

CHI NATIONALS ARE NOT HAPPY

And With No Southpaws and Only One Alexander Among Right Handers No Wonder Killefer's Gloomy.

By JOHN B. FOSTER
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New York, March 7.—The Chicago Nationals and Bill Killefer, their manager, are not happy. They haven't any good left hand pitchers for 1924.

This is the first disconsolate note that Killefer has given voice to for six months. All winter he has been optimistic about the Cubs' chances of rating up with Pittsburgh and Cincinnati in the attack on the Giants.

But with the training season at hand, Killefer finds that the only thing he has in the way of port-siders is Dumovich, a wind-shaken reed, and a kid named Pierce. Neither of them is likely to pitch to victory the team that Cap Anson made famous. Dumovich, who began in the Pacific Coast League, hasn't freed himself from his minor environment. And Pierce knows the call of the English grammar better than he does the sarcastic yowl of an opposing coach.

If all Killefer's right handers were Alexanders—and if Alexander keeps going as good as he has—the Cubs might get along without left handers. But if by any chance Alexander's arm should begin to feel the trammels of age, and if Aldridge should prove to have worn through the better side of his efficiency, the Cubs would be up against a stone wall and a mesquite hedge.

The Cubs must have pitching because they haven't enough strength in other ways to pull through the breakers that will begin to tumble when the season begins.

When Brooklyn permitted Barber to go to Little Rock, it passed along an outfielder who has batted better than .300 in three years in the majors, and yet can't hold a job in fast company.

Barber has had some novel experiences in major ball. He walked into a game against the Giants as a pinch hitter almost at the beginning of his career, and spilled it for New York. He did it again and by that time the Giants were as wary of him as a hound pup of a wild cat. Still, he couldn't hold a regular job in the majors—chiefly because he would turn up missing every so often and leave the manager holding the bag.

Vick, who was one of the best football centers Michigan ever had, may make the St. Louis Cardinals this year. He is a catcher about whom no one has said more than a nickel's worth, but he did well with Houston last year. He batted .270 and had 102 assists—more than any other catcher in the league, which shows that he was a good peger. Probably the reason he didn't get boosted more was that Houston belongs to St. Louis and everybody figured there was not any use of boosting him, since St. Louis would take him eventually anyhow.

Getting Ready to Knock a Homer

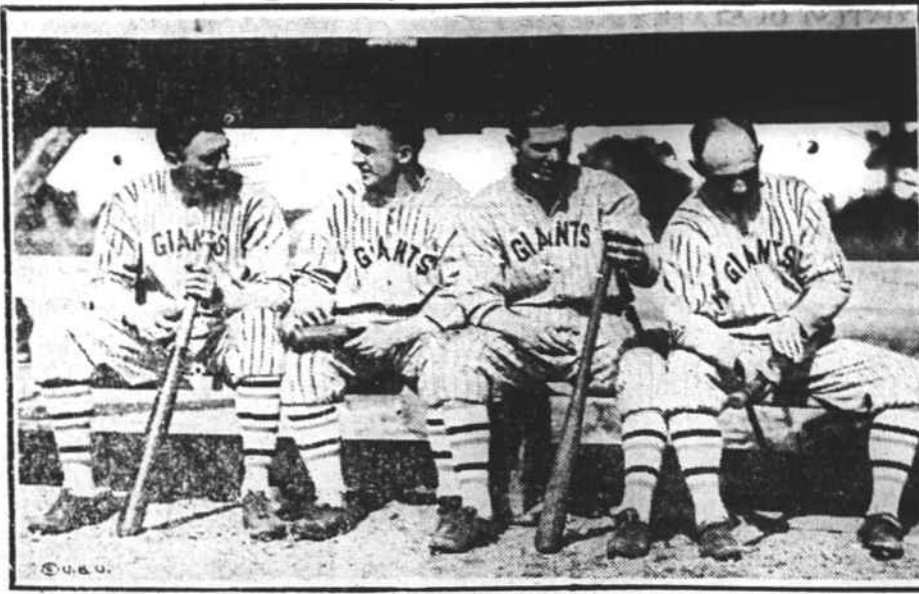


Photo shows Kelly, Frisch, Jackson and Groh of the New York Giants resting before taking a turn at the bat at Sportsman's Field, Friday night.



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New York, March 7.—Word that the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech have resumed athletic relations is significant, not only insofar as it effects intercollegiate sport in Georgia but throughout the South. The influence will be decidedly tonic. Contests between these two institutions undoubtedly will come to mean as much in Dixie in the way of establishing atmosphere and erecting influence as the Yale-Harvard-Princeton games in the East, the important Big-Ten struggles in the Middle West and California and Stanford on the coast.

The two Georgian Universities probably will meet in baseball this spring and next year they will be involved in every branch of sport. Football would be played this fall but the schedules of both elevens are filled. The Bull Dogs and the Yellow Jackets have not joined in any sport—except in basketball, in which teams of the two institutions have met through the process of tourney matches—since 1919. The last football game was played in 1916.

Relations would no doubt have been resumed long ago but for the rivalry of alumni factions whose ardor finally attained a pitch which rendered it expedient that teams of the two colleges look elsewhere for opponents. Those who played the game and took defeat or victory as it came appear to have been very

little responsible for the break.

The future inference, thus, is clear—the establishment of that bond of friendly rivalry, common respect and sportsmanlike tolerance that gives to intercollegiate sport its highest sanction. There is not the slightest reason, for example, why partisans of the two seats of learning, say in Atlanta, cannot sit on opposite sides of Grant Field with all the fine spirit of friendly rivalry that characterizes contests here between Tech and Alabama. The way has been cleared for great things in Georgia.

They are talking down South of confining the paid coach to mass athletics and restricting intercollegiate teams to student coaches. Thus the influence of the Y. M. C. A. shows its head—whether for good or for bad the writer has never been able to decide. Certainly if a game is to be played up to the hilt—after the American fashion—such a consummation may be brought about only by the man who has made of coaching a career. Student coaching would mean a retrogression in technique. The point to be considered is whether such reaction is not worth the price of checking the present intercollegiate tendency toward intense specialization.

Gate receipts have come to possess a meaning in the South as elsewhere. Football is the producer and supports all other varsity and intramural games. What would happen were the process of preparing teams for the field to revert back to the practices of the eighties is a matter of mere conjecture.

REIDSVILLE HIGH WINS
Chapel Hill, March 7.—Reidsville High School won the western section basket ball title last night, defeating Charlotte 21 to 13. Wilmington plays Durham tonight for the eastern title.

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New York, March 7 — Baseball fans who are getting anxious about the lively baseball and its effect on the home run hitting of Babe Ruth and other sluggers, will be interested to know that today's is not the first lively baseball that the great pastime has had.

Away back in 1854, the governing powers of the game decreed that the ball should weigh from 5 1-2 to 6 1-2 ounces, and be from 2 3-4 to 3 1-2 inches in diameter. By 1858 they had done away with this marginal difference, fixing the specifications of the ball at 6 1-2 ounces, in weight and 10 1-4 inches in circumference. By that time, it had begun to "have a heart"—an inch and a half rubber center.

In the seventies it was a mighty lively ball, and resulted in scores of more than 200 runs. From that it speedily dropped to what was speedily known as the "dead" ball. Now the lively ball cycle is in again.

Clarence Cone of Inwood says of the golf ball controversy that the problem is whether the golf ball to be used shall be selected for one per cent of all players, the few experts who score regularly under 80, or the 99 per cent, the great army of players who are the support and life blood of the game.

Cone calls attention to the fact that with the present ball the averages in competition of the leading players in Great Britain, including Sarazan and Hagen, are all 75 or higher, and that at Inwood, the two leaders of the 350 players averaged 74.

He concludes: "The present ball gives the average player a good shot, a good hole or an occasional good round. It is taking a step backward to return to the lighter ball. Our gold legislators should be guided."

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