

GOUGHAM'S GREAT OPENER PROVES BIGGEST INAUGURAL ON RECORD

YANKEES PLEASE WITH THEIR ATTACK Ruth Shows His Tremendous Power on Offense and Carl Mays Is Superb in Holding Opposition.

NEW YORK, N. Y., April 18.—The greatest crowd that ever attended an opening game in the history of the Polo Grounds last Wednesday, when the Yankees cut loose the American League's first official on a side effect in which the Athletics were crushed, 11 to 1. At least 35,000 fans were present, and probably 10,000 more refused admission when the grandstand and bleachers had been filled to capacity.

They have seen every opening game here since 1883 and I am in a position to say that the Yankees and Athletics drew a record attendance. The weather was perfect, the game was a war, which probably was one of the reasons for the extraordinary outpouring, but even so the interest manifested by the fans proved beyond a peradventure that confidence in the national pastime has been completely restored.

Naturally a great many persons went up to Harlem to see the mighty Babe Ruth. They wanted to see him drive out a home run every time he stepped to the plate, but they were doomed to disappointment, because Tarzan made "disappointment" a habit when he drove out a home run. He was a rank racker, inasmuch as Second Baseman Dykes really muffed a liner. But the Babe got a two-bagger from the catcher, which puts an end to the matter.

Ruth, however, was responsible for the Macken's lone run when he vainly tried to catch Dugan's low line of one hop in the seventh inning with Clarence Walker on second and two men out. The Babe was slow in getting started when he hit left fielder Dugan, but he might have gobbled it. But the fly ball got away from the Yankee star and resulted in a three-bagger on which Walker counted.

All These as Opening Incidents. The flags were flying and the band was playing when Mayor Hylan and the Yankees owners emerged from the press in right center field. The latter were carrying straw-footed across the field to a private box. Hylan threw in a bow ball amid great excitement, and the National Association's president, who is a grapher, took his picture a million times. When the press stand had been filled with unemployed bartenders, bum actors, prize fighters and bachelors, Carl Mays was at the top of his form. He had marvelous control and yielded only three hits, two being made by Clarence Walker. The Athletics in the most impressive manner and they would have swallowed nine consecutive goose eggs if Ruth hadn't messed up the smash.

Scott Perry to the multitude and the big pitcher was savagely pounded, but brilliantly supported. However, all favored the Hugmen and when the Old Hoodoo got busy with Perry in the seventh with the score 2 to 1 against him he was made to take a base on error on balls, an infield scratch, a sacrifice, but a misjudged slug from Ruth's bat and a muff at the plate by Catcher Perkins.

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LOOKS PRETTY GOOD FROM BOSTON ANGLE GEORGE GRANT PROVES HIMSELF TO BE A REAL PROPHET.

He Said All Along He Had a Team That Would Show the Worth of His Sort of Treatment.

BOSTON, Mass., April 18.—Put yourself in Boston and get the Boston angle and you will have a true picture of the baseball situation in pretty satisfactory, all dopes of the pre-season predictors of the contrary notwithstanding, and regardless of which league your affiliations may lean to. If the reader will hark back and recall some statements made in Boston correspondence he will find it to the effect that Fred Mitchell as manager of the Braves was bringing North from the training camp in Canton a team that might possibly have some of the elements that made the Braves of 1914 famous—a satisfied bunch of ball players, well balanced as to playing strength, and filled with a determination to prove to their manager and their employer that they appreciated good treatment and good fellowship between man and man.

There's a Judge Landis. This was the cry, and it was heard by the entire grandstand before the entire grandstand had been located. Almost simultaneously everybody stood up and cheered vociferously. For a few minutes the Judge did not know what it was all about, but suddenly he realized that he was the object of interest. Before he did he gazed on the field as if he were watching a play. He was not watching a play, but he was watching a play. He was not watching a play, but he was watching a play.

Not Expected to Keep It Up. 'Nobody in Boston believes the Braves will continue to lead their league in number of games won, or even in batting average, but every fan met will argue with you that the Braves in their first week's work have furnished a demonstration of ball club organization and leadership that the critics have allotted to them, and again it must be admitted that results are results.

Chicago's opening was wonderful. As I said before, nearly 25,000 fans were in the stands. The crowd was the largest that President Veeck, was closer to the figures than it was to 22,000, the total estimated by most scribes. It was the greatest crowd since the National League was organized by most guesswork at least a possibility for another pennant. The result of the four games played in the first week, another victory in Brooklyn, and the two teams shifted to avoid the peculiarities of Massachusetts law makers regarding playing ball clubs on Sunday.

The night before the opening President Veeck gave a steak dinner at the Congress Hotel in St. Louis to the Chicago and St. Louis teams. Judge Landis was the guest of honor. He was the only speaker and he said a mouthful. The players will remember that he said to the players that it was up to them to rehabilitate the sport by hustling and trying to the limit of their ability. He said that some players might not try as hard as they should, but he said that he would be watching them for everything that was better in their territory for fear if they missed it the fans in the stands would criticize them and think they did it for a purpose.

Average Fan is Fair-Minded. "That is not so," said Judge Landis. "One might and a few fans who are unjust in that respect, but I believe it is the duty of every fan to give every man a chance. I believe the fans of today are willing to give baseball the chance it deserves. I believe they are willing to give it a chance to prove itself. I believe they are willing to give it a chance to prove itself. I believe they are willing to give it a chance to prove itself."

Getting back to the opening game at the Polo Ground, Manager Evers' popularity was soon ascertained. Before the game started representatives from the Klansman Club, the Lions Club, the Moose Club, the Elks Club, the Odd Fellows Club, the Home Club, presented the new plot with baskets of flowers and a silver loving cup.

Alexander started on the rubber, but had to quit after the seventh inning. Up to that time the Cardinals gathered one hit, which was made by the feet-footed Headcheater in the eighth inning. On the seventh Alexander twisted something in the elbow of his arm and imported the information to Rivers. Rather than let the greatest right-hander of the day continue and undergo the risk of injuring his arm permanently the pilot took him out to let Vernon Freeman, one of the youngsters, take his place.

OVATION FOR LANDIS MARKS CUBS' START WEATHER ALIB MUST BE ANSWER ENOUGH

PACKED STANDS RISE AND CHEER AS WHY LOOK FOR GOOD PITCHING IN SNOW AND RAIN? Anyway, Browns Showed No Worse Than Did the Indians, Which Is Some Comfort for St. Louis.

CHICAGO, Ill., April 18.—On opening day at the Cubs' park baseball fans had their first opportunity to put their stamp of approval on the new appointment as High Commissioner of the sport. Nearly 25,000 fans jammed into the North Side grounds and nearly all of them were within the enclosure when Landis came into the park. It was not long before the entire grandstand was packed and the cheering was so loud that it was almost directly behind the plate.

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CHICAGO HAD ITS FEATURE



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Urban Shocker proved himself fit to pitch in the kind of a club this Detroit outfit is. He appeared, winning the inaugural game, saving the final of the series for young Ray Kolt, who is going to be heard from later. Dixie failed in his job, but did not let his confidence in his own pitching performance. If anything the Browns may have had the shade, though the actual business of going after pennants was started, however, both St. Louis teams made a bid to win the first game, the best bet of both managers looking like a bunch of town loafers.

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