WASHINGTON ATHLETICS FLOURISHED MIGHTILY IN 1907

Scarcity of Places for Either Outdoor or Indoor Contests Serious Handicap to Development of Sports and Pastimes.

By THOMAS S. RICE.

Washington athletes and Washington lovers of sport have every right to be proud of themselves and their city in the past year.

Every branch of sport showed a distinct advance in the District of Columbia in 1907, with the possible exception of boxing and wrestling, and that these two did not flourish better was due to lack of opportunities, and not to a willingness on the part of the athletes or generosity on the part of the fans.

The immense and intense interest in sports in this city is something which no new resident ever understands, and is unappreciated by many who have lived here for years and who are so situated they could give great service to the cause of manly and healthful exercises if they could be made to grasp the importance of the subject. With a remarkably small number of halls in which independent competitions may be held, and with no inclosed outdoor park except the grounds of the Washington Baseball Club, the promoting of contests which would attract unusual attention is almost stifled, and many men willing to contribute time, money, and enthusiasm to athletic enterprises are either kept out of the game or are not aware of the opportunities which would exist if arenas, indoor and outdor, were more plentiful.

The best indices of the interest in athletics in this city are the wonderful support given the tail-end Washington team, in the American League, the trainloads of sporting men who go to Baltimore to see the high-class fights there, the tens of thousands who attend the games of amateur baseball leagues, the packed houses at the Georgetown and Federal indoor meets, and, in general, the liberal attendance at every sporting attraction worthy of the least attention.

A careful, or even cursory, examination into this interest should go far toward awakening in the minds of the members of both houses of Congress and of the Government officials the very great need in this city for public athletic grounds for boys and young men, as well as for children. Cities far smaller in population and incomparably smaller in reputation than the National Capital are making every effort to encourage outdoor recreation by supporting public athletic parks or fields, but it seems almost impossible to stir the powers in control of the destinies of the District of Columbia to a realization of the serious need for such places in the city, which was intended by its founders to be the leader in civic and economic progress.

Baseball is played on the White and Monument lots, and there are playgrounds for little children, but the youths and men must go far afield or pay a large sum if they wish to hold a meet or play games. Georgetown University field has been closed to all except Georgetown enterprises, and now the final blow has been given by the Government taking possession of Van Ness Park, which not only leaves George Washington University without athletic grounds just as it is beginning to come to the front, but deprives other schools and clubs of its use.

That the health and order of men and boys in their hours of leisure are greatly conserved by ample opportunity for indulgence in athletic exercises is too well known to need discussion, and in every city with any pretensions to class or modern ideas this is understood and acted upon except in Washington. How long will the National Capital, in which the greatest nation on earth feels an honest pride, remain in this respect a century behind the average commercial town of the same or less number of inhabitants?

The most important event in Washington's amateur sport history for 1907 was the severing of relations between Georgetown and George Washington universities after their 0-to-0 football game on Thanksgiving Day, Georgetown declaring off all future dealings on the ground that her faculty had been insulted by banners borne by the George Washington students in their parade before the game.

The most important event in professional sports was the signing of Joseph Cantillon for three years as manager of the Washington baseball team in the American League, and his efforts to build up an entirely new organization.

For 1908, the prospects are even brighter in all branches of sport than in 1907, except for the destruction of Van Ness Park. The money and the interest are here, the quality and number of athletes is steadily increasing, even though no world's champions are in sight, the general and more conservative public is being aroused over sports through the growth of high school and college athletics, the spread of golf, and the willingness which has been shown by the Army and Navy Departments to give hearty encouragement to any form of athletics which the men of the service wish to adopt.

Opportunity Knocks For Him in 1908.

MANAGER OF NATIONALS WILL HAVE FREE REIN IN THE SELECTION OF PLAYERS FOR COMING SEASON.

MANAGER JOSEPH CANTILLON.

BASEBALL.

Washington's American League baseball team in 1907 was not a howling success. It finished last, with a percentage of .325, winning 49 and losing 102, but there has hardly been in the history of the game a tailender which created so much excitement and which was so well supported.

Joe Cantillon, the ex-umpire, half owner of the Minneapolis and Des Moines teams, and ex-manager of the Milwaukee team, was appointed manager of the Washington team in the fall of 1906 for a term of three years at large salary, and at once got down to business. Instead of taking chances on the weather at Charlottesville, Va., for training he selected Galveston, Tex., and found it so satisfactory the team will go there again in 1908 and 1909, and possibly longer.

Manager's Hard Task.

The task confronting Cantillon when he lined up his forces at Galveston was enough to discourage any manager, and that he would have been discouraged to the point of quitting or cynical indifference is a sure thing had he not had the most hearty and liberal support of the Washington fans, newspapers, and club owners. He had a disorganized team of steady and indifferent losers, composed largely of men who had never been of major league caliber or who had outgrown their usefulness in the game as a whole or in Washington in particular. No strength of consequence had been added between the close of the 1906 season and the beginning of spring practice, the team was a tailender and knew it, and the material on hand was not susceptible of great improvement. In fact, with some members of the squad it was a question whether they could last with cellar champions throughout 1907.

Such organization and cohesion as was already in the team had to be broken in the necessary process of weeding out the men who were already gone or were slipping back into baseball oblivion. Thus, as the season advanced the teamwork actually declined instead of improving, a situation which had to come, and which the club might just as well have one year as another. It was desperate case, and the owners and manager should not be criticised if the pruning knife was mercilessly applied in the hope of giving the Washington public a ball team worthy of the name in 1908.

Eliminations and Accidents.

No sooner had the spring training in Galveston and the long series of exhibition games in the Middle West rounded the teams into something like form than the necessity for the elimination of some of the older men appeared. An accident to his knee put Charley Hickman out of the game as a regular player, and late in the season he was sold to the Chicago Americans. Schlafly, who had been appointed captain in Galveston, could not hit well enough for a major league and fell off in his fielding. He was tried at his regular place at second, found wanting; tried at first, again fell short of the standard, and was finally released to Montreal, in the Eastern League.

Lave Cross, one of the oldest players in active service, slowed up under the strain, could not cover enough ground at third, and was released to New Orleans. Nig Perrine proved too weak a hitter and thrower, and after oscillating between short and second was turned over to Minneapolis. Frank Kitson, counted upon as one of the reliable veteran twirlers, suffered from rheumatism and went to Kansas City. John Anderson jumped the team in the summer, refused to play longer in Washington, and was recently sold to Chicago. Late in the season Mack Heydon, one of the veteran catchers, who had shown poor form all the year, became so disgruntled over his lack of success he jumped the team, and Block, of Galveston, had to be bought as a temporary expedient. Blankenship, counted upon as one of the best men in the club, played in about one-fourth of the games, a series of accidents to his fingers making it impossible for him to catch.

So reads the tab throughout the playing period—accidents to live timber adding to the handicap produced by the cutting out of dead wood.

Picked Up Good Men.

Turning to the brighter side, Washington picked up the most promising young pitcher who has broken into major company in years. He is Walter Johnson, a tall right hander, who was playing independent ball with a team in Weiser, Idaho. He has great speed, remarkable control, and wonderful stamina. In all, he promises to rank with the really great pitchers.

Bob Ganley, present captain of the club, was obtained from the Pittsburg Nationals and proved a brilliant find. He did not miss an inning in the entire schedule last year, batted well, displayed great brains in every department, is unusually fast on his feet, and knows all the finer points of inside baseball.

Otis Clymer, the slugging outfielder, was also obtained from Pittsburg. He has an uncertain ankle, but hits hard, is fast, and fields fairly well. His principal weakness is in throwing.

Milan, an outfielder obtained from Wichita, Kan., looks like another valuable acquisition. He started well with the stick, is an exceptionally clever fielder, and is shifty on the lines. Should he bat consistently well in 1908 after his initiation into fast company in 1907, he will be another prize package.

Delehanty a Help.

Jim Delehanty, who could not get along with the St. Louis American management, was bought for a comparatively small sum, and has done more to fill the hole at second than any man Washington has had in four years.

Bill Shipke was brought on from Des Moines to play third after Lave Cross retired to New Orleans, and proved a fielding marvel. It is doubtful if any third-sacker in either big league is faster or more accurate on slow hits, but he is a frost with the bat. Still, Cantillon thinks he will improve in batting and will cover so much ground on the defense that he will be a fixture next season.

Gehring, a cub pitcher from Des Moines, was not remarkably successful in his showing of games won, but had so many earmarks of a comer he will probably be in the box as a regular next season.

"King Bill" Kay, an elongated mountaineer from Martinsville, W. Va., signed originally as a joke and one of the most peculiar specimens that ever donner a spiked shoe, developed an amazingly good batting eye. He is a natural hitter and in his style is as much like Willie Keeler as a big man can be like a little one. He is a slow thinker as yet and, while fast on the bases, is not mercurial in the field, but Cantilion says he will be carried as an emergency batter.

Pitchers Weak.

With the exception of Johnson none of the Washington pitchers covered himself with glory last season. One of the rudest jolts was the reversal of form shown by Case Patten who, after being ranked as one of the greatest slabmen living in 1906 and starting 1907 in style, suddenly slumped until it was impossible for him to win a game.

Washington attracted national attention in baseball politics in the past season. The first case was the appeal of Jake Stahl, the 1906 manager, to the National Commission for an absolute release from Washington. The Washington management accused President Ban Johnson of helping Stahl. A casual inquiry from commission headquarters exposed the scheme and President Tom Noyes, of Washington, hustled to the meeting in Cincinnati to uphold the club's contention that Stahl was not entitled to go where he pleases. The fuss kicked up by this affair has not yet entirely died away.

Busy in Politics.

The second case of especial importance was the way in which Washington forced Boston to pay the waiver price for Schlafly. Then, when Boston asked waivers on the players, Washington refused and was forced to buy him back. Boston again refused to waive for Washington's benefit, and the unfortunate Schlafly was once more shunted back to Boston. This exposed the absurdity of the waiver rule as it stood, and was largely responsible for the recent legislation by the American and National leagues to prevent repetitions of such ridiculous proceedings.

Mike Kelley, former president and manager of the Minneapolis club, had been expelled from the American Association by a secret vote for the alleged making of unsubstantiated charges of crookedness against an umpire. He was sold to St. Louis, but refused to play there. Cantilon took his case before the national commission, had Kelley declared a free agent on a technicality, and signed him to play first for Washington. Ban Johnson promptly forbade the Washington club to use him because he had been expelled from the American Association. That started another legal, political and newspaper war of a Donnybrook sort in which everybody with a baseball grouch got it out of his system with force and enthusiasm. But Johnson prevailed. Kelley, after remaining idle in Washton for a month because the umpires would not let a game start with him in it, was transferred to Des Moines to handle the Cantillons' club there.

All these incidents stirred up more interest in the Washington club than the baseball public has known for many years, and, incidentally, proved an enormous source of free advertising which produced gratifying results at the box office.

Prospects for 1908.

Washington for 1908 is weak, or, at least, uncertain in the box, with the exception of Walter Johnson, and probably Charley Smith. The regular catchers to start with will probably be Warner, Blankenship, and Street, nothing wonderful in the lot. Freeman, an American Association man from Minneapolis, and touted to the skies, will play first. Delehanty seems safe at second. Short and third are mysteries. Altizer, who wound up 1907 playing first, and doing well there, is a shortstop, but not a star by any means. Tony Smith is nothing extra as a fielder and a joke as a hitter. McBride, who comes from Kansas City, is tipped a wonder in the field, but batted around .260 in minor company. For third, there is our old friend Altizer again, who is new to the job and is decidedly erratic anywhere, and Shipke, who fields like the Jimmy Collins of old. It will be hard pickings to get that left side of the diamond up to major league strength out of this material.

Clymer will probably play right field again. Milan and Ollie Pickering, who was obtained from St. Louis in a trade for Charley Jones, will have it out in center, and Bob Ganley is safe and sane in left. Bill Kay expects to draw salary as a utility slugger and occasional fielder when the grounds are dry enough to keep him from slipping.

The men under reserve to the Washington club at present are as follows; veteran indicating he was with the club last year:

Candidates for 1908 Team.

Pitchers—C. Bensdorfer, Dallas, Tex.; Gus Bonno, Norfolk; W. Burns, Los Angeles; Eli Cates, Los Angeles; J. Clark, Des Moines; B. Edmonson, Houston, Tex.; Clyde Goodwin, Minneapolis; Oscar Graham, Minneapolis, where he will remain in 1908; Fred Falkenberg, veteran; Hank Gehring, veteran; Thomas Hughes, veteran; Walter Johnson, veteran; Frank Oberlin, veteran; Case Patten, veteran; Charley Smith, veteran; H. R. Sutor, Austin, Tex.; Wilson, Minneapolis; Winthrup, Uniontown.

Catchers—Cliff D. Blankenship, veteran; M. E. Heydon, veteran; Mike Kahoe, veteran; Charles E. Street, San Francisco; Jack Warner, veteran; John Black, veteran, transferred to Memphis.

First base—Jerry Freeman, Minneapolis.

Second base—Jim Delehanty, veteran.

Shortstop—George McBride, Kansas City; Tony Smith, veteran.

Third base—Bill Shipke, veteran; Dave Altizer, veteran.

Outfielders—Otis Clymer, veteran; F. E. Freeman, Minneapolis; Robert Ganley, veteran; William Kay, veteran; L. G. LaLonge, Akron, Ohio; Clyde Milan, veteran; Ollie Pickering, St. Louis; K. Sawyer, Winnipeg.

Extra infielders—A. J. Eagan, Kansas City; Frank Eastly, Wheeling; John McDonald, Marion, Ohio; J. G. Perrine, Minneapolis; Peter O'Brien, veteran, transferred to Minneapolis for 1908.

With this material Washington will be fortunate to land at the top of the second division.

Major Standings for 1907 Season

American League.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Detroit	92	58	.613
Philadelphia	88	57	.607
Chicago	87	64	.576
Cleveland	85	67	.559
New York	70	78	.473
St. Louis	69	83	.454
Boston	59	90	.396
Washington	49	102	.325

National League.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Chicago	107	45	.704
Pittsburg	91	62	.591
Philadelphia	83	64	.566
New York	82	71	.536
Brooklyn	65	83	.439
Cincinnati	65	87	.431
Boston	58	90	.392
St. Louis	52	101	.340

Baseball Scores For World Title

At Chicago, October 8—Chicago Nationals, 3; Detroit Americans, 3 (12 innings.)

At Chicago, October 9—Chicago, 3; Detroit, 1.

At Chicago, October 10—Chicago, 5; Detroit, 1.

At Detroit, October 11—Chicago, 6; Detroit, 1.

At Detroit, October 12—Chicago, 2; Detroit, 0.

Washington Ball Team Had Interesting If Unsuccessful Season—Joe Cantillon Has Best Opportunity Ever Presented Manager.

FOOTBALL.

Football in Washington in 1907 had an eventful, but hardly edifying, season.

There was not an eleven in the District of Columbia playing the game well enough to attract attention on the merit of the team, although a number of clever individuals were in evidence. Probably the best football machine in the city was that developed by Technical High School.

Georgetown and George Washington universities were the main attractions on the gridiron, but neither played good enough football to deserve the attention they received at the hands of the papers and public. Neither team started well, and when they finally played their 0 to 0 game on Georgetown field on Thanksgiving Day they furnished an exhibition of little merit in itself, although intensely interesting because of the keen rivalry between the institutions. Georgetown's lack of a training table and the general lethargy which has characterized its athletic management in the past two or three years caused the fair lot of material on hand to be developed poorly, and there was little real progress as the season advanced. North Carolina on November 9 beat Georgetown by 12 to 5, the Capitalites showing weakness in every department of the science of the game and little physical stamina. Miserable judgment was shown in the Georgetown attack, and the defense was easily hammered to pieces by the better-conditioned Tarheels.

Georgetown's Bad Year.

On November 16 Georgetown was defeated 28 to 6 in her annual game with Virginia on Georgetown field. The game was largely a repetition of that with Virginia, with some glaring faults, but a slight improvement in teamwork. In the first half Georgetown's famous spirit actuated her men and made them play above their form, holding Virginia to 6 to 0 for the half, but in the second half the old axiom that you cannot get out of a jug more than there is in it, was in evidence, and the entire Georgetown team collapsed, Virginia rolling up 22 points in that half. One of the worst defeats in Georgetown's history was administered her by Fordham in New York on October 26, when the score was 36 to 0 in one long half and one short one.

The most glaring fault with the Georgetown eleven was the woeful lack of driving power. Although the men played as hard as they knew how, and were game to the core, there was little momentum to their concerted attack and even against lighter opponents they were able to accomplish little except through individual ability.

George Washington's Troubles.

George Washington University suffered from the enforced lateness of its practice, due to the fact that most of the available football material was composed of men attending lectures at night and working in the day. There was more spirit in the school than in former years, strengthened by the impression that they could beat Georgetown, which was notoriously weak. In the early weeks of the season G. W. U. was a most uncertain quantity, and there was much talk of abandoning the schedule. This produced disorganization and killed the enthusiasm, especially among the substitute and scrub material. The consequence was the early games were largely a joke. Later the team began to round into fair shape, considering its opportunities, and when it met Georgetown was one of if not the best teams the university ever produced.

Georgetown had her Fordham, and George Washington University had her Virginia Polytechnic Institute. At Blacksburg, Va., on November 16 the Poly eleven walloped that from Washington by 34 to 0.

Game in General.

There was, comparatively little use made of the forward pass by either George Washington or Georgetown, but at times they worked it with a success that would have warranted experimenting with it oftener. None of the objections to the play which have been raised by noted football authorities were in evidence in this city and its abolition would be regretted. The games here last season were, almost without exception, rather open, not infrequently highly spectacular and keenly interesting to the spectators. That the football rules need a large amount of correction and improvement in minor details and in illuminating obscure spots is obvious to al students of the game, but any changes tending to do away with the spectacular open play which has been so enthusing in the past two years would be deeply resented here.

Gallaudet College, with its small muster roll and unusual handicaps, produced its usual highly creditable eleven. Catholic University, which expected to be quite a factor on the local gridiron was unable to organize a squad early enough and abandoned its schedule. The Navy Yard had a strong team, which had great ambitions to take a fall out of Georgetown, but could not get a game.

Following are the Georgetown and George Washington University records for 1907:

Records.

Oct. 5—Georgetown, 5; Gallaudet, 0.
Oct. 19—Georgetown, 10; U. of Md., 0.
Oct. 26—Georgetown, 0; Fordham, 36.
Nov. 4—Georgetown, 0; Va. Tech., 20.
Nov. 9—Georgetown, 5; N. Caro., 12.
Nov. 16—Georgetown, 6; Virginia, 28.
Nov. 28—Georgetown, 0; G. W. U., 0.
Totals—Georgetown, 26; opponents, 98.
Oct. 12—George Washington, 0; Western Maryland, 12.
Oct. 19—George Washington, 0; Swarthmore, 30.
Oct. 26—George Washington, 0 M. A. C., 11.
Nov. 4—George Washington, 17; University of Maryland, 6.
Nov. 9—George Washington, 16; Gallaudet, 6.
Nov. 16—George Washington, 0; Virginia Tech., 34.
Nov. 28—George Washingting, 0; Georgetown, 0.
Totals—George Washington, 33; opponents, 99.

G. W. U. IN 1907.

The year 1907, taken as a composite whole, will go down in the athletic annals of the George Washington University as the most successful which has yet been enjoyed by that institution, the term "composite whole" being used here after careful consideration, and having reference to the combined branches of sport, as opposed to their individual comparison.

The year has been above all a progressive one, every branch taking strides in advance, with the possible exception of baseball. To show this advance, three concrete examples alone are necessary. The first, and, perhaps, the most important, step taken during the year, was the organization, formation, and subsequent recognition by the athletic council, of a representative basketball team, of which more will be said later. The other two steps are of a more recent date, both having occurred within the last month. The first of these was the creation of the office of graduate manager of athletics; the second, the reorganization in its entirety of the Athletic Association of the University. To the new office Dr. E. C. Wilson, manager of the football team of 1906, and graduate manager of the 1907 eleven, was appointed for a period of one year. The position embraces in its scope the supervisory control of all major branches of athletics, and fills a long felt need.

Valuable Reorganization.

The reorganization of the Athletic Association marks an important epoch. Under the old regime every enrolled student was a member of the Association and entitled to vote for managers of the various teams. Under the new rules, those only are members of the association who hold membership tickets which entitle them to admission to all games in which the university teams compete, and to the privilege of voting for managers.

The football season closed too recently to need fresh recounting. Rather a mediocre record was put in the background by the best showing ever made by a Buff and Blue team against Georgetown.

Basketball Flourished.

The basketball movement was inaugurated by Donald Wilhelm, a freshman in the college department, with the assistance of one or two other enthusiasts, notably Woods, medicine, '09, who was afterward acting manager of the team. It was brought to a head, the sanction and recognition of the athletic council secured, and a team which laid well-founded claim to the championship of the South turned out. Victories over Georgetown, Virginia, Maryland, and other teams of this section, were achieved, establishing a truly notable record for the first year of the sport's existence in the school. The team, after once getting under way, played consistently good basketball, crowning the season by decisively defeating Georgetown for the college championship of the District of Columbia. The team took one trip through Virginia, on which every game was won.

Some Track Stars.

In track athletics the Hatchetites' record, while not particularly brilliant, was consistently good, especially in the open events. The relay races were somewhat disastrous in their results, only one of five being a victory. Fordham, Columbia, Virginia, and Western Maryland showed their superiority over the local school, while St. John was easily beaten. Sterrett retained his title of champion of the South in the pole vault, while Captain Lorando showed up brilliantly throughout the season by his great work. He capped the climax at Charlottesville, in the University of Virginia's annual outdoor meet, where he took the quarter, half, and mile runs, against the best collegiate runners of this section with comparative ease.

He also ran a great race in the relay against the University of Virginia at the Federal games in this city, where he overtook his man, after covering a handicap of nearly twenty-five yards. Gill, Gunning, and Clagett were the other members of the relay team, while Wenderoth and Fleming showed up well in the open events during the season. Acting Manager Brookes had charge of the team.

Baseball Team Erratic.

The baseball team followed the custom set by nines of previous years, and was extremely erratic. With the hardest schedule ever undertaken by a university team before it, and with promising material, a stringent eligibility-ruling, as regards the unmber of hours of class room work adopted by the Athletic Council, put under the ban about one half of the candidates. The consequence was a disastrous beginning, defeats being sustained by Yale, Cornell, Pennsylvania, Virginia and other colleges.

The nine redeemed itself considerably, however, by a good Southern trip, comparatively speaking, for though most of the games were lost, great improvement was mainfest in its playing, and North Carolina was defeated in the first game after the team's return. The season ended with the closest games ever played with Georgetown, the first a ten-inning affair, and the latter close throughout. The management of the team was in the hands of H. C. Willis.

GEORGETOWN.

A record of achievements in Georgetown's athletic history the past year does not show any startling results.

Still, though the Georgetown men may not have captured large numbers of blue ribbons, there remains the fact that they labored hard and they failed only because they did not have quite enough class to become champions.

In looking over 1907 one cannot help but admire the Georgetowners for their endeavors. They have met representatives of the larger schools in the field of combat and in some instances have come off crowned with the laurel wreath. Also they suffered the bitter pangs of defeat and failure, words of large significance, but one with which all college men should have to deal with in their school days.

Basketball Introduced.

Basketball was a new sport at Georgetown in 1907, and the prospect was rather dubious at the start. As the season progressed, however, it became apparent that Georgetown was to have a team that could give any and all opponents a hard fight. Four games were played, and of these two were won and two lost. Virginia came to Washington in January and lost. Then followed the three George Washington games, two of which were won by the Hatchetites, their first victory over Georgetown in any kind of an athletic contest. These games completed the 1907 schedule. The men who played basketball for Georgetown were Captain Downey, Schum, Pallen, Ballargeon, Simon, Rice, and Drury. Of these men Captain Downey, Rice, and Drury are candidates for the 1908 quint. The schedule for 1908 includes games with all the leading aggregations in and around Washington.

Busy Year for Crew.

The crew men had a busy year competing in three important races under the tutelage of Murray Russel. The usual disadvantages had to be dealt with, such as a lack of trainers and a training table. April 6 the varsity eight, at least it was considered the first crew at that time, went to Annapolis for the annual race with the Midshipmen. The contest was held on the historic Sev-