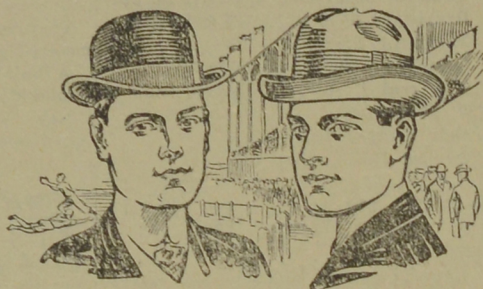


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SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD AND CATCHING FOR CLEVELAND

John Bassler, Recruit for Naps is
Youngest Player Except Acosta
of Washington Club

Pensacola, March 31.—In John Bassler, recruit catcher, Cleveland has training at Pensacola, one who is probably the youngest catcher in any training camp and with the probable exception of sixteen-year-old Acosta, the Washington outfielder the youngest player in the American League. Bassler is only seventeen years old.

What is more he looks it. There are many players who are far into the twenties, but who like to pose as about nineteen, and then get away with it. But when Bassler was asked his age out at Maxent Park the other day and replied soberly, "I'm seventeen," there was not a player within hearing but believed the boy and eyed him up with renewed interest.

Young as he is Bassler has already seen service in different parts of the country. His first professional engagement was with York in the Tri-State League, the early part of last year. After the season was over he drifted to the coast, and while there was induced to sign up in the winter league in which Ole Olson played. Ole always on the lookout for promising young players was impressed by his catching from the very first and before the league had closed he induced his young protegee to come down to Pensacola to try out.

One would take Bassler for a high school boy if he happened to see him about the lobby. No one takes him for a ballplayer and when it was learned that he was "one of the bunch" there was much craning of necks about the lobby to see him.

Bassler is showing much promise. His service in the winter league evidently helped him very much for he already is showing all the earmarks of a big leaguer. He is learning rapidly and if he doesn't make good right off the bat, it's a cinch the Naps will keep a tight hold on him wherever he goes.

REDS IN BAD WAY FOR GOOD PITCHERS

(Brooklyn Eagle)

In his mad desire to make a reputation for himself with the Cincinnati team, Joe Tinker has announced that he is going to carry nine pitchers this season. Where he is going to get them from, and how he is going to give them enough work to keep them from rusting is not explained. The truth is, Tinker is hard up for pitchers and unless he buys or develops one or two more good ones the prospects for the Reds finishing any higher than fourth place are exceedingly dim. Fromme, Suggs and Benton are his veterans from last year. Thus far, the correspondents with the team have not let out a single yell about a phenom having been uncovered among the recruit hurlers, and not one of them is even sure of a job, much less of being a life saver for a new and ambitious manager. Tinker has called to his assistance Mordecai Brown, but Brown is recovering from an operation for a floating cartilage in the knee, and his usefulness in the box is problematical, although he would be worth having around as a coach for the youngsters. Waivers have been asked on all the other twirlers, including Ralph Work, who was let out by Detroit.

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE OPENS

San Francisco, April 1.—The Pacific Coast Baseball League opens its fourteenth season today. According to President Allan T. Baum of the league, the outlook is for a close pennant race as the playing strength of the teams has been recruited to a degree which brings them close together. The games scheduled for today are: Venice (formerly Vernon) at Los Angeles, Oakland at Sacramento and Portland at San Francisco. The season will last thirty weeks closing October 26.

The first pennant race is started as usual by the Pacific Coast League. The two major leagues will get under way on Thursday of next week, on which day the American Association, the Southern League and the Texas League will also play their first games.

Beatrice Bellini, 2.08½ has been bred to Axworthy, 2.15½. Pittsburg, Detroit and Hartford entries close next week.

Wonder how Geers and Vernon McKinney will get along.

LULU AXWORTHY JOINS COX STABLE FROM MICHIGAN

Eight-Year-Old Axworthy Mare Said to
Have Bright Future on the Big
Line

Walter Cox has been to Michigan and the result of the trip is a car ride for Lulu Axworthy, 2.14½, a trotter tipped off as the best thing the Wolverine State has sent to the races since Lillian R, 2.04½, left there.

Last year the daughter of Axworthy, 2.15½, started in 17 races over the twice-arounds and at Monroe, Jackson, Vassar, Flint and Bay City in the Michigan Shore Ship Circuit, Toledo, Kalamazoo and Rockport she handled good fields easily.

Frank Cooke, turf editor of the Detroit Free Press, a good judge of horses and a conservative one when it comes to their ability to get the big line is very enthusiastic over this eight-year-old mare and predicts a brilliant campaign for her.

RAY TIFT PLEASED
Ray Tift is pleased with his Somerville High charges. John Scannell will have to do nearly all the twirling. Hoban is expected to do the catching. Luciano, Leland and Hirschson will play the outfield positions. Capt. John Mitchell will play third, where he performed well last season, and Jim Robertson is again slated for second. First and shortstop will be open, but the new candidates are doing well and it should not be difficult to pick two good players.

WALTER COX HAS BIG STRING OF HORSES

At New York turf writer, in discussing the coming harness racing season, says:

Not since Budd Doble's most prosperous year, 1891, has a trainer had so many horses in his charge as are now in the hands of Walter Cox. Seventy-five stalls are occupied include pickups from the Maritime Provinces to beyond the Mississippi. His stable will be new, the only holdovers of note being the trotter Ester W., 2.04½, and pacers Branham Baughman, 2.04½, Mansfield, 2.05½, and Baron A., 2.06½.

For the trotting stakes Cox will rely upon Baring, 2.13½, the six-year-old brother to Baden, 2.05½; Berghin, 2.06½ and Belvasia, 2.06½. Little is known of Baring's real capacity, as he has never been seen on a mile track, all of his racing having been confined to the half mile tracks of New Brunswick. He is an unbeaten stallion, however, is considered a game horse, and his speed recommendation is a final quarter in 31 second in a half-mile track race.

NJVA SCOTIA TO HAVE NO PRO BASEBALL

(Acadian Recorder.)

There is little prospect this season of a provincial baseball league, run on the same lines as last year, owing to the great expense for players, coupled with the small receipts to some games abroad. There will be baseball in Halifax, however, and some schemes are being devised as to make such a success.

One proposal is that of forming clubs with importation of a battery for each and from which teams a strong nine could be selected to meet visiting clubs. There will be no trouble of having quite a number of the latter visit here during the season.

Another idea is to have what might be termed a semi-professional league with about five imported men on each team. The idea is to have a league with Halifax, Truro, Springhill, Amherst, Moncton and Middleton, and if the latter would not put in a nine, to have two teams in Halifax. It is thought that by not having too expensive a salary list that some college players could be induced to come here. It is also suggested that a five-mile road race be held in connection with some of the Saturday games. It is understood that the clubs mentioned outside the city have been communicated with, and that if a favorable response is received, that a meeting will be shortly held at Halifax to make arrangements.

AMERICAN LEAGUE HAS MANAGERS OF MORE EXPERIENCE

National Has Three New Managers,
Evers, Tinker and Huggins—Birmingham's Qualifications

If experience counts for anything the American League should have a decided shade on the National circuit when it comes to managing this season. Three of the National League managers this year will be experienced. Evers, Tinker and Huggins have never been in charge of a ball team before and it is by no means assured that any one of the trio is capable to compete with his rivals.

In the American League every man will have had at least some experience, Birmingham of Cleveland, being the only one of the eight who can be figured an experiment, and even he gave evidence of having ability during the few weeks he handled the reins over the Naps last season.

Simply because a player has been numbered among the stars of the game does not assure his success as a manager. There have been innumerable instances where star players have failed to show so advantage when placed in charge of a team and the most glaring instance of this kind was furnished by Harry Davis at Cleveland last summer. Having played under "Connie" Mack for years it was the general impression that no man was better fitted for a managerial berth than Davis.

He had years of experience of the right kind and was supposed to have absorbed the successful system for which Mack is noted. But Davis was a frost as a manager. He lacked everything that goes to make up a successful leader and before the season was over he gave up in disgust. Davis showed ability just so long as he had a competent man over him. But when he was thrown on his own resources he proved a failure. Some of the young men who have secured managerial berths during the present winter may come to the conclusion before next season is very old that they have over-estimated their own ability, as did Davis.

SPORTS OF ALL KINDS

Rugby as well as soccer attracts big crowds in the Old Country. At Twickenham a fortnight ago Saturday 35,000 people saw England beat Scotland one try to nil, 3 to 0, and regain the International championship and the Calcutta Cup. The full limit of play allowed by Rugby rules, ninety minutes was used and England won through superiority of her forwards. Brown captain of the Oxford Varsity led the English team.

There is a lull in local horse talk and some followers of the horse racing game hold that the sport is due for a slump here this season.

A curiosity in spring stalls has been adopted by the Walla Walla team of the Western Tri-State. It will train on its home grounds and on Sundays will play the convict team of the Washington State penitentiary. Warden Reed says his team is all signed up and he will waive on none of them. Nor has he been bothered by contract jumpers. His men are working out regularly in the stone quarries, are keeping good hours and are reported in first class condition.

A report from West Baden Springs, Ind., has it that business men of the town are considering building a huge structure with glass roof protected by a steel netting and a full-size dirt diamond for a floor as an inducement to major league teams to train there, thus making it possible to practice when there is bad weather.

Mike Mowrey is carrying his years unusually well and has forced Miller Huggins to admit that he is the best third base candidate for the Cardinals for one more year at least.

Del Gainer who gave promise of becoming a star first baseman until his wrist was broken with a pitched ball delivered by Jack Coombs early in 1911, apparently has the full use of the injured member after being being out of the game almost two seasons. His recovery solves Detroit's first base problem.

"Pat" Kunkle, a Shrewsbury, Pa., recruit twirled a no-hit, no-run game for the Newark Indians against Charleston. Only three of his opponents reached first base, two on passes and the other on being hit by a pitched ball.

CUBANS CAUSE TROUBLE FOR TINKER AT CINCINNATI

Do Not Take Kindly to Club Discipline
---Two of Them May be Let go
Shortly

Cincinnati's three Cubans are causing Tinker trouble. They are Marsans, Almeida and Rumanach. Their great trouble is that they do not get the idea of club discipline firmly fixed in their minds, and do not hesitate to go romancing around the country on their own account without the detail of getting permission from a manager who may need them badly. Almeida was sent to the Southern League last season largely because of his debonair doings, but was recalled to fill the job of utility infielder. Tinker has become sore on the proposition and has asked for waivers on Almeida and Rumanach, but Charles Zuber, the Cincinnati writer, says it is not likely Almeida will be shunted away from Cincinnati if Tinker can make him see the light of reason. Cabrera, with the Cardinals, and Baldsmere Acosta, and Jacinto Cario, with the Washington team, who are also Cubans, do not appear to be giving their bosses causes for worry. The two last named may be carried all season, Acosta is only 16 years old, but is said to handle himself with all the coolness of a veteran to hit well and be lightning fast on the bases. Calvo is whacking the ball hard and, while slow in getting away from the plate, is remarkable speedy once he is started.

MIDDLE SOUTHAMPTON

Continued from page 2

The infant daughter, Ruth, of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Brown has been very ill with pneumonia but is now better.

Report says that one of our young men who has been at work on the Pinder Railway will take unto himself a wife, buy a little farm and work in the woods no more.

Crossing on the river is stopped, the shore ice getting bad. Now, for a month or so there will be no crossing. What about our bridge? One is greatly needed here, as this is the thoroughfare between Canterbury Station and Millville and it would accommodate all the people of Campbell Settlement, Hartfield, etc., in getting their produce over to the Valley Ry.

In spite of a down-pour of rain and mud ankle deep the play called "The Country Doctor" drew a full house on Thursday evening and between \$34 and \$35 which goes towards paying for the new school grounds was realized. Ali took their parts well; and it went without a hitch. It is pronounced one of the very best ever seen here. Mr. Chipman Grant as sheriff played his part like a professional, and never failed to "bring down the house." The specialties were first class and made a great hit. Miss Gladys Grant's solo "The Rosary" was beautifully sung and her encore "The Four Leafed Clover" showed a voice of great power and sweetness. As soon as the roads permit it is expected that this play will be put on at Hawkshaw and Meductic as they have invitations from these two places.

The Methodists of Canterbury Station held a Grand Concert in the hall there tonight, and the Church of England people of the same place are to give a similar entertainment Saturday evening, April 5th.

A RED-LETTER DAY FOR THE REAL FANS

Chicago, Ill., April 1.—This is a red day!

Let the brass bands blare and the mobs roar, for the great double-barreled and triple-ringed six month circus of baseball is about to be turned loose in the land.

The crack of the bat and ball in the far West this afternoon ushers in the 1913 season of professional baseball games and before the diamonds are abandoned toward the end of October they will number about 25,000 scheduled contests.

In quick succession after the beginning of the big league races, the International, Western, Southern Atlantic, Northwestern and Virginia leagues will open followed by the Central League and Eastern Association on April 23. The Central Association and the New England and New York State leagues will begin their schedules on the last day of April. The first ten days in May will see practically all of the remaining minor organizations started on their championship races.