

# The Sportlight

By Grantland Rice

### Wishing You and Yours—

Herewith we set our New Year dish: Take it, or leave it, as you wish. Since that part of the annual muss is up to you—and not to us.

If it should be that pop-eyed Fate Has landed on your chest— If it should be that thumbs were down Each time you faced the test— We trust that what remains of you Has gathered from the skit That he who plays the scrimmage out Will get his share of it;

We trust that on Time's natal day Along the busy mart, Enough of you remains intact To try another start; That you have garnered from defeat, That Fate has taught you more Than bitterness against the break That scrambled up your score.

If it should be Dame Fortune's gift Has added to your loot— If you have nicked your share of it, And something else to boot— We trust that you have learned enough To pickle it in store, And that your head can still maintain The hat it held before.

No light and frothy happiness We wish against the test, But rather a renewed resolve To kick in with your best; To keep your eye upon the pill The while you swing the bat, To meet the scramble as it comes And let it go at that.

This is the first New Year since 1906 that Ty Cobb has celebrated while reposing as far down as second place. The entry who drops as low as second place only once every 10 years is still good enough to edge by in a subtle, crafty way.

Colonel Duray is to enlist after a few more ring encounters. It will undoubtedly be a great blow to Les if peace is declared before he has a chance to reach the trenches. Undoubtedly.

"Why isn't golf played on ice, as

## BASEBALL HEADS MEET

### National Baseball Commission Holds Annual Meeting Today.

Cincinnati, Jan. 1.—Baseball men from almost every part of the country began gathering here tonight for the annual meeting of the National baseball commission tomorrow. While the commission meeting has been called for 10 a. m., it is highly probable that it will be hours later before the supreme court of baseball really begins its work, inasmuch as there has been a special meeting called of the club owners of the three class AA leagues, which has as an indicated object, the adoption of a suitable resolution for presentation to the commission, asking that the drafting of players from class AA leagues be abolished.

While nothing official has been announced by the commission as to how it will look upon this demand, yet it has been unofficially indicated by President Johnson of the American league that the request would be denied.

That the class AA leagues intend to press the matter with energy is indicated by the special meeting called for tomorrow and while every club president of the American association and of the International league is expected here, it is hardly probable that the Pacific Coast league will be represented by more than one man.

It is likewise probable that a large number of the major league magnates will be in attendance as a number of other matters that have to do with the relation between the major and minor league clubs are believed to be on the list of matters to be considered by the commission.

The election of officers for the commission also will be held, but it has become an assured fact during the last week that both Chairman August Herrmann and Secretary John E. Bruce will be re-elected, the announcement from Chicago that President Johnson of the American league had stated that he saw no reason to make a change, putting an end to numerous rumors of the past six months that the commission would have a new head in the person of some one not affiliated with either major league.

It was understood here tonight that matters concerning the prices charged for world series games, as well as a rearrangement of the division of the proceeds of the series will likely come before the commission at this meeting.

### On Way to Cincinnati.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—B. B. Johnson, president of the American league, and several other baseball officials left here tonight for Cincinnati to attend the meeting of the National baseball commission.

Thomas J. Hickey, president of the American association, and A. R. Tearney, president of the Three I. league, were among members of the party. Tearney proposes to present his plan for the redistributing of minor league territory to the commission. President Johnson has assured Tearney of his support.

tennis is?" queries a reader. Mainly because some of the passionate language employed after blowing a two-foot or three-foot putt would melt the ice, leaving within about 30 minutes one vast water hazard.

### Happy Newyearing the Golfer

May your putts drop in from seven feet;

May each iron shot ring clear; And may you be upon your game At least three times a year.

May Bogie banquet from your hand; May traps lose all their fears; And may the locker room produce At least two Willing Ears.

If recent rulings in sport suggested are carried through the slogan will no longer be "What is an amateur?" but "Where is an amateur?"

"Some golf amateurs I know," writes Fuzzy, "should be declared professionals on account of their business ability in arranging handicaps. I know two of these who would break Harry Vardon in five weeks."

We see where Willie Smith, three times open champion and one of our greatest golfers, is dead. But after the Braid episode we have decided to refrain from indulging in post-mortems attached to the professional end of golf, however worthy the departed one might have been.

"A quitter," states an exchange, "always loses." But there are times when he doesn't lose as much.

### Wishing the Fan

Enough fly balls caught in the stand (With no one there to fine him) Where each bug may arise each day And holler "Sign him!"

It is a waste of words to wish an umpire "Happy New Year." This is where the limit begins and ends.

Those who look to these dispatches for their book reviews and who may be interested in the international complication now at hand are tipped to peruse "Inside the German Empire," by Colonel Herbert Bayard Swope. The volume is replete with all the vital statistics and inside chatter necessary to a proper and interesting unfolding of the case. What more could be asked?

### GOLF CHAMPION WILL COACH CHICAGO CUBS

Charles "Chick" Evans, Jr., national amateur and open golf champion, has been added to the coaching staff of the Chicago National League club and he will accompany the players to their spring training camp at Pasadena, Cal. Evans' sole duties will consist of teaching batting "form" to the players. He was invited to make the trip by Charles H. Wegman, president of the club, and he announced his acceptance recently.

Evans' amateur standing will not be affected, it was explained, as he will not receive any money for his services. He merely will be a guest of President Wegman on the trip.

Mr. Wegman believes that Evans will be able to improve the batting of every player on the team.

"There is 'form' in the driving of a golf ball," he said, "but there is not in driving a baseball. Applying the form of golf to baseball was responsible for the driving power of Frank Schulte and Heinie Zimmerman. It may be argued that Schulte knew nothing about golf, but he unconsciously used the same swing."

Evans is one of the few expert golfers who can drive a ball high or low as he may desire. He is ranked among the longest drivers in the world, although he confesses that he never practices with his wooden clubs as the swing is so easy when the iron clubs have been mastered.

### ONLY \$80,000

Lewiston, Me., Jan. 1.—Harry H. Frazee, one of the new owners of the Boston Red Sox, was here today to get Bill Carrigan's signature to a new contract to manage the club. Frazee is said to have a contract with him calling for a sum of \$80,000 to be paid to Carrigan for three or four years' services as manager. The exact requirements and the life of the contract are not known. Carrigan is expected to decide early next week.

### SMITH WINNER.

Baltimore, Jan. 1.—Jeff Smith, middleweight champion pugilist of Europe, won a 15-round bout on points here today from Frank Mantell of Dayton, Ohio.

## WOULD INCREASE BATTING MANY LONG RUNS IN 1916

### Houghton Would Abolish Spit-Ball and Give Base on Three Balls.

Percy Houghton may be a mere football wizard, but that does not prevent him from having some good, sound ideas relative to baseball. He made known some of these at the National league meeting and one of the most important was his suggestion to legislate against the pitchers in favor of the batters. In brief, Mr. Houghton's idea is to give the spectators more of the kind of baseball they like to see—plenty of hitting and fielding. It is considered quite a wonderful feat when a pitcher shuts out an opposing team without a hit, or allows one or two safe blows, but what is there in that sort of a performance to thrill the spectators? There is hardly as much amusement in such a game for the men and women who pay their money as there is in the preliminary practice of the teams.

There is little or no opportunity to become enthusiastic at a baseball game when the batters go up to the plate one after the other, are retired in order and then return to the bench. Such a game lacks the sound pleasure to the ears of all "fans"—the crack of the ball off the bat—and it deprives the defensive side of making sensational fielding stunts. But give the "fans" plenty of hitting, which would naturally result in more base running and opportunities for fielding stunts, and the spectators would feel that the money they had paid to see baseball games would be well spent.

Houghton believes the improvement could be brought about by depriving the pitchers of the privilege of using any foreign substance on the ball, thus compelling them to depend upon their natural ability as twirlers, and by limiting foul strikes to one and permitting a batter to take his base on three called balls instead of four.

There is soundness of reason in every one of the suggestions. In the first place it was never intended that pitchers should have undue advantage over the batters, which they do at present. It has been proved that by the use of saliva, resin, emery and other substances pitchers are enabled to make the ball behave in a freaky manner. The foul-strike rule was not inserted in the code to help the pitchers, but more to make the games faster, but there is no question that it puts the batter at a disadvantage.

The only bad feature about the proposed change of giving a batter his base on three balls instead of four is that in the case of a wild pitcher there would be too many passes, a performance that always takes some interest out of a contest. On the other hand, if a batter stands at the plate and allows three balls to go over it without offering at them he is called out on strikes, so why shouldn't the pitcher be penalized by permitting the batter to take first base on three pitched balls that do not go over the plate.

If the rules committee of the two major leagues look upon Mr. Houghton's suggestions with disfavor they might meet the situation by permitting the use of a larger bat. The rules now provide that the bat must not be longer than 42 inches nor more than two and three-quarters inches in diameter at its thickest part. Increasing this diameter to three or three and one-half inches would give the batters a decided advantage and would probably work as well as the changes suggested by Mr. Houghton. It is a certainty that with a thicker club than is now used there would be fewer fouls.

While the number of 300 hitters has been decreasing annually, it is not the purpose of the suggestions to make sluggers out of all ball players, but simply to give all batters a better chance to hit the ball and put more responsibility on the infielders and outfielders to keep the batting averages down.

### DOWNER MAY COACH WASHINGTON TEAMS

Old Dame Rumor has George F. Downer, former superintendent of the Butte city schools and for three years coach of the Butte high school football eleven, appointed successor to Gilmore Dolbe as gridiron mentor at the University of Washington.

Downer turned out three successive championship teams at Butte, and it is said that the Washington athletic committee considers this sufficient recommendation. Last year, when Dolbe resigned, Downer was considered as his logical successor, according to Graduate Manager Younger, but when Dolbe returned all negotiations were called off.

### AN ECONOMICAL MOVE.

Mrs. Eve—"Do you let your girl off every afternoon?"

Mrs. Wye—"Yes, it is such a saving! The more she is away the fewer dishes she breaks."—Boston Evening Transcript.

### Four Montana Men Made Long Gridiron Dashes During Past Season.

Twenty-four runs of 30 yards or more were registered on the northwest gridirons during the 1916 football season, the longest being the sensational dash of "Tuffy" Conn of the Oregon Aggies against the University of Nebraska, when after recovering a fumble behind his own goal line, the freshman star ran 102 yards to a touchdown, this being the only score made against the Cornhuskers.

Next to Conn's run, the longest was the 85 yards performance of Captain Clark of the Montana Bruins, when he intercepted an Idaho forward pass near his own goal line, and sprinted for a touchdown, winning the game. Cy Noble of the University of Washington ran 80 yards against the Whitman Missionaries after a kick-off, while Dahlberg of Montana ran 60 yards against the same team after intercepting a forward pass.

Following is a list of long runs made in the principal games of the 1916 season:

- 102 yards—Conn, Oregon Aggies, against the University of Nebraska, fumble behind the goal line.
- 85 yards—Clark, Montana, against the University of Idaho, intercepted forward pass.
- 80 yards—Noble, University of Washington, against Whitman; from kick-off.
- 62 yards—Conn, Oregon Aggies, against Whitman, from scrimmage.
- 60 yards—Dahlberg, Montana, against Whitman, from intercepted forward pass.
- 60 yards—Brown, Washington State, against Gonzaga, from scrimmage.
- 60 yards—Shy Huntington, University of Oregon, against Willamette, return punt.
- 55 yards—Bartlett, University of Oregon, against Washington State, from kick-off.
- 55 yards—Beckett, University of Oregon, against Washington State, from kick-off.
- 52 yards—Butts, Whitman, against the University of Washington, fumble.
- 52 yards—Galt, Multnomah club, against Willamette, return kick-off.
- 50 yards—Conn, Oregon Aggies, against Whitman, scrimmage.
- 50 yards—Doane, Washington State, against Oregon Aggies, scrimmage.
- 45 yards—Reardon, Oregon Aggies, against Idaho, return punt.
- 45 yards—Banks, Washington State, against Montana, from scrimmage.
- 43 yards—Clark, Montana, against Whitman, from scrimmage.
- 42 yards—McQuarrie, Montana, against Gonzaga, from scrimmage.
- 40 yards—Cram, Whitman, against Idaho, from scrimmage.
- 40 yards—Hanley, Washington State, against Gonzaga, from scrimmage.
- 32 yards—Ferguson, University of Oregon, against Multnomah, from scrimmage.
- 21 yards—Bloomquist, Whitman, against Idaho, from scrimmage.
- 20 yards—Shy Huntington, University of Oregon, against the Oregon Aggies, from scrimmage.

### 1917 TO BE ACTIVE YEAR FOR ATHLETES

New York, Jan. 1.—An active year in sports under the jurisdiction of the Amateur Athletic union is forecast in 1917 in a statement issued here today by F. W. Rubin, secretary-treasurer of the organization.

"The various district associations report an increase in the number of indoor meets scheduled for the winter and competition will result," Mr. Rubin said. The indoor national championships take place in New York March 17 and the best athletes in the country will compete. The outdoor national all-around championship and relay championships will take place at St. Louis in September and increased interest in that section of the country is looked for. St. Louis plans to make the championships the equal of any held heretofore and owing to its central location it will be possible for athletes from any part of the country to take the trip in a few days.

International boxing will take place as the result of an invitation from the Scandinavian countries and it is likely that the winners of the national boxing championships to be held at Boston in March will be selected to represent the country.

The small team of track athletes consisting of Meredith, Loomis, Simpson, Murray and Ward made a very favorable impression abroad and another team will be sent to represent America this summer if it is found impossible for the Scandinavian athletes to leave their countries on account of military duty. These countries deserve great credit for their initiative in inviting our prominent athletes to visit them and our boys appreciate the splendid reception accorded them abroad.

### Big League Baseball.

World's champions—Boston Americans.

National league champions—Brooklyn.

American league champions—Boston.

Champion batsman, National league—Hal Chase, Cincinnati.

Champion batsman, American league—Tris Speaker, Cleveland.

### Catching Cold.

Colds are due to a neglected skin and lack of ventilation in the sleeping room. People who take a cool sponge bath every morning before breakfast seldom take cold. When you do take cold get rid of it as quickly as possible. This is best accomplished by taking Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. This is an old time tried remedy that can be relied upon with implicit confidence, obtainable everywhere.—Adv.

### Football.

Leading eastern team—Pittsburgh.

Western conference champion—Ohio State university.

Leading Pacific coast teams—Un-

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## Who's Who Among Sporting Champions of the Past Year

### Track Champions.

- 100-yard dash—A. E. Ward, Chicago A. A., 0:16.
- 220-yard dash—A. E. Ward, Chicago A. A., 0:21 3-5.
- 440-yard dash—Thomas J. Halpin, Boston A. A., 0:49 4-5.
- 880-yard run—Don Scott, Mississippi Agricultural college, 1:54.
- One-mile run—Ivan A. Myers, Illinois A. C., 4:22.
- Five-mile run—Joie Ray, unattached, Chicago, Ill., 26:11 3-5.
- Ten-mile run—Hannes Kolehmainen, unattached, 52:50 4-5.
- 120-yard high hurdles—Robert Simpson, University of Missouri, 0:14 4-5.
- 220-yard low hurdles—Fred Murray, unattached, San Francisco, 0:24.
- 440-yard hurdles—W. A. Hummel, Multnomah A. C., 0:54 4-5.
- Three-mile walk—George H. Goulding, Toronto Walkers' club, 22:15 4-5.
- Seven-mile walk—R. E. Remer, N. Y. A. C., 53:39 3-5.
- Pole vault—Sherman Landers, Chicago A. A., 12 feet 9 inches.
- 16-pound shot—Arlie W. Mucks, University of Wisconsin, 47 feet 2 1-8 inches.
- 16-pound hammer—Patrick Ryan, Irish-American A. C., 174 feet 8 inches.
- 56-pound weight—Matt McGrath, Irish-American A. C., 35 feet 5 1/2 inches.
- Broad jump—Harry T. Worthington, Boston A. A., 23 feet 2 1/2 inches.
- High jump—Wesley M. Oler, Jr., N. Y. A. C., 6 feet 2 inches.
- Discus throw—Arlie W. Mucks, University of Wisconsin, 145 feet 4 1/2 inches.
- Hop, step and jump—D. F. Ahern, Illinois A. C., 46 feet 1 1/2-inch.
- Javelin throw—George Bronder, Irish-American A. C., 190 feet 6 inches.
- All-around champion—Avery Brundage, Chicago A. A.
- Team champion—Irish-American Athletic club, New York.

### Big League Baseball.

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Champion batsman, National league—Hal Chase, Cincinnati.

Champion batsman, American league—Tris Speaker, Cleveland.

Leading pitcher, National league—Grover C. Alexander, Philadelphia.

Leading pitcher, American league—Babe Ruth, Boston.

### Football.

Leading eastern team—Pittsburgh.

Western conference champion—Ohio State university.

Leading Pacific coast teams—Un-

### Soccer.

Intercollegiate champion—Haverford college.

National and American Challenge cups—Bethlehem.

### Golf.

National amateur champion—Charles Evans, Jr., Edgewater Golf club, Chicago.

National open champion—Charles Evans, Jr., Edgewater Golf club, Chicago.

National women's champion—Miss Alexa Stirling, Atlanta, Ga.

Professional Golfers' association champion—James M. Barnes, White-maresh Valley Country club, Pennsylvania.

Eastern intercollegiate individual champion—J. W. Hubbell, Harvard.

Eastern intercollegiate team champion—Princeton.

Western intercollegiate individual champion—P. E. Stiles, Northwestern.

Western intercollegiate team champion—University of Illinois.

### Tennis.

National singles champion—Richard Norris William, 2d., Philadelphia.

National doubles champions—Clarence J. Griffin and William M. Johnston, San Francisco.

National mixed doubles champions—Willis E. Davis, California, and Miss Eleanor Sears, Boston.

National clay court singles champion—Willis E. Davis, California.

National clay court doubles champions—Dean Mathey, Cranford, N. J., and George M. Church, Tenafly, N. J.

National junior champion—Harold A. Throckmorton, Elizabeth, N. J.

National boys' champion—Benjamin Letson, New York city.

### Intercollegiate singles champion—G. Colket Caner, Harvard.

### Intercollegiate doubles champions—G. Colket Caner and Richard Harte, Harvard.

### National women's singles champion—Miss Molla Bjursjedt, Norway.

### National women's doubles champions—Miss Molla Bjursjedt, Norway, and Miss Eleanora Sears, Boston.

### National indoor singles champion—Robert Lindley Murray, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

### National indoor doubles champion—William Rosenbaum and A. E. Lovibond, New York city.

### National indoor junior champion—Elliott Binzen, Fordham university.

### National indoor women's singles champion—Miss Molla Bjursjedt, Norway.

### National indoor women's doubles champions—Miss Molla Bjursjedt,

Norway, and Miss Marie Wagner, New York city.

### Hockey.

Intercollegiate champion—Harvard, (No intercollegiate league.)

Amateur Hockey league champions—Boston A. A.

### Rowing.

Poughkeepsie regatta—Syracuse.

New London regatta—Harvard.

National champion senior eight—Duluth Boat club.

National champion senior four—Duluth Boat club.

National champion senior doubles—A. J. Osman and A. R. Kent, Duluth Boat club.

Champion single sculler—Thomas J. Rooney, Ravenswood Boat club, L. I.

### Polo.

Senior championship—Great Neck, Long Island.

Junior championship—Meadowbrook III, Long Island.

### Turf.

Biggest money winner—Campfire.

Light Harness Horses.

Champion trotter—Lee Axworthy, 1:58 1-4 (world's record.)

Champion pacer—Napoleon Direct, 1:59 1-4.

### Cycling.

National amateur champion—John Staehle, Bay View Wheelmen, Newark.

National professional champion—Frank I. Kramer, East Orange, N. J.

### Automobiles.

Leading driver—Dario Resta.

### Trap Shooting.

Grand American handicap—John F. Wolf, Milwaukee.

### World's professional champion—Philip Miller, Dallas, Texas.

### Professional Boxing.

Heavyweight champion of the world—Jess Willard.

### Cross-Country.

Intercollegiate team champion—Cornell.

### Intercollegiate individual champion—John W. Overton, Yale.

### National senior A. A. U. champion—Willie Kyronen, Millrose A. A.

### National junior A. A. U. champion—James Henigan, Dorchester club.

## FRANK ISBELL BUYS WICHITA BALL CLUB

Wichita, Kan., Jan. 1.—Frank Isbell, one of the owners of the Des Moines club of the Western league, announced here today that he had purchased the park and franchise of the Wichita club of the same league, the price being \$5,000 for the franchise and a similar amount for the park. He declared that several offers had been made for his interest in the Des Moines team and that he expected soon to close a deal involving it.

Isbell was owner of the Wichita team when it first was granted a franchise in the Western league, but lost considerable money on the team, and a few years ago bought the Des Moines franchise. Isbell is a former Chicago White Sox first baseman, leaving the big league half a dozen years ago.