

## **CLEVELAND CHATTER**

ROBISON-ZIMMER DEAL GREAT MYSTERY.

"Chief" Probably Received the Limit -Burkett's Big Batting-Sympathy For the Orioles-About Young Blake—Ready For the Word.

Cleveland. April 7.—Editor "Sporting Life:"—There are four newspapers in this city willing to yield up 'steen dollars each for a stenographic report of the conference between President Frank de Hass Robison and "Big Chief" Charley Zimmer, in the former's office last week. It was a very secret affair. Mr. Robinson's contidential secretary and even the type writer girl were barred out, and the employes and employe talked in subdued whispers.

PROBABLY GOT THE LIMIT.

Now neither Mr. Robison nor the "Chief" have told me a word of what was said behind those tightly locked doors, but I can make a pretty good guess and that is that Zimmer was promised the limit. \$2400.

He may have signed a straight out con-

can make a pretty good guess and that is that Zimmer was promised the limit. \$2400.

He may have signed a straight out contract for \$2400, and he may have got \$300 for signing a \$2100 contract, but let no one imagine that Charley Zimmer is the boy to say he will not play for less than \$2400 and then change his mind or that Mr. Robison doesn't believe Zimmer entitled to the money. If there is one player whose services Mr. Robison CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE

It is Charley Zimmer. In spring, summer and fall or any old time at all chief is in condition. If Patsy Tebeau promised Zimmer, \$2400; if the contract came back from Clevelund without Mr. Robison's signature, and if Charley declared he wouldn't play for less than \$2400—three big "if"s," it's true—but they have all been given as news—then Zimmer got the limit and don't let anyone bet that he didn't.

BUIKEFT AND KEELER.

The efforts of the editor of one of the annual base ball guides to show that Keeler, of Baltimore, is a great deal better batter than Jess Burkett is entertaining and amusing. I may be in error, but I'll wager a suit of clothes that either by safe hits, bases on balls, being hit by pitchers or by errors of infielders Burkett reaches first bass a greater number of times in 1896 than any other player in the National League in 15 years.

To say that a batter with an average of .394 is a better hiter than a man with an average of .423

To say that a batter with an average of .394 is a better bitter than a man with an average of .422 IS FUNNY REASONING.

Especially is this so when it is remembered that Burkett headed the batting order, and to get to first base meant a mighty good chance for a run with batters like McKean and Childs to follow. In all the exhibition games thus far Burkett has kept up the great pace he was going when the flag fell last fall.

My sympathles go out to Albert Mott. I am not very big, myself, and when the grippe laid hold of me it won four falls out of five hi quick succession. I got the fifth through a doctor's aid and am free to admit I've had enough. Moreover, I want to say that I seriously hope little Mctraw will get well. Mercy, he is scrappy enough to tackle anything from a pugnacious little unpire like Tim Ilurst to selate and retiring captains like Pat Tebeau and Conjuenties in some cities.

And, as I'm in the betting mood, I'll wager that the Baltimores, with all the talk of crippled players and hame pitchers, will be making Cleveland, Boaton and Thide-lightia hump themselves and the Baltimores, with all the talk of crippled players and home pitchers, will be making Cleveland. Boaton and Thide-lightia hump themselves right from a call of "play".

Harry Balac's friends, and he has a whole army of them here, are quite sure a mistake was made in sending him to the farm. Blake has a whole army of them here, are quite sure a mistake was made in sending him to the farm. Blake has a whole army of them here, are quite sure a mistake was made in sending him to the farm. Blake has a whole army of them here, are quite sure a mistake was made in sending him to the farm, Blake has a whole army of them here, are quite sure a mistake was made in sending him to the farm, Blake has a whole army of them here, are a put and to the plate will be a serial by layer good ball in tils city. It was his good batting that dove in the decisive runs in two of the Temple Cop games, and he was rapidly earning a reputation as a great throw

Blake, however, will not be received an play any old position at all be will make a star utility man.

OFF SIDE PLAYS.

Shearon's batting streak may come later. He hasn't "killed" very many balls thus far.
Cappy, Young and Wallace are doing about equally good work in the exhibition games.
The daily newspapers are beginning to tell Mr. Robison and Captain Tehean how to place the men and how to play the game.
There will be a merry old crowd out to greet Captain Ewing and his braves on April 30. That's a game we must have.
Hurst or Emslie will do all right for the first series at home, Mr. Young.
"Cash" Miller, the Canton man who recommended "Cy" Young to the Cleveland management, tells a sad story of a "frosted hand" experience. He asked for a sensen ticket, but the management said they did not know him. Some cober club will get Miller's ux i find.
"The exhibition games of the Clevelands in the West are attracting unusually large crowds.

### KNOXVILLE TO THE FRONT.

### That Town Will Again Have a

Strong Team.

Strong Team.

Exercise Team.

Strong Team.

Exercise Team.

Strong Team.

Figure here that we will have a "Crackerk" team, and that they will keep up the
station made by the famous Knowlles of
one of the best semi-professional teams ever
together,
is true, we will not have many of last
r's boys with us, as two of our great mainws, "Wiley Davis" and Big Bill Hill have
n gobbled up by the National League and
res have scenced positions in the Southern
Western Leagues. We will miss "Jack"
m, he of the marble heart, and while all the
ers are praising Wiley Davis, and he deserves
he gets, not one of them says anything about
k Grim, who all last season coached him and
le him the pitcher he is. Well, here's good
to all the boys of last year's team, and we
hope they will make great names for themtes.

luck to all the boys of last year's team, and we all hope they will make great names for themselves.

Manager Frank Moffett has signed for this senson the following players: Al. (libson, of Atlanta, catcher and captain; John McCullock, of Maryville team, first base; Fred Hempleman, second base, of Cincinnail's Manhattans last season; Jack Green, third base, of Asheville team, '95; John W. Heifman, short stop, of last season's Maysville, Ky., team; John A. Jobe, centre field, of last year's Knoxville team; Frank Moffett, left field, and Manager of Knoxville, '95; Strang Nicklin, right field, with Asheville, '95; Nton has a speinting record of eleven seconds for a hundred yard dash; Crede Bates, pitcher, Asheville, '95; Mart McDonald, pitcher of last year's Knoxvilles, and at least six young pitchers who want to make their bow to the fans with Knoxville this season.

It may be that "Pop!" Crowley, of last year's team will stay with us, although he is at present undecided whether he will play here or join the Nashville S. L. team, which club has made him an offer for this season. He played good ball, and is a big favorite here, and we all want to see him line 'em out again this season.

Our season will open here with some Cincinnati team, April 25, and if Knexville makes as good a record this season as they did last we can commence to think about going in some League next year.

There was only one club made us lay down last season, and that was Mike Ryan's all-professionals from Cincinnati, and we "bucked" some good clubs.

We issue a standing challenge to any amateur or semi-professional club in the United States, and if they beat us we will swallow the dose.

Z. P. HALE,

### The Players Report For Duty-Bob

Herefore, Report For Duty—Bob Pettitt Secured, Etc.

Hartford, Conn., April S.—Editor "Sporting life:"—Manager Bernie's aggregation of bell tossers reported for duty yesterday, and they practiced with the Trinity College team on the later's grounds in the afternoon. They are a lkely-looking lot of men, and, considering the crey poor condition of the grounds, handled themselves very cleverly. Bob Pettit has been signed, and will play the third bag, and probably captain he team.

# LOUISVILLE LINES.

### GREAT LOCAL INTEREST SHOWN IN THE NEW TEAM.

The Opening Game a Record Breaker— How the New Men Impress-More Men Disabled-Manager McCloskey Gives a Pointer or Two, Etc.

Louisville, Ky., April 7.—Editor "Sporting Life:"—Probably the largest crowd that ever attended an exhibition game of ball was collected at the park Sunday to witness the game between the new Colonels and the Detroits. Over five thousand paid admissions attest the popularity of the game in Louisville before the opening of the season and serve in a measure to show the interest that is taken in the team that Manager McCloskey has gathered together. The new men have shown up well and the crowd has taken favorably to the team and seem quite ready and willing to agree to all the good things that have been said of the team in the South.

THE DETROIT GAMES.

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