

BASEBALL'S BIG CROWD

Auspicious Opening of American League Grounds in This City.

Home Team Won from Washington—
New York National League Nine
Lost in Philadelphia.

Only five of the eight baseball games on the schedules of the two major leagues were played yesterday, the others being postponed on account of rain or wet grounds. The adverse weather conditions were experienced in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Chicago, while along the eastern circuit summerlike weather prevailed.

The great event in the baseball world was the opening of American League Park, on Washington Heights, and the introduction of the Greater New York Club's team to an immense crowd of metropolitan patrons of the game. Owing to their seeming inability to find the ball in the majority of their games since the American League season began, there was an impression that the new club's players were weak in batting power. If they live up to the standard established in yesterday's game, when they outbatted the Washingtons, there should be no room for unfavorable comment, as the men batted well and at the right moment.

The Eastern League season was begun yesterday in Baltimore, Worcester, Rochester, and Providence, where the Buffalo, Newark, Toronto, and Jersey City teams were the winners. The attendance at each place was very satisfactory, and in every instance was larger than in former years.

Following are the scores of the games in the National and American Leagues, respectively:

- Philadelphia, 10; New York, 2
- Boston, 10; Brooklyn, 2.
- Pittsburg, 13; St. Louis, 4.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.

New York Beat Washington in the Opening Game of the League in This City.

President Ban Johnson's long-threatened invasion of New York baseball territory became an accomplished fact yesterday afternoon, when the Greater New York Club of the American League opened its new baseball grounds, American League Park, on the loftiest point of Washington Heights. According to the automatic checkers in the revolving turnstiles, 16,243 persons passed in through the several entrances to see the first American League game on Manhattan Island, and yet there was plenty of room for nearly as many more within the spacious inclosure.

Although the stands have not yet been completed, the occupants of the half-finished structures seemed to be perfectly satisfied with the seating arrangements. While the big gathering was not overdemonstrative, the absence of fault finding was in itself an assurance to the management that the patrons fully appreciated the difficulties which beset the new club, and due credit was given to the almost herculean efforts of the officials who had accomplished so much in such a brief time.

The diamond, newly sodded and rolled to perfection, was the only spot in the big field which could not be improved. The outfield was very rough and uneven and the eastern side of the grounds, known as right field, has yet to be filled in before the work of batters and fielders can be judged with any degree of accuracy. Ground rules governed the long hits made in the opening contest, and these precluded any three-base or home-run hits being made, except the ball were driven out of the grounds. Ropes were stretched along the back part of the outfield, and a ball batted beyond these was good only for two bases.

When the field is leveled off and these rules revoked a ball hit to deep right, left, or centre should be worth a home run, and it will require the efforts of the most husky batsman to drive a ball over the high fence on the north and east sides of the big field. Only five more games are to be played before the new team takes its first Western trip, which will begin May 7. The players will return June 1, and by that time the contractors will have everything completed so that during the remainder of the season the home and opposing teams will have one of the finest and best-appointed playing grounds in the country on which to fight out their baseball battles.

The weather yesterday was ideal, and the big crowd of men and women seemed not alone to enjoy the outing, but they generally entered into the spirit of the occasion and were quick to applaud every brilliant play, and equally as quick to observe the slightest mistake. As each person entered the grounds, he or she was presented with a small American flag, and later on these little emblems played a prominent part in the popular demonstration which greeted the players at the conclusion of the parade across the grounds. At 3 o'clock both teams formed in line on the northern side of the field. The Greater New Yorkers were resplendent in their new white uniforms and caps of white flannel and black facings, topped off with natty maroon-colored coats, while the opposing team from Washington wore their combination suits of white shirts and blue pants.

Headed by Bayne's Sixty-ninth Regiment Band, the parade was begun to the strains of "The Washington Post March," an appropriate compliment to the visiting club. As the men marched across the diamond the occupants of the stands and bleachers arose en masse, each one waving a tiny American flag, and the scene was both picturesque and inspiring. When the band arrived within a few feet of the grand stand it played "The Star-Spangled Banner." All hats were raised, and the cheering which followed echoed and re-echoed from the Heights across the Hudson to the New Jersey Palisades and back again, and drowned the strains of "Yankee Doodle" as the players broke ranks and began their preliminary practice.

Then the spectators sat down again to watch the different plays and feast their eyes on the movements of the metropolitan representatives, some of whom were comparative strangers to most of the local patrons. "Willie" Keeler, of course, was the most popular member of the new team, while Chesbro and O'Connor were almost as well known as the former Captain of the Brooklyn team. Ganzel, Long, Davis, Williams, McFarland, Conroy, and Courtney were in turn pointed out by the "fans" to the uninitiated, while the army of "cranks" and "rooters" leaned back in their seats and passed favorable and unfavorable comments on every little move of the men.

The members of the opposing team also came in for a generous share of attention. There were big "Ed" Delehanty, looking untrained and overfed; Selbach, who is no stranger to New Yorkers; Robinson, Ryan, Coughlin, Drill, and Townsend, and many others of more or less note, and Manager Clark Griffith paying close attention to the work of every individual. There was plenty of opportunity for comparison, and the "fans" did not lose a particle of it, but the buzz of comment quickly subsided when the two umpires made their appearance. President Johnson, looking supremely happy, with G. Hector Clemes, one of the Directors of the Washington Club, and President "Joe" Gordon of the local organization, soon became the centre of interest in the midst of a group of friends in the grand stand. Every one watched the chief invader intently, and when he quickly threw out the ball to Conroy the crowd cheered lustily.

Then the game began and the contest, while one-sided all the way through, was interesting at every stage. Chesbro was in great form and the visitors could not make much headway with his delivery. Delehanty was at the bat five times, but even he could not make a safe hit, neither could Selbach, while the New York team individually and collectively played winning baseball from start to finish. They scored a run in their half of the first inning, Keeler making the tally on his safe hit, Ryan's fumble, and a drive over the left-field ropes by Williams. In the second New York scored another one through Conroy, who hit to right field for two bases, went to third on Courtney's sacrifice, and crossed the plate when O'Connor sent the ball whizzing safely along the third-base line.

Two more runs were added to the home team's account in the fifth, but in the meantime sharp fielding had prevented any tally being made by the visitors. Davis hit to left for a base, Keeler got first on called balls, McFarland bunted, forcing Davis at third, but Williams again made a two-bagger, scoring Keeler. Ganzel sent a long fly to Ryan in centre field, and McFarland got home on the throw in. The

sixth inning was uneventful, but the visitors got their first run in the next. Coughlin hit past Courtney, Demontreville's two-bagger to right advanced him to third, and he scored on the play when Drill forced Demontreville at second. In the latter half of this inning Davis and Keeler got bases on balls, McFarland could not reach first, and Williams struck out. Townsend hit Ganzel with an inshoot, and the bases were filled. Conroy was next up, and he drove the ball out to deep centre, scoring Davis and Keeler. Courtney's fly to Delehanty retired the side and ended the run-getting for New York. In the ninth, Davis missed Selbach's fly, but Delehanty popped up a foul fly to Conroy. Then Ryan scored Selbach with a long hit over third base, Ganzel and Chesbro retired Carey at first, but Courtney's fumble let Coughlin get there, ending the game. The score:

NEW YORK.					WASHINGTON.								
	R	B	P	O	A	E		R	B	P	O	A	E
Davis, lf...	1	1	0	0	2		Rob'n, ss...	0	2	2	2	0	
Keeler, rf...	3	2	1	0	0		Selbach, lf...	1	0	0	0	0	
McF'd, cf...	1	0	0	0	0		Delh'ty, lf...	0	3	0	0	0	
Williams, 2b...	0	2	2	3	0		Ryan, cf...	0	2	3	1	0	
Ganzel, 1b...	0	12	1	0			Carey, 1b...	0	0	8	0	0	
Conroy, 3b...	1	2	5	1	0		C'ghlin, 3b...	1	2	2	1	1	
C'tney, ss...	0	1	2	1	1		Demont, 2b...	0	1	0	3	0	
O'Connor, c...	0	1	4	1	0		Drill, c...	0	0	5	1	0	
Chesbro, p...	0	0	1	5	0		T'nsend, p...	0	0	1	2	0	
							Holmes...	0	0	0	0	0	
Total...	6	9	27	12	3		Total...	2	7	24	10	1	

*Batted for Townsend in ninth inning:
New York.....1 1 0 0 2 0 2 0...-6
Washington.....0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0-2
Earned runs—New York, 2. Two-base hits—Keeler, (2.) Williams, (2.) Conroy, (2.) Coughlin, and Robinson. Sacrifice hits—McFarland and Courtney. Stolen base—O'Connor. Double play—Ryan and Drill. Left on bases—New York, 7; Washington, 9. First base on balls—Off Chesbro, 1; off Townsend, 3. First base on errors—New York, 1; Washington, 3. Hit by pitched ball—By Townsend, 1. Struck out—By Chesbro, 1; by Townsend, 4. Time of game—One hour and thirty minutes. Umpires—Messrs. Connolly and Caruthers.