

## A CHAPTER IN LACROSSE.

BY LIONEL MOSES, JR.

### PART II.

THE year 1886 proved one of the most interesting in the history of lacrosse in the United States, especially for the champions (New Yorks). That year's team was acknowledged to be the finest ever gotten up in the States, their list of victories being numerous.

After winning the championship of the Eastern States they went West to St. Paul and defeated the Western champions by a score of 3 to 1, winning the Westchester cup and the championship of the United States. Instead of returning directly home they made a trip through Canada, defeated the Torontos, 3 to 2, and were defeated by the Ottawas, 4 to 3, in which game three of their players (Robinson, McClain and Brown) were injured; but notwithstanding this the next day they appeared on the field at Montreal to play the team of that city. Luckily for them it rained and no game was played. From here they came home and defeated the champions of Great Britain (Belfast), who were here on a visit, by a score of 4 to 1.

"It is a long lane which has no turn," and the New Yorks, after repeated victory, lost by 3 to 2 in playing against the Independents of Boston. In 1887 another game was played against the same players, though under a different name (South Bostons), which resulted in a tie. During that year the New Yorks met and defeated the Druids of Baltimore, at Erastina, Staten Island, winning the Queen's Jubilee gold medal.

This leads the New York team up to the year 1888. They had made a most praiseworthy record for themselves, winning the championship a dozen times and Cups which were the emblems of the same, besides numerous banners. During that season the following players composed the team: R. and H. A. Mathews, Mitchell, Ritchey, Gerndt, Marson, McClain, Flash, Brown, Meharg, Drysdale and Wheeler. At the end of the season they were invited to join the Staten Island Athletic Club, which they did, and since then they have played under its colors and carried its standard many times to victory.

As is always the case changes occur between seasons, players drop out and new ones take their places, and so it happened with the Staten Islands, who, however, lost nothing of their strength. In 1889 they defeated the New Jersey Athletic Club team by 4 to 2, and the Philadelphia by 5 to 0. On a trip to Canada the same year they made a very good showing against the Montreal (champion) team by playing a close game and only being defeated by 3 to 2.

Since the Oelrichs cup has been played for the fiercest rivalry has existed between the different clubs belonging to the Eastern Lacrosse Association in the contest for its possession each season, and it is an open question when the rivalry is so great whether it furthers the best interests of lacrosse to have it remain a challenge trophy. Now that the Amateur Athletic Union has taken the game under its wing to guide its footsteps and further its interests its advisability seems doubly doubtful.

With but fifteen players to choose from, the Staten Island Athletic Club picked a team last year which did not during the whole season lose a single championship game.

The season of 1890 started with men in the field, whose positions were assigned as follows: Harry A. Mathews, goal; Cyrus C. Miller (captain), point; Dave Brown, cover; William C. Post, first defense; Lionel Moses, Jr., second defense; William Davis and Walter Gibson, third defense; A. D. Ritchey, centre; John F. McClain, first attack; Wm. G. Meharg and Tom Beaniff, second attack; John Curry and Wm. Mitchell, third attack; Sam. King and Ed. Center, outside home, and R. A. Mathews, inside home.

The season formally opened with an exhibition game with Princeton College on April 19, but the Staten Islands were in poor condition owing to lack of practice and a short team, having taken two or three inexperienced players merely to make up their number. They lost this with a score of 1 to 0 and did not play the full time, and though this was but an unimportant game each player felt

a desire to show the Princeton team what they could really do. Then followed two games which were merely for practice, the first with Stevens Institute (score 8 to 1 in Staten Island's favor), and the other with the College of the City of New York (6 to 1 for the same team).

The next game proved more interesting, A strong feeling of rivalry has long existed between the Brooklyn Lacrosse Club and the Staten Islands, and each club felt that a great deal hinged upon the next game played between them, as in fact it did, for to the victors was left the duty of going to Baltimore and wresting the Oelrichs cup from the Druids, who had held it for a year, and thus it was that the interest of all the local players was centred on this game, the best men being picked to meet upon the field at Washington Park on June 7. During the first half of the game honors were evenly divided, and the score stood 2 to 2, but after the short rest between innings, the Staten Islands picked up and won by a score of 6 to 3.

On July 4 a tie game was played between the same clubs—3 to 3, and then came the time for the first championship game they had played in 1890. This game was played against the Druids at Baltimore, and the press of Baltimore pronounced it to be the best that had ever been played in that city, and surely no game could have been more exciting than this! The weather was perfect, though perhaps a little too warm. Both teams were in the best condition, and when time was called the men lined up as follows:

<i>Baltimore.</i>	<i>Position.</i>	<i>Staten Island</i>
S. Cone, . . . . .	Goal, . . . . .	H. Mathews.
Tom Penniman, . .	Point, . . . . .	Cyrus C. Miller.
Henry Penniman,	Cover point,	Dave Brown.
Brooke Hopkins, 1st	defense, . . . . .	W. C. Post.
Nick Penniman, 2d	defense, . . . . .	Lionel Moses, Jr.
F. Primrose, . . .	3d defense, . . . .	Wm. Meharg.
Johnson Poe, . .	Centre, . . . . .	A. D. Ritchey.
W. B. D. Penniman,	1st attack, . . . . .	J. F. McClain.
Brantz Roszel, . .	2d attack, . . . . .	W. Mitchell.
Yates Pennington,	3d attack, . . . . .	W. S. King.
Arnold Reese, . .	Outside home, . . . .	R. A. Mathews.
W. Daniels, . . .	Inside home, . . . .	Jno. Curry.

During the first half of the game neither side could score more than one goal, and when it was over there was as much doubt as to the result as at the beginning of the game, but the fifteen minutes' rest seemed to add strength to the Staten Islands, for at once they gained possession of the ball and throughout the game kept it most of the time at their opponents' flags and making three more goals to their opponents' one. They thus won

the game by a score of 4 to 2, and with it the cup.

This was the opportunity the Brooklyns were looking for, and before the cup had arrived at the Staten Island Club House a challenge was received from them and accepted. This game was arranged for July 26, and was played on the grounds at Livingston. The Staten Islands succeeded in winning the game easily, as the Brooklyns either lacked practice or were overtrained. The score was 7 to 2.

After this, championship games were played with the Jersey City Lacrosse Club and the Manhattan Athletic Club, both of which were won by the Staten Island team.

Again the Brooklyns challenged and arrangements were made for another game. The Staten Island regular team, well trained and anxious for the fray, were on the field at the appointed time, but as the Brooklyns did not arrive until late the referee (Mr. Journey) awarded the game to the former club by default.

This finally settled the championship of the Eastern States for the year 1890, and left to the Staten Islands the pleasure of competing for the championship of the United States with the team of the Athletic Club of the Schuylkill Navy, and the team immediately went into active training for the final and most important event of the season. The game was played on October 11 last, at the annual athletic championship meeting of the Amateur Athletic Union, held at Washington, D. C., the field of battle being upon that gem of the Potomac, Analoatan Island, a suburb of Washington. The day was an ideal lacrosse day, and shortly before 11 A. M. the rival teams "lined up" as follows:

<i>Staten Island</i>	<i>A. C. Position.</i>	<i>A. C. of the Schuylkill Navy.</i>
H. A. Mathews, . .	Goal, . . . . .	W. M. McDonald.
Cyrus C. Miller, . .	Point, . . . . .	E. J. Alden.
Dave Brown, . . .	Cover point, . . . .	E. Reagan.
W. C. Post, . . . .	1st defense, . . . . .	S. M. Pyfer.
Lionel Moses, Jr.,	2d defense, . . . . .	H. Hirshfield.
Wm. Davis, . . . .	3d defense, . . . . .	C. S. Powell.
A. D. Ritchey, . .	Centre, . . . . .	C. Ogle.
J. F. McClain, . .	1st attack, . . . . .	D. Chesterman.
W. G. Meharg, . .	2d attack, . . . . .	J. W. Greer.
Wm. Mitchell, . .	3d attack, . . . . .	R. D. Adams.
W. S. King, . . . .	Outside home, . . . .	H. H. Larkin.
R. Mathews, . . .	Inside home, . . . .	I. H. Schell.

The first goal was taken by Meharg, of the Staten Islands, in one minute and a quarter. This made matters look ominous for the Navy boys' chance, but the spectators saw a match after all, for

twenty-six minutes of lively play followed before Staten Island again scored on a throw by Davis. The third goal was scored by Chesterman, of the Schuylkill Navy, and it proved to be their only goal in the match. One more goal was scored by Staten Island during the first half, McClain doing the needful.

When play was resumed the Navy team appeared to realize the heavy handicap of 3 to 1 against their chance. The Staten Islanders, however, played brilliantly, showing beautiful "team play," and in fact completely outpointing their antagonists in every part of the field. After fifteen minutes' play McClain, one of the cleverest attack players in the country, scored three goals in rapid succession. Shortly afterward Ritchey also scored, and was promptly followed by McClain with still another goal. The game was called before any more scoring was done, the Islanders thus winning the match with a score of 7 goals to 1.

Thus ended the season of 1890, in which the champions had shown throughout the year how much superior they were to any team they had met, not having more than two goals scored against them in any single match.

Many members of the club are Canadians, and this no doubt sufficiently explains their deftness with the crosse.

Foremost among all the players in the United States, and some say even in Canada, is Dave Brown. He is 5 feet 10 inches tall and twenty-nine years of age, and for over fifteen years he has played steadily, first in Canada, on the Emmetts, then on the Emeralds, and finally the New Yorks, whose fortunes he has followed up to the present year. His playing is remarkable. Quick as a cat in any part of the field, he also runs beautifully, being extremely graceful and very fast. Besides being such a distinguished player, he is one of the most popular men in the club.

McClain's specialties are dodging and stick handling, and in addition he is a very swift runner; and this combination, besides doing great execution for his side, captivates an audience. He is extremely popular, and to him is due in a great measure the success of his team, for there is no harder worker than he.

William Meharg is a player noted for the easy manner in which he handles his stick and the neatness with which he catches and throws. He is twenty-four years of age, and has been playing for

twelve years on junior Canadian teams. He graduated from the Model School in Toronto, which has been the training ground for some of Canada's most expert lacrosse players. He played but one year with the senior Torontos and then joined the S. I.

Wm. Mitchell and Sam King would be noticed on any field, especially for their dodging, running and throwing. King's dodging is extremely graceful, and the way he can get through a line of players is quite wonderful, while Mitchell's forte is his beautiful throwing and running. He is 5 feet 10½ inches tall and weighs 154 pounds.

Cyrus C. Miller, the captain of the team, is considered an excellent man in the defense field, for his checking is very sure. He is also noted for his long throwing, having won several of these contests. He is a graduate of New York University, where he played for two or three years.

Probably with but one exception, and that Mr. J. R. Flannery, of the Brooklyn Lacrosse Club, there is no player in the United States' who has been so long at the game as A. D. Ritchey, who played as far back as 1871, when the Knickerbocker team was formed. He has followed lacrosse since then year by year up to the present time, and made a record for himself which is unequaled. He is probably the fastest short distance runner on his team and plays a very strong game in the field. He stands 5 feet 9½ inches and weighs 157 pounds.

The two Mathews boys play at the two extremes of the field, Harry at goal and Dick inside home, and they are too well known among lacrosse players to require special mention.

Post and Davis are two strong players who seldom fail to win a goodly share of the grand stand approval, and the honor of the club is safe in their hands.

Curry, Centre and Moses are the latest acquisitions to the playing strength of the club, and they have all done work which proves them worthy of the places on the team. Last year saw Centre's first appearance, and the steady improvement in his play during the season hints of brilliant work on his part this year. Curry first distinguished himself as captain of the team of the College of the City of New York. This position he ably filled for two years, and he has lost none of his usefulness since his connection with the team who have done so much to bring forward and popularize this fine sport.