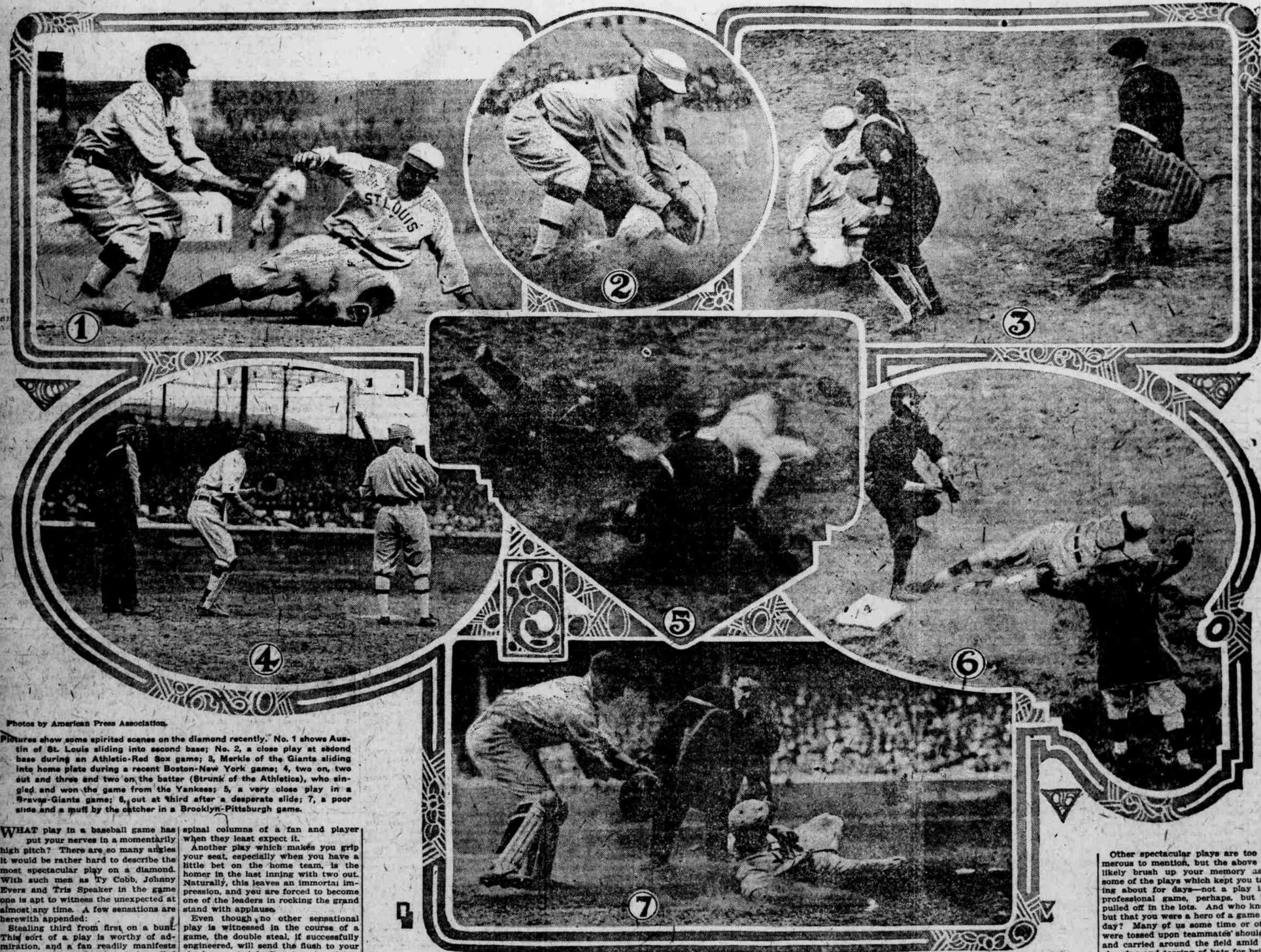


SPORTING WORLD AS SEEN BY EXPERTS

SOME THRILLING MOMENTS IN A BASEBALL GAME



Photos by American Press Association.

Pictures show some spirited scenes on the diamond recently. No. 1 shows Austin of St. Louis sliding into second base during an Athletic-Red Sox game; 2, Merkle of the Giants sliding into home plate during a recent Boston-New York game; 4, two on, two out and three and two on, the batter (Strunk of the Athletics), who singled and won the game from the Yankees; 5, a very close play in a Braves-Giants game; 6, out at third after a desperate slide; 7, a poor slide and a puff by the catcher in a Brooklyn-Pittsburgh game.

WHAT play in a baseball game has put your nerves in a momentarily high pitch? There are so many angles it would be rather hard to describe the most spectacular play on a diamond. With such men as Ty Cobb, Johnny Evers and Tris Speaker in the game one is apt to witness the unexpected at almost any time. A few sensations are herewith appended:

Stealing third from first on a bunt. This sort of a play is worthy of admiration, and a fan readily manifests his appreciation any time it is pulled off. This feat is one of the many which is credited to Cobb, who is known to send the cold blood down the

spinal columns of a fan and player when they least expect it.

Another play which makes you grip your seat, especially when you have a little bet on the home team, is the homer in the last inning with two out. Naturally, this leaves an immortal impression, and you are forced to become one of the leaders in rocking the grand stand with applause.

Even though no other sensational play is witnessed in the course of a game, the double steal, if successfully engineered, will send the flush to your cheeks, won't it? Just imagine if you were rooting for the home team and one of them is on first and another on third when the fellow on first makes a

wild dash for second and in that way sends his teammate home and he is called safe on the middle station!

Wouldn't that shake up a fellow? Supposing, again, that a man is on third and a long fly is sent out and the

outfielder, after a hard try, gets it and then nails his opponent at home plate. No matter whether he is your favorite

or not, you will be forced by good sportsmanship to join in the hat tossing.

Other spectacular plays are too numerous to mention, but the above will likely brush up your memory as to some of the plays which kept you talking about for days—not a play in a professional game, perhaps, but one pulled off in the lots. And who knows but that you were a hero of a game one day? Many of us some time or other were tossed upon teammates' shoulders and carried around the field amid the cheering and tossing of hats for bringing in the winning run. Maybe this little story will bring back to you your boyhood days.

Women Coming to Front in Water Sports

WHEN the Amateur Athletic union grudgingly opened its ranks to women swimmers in the fall of 1914 it did so with frank misgivings, for chaos reigned at the time in the women's branch of the water game, and all kinds of trouble were anticipated by the authorities.

But the unexpected happened. The grant of registration privileges was the signal for general and sudden standardizing of aquatics for the sex, and from that day the fair natators have conducted matters in a dignified, orderly, efficient way that has justified the step taken by the governing body.

Swimming for women is no longer a curiosity or a sensation, as it once was, but a firmly established and recognized athletic activity, which both contestants and public take seriously.

This was conclusively proved by the first set of national A. A. U. championships just concluded. Most of the title events brought out representative fields, keen competition was witnessed, brilliant record performances were chronicled, and popular interest manifested itself in the large and enthusiastic crowds which attended the various title meets in New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The 100 yard championship, in particular, resulted in one of the most stirring races ever seen in this country. The seven girl bidders finished under a blanket. Miss Olga Rorffner of Philadelphia, the winner, only beat Miss Claire Galligan of New Rochelle, N. Y., by one stroke, although she set a new record of 1 minute 53.5 seconds, which is dangerously close to world's figures, while the last contender to finish covered the course nearly four seconds faster than did Miss Frances Cowells of San Francisco a year ago, in capturing national laurels at the Panama-Pacific exposition water carnival.

This remarkable and widespread progress speaks for itself of the faithful and painstaking work done by the ambitious mermaids. Only through the universal adoption of modern, scientific strokes and of strict methods of

FRANK GOTCH'S FIRST FIGHT.

HOW Frank Gotch, champion wrestler, mixed wrestling with boxing Frank Slavin, the veteran ring man, in the Yukon, is a story just told.

Slavin, who has grown much grayer than he appeared twenty years ago as a ring favorite, is now in England with the latest Canadian contingent. His little mix with Gotch happened years ago when Gotch, under the name of Kennedy, was at Dawson trying to fix up wrestling matches when everybody wanted to see prize fights.

Slavin staged the story with Jack Londonish settings, grizzled miners looking through blue tobacco smoke at the ring in Dawson's main emporium. Gotch, falling in wrestling matches, agreed to take Slavin on for a ten round bout.

"In the first two rounds he came at me strong," related the old soldier-fighter. "I flogged him two or three times. Then in the third round he dodged in, and, before I knew what was happening, he gripped me around the waist and threw me up in the air."

"I laughed, the referee laughed, and, in fact, we all laughed. The referee said, 'Do you claim a foul?'"

"I said, 'Well, if I don't I suppose I'll never be able to come back into the ring again.' So, of course, I got the decision. But the big American farmer got more money out of it than he ever got for his wrestling bouts up there."

BILL DONOVAN TELLS HOW TO STOP TRICK PITCHING

WILD BILL DONOVAN, manager of the Yankees, was considered one of the greatest pitchers of his time, and he points with pride to the fact that he gained his success entirely by the use of his natural advantages. Therefore he looks down with professional scorn upon the spithallers and the emery ball artists and regards them as mere tricksters who cast a taint upon the real art of pitching.

It is Bill's opinion that if pitchers continue to invent schemes which require something other than a natural delivery of the ball it is going to result in legislation which will force the pitcher to work without a glove, thus depriving him of his best means for practicing deception.

"That is the only way they will ever successfully curb the illegal and freak deliveries that are complained about," says Bill. "For, to a pitcher who has to resort to tricks with the ball, a glove is as necessary as a jimmy is to a porch climber."

The tendency of baseball legislation has been toward the abolition of the freak devices of the pitchers. The ban has been placed on the emery ball, and only the spithall of the freaks remains legal. Primarily, the object is to keep up the hitting. A pitcher's battle may be an artistic triumph, but it has been shown that the public wants to see base hits. The fan demands action in his baseball, just as he does in his drama and his best seller, and base hits make for action in baseball.

Those who have been in regular attendance at major league games have probably noticed the frequent examinations the umpires make of the ball. They stop the game, while managers and players gather and give the little sphere the curious up and down. It is not a practice designed to prolong the game. The umpires are acting under instructions to bar anything that resembles the emery ball.

It is the modern concrete stand that

makes this precaution necessary. It affords a rough surface that scuffs the ball. A ball that has been hit against a concrete wall is apt to have all the roughness necessary to make it ideal for the emery ball delivery.

"Baseball can get along without these freaks," said Bill Donovan. "A good pitcher doesn't have to use such tricks. Look down the list of great pitchers and how many of them were spithall or emery ball pitchers? Not many. There are only a few men who stand out prominently who used such deliveries. Ed Walsh, Tesreau, Russell Ford and two or three others make up all the pitchers who were ever successful with the freak stuff. Such men as Matty, Johnson, Addie Joss and the dozens of other stars of the game never resorted to it, and you will hear about them long after the other fellows have been forgotten."

It was Russell Ford of the Yankees who introduced the emery ball into the big league, but it had undoubtedly been in existence in its natural state around the town lots for years and, like the electricity in the lightning, just waiting for a Benjamin Franklin to come

along and hitch the harness to it. No doubt many a kid has pitched a freak curve with a scuffed ball and wondered how he did it.

Ford became the Ben Franklin of baseball quite by an accident. He and Ed Sweeney were battery mates in Atlanta. One day he got hold of a ball that had just struck a rough spot and noticed that it took a weird curve. He got to experimenting and then kept his secret. As he couldn't depend on bouncing the ball against a rough spot he substituted the emery paper and kept it in his glove.

He had a great year with the Yankees in 1910, and no one could understand how he got the peculiar curve on the ball. When they began to inquire he arranged so that the emery paper was attached to a ring on his finger and came off when he pulled the glove off. Consequently when one examined the glove there was no evidence. However, they finally discovered the device, and Ford never had a big year again. He didn't have enough of the natural stuff to get by on, and when they took his trick away from him they ruined him as a hurler.

Reasons For Golf Links

THERE are many reasons for the laying out of golf courses. Some are constructed as an accompaniment to the hors d'oeuvres at a summer hotel, others are built to swell the income of real estate operators and a few are designed because some one really wishes to play golf.

Not far from Albany, however, there is a course which was laid out for none of these reasons, but for the sole purpose of losing golf balls. In its own peculiar way it was a classic in course construction until a committee of economical golfers brought about a revision of the layout. The professional who designed the links was a genius. He wished to sell as many golf balls as possible, and in his opinion the quickest way to do this was to make the members lose them as fast as they were taken out of the box.

He tried to make the average a lost ball to every stroke, and if the members failed to do their part it was no fault of his. He placed his tees so that

"Rattles" a Golfer by a Novel Method

IN the spring of 1914 a New York gentleman visited Cologne, Germany, accompanied by a friend, who tells this story:

One afternoon they went out to a neighboring golf course, which was under the direction of a Scotch professional. The New Yorker was a rather good player, and he and the pro were having a tight match—all even and one to play, with a solitary golf ball as the stake. They drove off, and, as the American took his stance to play a fuzzer shot home, he was startled by a loud explosion close at hand.

The pro informed him that one of the largest powder works in Germany was located close at hand, and the tests of the military at this point were frequent.

"Indeed, they have mines placed hereabouts everywhere," the pro explained, and then he continued brightly: "Why, they have mines planted all around the course here. As a matter of fact, there is one under the very spot you're playing from."

It may have been the dread thought of the possible loss of the ball which suggested the information. But, in any event, it had the desired effect, and it is no wonder that the jigger failed in the performance of its duty.

Sherring, Olympic Winner, Enlists.

One of the latest of Canada's leading athletes to enlist for service with the allies is Billy Sherring, the Marathon runner, who has followed the example of hundreds of other Canadian athletes. Sherring, who is now a recruit with the "Tigers" battalion, attracted considerable attention in athletic circles in this country as well as in Canada. Probably his most noteworthy performance was the winning of the Marathon race in the Olympic games held in Greece, in 1904. He also won the Boston Marathon some time ago.

F. Kelly's Record Unbeatable

FRIENDS of Fred Kelly, the world's champion hurdler, believe that his performances, all within ten days, which he recently accomplished, are without parallel in the annals of athletics. Here are the events he won in the ten days, in which he made two world's records and tied a third:

Occidental meet, March 22—120 yard hurdles, 220 yard hurdles, 220 yard dash in 22.4-5 seconds around two bad turns.

Stanford meet, March 25—120 yard hurdles in 15.2-5 seconds, 220 yard hurdles (second to Fred Murray in 24.2-5 seconds, world's record for curved track).

Berkeley meet, March 29—100 yard

F. Kelly's Record Unbeatable

dash in 10.1-5 seconds, 120 yard hurdles in 15 seconds flat.

Corvallis meet, April 1—80 yard dash in 10 seconds, tying the world's record; 220 yard dash in 23 seconds, new world's record; broad jump.

Last fall Kelly broke a bone in his ankle while playing football, and many thought at that time that the famous athlete would never again be able to regain his old time form. As a matter of fact, he now appears to be at the zenith of his career, and it would occasion no surprise if he should annex another world's record or two before the close of the present season.

F. Kelly's Record Unbeatable

dash in 10.1-5 seconds, 120 yard hurdles in 15 seconds flat.

Corvallis meet, April 1—80 yard dash in 10 seconds, tying the world's record; 220 yard dash in 23 seconds, new world's record; broad jump.

Last fall Kelly broke a bone in his ankle while playing football, and many thought at that time that the famous athlete would never again be able to regain his old time form. As a matter of fact, he now appears to be at the zenith of his career, and it would occasion no surprise if he should annex another world's record or two before the close of the present season.

F. Kelly's Record Unbeatable

dash in 10.1-5 seconds, 120 yard hurdles in 15 seconds flat.

Corvallis meet, April 1—80 yard dash in 10 seconds, tying the world's record; 220 yard dash in 23 seconds, new world's record; broad jump.

Last fall Kelly broke a bone in his ankle while playing football, and many thought at that time that the famous athlete would never again be able to regain his old time form. As a matter of fact, he now appears to be at the zenith of his career, and it would occasion no surprise if he should annex another world's record or two before the close of the present season.

F. Kelly's Record Unbeatable

dash in 10.1-5 seconds, 120 yard hurdles in 15 seconds flat.

Corvallis meet, April 1—80 yard dash in 10 seconds, tying the world's record; 220 yard dash in 23 seconds, new world's record; broad jump.

Last fall Kelly broke a bone in his ankle while playing football, and many thought at that time that the famous athlete would never again be able to regain his old time form. As a matter of fact, he now appears to be at the zenith of his career, and it would occasion no surprise if he should annex another world's record or two before the close of the present season.

F. Kelly's Record Unbeatable

dash in 10.1-5 seconds, 120 yard hurdles in 15 seconds flat.

Corvallis meet, April 1—80 yard dash in 10 seconds, tying the world's record; 220 yard dash in 23 seconds, new world's record; broad jump.

Last fall Kelly broke a bone in his ankle while playing football, and many thought at that time that the famous athlete would never again be able to regain his old time form. As a matter of fact, he now appears to be at the zenith of his career, and it would occasion no surprise if he should annex another world's record or two before the close of the present season.

F. Kelly's Record Unbeatable

dash in 10.1-5 seconds, 120 yard hurdles in 15 seconds flat.

Corvallis meet, April 1—80 yard dash in 10 seconds, tying the world's record; 220 yard dash in 23 seconds, new world's record; broad jump.

Last fall Kelly broke a bone in his ankle while playing football, and many thought at that time that the famous athlete would never again be able to regain his old time form. As a matter of fact, he now appears to be at the zenith of his career, and it would occasion no surprise if he should annex another world's record or two before the close of the present season.