Ban Johnson Trying to Close Yankee Deal—Feds Fail to Spring Surprises

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Calvin Demarest and Harry Cline, both members of the Champion Billiard Players' League, will appear at the Leader Billiard Parlor next January 5 and 6 in one of the regularly scheduled contests of the league to be held in this city during the present season. The game should draw record crowds, judging from the interest shown in the previous contest held in this city.

The contest will be 300 points at 14.1 balk-line, the new style of game which created such a sensation during the recent championship tournament at the Hotel Astor, New York. This game is full of thrills, is most spectacular, and beyond question the most difficult known to the billiard world.

GOLFERS WILL TOUR SOUTH.

Brady and Nicholls to Give Exhibitions in Dixieland.

NEW YORK, December 29.—A pair of prominent professional golfers, M. J. Brady of Wollaston and Gil Nicholls of Wilmington, have arranged to team up for an extended exhibition tour in the south. Their plan is to leave this city January 8, going direct to New Orleans. After stopping there a few days the pair will continue on to Texas, touching at Beaumont, Houston, San Antonio and El Paso.

From Texas the "pros" will go to California, playing at Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Diego, Redlands, Del Monte, Riverdale, Santa Cruz and San Francisco. If time permits, links at Seattle and Tacoma will be visited, as well as the Denver Country Club. Unless there is a change in the program, the professionals will be gone from ten to twelve weeks, during which time they will cover close to 10,000 miles.

When it is remembered that only last summer Nicholls was so badly injured in an automobile smash-up that his life was despaired of, it seems difficult to realize that he will soon be tramping over the links the same as of old. Gil is a younger brother to Ben Nicholls, who also has a southern tour mapped out. Ben will start the latter part of January with Tom Anderson.

Friday of this week the Country Club of Lakewood will usher in the new year with a two-day tournament, in which golfers will qualify in eights. Golf at Lakewood at this season is more or less an experiment, but, unless the weather should be too stormy, the club's officials will carry out the program as per schedule. At Pinehurst a tournament is carded to start January 5.

Garry Herrmann's one regret is that he hasn't another Chief Johnson to send as a Christmas present to the Federal League.

FEDS NOT MAKING EXPECTED RUMPUS

Raids on Players of Organized Ball Seem to Have Been Exhausted.

NEW LEAGUE'S STANDARD OF PLAY NOT IMPROVED

Outlaws Have No Way to Defray Training Expenses—Base Ball Gossip.

BY J. ED GRILLO.

Federal League affairs are rather quiet these days. In Chicago, where the headquarters of the Feds are located, nothing is being given out which might cause those who believe in the Gilmore circuit to enthuse. So far as Fed raids on the organized base ball teams are concerned, that seems to be over. The return of Walter Johnson to the Washington club seems to have discouraged the players who figured that they might take a chance with the outlaws, and reports from various sources are to the effect that some of the players who signed with the Feds will follow in Johnson's footsteps and return to the organized fold.

The four big surprises promised by President Gilmore have not materialized, although the time limit has expired long since.

The standard of the new league will hardly be any better next season than it was last. Few new men have been added, and a majority of the old players who jumped last season have not improved, but, in fact, are slowing up. Few, if any, youngsters have been corraled, and nothing to amount to anything is being done to develop players.

The financial strain on the organization has naturally been increased, for the players added have all been signed at exorbitant figures, and incidentally have protected themselves against any financial loss regardless of what may happen to the venture.

Furthermore, the league has given out the statement that it will protect all players who signed with it, even though it cannot play them, and that will add to the enormous expenses. Nor is there any reason for believing that the attendance will be better, for the attractions are virtually the same and the circuit is not apt to be improved.

What is more, the spring training expenses of the Feds are a greater burden than those of organized base ball clubs, for the reason that the Feds can play few exhibition games because they are barred by teams under the national agreement, while the other major league clubs come near to defraying their entire training expenses by means of the exhibition games which they play before the season opens.

The new league undoubtedly is in a worse plight than it ever has been, and there are those in some of the cities in the west who predict that some of the clubs will never open their gates again.

Lee Magee, who will manage the Brookfeds next season, was the assistant groundkeeper at the Cincinnati ball park only a couple of years ago. He developed into a mighty clever ball player, practicing with the players every morning, and jumped right into major league ball. But how much ability Magee will display as a manager remains to be seen. He has hardly had experience enough to become thoroughly familiar with the fine points of the game, and whether he has the ability to handle ballplayers who have been in the game for a long while is by no means assured.

But Magee has had a craving for a managerial job, and after a year's experience in that position he may realize that it is a lot easier to just play ball and let some one else do all the worrying.

The chances are Griffith will carry the same catching staff next season that he has had ever since he took charge here. There was never any danger of either Ainsmith or Henry being let out, but had Griffith been able to add some likely young catcher he might have dropped Alva Williams, whose arm is showing the effects of wear.

But Williams for all that is a mighty good third catcher. He is an excellent hitter and just the man to have around in the event of a pinch hitter being needed.

If the rumor to the effect that Manager Pat Moran knew nothing of the shifting of Sherwood Magee to the Braves until he read it in the papers is true, then conditions on that Philadelphia team are worse than were suspected and no manager, regardless of how capable he may be, has a chance to make a success of the job.

Interference with a man supposed to be in charge of a team means disruption, regardless of what the conditions may be. No ball team ever has been successfully managed by more than one man. He must rule with a free hand and under no circumstances must he be hampered by interference from the outside.

Douglas Neff is attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Manager Griffith figures that by spending the winter in the invigorating climate of Boston the young infielder will be greatly improved physically. On what Neff displayed in college base ball he undoubtedly stands a great chance to become a major league ball player. He has had little chance since being signed by the Nationals, for he was stricken with typhoid fever shortly after reporting and was out of commission for some months.

The citizen soldiery plays an important part in the base ball war, but it has to be supported by 42-centimeter bank accounts.

Players' Union Cards Printed by Non-Union Labor

ST. LOUIS, Mo., December 29.—Zinn Beck, the St. Louis Cardinal third baseman, who before turning to base ball for a livelihood was a member of the Glass Blowers' Union, and who still is a member (in good standing) of his local, recently joined the Ball Players' Fraternity.

On receipt of his membership card Beck gave it the "double o" and was almost floored with surprise when he found that the printing had been done by a firm which didn't stamp its work with the union label.

Being a perfectly good union man, Beck couldn't understand why a ball players' union could enjoy a reputation of being a real union when its printing was done by a non-union firm. Beck didn't hesitate to write President Dave Fultz of the players' union about the matter.

He received a reply from Fultz, in which the players' union president admitted that Beck was right; that the matter had not been given a thought until Beck had called his attention to it, and that hereafter the membership cards would bear the union label.

WHAT'S TO BECOME OF "GERMANY"?

BALL DEAL DRAGS

Ban Johnson Says Yankees Must Be Sold Today.

ONLY A MATTER OF PRICE

Prospective Purchasers Want to Be Sure of Their Ground.

NEW YORK, December 29.—An all-day conference among Col. Ruppert, Capt. Huston, Frank J. Farrell, Ban Johnson and Joseph J. Lannin at the Belmont Hotel yesterday failed to solve the problem upon whose doorstep the New York Americans would roost in 1915. Capt. Huston volunteered the opinion that matters were progressing favorably. Ban Johnson, however, was a trifle more explicit.

"The deal will be closed by sundown tonight or not at all," said the Big Czar. "At least by that time I shall wash my hands of it. Naturally a transaction embracing so much money calls for time and consideration. But I believe the interested parties have had ample time for reflection. The matter is beginning to drag—it has dragged too long, in fact.

"Two weeks ago I was sure the club would be sold to Messrs. Ruppert and Huston. I am still hopeful that I shall not be disappointed. Today will decide absolutely, but still, for the life of me, I dare not hazard a prediction which way the negotiations will end.

"I have done all in my power to bring the principals together. So have the rest of my associates in the American League. I believed when we met in Chicago that every obstacle had been removed."

Nothing in the Way.

Mr. Johnson declared that no insurmountable obstacles existed, and that the various meetings here and elsewhere had smoothed out certain points of minor consideration. But he appeared emphatic also that the main hitch at present was the price to be paid.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the sale would have been made long ago—during the National League meeting in this city—save for premature publicity," said Johnson. "At the outset there was considerable difference of opinion between Frank Farrell and the contracting parties as to the value of the property. The American League was prepared to bridge most of that difference.

"I have worked hard on the matter and I would hate now to see a slip-up where I was so sure of success a short time ago. But time flies and whoever is to be in charge of the team next year must have proper opportunities to prepare for the campaign. The American League club owners rave done their part."

President Johnson insists that seven of the club presidents of his league are united in the belief that it would be to common advantage to stretch a point if need be in assisting the local cause. He says that good players have been assured Messrs. Ruppert and Huston in case they join hands with the young major league. Also, Mr. Johnson declares, the prospective or near prospective owners will have free rein to establish their ideas as to the new manager. Ban would not say who this might be. From his remarks it appeared that a new managerial angle had arisen.

"The public seems to have a misconception of the case," continued Ban. "No effort is being made or has been made to force out the present owners. When I was approached by Mr. Ruppere I agreed to see Mr. Farrell. I was successful in arranging for his naming the price. Afterward in Chicago I acted as Mr. Farrell's representative. It is a question of those who are bidding for the franchise meeting the terms. All other angles have been smoothed out."

May Be New Bidder.

Johnson was asked if his determination to have the present negotiations terminated by nightfall did not imply the knowledge of other parties who might enter the field.

"I have been told," he replied, frankly, "that a man of unlimited capital, who is an ardent fan, was prepared to make a bid in case Messrs. Ruppert and Huston decided to retire. Whether this is so I do not know. I have made no effort to find out, though some of my best friends are close to him. I did not deem it fair to Messrs. Ruppert and Huston to entertain any outside offers while they were deliberating. For that reason I cannot say if the information concerning other parties was correct, though it came from two or three different sources that appeared reliable."

While Ban refused to discuss the subject, it was learned yesterday from an American League magnate that Messrs. Ruppert and Huston could have had Eddie Collins. It was suggested that they instead of Charles Comiskey, purchase the stellar second baseman and build around him. When Connie Mack named his price, however, the allurement faded.

Capt. Huston was seen shortly after the conference. He said he believed considerable progress had been made.

"I am sure we will decide in due time," said he, "but of course there are no end of little details to be settled. We wish to feel our ground thoroughly."

The captain is hopeful that some decided course may be framed speedily. He is anxious to return to Cuba within a day or two. He intimated, after the fashion of big Ban, that twenty-four hours should tell the tale, and like Ban he was an enigma as to which way the cat might be expected to jump.

Mullaney American League Umpire.

CHICAGO, December 29.—D. J. Mullaney of Jacksonville, Fla., has been appointed a member of the American League staff of umpires.

Fromme Signs With the Giants.

NEW YORK, December 29.—The New York National League club has received the signed contract of Arthur Fromme, one of the team's veteran pitchers. The only Giant regular now unsigned is Larry McLean, the catcher.

NOW IT'S W. JOHNSON WHO DECLINES CHECK

Gaston and Alphonse never had anything on Walter Johnson and Charles Weeghman. The Chicago Federal promoter refused a day or two ago to acknowledge a registered letter from Walter Johnson containing a check for $6,000. This represented the advance money which the Coffeyville Cyclone was eager to return to the Independents. Weeghman promptly returned the letter, unopened, to the sender. Yesterday, in Coffeville, Johnson in turn refused to acknowledge the return and issued instructions for the missive to be reforwarded to Weeghman. In the meantime 6,000 good dollars are knocking about in Uncle Sam's mail cars, in spite of all the talk about financial stringency.

EACH MAN SHOULD BE HIS OWN ATHLETIC TRAINER, SAYS GOTCH

Champion Wrestler Disagrees With Noted Physical Culture Exponents and Gives System a Rap.

Frank Gotch, world champion wrestler, in a recent talk to the students of Ames University on the subject of athletic training revealed some interesting data as to his method. Gotch disagrees with some of the noted physical culture exponents on present day methods and incidentally gives the system a rap. The following are Gotch's ideas on the subject:

"I dare say," declares Gotch, "that if each man should take on himself the responsibility of being his own trainer he would be a much better athlete than he would otherwise. If it were possible for the coaches to study the needs and characteristics of the individual man and work with each one as a unit instead of training them as a group, the present day athletes would be superior to what they are now.

"My own personal methods of training are not applicable to the college man, for he has such a short time to prepare himself for an athletic event, but this much of my trainig methods he can adopt, that of being his own trainer.

"I have found it a great pleasure to solve the problems of my own physical machine, to find out just what it ought to do and just what it ought not do. During my trainig I was always careful not to overtax my strength. For instance, one day I would take twenty miles of road work and the next day five. When I started out I discovered just how much I could stand and I never was all in.

"A man should quit training feeling vigorous, snappy and full of life, and not like the present-day athlete who is told to quit after the coach has worked him until all worn out.

"Defeat is a good thing for an athlete. A reversal instills a greater amount of fighting spirit into a man. When I first started in the wrestling game I took three good beatings, and it was the best thing that ever happened to me. I then learned to fight my battle alone, and to fight gamely. I have a son ten months of age whom I want to see get his share of the knocks in this world, so that he can fight and not back down in adversity.

"Tobacco should not be used in any form. It was my hardest task to abandon my tobacco smoking habits.

"Moderation in wrestling is good for the college man, but too much of it is bad. I believe that wrestling takes into action every part of the body better than any other form of athletics. Wrestling is good for the college man if he limits himself to fifteen minutes of it in a good stiff manner. That is all he should take at one time.

"To the college man who achieves greatness in athletics, I give the greatest credit. He is carrying twice the load I carried when I was following the wrestling game. He has mental and physical tasks, while I only had the latter. But above all, in order to achieve greatness in athletics a man must live a clean, wholesome life."

REDS IN BIG TRADE WITH CHICAGO CUBS

Bresnahan to Offer Leach, Lavender and Pierce for Niehoff and Twombly.

CINCINNATI, December 29.—Manager Roger Bresnahan of the Chicago Cubs arrived here last night from his home at Toledo, prepared to put through one of the biggest base ball trades since the St. Louis-Pittsburgh deal of two years ago. He will confer with Garry Herrmann, president of the Cincinnati Reds, and Charlie Herzog, manager of the latter team.

According to a statement made by Bresnahan, he is willing to hand Tommy Leach, Jimmy Lavender and George Pierce to Herzog in exchange for Bert Niehoff, the third baseman, and George Twombly, one of the outfielders, who showed well in his work during the latter part of last season.

Roger's plan, if the deal goes through, is to place Niehoff at third and send Heinie Zimmerman to second, a position that the latter would rather play, and which has proved a gigantic hole since Johnny Evers departed for the world champion Braves.

President Herrmann admitted that he was to confer with the Cub pilot and that several trades were to be discussed. Herrmann declared that while the Reds were in the market for all deals that would help the club, nothing definite had been decided upon in the way of a barter.

One thing, however, Garry asserted, was that no deal which contemplated the leaving of Heinie Groh, the manniki, at second, would be considered by the Cincinnati management.

Juarez Races Off Until New Year.

EL PASO, Tex., December 29.—The gates of the Juarez race track were closed to the public yesterday in accordance with the decision of the track management in ordering a suspension of races until New Year day. The shutdown was caused by the wretched track conditions due to the very heavy rains of the past week.

Briscoe Lord, the new manager of the Memphis team, is trying to arrange a series with the Braves next spring. Stallings was the last manager for whom Lord labored in the major league. It is likely that Boston will visit Memphis March 27, 28 and 29.

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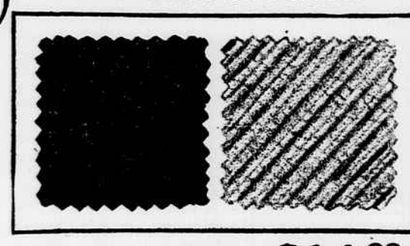

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PERTINENT COMMENT on Happenings in Sportdom

BY J. ED GRILLO.

Base ball will have a better year in 1915 than it enjoyed in 1914. Conditions have improved and interest has been revived. Last year the game would have suffered the most disastrous season of its history had it not been for the unexpected performance of the Boston Braves. The climb of the Stallings' team from last place July 18 to the National League championship would have been phenomenal enough in itself to create a lot of excitement, but when the Braves crowned that feature by winning the world series in four straight games from the supposedly unbeatable Philadelphia Athletics, they set the new world record for speed and gameness, and incidentally lifted the game out of the mire into which conditions had pushed it.

As a result there is reason for believing there will be a general revival of interest in the sport, from which organized base ball will benefit more than its rival, the Federal League.

What is more, there is sure to be a more settled state of affairs among the ball players. Last season indifference on the part of some of the players also helped to decrease interest in base ball. Federal League offers upset the minds of some of the athletes, while the policy of signing men to long-term contracts to keep them from jumping circuits operated to remove the incentive which many players need to spur them to play their best at all times.

There is sure to be a change for the better in these conditions the coming season, and the game will be benefited as a result.

A Fed story is to the effect that the reason for the delay in the sale of the New York Yankees to Messrs. Ruppert and Huston is caused by the fact that the present owners of the New York club cannot give them assurance that Fritz Maisel and Roger Peckinpaugh, two of the team's most valuable players, will be in the fold next spring. It is intimated that these two players are dissatisfied with the salaries the New York club has paid them, and are giving a jump to the Feds serious thought.

This, however, does not look logical. If Maisel and Peckinpaugh were uncertain propositions they could easily be brought into line by sending an emissary to see them, and Ruppert and Huston would not hesitate to sign these players if the deal depended on them. But the fact of the matter is that both Maisel and Peckinpaugh are signed for two years hence and could not jump to the Feds if they wanted to.

Organized base ball is making further efforts to have players who have signed with the Feds to jump back. Perritt, the Cardinal's pitcher, has been in conference with Miller Huggins, and there is a rumor that he will come back with the Cardinals. Konetchy, too, has been approached and there is a chance for him to slide back. The Buffeds, which have been very active in signing players from organized base ball, also are to be attacked and several of their prizes may be lost to them by the time spring rolls around.

The day of playing managers in the big leagues seems to be passing. Star players are handicapped if they are asked to carry the burden of management. It interferes with their playing, because of the responsibility they have to assume, hence Eddie Collins was not selected to fill Callahan's job in Chicago. Comiskey knew that if his team was to have the full benefit of Collins' ability it would be wise to have him in the ranks, where he would have nothing to do but play base ball. His responsibility ends when the game is over, where if he was the manager his duties would never be at an end. The result would be that Collins' playing would suffer and the team would be weakened.

There were several new entries to the no-hit hall of fame during the 1914 major league races, while several famous no-hit heroes of the past fell out of the big leagues last season or collapsed after wonderful careers.

Perhaps the most remarkable no-hit game of the year was the one pitched by George Davis, the former Yankee pitcher and now a member of the Braves. September 4, making his first National League start, Davis let down the Phillies without a hit or run. Davis had been a bench warmer all season.

Joe Benz of the White Sox was the American League performer, shutting out Cleveland early in the year.

Jim Scott of the same team went nine innings on the local grounds without allowing a bingle, but he did not get his name into history because he was beaten in the tenth.

CLAIM AGAINST GIANTS.

Davenport Club Seeks Accounting of $600 for Draft of Marshall.

NEW YORK, December 29.—The Davenport, Iowa, club of the Three-I League will appeal to the national commission for an accounting of $600 against the New York Giants as the result of the drafting of Catcher Bob Marshall. The Denver club of the Western League drafted Marshall from Davenport at the price in vogue among the minors. The Denver club then turned Marshall over to the Giants.

The difference in the draft price paid by Denver to Davenport and that which Davenport would have received if Marshall had been directly drafted by the Giants amounts to $600. The Davenport club has made the demand for the difference, and it is very likely the matter may be adjusted before it goes to the commission.

"PANTS" IS NICKNAME OF WHITE SOX BOSS

CHICAGO, Ill., December 29.—Around the Three-Eye circuit Clarence Rowland, new manager of the White Sox, is known as "Foxy." He himself said he has never had a real nickname other than that of "Boss," conferred on him by his players.

But his intimate friends often refer to him as "Pants." The story reads that when he first started to play ball with a semi-professional team here he appeared on the field in a uniform belonging to an older brother who was a lot bigger than little Clarence.

The knickers were big enough to have furnished an entire suit for the youngster, so the moniker came easy for the "jokesmiths."

Rowland outgrew the over-large trousers, but he never outgrew the name.

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