connecticut and former governor of the state, who died only recently. He served as president of the league for only one year and was succeeded by William A. Halbert of Chicago, who was an efficient executive but who gained his greatest reputation by expelling players for gambling and refusing all appeals for reinstatement. Much sob sentiment has been written in regard to the efforts of the expelled players to be restored to standing.

"Pop" Anson, until the time of his death, was presumed to be the league's oldest player but in reality the honor was vested in A. J. Reach of Philadelphia, who is still alive. He played in 1871 with the National Association, of which the National League was largely a continuance.

The National League was formed in New York in a saloon which was not even a tavern. In those days it was a handy meeting place and drinking places were convenient meeting places at that time for men because there was abundant opportunity to smoke. The National League is not the first organization of sport which has had an origin equally humble nor the first in

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Great Money Saving Opportunity Starts at H. C. Bright's Jewelry Store. See page five.

Has Unique Record As Football Coach

Charles Moran Just Released From Centre Drew Salary Of \$200 His First Season

By WALTER CAMP
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New York, Feb. 1.—Charles Moran, who has been released from his first year coaching year contract at Centre College, to take the job of coaching Bucknell's football team, is a unique figure in college coaching ranks.

Moran is a big league umpire. Some seven years ago his son Tom was playing on the Centre College football team. Long a student of football, Moran left his farm to help coach Myers train Tom and the other players.

The next year he coached the team regularly at a salary reported to have been \$200 for the season. In 1919 he continued at a salary of \$500. That was the year that Centre defeated West Virginia after the Mountaineers had snowed Princeton under, 25 to 0.

In 1920 Moran's salary was raised to \$700. Then came all the big jumps in football coaches pay, and Moran was offered a large salary by several Southern colleges. He elected to remain at Centre for \$5,500.

With all this record of faithfulness back of him, there wasn't much that President Montgomery of Centre could do but send him on with blessings, when Moran asked for a release from his contract so that he could go to Bucknell.

TED MOORE MEETS DAVE SHADE TONIGHT

By FAIR PLAY
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New York, February 1.—Ted Moore, the English fighter, who made such a good showing against Tommy Loughran recently, will have a more rapid test tonight when he is scheduled to meet Dave Shade in Boston. Shade is supposed to be outgrowing the welter class, but even so he will have to concede the Briton several pounds. His speed and clearness are expected to offset Moore's heavier hitting. That Ted can receive as well as give was shown in his last Boston battle. When Loughran had him on the floor twice. But he recovered from that first round set back and made a strong showing.

There is something funny about this Firpo-Wills business. Why, as the writer has asked before, should Firpo be willing to cross Rickard and jeopardize the \$2,000,000 Dempsey show for a crack at Wills? He could meet Dempsey and then meet Wills later and draw a great crowd no matter how he fared with Dempsey. What is the answer? Perhaps Hughey Gartland knows.

baseball which has had a similar bit-plate. The national game however, has advanced several strides since those times.

When the proper times comes there will be a celebration in New York and in all probability it will be far away from the spot where the first ball field was laid out in New York or far from the spot where the National League was organized.

This celebration will be an event in its way commemorative of the men who have had to do with the National game, and will fitly celebrate the part that the National League has played in baseball. There seems to be no reason now to believe that the rival leagues will be engaged in war although no one knows what one baseball sun will bring upon another.

One of the features suggested for the National League season of 1925 is a series of prizes all in gold for players. The world series will not come under the head of the golden jubilee because the world series was started in 1905 and in 1925 it will be only twenty years old. However, that is not bad, as some predicted that it would never live to see its tenth birthday. The pessimists of old days figured that any sum of money which was advanced to the players would lead to a quarrel but in this case the public contributes the money and as long as that continues it will take a very foolhardy man to get up a quarrel.

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HOD ELLER IS TO TRY AGAIN

Star of 1919 Who Sank Into Oblivion When Shine Ball Was Banned Is With Indianapolis Now.

By JOHN B. FOSTER
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New York, February 1.—Down in the blue grass country in 1923 there was a pitcher who was trying hard to come back, and he worked so faithfully that he mastered some tricks that he didn't even know when he was a star in the big show. His name was Hod Eller.

If you will go back to the world series of 1919 when Cincinnati played the White Sox that lamentable series, you will find Eller's name surrounded with a halo of printer's ink. At Cincinnati Eller made a strike out record for world series baseball and was otherwise highly successful.

During the winter the pitching rules were changed and Eller, no longer able to rub the ball on his flannel knickerbockers, lost his "shine."

One evening he sat in his hotel in New York, the picture — and the pitcher — of misery. "I can't make it hop," he said. "I'm about ready to give up, but some day may be I'll go after it to get back. My arm feels all right but the ball won't work right."

Eller pitched his way around the blue grass country in 1923; trying out new wrinkles with which he hadn't been familiar in his Cincinnati days.

He is booked to try again this spring, and he is going back with a manager who will give him all the chance he asks—Dontie Bush of Indianapolis. He still has the speed. If he can develop a little deception, Bush will be glad to give him a chance.

There's more to the story. When Eller was pitching for the Mount Sterling Club in the Blue Grass League, he took in hand a kid pitcher named John Gross. Gross was a likely pupil. He is reported to have pitched three no hit games in the Blue Grass League. The Giants heard about him and signed him. Then they decided to put him out for a little more training—with Indianapolis.

So Eller and Gross, who were the big factors in the success of the Mount Sterling Club in 1923 are together in 1924 and are going to try to burn up the American Association. Should they prove a winning pair it is safe enough to say that they can't keep out of major league ball in 1925. There is many a club that would like to have old Hod with his speed, if he has anything to go with it.

Great One Day Sale starts at Peoples Bargain Store Saturday. See page eight. adv

PLAYER WRITER RULE WILL STIR THINGS UP

By WALTER CAMP
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New York, February 1.—Evidences are being put up that the proposed rule forbidding tennis players to write on the game is going to make it interesting session out of the United States Lawn Tennis Association meeting next month.

Most of the tennis authorities of California and New York have gone on record as favoring the rule, while Chicago and Philadelphia seem to be getting all set to oppose it.

One of the Chicago writers proposes letting Tilden go on with his work as a reporter, but preventing others, when they reach tennis fame, from capitalizing their success by writing. Another contends that it makes no difference whether a man is a good writer or not, and that the question is whether or not it makes his living out of tennis through his writing.

Altogether, the problem will prove an interesting one before it is settled satisfactorily.

ANNOUNCE RULES FOR BASKETBALL CONTEST

Chapel Hill, February 1.—Regulations governing the tenth annual state-wide basketball contest, among the high schools, were announced today by E. R. Rankin, secretary of the recently organized High School Athletic Association of North Carolina, under whose auspices this contest will be held.

Any North Carolina public high school, city or rural, may take part in this contest, provided the school has first become a member of the High School Athletic Association, membership in which is open to all accredited high schools in the State. Schools desiring to enter the contest should file with Secretary Rankin, of Chapel Hill, their applications on or before February 8. These applications should be accompanied by individual data certifying to the eligibility of each player, it was said.

Regulations may be had free by writing to Mr. Rankin. Changes in the rules for 1924 make ineligible any student who has received money for participating in any athletic game, it was declared. This rule, however, it was pointed out, should not be construed to mean expenses for board, lodging and transportation, when these items are paid for direct by the manager of the team on which the student plays, and when no money is handled by the student.

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