Cleveland Indians May Be Sold Today---Wards Deny They Want the Club

SOMERS' CLUB MAY BE SOLD BY BANKERS OF CLEVELAND

Ban Johnson Reported To Be in Sixth City Today to Assist in Closing Deal For the Indians.

Ward Interests, of Brooklyn, Deny That They Have Designs Upon Troubled Club of American League.

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

The Cleveland club may be sold today. Ban Johnson, boss of the American League, is reported to be in the Sixth City conferring with the bankers' committee in charge of the financial affairs of the vice president of the American League. Roger Bresnahan, former manager of the Chicago Cubs, is said to be in the field to become manager of the Indians instead of the Toledo club. This rumor is thus far unsupported, however.

The Wards, of Brooklyn, hasten to deny that they have any designs on the Cleveland club. It had been reported that they were interested in the effort to buy out Charlie Somers' interests. Ban Johnson is working in perfect harmony with the bankers' committee, in Cleveland, and some way out of the present unsatisfactory situation is expected.

The Baltimore owners of the Federal League franchise have about concluded that they are done, so far as major league baseball is concerned. They have sent out letters to all players of 1915, telling them that they are free to seize jobs wherever possible. The men they have notified are Manager Otto Knabe, Catcher Pip Owens, Pitchers Jack Quinn, George Suggs, and Rankin Johnson; Infielder Enos Kirkpatrick and Outfielders Duke Duncan, Steve Evans, Jack McCandless, and Dave Hickman.

Eddie Plank, the veteran southpaw pitcher, has stirred up a fuss by appealing to the National Commission in his desire to be declared a free agent. Ban Johnson, on being asked to explain the official status of Plank, says that he is the property of the St. Louis club through the reserve rule, "organized baseball," in other words, has agreed to respect the reserve rule of the defunct Federal League.

Plank signed years ago from the St. Louis Feds, up to 1916, and it was not believed a signature this year would be Plank's action. Plank has declined to sign a 1916 contract and has called Jones's attention to his position as the head of the Federal League pitcher last season. He claims that his Federal League contract ended last October and that when he signed with the independents, every minor league club had waived on him. Ban Johnson corrects this statement, saying that Cincinnati and Boston, in the National League, had not waived.

If Plank wants to play ball this season he will have to accept the St. Louis offer.

In discussing former Federal Leaguers, Ban Johnson is credited to have said that neither Cy Chase nor George Stovall is blacklisted by American League clubs.

"There is no black list," Johnson is credited with saying. "But Stovall and Chase are not the kind of men the American League wants."

It is barely possible that Chase may find a place in the National League, though there is no certainty of this, for Stovall seems doomed. He has slowed up too much to hold his own in fast company. A few days ago it was whispered that he might become manager of the Cleveland Indians, if Ed Grainger purchased Somers' club. But Grainger failed to buy, and now Ban Johnson shatters whatever hope Stovall had of returning to Cleveland as an American Leaguer.

Jack Lelivelt, former National leaguer, to play the outfield for Kansas City next summer. He held down first base in 1915, but with Fred Beck and Harry Hinchman on the team, he will have an opportunity to go back to the garden.

Charlie Deal, who once twirled for the Reds, Red Sox, Cleveland Nads and Cincinnati Reds, has obtained his release from Vernon in the Coast League, and will retire. In ten years on the diamond he has invested his money so well that it is reported that he is worth $50,000.

Connie Mack tried to break up Eddie Plank's Holy Cross College, yesterday, and succeeded down. Rowe signed the outfield for the New Haven College girls last summer, a Federal League team. The Braves have been after Rowe without success, and now Connie Mack has lost out.

As a legacy from the recent diamond warfare, Fielder Jones doesn't know what to do with Jimmy Austin, the Browns' veteran peppermint at the hot corner. Jones wants to play "Chuck" Deal at third, but Jimmy Austin owns a double-jointed contract for 1916 calling for $5,500. No minor league club will assume such a contract, and no major league club want Austin, anyway, with or without that contract. So Jones is worried a bit.

Austin is the second highest priced player on the Browns. Earl Hamilton is collecting $7,500, thus getting the top figure. After him comes Austin. Both these players succeeded in getting these salaries because they jumped to the Feds and then hoodled back again. Austin hoped to the Feds just before the 1915 season opened, and Colonel Hedges, left at the last, had to dig up the $5,500 to get his third baseman and sunday manager back on the job.

Fielder Jones wants to retire the veteran and put Charlie Deal at third for the 1916 Browns, believing the youngster certain to shine in the big show. But he can't find any way to rid himself of Austin. It is expected that the St. Louis club will place him with some American Association club, paying the difference on his ironclad contract.

Out in St. Louis they are warning American League fans to prepare to cheer the appearance of Johny Tobin with the Browns this season, predicting a wonderful future for him. Tobin, not being a jumper or offered to the Giants by Sinclair, has escaped the organized boosting given Kauff and others. The Federal League records show Tobin with the largest number of bingles last year, 186 in all for an average of .299. He ranked second in total bases, third in scoring runs, and fourth in home runs. He is considered a finished fielder, and his admirers in the Mound City say that he will give all competition argument next summer.

The Pacific Coast League fears that Sunday baseball will be cut out in Oregon. Some one has dug up a law passed in 1861 forbidding almost everything but breathing and praying on Sundays. Recently the supreme court pronounced this law valid and in force. Under it only bakeries, hotels and undertaking establishments can do business. You can eat, sleep and be buried on Sunday in Oregon without a fuss.

If baseball is abolished on Sundays in Portland, the club will have to give up its franchise. Only by good weather on Sundays is the club able to keep its head above the water. Some of the Portland owners fear that a crank will invoke this law the first Sunday a game is staged.

Tommy Rice, who once enlivened the Capital, put this in his Brooklyn paper the other day. It's worth repeating:

"I took a 'pill' the other night,
Said the gay young sport as he snitched a light—
I thought I dwelt in the "Promised Land"
Where fighters fought and the baseball band
Played twice a day to a packed grandstand,
Where the golfers golfed and the racers raced,
And the trotters trot, and the pacers paced,
Where the hockeyers hocked on perpetual ice,
Where poker raged and all threw dice—
And nobods talked of price."

Joe McGinnity, former star twirler with Christy Matthewson of the Giants, is reported "flat broke" out in Tacoma, owing to his lack of money, he may sell his ball club, being unable to keep it going. McGinnity cut all his savings into the Tacoma club, and for a year or two did well. The last two seasons ruined him, though, and now he is on the rocks.

Red-Hot Stove Is Fatal to Quintet

SNOHOMISH, Ore., Feb. 3.—Snohomish lost its star guard last night, when West, who is a strong player at that position, sat down on a red-hot stove while discussing the game with the coach. West attempted to play in the contest with the Wenatchee team, but because of the burns inflicted by coming in contact with the hot iron he had difficulty in bending over and getting the ball. He was taken from the game and his team lost, 24 to 12.

WILLARD WON'T BOX DILLON IN GOTHAM

Tom Jones, Manager of World's Champion, Spikes Rumors and Predicts Action Today.

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—For the first time since flocks of promoters started their wild bidding for the services of Jess Willard, champion heavyweight, Tom Jones, Willard's manager, admitted today that things looked like business.

After spiking numerous reports, including one that Willard and Jack Dillon had been matched to meet in New York, Jones announced that matters may be settled today.

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—Maybe a preliminary bout will be staged in Chicago today or tomorrow between Jack Curley and Tom Jones, both of whom claim to be Jess Willard's manager, that will be almost as interesting as the Willard-Dillon, Willard-Moran, or Willard-Wagner bout scheduled for this spring.

Jack Curley has matched Willard to fight Jack Dillon ten rounds here between April 10 and April 22. Jones hasn't said much or anything about a New York bout for Jess, but he has tolerated some talk of a Willard-Moran go along in March. Curley is on his way to Chicago to talk it over with Jones. Willard seems to be the only man in the squabble who doesn't get a look-in on the argument as to who is managing him.

Before he went away Curley passed about for publication a copy of the Willard-Dillon fight agreement, between Sam Murbarger for Dillon and Harry Pollock and himself for Willard. This agreement, upon which Jones has not commented, gives Dillon the right to box with Frank Moran, who has never been now and the date of his go with Willard, automatically eliminating Moran as a Willard challenger if Dillon wins his.

Another angle of the snarl popped up when Tex Rickard, who has offered Tom Jones $50,000 for the Willard-Moran battle, in New York some time in March, talked with Jones over the phone and reported that Jones said he would give him an answer as to whether he would arrange the bout today. Rickard says Jones said the Willard-Dillon talk was "ridiculous" and that he alone is Willard's manager.

Bamman Wins Easily From Burch At Y.M.C.A.

F. C. Bamman, the former captain and mainstay of the Princeton University Swimming team, last night proved himself the star performer in the eighth contest of a series of swimming events held in the Y. M. C. A. pool.

Starting from scratch position, Bamman won easily over Burch who finished second with 18 seconds handicap. Knipe was third starting with 20 seconds handicap.

In the next contest, which will conclude the series there will be but one event, the fancy diving contest, to take place in the Y pool February 23.

'TWAS EVER THUS AND ALWAYS WILL BE

TODAY'S SPORTORIAL

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

Little by little the diamond season creeps closer. Already the magnates are dropping out of the sport pages, giving way to managers and players. And this is just to the taste of the fans, tired of the ceaseless bickerings of the past two years. When the first week of warm weather comes, and the grass begins to look green, and the buds appear on the trees, the past will be forgotten. The fans will begin planning for the coming campaign. Right now baseball gossip is improving around town. By the time the athletes report the "bugs" will be in full swing, demanding their columns of baseball dope. And they'll get it, too.

Now comes a "masked marvel" in a dog show. Assist me! Assistance!

Garry Herrmann has been quoted as saying that, with the ending of wartime contracts no big league pitcher will draw down more than $4,000 a year. Barney Dreyfuss, the Pirates' owner, says he knows of no such a scheme to limit the salaries of players in the National League. Clark Griffith denies all knowledge of such a scheme in the American League. Nevertheless some such scheme will have to be introduced, if the losses of the last couple of years are to be made up in the near future. The bottom came close to falling out of the national game by the invasion of the Federal League. Happily, it didn't quite fall through. There is sufficient foundation upon which to build even a greater structure than ever before. Salary limits will aid much.

Yale's football troubles have only begun. Now they must lift the captain up in his studies.

Matching Jack Dillon with Jess Willard may not be so very wrong. Allow that the world's champion will have some sixty pounds advantage, some foot in height in his favor, and several inches advantage in reach, that does not mean that he will have any easy time disposing of Dillon. The Indianapolis slugger is a mixer. He is bound to get inside of Willard's left now and then, and after he has landed some of his pile-driving rights and lefts up against the champion's midrib, the latter may not look a bit bigger than his antagonist.

Dillon against Willard will remind ring followers of the days when Joe Walcott made the biggest men of the ring "come down to him." Walcott did it by slugging. Hardly five feet in height and never weighing 150 pounds in his life, he knocked out real heavyweights as if they had been welters. Dillon is much after the style of Walcott. He is short and heavily built. He can take a punch to land one. Since emerging into the light heavyweight class he has done better than he ever did as a middleweight. Willard is going to have a heap of trouble winning from the Indianapolis man.

There seems a feeling of deep doubt among boxing fans when Willard's ability comes up for discussion. He won from Jack Johnson, true; but he had to let Jack wear himself out in the hot sun, and never looked like a winner until twenty-six rounds had gone. The referee admitted that he would have been compelled to give the bout to Johnson had it stopped at the twentieth round. Willard is far from being a clever boxer. He is not known as a good absorber of punishment, either. Despite his weight, height, and reach, he will have small advantage over Dillon, for the latter is a real fighter, not a shadow of a man.

Firmin Cassignol, of France, would play Willie Hoppe. Can it be that Firmin has forgotten to peek in the record book.

Some writers, in their handling of the National Commission story have asserted that Ban Johnson's desire to change the line-up is based on his feeling that the National League gets much the better of all questions involving both big leagues. Of course, this is nothing more than an insinuation that Garry Herrmann is not eminently fair. It is doubtful if Ban Johnson ever said such a thing, or even thought it. It was Ban who made Garry chairman of the commission when it was first formed to control the game, and Ban has kept him there ever since. Ban knows better than anybody else that Garry Herrmann is the ideal man for the position. Only Herrmann's phlegmatic temperament could keep the commission out of hot water from one end of a season to another.

It is possible that there will be a new line-up of the National Commission within a year or so, but it will not come with the ousting of Herrmann. A major league player may be given a place on the board, and, perhaps, some minor league player may land a berth, but it's good betting that Garry Herrmann will also be on the commission. The boss of the Reds has frequently leaned backward in his desire to be square when the Cincinnati club was involved in some discussion before the commission. When a man does that his fairness should not be impugned. Herrmann has done that on several occasions. Ban Johnson knows this, and so, therefore, it is wrong for anybody to hint that the czar of the American League is gunning for Herrmann's scalp.

Ty Cobb Will Prepare Canines for Hunting

SAVANNAH, Ga., Feb. 3.—Ty Cobb, part owner of a hunting preserve and trainer of hunting dogs. These are two titles that may be added to the name of the world's greatest ball player.

Together with H. C. Rogers, a clothing manufacturer, John Philip Sousa, jr., and several other men he has bought a plantation of 6,000 acres along the Savannah river in Georgia, and will use it as a hunting grounds. They will stock the place with game, and go there every winter for the season's session with the rifle.

Cobb has been assigned the job of training dogs to be used on the hunts. He can prepare a dog for a hunt as well as he can "bone" a bat for a campaign against the pitchers of the American League.

Eagles Winners.

The Eagles came from behind last night at the Noel House gym and defeated the Americans by 9 to 8 in the last period. The Americans led by eight points at the start of the second quarter. Mansey and Thomas were the stars for the winners.

WALTER CAMP BACK IN GRIDIRON SADDLE

"Father of Yale Football" Will Occupy Old Place As Adviser to Coach.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 3.—Walter Camp, father of football at Yale, is once more in the saddle. Through the earnest efforts of Capt. "Cupid" Black, of the 1916 eleven, Camp has agreed to act as football adviser, taking a place on the committee with Vance McCormick, M. S. B. Thorne, '96, John H. Kilpatrick, '11, and Joseph R. Swan, '12. Frank Hinkey, last season's coach, is expected to act in a scouting capacity this fall.

The return of Camp to the football helm meets with the support of all Yale men everywhere, and today the undergraduates here are celebrating. They believe that Camp will succeed in putting Yale back at the top of the football procession.

"Tad" Jones was formally appointed coach for 1916, '17, and '18 at last night's meeting of the football committee. Mike Sweeney, now at Hill School, Pottstown, Pa., has been named general athletic adviser.

The Yale Daily News comes out in a strong demand for reinstatement of the five athletes barred for playing summer baseball at Quogue, Long Island, as follows:

"If the Yale eligibility committee, as the Harvard Crimson suggests, feels relutant in taking this step of reinstating the men for fear of putting Yale in a false light with other institutions, this should do more than anything else to put them at their ease.

"It is a question of whether Yale ought to mete out justice to five victims of her own athletic system or whether she should sacrifice them on an altar of her own building in the name of clean athletics. If sacrificing individual justice in this case would condone for Yale's past laxness in regard to summer baseball, or if it would affect her future conduct, there might be grounds for hesitation. It does, however, neither.

"We can see but one course open to the Yale athletic authorities. Admit Yale's own guilt, reinstate the men, and then take such steps as will guarantee in the future a system that will preclude the possibilities of laxness on the part of the authorities and ignorance on the part of the players. Why hesitate longer?"

New Professional Is Here for Chevy Chase

George Sargent Leaving March 1 For Minneapolis And Will Be Succeeded By Jack Burgess, Who Is Scotchman and Hails From Pittsburgh.

"Jack" Burgess, the new professional who is to hold sway at the Chevy Chase Club is today making himself acquainted with the course and visiting for the first time the scene of his future efforts. Together with George Sargent, the retiring professional, Burgess walked over the snow-clad hills of Maryland, and was made familiar with the new course which has only recently been adopted.

Burgess comes to Washington from the Pittsburgh Golf Club, where he has been for the entire four years he has been in this country. He is a native of Montrose, Scotland, and received his golfing education under the tutelage of leading Scotch professionals. He has taken the place of George Sargent, national open champion in 1909, who has gone West to take charge of the links of the Minnekadah Club, where the national open championship will be played this year.

George Sargent, who is leaving the Chevy Chase Club for the Minnekadah Club, of Minneapolis, where the national open championships will be decided this year, was open champion in 1909. He has been at Chevy Chase in the capacity of professional for six and one-half years. There is no member of the Maryland club but who regrets to see the popular professional leave the Club, but all appreciate that he is going to a big field in Minneapolis.

The Chevy Chase Club possesses one of the oldest and most famous courses in the country, having become a member of the U. S. G. A. in 1896. All the recent presidents of the United States have been elected to membership, and Woodrow Wilson and William H. Taft have made many rounds of the course.

Women's Championship to Be Played on Boston Links

BOSTON, Feb. 3.—Miss Louisa A. Wells, secretary of the Women's Eastern Golf Association, announced the dates for the holding of the women's Eastern championship for June 5-10, on some Boston course, which will be selected in the near future. It is Boston's turn to hold the championship as New York held it in 1914 and Philadelphia in 1915. Mrs. C. H. Vanderbeck, present national champion, is also the holder of the Eastern title.

The championship is decided at thirty-six holes medal play, and will be contested June 5 and 6, while the other three days will be devoted to the tri-city matches between New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, for the Griscom Cup. The Women's Metropolitan Golf Association has been waiting for the dates of the Eastern championship before deciding on the dates of the metropolitan championship, in order to keep the dates from conflicting and to insure a good representation of New York women on the metropolitan team in the tri-city matches.

Won't Cost So Much To Lose a Golf Ball

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—A cut of from 10 to 15 cents in the retail price of golf balls was announced by the dealers today. This cut will apply only to the cheaper grade of balls and is due to the running out of the Haskell patent, which expires on April 11. Both imported and American balls selling at 75 cents will remain at the same figure.

It is expected that the British shilling ball will be sold in this country in future and American manufacturers are now turning out a ball at a quarter to compete with the English article.

Baker's Dozen Will Try Conclusions in Tank

Thirteen swimmers of the Washington Swimming Club will compete in the semi-monthly swimming events to be held in the tank at the Y. M. C. A. gym tonight.

But one event is carded for tonight, this being the 220-yard crawl. An eighth of a mile crawl race is considered more of an endurance race than a dash event, and for this reason Manager Ainsley carded but one event.

The following athletes will compete: Elliason, Thompson, Rutherford, Karrick, Runge, Bennett, Cousin, Hassart, Tiser, Knight, Burch, Dammont, and Ainsley.

Green Elected.

Ralph Green will pilot the destinies of the Highland A. C. following last night's election of officers. James A. Sopher was chosen to manage the football team, while Charles Etzler was picked as captain. An effort will be made to place a team in the Potomac Baseball League this summer.

MINCE PIE.

A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING. By "Bugs" Baer.

Being leap year, this month has twenty-nine days. If baseball managers can't win the pennant with an extra day to claim it in then they never will.

In the old days at St. Louis the sold hard drinks in hard bottles. Following an adverse decision the hard bottles were carried off the umps done. In an effort to alleviate the suffering among umpires, craniums the management cut the hard fluid and decided to sell only soft drinks. No benefit was derived from this innovation, as soft drinks in hard bottles are just as dangerous as hard drinks in hard bottles. The bottles bounced as well. Now some Luther Burbank, jr., has come to the umps relief by inventing soft drinks in soft bottles, which may solve the situation if the seats are nailed down.

Answers To Queeries.

Editor Queeries—I have been taking on weight tremendously in the last few years, and nothing I do seems to do me any good. I have followed the doctor's order to exercise very faithfully, having fired my chauffeur and am driving my own car. Even playing billiards doesn't reduce my weight. What, oh, what, shall I do? PHILIP N. OTHER.

Why not fire your valet and roll your own cigarettes?

Queeries Ed.—Last week I see that you made several references to a Chinese boxer. You know as well as I do that there is no such thing as a Mongolian boxer and never will be.

AL MOND.

Friend Al: Your name must be pronounced the way it looks. Didn't you ever hear of the Boxer uprisings in China?

Queeries Column—Following an unfortunate altercation, when I asked a barkeep to give me some Canadian whiskey for that kind of a dime, I have been unusually deaf and nearsighted. This has deprived me of a livelihood, as I formerly was employed by buffet proprietors to detect burned match ends among the cloves. Can you advise me as to how I could secure employment? HARDLEIGH ZANE

You possess all the sincere qualifications for a capable umpire at present. However, take care you don't become convalescent.

Queeries Editor—I am an ardent golfer, but, otherwise, my habits are exemplary. The other day I went out in 98 and came back in 102. How can I better my game? Yours,

GENERAL LEE TOPHAM

Go out in 1916 and don't come back.

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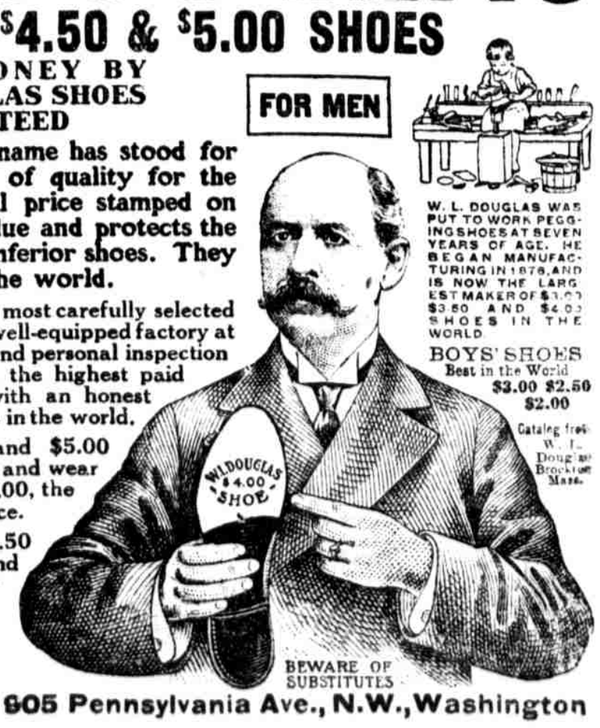

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