

BASEBALL—SPORTS OF ALL SORTS—BOXING

FRED MITCHELL COMING TO SIGN CUB HOLD-OUTS

By Mark Shields.

Fred Mitchell, manager of the Cubs, will be in Chicago by Wednesday night, prepared to take up his residence here and go to work on several pieces of business that Pres. Weeghman has been unable to close up.

Except for trips involving negotiations for players, Mitchell will not leave Chicago again until the Cubs hike toward Pasadena for spring training. With only three regulars signed to 1917 contracts, and several positions of the team needing new strength, Mitchell is needed close to headquarters.

President Weeghman has let it be known that he tried personally to swing a deal for a well-known player last week, but failed because he had not the time to spare from his other business enterprises. Another dicker is being considered now, and the details of it will be placed entirely in the hands of Mitchell, along with a check of ample proportions.

The contracts of Vic Saier, Cy Williams, Lealie Mann, Jim Archer and Art Wilson have not yet been received at the Cub offices. Claude Hendrix and several rookie pitchers are in line, and Larry Doyle has a contract with one more year to run, as has Steve Yerkes, who probably will have a utility role with the infield.

Signing the recalitrants is a large task in itself. There are salary differences with nearly every member of the 1916 team. Cy Williams had evidenced no dissatisfaction, but undoubtedly Cy began to think when he recalled his own \$4,000 contract and noted what some of his pals had been receiving.

Hendrix sensibly accepted a monster cut in his \$6,500 salary. Claude

is to get a bonus if he wins 20 games and that incentive may cause the Kansas curver to settle to real work and pitch the ball of which he is capable. For years Hendrix has alternated a good season with a bad one, and this is his turn for a prosperous year.

The bonus system may be followed with several players during the coming season, not only with the Cubs but among other clubs. Cuts in flat salaries were to be expected, but players who do their work earnestly and well will be rewarded.

Art Staff won the Tribune Silver Skates Derby at Humboldt park yesterday in a field of 141 starters, divided into five heats. The Northwest Skating club star traveled the two miles in 5:42 4-5. He left immediately after the race for Saranac Lake, N. Y., where he competes in the national championships.

Norwegian Turners won the club's annual ice derby at the same park with 11 points. Northwest club was second, Staff winning the one-mile race.

The defeat of Kid Williams by Pete Herman may clear up the bantam situation, which has been in a muddle since Johnny Ertle won on a foul from Williams in 1915.

Herman is willing to clear up the muddle by meeting Ertle in a 20-round decision bout at any time a promoter can be found to stage the match.

Whether Ertle will sign or not is the only question now. Ertle, following the example of all champions, has carefully nursed his clouded title, fighting nothing but 10-round no-decision bouts.

No real effort was ever made to match Ertle and Williams after the 1915 bout and each claimed the title, both receiving a certain amount of support in their claims.

But now comes Herman with an announcement that he will meet any