

FREE TRADES IN DIAMOND HISTORY

Some Clubs Get Stung, Others Being Benefited.

FARRELL TRADED EVERY YEAR

One Exchange Never to Be Forgotten—Baltimore Received Jennings and Taylor for O'Rourke, Cy Young Traded for Two Youngsters and Both Go to Minors.

From the Cincinnati Times-Star. "The big deal that the Cincinnati and Philadelphia clubs put over this fall," remarks Bill Lange, "reminds me of various trades in past history and causes me to wonder if that deal would have panned out the way some of the others did. You can never tell how a baseball dicker may wind up; the club that seemed to have all the best of it at the start may get stung, and the club that seemed to be the goat may prosper when they count up the returns. For instance, the trade between Cincinnati and the St. Louis Cardinals before the 1910 season started—a deal perfectly equitable, but which was ruined, so far as Cincinnati was concerned, by the sudden death of Allan Storker, who had been one of the big factors in the exchange.

Trade Farrell Every Year.

"Many years back the Wagners, when they controlled the Washington club, used to trade off Charley Farrell every year. They'd let him go for money or a bunch of good players. Farrell would then go down in his own job or have trouble with the managers, and the Wagners would get him back. Every spring they'd get a good equivalent for Farrell, and when autumn came around they'd have Farrell on the pay roll again, ready to be traded some more.

"One trade that ought never to be forgotten was when Louisville gave Baltimore Hughie Jennings and Harry Taylor in exchange for Tim O'Rourke. Poor Tim immediately slumped and fell out of the fast company. Taylor played good ball till he quit the game to take up the practice of law, while we all know what a star Jennings rose to. That was the worst trade, I think, in baseball history. But the Chicago club got stung; almost as badly once upon a time and hadn't even as much to show for it when the season closed.

"Bill Dahlen, after many years of service with the Chicago club, was growing superfluous, so Jim Hart opted. Jim being then the boss of the club, Dahlen was by no means a dead one—he has shown that in the many years which have passed since then—but his cool, steady-care was had begun to jar Mr. Hart most awfully, and he wanted to lose Dahlen in a hurry.

"Gene Demontreville was just then coming up and in the zenith of his glory. He sure looked awfully good, and when there was a chance to trade Dahlen for Demontreville, Hart never stopped, although everybody told him that Demontreville was a morning-glory and Dahlen at his best. The trade was made, and when Dahlen got back, while Demontreville appeared in a Chicago uniform.

Hart's Nightmare.

"The next few months proved a nightmare for Jim Hart. Demontreville had the time of his young life in Chicago till the club was disorganized and Jim Hart was broken-hearted. It was now not a case of starting with the aid of Demontreville; it was anything to get rid of him, and Ned Hanlon, holding out for a trade, offered to trade Demontreville off Chicago's hands. He did, and then Jim Hart woke up. The season wasn't yet over; Chicago had nothing; both Dahlen and Demontreville were gone, and Ned Hanlon had the two of them.

"That was the richest deal I ever heard of—giving a star for a morning-glory and then losing the morning-glory to the very man who had secured the star. For Dahlen played for two years and two pennants and the championship of the world, while Gene Demontreville, a fine ball player, but not the class of Dahlen, ultimately went to the minors.

"You can never tell how a baseball deal is going to pan out, can you?"

Jack Dunn, manager of the Orioles, is going to New York next week to trade, or sell three Orioles, hoping he has the same luck Ned Hanlon did.

RACING CARDS FOR MONDAY.

Table with racing cards for Monday, listing various races and participants across different tracks like Pimlico, Oakland, and others.

CUMMINGS FIRST TO THROW CURVE

Maj. Pangborn States He Invented Outcurve.

STATEMENT NOT DISPUTED

Allison First Catcher to Come Up Directly Behind the Batter—Wore Neither Mask, Glove, Nor Chest Protector—Harry Wright the First Manager to Advise Players.

Who was the first pitcher to use a curve ball? A drop ball? These and other interesting questions pertaining to the early history of the national game have been the subject of much dispute between Sam Crane and Tim Murnane, and among other famous baseball writers. Only recently the pair mentioned broke loose with a series of contradictory articles.

But forgetting the contentions of Murnane and Crane, there is a man right here in Baltimore who can know some light on the subject, says the Baltimore Star. In his younger days Maj. J. G. Pangborn, prominent official of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, was a fan, and of the variety that eat baseball, talk baseball, and sleep baseball. When the national sport was in swaddling clothes, or just after the civil war, the major worked on the New York Tribune as a baseball reporter, and thus the game was a business as well as a pleasure with him. He followed the best teams from city to city, studying the dope, and consequently is able to speak with authority on who invented the different curves.

Maj. Pangborn's answer, pitched the curve ball. To this Tim Murnane agrees, saying that Cummings used the outcurve as early as 1867. Others say that Bobby Matthews was the inventor, but as he only broke in the game at Baltimore in 1869, there is very little doubt as to who discovered the art. There is no doubt that the curve ball was in the mind, as he says the papers at that time all gave the credit to Cummings, and no one disputed it.

Phonse Martin, in the major's opinion, is the player who should get credit for the first drop ball. Martin pitched for the Haymakers of Troy, and threw a slow teaser that reached the plate about shoulder high and dropped while still spinning. Martin is still living in Brooklyn.

"Dipkey Pierce," says the local veteran fan, "was the first man to discover the value of bunting and to use it regularly. He played on the Atlantics, of Brooklyn, in the early days. That was the ball down the line once or twice every game the infielders thought it was by accident and not design. After he had won a number of tight games by the play the infielders got wise and played in for him, as the present third baseman do.

"The catchers used to stand away back of the plate and get the ball on the first bounce. Allison, of the Cincinnati Red Sox, was the first catcher to come up and stand directly behind the batter. He wore neither glove, mask, nor chest protector, and when the mask was finally introduced the fans hooted the first catcher who tried it out in a game. Speaking of the catcher playing back, it used to be out if he caught the ball on the first bound, and accomplishing this brought out what was then considered some very skillful and heady playing. The catchers had to play back, it used to be called that angle they would take.

"Harry Wright, centerfielder on the Cincinnati team, was the first manager in the present sense of the word. At first each player did his own bidding when he reported on the Mercury. An Englishman, Chadwick was fond of cricket and used to get Maj. Pangborn over his baseball games for him, and vice versa. Every time they met, Maj. Pangborn sang the grand old game to the Englishman, and finally Chadwick became interested. From interested he became a wild enthusiast, made the sport and its conditions a life study, and did so much toward its elevation as a clean work, if not their total elimination.

Steele claims that the individual share of the prize lists is steadily being boosted all over the city for the benefit of the star bowlers and to the detriment of the team and file of players who constitute the real bone and sinew of the game. A few years ago about \$50 was considered a fair amount to set aside for individual work out of a \$400 fund. Now the proportion is nearer one-third, the Business Men's League giving \$50 for teamwork and \$150 for individuals, the Windy City giving \$167 and \$182, the Bryn-Mawr \$136 and \$175, and others in about the same proportion.

The men who are keen for big individual prizes are the cracks, and Steele figures they will bowl without any inducement if all of the leagues unite in cutting down the list. Most of the good bowlers in the city are chagrined at the new system of paying so much a game to winning teams, the City League and the Bryn-Mawr giving the winner of each team game 50 cents, with added prizes for the first three or five clubs. The system has proven an absolute success, and it looks as though the leagues that use the old method of cutting the money in advance will be in the minority. Some of the leagues now paying so much a game out of the prize list are the City, Bryn-Mawr, and the Zimmerman. The City and Zimmerman leagues are rolling their second schedules under the new plan, both of them having found the proposition a success in the first year.

TO SEEK BOWLING REFORM

From the Chicago Record-Herald. Reform in the method of cutting up the prize money in the various bowling leagues and tournaments is being attempted by some of the local ally promoters, who claim the present system of cutting up the money does not have the desired effect of keeping the bowlers as interested in the game as they should be. Gus Steele is one of the foremost of the advocates for a change, his suggestions favoring a considerable cutting down of the individual prize in league work, if not their total elimination.

EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL'S CRACK BASKET-BALL TEAM.



Bottom Row, Left to Right—Fitzhugh, Varela, Ligon (Captain), Dailey, Baldwin. Back Row—Chase, Hughes, Armstrong, McCaffery (Manager).

BEST SCHEDULE EVER

Many Ball Games Booked for Western Maryland Nine.

FIVE-DAY TRIPS A FEATURE

Dooley, Last Year's Shortstop and Captain, Re-elected—Old Player Returns—Levitz, Spit-Ball Artist, Will Again Perform on Mound.

Special to The Washington Herald. Westminster, Md., Dec. 24.—Manager H. C. F. Smoot, of the Western Maryland College baseball team, announces that his schedule of games for the coming season is the best ever arranged for the institution, and includes between seventeen and twenty-two games. He has experienced some difficulty in fixing dates, and will not be able to give out the schedule for several weeks. Features of the schedule will be a five days' trip through Virginia for the week preceding Easter, and a five days' trip through Pennsylvania from May 9 to 13. Besides these trips, Western Maryland will play St. John's College, of Annapolis, April 29; Maryland Agricultural College, May 20; and Dickerson College, May 10. Games have also been arranged with Georgetown University, at Washington, University of Maryland, Gettysburg, Mount St. Mary's, and several athletic clubs in Washington, Baltimore, and throughout the State.

The team this year will be led by two stars, J. M. Dooley, captain, and Earl Collier, coach. Capt. Dooley has played shortstop on the team for the past three years, and has the distinction of holding the highest batting average each year during this period. He was captain of last year's team, and on account of his ability as a leader and his brilliant work as a player, was re-elected to the captaincy this year. Coach Collier is a man of well-known all-around athletic ability. He played quarterback on the College football team last year and second base on the baseball team. Several of last year's box artists returned to the college this year.

These men are Levitz, Coe, Dooley and Hill. Levitz is a spitball artist, and last year proved a terror to all comers. Coe is a southpaw artist, steady and reliable. His work has been responsible for much of the success attained by Western Maryland in baseball. He is expected to improve in his work the coming year, and much dependence is being placed in his strong left arm. Hill has twirled for the second team for two years, and is about ripe to break into "fast company." There are also several new men who are expected to make good in the box. The work of Treisler, who has pitched fine ball for Hagerstown, will be watched with interest by Coach Collier and Capt. Dooley. The infield this year will be "exactly as it was last season, every man having returned to the college." Stultz at first, Gibbons at second, Dooley at short, and Sprague at third will compose the infield. The first three of these men have played their positions for the past three years. It has not been definitely determined who will do the backstop work, but it is expected to be shared between Sprague and Hill.

Interest in baseball was never keener at Western Maryland than it is for the coming year. The team will begin practice in the gymnasium the first week in February, and will get outside as soon as possible. The first game will be played at Emmitsburg, Md., on April 1, with Mount St. Mary's College.

At the meeting next month of the United States Gold Association, the Denver (Col.) Country Club will put up a hard fight for the 1911 national amateur championship against several Eastern clubs.

Mike Thompson drifted into town last night bound for his home in the North. The great football referee says he will ask for waivers on the 25-yard zone when he attends the meeting of the football solons in New York next month.

PROMINENT PITCHERS

By GEORGE H. DEVITT. EDITOR "WHO'S WHO IN BASEBALL."

When the merits of players are to be considered, it is very plain that the points upon which records are based as deciding the leading player in his department, do not take in all the qualities that go to make up the best or the greatest in a position. If the leaders of pitchers for each year be taken since 1870, are they to be regarded as the greatest of all pitchers? Or, to put the question in another way: Does the greatest pitcher of a season always score the most points? How many can be found outside of the club town to agree that Camnitz was the greatest pitcher in the National League in 1907? Yet the records say that he was.

To illustrate forcibly that there are qualities that go to make up a great pitcher that the score book does not record, take the case of Nick Altrock, when, in the first game that he pitched for Boston, against Chicago, in 1902, eight runs were made off him in the first inning. Yet Comiskey bought him from Boston and kept him for six years. If he had been put up for sale on his score book record that day he would not have brought the waiver price. Yet he had something that score cards and official records do not show, and it was for those qualities that Comiskey bought him. Though no claim is made that Altrock was ever one of the world's greatest pitchers, he is a first-rate explanation of why the popular estimate of a pitcher's great qualities does not always agree with the records. And the case also helps to show that the best pitcher does not always have the highest record.

On the other hand, it must be admitted that the pitcher who does lead the records is always a good pitcher. Only a sustained good record will put one in the lead for the three years—1908, 1907, and 1906—for Chicago. Only two other leaders—Spalding in 1872 and 1873, and "Old Hoss" Charlie Radbourne in 1884—ever made a higher percentage of hits than he.

Among the old-time pitchers the place of such as Spalding, Bond, John M. Ward, Larry Corcoran, Goldsmith, Whitney, Radbourne, Clarkson, and more than a half century, 6 were killed in war, 2 by accidents, and only 1 died of consumption.

These investigations show that the athlete possesses as part of his equipment at graduation, the probability of better health and a longer life than the man who does not realize the priceless worth of a "sound mind in a sound body." And this ancient phrase is supported by soundest logical reasoning. For, roughly speaking, there are two portions of the brain, one for the muscles, another for the mind. If either is developed at the expense of the other, the result is an unbalanced mental state.

JOHN L'S BELT IN DAYTON.

Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 24.—Every sport lover in the world knows or knows of John L. Sullivan. Likewise every one has heard of the famous championship belt. And there are very few who are not wise to the fact that time and time again the mighty John L. and his belt were forced by circumstances to separate. These circumstances generally came after a celebration on the part of the one-time champion when shekels were scarce and John had a longing for the cup that cheers and likewise does a few other things.

Well, this famous belt is now in Dayton for thirty days and will be on exhibition at Steffen Brothers' cafe on South Main street. It was originally presented to John L. at Boston by the citizens of that city on July 4, 1887, and is valued in the neighborhood of 10,000 simoleons. Three hundred and sixty-five diamonds set in 12 1/2 pounds of gold make up one of the costliest and at the same time prettiest pieces of the jeweler's art ever presented to a popular hero in this country. The late Pat Sheehy was in charge of the subscriptions, and among the big donors to the purse with which the trophy was purchased were Nat Goodwin and Henry E. Dixey.

The belt arrived in this city Saturday afternoon and hundreds have taken a glimpse of it since that time.

An American sewing machine company has opened six schools in southern China, at which natives are taught to contrive with silk by machinery.

TEACHING GAME BIRDS TO FIGHT.

Howard Varsity Victors. M Street High School Quint Downs Armstrong Tech. 15 to 7. Three red-hot basketball games were played last night in "True Reformers' Hall." In the first M Street High School defeated the Armstrong Tech quint, 15 to 7. The preliminary game resulted in a victory for the Garnett School team, which defeated the Randall School, 5 to 4, and in the last game, an exhibition contest, the Howard Varsity quint defeated the Reserves, 50 to 11.

LONG LIVES FOR YALE ATHLETES

Not One Death Has Been Recorded from Overexertion.

STUDY OF COLLEGE OARSMEN

Dr. George Meylan's History of Every Rower that Has Graduated from Harvard is Most Valuable Asset to Insurance Companies. Track Men Die the Quickest.

The Yale News recently contained the following excellent article on "The Longevity of Athletics": "The hostile criticism that athletes die young has been so often made, without definite refutation, that it passes for truth among those who mistake rumor for fact. An investigation of the health and longevity of college athletes must be exhaustive to furnish trustworthy data. Realizing the importance of such statistics, the records of 70 athletes who competed in intercollegiate events and won their 'Y's' in one or more of the four major sports between 1850 and 1900. This material was gathered for a prominent life insurance company, and later given to the director of the gymnasium. The main deductions are as follows:

"Of these 70 athletes, 51 have died since graduation. The causes were: Consumption, 12; pneumonia, 4; drowning, 6; heart disease, 2; war and accident, 5; died from unknown causes or disappeared, 10; from various diseases, such as fever, cancer, paralytic dislocation, etc., 12.

"Out of these 70 men, 18 rowed on the crew, 16 played football, 11 were track athletes, and 6 played baseball. The ages of those who have died show these extremes and averages:

Table showing statistics of athletes: Sport, Extremes of age, Average age at death. Football: 18 to 66 years, 41.7 years. Baseball: 22 to 35 years, 28.3 years. Track: 20 to 29 years, 24.3 years.

"If the four men who were drowned while young are eliminated from the crew table, the average age is raised to 41.7 years.

"Turning to the 70 living athletes, those who have passed forty, may be grouped thus: "The hundred and thirteen men are between forty and forty-nine years; 36 men are between fifty and fifty-nine years; 22 men are between sixty and sixty-nine years.

"It is a widespread opinion that athletes are liable to heart trouble, but only two Yale men of these athletes considered have died from this cause. It would seem more significant that of the 51 deaths, 16 were due to lung affections, the sport engaged in being football, 6; rowing, 4; baseball, 2; and track athletics, 4. It would be unwise to state that athletic training is a predisposing cause of lung trouble, for they may be only coincident. The figures above mentioned are only taken as examples and tendencies; for the statistics quoted were made up some time ago, and hence there are probably more deaths to be taken into consideration.

"The assertion has been made by a life insurance expert, that college athletes, barring track men, show a better average expectation of life than their nonathletic classmates, and much better than the general average of insured lives. "Probably the most valuable study of the life records of college athletes lately attempted in this country was made by Dr. George Meylan. His conclusions were:

Dr. Meylan has studied the individual history of every one who graduated from Harvard in the period of forty-one years between 1852 and 1893. The results show that, compared with other men as to longevity, these athletes have had an expectancy of life of more than five years longer than the average standards of the insurance mortality tables. Of the total number of 152 men whose records were traced, 123 were living in 1904. Not one death was in any way caused by overexertion in athletics during college years, only two men having died of heart disease, and rowing was not blamed in these cases. Of the 22 oarsmen dead in more than a half century, 6 were killed in war, 2 by accidents, and only 1 died of consumption.

"These investigations show that the athlete possesses as part of his equipment at graduation, the probability of better health and a longer life than the man who does not realize the priceless worth of a 'sound mind in a sound body.' And this ancient phrase is supported by soundest logical reasoning. For, roughly speaking, there are two portions of the brain, one for the muscles, another for the mind. If either is developed at the expense of the other, the result is an unbalanced mental state.

RACING CARD FOR TO-DAY.

Table with racing card for today, listing various races and participants across different tracks like Pimlico, Oakland, and others.

Merry Christmas TO ALL

For the convenience of patrons, our store will be OPEN MONDAY, DEC. 26, UNTIL NOON

Gifts Can Be Exchanged. WOLFORD'S 909 Pa. Ave. N. W.

COCKFIGHTING IN OLD MEXICO

Inherited from the Aztecs, Who Originated Sports.

GAMES HELD BY SAME TRIBE

Athletic Events of Ancient People Like the Olympic Contests of Today—Bullfighting Taken from the Same Source—Betting of Both Classes Features These Festivals

The ancient inhabitants of Mexico were ever fond of sports of all kinds, and in the days before the coming of the white man to the shores of America they indulged in a sort of pelota game, in aquatic contests, races, wrestling matches, and military exercises of various kinds. They also held endurance races, much after the manner of the modern Marathon races. All these were purely athletic.

But they also had many games of chance and skill, and certain pastimes such as fighting coyotes and other wild animals. There is no doubt that these tendencies of the Aztecs and other native races made them take kindly to the bullfight and the cockfight.

The latter, especially, owing to its inexpensive nature, early became a favorite pastime of the lower classes, and was, later on, taken up by the better people. Soon every one who was able, and most people were, had one or more fighting cocks.

Every Sunday and every feast day there were literally thousands of places throughout Mexico where the populace, or a goodly part of the men, spent the afternoons at the side of the cockpit.

It was no uncommon thing for some well-to-do gentleman to go to the scene of the contest, take some of the prize money, and then, with a half dozen or more servants, each with a bird under each arm. In those days the true devotee of the sport prided himself on his knowledge of the fighting qualities of the birds, and he believed that he was able, in most cases, to pick the winners on sight. Then, too, there were strikers and families of birds known throughout Mexico as well as in California.

These were men who had spent all their active lives in the sport, and they were, almost instinctively, as it were, to judge of the merits of the birds as soon as they appeared at the pit. Profiting by this experience, they were able to gain the majority of bets that they made and thus to make a good living out of the sport.

There were still others, as there are today, who acted as the clerks and takers of bets, from whom they collected small commissions. Of these men there were thousands throughout the country, and no hamlet, however small, was too unimportant to possess one. They were the counterpart of the modern bookmakers.

The glory of the cockfight has forever gone from Mexico; but the sport still exists, though it is now confined to the smaller towns and the lower classes, and in some of the rural districts. But, though it has fallen upon evil days, it still survives as a picturesque relic of the past when kings, princes, and nobles, a visit to the cockpit is certainly a novelty and an entertaining experience to one who has never been there before.

In the smaller villages of Mexico the cockfight still holds its own in the hearts of the populace, and its fair or public festival is complete without its cockfight, which is generally well advertised and made one of the attractions of the festival. At these festivals, as in the olden days, betting is still a feature of the sport, and often much money changes hands.

HOWARD VARSITY VICTORS.

M Street High School Quint Downs Armstrong Tech. 15 to 7.

Three red-hot basketball games were played last night in "True Reformers' Hall." In the first M Street High School defeated the Armstrong Tech quint, 15 to 7. The preliminary game resulted in a victory for the Garnett School team, which defeated the Randall School, 5 to 4, and in the last game, an exhibition contest, the Howard Varsity quint defeated the Reserves, 50 to 11.

The first game was full of roughness and excessive fouling, but the M Street boys took good advantage of this fact and won with ease. Dandrige was the star of the contest.

The second game proved more exciting to the followers of the game. The battle was in doubt until the final whistle blew, when one of the Garnett players caged a difficult goal.

The exhibition contest proved a runaway for the "Varsity team, and the winner was never in doubt. This game was played so that the Howard team could get into condition for their game against the all-star team from New York.

Snapshot of private man in one of Mexico's rural towns.

