

SISLER HAS GOT YANKS WORRIED

Browns Pressing Champs Close and While Too Early to Say They'll Win They're Good Prospects.

By JOHN B. FOSTER
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New York, May 19.—George Sisler's St. Louis Browns have got the New York Yankees worried. Some very enthusiastic New York baseball men, who are competent to judge ball players, have begun picking the Browns to win the 1924 pennant on the strength of their showing against the Yankees.

It is most unusual when a New York partisan will concede anything to St. Louis. The fact that they are doing it illustrates how deep an impression the Browns have made out here in the East. The reason is that they have been playing smarter baseball in these parts than the Yanks have shown.

This writer is not picking the Browns as the 1924 champions. It's too early in the season for that. But he is saying that the Yankees have not yet got to get up on their toes and play ball if they want to win. They have got stronger opposition in several quarters than they had in 1923. The entire American League is out to spike their ambitions for a fourth straight pennant. The players of the other clubs are tired of hearing about Ruth and the other Yankees. And what's more they want a major cut on the world series money themselves.

The Browns have shown they are capable of keeping in the fight if they will hold their heels level. They are a better team than they were last season, because they have Sisler at first base and have better pitching. Wingart's successful debut with the Browns gives the team new life in the pitching department and provides a left hander who seems able to rate along at better than a .600 winning clip. He has not met all the tests that a young pitcher must meet, and he may slum later but he unquestionably has been a big factor in putting the Browns up at the start of the season.

Spring tonic was what the Browns needed. They got away very badly. If that start had not been remedied quickly, the Browns probably would have lagged in the second division indefinitely. For here is a ball team that needs the inspiration of winning to do its best. When it does not win the players are likely to become grouchy and quarrelsome.

New York won 15 out of 20 games with the Browns last year, beating them oftener than they beat any other club. Suppose the Browns split even with the Yankees this season. That would mean a drop from 750 to 500 in the win column for the Yankees, so far as their standing with the Browns is concerned.

Thus early, Washington has won two thirds as many games from New York as they did all last season. The Yanks are holding on to the top railing by their ability to beat Philadelphia and Boston.

No amount of conjecture would give the Browns a clear title to the championship, or, possibly, boost them as championship contenders, were it not for the fact that they have been up there in the past, and possess a lot of power that should put it in the race if the power is not dissipated foolishly.

In 1923 when Lee Fohl had finally got the Browns to working in something like form, he was dismissed by the Browns owners, a proceeding which cost St. Louis a chance to finish second or third. The players say so themselves. They are pulling this year for a season unmarred by a similar mishap.

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—Base runners are on first and second. No one is out. F. hits the ball for three bases scoring the men on first and second. It then develops that he is not the proper batsman and that E. should have batted. E is out for failure to bat in turn. Should F. who follows E be made to hit again and the runners be sent back to the bases?

Answer—If the mistake is discovered before the ball has been to the succeeding batter E is out and the runners go back to the bases they held while F whose turn is to bat goes behind the plate again.

Question—In the first of the seventh, the game having been agreed upon for seven innings, the catcher of the other team went to bat with his shinguards on. He missed the first ball and on the next he hit for two bases. Both teams said he was out but the umpire declared him safe. He came up again in the same inning with his shinguards off. Was he out the first time after having had one strike?

Answer—I shouldn't rule him out. His shinguards only handicapped him.

Question—Can a batter, if batting left handed after having a strike and ball, change to the other side and bat?

Answer—He may change to the other side and bat if he does not change while the pitcher is in the act of delivering the ball.

TALK WILLS TO MEET GODFREY

But Chances are That Harry Won't Risk It With Farmer Lodge Testifying That Godfrey Can Outfight Firpo.

By FAIR PLAY
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New York, May 19.—There is talk that Harry Wills has agreed verbally to meet George Godfrey at a Philly ball park this summer. According to the gossip, Jimmy Daugherty's statement that if there is to be a mixed bout Dempsey's opponent should be the real champion of the negro race, not any old colored fighter, stirred Wills to anger.

Daugherty's inference, of course, was that Wills is not the real champion and that Godfrey can prove this any time the two meet. Since Tex Rickard has pretty much of a strangle hold on Wills' future it is difficult to see how the fight could be held in Philly this summer. In other words if Harry has said anything indicating a willingness to meet Gawge it is probably a bluff.

The last thing the black panther would want to do just now would be to risk a lot of big money by taking on Godfrey. For anyone who meets that big black man is taking chances, bar no one. Farmer Lodge says that wallowing he got from Godfrey the other night was the most painful experience of his career. He hits harder than Firpo, says the farmer, and Lodge ought to know.

Billy Gibson has secured the backing of the American Legion in his fight to prevent Carpenter from meeting Tom Gibbons in Michigan City until after the Frenchman has

met Gene Tunney. It remains to be seen whether the veterans can succeed where lawyers evidently have failed.

Such publicity as the firm of Dempsey, Kearns and Company, is getting nowadays is being contributed by Kearns—undesirable publicity too. Usually it is the manager who is the substantial member of a fight firm, but in the case of the world's championship partnership it is the manager who is the bad little boy.

As a matter of fact Dempsey has not the physical qualifications for a bright lights habitue. If he smokes a cigar it makes him sick and a couple of drinks that the ordinary man would not notice do not agree with the champion at all. No champion fighter ever had natural habits that seemed so likely to keep him fit for so long a period as Dempsey.

Harry Johnson has recently returned from University Hospital at Baltimore very much improved.



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NATIONAL LEAGUE

Saturday's Scores.

Chicago	4	New York	2
Cincinnati	4	Boston	8
Pittsburgh	8	Philadelphia	12
St. Louis	7	Brooklyn	4

(13 Innings)

Sunday's Scores

Cincinnati	5	Brooklyn	4
Chicago	5	Philadelphia	8
St. Louis	5	Boston	4

Standing of Teams.

W.	L.	Pct.	
New York	16	11	.592
Cincinnati	16	11	.593
Chicago	17	14	.516
Brooklyn	14	14	.500
Boston	13	15	.464
Pittsburgh	12	15	.444
St. Louis	11	16	.404
Philadelphia	9	14	.391

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Saturday's Scores.

Boston	5	Chicago	4
Washington	6	Cleveland	4
Philadelphia	6	Detroit	9
New York	7	St. Louis	2

Sunday's Scores

Washington	3	St. Louis	6
New York	8	Cleveland	0
Detroit	4	Boston	5

Standing of Teams.

W.	L.	Pct.	
New York	16	9	.640
Boston	14	10	.583
St. Louis	15	11	.577
Detroit	14	12	.533
Washington	13	14	.481
Cleveland	12	13	.480
Chicago	11	13	.458
Philadelphia	7	18	.280

COLLEGE GAMES

Saturday's Scores.

Wake Forest	3	N. C. State	0
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HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday's Scores.

Shalby	5	Rockingham	0
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