Expert Athletic Directors Are Doing Wonderful Work in Whipping Uncle Sam's Boys Into Condition "Over There"

BOYS 'OVER THERE' GET FILL OF SPORT

Y. M. C. A. Doing Wonderful Work in Encouraging Athletics in France.

AIDS MILITARY TRAINING

By SPRINTER.

How are sports progressing among the Sammies "over there"?

They are doing so well that enough expert directors and coaches cannot be secured to handle the situation. Gen. Pershing realizes the tremendous importance and overwhelming need of sports for exercise, entertainment and rest, and has virtually told the Y. M. C. A. to go the limit in all branches of athletics.

The Y. M. C. A. officials are obeying the command to the letter, but strive as heroically as they might they have not been able to keep pace with the demand.

Great as were the efforts demanded of them the Y. M. C. A. officials would not have been so hard put if their services were required in France alone. Sports are just as badly needed in Russia and Italy. Men and equipment must be transferred from France to Italy and Russia, and so the Y. M. C. A. officials directing army athletic affairs in France have found themselves running extremely short handed.

Recently the Y. M. C. A. appointed a special committee whose duty it is to secure American athletic experts to go to France and Italy. The Y. M. C. A. has advertised extensively for such men. Each boat that leaves for France carries its Y. M. C. A. workers and hundreds more are needed.

Besides men tons and tons of athletic equipment are being sent over. Not so long ago one single order for athletic equipment by the Y. M. C. A. amounted to a quarter of a million dollars. In all probability it was the largest single order for athletic equipment ever given. Included in the order were:

Some Athletic Order!

Six thousand six hundred and forty dozen baseballs and 1,600 bats.

Eight thousand fielders' gloves and 2,000 catchers' mitts.

One thousand four hundred dozen indoor baseballs.

Four thousand eight hundred rugby and 6,400 soccer footballs.

Sixteen hundred sets (four gloves to a set) of boxing gloves.

Two thousand four hundred volley balls.

Regarding the athletic situation in the American expeditionary forces and the great work the Y. M. C. A. is doing Dr. George J. Fisher, who might be called the director-general of all Y. M. C. A. athletic activities, recently gave a report to the Athletic Reasearch Society:

"The programme for recreation begins at the embarkation camp in America, continues on the transports on the seas, becomes active at the debarkation camps, is comprehensive in the training camps, and touches every small detachment scattered in the small French villages where the men are billeted," says the report.

"We are profiting much by the experience of the British and Canadian associations abroad which have done wonderful service in providing athletic activities.

A Different System.

"While in America the plan of the association was to furnish a physical director for each brigade of 6,000 men, in France the plan is to furnish such leadership for every 2,500 men and a divisional leader for each 15,000 men.

"Dr. J. H. McCurdy is heading the work for the Y. M. C. A. War Council in France. He has submitted a very full report. I am not free to tell the number of troops in France or the complete plan submitted to the military staff. Suffice it to say that the programme is large and comprehensive and in many respects larger than that attempted in America.

"Recreation buildings are being erected as fast as the Government can release lumber. In camps of under 1,000 men a portion of a double hut is used for recreation. In camps of over 1,000 separate buildings are being erected. An endeavor is being made to have the army place its shower baths in one end of these recreation buildings instead of in separate buildings.

"In order to visualize the activities in two types of camps, let me quote from actual correspondence, and in their own words from two men in charge of the programme, first in a base camp and second in a camp in a small village. C. J. Surbeck writes from a base camp somewhere in France:

At a Big Base Camp.

"Regarding my work, it is almost too big a topic to write on. I wish you might pay me a visit any afternoon. I am at a bag base camp where the troops are landed from transports in large numbers, here to be rested for a few days, sometimes trained for a longer time, then sent farther up the line. Essentially then my work is in waves. For many days there is absolute fireweeks from daylight to dark—yes, and more. I located a volley ball court under an arc lamp and the men played under the light until called to quarters. Then when the crowd moves out to another camp we work with the units that are resident and try to get a little very much needed rest.

"Boys are very glad to get a baseball in their hands and stretch their cramped muscles after a long, confining and anxious trip on the transports. Each time a new lot arrives I tell them in a few words at a reception what I am trying to do in the athletic line, and what is expected of them. The next day I make the rounds of the officers and find out what material is in each unit—baseball, basketball, football, boxing, wrestling, acrobatics, stunts, &c. Then we line out intercompany, interbattalion and regimental competition.

"On our main diamond I have had six baseball games in an afternoon and evening, played by time. Mass athletic meets have been popular. Men and officers have gone mad over volley ball. We laid out a first class football field and this week I am arranging another.

Cosmopolitan Proposition.

"I already have three football games scheduled, rather a cosmopolitan proposition, too. One is English rugby, one soccer and the other American. I will probably have three times that number by week end. It is a very wonderful sight to see, in the evening after mess, hundreds of figures in khaki playing simultaneously baseball, basketball, volley ball, football, quoits and various other stunts.

"One of the engineer groups provided the lumber and did all the work on a splendid boxing platform on which we staged bouts two evenings a week. A recent change in time has robbed us of our evening, so we make the most of the afternoons. Our only evening work is boxing in the hut. I shall have indoor athletic meets on a limited scale later. Sunday afternoons I have made gala days in order to provide amusement to hold the men on the post when otherwise they might be safe hunting.

"How I wish you could witness one of my afternoon entertainments. Tip-top championship baseball games with thousands of lusty throated spectators. The commandant gave permission to the French people in the district to attend, which added a liberal sprinkling of French officers and men with their ladies. The baseball diamond rolled, lined, flagged, roped, and with a detail of guards to handle the crowd; big motor trucks with chairs in them backed to base lines as reserved seats for officers and ladies. A perfect picture. At 4 o'clock I always stage two or three good boxing bouts, to which the big crowd immediately swings.

Gambling Discouraged.

"'One of the big questions in army athletics is that of gambling. It is almost impossible to have a game of volley ball without money on it. Boxing of course is paramount in this, and yet I have had great success in keeping money out. During all the boxing we have had not a cent has gone to a boxer except after a plucky little old timer had put up a specially good exhibition the hat was passed by one of the crowd. It is easy to see, however, that without leadership from the association athletics could prove the curse of the camp.'

"In a later report Surbeck writes that a big mass meet was so organized that it was handled entirely by officers. A whole brigade was put through a big contest in three hours. He says it did his heart good to see a track team made up of a whole regiment march on the field at once.

"These reports indicate that we are not satisfied with less than 100 per cent. of the men in athletic sports."

Space herewith will not permit the printing in full of the second letter Dr. Fisher referred to in his report. It is from B. T. Pest and presents the difficulties in a small village near the front. Boxing bouts were held and the men took part in various relay and road races. Several amusing contests were held. Of them Mr. Pest writes:

Charge of "the Sammies."

"I got full cooperation from the officers and we had a fine time. The two races in the morning were close and interesting, but the modified soccer was a thriller. Our 'avenue' is quite narrow and full of mud, and there is a slight grade at either end running down to the lowest point near the middle of the village. The ball was placed at this point and the teams lined up on opposite sides on a line 100 yards distant from the ball.

"At the sound of the whistle they made a wild charge down the hill for the ball. If the Germans could have a picture of that charge of our 'Sammies' I believe the war would end to-morrow.

"The clash was like the clash of battle. A number of course were spilled and slid forward on their faces three or four feet through the mud. But what did the mud matter when the sacred honor of the company was at stake? After that it was a howling, kicking, pushing, fighting mob. Meanwhile the officers stood on a wagon at the side of the street splitting their sides with laughter. There were sore shins, bruised bodies and mud from head to toe, but the spirit of battle was also there, and Company H of course won. It was the talk of the day. All the afternoon the men of the other companies declared they could lick every last man in the winning company. The afternoon was open, owing to the large turkey dinner.

"Passing the Buck" in France.

"At 7 P. M. the athletic championship was continued in the hut. I staked a plank to the ground for a take off in the standing broad jump. Then at proper distance we marked out lanes, numbering them 1, 2, 3 and 4. As the soldier jumped into any particular lane that number of points were credited to his company. This did away with all measuring and we were able to run a large number of men in a short time. Wooden blocks and two empty bacon cans comprised the equipment for the potato race. The tug of war was run in the usual way.

"'Passing the buck' consisted of passing a large handful of sticks (little more than could be conveniently handled) from man to man, the length of a line of fifteen men in this case. We filled two baby nursing bottles with malted milk and had the fellows suck at the nipples to see who was the best 'sucker.' The cracker race is the old one of eating a cracker and whistling upon finishing.

"I have been able to get the major to combine the two huts we had here into one large double hut. This was filled to capacity during the whole evening. One of the nice things about it was the fact that practically all the officers were present and helped in every way to make it a success."

This detailed statement indicates how near the physical directors get to the men and what a factor they are in ministering to their recreative needs.

TO DECIDE MAT TITLES.

CHICAGO, March 16.—The national amateur wrestling championship contests will be held on April 12 and 13 at the Chicago Athletic Association, under the auspices of the A. A. U., it was announced to-day. The events will be divided into nine classes and are expected to attract hundreds of contestants from all parts of the United States.

Cueist Who Fooled Englishmen.

Frank Ives.

WHERE IVES RAN 2540 IN GAME WITH ROBERTS.

Ives's Jaw Anchor Defeated Roberts in Billiard Match

American Expert Had English Billiard Rules Modified for Match.

MADE A RUN OF 2,540

By CHARLES F. MATHISON.

One of the most interesting billiard matches in history, and certainly the most amusing to Americans, though annoying to Britons, was that in which Frank Ives, then at the height of his powers, signally defeated John Roberts, the English champion, in a game under modified English rules in London in 1893 by 6,000 to 3,831 points.

It was a conspicuous instance of American ingenuity overcoming the apparently insurmountable obstacles presented by the British rules governing the game. The American expert succeeded in inducing the English champion to make one slight change in the rules, and in so doing the Briton opened the door to his certain defeat. The contest was played on a regulation English table, 6x12, and with six pockets. Under the English rules the balls were 2 1-16 inches in circumference and the pocket openings 3⅝ inches.

Ives said he was willing to play under English rules, but asked that the balls be 2¼ inches in circumference and the pockets reduced to 3⅛ inches. This request was acceded to and the match was clinched.

Ives's Discovery.

The reason that Ives asked the slight change in question was that he had been studying the English tables and the English rules and had discovered an opening that he thought he could use to advantage. This was section 44, which read:

"The balls being jammed in the pocket so that the greater part is off the table, they shall be considered to have been holed."

The Michigan expert reached the conclusion that with a slight increase in the size of the ball and a slight reduction in the opening of the pocket, he could get the balls in an anchor at the pocket and run quite a number of points by bulk line nurse methods before losing the position.

Ives practised in secret in this city, and while he made runs of 600 to 800 without the use of the jaw, no one ever learned how many he had run with the balls in the corner.

The match started on May 29, 1893, the games being blocks of 1,000 points a night. Roberts started off like a winner, and the first block went to the Briton by 1,000 to 689. The Englishman won the second block by 1,000 to 981, and the third block by 1,000 to 573, the total score then being 3,000 for Roberts and 2,243 for the American.

British Jubilant.

The Englishmen were jubilant and considered the match won by their champion. But they did not know that Ives had purposely avoided getting the jaw anchor in the early games.

But on the fourth night of play Ives decided the time had arrived to play his trump card, and getting the balls in what approached closely an anchor position, near the jaw, but not far enough in to be considered holed, the American clicked off points with a regularity that was disgusting to the onlookers, who denounced it as "silly business" and "bally rot."

After Ives had run 1,540 points with the jaw position and brought his total for the night to 1,757, and 4,000 for the four days, the American purposely broke the balls.

Roberts got only 418 points, while Ives was going ahead, and the English champion's game collapsed at that point. Ives took the jaw position in the last two blocks and ran enough to give him the advantage each night. His run on the fourth and fifth nights was 2,540 points in the jaw. His final run in the jaw in the final block was 852.

Roberts's best run of the match was 249.

Ives's Challenge.

The Britons complained so loudly about the jaw position that Ives offered to wager that no English billiard player could put the balls in the jaw and run 100 points.

Several British experts accepted the challenge, but the best that any of them did was 20 points.

Once during the match with Roberts Ives got the balls on the long rail and nursed them in true American style. As he neared the middle pocket the onlookers expressed the opinion that he would have to break them, but Ives merely used the cushion on each side of the pocket for balkline tactics and safely passed the aperture. After which he got the balls again on the rail and continued his run.

As a result of the expert masse shots shown by Ives in the match with Roberts the Englishman took lessons from Maggiola in that branch of the game and improved in his play.

Ives was in his youth a wood turner in his father's factory at Plainwell, Mich., but he had a natural bent for games of skill and became a crack roller skater and bicycle rider.

After attaining some skill as a straight rail player, Ives made up his mind to become a professional, and went to Tom Foley's room in Chicago. The youngster's concentration was remarkable, and four years later he astonished the billiard world by beating the Wizard Jake Schaefer at 14:2.

Ives also won the 18:1 championship from Schaefer, but ill health soon put him out of the game.

The perseverance of the Michigander was illustrated by an incident at Daly's one day when Ives was playing a 14:2 practice game with Tom Gallagher. In the course of the game Ives ran 495 and made some wonderful shots. But he continued to rail at himself all the time.

"Why do you find fault with yourself?" asked Gallagher. "You ran 495 and made some of the hardest shots I ever saw."

"That is just the point," replied Ives. "Had I played a good game I would not have had the hard shots."

While playing a practice game with Billy Gershel, Ives playing 18:1 to Gershel's 18:2, Ives won by 500 to 256, and made a high run of 384.

Poggy's "Practice" Game.

While the late Ferdinand Poggenburg was practising for an amateur 14:2 tourney he asked Ives to play with him, and Ives played 14:1. Poggenburg won the bank and ran 8, and then Ives ran 600. The amateur had only one shot.

On one occasion when Ives was practising for a match he played steadily in Daly's for eight hours. He refused to quit until he had perfected himself in a shot that he had not made in a manner to suit him. Maurice Daly declares that had Ives lived and continued to play he would have relegated 18:2 to the place where the 14 inch games are.

Ives passed away in Mexico, where he had gone in a vain effort to recover his broken health, before Hoppe had appeared as a formidable player. Those who intimately knew the Michigan boy declare that in his prime he would have beaten Hoppe as the latter stands today.

Frank Ives's Record.

BORN at Plainwell, Mich., October 31, 1866. Died at Progreso, Mexico, August 30, 1899, in his thirty-third year.

Baseball catcher for Lima, Ohio club in 1887.

Won the roller skating championship and the high wheel bike championship of Michigan in 1887.

Began to play billiards in 1888, and March 19, 1892, defeated Jake Schaefer in Chicago for the 14:2 championship of America, by 800 to 499.

Made a run of 140 at 18:1 Madison Square Garden November, 1897, which still stands as a record.

In a practice game later at 18:1 ran 384, which while not a record, is the highest run ever made at that style.

Ran 600 in a practice game of 14:1, the highest run, though not a record, at that style of play.

Made a high run of 85 at cushion carroms.

Defeated John Roberts, champion at English billiards, in London, 1893, compromise rules, by 6,000 to 3,831.

LACROSSE AT PENN.

Eight Games Arranged—Tennis Schedule Announced.

PHILADELPHIA, March 16.—Eight games have been arranged for the Penn lacrosse team for the coming season, according to the schedule which was announced yesterday. Five of these will be played on Franklin Field.

The season will open on April 13 with Swarthmore appearing at Franklin Field.

The varsity and freshman tennis schedules also were announced. Three dual matches have been listed for each team. The schedules follow:

VARSITY LACROSSE.

April 13, Swarthmore at Franklin Field; 20, Lehigh at Franklin Field; 26, Swarthmore at Swarthmore; 27, Crescent A. C. at New York. May 4, Johns Hopkins at Franklin Field; 11, Stevens Institute at New York; 18, Carlisle at Franklin Field; 25, Syracuse at Franklin Field.

VARSITY TENNIS.

April 20, Swarthmore at home. May 4, Columbia at New York; 7, Lafayette at home.

FRESHMAN TENNIS.

April 17, West Philadelphia High School at home. May 9, Hill School at Pottstown; 18, Swarthmore Prep at home.

SKATING CARNIVAL.

Champions at Healy's Crystal Palace Benefit.

A skating carnival in which the best figure and exhibition skaters in the district will appear will take place next Wednesday night at the employees' benefit at Healy's Crystal Palace. Some of the stars who will perform are Bobby McLean, champion speed skater of the world, Miss Katie Schmidt, the figure skater, Steele and Winslow.

Cathleen Pope and William P. Chase also will give some fancy skating exhibitions.

PASSAIC HIGH DATES.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

PASSAIC, N. J., March 16.—Passaic High School baseball players will be kept busy two days each week during the months of April and May, a dozen games having been arranged by Manager Frank Stokes, as follows:

April 13, Passaic at Ridgewood; 17, at Englewood; 20, Leonia at Passaic; 24, Cliffside at Passaic.

May 1, Rutherford at Passaic; 4, Hackensack at Passaic; 8, Ridgewood at Passaic; 11, Englewood at Passaic; 15, at Leonia; 18, at Cliffside; 26, at Rutherford.

WILL ASK A. K. C. TO CHANGE ITS RULES

Pekingese Fanciers Want Champions Barred From All Classes at Matches.

WANG TAI IS THE CAUSE

As a result of the annual match of the Pekingese Club of America last Thursday afternoon in the Imperial Hotel the American Kennel Club will be asked to change one of its rules. It will be suggested that the A. K. C. prohibit champions from competing in matches.

The rule now prohibits a champion from competing in an American bred class, but there is nothing on the books which prevents a title holder from going before the judges in a match in any other class.

As the object of a match is to encourage the various breeds it has been an unwritten law in dogdom not to exhibit a champion or noted dog. When Mrs. C. Y. Mathis brought forth Mrs. Thomas Hastings's champion Bagatelle Wang Tai and entered him in the American bred class he was disqualified, but whether or not the disqualification in that particular class barred him from the other classes in which he was put on top is a matter dogdom is anxious to have settled by the A. K. C. and to prevent a repetition many fanciers will request a change in the rule.

Whether or not his disqualification had any bearing on his defeat in the special for the best of the show is a matter of conjecture. Some fanciers declared that Mrs. Clinton Martin's puppy Mufti of Miramar was superior to the champion, but there were others who declared that Michael Van Buren, the judge, took the disqualification into consideration when he placed Mufti over the champion.

The Awards.

Puppies, dogs (three months and under)—First, Mrs. A. L. Holland's Wenti Junior of Hydegree; second, Yankibourne Kennels' Mandarin of Yankibourne; third, Mrs. H. C. Mayer's Bud Dee.

Puppies, dogs (under six months)—First, Mrs. C. Y. Mathis's Tu Wang; second, Mrs. Grace Jackson's Ahr Sin; third, Mrs. B. P. Craig's Shao Choo.

Puppies, dogs (over six months)—First, Mrs. A. L. Holland's Wistal of Hydegree; second, Mrs. C. W. Chapin's Cinders; third, Mrs. Clinton Irwin Martin's Chee Choo, Jr., of Miramar.

Novice, dogs—First, Miss C. de la Torre Bueno's Aleeha's King-Teh; second, Mrs. Holland's Wistal of Hydegree; third, Dr. Mary Cotton's Peking Kwang Hsu.

American bred, dogs—Mrs. Thomas Hastings's ch. Bagatelle Wang Tai; second, Mrs. A. L. Holland's Wee Choo of Hydegree; third, Mrs. H. R. Mooney's Inala's Prince Ching; fourth, Mrs. Harris Baxter's Ah Sid. (Winner disqualified as ineligible; others move up.)

Limit, dogs—First, Mrs. C. Y. Mathis's Ching; second, Yankibourne Kennels' Neptune of Ashcroft; third, Miss Caroline Riley's Shi Kye.

Open, dogs—First, Mrs. Mathis's Ching; second, Yankibourne Kennels' Neptune of Ashcroft; third, Mrs. C. I. Martin's Chee Chino of Arcady.

Winners, dogs—Mrs. A. L. Holland's Wee Choo of Hydegree (Ch. Bagatelle Wang Tai, the winner, disqualified.)

Puppies, bitches (under six months)—First, Mrs. M. R. Mooney's Prince Ching; second, Mrs. Grace Jackson's Nel-Li; third, Mrs. A. L. Holland's Miss Wenti of Hydegree.

Puppies, bitches (over six months)—First, Mrs. Arthur M. Hunter's Gia of Arden; second, Mrs. C. W. Chapin's Lanti; third, Miss Margaret Gude's Wu Tai of the Mill.

Novice, bitches—First, Mrs. A. M. Hunter's Su Kai of Arden; second, Mrs. A. C. Griffeth's Sis Brown; third, Mrs. C. W. Chapin's Lanti.

American bred, bitches—First, Mrs. C. I. Martin's Mufti of Miramar; second, Mrs. Thomas Hastings's Bagatelle Fee; third, Mrs. A. C. Griffeth's Sis Brown.

Limit, bitches—First, Mrs. A. C. Griffeth's Sis Brown; second, Miss Jeanne Kerb's Nowata Yu Gee; third, Mrs. C. W. Chapin's Lanti.

Open, bitches—First, Mrs. Charles West's Nowata Tsai of Noke of Braywick; second, Miss Jeanne Kerb's Yu Gee; third, Miss Marie Shaw's Gherti of Alderbourne.

Winners, bitches—Mrs. C. I. Martin's Mufti of Miramar; reserve, Mrs. A. M. Hunter's Su Kai of Arden.

MISS BARNES WINS WITH NEW FRENCHIE

Makes Debut in Dogdom With Rochambeau and Scores a Signal Success.

The match of the French Bulldog Club of America in the Hotel Imperial last Thursday night brought out an exhibitor and a puppy which are likely to go on to better things in the dog world. Miss Katherine M. Barnes made her debut before the judges and scored a wonderful success with her puppy Rochambeau d'Anjou, which, like his owner, had never been on a bench before.

Miss Barnes purchased Rochambeau last December for a pet and had no intention of benching him. Under her care Rochambeau developed into as fine a looking young Frenchie as has been seen in these parts in some time. Miss Barnes didn't know that. He was her pet and because of her love for him she believed him the best in the world. But she had no idea he could win prizes and fame on the bench until the morning of the show. At that time several experts told her of his fine points and declared he was capable of winning prizes.

After a consultation with her brother Miss Barnes decided to see how good her pet was in the eyes of expert fanciers. She took Rochambeau to the Imperial and sent him before Joseph Warmuth, the judge. To the surprise of Miss Barnes and the other fanciers Rochambeau showed like a champion. He seemed at home on the bench before the big gathering and displayed his good points so well that he went from puppy to winners dog and was then declared best of opposite sex to James J. M. Fangmann's noted bitch Monte Carlo Mona Lisa, which was adjudged best of the show. The awards:

Puppies, dogs (over six months)—First, Miss Katherine M. Barnes's Rochambeau d'Anjou; second, Joseph Hladwarsch's Hugo Lad; third, M. Rosner's Le Monteur a la Gloire.

Novice dogs—First, Miss Katherine M. Barnes's Rochambeau d'Anjou; second, Joseph Hladwarsch's Hugo Lad; third, F. Poffett's C' An Taur.

Limit, dogs—First, Miss Katherine M. Barnes's Rochambeau d'Anjou; second, Joseph Hladwarsch's Hugo Lad; third, C. P. Quackenbush's Nahob Gamin.

Open, dogs—First, Joseph Hladwarsch's Hugo Lad; second, C. P. Quackenbush's Nahob Gamin; third, Charles Storck's Fifi's Jouffin.

Puppies, bitches (under six months)—First, Mrs. G. P. Pitkotchy's Notie Zira; second, W. Henrich's Roxie.

Novice, bitches—First, J. M. Fangmann's Monte Carlo Edna; second, Mrs. James Gerrity's Nonchalante.

Limit, bitches—First, G. G. Anderson's Susan IV.; second, Mrs. James Gerrity's Nonchalante IV; third, D. W. Sherwood's Margot M'Amie.

Open, bitches—J. M. Fangmann's Monte Carlo Mona Lisa; second, G. G. Anderson's Susan IV.; third, Mrs. James Gerrity's Nonchalante.

RUTGERS'S NEW CAPTAIN.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., March 16.—Alfred A. Neuschaefer of Newark has been elected captain of Rutgers's basketball team for next year. Neuschaefer is a guard on the football eleven, besides being a basketball player.

McSweeney of Mutuals First to Pitch Curve

Martin, Player of Pioneer Days, Traces Origins of Various Deliveries.

DEVELOPED DROP BALL

The death of Jim McCormick, the pitcher of the old Chicago club under Cap Anson, at Paterson last Sunday reopened the old controversy regarding the originator of the curve ball. Various writers of obituary paragraphs declared that McCormick had been the inventor of the curve ball. The writer of the subjoined article, Alphonse C. Martin, of this city, pitched for the old Empires, Mutuals, Eckfords and Troys, from 1865 through 1873, and he declares that he has incontrovertible evidence that the first user of a curve in a game under rules was J. McSweeney of the Mutuals in 1866. Martin himself was the first to use the drop ball.

By ALPHONSE C. MARTIN.

(Pitcher for Montreals, Eckfords and Troys.)

That curve pitching was not sooner developed was due to the fact that the rules of the National Association governing the delivery of the ball prior to 1870 prevented the hurlers from attempting to shoot curve balls over the plate. Nearly every pitcher who tried to pitch a curve ball up to and inclusive of 1870 was ruled out by the umpires on the charge of using an underhand throw.

The rules of those days required the pitcher to deliver the ball with a motion similar to that of the cricket bowler. In releasing the sphere the hand was required to swing below the waist and perpendicular, without any twists of the wrist. As a result those pitchers who had learned that the ball could be curved and who attempted it in professional games gave the wrist a snap as the ball was released, which the umpires called an underhand throw.

The single exception was Bobby Matthews, who in 1869, while pitching for the Maryland Club of Baltimore, managed to conform to the rules and still impart an outcurve to the ball.

The first man to attempt the use of the curve in a game under rules was J. McSweeney of the Mutuals. He tried the delivery in a game at the Elysian Fields in Hoboken in 1866 and he was ruled out by the umpire.

The restriction against the underhand throw was removed in 1871, whereupon William A. (Candy) Cummings, Tommy Bond, Terry Larkin and others developed the outcurve and pitched it with success.

First Curve the Drop.

The first curve used in the game was the "drop curve" and was used long before swift pitching was thought of. This manner of pitching was to toss the ball in the air, the ball dropping down at the plate.

The writer as far back as 1861-62 perfected this style of pitching by a peculiar manipulation of the ball with the first two fingers and thumb of the hand, that caused the ball to turn toward the batter.

The ball when delivered started with a slight curve upward and broke down at the plate, as if it had lost its force of motion.

The peculiar feature of this style of pitching was that when the ball was hit, no matter how hard, it would rise high in the air and the fielders had no trouble in catching the batter out.

In a game between the Eckford and Powhatan clubs on the Union Grounds, Brooklyn, in 1869, twenty-six out of twenty-seven players were put out on fly and foul balls and only one player was put out at first base.

I used this delivery from 1863 until I retired in 1873, and during this time I pitched for the following clubs: Irving Club, Jr., at Sixty-third street, between Second and Third avenues, 1863-1864; Empire Club, Jr., at Elysian Fields, Hoboken, N. J., 1865; Mutual Club, Jr., at Elysian Fields, Hoboken, N. J., 1866-1867; Eckford Club, Jr., at Union Grounds, Brooklyn, E. D., 1868-1869; Mutual Club, Jr., at Union Grounds, Brooklyn, E. D., 1869-1870; Eckford Club, Jr., at Union Grounds, Brooklyn, E. D., 1871; Troy Club, Jr., at Troy, N. Y., 1872; Mutual Club, Jr., Union Grounds, Brooklyn, E. D., 1873.

History of Out Curve.

The history of pitchers who first attempted to use the out curve so far as can be substantiated by reliable evidence is as follows:

J. McSweeney was pitching for the Mutual Club at Elysian Fields, Hoboken, in 1866. He was ruled out by the umpire, Joe Duncan, as being an underhand thrower.

In corroboration of the above statement, I offer a letter written in 1908 by the late Reindes Walters, pitcher of the Mutual Club from 1868 to 1871. It follows:

"To my best knowledge and memory a gentleman by the name of McSweeney was the first to pitch the out curve. Being the pitcher of the Old Mutual Club of New York (from 1868 to 1871), I myself pitched the out curve in the 9—0 game between the Mutual and Chicago clubs at Chicago in 1870, and was ruled out by the umpire, Nick Bowcher, as being an underhand thrower. But I was put back in the game again and restricted to a straight arm delivery."

I also submit the following resolution of the Union Club of Morrisania that appeared in the *Chronicle*, written by Henry Chadwick in 1866:

"At a special meeting of the Union B. B. Club held on Wednesday evening, June 20, 1866, it was unanimously

"*Resolved*, That the Union B. B. Club, recognizing in the so-called pitching of Mr. McSweeney of the Mutual Club and Mr. Chas. Walker of the Active Club an underhand throw decline to participate in a match game with these clubs should these gentlemen continue to deliver the ball in the manner referred to."

McSweeney a Wild One.

I remember the circumstances relating to McSweeney in 1866 very well, as that was my first year in the Mutual Club. My position as pitcher at that time had not been decided upon and as the club was anxious to have a swift pitcher McSweeney received a trial. McSweeney proved to a swift pitcher as well as the wildest pitcher that ever pitched a baseball.

The ball seldom if ever came over the home plate, and as the catcher, Nat Jewett, could not hold his pitching, he proved a failure and soon was forgotten.

All the wise ones maintained that if McSweeney had had control of the ball he would have been one of the greatest pitchers of the age. Nobody at that time had any idea that he used an out curve. In fact, the word was not used in baseball in the early sixties. But later, when the curve was proved to be possible, his name often was used in conjunction with its origin. But he was an underhand thrower, and that was sufficient to prevent him from pitching in a regular game.

Jim Creighton has always been considered the originator of underhand throwing. He became famous as the pitcher of the Excelsior Club in 1859-60. In a game at Morrisania between the Union and Excelsior clubs he suffered injuries which caused his death. He was buried in Green-Wood Cemetery on October 20, 1862.

It was declared that William A. (Candy) Cummings pitched an outcurve in a game between the Excelsior and Harvard clubs at Jarvis Field, Cambridge, Mass., in 1867.

No evidence substantiates the claim.

Matthews and the Out Curve.

Bob Matthews, who was pitching for the Maryland Club of Baltimore, Md., in 1869, was the first to pitch an outcurve within the rules.

This was in a regular game played under the rules of the National Association and conforming strictly to the rules governing the pitchers. Matthews was the first pitcher, and the only one, who proved that curved pitching could be used legally in a professional game of baseball. All other pitchers who had tried, so far as any record shows, were disqualified.

My recollections of Candy Cummings date from 1866. I remember him as a thin, tall, loose jointed young man in his initial stage as a player and absolutely without any training as a pitcher. I watched his work in the box, and played and batted against him year after year until I retired in 1873.

From 1864 to 1872 I used a delivery that was called medium pace, consisting of a drop-floater and a slight in curve that puzzled the best batters in the country. At the Capitoline Grounds, where the Atlantic, Excelsior and Star clubs played, trying to copy my style of pitching became a fad.

And, as a matter of fact, in trying to acquire my style of twisting the ball Cummings, Tommy Bond, Terry Larkin and others developed the out curve, but not before 1870. They, however, were all underhand throwers.

Cummings was a swift underhand thrower, according to all accounts, and when the restriction was removed in 1871 underhand throwing was adopted by nearly all pitchers. Cummings admitted that I used a curve before he did. He said so in a statement to E. J. Edwards at Hartford in 1876.

In answer to Edwards's question as to whether he was the first man ever to pitch a ball with a curve on, Cummings replied: "No, I don't think I was the first man to pitch a curve ball. I think Martin of the Old Eckfords had a curve. Not mine, but a kind of curve."

In this statement will be found a concrete corroboration of my contention that Cummings was not the first man to pitch a curve ball.

An additional statement by Cummings reads:

"Nat Hicks was catcher and I was pitcher of the semi-professional Stars of Brooklyn. I noticed that very few batsmen could bat me, and finally I saw that when I pitched the ball it swerved outward before it reached the batsman.

"I studied and experimented until at last I found that if I held the ball between my fingers and thumb in a certain way and gave it a certain twist of my wrist just as I delivered it, then the resulting motion that the ball took produced a curve. I had found out the secret of the curve ball."

Hicks first caught for the Stars in 1870, consequently the catching and pitching between him and Cummings must have been in that year also. And, according to Cummings's own statement, that was the year that he found out the secrets of the curve.

BASEBALL AT N. Y. U.

Athletic Council Sanctions Sport—Arranging Schedule.

Now that the basketball season has ended the attention in athletics at New York University has turned to baseball. At first it was thought that there would be no team at the Violet college this year, for at the outbreak of the war last year it was announced that baseball would be discontinued at the University Heights institution for the duration of the war. At a recent meeting of the athletic council, however, this action was rescinded and Manager Joseph Billo has gone ahead with the plans for this season as usual.

Prospects for a good team at the Violet college this year are very favorable despite the fact that the war has taken a majority of last year's regulars. Among those who have been lost by the call to the colors are Pitchers Wolf, Zickel and Reich, Catcher Draper, Infielders Strawbridge, Belmont and Mendelsohn and Outfielders Daily and Weinheimer. As a nucleus for this year's team there are Captain Tetleman, who was also captain last year and held down second base; Baker, short stop and catcher; Egan, first baseman two years ago, and Connell, right fielder and heaviest hitter on the team.

Manager Joseph J. Billo has already booked several games for this season, most of which are to be played at home.

Director of Athletics Frank H. Cann announced yesterday afternoon that there would be a freshman team at the Violet college this year.

RUTGERS BASEBALL DATES.

New York University Nine to Play New Brunswick Team.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., March 16.—Manager Alexander Ferguson to-day announced the Rutgers College baseball schedule. The list contains six games, four of which are at home with two dates yet to be filled. The season will start with Ursinus in New Brunswick on April 6. On April 13 New York University will be played in New York; on April 19, Cornell at New Brunswick, and on April 27 Union at Schenectady. The May dates include Fordham at New Brunswick on May 4 and Colgate in New Brunswick on May 11. May 18 and May 20 are open dates.

Prospects for a winning team are not bright, as the majority of last year's team have enlisted. Berg, catcher, is a sergeant in the Medical Corps; Waterfield, pitcher, is in the United States Navy, and Gray, pitcher, in the Ambulance Corps; Whitehill, first base, and Becker, second base, are in Aviation; Captain B. Durand third base, is a First Lieutenant at Camp Meade; E. Durand, second base, is in France with the Signal Corps, and Lawes, center field, is in the Coast Artillery.

The nine this year must be built around Lyons, left field, Baker, right field, and Weller, shortstop. Indoor practice has already begun under the direction of Coach Frank Cox.

Curve Pitching Traced to Its Very Sources

First pitcher to attempt the use of the curve—J. McSweeney, Mutual B. B. C., 1866.

First out curve legally delivered—Bobby Matthews in 1869.

First pitcher to evolve underhand throw—Jim Creighton of Excelsiors in 1859.

First pitcher to use drop—A. C. Martin, 1864.

Billy Cummings of the Brooklyn Stars did not use an out curve previous to 1870.

PREPARING FOR BIG POWER BOAT SEASON

Battle for Speed Championship Will Be Started at Mississippi Regatta.

TO RACE FOR GOLD CUP

The battle for the world's speedboat championship will be started all over again this year when the present world champion, the Miss Detroit II., owned by Garfield A. Wood of Detroit, Mich., meets all comers for the world title at the annual regatta of the Mississippi Valley Power Boat Association in July.

The principal battle will be for the $1,000 Webb championship cup, which carries with it the Western championship and which has in past events been won by the American champion, as boats winning this cup for the past five or six years have not been defeated in any other events staged during the season.

Last season the Miss Minneapolis, then the world champion, raced with the Miss Detroit II. at Minneapolis and lost to the challenger, which set a record of better than 63 miles an hour. Wood declares that alterations have been made in the Miss Detroit II. which will make this boat considerably faster than last year. Meantime the Miss Minneapolis has also been improved on, so that her sponsor, the Miss Minneapolis Boat Association, declares she will be able to retrieve her lost laurels. It was because of her engine trouble, they say, that she lost last year to the present champion.

Dates for Gold Cup.

In addition to these two boats in the championship class there will be others, including the Miss Peoria, of the same size and power as the champion. James A. Pugh of Chicago is expected to enter his famous Disturber IV., which has never been defeated and which it is claimed has set up an unofficial record of over 70 miles an hour. Chris C. Smith of Algonac has also promised to enter a new "dark horse" which may set all the old champions on their ears.

Detroit's gold cup power boat regatta committee proposes to stick by the original dates announced, August 31, September 2, 3 and 4, despite the announcement of the American Power Boat Association that a sanction for a speed boat regatta at Toronto on those days has been given.

Another Controversy.

This stand presents another controversy for the American Power Boat Association to decide. One thing is practically certain—that if the two meets are held on the same dates the Canadian city probably will be the sufferer, inasmuch as the gold cup is the trophy which speed boat men would rather win than any other the fast water craft race for.

When Detroit held its 1916 regatta these dates were named for the gold cup classic and because the Labor day date provides an opportunity for the working class to view the event they again have decided on the same ones and did so previous to the announcement that Toronto would get the sanction of the A. P. B. A.

In a recent letter President Judson of the American Power Boat Association stated that the Detroit representatives at the annual meeting stipulated that Detroit would like to hold the regatta about the first of August. However, these men state that they did nothing of the kind, but stated that the matter had not been definitely decided on and rested with the general committee for final decision.

WEEK OF ACTIVITY IN ST. NICK RINK

Pittsburg-Wanderers Hockey Game Will Start the Ball Rolling To-morrow.

This coming week being the last of the season for ice skating at St. Nicholas Ice Rink, some of the most important and interesting events of the year will take place,