

TENNIS TITLE TOURNAMENT ON THE WANAMAKER ROOF FIRST EVER HELD "ON THE HOUSE"

WHITTED SURPRISES, SIGNING CONTRACT BEFORE OPENING DAY

Star Outfielder Decides to Get in Line Before Spring Training Trip, Upsetting the Dope—Grover and Geary Sign With Athletics

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

GEORGE WHITTED will be a member of the Phillies this year, 1919. All of the preliminary arrangements have been made and all that remains is the signing of the papers, which takes place today at Camp Merritt, N. J., where Mr. Whitted has been soldiering for a year.

Whitted, slangily referred to as "Gawwie Gawwie," is the first real guy to spread the ink on the local contract, so far as we know. Of course, others also are in line, but their names will be announced later. Joe Oeschger signed last week and so did Bradley Hogg, but we are not ringing in those names, because it might interfere with this story.

Gawwie showed a startling reversal of form in signing on February 20, because in the past he never accepted terms until April 1. That gave him a chance to practice letter-writing and also get away from the non-remunerative grind at the spring training camp. Gawwie always managed to shove off a couple of weeks while engaged in the annual argument and profited greatly thereby. This year, however, after lingering in the army camp, he evidently decided any place was better than Camp Merritt, now that there is no war or anything, and cheerfully came to terms without delivering an oration.

It was none other than William F. Baker, our president, who put over the works. The Pres. had Gawwie on parade for an hour or so, discussed everything and some baseball, and there was no trouble. Pres. Baker is a great guy for signing the boys. His arguments always are convincing and he should visit all of his boys.

But Whitted will be a big help to the club. Perhaps he will not be in the outfield very long, as he plays a swell game at first base, and if Luderus slows up or for some reason or other decides to remain in Milwaukee, Gawwie will be an ideal person to guard the sack. Luderus, however, has several more years of baseball in his system and probably will be with us. Whitted will be held in reserve.

THE soldier came to the Phils in 1913 in the trade for Sherwood Mayer, and is considered one of the smartest players in baseball. He is a quick thinker, always delivers and has many friends here. He will be given a great reception.

Geary and Grover Sign With Macks

CONNIE MACK also is on the job and, not to be outdone by the Pres., took the phone in hand this morning to tell us that he had signed Roy Grover, his old second baseman, and Bob Geary, the right-handed pitcher. Connie is the most generous guy in the world this year when it comes to parceling out news, and is in line for a hero medal or something. This was our turn to get the exclusive stuff and we are much obliged.

For those who are not acquainted with Grover, here is the dope: He is a good second baseman and performed nobly at the keystone sack in 1917. When the war came he was asked to take charge of a big machine shop in Seattle, where he helped to make fighting safe for the Democrats. If he played any baseball it was a deep secret, but a year's layoff should make him all the more valuable to the ball club.

Grover also holds a world's long-distance record which probably never will be equalled. He sang all the way from Boston to St. Louis without stopping, as he has an exceptionally strong voice. We are certain of this, because we were on the same train, to say nothing of being in the same car. Joe Bush was forced to take the count at Cleveland, O., but he got up a game fight. Thus Grover will be doubly valuable. He can sing between innings if Matt Korman accompanies him on his whistle.

Geary will be remembered as a high-class starboarder who started to make good and then started for Camp Greenleaf. Bob was something of a bush variety at the start of the season and showed nothing but a new glove until June 1. He remained on the A's because Connie was afraid to turn him loose when all of the regular players had visions of army life. One day, however, Geary surprised every one, including himself, when he hit out Boston up there and came right back in St. Luke Park with a goose-neck performance against the New York Yankees. He won several games, and Walter Johnson was getting nervous when the youthful phenom cast his lot with Uncle Sam.

Geary will be a welcome addition to the home tribe, for Connie says he looks like a corner, and Connie seldom makes a bad guess. The lanky leader has a few sweet words to say about Grover, so we are led to believe he enjoyed himself at the banquet last night.

Set Record for Shift to Florida

IT'S a great thing to attend banquets, because sometimes you hear something that has a meaning and can be remembered. Last night at the Sporting Writers' dinner at the Walton, Jimmy Iasminger, who has been "traymoreing" at Atlantic City for the last two weeks; Sherry Magee, Charlie Dooin, Jack O'Brien, Charlie Heeb and other athletes were discussing everything, and finally the talk shifted to Florida. It was a long shift to make less than a minute, but there were no accidents.

"Queer thing about Florida," said the speaker. "Lots of ball players have training there this year, many fast-set clubs have lacerated there in the past, but only one major leaguer of the present time was born within the confines of the state. I know this to be a fact, because Ernie Lantigan told me the other day.

"The guy who has had the honor visited on him is J. J. Stewart, the second baseman included in the swap between the Phillies and the Cards, which changed scenery for Doug Baird and Gene Packard on one hand and Milton Stock, Pickett Dillhoefer and Dixie Davis on the other. Stewart was born in Florida on January 31.

The new Phil was in the army last year, so did not play much baseball. However, Jim or whatever his name is has been in the big league before, having performed on two different and distinct occasions. Both of those times he made such a hit that he responded to the call which came from the forest primeval. In 1914 he lasted nine games with the Cards, batted .176 and fielded .823. In 1917, with the same club, he finished in the maiden class when it came to batting, compiling the enormous average of .000 in thirteen games. However, he fielded 1,000, which leads us to believe he was used exclusively as a pinch hitter.

STEWART still has to sacrifice, steal a base, make a long hit and get a pass before the totals of his accounts in these commodities can show something else than ciphers.

Stewart Received Start in Sally League

STEWART originally got Stewart from the Jacksonville club of the Sally League in 1916. He was sent to Denver in 1917 and hit .297 in the South Atlantic, the previous season, it was .267.

All clubs have been going to Florida to train, off and on, since 1887. Phillies were there that year, one of their catchers being George Lingo. The present leader of the Braves was named just as soon as club came North, and at the same time Harry Wright fired the other of this first silver battery—Gus Weyhing.

WASHINGTON, at the time the Phillies had a silver battery, had a shaban battery in the persons of Connie Mack and

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THE WINLESS WILBARS

American League Standings

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, P.C., and G. Lists teams like St. Louis, Cleveland, etc.

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The change has all been wrought since Hoffman, who had been warning the bench, was given a regular position at forward. This youth from Millville improves with each game. In the contest played against St. P. H. A. last night, and won by Lobson 20 to 25, Hoffman was credited with four field goals, three of which he dropped through the net in the first half. He is especially fast under the basket.

The total at the conclusion of the first half was 18-16 in favor of Dobson, but after five minutes of the second period had elapsed Harry Dobson was taken out in preference to Charley Newman and the St. P. H. A. were soon off and ran in 10 successive points.

They continued to reduce the Dobson lead and two baskets in the final minute made the totals 50-28. In the second half the Falls crowd made a record for tough sleaze. By actual count on thirteen occasions the ball went in and bounced out again.

Bunnen with four and Kleiz with three field goals were the stars for the losers, while the high scorers of Dobson were Hoffman and Frankie. The former banged in four two pointers and the latter three.

Robby Windshill's Winless Wilbar again succeeded in upholding their reputation as consistent and perpetual losers. Once again they lost and this time to Yours Truly, first half champion, by the score of 49 to 21.

ANOTHER FOR HARMON

Scores Second Win in Pocket Billiard Tourney

Charles Harmon won his second straight victory, defeating Joe Connon, 125 to 94, last night in the eastern match at the Casino Academy. Connon beat Jim McCoy, 125 to 119, in the afternoon game yesterday.

JOHNNY TILLMAN FOLLOWS TRAINING RULES CLOSELY

Western Who Meets Griffiths at National Saturday Night Refuses to Permit Banquets to Interfere

ALWAYS RETIRES EARLY

AS SOON as the hands of his service watch touched the 10 o'clock mark, Johnny Tillman, the very serious knight of the ring, arose from the table at the sports writers banquet, expressed regrets for such an early departure and was off forumberland. Johnny never permits anything like a banquet or a party to make him break training.

After an absence of nearly a year, Johnny has returned here to entertain before Philadelphia fans. During his interrupted visits to this city he has met many good boys, including Benny Legnard, Ted "Kid" Lewis, Jack Britton, Ed Patsy Cline, Buck Fleming, Johnny Griffiths, Eddie McAndrews and others.

Of all the boxers Johnny has engaged, Johnny Griffiths, the Akron boy, has given him the most trouble. Griffiths has a very fast, pushing left hand. A man with a good left always can make it very interesting.

Tillman, however, has been working daily at Philadelphia John O'Brien's headquarters for the last three weeks, in the hopes of developing an attack that will offset Griffiths's well-known left.

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AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'?



Wallace Johnson's Win Didn't Surprise Tilden

Chairman of Committee Predicted That Local Star Would Defeat Voshell in Title Tourney

FINE MATCHES TODAY

By ROBERT T. PAUL

WILL TILDEN scored another tennis triumph yesterday without as much as a gasp in his listening toes. This success, however, didn't pave the way for advancement in the men's singles in the middle states covered court championship tournament being staged on the roof of the John Wanamaker store.

The local tennis scene has been known nation-wide as the theater of the latest racket. Yesterday he assumed a new role that of a prophet. Tilden has been doing everything imaginable in the present tourney, from playing to officiating, and to see him in the role of a prophet was not such a surprise as might be expected.

Kept It a Secret Before Wallace Johnson, of this city, and Howard Voshell of New York, took the court to play one of the most sensational matches of the tourney. Tilden made his prophecy. He stated that Johnson would win, and to keep his prediction accurate he announced it to the newspapermen present. No one took Tilden seriously, for he seemed to be the only one who favored the local entry.

But the result—which is tennis history now—was surely an upset of something like that. Johnson was only recently discharged from the ambulance corps and has played very little tennis in two years. Outside of a few exhibition matches for the Red Cross, the games in this tourney are the only ones he has played.

Voshell, on the other hand, has played a great many contests, both indoors and outdoors. For this reason he was picked a win. But he was outgeneral.

WARD WINS AGAIN Beats Troop and Alema at Palace Rink

Ward, of Norristown, won his second win of the week in the two-mile race for professionals at the Palace Roller Skating Rink, Thursday and Saturday streets.

Stranger Lewis Throws Grandvitch

Atonsa, Pa., Feb. 20.—Stranger Lewis tonight defeated John Grandvitch, Polish champion, in two straight falls, the first in 43 and the second in 14 minutes.

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FRED ALEXANDER DEFEATS BIDDLE

New York Veteran Wins in Straight Sets—Advances to Semifinal Round

BETTER GENERALSHIP

By ROBERT T. PAUL

Fred Alexander, of New York, veteran of many tennis championships, advanced to the semifinal round of the men's singles of the Middle States covered court championship tournament on the roof of the Wanamaker store this morning by triumphing over Craig Biddle, of this city, in straight sets, 6-4, 6-1.

This match was begun late yesterday afternoon but with the score even, at one set each, it became so dark that play was impossible. It was agreed that the match should be played all over today.

The point score of the match follows: FIRST SET Alexander 4 4 3 1 2 1 5 4—32-0 Biddle 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0-32

SECOND SET Alexander 6 4 4 4 4 4 4 4—28-0 Biddle 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0-28

YALE SQUASH STAR BEATEN

Veteran Appel Eliminates McKay From Tourney

New York, Feb. 20.—Donald McKay, star of the Yale club, was eliminated from the second round of the recent annual invitational tournament of the National Squash Tennis Association, in progress at the Hotel Waldorf, New York, by the Harvard club, veteran of the Harvard club, three-set match, 8-15, 15-12, 15-12.

PENN MAY RACE ABROAD

Quakers Invited to Compete in English Henley

The University of Pennsylvania varsity crew has been invited to compete in the English Henley to be rowed on the Thames in July. Yale and Harvard crews may send oarsmen to the English classic.

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

It is working hard at Jack O'Brien's gymnasium in preparation for the fight with Johnny Murray in the feature bout at the Olympia Monday night. Burman has all prepared to battle Champion Pete Herman. He has just as much respect for Murray.

The Olympia seminar brings together two good boys in a return battle. Dave Kelly and Philie are down to a 2-1 record. Kelly was a repetition of their other fight. Kelly was a 2-1 winner. Philie and Joe Mendell takes on Bobby Durr, in two of the other three bouts on the card.

Low Toulson engages Joe Walling before the fight. The fight is on Tuesday night. The fight is on Tuesday night. The fight is on Tuesday night.

Johnny Nealy has started to prepare for his meeting with Johnny Dundee, which will be staged at the Olympia on the night of March 8. Johnny hopes to duplicate last year's success.

The National has just announced the schedule for the Young Joe fight. The Young Joe fight is on the night of March 8. The Young Joe fight is on the night of March 8.

BASKETBALL Pennsylvania vs. Cornell

SATURDAY, FEB. 22, 8:30 P. M. WELLS FRIEDMAN, Ed and Howard M. Kelly, Fred and Howard M. Kelly, Fred and Howard M. Kelly.

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MEREDITH TO RACE IN MILLROSE GAMES; MACK RAPS "MONEY"

Famous Meadowbrook Athlete Announces Intention to Try Comeback—Dallas Pleads for Stadium

By EDWIN J. POLLOCK

THE lure of the game, that intangible force that takes old men to the golf links, leads veterans in baseball even when the turning arm is dead and the legs crippled with rheumatism and noble athletes to the cinder path until the spring has gone from the field, has taken Meredith back to track athletics.

Some time ago Ted announced that he was through with running. That was when he was fresh from the field of the track season he