

MANAGER JOE WOFFORD HAS GARNERED GREAT TEAM OF PLAYERS

Laurens, S. C., May 21.—(Special): When the umpire calls "Play Ball" at Union next Monday afternoon, Manager Joe Wofford—the only original Cincinnati of the great national pastime—will be among those present with as husky and withal as likely-looking a staff as has been got together in a long time here or anywhere else.

Many of last year's pennant-winners are still with the team; and, when two days later the 1924 aggregation opens in Laurens with Union, the local fans—which class includes practically everybody in the city—will doubtless give their several favorite players the heartiest of hearty welcomes. And they deserve it too; for, in addition to knowing how to play the game, the members of the Laurens club have endeared themselves to the community by their gentlemanly demeanor always. It is not alone, therefore, to be represented by such successful sportsman but the possession of so clean and well-behaved a lot of wholesome young Americans that makes for the popularity of baseball and baseball players here.

Manager-Player-Diplomat Joe has been exceedingly busy in securing the services of outside talent as well as attracting most of last year's men; and, during the try-out week, he will have ample material from which to select those who will be destined to go the route to another championship.

Though temporarily out of the lineup on account of an injured ankle, "Babe" Betsill can be confidently counted on to come across with the speed and the curves just as he did last year. The same may be said for "Lefty" Bobo, the strike-out king, who is in prime condition and ready to twirl a no-hit game on short notice.

But there are also other pitchers who are on Joe's roster—eight of them—all ready and waiting and rearin' to go. Hughie Smith, 24, from Carnesville, Ga., played with Anderson last year, his record being 9 games won, 2 lost and 2 tied. Brannon Godfrey, 24, of Woodruff, won 7 out of 15 games pitched in 1923; but it is to be remembered that he was in the fast moving Virginia League. The same applies to E. E. Purcell, 23, of Carnesville, Ga., (he being a townie of Hughie Smith), who won 5 out of his 12 games for High Point

last year in the Piedmont League. William Hines, 23, of Charleston, gave the Laurens fans a touch of high life in last Friday's practice game with Clinton. He pitched last season for Orangeburg, winning 7 out of his 8 starts. J. H. Flowers, 28, is rated as not only a pitcher but also a 350-hitting outfielder. He played last season for Caroleen of the Blue Ridge League, pitching 10 games of which he won 6, lost 2 and tied the other 2. Jimmie Hilton, 28, was with Flowers for the first half of last season, finishing the season with Rock Hill. His pitching record for Rock Hill was 8 victories and but 2 defeats. Wofford pitched two seasons for his local high school without losing but one game during that entire time. During the summer months, he has pitched for several fast independent teams. J. D. Donaldson, 31, of Charlotte, pitched last year for Caroleen along with Flowers who is authority for the statement that Don was the best pitcher on the team, being a curve artist par excellence and a 290 hitter besides.

Manager Joe fully realizes how many ball games are lost for the want of catchers who can throw and who also can think and that in a great big hurry. So he has founded up several who are in the habit of using their heads for other and better purposes than merely to hang their hats on. "Kid" Dodgen, 20, of Atlanta, played last season with Winchester, Ga., where he led his club in batting with an average of .369. Joe Kennerty, 23, of Charleston, played with the Standard Oil team last year, hitting .280 for the entire season. Of all catchers who figured in last year's Carolina League scores, none was considered to be the superior of Roy Moore. Fortunately for Laurens, he will be on hand when the first ball is pitched; and, when the first ball is pitched to him, the artist from whom it emanates had better bear in mind the fact that Roy's batting average for 1923 was well over the 300 mark.

When it comes to slugging, though, the local patrons of the finest of all sports have been privileged to see young "Casey" Thornton, of Enoree, in action. He claims to be only 18 years old, but it would certainly seem to have taken a longer time that that for him to have so focussed his eye

on the elusive sphere as to pile up the slugging that he did right out in plain sight last Friday afternoon. "Casey" faced the pitcher from Clinton five times; or, to put it more accurately, the visiting moundman was obliged to face "Casey" that often. The net result was one home run, one double and two singles whereas the fifth one would have unquestionably gone for a slashing one-sacker had it not been for the unfortunate fact that there was a runner on first who just had to get out at second. Hit as it was to deep second, the ball could not possibly have been sent to first in time to kill "Casey", nor yet to third to successfully cut off the runner there; but, as it happened, the well-deserved base hit had to be set down as a force-out of the runner at second and consequently "Casey" lost out on his almost average of 1000 for the afternoon. "But can he keep it up?" queried one pessimistic fan. Quick as a flash came back the automatic answer: "He has thus far!"

"Casey", by the way, is listed as an outfielder, in which territory he is assured of good company in plenty. Joe himself is on the job. Enough said; for as well try to introduce Charlie Chaplin or Douglas Fairbanks to a movie audience as Joe Wofford to anybody in Laurens. Archie O'Connor, too, is scarcely what you would call a stranger in these parts—Archie who covers a considerable portion of any outfield all by himself and, when not thus employe, is liable at any time to break up a game by hitting when hits mean runs. That he is 23 does not in any degree interfere with his skill or his luck; but the real fact is that, like his ever-popular brother Mack who inhabits the third base station for Laurens, he just naturally knows base ball and loves it and plays it every minute of the time—not for his own individual record but for his team and his town. When it comes to outfielding, W. T. Sigman is far from a forgettable factor in the success of the local team. In addition to gathering in everything that comes within his reach, Sigman slugs around 350 when Laurens is at the bat. Third baseman O'Connor, incidentally, does not do all his work around the torrid corner, his official average for the season of 1923 being something like .325. Another outfielder who is liable to be heard from before the 1924 season is many games old is Willie Corn, 20, who in the Western North Carolina League in 1922 hit for an average of .433 and last year with the Forest City Club of the Blue Ridge League came through with an average of .410 for the season.

Of infield material Joe also is not unmindful. "Red" Howard needs no introduction either to the baseball public here where he has played for two years or to the art of covering second base where he is everlastingly there with the goods. Equally well and favorably known and universally liked is Jimmie Briggs who is so much at home around first base that one cannot help wondering why he gives his permanent address as Salisbury, North Carolina. In the event, however, that Jimmie should be temporarily disabled, young Paul Collier, 24, of Jefferson, Ga., is no slouch around the initial sack. He played with Oglethorpe University and with Americus of the South Georgia League in 1923, hitting well over 300 for the season. The only two 1924 pennant chasers yet to report are Shortstop F. L. Hunnicutt, of Waycross, Ga., and F. G. Neale, of Laurinburg, N. C. Hunnicutt played two years with Knoxville and last season was with Jackson City of the Cotton States League. Neale is still a student at Trinity college. Last year he played second base for Forest City of the Blue Ridge League, batting .440 plus. Young Tidwell, variously listed as an outfielder, an infielder and a general utility player, seems to be equally at home practically anywhere where there's work to be done. He is said to far and away the most promising product of Laurens high school for several years past.

JESS SMITH KNOWN AS GENERAL "BOSS"

Says He Was Right Hand Man of Attorney General Daugherty

Washington, May 20.—Upon the authority of former Attorney General Daugherty, orders given by Jess Smith, his friend and companion, were taken and obeyed by the bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice, Lewis J. Bailey, its former acting chief, testified today before the Senate Daugherty committee.

Bailey, new agent in charge for the bureau at Atlanta, was acting chief from October, 1920, to August, 1921. He said he was told by Mr. Daugherty to take up all questions with Smith.

Mr. Daugherty said he was a very busy man," Bailey testified, "but that Mr. Smith represented him. Anything that came up, he told me, I should see Smith about, and whatever Smith told me to do would be all right."

"Did you do so?" asked Senator Wheeler.

"Yes," Bailey replied, "except in one or two incidents, where I had some question as to Mr. Smith's judgment and went to the attorney general."

The witness related how Smith had told an assistant chief of the bureau, "he had to get out."

"Everybody around the Department of Justice recognized him as the man they had to pay attention to," Bailey said.

"He was the most powerful man there next to the attorney general." "You understood that Smith was a sort of a messenger for the attorney general," asked George E. Chamberlain, attorney for Mr. Daugherty.

"Well, I don't know as to being a messenger," Bailey responded.

"He was some sort of a representative of the attorney general, though I don't say I was to follow his word entirely, without some indication that the attorney general approved."

"Did Smith ever request you to do anything wrong?" Mr. Chamberlain demanded.

"There were two or three little questions we could not agree on," Bailey said.

"There was not any corruption in his request?"

Smith got everything he wanted, Bailey said, when Senator Wheeler asked as to his access to official files. The bureau of investigation files were frequently furnished to him, the witness declared, though all the files he remembered Smith having were in reference to employes.

"Everybody up there understood they had to do what he told them," Bailey added.

"If they were like me, they figured they had better take his orders or look for a new job."

J. Pierce Miller, a former Washington newspaper man, testified that he met Jess Smith, in February, 1922 while assigned to get news from the Department of Justice and that Smith's "general attitude was that of an official of the Department." Smith at the time had no particular office, he said, but "roamed around various offices, chiefly occupying the attorney general's office."

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