

# RACE NOT OVER IN AMERICAN LEAGUE

Philadelphia and Cleveland Big Disappointments But Winning or Losing a Series Might Turn Things Over.

By JOHN B. FOSTER  
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New York, May 6.—Cleveland and Philadelphia are dividing honors as the big disappointment of the American League. Much criticism has been directed at them for their failure to rise higher in the flight for the pennant.

It is unpleasant to the partisans of any team to see their pets faltering or failing to do exactly what was expected of them, but so far as Cleveland and Philadelphia are concerned, it would be a good idea to wait a little longer before throwing up the sponge.

The American League fight is far from over. There are points of strength in that organization which have not even been touched upon. Both Cleveland and Philadelphia presumably have batting skill and force, which should be in operation when some of the other American League teams have lost out.

The pitchers of both teams have failed so far to come up to expectations. That is the big trouble. Possibly Tris Speaker of the Indians may have overestimated the pitching power of the men he had with him at Lakeland. Yet at that time, the old fellows who had been faltering a little in the past seemed to have recovered their grip and usually it is the old men who can be depended upon after July 4. Their experience and their cunning are in their favor and when the weather gets hot enough to boil them out they go well.

If Speaker chose to start them earlier, figuring that his batting strength was as good or better than any other club in the league, he reasoned logically enough. The principal thing is the development of the pitchers. If they show nothing, then Cleveland is up against it.

There is no doubt that the Philadelphia pitchers have failed to come through, and Connie Mack thinks the weather treated him rather shabbily at Montgomery. He blames the poor work of his pitchers on lack of opportunity for spring work. Florida trained teams, he thinks, now have a little edge on him, and that is why he is planning to go farther South in 1925 than any of his rivals.

The question is whether the Athletics will do better as the mercury rises. The chances are that they will. Today little more than a series stands between the top and bottom in the American League race. Bear that in mind, because as the race goes on there are likely to be changes and recoveries that will be astonishing.

The loss of a full series, or the winning of a full series may cost a team the championship. Remember what happened to Pittsburgh when it became overconfident and blew a national pennant.

If the Philadelphia and Cleveland clubs were weak batting teams there might be more cause for apprehension as to their ultimate future. But they are not, and when they get shifted away in their pitching department—presuming that they do—they will be in the way of more than one team in the American League race.

East, the outfielder who has been sent from Minneapolis club to strengthen Washington, is not a bad ball player by any means, but he has got a lot to learn about playing in the shadow of the big stands of the majors. They impose upon these young outfielders the hardest kind of test, because no kid from the bushes knows what it is to play in and out of the deep shade and look into a black background sixty feet high.

## Landis Lands



Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the "baseball boss," as he appeared before the Senate committee where he created a sensation by criticizing President Coolidge's pardon of Philip Grossman, charged with violating the prohibition law. Landis declared he "was at a loss to understand" this action.

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## Girl Champ Trains for Olympic



Florence Chambers, all-round champion of Southern California, snapped in New York where she is training for the Olympic games swimming try-outs.

## ONLY BIG MONEY TALKS TO KEARNS

Wills Most Formidable Contender for Dempsey's Crown and Kearns Won't Take Risk for a Song.

By FAIR PLAY  
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New York, May 6.—There isn't any doubt that Jack Kearns will hold out for a cracking big piece of money for supplying Jack Dempsey as an opponent for Harry Wills in the arena at Jersey City next September. Neither should anyone be surprised if this fact stands out before long as an obstacle that may prevent the battle.

Kearns has an idea that his man can beat Wills. But he cannot be even reasonably certain. Of all the possible candidates for Jack's crown Wills is the most formidable. This being so there is of course more than a slight chance that the champion might be toppled from his throne.

If this happens Dempsey's days as a big money maker will be ended. A wise business man such as Kearns surely is would take this possibility into consideration. And he would not be a wise manager if he did not squeeze every cent out of the promoter that said promoter would stand.

It may be, as said, that Kearns may want more money for running this chance than Rickard, or any other promoter, would be willing to pay.

Kearns' reported asking price, \$750,000 probably would be regarded as too big. A fight of the sort while sure to be successful, hardly seems to justify paying that sum to one of the principals. Of course if there were a two million dollar gate the demand would seem more reasonable but no man in his senses believes that the gate, if such a battle is held, will realize anything of the sort.

In other words fans would do well not to bank too heavily just yet on the fight being staged—no matter what telegrams and reports pass to and fro between this city and California.

### Major League Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Monday's Scores

Cincinnati	3	Chicago	2
Philadelphia	3	New York	7
Brooklyn	11	Boston	4
Others not scheduled.			

AMERICAN LEAGUE  
Monday's Scores

Chicago	5	Detroit	3
Cleveland	5	St. Louis	3
Boston	5	Washington	3
New York	10	Philadelphia	5

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credit both to yourself and to the game of tennis."

There still is a possibility, however remote, that William T. Tilden may be brought back into the ranks of Davis cup stars. A little yielding on both sides, and the trick might be turned.

The board of governors of the West Side Tennis Club, Forest Hills, has voted to endorse the tennis association's player-writer interpretation of the amateur rule and urged its members to support the rule by word and act.

The executive committee of the Bethlehem Tennis League, on the other hand, has adopted a resolution declaring the league "does hereby unanimously protest this interpretation and ruling, and requests the committee to take steps to reconsider its action."

These two resolutions mark the extreme positions in the unfortunate situation which has come so near breaking up all harmony in tennis circles. Every attempt should be made to forestall the breaking up of tennis devotees into two armed camps.

## BASEBALL QUESTION BOX

If you have some question to ask about baseball—Write to John B. Foster, the man who helped make the rules under which the game is played today. If you want a personal reply enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise your question will be answered in this column.  
Address: John B. Foster, special baseball correspondent of The Daily Advance, 811 World Building, New York.

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Question—What is a spit ball and why is it prohibited in professional games?

Answer—A spit ball is one which is covered or partially covered by the pitcher with saliva when he throws the ball. It has been prohibited because it is not controllable and is disgustingly unsanitary and contagious.



## CANDY

Sweet Thoughts for MOTHERS' DAY

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## The Sportsman

By Walter Camp  
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New York, May 6.—Vincent Richards' letter to the United States Lawn Tennis Association gives hope that there is not going to be the big rift in the tennis world that seemed likely last week.

The letter was received with enthusiasm by the tennis authorities, and President Wightman wrote in acknowledging it:

"It is good to know that you will be available for the selection. Permit me to say that I consider your action most commendable. It is a



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