

FOSTER WASTES NO TIME ON UNCERTAINTIES

Chicago Manager Calls to His Colors Only Players He Feels Sure Can Stand New League Pace.

(By Dave Wyatt.)

Just a little breathing space, and then the new league hurly-burly will begin. Those dearly beloved Giants of ours are about as well prepared as anybody in the league—better I think, than several other clubs—and ought to put up a rattling argument from the first gong—if they will only hit that ball. The past week, uncle "Rube" was seen mailing a whole bag of vouchers for transportations; so the diamond gods should soon be rolling in from all points of the compass. As at present constituted, the Giants' team is made up of good batsmen, Yellows who should hit hard and often, but the question is how soon will they strike their gait? On all around class and machine-like polish, they should get a big lead on the other clubs in the Western circuit of the League during April and May, but if they don't hit their full stride until after that time, they are likely to be smothered. It is not the easiest thing in the world to get Foster to talk about the strength of his league and the clubs therein, whether for publication or for private enlightenment, and there are times when he will not say anything about his own team, but ordinarily he will wax optimistic about his own men. "Our defense is to be just as strong as it was last year in pitching and in catching and in the infield. It will be as strong in the outfield, where we will have plenty of speed, and throwing arms the equal of last year. I am uncertain as to just who will make the regular combination out there. At any rate, you will see as much difference between the Senior Torrentti of today and of last year as there is between night and day. Then in batting, I believe my team this year will be a better combination for me. I have speed which can carry through plays which were flat failures last year because the men who were as asked to carry them out lacked speed. The element of speed will have a big influence on our play this year. Some of the smart teams of the circuit who think they have our style of play down pat will be surprised. The Giants have been handicapped in the past by not having the fleet-footed men with which to make certain organized plays. Look over the fast men we have secured this season. There are Malarcher, Reese, Williams, Torrentti, Gans, DeMoss, and Brown, all faster than the average ball player, and most of them among the very fleet men of the game, the sort of players to bother an infield and the battery as well for fear of bunts, and swinging bunts and everything else like that. I am sincere in saying that I believe Bobby Williams will have a good year at short stop. It's my belief that he will be in there at the start of the season and that he will go great. In the unfortunate event of any of the regulars being unable to play, the team will be better fortified with second string material than in years.

There are one or two positions which require some consideration as yet; but for the most part the selections have been definitely made. First base, second base, third, and center field are nothing to bother about. I would like to know that Reese would come through for left field; for if he does his hitting will mean considerable. We should have good pitching. Dave Brown looks as though he ought to have another good year, and the same is true of Tom Johnson, T. Williams, "Beans" Williams and the others. We have an excellent supply of flinging material. Dixon, our first string catcher, is in excellent form and his able assistant, Jim Brown, bids fair to develop into one of the most dependable maskmen in the circuit. Maybe in a week or so I will be able to state definitely what men are to be retained and which are to be set adrift. We have twenty-five players in the preparatory work at present; we will not carry that many but a short while after the season opens. In concluding, I want to assure the fans of Chicago and to tell those of all the circuit also that I am going to do my level best to have a winning team this season. I am not saying how or what we are going to do, but I am saying that we have a much better combination than we had last season, and that we will positively not be with the also rans in the race. No matter what betides us, you will find us working all the time.

ONE OF THE MAIN COGS IN THE DETROIT STARS MACHINE.



SHORT STOP JOE HEWITT.

Joe Hewitt, the St. Louisian, who cavorts around the short-stop territory for the Wolverine aggregation, is considered by the well informed, to be one of the most valuable assets that any club in the new circuit can lay claim to. Hewitt is a slashing left hand hitter, a nifty fielder and with a wealth of baseball brains, acquired through his familiarity of the methods employed by the half dozen big teams of the country, he takes high rank in the class of those infielders unanimously recognized as great.

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