

BASE BALL, RACES AND OTHER SPORTS

Death of Shortstop Joe Cassidy at Chester, Pa.

SORROW OVER HIS DEMISE

Nationals Left South for Home This Afternoon.

THEY WILL PRACTICE HERE

Sunday at Benning Race Track—All Ready for Today's Opening—Tennis Championship.

President Tom C. Noyes of the Washington base ball club received a telegram from Chester, Pa., yesterday morning notifying him that Shortstop Joe Cassidy had died in his home in that place at 10 o'clock, just as day was breaking. Although it was known that Cassidy was in a critical condition, the news of his death came as a shock to the officers of the club, the players and the base ball enthusiasts of the city. Joe's previous good health and correct habits, it was thought, would enable him to finally pull through, but fate ruled otherwise.

After the close of last season Cassidy decided to remain in Washington and take up the study of stenography. It was while pursuing this study that he was stricken with malarial fever, and he decided to return to his home in Chester, Pa., about two months ago. Cassidy's parents and friends in Chester were under the impression that his illness was known to the officials of the club, but the first intimation of the boy's serious sickness was received when a contract



Joe Cassidy. (Photo by Harris-Ewing.)

was sent to him by Mr. Noyes. By the return mail came the information that Cassidy was suffering from typhoid fever, and was very near to death. Manager Stahl happened to be in the city and immediately hurried to the boy's bedside, spending several hours with the lad. Mr. Stahl's return here he did everything possible in the way of tending the services of the best physicians in the city, but although the fact was kept secret, the officers of the club knew from the beginning that there was very little chance of Cassidy getting well again.

Cassidy first came into prominence while playing shortstop with the Harrisburg (Pa.) club of the Tri-State League in 1923. Prior to that he had been playing semi-professional ball around Philadelphia. Cassidy was a star of the greatest magnitude. Just how good he looked last year can be gleaned from the fact that Manager Mack of the Athletics offered the most trying circumstances to sign him and lost little time getting his name to a contract, beating Mack by about two hours.

A Favorite in This City. Cassidy's record in this city is so well known that it is useless to go over the details. He "made good" from the first and became a great favorite with the "fans" of the city. He was one of the boys who loved the game, being first on the field and the last to leave. He never missed a morning's practice and entered into his work with a dash that carried his companions with him, and this spirit was maintained many times under the most trying circumstances. In covering second he was never known to shirk a play, and his ability to get over the fence in hard-hit bounds was almost phenomenal.

The news of Cassidy's death was telegraphed to Charlottesville yesterday morning, and Manager Stahl and the players were deeply shocked. Every one of the players had clung to the belief that Joe would get well, feeling the fact that he had always taken the best of care of himself and was in robust condition the better part of last season.

With an inch of snow on the ground at Charlottesville and the team in the dumps over Cassidy's death, Manager Stahl decided last night to pull up stakes and come home to finish the most trying season. The entire aggregation left Charlottesville at noon today and will immediately begin practicing at National Park should the weather permit.

Cassidy's funeral will be held in Chester Wednesday, and Manager Stahl, with Anderson, Hickman, Nitz, Jones and Stanley will go over to act as pallbearers.

NATIONALS LOOK LIKE WINNERS

A reporter for The Evening Star made a flying visit to the training camp of the Nationals at Charlottesville, Va., last Friday and Saturday and, notwithstanding the generally bad weather, caught Manager Stahl and his husky band of athletes working out on two different occasions. After a careful review of the team, and notwithstanding the lamentable death of Cassidy and the defection of Kitzredge, the reporter is willing to go on record with the statement that the organization is fully 25

per cent stronger than it was this time last year.

The infield is undoubtedly the strongest that has ever been grouped together in a Washington uniform, and will be a revelation to the "fans" who have been on the anxious bench ever since it became evident that Cassidy would be out of the team the coming season. Manager Stahl has gotten over the worry of losing a leader and is working out in the shape he was in two years ago. He is fast on his feet, fields the ball best form and at the bat he has been binging the ball for keeps. At second base Schally has been doing the most sensational work, and gives evidence of becoming a star. He has the wrist motion in throwing the ball, and on several occasions Friday he threw to first as true as a rifle shot while almost standing on his head. This wrist motion was what made Barry McCormick one of the best men in the business on double plays, and double plays will be appreciated this season, as Hickman pulled off but one all last season. Schally also knows inside ball and will be able to help Nill most wonderfully on balls batted over him. At third base, Nill stands up nicely and on the day he was under inspection lined out several pretty hot grounders to right and center. Just how good Schally's ground can be seen from the fact that De Montreville left for Toledo last Thursday after telling Lave Cross that he was in splendid shape for the Nationals as long as "Schal" stood on his feet.

Nill Will Do. Little George Nill will have the task of his life filling poor Joe Cassidy's shoes, but from the way he goes about his work and the ability he has shown at Charlottesville, he has evidently gotten into his right place at last and will be able to make good. He is as quick as a cat on ground balls, and every one at the games last season can remember the little fellow used to shoot them over from third. Nill has a quick eye for short flies, and he will work splendidly with Anderson in left, something Cassidy couldn't do with Hickman last season.

Lave Cross, at third, in splendid shape already, and demonstrated to the reporter that he can still cover a great deal of ground. Several balls were known to drop down toward third that Cross gathered in back of the bag and threw to first which would have gone safe under ordinary circumstances. He was in the entire period of practice and helped Stahl keep the players at their best all the time.

In the outfield, Anderson, Jones and Hickman class up high. There have been some doubts as to Hickman's speed, but the big fellow ran 100 yards in 12 seconds Friday in a race with Trainer Quirk, and that was certainly going some for a big man. This trio is in the finest possible shape.

The batteries are the only points open to criticism, and no fault would be found there but for the fact that the weather has kept the youngsters from working out. The five pitchers who went to Hot Springs were counted upon, and it is a pity that he was not in fairly good shape, as they ran a warm weather last week and worked consistently. Falkenberg, Smith, Starkell, Hardy and McCoy are the only pitchers straight balls, but every man looked up to Manager Stahl that he is afraid to let any one of them go for fear of losing a star.

Youngsters Are Strong. Smith is a ball player from the ground up. He can play any position and play it far above the average. He has a world of speed and can be depended upon to be a fixture with the team. Falkenberg worked out nicely, but little Hardy complained of a sore arm, the cold breeze that swept up the valley every day being too much for him. Trainer Quirk said he would be in the outfield in a few days. Starkell was in the outfield and no line could be got on him as a pitcher, but he handled himself nicely. McCoy confined himself to getting the ball over the plate, but he has a good look.

Before leaving for home, The Star reporter ran against the instructor, Langdon of the University of Virginia, and he said: "The team looks better to me by 40 per cent than it did this time last spring. The outfield is very strong and I don't think any one could ask for better work than the boys are doing. As to your pitchers, I would not have one of them doing business for my team this spring. I don't believe we could lose a game."

Manager Stahl was not a bit backward in expressing himself in the most positive fashion over the players under him. He only troubles now is to select a lead-off man in the batting list. This is one of the most important matters in connection with a winning team, and the Washingtons lack the left-hander for this position. Hankline would fill the bill, but it is doubtful if he will be able to break up that outfield, and the same applies to Joe Stanley. Schally may be the man selected to lead off, but he is a right-hand hitter and is in the same boat with the left-handers. With a good man to lead off, then a man to lead off with a bunch of nice ones will follow in Hickman, Anderson, Stahl and Cross. The manager of the Highlanders team for Atlanta, after five days there they go straight to New York.

ON THEIR WAY HERE. Nationals May Engage in Indoor Work in Washington. Special Dispatch to The Star.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Va., March 26.—The Nationals pulled up stakes this morning and took the Chesapeake and Ohio train for Washington. The players were up early this morning in order to get things in shape for their departure. All base ball bats and other paraphernalia at the university gymnasium were hastily packed in trucks before 11 o'clock. Trainer Quirk had everything ready for shipment. The decision reached last night by Manager Stahl to return to Washington with his team has turned out to be a wise one, as the weather here this morning is very threatening, and the indications are that rain will be falling before night. The snow is melting rapidly, however, but the Athletics field will hardly be in fit condition to play until the middle of the week.

By that time, however, the Athletics is scheduled to be on its way to Danville to begin a series of games in that city.

Manager Stahl is to secure a large hall in Washington in which the team can engage in indoor work until the weather gets better. In his opinion the men will be able to get outdoor work in Washington as soon as anywhere else this side of Georgia and Florida.

Manager Stahl and the former team mates of the Nationals have not yet recovered from the shock caused by the news of the shortstop's death, and many of the players place their hearts in the hotel lobby last night. Cassidy was the chief topic of conversation, and many of the brilliant plays which he pulled off in various contests last season were recalled.

The consensus of opinion is that Cassidy would have been one of the leading lights in the base ball world. Lave Cross, when he heard of the news of "Joe's" death, said: "He was a coming man."

Stahl was especially complimentary in his remarks on Cassidy, as he was more intimately acquainted with him than any other member of the squad.

When Stahl reached Washington from Boston two seasons ago he happened upon Cassidy, who had just dropped in from Chester, and the two roomed together for

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LARGE SUNDAY CROWD AT BENNING TRACK

In spite of bleak skies and raw atmosphere, fully a thousand people visited the Benning race course yesterday, and witnessed considerable work by the horses. Many owners and trainers do not work their horses at all on Sundays, giving jockeys and stable hands a partial holiday. As the day wore on it brightened up considerably and the sun made several attempts to come out, giving promise of more seasonable weather in the near future.

Superintendent Tom Strahan, whose untiring energy the last week has been severely taxed, was invalided yesterday at the command of his physician, who pronounced his bad renal condition serious enough to demand keeping to his room for a few days. Superintendent Gorman of Belmont Park, L. I., who is here, promptly assumed Strahan's duties, with Assistant Superintendent Betz, until the latter is able to get out again.

Strange to say, the snow of Saturday night helped to keep the frost out of the track, and yesterday it was faster than last fall, and then fast on the heels of the style under wraps. To a stranger the cold's move would have been most impressive, but those who saw Pater "bluff" this same way last fall, and then fast on the heels of the style under wraps, will be glad to see the move.

Four-year-old Billy Moran, who was quite a fall while working one of the colt performers on the flat yesterday, but the lad fortunately was not hurt.

Little McDevitt, who was at Los Angeles all winter, was at the track yesterday with his father. The boy only weighs eight or nine pounds, and is a build that looks as if he will not grow heavy in the near future. This quality forms part of his stock in trade.

Track Officials Arrive. All of the officials are on hand. President Howland got in several days ago. Starter Mars Cassidy was at the track yesterday, and Judges McDowell and Murphy got in this morning. William Kane, newly appointed "information" clerk, got in yesterday morning. Back in the old days Kane was a light-weight jockey of ability and rode for well-known turfmen. Later he went to South America, but for the last few years he has been connected with the Western Union Telegraph Company. That he will prove himself to be the right man in the right place goes without saying.

Donohue's personal congratulations, with Belmont Purdy, Robert Center, G. G. K. Lawrence, Arthur Hunter and others in the seventies.

His victory at old Jerome Park in the Members' cup, when he rode the big horse Spendthrift to victory at 170 pounds, was not shared by himself. For his father, August Belmont, took the horse from the veteran owner, Joseph Donohue, and after his son's victory almost dislocated Donohue's arm as personal congratulations. Then he sold Donohue a good race horse for next to nothing. Those were the days of sentiment in racing.

New Racing Firm. Among visitors at the track yesterday were Fred Prager, manager of the Goughacres Stable, and A. F. Bucks of Wisconsin county, Md., with whom he has recently formed a partnership in four horses bred at the Clyde's Bryn Mawr stud. The horses are the four-year-old Thomond, by Athelred, and the two-year-olds Durand, Laurelvood and Wicomico.

The last named, a daughter of the Bard and the Clyde filly Moran, by Athelred, will carry the colors of Dr. James Kerr of this city in the Oxnard stake, the doctor having leased her for that race. Mr. Buck, who is making this first venture as a racing owner is also a gentleman rider of merit, and he will ride the firm's Thomond in the Amateur cup to be run during the Benning meeting.

Jockey Burns arranged yesterday to ride William Garth's Bobby Keen in the Benning handicap. This will give Garth a strong hand with his two candidates as far as jockeyship is concerned. With Miller on Pater and Burns on Bobby Keen, the Garth entries will be well served. Miller

will ride for Garth during the meeting, having concluded an arrangement to that effect.

Ex-Jockey Garrison was also a visitor at the track yesterday, the equal of the best jockeys in the land, Garrison of late years has been training on a modest scale. He is not in that field just now, but is likely to be in the future, if his present plans materialize.

During a glimpse of bright skies yesterday afternoon a solitary robin redstart perched on the railing of the timing stand. "There," said "Billy" Garth, "is a hunch. Who carries red colors tomorrow?" By spoke Trainer Stafford from California. "Say, Billy, that robin won't do for your hunch. Look at him all humped up with the cold like my two-year-olds when they get here yesterday."

A hush fell on the little knot of trainers at this sally and Garth was just getting his breath to reply in kind when Tom Stanton anticipated him with, "You are up against it Billy. Red colors won't do when the robin is blue with the cold. Fancy Bird is the hunch, see?" And the jollies became so uproarious that the robin flew away.

W. A. Stanton, who has the contract on Jockey Walter Miller, got in this morning. "New" and "old" horses, but they are turned out at present.

The Cavanaugh special got in from New York last night with about 400 bookmakers' tickets, and the second section of the Congressional Limited.

A silver mug goes to the jockey winner of the race, a new pair of goggles, and the riders were naturally anxious to secure the handsome trophy.

During the preliminary, while soft, was in fair condition this morning. Mudflakes will be in evidence of course, but the going will not be heavy enough to give that class of horses all their own way.

BIG SALARIES FOR LITTLE JOCKEYS

Three little lads, none over eighteen years of age, will earn from \$20,000 to \$35,000 each during the coming season on the eastern race tracks. These boys with trust official incomes are Jockeys Herman Radtke, Lee Sewell and David Nicol. They range in weight from 95 to 105 pounds.

What the steering gear is to a ship the jockey is to a race horse, a single miscalculation, a too sudden pull on a rein or a lack of judgment in regard to pace may make defeat certain, and backers of the horse will lose thousands of dollars. If a jockey is not competent enough to elude all of the "pockets in which his rivals try to ensnare him all the speed of the horse goes for naught.

Continuance \$300,000 depends upon the fleetness of foot of a thoroughbred. In order that the best horse may not lose where he is able to win, wealthy turfmen pay from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to little lads who have demonstrated that they can think quickly, grasp an opportunity and land the fastest home the winner.

The fleetest horse is often beaten. A bad start, a "pocketed" neck, a lack of judgment or interference, one or all of these things may prevent the best horse from winning.

Knowing this, turfmen are always on the lookout for the most promising riders. Each season there is a new crop of jockeys. After three or four years increasing weight and maturity in the saddle, and this gives the newcomers a chance. If a boy can ride as skillfully at 95 pounds as at 125, he is a valuable asset to his employer, and the latter can accept many more mounts than his heavier rival.

Radtke, Sewell and Nicol all fill all the requirements of a first-class jockey. For years they have displayed skill, courage, alertness and strength to such a remarkable degree that they are at the top of the ladder.

Radtke probably is the greatest of the three. He was so successful this winter that "Bill" Mack, trainer of the Paul Bonaparte, offered him \$25,000 for the lad's services. This offer, \$27,000 for the lad's services, was declined, and he followed on the heels of the demand made by the Oaklawn track bookmakers, who were competing for him to be secured to compete against Radtke. They complained that he was so much better than the other boys that his presence would mean a loss of business to them. He is a whirlwind finisher and has often won a race at the post when his rivals had given up all hope of cashing their bets.

Sewell came last year. He quickly rose from an apprentice boy to a first-class jockey, and he was the winner of the Youngster's Handicap, which he won at a big salary. The boy, who is now 17, learned this winter, and at the Paul Grounds track soon rode so many winners that, in spite of an illness of several weeks, he managed to hold the lead among the riders at that track.

Nicol jumped into prominence last season at the age of 16. He rode that horse in the majority of his races. James R. Keene was so impressed with the way he rode the champion that twice he paid him \$1,000 to come from the west to guide his favorite in big races on the local tracks. During the winter Nicol went to New Or-

leans, and at the City Park track soon was the leading jockey.

WON EASTERN STATES COURT TENNIS HONORS

TUXEDO PARK, N. Y., March 25.—In the final round for the eastern states championship for the gold racquet in court tennis on the court of the Tuxedo Tennis and Racquet Club, Jay Gould of Lakewood easily defeated Pierre Lorillard, Jr., of the Tuxedo Tennis and Racquet Club, in three straight sets, 6-2, 6-2, 6-1.

Mr. Gould was in fine form and easily outplayed Lorillard. A large gallery of well-known persons, who were spending Sunday at the Tuxedo Club, witnessed the match. By winning yesterday's match Gould gets a leg on the \$500 gold racquet offered by T. Saffern Teller of the Tuxedo Tennis Club.

The summary by games follows:

FIRST SET. Gould..... 3 0 1 1 0 1-6 Lorillard..... 0 1 0 0 1 0-2

SECOND SET. Gould..... 3 0 1 1 0 1-6 Lorillard..... 0 1 0 0 1 0-2

THIRD SET. Gould..... 3 0 1 1 0 1-6 Lorillard..... 0 1 0 0 1 0-2

Referee: Alfred Seaton, Tuxedo Club. Marker: Robert Moore, Jr.

Jay Gould is now looked on as a probable winner of the national championship next week.

In addition to the final match for the gold racquet some interesting tennis was witnessed in doubles on the Tuxedo Club. C. Ledyard Blair as partner, defeated George J. Gould and Benjamin Nicol in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3.

BIG BILLIARD MATCH TOMORROW NIGHT

NEW YORK, March 25.—William Hoppe, the champion, and George Stosson have practically finished their practice for their match in Grand Central Palace tomorrow night for the championship at 181 balk line. Judging from the demand for seats the largest crowd that has been a billiard contest for years will be on hand when prodigy and student bank for the opening shot. A seating accommodation of 2,000 has been provided, and the demand for seats indicates that every one will be taken. As the seats have been sold for \$2 and \$3, it looks as if the winner of the match would land not only the championship, but a pretty fat "gate." All of the net gate receipts go to the winner.

BALTIMORE TO SHOOT WASHINGTON

BALTIMORE, Md., March 25.—Executive Officer John J. Cooney will take a team of ten men from the Baltimore Revolver Association to Washington next Tuesday afternoon to shoot in a tri-team race in the Minute Men's armory that evening. The other teams will be from the 13th Cavalry, at Fort Myer, and the Capital Rifle and Revolver Association. The team making the highest aggregate score will be the winner. It is a glory match, and no prizes will be given.

The Baltimore team will be composed of Executive Officer John J. Cooney, Major E. J. Fort, Major L. M. Rawlins, E. F. Rodgers, J. S. Reese, S. G. Wilmer, Corporal E. A. Smith, Lieutenants Thomas A. E. Christ-

TELLS HOW HE WON AT BRIDGE

From the New York Sun.

Randolph Lee Burleigh (of the Virginia Burleighs) lit the gas in his shabby little room and carefully drew from his pocket a roll of yellow notes. After locking these in his trunk he pulled off his dinner coat and sat down at the table.

"Dear old dad," he chuckled, "I must tell him about it before I turn in."

And he wrote the following letter to "Randolph Lee Burleigh, Sr., of Burleigh Hall, Roanoke county:

"My Dear Father: You will be glad to hear this morning I found at the club a note from your old friend Mrs. de Puyssant, asking me to a little dinner and bridge afterward tonight. I accepted at once, and at 7:30 sharp I appeared before her in my new dinner coat, which was finished yesterday."

"The De Puyssants live in a real palace on 5th avenue. I could not help comparing its richness and color and glitter to the air of our plain old home among the oaks; but I remembered, too, that my grandmother was—well, we know what."

The dinner was excellent. Over the cigars the men talked of bridge and I began to feel most out of place in such an expensive assembly. All I know, you see, is what I learned in those games with you and Major White and Judge Burnett at half a cent a point.

High Stakes.

"I took occasion to ask for what Mrs. de P. usually played, and you may imagine my feelings when they told me—a dollar; but I

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ROXBURY RYE

flatter myself that I passed off the shock creditably by remarking that that made a very decent little game if the cards ran well. You know that I have, in all the world, only the \$1,000 you gave me last birthday! My salary of \$30 a month has scarcely permitted saving.

"Well, A. H. McCay, for the first six rubbers I just a little more than held my own. Then I started on the seventh—the final one. I had for a partner a clever fellow—a very attractive—Miss Burton. Mrs. de Puyssant was on my left. On my right was a man named Smithers.

"Miss Burton and I had won the first game without honors. We had lost the second after a desperate fight with a total of eighty against us. They had lost four of our get-some-on-the-table. It was Mrs. de P.'s deal. I seemed dead sure of dropping a quarter of my thousand any-

"When I picked up my cards I found the king and jack of diamonds, a small club, a spade and nine hearts headed by the ace. I had a very good hand, and I announced no trumps. Bearing the heart count in mind, I doubled.

"She doubled back. Before I thought, I had redoubled. She went over again, making a trick worth \$102. I rapped the table.

"My partner led a club. She had no bid.

"I felt the cold perspiration start from every pore. I was ruined.

"The dummy contained one small heart, two spades, three clubs, and the queen, ten, nine, eight, five, four and deuce of diamonds. Mrs. de Puyssant took the club trick with the queen. Then she stopped to size up the situation.

All or Nothing.

"In her hand were left the ace and six of diamonds, the ten, eight and tray of hearts, the ace, king and deuce of clubs, and the ace, king, queen and jack of spades. If she played her cards—straight she could take seven more tricks, giving her two odd and the game. If she could establish her diamond suit she would make grand slam and win, counting her aces, over \$1,400 in addition to the rubber.

"She led her ace of diamonds, intending, if she did not catch the king, to switch the suit. Miss Burton played a small one.

"The condition dawned on me in a flash. I drew out my king and threw it sullenly on the board. It was my one chance—as you will see. It may have been unsound, but I was now up to Mrs. de Puyssant to place the bet.

"She reasoned, naturally, that I would not have thrown away my king on her ace, and she bet \$1,000. I bet \$1,000. My partner held the odd diamond. Accordingly, the only way to keep the lead in dummy's hand was to finesse. She played the ten.

"It was the greatest moment I ever had at a card table. When my jack descended from the top of the pack, I knew I had been stabbed. I took that trick and nine more with my hearts. I quit more than \$800 ahead for the evening's work. But, Lord, what a risk! You can tell Judge Burnett and the major.

"RANDOLPH LEE BURLEIGH."

Baltimore Won at Whist.

SCRANTON, Pa., March 23.—The fifth annual contest for the Atlantic trophy of the Atlantic Whist Association began in this city Saturday afternoon, and ended at midnight. A. H. McCay and J. Smith of Baltimore, who won the trophy last year, were again successful, winning over J. W. Dusenberry of Scranton and M. Bouve of Boston by 3½ points. The winners' score was plus 11.