

EVERS SAYS MODERN BALL PLAYERS ARE EASY TO TOUCH; JAWN ALSO FINDS MANAGERS SOFT

SEEMING MISFORTUNE IN LOSS OF HOBLITZELL MAY HELP SOLVE BARROW'S MANAGERIAL DILEMMA

McInnis Fixture at First Instead of Being Switched to Uncertain Assignment—Second and Third Only Shaky Spots

GOOD fortune often comes disguised—camouflaged to such an extent, in fact, that it is impossible to see a ray of hope. Men have been known to slip on a banana peel, fall in a soft spot and find a purse full of coin.

Mogul Barrow, of the Boston Red Sox, has been the object of pity on the part of Boston papers and fans. Not that he did not have ball players, for although that club broke all records in war losses, no fewer than fourteen men, including the manager, being caught in the war toll, a great flood of new and stellar material was garnered from the Athletics at a cost of \$200,000 and three players worth at least \$5000 each.

Barrow's dilemma, however, was one of distribution. How to arrange his team to make a winning combination was the rub. His regular first baseman was not thought lost, and so it became necessary to try to fit Stuffy McInnis into some other spot in the inner works without discounting his worth.

But here another complication arose. Barrow is sweet on Wally Schang's hitting and is planned to keep the catcher in the game every day if possible. Schang's only other regular possibility was third, where he was played by Connie and on. Every one knows this scheme represented a long chance—just about as much of a gamble in fact as trying to make a real second sacker out of Stuffy McInnis.

Now that word comes that Hoblitzell is taking an examination for a lieutenant in the dental corps and has passed his physical tests, a seeming further disaster may be turned into a piece of good fortune, and in fact solve the big problem faced by the Red Sox this season. At least, it would free the playing of McInnis in his regular role and leave the managerial infield riddle reduced to the second and third base assignments. In every other respect the squad is well rounded and ready for action as the best seeming contender for the runner-up job in the American circuit.

AS AN indication of the amount of the seriousness of the inner-work problem Barrow is making a heated fight for infielder Rip Conway, of Worcester, and is also reported to have signed former shortstop Bob Fisher, of the Cubs, Reds and Dodgers and last season second baseman of the Rochester team.

Modern Ball Players Easy to Touch

JOHNNY EVERS is one ball player who works at a steady job without any salary. It is Jawn's duty, or anyhow he performs the role, to represent old times against modern conditions in baseball. Things are not like they "used to be" and the Trojan frequently is in print to remind present-day folk that the game of yesterday was so far ahead of the present article of play that comparisons are loathsome.

The scrappy veteran can't see modern baserunners as in a class with those that have passed from the scene. And when it comes to eluding infielders in attempting steals, there is not a man in the National League today, he states, who could compare with Bill Dahien, Jimmie Sheekard, Frank Chance or Fred Clarke. He declares that it is a hard job to name even as many as five National League players of today who may be said to be really skilful in outguessing the man with the ball. The names picked by Evers as entitled to such rank as elders are Max Carey, George Whitted, Rabbit Maranville, Casey Stengel and Tommy Long.

"If you wanted a list of men fast and hard to stop stealing ten years ago," says the Trojan, "I could give you twenty-five names, but of late that department of the game has lost luster. In the last four or five years there have been in the National League five men hard to touch and they are all fast men."

Player Persecution Is Strongly Denied

NO LESS an authority than the Sporting News flouts the idea of Derrill Pratt fearing persecution at the hands of American League officials or club owners on account of his lawsuit against President Phil Ball, of the St. Louis Browns. It declares that previous widely circulated stories about players being run out of both circuits on account of activities affecting player interests are all stuff and nonsense and unworthy of circulation.

It takes up reported cases in detail and proceeds to explain. It declares that Sam Crawford was not railroaded out of both leagues on account of Player Fraternity activities, but because he was considered not worth the money he expected for his services. It is further stated that the player received a friendly bid from several clubs this year, but that his demands were so exorbitant that they were beyond consideration. It is alleged that all Crawford wanted was pay better than he received from Detroit during his halcyon days as a Tiger.

The Reulbach and Henry charges are denied with equal strength. Neither, it says, was made to suffer for "Prat" activities. The St. Louis Browns could have had Henry last fall, it is said, but didn't consider the player worth what his Washington salary demanded. Henry's work was balanced against his pay and the decision, it is said, was to let Griffith seek a market elsewhere. Stallings' taking on Ed Reulbach after he had lost out with Brooklyn, in the light of his present acquisition of Henry, is cited as a coincidence, showing that the Braves' manager, at least, could not be accused of having it in for a man in trouble elsewhere.

ANew intimation is made regarding Pratt. It is hinted that the player is talking protection against persecution as a means of getting a term contract with the Yanks.

Critic Says Cheap Towns Hold Down Salaries

ONE deep student of the national pastime has it that the war is not responsible for baseball economy and general retrenchment, but bum ball towns. He states that if the players are face to face with a condition that compels reduction of salaries those spots where the game is not appreciated by the fans are responsible. It is a matter, therefore, of relative spending or turning loose the coin, according to his viewpoint.

This critic declares that Philly is the leading twenty-five cent burg—that the fans have been educated to see the same ball as viewed in other towns where twice and thrice the amount is the accustomed tax to which the fans make no objection. This idea, of course, has been advanced before. Boston is pronounced the best ball town in the country both from the standpoint of willingness to pay and for supporting teams regardless of their winning ability.

New York is classed as a town that will not support a losing team any more than Philadelphia will support a winning one. Chicago is declared a "sneaky sportsy city"—one that supports its ball teams just like everything else—right up to the handle. Pittsburgh is classed as good, nearly as good as Boston. Everybody knows as well as the writer in question that the only thing needed to make St. Louis and Cincinnati two of the greatest ball towns in the country is to give the fans a run for their money. Other Cleveland or Detroit gets ranking as a good ball burg in the estimate of the umpire doing the talking.

WASHINGTON naturally is the poorest ball town in the big leagues for the simple reason that the attendance is transient, as few persons live long in Washington and home city pride is comparatively an unknown quantity.

Diplomat Urges Continuance of Athletics

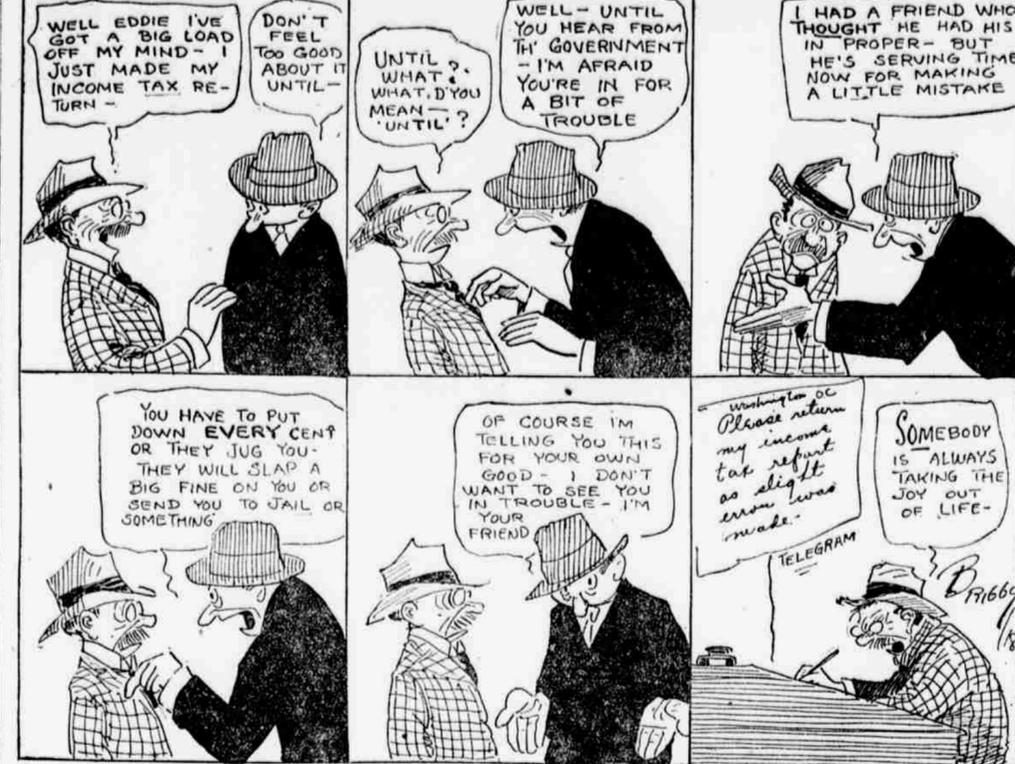
DON'T let the young men neglect their games altogether. That's the message that comes out of war-ridden Belgium from Brand Whitlock, the American Minister. In a letter to S. P. Germain, president of the Y. M. C. A., which recently elected Mr. Whitlock to honorary membership for life, the man who saved thousands of Belgians from starvation says: "Don't let the young men neglect their games altogether."

That Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton and that healthy outdoor sports do more to make the nation than anything besides moral character. They make it physically strong, and they teach the lads the sense of fair play and honor—that it what we are fighting for in this world today."

Bill Killefer Not Yet Signed Up

KILLEFER has not yet signed a contract, regardless of reports. He is still in California and his contract is also or else it is not yet signed. He is making his signature. That the player will be signed is a matter of time and is the correct one.

SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE



PENN RUNNERS IN NATIONAL GAMES

Davis, Haymond, Gustafson, Landers and Irvin Listed in N. Y. Events

CAGE TEAM ON TRIP

Lawson Robertson, coach of the University of Pennsylvania track team, has entered five of his runners in the National A. C. indoor title games which will be staged in the Twenty-second Regiment Armory in New York on Saturday night.

All of the runners will get individual titles, and four of them will represent the University in the medley relay race. The five entered are Marvin Gustafson, Captain Sherman Landers, Irvin, Davis and Haymond.

Gustafson and Irvin have been entered in the 600-yard run, and they will have against them the best mid-distance athletes in the country. Among the most prominent competitors will be Bob Maxam, the Meadowbrook star; Eddie Fall, the sensational runner from the Great Lakes Naval Station; Dave Caldwell, the former Cornell hero and one-time holder of the intercollegiate half-mile record here; and tomorrow night, the season will come to a close with the game at Rochester Saturday night.

The Perseus championship basketball squad will leave tonight on the final trip of the season. The players first will leave the train at Syracuse for a half-mile record here, and tomorrow night. The season will come to a close with the game at Rochester Saturday night.

PETE HERMAN TO DEFEND TITLE AGAINST FOUR LEADING BANTAMS

Champ, Now in U. S. Navy, Will Meet Jabez White, Frankie Brown, Joe Lynch and Johnny Ertle in South

By BILL BELL

PETE HERMAN, the world's bantam king, now is in the service. The conqueror of Kid Williams, who has been having a hard battle with his local draft board, finally settled all disputes when he enlisted in the naval coast reserve, and now is attached to the Algiers Naval Station at New Orleans.

The champion has been given permission to engage in four more battles before settling down to his duties as a service man.

The first picture of the champion in uniform is seen here. He looks the part of a heavyweight. Herman has a muscular neck and large head, and this likeness gives the impression that he is one of Willard's challengers. Herman is scheduled to entertain Jabez White before the Tulane Athletic Club within two weeks. This bout will be followed by battles with Frankie Brown, Joe Lynch and Johnny Ertle.

Herman's Eye Better

"After 'Petey' had disposed of his most persistent challengers he will settle down to his war work," said Doc Cutch, a close friend of the champion's, yesterday. "I was down there for a few weeks, and the champion is looking great. The eye he had injured in the benefit exhibition with Gus Lewis last December is better, and he is now ready for fight both for Uncle Sam and for his own glory."

Red Walsh, manager of Herman, also enlisted in the naval reserves, and keeps his protege in condition all the time. Walsh was Herman's trainer before he was made the pilot.

Manager Johnny Burns, of the Cambria Athletic Club, Kensington avenue and Somerset street, has arranged a classy card for his weekly show. In the wind-up Joe Welsh, who recently defeated Willie Moore, will stack up against the hard-hitting Young Brown, of New York. The semi-wind-up brings together two sluggers from this city, Andy Burns and Preston Brown. Hastings Murray, the pride of Little Italy, will meet a tartar in Bobby Doyle, of New York, in the main preliminary.

Young Coster, a local bantam, seeks bigger game in the boxing world, after being defeated at New York, a great fight at the Cambria last week.

BOOSTS and BUMPS

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL

THE well-known holdout league is about to pass out of existence. The reluctant players who have been suffering from acute attacks of writers' cramp are throwing out their Spencerian arms and in a day or two everything will be serene and lovely in the baseball world.

As soon as the training-camp summons is given, every one falls into line and the hatcher is buried with pomp and ceremony until the following winter.

The holdout is a peculiar animal. In the cold weather when the snow is on the ground and there is no possible chance to play ball, he decides he is worth a couple of million dollars a year, and writes his boss for a boost in salary. He gets away with it because no one cares to argue at that time of the year. It's like dealing with a gang of striking snow shovellers in July. But the holdout is encouraged by his first victory, following it up as the opening of the season approaches and feels peeved and perturbed when he gets everything he asked for except a boost in salary.

They Like to Sign "Up"

All of the players like to sign up for the year. Signing "up" is right, for did you ever hear of a holdout signing "down"? Sometimes their demands are so high that the poor, down-trodden club owner has to transact his business in an airplane. Occasionally, however, the holdout runs against a snag when an owner who desires to play fair and has a keen business sense stands just so much and then calls a halt. Such is the case with the Phillies this year, where

Charley White, the Chicago right-winger, now boxing instructor at Camp Custer, tells a new story which shows how popular the boxing game is becoming in the army.

"When I arrived at the cantonment last week," says White, "I found requests from physicians at the base hospital to teach them the many art and—well, you know the rest. The men would like to see me, and I would like to see them. I would like to see them on the law and knock them out. That argument was conclusive. I agreed to give them instruction."

Billy Whistler, the greatest lightweight ever developed in Philadelphia, was buried from his home, 514 Vine street, yesterday. He died in Baltimore, near Washington, of this city. Jack Russo, of New Orleans, will compose Leo White, of Philadelphia, and Eddie Just, who will open the show with Harry (Kid) Brown, both of this city.

Artie Root, the Cleveland featherweight, will have much more proposition on his hands when he faces Henry Walker, the French champion, in the wind-up of his scheduled card at the Olympia A. A. Monday evening.

Paul Doyle, the hard-hitting lightweight from New York, now is managed by Joe Christy. Doyle has a hard fight scheduled against some of the leading lightweights and welters.

Joe Tubor, Philadelphia's contender for an attack of the grip.

Buck Fleming is training for his return engagement with Joe Welsh, also of this city, in one of the bouts of an all-star show at the National A. A. March 23.

Patet Wallace, of Southwark, seems to have the earmarks of a top-notch, and within a few years Herman Hindle his manager, expects to have him in the wind-up class.

Young Coster, a local bantam, seeks bigger game in the boxing world, after being defeated at New York, a great fight at the Cambria last week.

Here's a Real Manager

The manager of the North Presbyterian basketball team has arranged a game for tonight, one at home and the other away. The first contest will be with the Century Club, at 7 o'clock, at Nicetown. The second will be a night game, away from home, at 8 o'clock, at the Cambria last week.

FULTON READY TO FIGHT FOR TITLE

Precarious Plasterer May Sign Articles Today in Kansas City

JACK DEMPSEY PROTESTS

Dreadnoughts, of the little seas are maneuvering in battle array today. Whatever comes of a series of conferences the first decisive conflict in three years among the heavies appears at hand.

Here are the items in the budget of ring news:

Jess Willard has signed with Colonel J. Miller, a circus associate, to meet somebody somewhere July 4, presumably for ten rounds.

Fred Fulton, persistent challenger, wants to be second man in the ring and is in Kansas City urging his claims in a conference with Miller.

The honor of staging the bout will be going, going, GONE, to the highest bidder. With the announcement still in swaddling clothes, offers of \$120,000 are being made.

A Fulton-Dempsey row is assured, if Jess finds a reason for turning down a match with the Minnesota mud mixer.

The outstanding feature of that budget is Willard's permitting some one to sign him. After about three years of great side-stepping he actually seems about to step in for some toe-to-toe work.

That his latest offer isn't a bluff seems assured when you recall Miller is virtually a business associate.

Meet in Kansas City

Kansas City, Mo., March 14.—Colonel J. C. Miller, of the 101 Ranch in Oklahoma, and Mike Collins, manager of Fred Fulton, challenger of Jess Willard, will meet here today, when Collins expects to sign for a bout between Fulton and Willard July 4. Miller has obtained Willard's signature for a bout for that date and the only thing that remains to make sure that it will take place probably in Oklahoma, is the signature of Collins, who represents the Minnesota plasterer in the transaction.

Collins has stated he will be willing to accept one-third of the gate receipts rather than miss the chance to fight for the title.

Otto Pfohl will represent Jack Dempsey at the meeting today and it is understood will enter a strong protest against a Fulton-Willard match.

Jersey Match Doubtful

New York, March 14.—Reports that Fred Fulton and Jack Dempsey had been matched for a bout in New Jersey were doubted here today. It was pointed out that Governor Edge has not yet appointed a boxing commission as required by the new Jersey law.

LOCAL GUNNERS AFTER PENNA. STATE CUP

Hoffman, Knowles, Eilber, Biddle, Felix and Others in Lancaster Trap Event

The biggest shooting event of the year is due tomorrow at Lancaster, when the Harrisburg Sportsmen's Association stages a fifty-bird white-fliee shoot, open to all gunners. It is the blue ribbon pigeon tourney of the East, and the cream of gunners within a radius of 150 miles of Lancaster will shoot.

What will attract more gunners than usual is the fact that it costs \$50 to enter. The entrance money will be divided, 40, 20, 20 and 10 per cent to the high gun.

Added interest is the competition for the old Pennsylvania State Challenge Trophy, which will be declared on the first twenty-five birds of the fifty-bird class. Gunners who have won the silver trophy since the Harrisburg Sportsmen's Association event was inaugurated, twenty-five years ago, numbering twenty-four, will contest for the final possession of the silver cup.

Many Philadelphia gunners are eligible for a try at the historic State cup. They are Izzy Hoffman, George Eilber, Charles Biddle, F. McGulgan, William B. Clegg, H. Beatty, Fred Coleman, Harry Hoffman, Anthony Felix, William Wolsenbroff, Earl B. Mohrath, David Paul and I. Wolsenbroff.

The local marksmen will have stiff opposition, as Joseph Brennerman, Charles Hummer, Fred Dinger and Graves, all up-State wing shots, also contest for the cup. Tomorrow's event will be of a handicap nature, the mediocre shooter competing at twenty-seven yards, while

INDOOR GOLF IS NECESSARY IF DEVOTEES EXPECT TO PLAY WELL DURING SUMMERTIME

National Open and Amateur Champion Says Condition of Discouragement in Spring Can Be Bridged Over With Practice

By CHARLES (CHICK) EVANS, Jr.

AFTER about the worst winter ever known there comes once more a little sniff of golf in the air. Besides these described airy atoms that effect the nostrils of the golfers they sense something else; they really breathe in thousands of old, familiar and wonderful things.

During this time of war anxiety, bitter cold and tug of business, the golfer may almost have forgotten the clubs laid aside last fall, but after the first breath of warmth reaches us, however, all is changed. We begin to hunt up and look over the old clubs in the corner at home, or in the locker at the clubhouse, and somehow when you pick up a club it feels heavy and it hardly seems possible to hit that little ball in the center again. We realize that we are up against the discouraging phase of getting in playing trim once more.

Third winter in my own case, and without doubt it has been the same with scores of others, differs widely from that that have gone before. In previous winters I have swung clubs about every day, and played rather steadily at indoor golf, but the war has changed everything and to meless Tuesdays and wearisome Wednesdays we have adopted the routine of the office. One has hated to think of anything that did not advance the business of war. Yet keeping fit physically is one of the very best means of getting into the work and those of us who are still at home must

keep in training for the time when we may be needed.

Naturally, therefore, the first breeze from the south brings the thought of getting ready for the outdoor game. To be sure our friends in the southern States have had golf throughout the winter months, but except in the far South there are many days when playing golf in winter is not a condition of comfortable enjoyment.

Systematic Work Necessary

If we expect to play well this summer now is the time to think about it. I am not a firm believer in a systematic program of indoor golf at this season of the year. Not systematic effort but regular practice, and only that, if you cannot spare the time offener.

I hold that it is good for one's game to lay aside clubs for a certain period in the fall when northern winds become unplayable. Then you are ready to return to your clubs with a greater zest for the game. But I must acknowledge that there is a condition of discouragement to bridge over in the spring, and there is less discouragement at the nets than out of doors. Perhaps this is a result of greater privacy of the fact that the professional is always at hand, and you are not so much alone with your own muscles. The main object is to bring up the muscles. Before the days of indoor golf schools I rigged up an old mattress in the attic, and spent many an hour of practice. I recommend this as a sure there are no indoor golf schools.

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