

# EDITORIAL COMMENT

BY THE SCORER.

The Washington Herald, Sunday, May 10, 1908.

### The American League Race.

The American League, long famed for surprises and upsets, promises to live up to its reputation this year by furnishing another torrid struggle for the championship emblem.

In past seasons it has usually been a race between two teams that has kept fandom keyed up to the closing days, but this year there is every indication that there will be at least four contenders until October.

The biggest disappointment thus far has been the poor showing made by Detroit. Last year the prime factor in the success of the Tigers was the truly wonderful record by Bill Donovan, together with a spirit of harmony instilled by Hughie Jennings. So far as known, the good feeling still exists in the club, but the chances are much against Donovan repeating, which means that the Tigers must depend upon a rather mediocre staff for their pitching strength. Despite a miserable start, the 1907 champions should be able to improve on their present position before long.

The reconstructed New York and St. Louis clubs have been doing consistent work thus far, and while there are many who believe that the Browns are playing far above form, the White Sox and Athletics, as well as the Naps, stand ready to draw away as soon as St. Louis shows any signs of weakness.

Although Boston and Washington are almost universally picked for last two places, Joe Cantillon still maintains that his club will move up in the race and beat out at least two clubs. In this, Cantillon is seconded by many fair-minded critics who have watched the work of the Nationals.

Any way you take it, it looks like a great race, with no pronounced favorite.

A New Jersey man committed suicide when his team lost. Had this fever ever struck Washington this city would long since have been depopulated.

### Killing Wrestling Here.

Aside from the fact that it makes baseball possible, the warm weather should be welcomed by all followers of sport in this city as it marks the ending of the wrestling season.

Two years ago the most ancient of sports was flourishing in Washington, and the bouts were not only being enjoyed by large crowds, but the wrestlers were deriving returns that made the matches worth while.

However, some of the grapplers suddenly decided that the way to make money fast was to fake, and fake they did, until now wrestling is in such disrepute locally that it is doubtful if there will be a healthy revival for at least a couple of years.

Fortunately, the cowardly and dishonorable professional tricksters who are chiefly responsible for the present condition of affairs will be the worst sufferers, for their graft is dead. For the sake of the sport, it is to be hoped that the rising generation of wrestlers will avoid the pitfalls, but, in the meantime, the public should boycott the matches until wrestling is once more put on an honest basis.

Battling Nelson announces that he will settle down and manage a vineyard in California. Sour grapes will probably be his specialty.

### High School Rowing.

With the opening of the boating season another effort is being made in certain quarters to introduce rowing in the local high schools, but fortunately for inter-scholastic athletics the movement seems doomed.

The Washington schools have much to lose and little to gain by adopting aquatics as a recognized sport. Rowing was intended for healthy men and not for boys, whose youth and lack of development is likely to give way to permanent injuries when they devote their spare time during the spring afternoons to the most strenuous of all outdoor sports.

While it is true that there are cases in the North where schoolboys have developed into good oarsmen, the situation is different in this city. Practically every boy whose size warrants his joining the gridiron squad plays football in the fall, and statistics show that a decided majority of these join one or two more branches of athletics during the other months of the school year, which, with the gymnasium work, gives all the exercise necessary for boys between the ages of sixteen and twenty. Among the athletically inclined youths of the local high schools there are more who suffer from overtraining than those who show the effects of lack of exercise. If rowing is to be added it simply means that this proportion will be increased, as the fasci-

nation of being near the water when the spring fever season opens would probably mean the weakening of the baseball and track teams, which are far better suited for boys than tugging at sweeps for a couple of hours a day.

Even should it be possible to find enough boys who are not otherwise engaged to man the shells, the question of maintenance would be the greatest obstacle to be overcome. Last spring the Tech crew joined the Potomac Boat Club, and later rowed under the colors of that organization. Such an arrangement would be unsatisfactory were rowing taken up by other schools.

To build a boathouse, purchase shells, and keep things in shipshape would be quite an outlay of several thousand dollars. Efforts have been made during the past year to raise the money, but have met with little success, and the last resort seems to be to obtain a Congressional appropriation. To say the least, this seems improbable.

Those who are working so hard for rowing would earn a debt of gratitude, and do much more for the schoolboys of this city by having an athletic field built for the exclusive use of scholastic athletics.

Get the athletic field, and let rowing go until a time when the boys, and not a lot of outsiders, really want the sport.

Would the principals of the high schools be willing to see their charges running a shell game?

### Spring Football Practice.

Never before has there been so much interest taken in spring football practice as is being shown at colleges throughout the country this year.

Under the old rules spring work on the gridiron was considered more or less a joke, and the men who took part in the practice did so principally for the exercise. The revised code has changed all this, and Coach Haughton at Harvard and Coach Yost at Michigan intend to go so far as to give their squads real scrimmaging this month.

A comprehensive statement of the advantages of spring practice has been made by Michael F. Sweeney, holder of the world's record for the running high jump. He says:

"In answering the question, 'What is the chief advantage in spring football practice?' I should say that the matter of the physical condition of the men is the most important. As a rule, those men who do not engage in track athletics or baseball do not get enough exercise to keep themselves up to the physical standard necessary to football players, with the result that they return in the fall after ten months of leisure and try to put themselves into condition in a few weeks, when months of steady training are required.

"Physical stamina, in my estimation, is of paramount importance in football, and to acquire the ideal condition, uninterrupted, steady exercise during the year is necessary—it is not obtained by violent work during a brief time. This phase of spring practice, alone, should justify it.

"Moreover, the new rules make greater efficiency in kicking, passing, and handling the ball necessary. Accurate passing, as well as skill in catching the ball on the run or standing, will again be demanded in the game next fall, and there is no better time to perfect this phase of the game than now.

"Practice in the spring is especially essential to men trying for positions in the line. This type is, as a rule, composed of rather sluggish men, who are slow in adapting themselves to the new rules, and to whom preliminary training is of enormous value, since they are unable to familiarize themselves with the fine points of their positions when bearing the brunt of the work in the fall. In the open game of to-day linemen must exercise both skill and judgment in tackling and in handling the ball on on-side kicks and fumbles.

"Last but not least is the advantage of the relations established between the men themselves and between the coaches and men. If the squad is organized and systematized along the same lines which are to be followed in the fall, the men will be in shape to take up the work in September where it was left off in the spring. The practical result of the relations between coaches and players is that the opinions of the players may be formed, faults may be pointed out and rectified during the summer by the men themselves, and plans for the formation of and work on the team for the coming season may be formed by the coaches."

Swarthmore is to abandon athletics. Now watch the athletics abandon Swarthmore.

### DOWN THE ALLEYS.

MATCH GAME.			
Dutch.	1st. 2d. 3d.	Irish.	1st. 2d. 3d.
Kunzig.....	91 128 97	McKeefe.....	84 81 89
Gobel.....	99 86 84	Macaboy.....	84 80 78
Wooden.....	94 89 84	Brady.....	87 88 84
Gross.....	79 84 88	Lowry.....	106 106 111
Holman.....	88 111 97	Ike.....	88 65 88
Beck.....	93 102 80	Craig.....	99 81 94
Totals.....	525 591 550	Totals.....	517 499 543

### MILWAUKEE BOWLERS ACTIVE.

Badgers Planning to Land National Tournament in 1911.

Milwaukee, May 9.—Milwaukee bowlers are going after the 1911 tournament of the American Bowling Congress, and if they do not land the big event for this city it will not be the fault of the energetic spirits who are behind the campaign. According to present plans it is intended to hold the series in the new Auditorium, which should be completed many months in advance of the time for which the pin men desire it. The building would be an ideal one for staging the series because of its central location and size.

The Cream City pin men extended an invitation to the bowlers assembled at Cincinnati to meet here in 1910, but when it was discovered that Detroit was a bidder, the Milwaukee knights did not press their offer. The invitation will be renewed again at Pittsburg next March, however, and if Detroit still is in the field for the event an agreement probably will be made between the delegates of both cities whereby Milwaukee will support Detroit for the 1910 tournament in return for Detroit's indorsement of this city for the year following. Inasmuch as Milwaukee is favorably regarded by pin men of all sections of the country, it is not anticipated that any serious difficulty will be encountered in carrying out the above programme. Milwaukee is entitled to the event, and with a little of the proper kind of boosting, the present plans should be carried through to successful completion.

### KENSINGTON ATHLETES ELECT.

Dr. Eugene Jones Now Heads Montgomery County Association.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Boys, Md., May 9.—The Kensington Athletic Association held its annual meeting this week at Kensington, and elected Dr. Eugene Jones as president, Cornelius Eckhardt and P. H. Tamplett, vice presidents; J. W. Buck, treasurer, and H. A. Filer, secretary. The directors are J. M. Proctor, C. Eckhardt, J. M. S. Bowie, Hugh Armstrong, H. A. Filer, Dr. Eugene Jones, B. H. Warner, Jr., J. W. Buck, Edgar Moore, George Snyder, and A. E. Warthen.

This association now has in the field two teams, the Athletics and Independents, both of which are fast and have fine material to give a good account with Montgomery County and District of Columbia teams. Other athletics will be indulged in by the members of the association, as each year it takes an important part in the Labor Day meet at Washington Grove, where its members have won many prizes.

The first baseball team this year is under the management of Albert Barker and the second under H. A. Filer.

### CLOSE FINISHES SEEN

Indoor Meet at the Y. M. C. A. Furnishes Rare Sport.

### P. BLACKSTONE'S GOOD WORK

Youthful Athlete Gets Three Firsts and One Second, in Addition to Running on a Winning Relay Team—J. Owens Takes the Four Hundred and Forty-yard Dash.

A large crowd was on hand at the Young Men's Christian Association last night to see the second annual indoor meet and gymnasium exhibition. Many of the events were hotly contested and close finishes were the order of the evening.

In event No. 5, the finals of the 25-yard dash, for boys fourteen years old and under, P. Blackstone won, with Prosper second. Time, 3-3-5 seconds.

In the 25-yard dash, for boys seventeen and under, Owens was returned the winner, with Wetzel second. Time, 3-2-5 seconds.

P. Blackstone landed first in the 20-yard dash for boys under fourteen. S. Zirkin was second, and Hart was third. Time, 38 seconds.

J. Owens, with 35 feet to his credit, landed the running hop, step, and jump. P. Blackstone was second with 33 feet 4 inches.

Relay race, boys fourteen and under, three laps each man, won by Team D—Blackstone, C. Howe, Zirkin, E. Hendrick; second, Team A—Fridley, McKinney, Stevenson, Buell.

The half-mile run, open to boys' and men's departments, was won by A. W. Sampson; H. C. Earnshaw was second, and J. S. McKinney third. Time, 3:46.

In the 440-yard dash for boys seventeen years and under, J. Owens showed his class by winning handily, Estey being second. Time, 1:21 3-5.

P. Blackstone again came to the front in the standing broad jump, which he won with 8 feet 7 1/4 inches. F. Farren being second, with 8 feet 3 1/4 inches.

The relay race for boys seventeen years and younger proved one of the best of the evening. Team A winning by a few feet. Team B was second. Time, 2:32 1/2. Team A—C. Wetzel, C. Chandler, E. Donn, and C. Hildreth. Team B—L. Moyer, A. Nelson, N. Turner, and G. Leech.

Referee—Dr. Wiber. Starter—C. E. Beckett. Clerk of course—C. M. Chesley.

VISITORS to London a century ago always made a point of visiting the historic Meux Brewery. One of the sights of this establishment was the Porter Vat, whose dimensions and capacity, 20,000 barrels, exceeded those of the famous Heidelberger Vat.

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