

COMMENT ON SPORTS

Yale Men Hopeful of Victory Over the Harvard Crew.

COLLEGE PITCHERS STRONG

News and Views on Live Topics of the Day, Both Amateur and Professional.

Yale men with whom I have talked are surprisingly hopeful of victory over Harvard at New London in the annual eight-day regatta on Friday, but in my opinion it will take another year at least before Jim Rodgers and Bob Cook will be able to develop a crew capable of defeating the one wearing the crimson, and for the simple reason that Jim Wray, the Harvard coach, has the advantage of a settled stroke and a settled system. If form and appearance count for anything the Yale crew is better balanced this season than for several years, and indicates a more powerful in the boat.

In talking with a former Yale stroke a few days ago he said that in 1910 the crew he rowed had broken all Yale records from one to the full four miles in practice, but recalled how the oarsmen went to pieces in the last half mile, after being coached and instructed to win in the first two. Such will not be the case this year, if a close study of the training method counts for anything. But from observation I venture the prediction that in as short a time as the present extreme, as in short sprints the other lacks a finish shown at a lower stroke. If it is the plan to sail along the greater part of the distance and bring the race down to the last mile Harvard is likely to be better prepared for the final sprint at a high stroke, assuming, of course, that the physical condition of the two crews is about the same.

As I said before, however, optimism relative to the Yale camp and among the men who have watched the crew's development. One thing is sure, if the crew continues to train up to the day of the race as it has in the last few weeks the Harvard men will know that they have been in a race when the finish gun booms.

Unless all signs fall the crews of Cornell and Columbia will again fight it out in the big regatta at Poughkeepsie on June 22. A year ago I was bold enough to predict that Columbia would win, and the oarsmen collapsed, if looked as if the prediction would come true. I have almost the same confidence in Jim Rice and his men this year, but will defer further comment upon the subject until I have a last look at the crews this week.

Columbia undergraders are remarkably confident, and it would seem with reason, for they mean such a wizard and a Cornell crew keep on winning in such a consistent way that it is almost like flying in the face of Providence to suggest that the men from Ithaca will be beaten. Word comes from the West that Wisconsin has higher hopes than usual, and personally I hope that the Stanford crew, even in a borrowed boat, will make a good showing in their contest with the crew from the continent to come.

East. But, after all, it is impossible to look beyond Cornell or Columbia as the probable winner, more particularly as Pennsylvania and Syracuse do not appear to be up to the average.

If all the "fans" who have been rooting for the Washington Senators in the last few days could be gathered together in one place, the Sahara Desert would be none too roomy. Interest in the remarkable string of victories has grown to such an extent that even in this city, which boasts the largest first question asked has been: "Did Washington win?" Day after day the answer has been: "Yes!"

Clark Griffith, the old fox of baseball, will be the biggest man in Washington tomorrow, not excepting President Taft, when he leads his team out to battle with the Philadelphia Athletics. To win sixteen games in a row on the road, to force hostile crowds and in the heart of the enemy's country, is a record that has rarely, if ever, been equaled. Griffith and his men deserve full credit and all the words of praise which are being showered from this side and that. The American League race has been full of sensations this year, but not even the wild dash of the White Sox early in the season can equal the mad rush of the Senators in the last three weeks, which has landed them so close to the front. The pennant may not fly in Washington, but the other teams have learned to respect it.

Yale lost all chance, in my opinion, of finishing better than third in the struggle for the so-called college baseball championship because of the miserable defeat by Princeton in the final game of the series. Unfortunately, Hartford and the other Yale pitchers had an off day, and while all credit must be given to the Tigers for their clean, sharp hitting, the fact remains that the chief responsibility for the absurd score of 19 to 6 must be accepted by the Blue twirlers. Judged by the work of the season, it was not Yale's true form, but the defeat counted heavily just the same.

Princeton has enjoyed a most successful season, and no doubt will be credited with the championship by some critics because of the victories over Yale and Harvard. The defeat by Williams, however, is a black mark which stands out with more prominence than it did a year ago, because the Williams team has continued to play the kind of ball which makes it impossible to write about in any other way. I cannot say that this writing just what the final ranking will be, but it looks as if Williams may earn the much coveted place at the top.

Captain Sterrett, who, it is hoped, will develop into a good catcher for the Yankees as he did for Princeton, faced a hard task at the opening of the season, as two of the strongest pitchers in the college world had been graduated and the box material looked none too strong. Lear was developed, however, into one of the best of the season, and the whole team, after a little experimenting, was worked up to a smooth running machine. Year after year Princeton takes the forward place on the energetic way in which the players have been practicing there should be many well fought matches. The first of the tournaments begins to-day at the Great Neck Polo Club, and continues throughout the week. The next will be at the Meadow Brook Hunt Club from June 21 to July 3, and that at the Rockaway Hunting Club from July 4 to July 18.

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Thanks largely to Murray, Holy Cross has beaten Yale, Princeton, Harvard and Brown, while Malcolm has made Vermont feared by the best teams in the East. Lear has made up largely to Princeton for the two stars of a year ago, White and Woodie. Hightower has been instrumental in keeping Cornell in a forward place; Conzelmann has been a power for good; Verion, while overworked, has done much to help Amherst on the baseball map; while Davis, of Williams, has suffered only two defeats this year and can boast of victories over Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth and Cornell. I must confess to having the greatest admiration for Davis and an abiding faith, to say nothing of confidence, in his ability. For that reason, if none other, I would pick him first to make up a pitching staff for an all-star team. I have never met the man, but I have seen him stand the test, and I know that he has the head, the heart and the arm. Malcolm, of Vermont; Murray, of Holy Cross, and Conzelmann, of Brown, would be my other selections at this writing, although it is a toss-up in my opinion between the two last named and Lear, of Princeton; Hightower, of Cornell, and Hartwell, of Yale.

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The attendance this year was smaller than usual, owing to the heavy rain.

BUNK III AGAIN VICTORIOUS

Around Manhattan a Sporty Race for Hudson River Motor Boats.

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The Bunk III, owned by C. Firth, was the winner in the open boat class. Her time for the distance was 3 hours, 5 minutes and 22 seconds. Her handicap was 29 minutes 31 seconds, making her corrected time 2 hours, 37 minutes and 8 seconds. The Great Hope, owned by Arthur Haas, of the Regatta Committee, was second in that class. F. W. Kuhle's Amanda was third.

In the cruiser class F. D. Gheen's Klitsch was the winner. She was scratch boat of the class, and her actual time was 2 hours, 41 minutes and 33 seconds. The other starters in the class were the Victoria, S. Moravitz; the Kitty M. R. H. Hilliard, and the Silvermont, W. Israel.

This was the fifteenth consecutive win for the Bunk III, so her owner said, and it issued a challenge at the conclusion of the race to any open boat for a 150-mile race, for a prize of \$150.

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Three open motor boats and four cruisers raced around Manhattan Island yesterday, a distance of twenty-five nautical miles. It was the opening race of the Hudson River Motor Boat Club, and it was open to boats of any class.

The start for the open boats was made at 1:35 p. m. in the Hudson River. The course was the Hudson to Spuyten Duyck Creek, down the Harlem River and around the Battery to the starting point, out of the clubhouse, at 151st street.

The Bunk III, owned by C. Firth, was the winner in the open boat class. Her time for the distance was 3 hours, 5 minutes and 22 seconds. Her handicap was 29 minutes 31 seconds, making her corrected time 2 hours, 37 minutes and 8 seconds. The Great Hope, owned by Arthur Haas, of the Regatta Committee, was second in that class. F. W. Kuhle's Amanda was third.

In the cruiser class F. D. Gheen's Klitsch was the winner. She was scratch boat of the class, and her actual time was 2 hours, 41 minutes and 33 seconds. The other starters in the class were the Victoria, S. Moravitz; the Kitty M. R. H. Hilliard, and the Silvermont, W. Israel.

This was the fifteenth consecutive win for the Bunk III, so her owner said, and it issued a challenge at the conclusion of the race to any open boat for a 150-mile race, for a prize of \$150.

MORE POLO TOURNEYS

Play for Great Neck Club Cup Promises Hard Fight.

Interest in tournament polo, which has been confined to the clubs about Philadelphia for the last month, will now include the Long Island Regatta, to take place on the energetic way in which the players have been practicing there should be many well fought matches. The first of the tournaments begins to-day at the Great Neck Polo Club, and continues throughout the week. The next will be at the Meadow Brook Hunt Club from June 21 to July 3, and that at the Rockaway Hunting Club from July 4 to July 18.

The trophy at the Great Neck Polo Club is the second challenge cup, open to teams of four under the existing handicaps, to be won under the property of the club winning it three times. It will be the fifth year of competition, the roster standing: 1908, Meadow Brook; 1909, Point Judith; 1910, Cooperstown, and 1911, Great Neck. Point Judith loses its credit mark, under the rule that a winning club forfeit all claims to the cup unless it completes for it each year to the final, but the other winners have each entered.

There will be two games to-day. At 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon Great Neck will meet three points, will oppose New Haven. Two hours later Cooperstown and the Meadow Brook four will meet.

Joseph B. Thomas has been elected chairman of the polo committee of the Piping Rock Country Club, and the others of the new committee are H. P. Whitney, J. C. Phipps, Thomas Hitch