

KEEPING PACE WITH SPORTING EVENTS

EDITED BY "ASPIRO"

WAR HEADS URGE CONTINUANCE OF COLLEGE SPORTS

Secretaries Baker and Daniels, in Letters to National Collegiate Athletic Association, Convened in New York, Say War Has Increased Need for Athletics, and Point to What Sports Have Already Accomplished—Generally Agreed That Nation Would Be Best Served by Retention of Athletic Competitions.

The highly important mission of sport in the work of making the American college student and school-boy a national asset both in military and civil life—the problem of raising physical efficiency to the highest point with a view to winning this war as soon as possible and making this nation safe from similar menaces in the future—these were the salient topics discussed at the twelfth annual convention of the National Collegiate Athletic Association at the Hotel Astor yesterday.

It was decided unanimously that the nation best could be served if all sports and athletic competitions were continued, but it was added that sport and the development of the military unit must dovetail. It further was concluded and brought out rather strongly in the speeches that if our college boys were to get the most out of their participation in sport the old system would have to undergo a thorough overhauling.

Col. Palmer E. Pierce, of the War College, president of the association; Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War; Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy; President W. H. P. Faunce of Brown University, Walter Camp of Yale and other authorities pointed out that the present method of developing the few stars for the purpose of getting out a strong team would have to give way to the 100 per cent. efficient propaganda—the development of every college student physically capable of taking part in any branch of sport.

Secretaries Baker and Daniels, both acting in addition as mouthpieces for President Wilson, reiterated their unqualified support of athletics in letters to the association. Mr. Baker in particular, remarked that the press of duty prevented his coming to the meeting, but he had done at the National Collegiate A. A. congress last August in Washington. Repeated reference was made to the Harvard-Yale-Princeton attitude toward sport, but no direct criticism thereof was made, though practically every report from the nine districts of the association showed that the persistence of a policy directly opposed to that of the "Big Three" had worked great benefits.

It was proved that the war had brought out a livelier interest in sport among college students, that the need for athletic exercises was greater than ever and that public exhibitions were essential stimuli to the general participation. The colleges reported that most of them had cut down schedules and expenses, had eliminated training tables and assistant coaches, and had done away with trainers, rubbers and the like.

Col. Pierce in his opening address said that when the association met for the first time twelve years ago he had pointed out the need for a sport revision which the war now has made mandatory. The colonel said in part:

"Today we are in war and the number of defectives among those of military age is of most serious importance. For instance, seven local examining boards in Detroit, Brooklyn and New York city reported 7,611 men examined for service. Of these 1,222 were discharged for physical reasons. In other words, about 16 per cent were unfit for military service. It is also necessary to take from the total number reported by the boards about 5 per cent more who were rejected on subsequent examination at the various camps to which they were sent. This is altogether too large a percentage, and indicates the necessity of immediate corrective steps.

"College athletes must not be considered as merely a means of diversion and recreation. They play an important part in developing the youth of the day, and their beneficial results may be seen from our experience with the training camps. Of the 40,000 men now undergoing instruction most are college men. Few had previous military experience, yet on visiting one of these camps three days after it was organized, I was amazed at the ease with which these young men adapted themselves to military life. After a few days' instruction they acted in many ways like seasoned soldiers.

"Almost instantly they adapted themselves to discipline and the spirit and accuracy with which they carried out orders illustrated very clearly the results of the team play which they had learned in college athletics. It was remarked by some of the British and French officers who visited the camps that nowhere in the world had there ever been found such a group of men who adapted themselves so quickly to the spirit of military life."

"To attract young men to the colleges nothing is more important than the continuation of athletic sports and I trust there will be no suggestion of the abandonment of college athletics because of the fear of lack of equipment."

"There is one criticism that I have often felt constrained to make regarding college athletics, and that is that the wrong men are given all the attention. Too much attention is lavished upon them so that they are developed into specialized athletes, while the weak and anemic are left to play the part of observers. Gentlemen, there are not enough star athletes in the colleges to fill our armies. What the nation requires is that all our young men attending school shall have the benefit of physical training so as to develop their bodies and make them proper material for filling the armies of the country in the present emergency.

"No one knows how long this war will last. It may be that those who have been called to the ranks will never have an opportunity to engage in fighting. On the other hand, the million of men now under call or in service may have to be supplemented by yet other millions, and the youths now in college or contemplating college may be withdrawn to stand by the side of their brothers who have gone to the front before them."

President Faunce of Brown made a strong plea for the continuation of sport in the colleges, but also asked that they take advantage of the opportunity presented by this war to clean house. He asked that strict eligibility rules be adhered to now more than ever and be questioned the benefits of certain features of our present system.

"College sports must be maintained chiefly for those who do not know how to play and therefore do not know how to live," said Dr. Faunce. "From this point of view the minor sports may be of major importance. We must subject them all to the one great test. Do they teach men how to live and how to live together in the service of the nation?"

"The war offers college athletics a priceless opportunity of appraisal and revision. The most expensive paraphernalia of sports are suddenly swept away. Gone are the training tables which have fostered professionalism by treating athletes as a separate caste. Gone are the Pullman cars and the Southern trips which have been an expensive indulgence. Gone are some of the costly coaches who regard the faculty as a natural foe and who must turn out a winning team or lose their job. Gone in some cases is the whole variety team which may have regarded a single letter on a sweater as far greater honor than a Phi Beta Kappa key.

"Now is the opportunity such as America has not seen for 50 years to evaluate the play of young men to discover its real function in the national life and decide whether to continue or abandon or reform it.

"Must Show Benefits.

"Unless college sports can demonstrate today that they are more than trifles, more than costly advertisements that interest a pedestrian for individual notoriety, unless they can be shown to make better citizens and so better soldiers; unless they can produce men capable of democratic, wholehearted co-operation in devotion to the ideals of the nation, they will be sent to the scrap heap by an ignorant people.

"We cannot at this national crisis say 'business as usual,' nor will we announce 'business suspended.' We do not want athletes as usual because they have usually been abused, nor do we want them abolished. But we want all business and all sport, all work and all play, relieved of superfluity and extravagance, stripped for action in the nation's service and coordinated with the laboratory and the library and the classroom in the endless task of creating men fit to be citizens of America."

Four New Members.

Most of the afternoon session was taken up with routine business which included the reading of reports from the various districts. Four new members—Georgia Tech., Trinity, Texas A. and M. and New Hampshire State—were admitted. Resolutions for the fostering of boxing and wrestling in the colleges were adopted and committees to take the propaganda in charge were named.

The reports in the main showed that interest in sport despite the war, had remained nearly normal and that the vast majority of the colleges had acted in pursuance to the resolutions adopted last August. These called for no pre-season training, the abolition of training tables and the general cutting down of expenses.

Six Round Go Is Willard's Latest Offer

Jess Willard, largest heavyweight champion in the history of pugilism, who electrified the sporting world by announcing he would defend his title in a bout for the benefit of the Red Cross and then threw cold water on the subject by declaring that the bout would be a decisionless one, last night reached the limit of absurdity by expressing a willingness to box a six round bout in Philadelphia.

When Willard made his first announcement he imposed no conditions whatever, and said a championship bout with the most logical opponent would draw \$1,000,000 for the Red Cross. Public gratification over the proposal suddenly was obliterated when the champion said he would not box more than ten rounds and without a decision. "Visions of a twenty round bout, with the title really at stake, faded, and most patrons of the sport lost interest in the subject.

Several days ago Willard made some amends by consenting to lose his title if knocked out inside of ten rounds. It is understood by students of pugilistic form that there is not a man in the world who would have much of a chance to stop Willard within the limit of ten rounds, and therefore he was asking the public to attend a time boxing match of the sort he expected at Madison Square Garden in conjunction with Frank Moran. The receipts at such a contest would be far short of a million.

If the ten rounds dwindled to six in Philadelphia the gate would not be any more than would be drawn in a bout between two good lightweights. Two big, slow men like Willard and Fulton would barely get started in a six round contest, and the bout would be ended before anything of interest took place. Willard is getting to be more of a joke every day.

Bridgeport fans learned by bitter experience the difference between a real-honest-to-goodness boxing show and a sour lemon, when they bought admission to the Casino, last night, and were given to see a physical, highly-praised specimen of the latter variety, handed to them by the inefficient management of the Remington Athletic Club.

In every detail, the much-vaunted, highly-praised boxing card that had aroused such expectations among devotees of the game proved a gigantic fizzle, and the wonder is that the disgusted spectators tolerated it with mere vocal expressions of disapproval. Of the thirty-two rounds of action promised, only fourteen materialized, and no more than half of these were worth the seeing.

The scheduled star-bout, between Knockout Eggers, of New York, and Billy De Foe, of St. Paul, was, with reverse English, the hit of the evening. It went barely more than a minute before De Foe intentionally fouled his opponent, inflicting a blow which eliminated Eggers from further fighting for the night, and forfeiting his own claim to victory. Eggers was awarded the decision.

De Foe's blow seemed a signal for the confusion to enter and utterly disrupted proceedings, which had gone unsatisfactorily all the evening. Announcement was first made, after Eggers had been examined by a physician, that referee Terry Lee had declared no contest. This statement was soon afterward corrected by Lee himself, with the announcement that he had awarded the decision to Eggers.

Half-a-dozen workers took upon themselves to represent the club management, and caused to be made known to the assembled fans that a substitute bout was being arranged and would go on shortly if they would keep their seats. They did, and for many minutes sat in hope of seeing action that would recompense them for the expenditure of the price of their seats, and for their risking pneumonia by sitting in an atmosphere rendered more uncomfortable than zero weather alone could have made it, by the frost which characterized the show.

In the end they saw that no promise made, and they left the hall, undoubtedly the most disgruntled fans ever to have left a boxing exhibition.

The exact time taken by Eggers and De Foe to bring their act to a close was 70 seconds, and during that time only two clean blows were struck, both by De Foe. The third blow to

What promises to be an event of considerable interest to lovers of gymnastic events is the exhibition planned to be given by the Boys' Division of the Y. M. C. A., in the association gymnasium, New York's evening, at 7:35 o'clock. An excellent program has been arranged, and consists of the following:

- 1. Club swinging by the Grammar school class.
- 2. Solo Vance, Albert Grasson.
- 3. Employed boys:
 - (a) Free hand drill.
 - (b) Squad apparatus work.
 - (c) Magic and slight-of-hand performance.
- 4. Advanced apparatus work:
 - (a) Tumbling and side horse.
 - (b) Rings.
 - (c) High bar and parallel bars.
- 5. Pyramids.

Second Young Corbett-Hanlon Bout.

On Dec. 29, 1903, 14 years ago today, Young Corbett defeated Eddie Hanlon in 18 rounds at San Francisco. This was the second meeting between the Denverite and the young San Francisco boy. In their first bout Corbett was out of condition, and he was mighty lucky to stay the 20 rounds with the clever hard-hitting Hanlon, and luckier still to get a draw. Young Corbett was in the pink of condition when he again faced Eddie, and, with his greater experience, he made mince meat out of Hanlon. Eddie was a great favorite with the San Francisco fans, and some of them were in tears when they saw their pet slaughtered round after round. Hanlon had never been knocked down before, but he was initiated by the Denverite. In the 16th round Hanlon was helpless, but still game. Corbett begged Eddie Groney, the referee, to stop the fight, and the crowd seconded the motion so loudly that Groney awarded the victory to Corbett. Hanlon was then only 18 years old, but he had been pushed too fast, and couldn't stand the gaff.

Jimmy Clabby Champion Fighter in Australia



James Clabby of Hammond, Ind., has just received a letter from his son, Jim, in Australia, stating that he now is heavyweight champion of the Antipodes, having recently won a decision over Albert Lloyd in a 20-round contest.

HORSE EVENTS NET RED CROSS \$85,084

Announcement was made yesterday by Charles W. Smith, secretary of the National Horse Show Association, that the American Red Cross would receive \$82,719 as the result of this year's exhibition in Madison Square Garden. This amount represents the gross receipts of the November show, all the expenses having been paid by the president, James McLean, William H. Moore, E. T. Stotesbury and other officers and directors of the association.

Added to this donation from the association, James Cox Brady, the largest exhibitor at the Horse Show of 1917, yesterday turned over to the Red Cross \$22,365, less the auctioneer's commission, as the proceeds of his disposal sale of show horses from Hamilton Farm at Durland's Riding Academy on Thursday evening, so that the war charity was enriched to the extent of \$85,084 as the outcome of the exhibition at the Garden.

Brockton, Bryn Mawr, Newport, Devon, Long Branch, White Plains and some other horse shows were war relief benefits this year, and it is estimated that the Red Cross and allied charities received about \$125,000 from the shows.

BEST OF FOOTBALL OFFICIALS LIKELY TO MAKE MISTAKES

Difficult Matter to Have Game Properly Judged, Says Coach, Describing His Own Experiences—Problem of Getting High Officials, Competent to Decide Important Questions in Contest, a Serious One—Best Men Are Those Who Work For Love of the Sport, Not For Their Own Financial Gain.

Football officiating is no soft snap even when you get the hundred dollar jobs on Saturday afternoons. The best of men make mistakes and the best officials are no better than the best of men. Worst of all their mistakes count pretty heavily at times for they have turned the tide from defeat to victory and cost many a coach a splendid job. The coaches, you know, must win most of the time to hold down their positions, hence the matter of good officiating is of paramount importance to them.

I recall a game I played in when at college. At one time the score was 6-6. According to the rules I made a touchdown at this stage of the game but the referee, who was then and who afterward proved to be one of the best at the job ever discovered in this country, didn't see it my way until—well it was just ten years later that I talked it over with him. He then admitted that I had made the score, that he had pulled a "boner." That boner cost us a big game. And so it goes.

It's a mighty hard job to get a game of football properly officiated. In the first place the rules governing the game are so lengthy and so complex that I venture the assertion that not over ten per cent of the players nor over half of the coaches know them. As for the officials, outside of a precious few there is a lamentable lack of knowledge of football rules, and when that knowledge is perfect it is no easy matter to conduct a game without coming a cropper. So difficult is it to see a play correctly that to watch all of the twenty-two contestants that as many as three officials will differ as to what occurred at any given time.

In the W. & J. game with the Camp Sherman team at Toledo this fall—which was one of the hardest played and cleanest games of football I ever saw—we had a lead of 7 points with but a few minutes to play and we were being put to the supreme test on defense to hold out lead and prevent a tie score. Rupp, a former Dennison player now in Army Y. M. C. A. work, was at half back for the soldiers and not only was he likely to but he did break loose time after time for long and thrilling runs. I thought him one of the greatest backs I ever saw. That night my players who had been up against De Hart and McLaren, of Pitt; and Rodgers, of West Virginia, among others, were of the opinion that these men could be tackled but that Downing Rupp was the hardest task they ever had to meet.

Once the ball was inside our five-yard line on a fourth down and Rupp tossed a forward pass to one of his men who was forced to the corner of the field. He went over the goal line all right but it was a question as to whether he had gone out of bounds first. His cleat marks were plainly visible but the officials who followed the play closely were nevertheless at variance. They eventually ruled the player out of bounds a few inches from the goal line, a pretty tough decision for the Camp Sherman eleven.

Another illustration of the trials of an official happened in a Pennsylvania-Indiana game when I was coaching the Red and Blue. It was during the days when the coaches were permitted to walk up and down the sidelines. Once when the play was directly in front of us and the cheering very deafening I wanted to say something to one of my assistants. It was necessary to yell at the top of my voice. Billy Crowell, one of the officials, and a splendid one, heard and saw me and came mighty near penalizing my team for my presumed coaching from the side lines.

One of the most amusing incidents that ever happened in officiating was in an early season game at Franklin Field when we were playing a team we greatly outclassed. Billy Morley, a Penn graduate, was one of the officials. He was also one of our coaches. Once, after we had a large score rolled up a substitute back was sent into the game by our Head Coach. He promptly made a mistake and Morley, not thinking, corrected him. Immediately he penalized Pennsylvania 15 yards for illegal coaching.

Although the integrity of officials is beyond question there is no doubt that there is room for improvement if we may believe half the rumors and kicks we hear regarding their work each fall. Even allowing for the fact that a losing team is inclined to seek all faults and that this results in often blaming innocent officials there is no doubt that football games are not any too well officiated.

To be sure the work of the Central Board has improved the class of officiating all over the country but there is room for improvement in many quarters. There are two reasons for this: illegal coaching and weak-kneed officials. The two go hand in hand.

There is no doubt that much illegal coaching and playing is practiced, just how much I do not know. If you know the game of football next time you go to a match watch the officials and look for offenses and note how many times they hold and how few times they are caught. There is no doubt of this sort of stuff going the rounds.

Another point is a charging signal. The rules recommend going away with this unfair means of attack yet

few teams have discarded it. The same is true of coaching from the side lines and of sending in information by substitutes. Being human and being forced to play the game to win a coach cannot be expected to throw a game away when he can win it by tipping off his quarterback. And yet this is illegal and unsportsmanlike.

As to the weak-kneed officials, they are the men who officiate for the money there is in it. They stick pretty close to one or two teams all fall and, as they are "in right" here, they don't want to get in wrong, so they are human enough to overlook transgressions on the one hand and seek them on the other. In consequence they have stirred up a lot of bad blood in football. Put them in a game with a team coached illegally and that team can nearly commit murder and get away with it.

There is a third and a very large class of officials, those who do not know the rules. The result of their appearance in a game is an unending series of squabbles and disputes disgusting to players and public alike. They are continually arguing with players. The game soon gets away from them and becomes next door to a free fight. This class can be disciplined and done away with in a hurry.

Recently I talked over the problems of officials with one of the best in the business. He thinks that great good can be accomplished by both coaches and players knowing the rules better than they do and by having the Central Board hold a series of written quizzes each fall for all officials, thus forcing them to know the rules or to lose assignments.

Another point he brings out is that the men who do reach a high proficiency as officials are those who love the game and in this way contribute their bit to carrying it along. They are not in it for the money there is in it. This official told me that the best season he ever had netted him close to \$900, but at much sacrifice of time and money in his professional work.

The better officials of the country—and they are too few—have a sort of unofficial organization. They occasionally study the rules and exchange views and interpretations and tell each other about the odd plays they constantly encounter in their work. They are heart and soul in it because they love football. Unfortunately this type of official in each section is generally limited to the big games. The smaller institutions as a rule get the left-overs.

The proposition is to produce more competent officials. And if side-line coaching is to be stopped the coaches will have to be locked up during games. That would make it much easier for the coach. This business of sitting on the bench and watching your team play is about the most nerve-racking existence I know of. French warfare may be pretty tough, but you can at least get in a scrap with the opposition and that is much.

O'NEIL TO MANAGE ST. LOUIS CARDS

Syracuse, Dec. 29—According to friends of Mike O'Neil, the manager of the Syracuse State League club, received a telegram from Branch Rickey this afternoon offering him the leadership of the St. Louis Cardinals. O'Neil who is a free agent, will send Rickey his answer in a couple of days.

O'Neil has been at the head of the Syracuse team for the last two years, Syracuse, under O'Neil, won the New York State pennant in 1916. The officials of the Milwaukee club, of the American Association, have also made an offer for O'Neil's services.

Jimmy Barry's Last Battle.

Jimmy Barry and Casper Leon fought a 20-round draw at Davenport, Ia., on Dec. 29, 1898, just 19 years ago today. This was the last battle in the ring of Jimmy Barry, who was then the bantamweight champion of the world. The following year Barry retired undefeated. Jimmy was one of the very few modern champions who quit the ring while the quitting was good, without waiting to be knocked out. Arthur Chambers and Jack McAuliffe, both of whom held the lightweight title, retired without having suffered the ignominy of defeat. Mike Donovan was still middleweight champion when he quit in 1882 to become a boxing instructor at the New York A. C., a job he held for over 30 years. No modern heavyweight has ever resigned his honors except by force of superior prowess, although a number of the gladiators of the past have left the ring with their fame unimpaired. The great modern ones, however, lost their titles in a way that they never achieved them—by quitting.

FUNERAL BOUQUET AND DESIGNS JOHN RECK & SON

REMINGTON A. C. FIASCO A DISSAPPOINTMENT TO FANS

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FEWER PULLMANS LARGER SHOES ORDERED FOR OUR BOYS ABROAD

Washington, Dec. 28—The American army at home and in France is rapidly evolving liberty feet on which to march to victory.

Under the hard work of military training, soldiers' feet are expanding in length and width and some part of Gen. Pershing's forces will do their work in No. 13 and 14 shoes instead of the old maximum No. 12 of the regular army. In his recommendation these two new big sizes have been added to the quartermaster's stock.

A review of the army shoe situation yesterday by the War Department shows that of 2,359 men examined by medical officers, only 15 per cent were found to be correctly fitted with marching shoes. The following reasons for misfits are assigned:

"Inclination of men to choose shoes too small, faults in methods of supervision of fitting insufficient numbers of larger and narrower sizes, incorrect markings of sizes by manufacturers."

JAPAN NEEDS LABOR.

Tokio, Dec. 29—The building of the superdreadnought Nagato has had to be abandoned for the time being on account of a shortage of labor. This seems almost unbelievable in Japan but the rapid rise of wages has been most marked in shipyards, and the workmen have left the naval docks at the Kure arsenal for employment in private companies which pay higher wages.

IMPRISONED FOR FRAUDS AGAINST U. S. BOND BUYERS

New York, Dec. 29—Elmer Dwiggins, arrested some time ago on a charge of using the mails to defraud investors in Liberty bonds, pleaded guilty when arraigned yesterday and was sentenced to three years in Atlanta penitentiary.