

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE DAY IN SPORTING CIRCLES

HICKMAN WANTS TO PLAY FIRST FOR CLEVELAND

Leg in Shape for Regular Job—Unique Record.

By THOMAS S. RICE.

Charles Hickman, the eminent salesman, stopped selling college ribbons to high school girls this morning at the emporium he and Harry White run on G street, long enough to say that he was well pleased with the idea of playing with the Cleveland club in the American League next season.

Mr. Hickman has lovely manners both on and off the baseball field. He has never been known to spike a second sock or cuss under his breath at a giggling female who examined all his available stock of goods and then announced that she was only looking for ideas and not for purchases. This sweet disposition might lead some to suppose the rising young merchant too polite to make rude remarks on his being sold as a mere chattel by the Chicago Americans, but in very truth he is pleased.

Had Hard Luck.

Last season the embryo Marshall Field was put out of business early by an excited youth in Waco, Tex., who collided with him at first base. Washington sold him to Chicago as an emergency hitter because of the precarious prop developed by the Waco accident. Being an enthusiastic, even if non-professional, baseball player the chubby Charles grieved at the idea of sitting on the bench with a chance to bat about once in ten days. On those special occasions so great was the reputation of his prowess that the pitcher put forth his last remaining strength and the emergency man naturally found it hard to connect, although he did nobly service in a number of such pinches.

With Cleveland our pillar of commerce expects to play every day. He has ability and reports his legs in great shape, which they have always been for looks, and no longer mere ornaments to the profession or reminders of the day when the present baby grand had not come into use as a music producer.

Mr. Hickman has hopes of landing a job at first in Cleveland and of keeping it to the last. As an initial effort he displays most surprising agility for a man of his liberal lines. How he can do this is as much of a mystery as a magazine poem, but he gets there just the same. He was making good at this arduous occupation last summer when the injured leg gave way, and his activity was limited to giving out cheery interviews, assuring the Washington fans that the city had a ball team which was well worth watching even if it did not win many games.

Wonderful, Wonderful!

Mr. Hickman holds what, in the opinion of the Washington sporting editors, is considered a wonderful record. When he left this city to join the Chicago Sox he wrote each of the sporting editors a letter thanking them for the courtesy he had received at the hands of the newspapers, even in the dreary days of 1906, when he had the subject of copious caustic comments and extending assurances of esteemed consideration. Such an evidence of appreciation in a professional ball player was so astounding that the said sporting editors have occasionally to dig up that historic episode and examine it over again to convince themselves it is not all an idle dream, like the fight fans' hope that the Philadelphia promoters would have decency enough to benefit the Phillies and let the Sox win. So amazing a performance is worth cherishing and keeping green in the public memory, wherefore we publish here his picture again that the readers of The Times may recognize this prodigy and gaze upon him with proper awe, about fate to prevent the notion of bringing him across their line of vision.

LOCAL OPPONENTS ABANDON SERIES

From present indications there will be only one series of games between American and National League teams next spring.

It is a certainty that the Highlanders and the Giants will not clash and also a foregone conclusion that the Cubs and the Sox will not meet. To date the only series arranged is between the Cardinals and Browns of St. Louis.

Bostonians Won't Play.

The two Boston clubs will hardly come together, as George Dovey, owner of the Nationals, purposes to have his team remain in the Sunny South until the last possible moment before the Phillies and Athletics will not meet, the ante-season question of superiority still remaining unsettled in all cities that sport and support two clubs save in St. Louis.

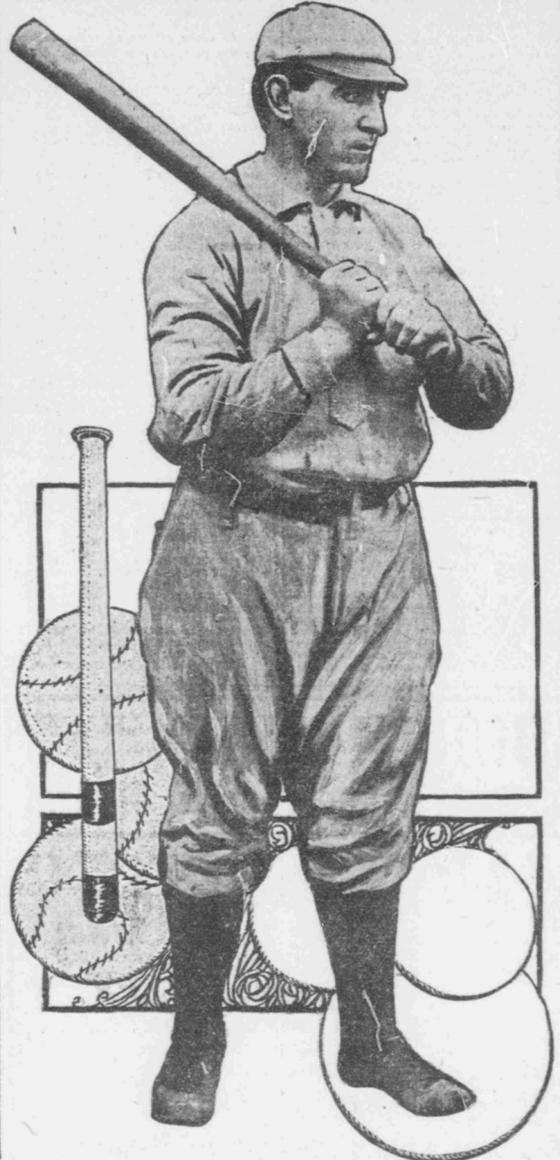
The title of local champion means little to a club nowadays and spring games no longer attract, as fans have only one desire, that is, to have their representatives win the flag, and then capture the world's championship. Club owners figure they will get the money of the enthusiasts at the gate anyhow during the championship season and that is not worth while to hurry home from the training trips to play a series when the weather is likely to be bad, in which event all the benefits acquired on the spring jaunt will vanish.

Pays in St. Louis.

Logically there is only one place for a spring series on the major league circuits and that is in St. Louis, where the fans get hungry for ball about the end of March and where the weather is almost certain to be good prior to the opening of the championship season. These games pay, too, for in St. Louis there still is a feeling of resentment among certain persons that the American League entered the Mound City and similar feeling among another clique which cannot forgive the National League for not getting out.

THE ALL-ENCIRCLING BEAUTY. Over our manhood bend the skies; Against our fallen and traitor lives The great winds utter prophecies; With our faint hearts the mountain strives; Its arms outstretched, the druid wood Waits with its benediction; And to our age's drowsy blood Bull shouts the inspiring sentiment—James Russel Lowell.

Gets Berth With Cleveland



CHARLEY HICKMAN, Popular Ex-Washington Player, Sold by Chicago Americans to Cleveland to Play First Base.

Clearly Defines MICHIGAN'S STAND

Wants Seven Games and Training Table for Eleven.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Dec. 23.—Prof. George W. Patterson, chairman of the board of control, in an interview, defined Michigan's position at the conference at Chicago on January 4. He said:

"Michigan is not going to Chicago to deliver an ultimatum to the Western conference. The exact instructions given to Prof. W. C. Eaton, the Michigan representative, will not be given out. However, he goes with a great deal of discretion concerning certain features which Michigan wants.

"Our delegate will try to get what he can with a view to staying in the conference, if possible. We will leave only as a last resort.

May Drop Out. "I believe that if Michigan decides not to remain in the conference the fact will be announced from Ann Arbor, and not Chicago.

"Michigan would like a seven-game schedule, training table, and the repeal of the retroactive rule. Minnesota, Chicago, and Wisconsin would like to see the same changes.

"In my opinion the conference will not accomplish much at the meeting on January 4. Beyond considering the seven-game schedule, I do not think much will be done. The conference is not absolute in itself, and can only recommend. The universities must take final action. A definite settlement of Michigan's position will not be made until earlier in the spring, by which time the delegates will have had a chance to receive instructions regarding the questions brought up January 4."



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Shorter Season Advocated For Maryland Game

HAGERSTOWN, Md., Dec. 23.—A movement has been started by the Washington County Fish and Game Association for a shorter shooting season.

A meeting will be held at Hagerstown this week to take action. At present the open season for shooting rabbits, partridges, and some other game is from November 1 to December 25. The open season for doves is from August 12 to December 25; wild turkeys, November 1 to January 1; squirrels, September 15 to December 25; pheasants, August 12 to December 25; ducks, November 1 to April 30.

Members of the association contend that since the season for doves, squirrels, and pheasants opens earlier than the season for shooting partridges and rabbits, many gunners who hunt prior to November 1 shoot the prohibited game too early. A majority of the members want an open season for all game from November 1.

Marcy sportsmen will work for an amendment to the law that will make shorter the period for partridges.

ABANDONS WESTERN TRIP. TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Dec. 23.—The University of Alabama football team has been compelled to abandon its proposed tour of the West, having been unable to get guarantees from only two eleven, the University of Utah and University of Washington. The trip may be taken in 1908.

HIS PREFERENCE. An exceptionally pretty girl with an English flag lieutenant at her side was standing on a chair on the pier watching the racing. On a chair behind were two Frenchmen. The lady turned around and said in French, "I hope I do not obstruct your view."

"Mademoiselle," quickly replied one of the men, "I much prefer the obstruction to the view."—Philadelphia Record.

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GOETHALM CRITICS DEFEND HENLEY STEWARDS' ACTION

Fear'd That Regatta Would Discount Olympia Games.

(By "Herbert" in New York Tribune.) A correspondent writes in part as follows: "What do you think of the unsportsmanlike attitude of the Henley stewards in barring all foreign crews from the Henley regatta next year, including the Belgians, who won the Grand Challenge Cup two years in succession? They must be afraid of losing the trophy."

Many oarsmen in this country, like my correspondent, have an entirely wrong conception of the real motive of the stewards of the Henley regatta in barring foreign crews this year. They have not acted in an unsportsmanlike manner; quite the contrary, and it is absurd even to consider an imputation of fear for a foreign rival. Some Englishmen are hard losers; so are some Americans, and some men of all nations, but English sportsmen have never feared a worthy foe and are not likely to develop the characteristic at this late day.

Restored in 1909.

The old open conditions of the regatta will be restored in 1909, when the Grand Challenge Cup will again be open to the amateur oarsmen of the world. The regatta will be closed next year for the very sportsmanlike reason that the Henley stewards assented to make their net fixture play second to the Olympian regatta. It was felt, and wisely, that the Henley regatta, coming first would discount the Olympia and give an unfair advantage in the way of trials to some foreign crews over those of others.

It must not be forgotten that the resolution of the stewards not to accept entries for the Grand Challenge Cup in 1908 was adopted before the regatta this year, and the Belgian crew had full knowledge of this when it entered and won the trophy. Unfortunately, the reasons for the resolution were not fully explained, or if so, not fully understood, and herein the stewards threw themselves open to much adverse criticism. Grievance for Belgians.

The Belgian oarsmen, holders of the trophy, are the only ones who might claim a grievance, and so far as can be learned no word of complaint has come from them. The London Field in a recent issue had the following to say on the subject:

"The situation is admittedly abnormal, so far as this general veto for the year having the contingent effect on barring the technical holders, and this not on any ground of infringement by them of official amateurship. It is this peculiar, fitly which has evoked among many genuine rowing men belonging to clubs that regularly compete at Henley, and which have had to yield to the Belgians, a sentiment that, if it were possible without making bad worse, they would be glad to see some special relaxation of the May notice and instruction in favor of this one club of continental sportsmen.

It is probable that this sentiment is fully shared by the Henley executive, while tempered with a sense of prior obligation and public responsibility in another direction, which may compel them to sacrifice personal sentiment to general principle.

Since then the Henley stewards have met and decided to sacrifice personal sentiment to general principle.

KETCHELL BREAKS HAND IN TRAINING

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—Stanley (Young) Ketchell, who so recently defeated Thomas in a hard-fought battle, has had the misfortune to break his hand during light training work.

This means that the clever fighter will have to give up his fight plans for some time at least. There was every possibility that he would have gotten a match with the winner of the Papke-Kelly fight and Sam Langford, who posted \$1,000 to fight both Ketchell and Thomas inside of ten rounds will not have to take down his offer, for there is not much chance for Ketchell getting into the ring for a couple of months at least.

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—From Philadelphia Inquirer.

Military Athlete Refuses to Comply With A. A. U. Order

League Followers Think Union Has Gone Too Far.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—It was the opinion in military circles yesterday that the A. A. U. had gone too far when it insisted that the M. A. L. expel members of two regimental basketball teams.

The military men declared that it was not in their power to prevent a member of the National Guard from competing in regimental games, and that when the M. A. L. inserted a clause in its alliance with the A. A. U. declaring that it would allow only amateurs to compete in regimental games it exceeded its power.

Capt. R. E. Huen, president of the Seventy-first Regiment Athletic Association, declared that the A. A. U. was stirring up trouble, and if it persisted in antagonizing the M. A. L. it would not fare well.

Cook Defiant.

Capt. Robert E. Cooke, general manager of the Twenty-third Regiment games, said the A. A. U. was carrying its fight too far. "Several times it has taken action on matters which did not meet with the approval of the M. A. L. but in order to keep things harmonious the M. A. L. took no action. As far as the Twenty-third Regiment is concerned it doesn't care a lick what the A. A. U. does, and we once told its officers so.

"Should the members of my company organize a basketball team they can play any team they want to whether outlaws or not. I haven't the power to stop them, and I wouldn't, if I had."

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NATIONAL LEAGUE OPENS APRIL 16

American Body Wins Out in Fight for Later Opening.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Semi-official announcement has been made by the management of the New York Baseball Club that the National League will next season respect the wishes of the American League, and agree to a later opening of the season than was scheduled last year.

In giving out the spring training schedule of the Giants, it is announced that the team will return here on Saturday, April 12, and open the preliminary season with a game with the Yale University nine.

The Jersey City, Eastern League team is scheduled for the 13th, the Newark Sailors for the 14th. It is also announced that the Buffalo club will arrange its plans so that it can appear at the Polo Grounds on April 15.

Leagues to Get Together.

Presumably the schedule committee of the league, comprising Charles H. Ebbets, of Brooklyn; Barney Dreyfus, of Pittsburgh, and Garry Herrmann, of Cincinnati, has been instructed to so arrange the joint schedule with the Americans that the season will open April 15.

Last year the date for the first Eastern games was April 11. During the first two weeks of the season a wintry weather interfered seriously with the games. Since then the American League managers have urged a later opening. President Ban Johnson even went so far last year as to announce that the American League would open its season a week later in 1908, whether the National League was agreeable or not.

YORK WANTS A CLUB IN ATLANTIC LEAGUE

YORK, Pa., Dec. 23.—Baseball fans in this city are rejoicing over the movement that has been started to place a York team in the Atlantic League.

It is proposed to have the ball grounds located at Highland Park and it is believed that a carefully managed team here would be a money-maker. With the railway company back of the association there would be no difficulty about finances, while the company would receive profits both from admissions and in the way of carfare.

As there are four vacancies in the Atlantic League left by the withdrawal of Brooklyn, Newark, Paterson, and Reading, York should have no difficulty in gaining admission to the organization.

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