

# NEWS OF THE SPORT WORLD

## PORTLAND WARMS TO NORTHWESTERN

### McCredie Says He is Destined to Cast Lot in Local Circuit.

Portland, Dec. 12.—That the Northwestern League officials with whom Judge McCredie conferred in Seattle are anxious to have him join a member of their circuit, and that prospects, as presented by the northwestern, appear bright for the 1918 season, are some of the items of interest which Judge McCredie gleaned from his visit to the Sound City.

President Blawett of the Northwestern League, and David Dugdale, owner of the Seattle club, were the only two baseball officials whom I talked to while in Seattle," said McCredie on his return to Portland.

"They outlined, as nearly as possible, what their plans were for next season. Both Blawett and Dugdale appeared anxious to have Portland in their circuit. Every club had been asked to join the Northwestern League. They are of the opinion that our presence in the league would be the means of stimulating a world-wide enthusiasm into the other cities of the circuit.

"We did not go much into the detail of what cities would constitute the Northwestern League but I look to see the same cities—Spokane, Tacoma, Seattle, Vancouver, Butte and Great Falls—constitute the personnel of the league together with Portland and one other city, say Aberdeen, Everett, Walla Walla, Boise or Helena.

"The consensus of opinion seemed to be that the Montana cities—Butte and Great Falls—ought to stay with the league. Great Falls, they say, is a fine ball town. Butte is thriving and the business men of that city, I understand, are anxious again to enter the league.

"Last season they played seven games a week. This phase of the situation we did not discuss. The salary and player limit was not mentioned, except that the northern officials are greatly peeved over the decision of the National Association of Minor League clubs in denying the Northwestern League players free agents. Both Blawett and Dugdale stated they have many applications from players anxious to join the Northwestern League but I look to see that we are destined to cast our lot with the Northwesterners. The situation is so perplexing that one is hardly justified in trying to guess the outcome. I can say that if the Pacific Coast League wants Portland we will be pleased to remain a member of the league. As a result, but if we are required to leave the league we are ready to put a team into the Northwestern League. That experience has taught Sacramento business men that their city will not be organized baseball and for that reason I have no doubts about their willingness to accept the Portland franchise if they are tied down to the financial agreement.

## BASEBALL FRANCHISE DROPS FROM \$150,000 TO \$1 IN TWO YEARS

Just two years ago Judge William Wallace McCredie, owner of the Portland franchise in the Pacific Coast League, was offered \$150,000 for his baseball holdings.

Robert L. Stevens, E. W. Wright and a group of other sportsmen of Portland made the offer.

McCredie refused to sell. "After that he couldn't sell. No one wanted a baseball franchise."

Three weeks ago the Coast League met and voted to permit the sale of the franchise and announced that Sacramento would pay \$20,000 for his franchise.

The deal was on and the judge didn't get his \$150,000.

The word came from San Francisco a short time ago that the Portland franchise would get a pleasant smile and the customary legal tender. "I can't sell my franchise," he would be allowed to keep his players.

## FAMOUS PUGILIST WINS BATTLE WITH JOHN BARLEYCORN

George "Kid" Lavigne, one of the greatest lovers who ever donned a glove and whom many figured the best light-weight the world ever saw, has won another battle—and a victory that has brought him greater happiness than did any contest in the prize ring.

The "Fighting Kid" who some time ago was given a benefit in New York, he is about to return to Detroit, has been living in the Michigan city for the past six months and has been on the verge of leaving the occasion due to drink. He has pulled himself together and "come back."

A few months ago they were flouting on sending Lavigne to an asylum. He was taken into custody after he had beaten his wife. Friends interceded and he was given another chance on the promise that he would "go straight."

The research department of a big automobile concern became interested in his case and furnished him employment as a bench worker.

A report has been made public of Lavigne's progress. It says that he has made good at his work and, besides, is able to punch the clock twice a day.

## KILLIFER PULLS ONE "BONE" IS UNNOTICED

Boris Casey, the umpire, who is wintering in Portland, Ore., tells what he considers is the prize "bone" story of the coast league. It passed unnoticed in the last series between the Angels and Tigers. "Red" Killifer was playing third.

The Angels were in the field with two Vernon players in the stacks. Casey was umpiring behind the plate. The ball was tossed around the infield. When it came to Killifer he looked at it and seeing that it was slightly roughened, tossed it to the Los Angeles bench, calling for another ball.

Casey waited a moment, then tossed another into play. Bole, who was watching, turned around and said: "Did you call time?"

He hadn't and the Vernon players could both have scored had they been "wise" to the situation.

Neither crowd nor players of either team noticed this lapse of memory on the part of Killifer.

**FACT.**  
I've been in many cities.  
From Fresno to Norwalk;  
But I never met a barber  
Who didn't like to talk.

## WOMEN WAR WORKERS WILL WIN WAY IN SPORTS MERE MAN THOUGHT ALL HIS OWN



At Top—American women skaters knitting Red Cross things for soldiers and at bottom an English woman munition worker making a "good save" at "soccer."

Woman in the war is going to do much toward changing the sports of the feminine world. They'll indulge in rougher, more strenuous games than their previous sisters did.

They'll take more football and baseball. They'll play more on many fields. There will be two reasons for this. One is because so many young fellows will be in the fighting ranks and there'll be that many empty niches on the diamond, gridiron and field. The other reason is that more women will be doing man's work, getting accustomed to man's way of seeking recreation.

Over in England women workers in war factories spend more of their recreation hours playing "men's games." Why shouldn't they? They are doing men's work.

Women and girls are going to take a larger share in American outdoor sports as the war goes on. And the chances are that they will continue along the same path after the war. Who knows how soon we will read in our Spalding's or Reach's guide that "Susie Smith leads the battlers of the National League with 415," and that "Katie Kinzie is the best pitcher in the American League with a winning percentage of 367."

## TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN COST OF MAINTAINING A LEAGUE TEAM THESE DAYS

New York, Dec. 12.—One of the effects of the war is the necessity for a radical readjustment of the professional baseball structure and of the many proposed innovations and curtailments suggested, the limitation of each club roster to 18 players has aroused the greatest discussion. Magnates in both of the major leagues are sharply aligned in favor of opposition to this amendment to the rules and it is likely that there will be considerable controversy before the matter is adjudged.

The proposal is one which permits of much argument with plenty of facts to support the contentions of the debaters. For instance it has been pointed out that no club is required, at the present time, to carry the full limit of players and might go through the season with 15 if it so desired. Clubs favoring a maximum of 15 offer in rebuttal the statement that certain organizations, financially capable of supporting a 25 player team, would under such conditions have a decided advantage over the club which could not afford, in war times, to carry more than 20 at the outside. From other unofficial sources comes the claim that the reduction is advocated by certain clubs, the permanent chances of which would be greatly strengthened if other formidable opponents were forced to cut down their playing staffs to conform with the proposed requirements.

The adoption of the rule would also require, in all probability, a change in the national agreement which at the present time places a maximum limit of 25 players upon the clubs of the American and National leagues during the greater portion of the playing season. This is further reduced to 22 in the case of the National League through a regulation in force in the senior organization, while the American League holds to 25.

One baseball authority here, at the point that the cost of maintaining a big league team has increased tremendously in the past 12 months and is likely to advance still further during the season of 1918. The charge for hotel accommodations and meals, both on the trains and

while playing in rival cities, has reached figures far beyond those existing in previous years. The war tax alone on railroad and Pullman reservations will add something like 15 per cent to the transportation charges of traveling teams.

That numerous pennants have been won in past years by clubs with considerably less than the number of players allowed at this time is shown by a search of the records of the national game. During the early seventies National League teams played through the season without approaching the 18 player limit. The first of the American League clubs ranged from 17 to 20.

A fair list on the number of players used in recent years can be gained from the lists of eligibles for the world series as promulgated by the national commission each season since 1905. The teams, of course, in each case were the winners of their respective league pennants and yet the records disclose that

## SHARKEY SAYS HIS YEARS IN NAVY WERE HAPPIEST

Los Angeles, Dec. 12.—Tom Sharkey, out-time heavy-weight boxer and now partner of Jim Jeffries in business here, is mighty proud of Uncle Sam's navy boys these days. Every time the Jack Tars down at San Pedro start a benefit to bolster up the athletic fund, Sharkey is with them with his aid and funds.

Sharkey saw 11 years of service in the navy, from 1885 to 1896, and not only popularized boxing aboard ship, but developed into the undisputed scrapper of the navy and came mighty near developing into the champion of the world.

"I was the guy that introduced boxing in the navy," said Sharkey here. "When I first joined the navy I was on the old Vermont, which was at that time in

Brooklyn harbor. I had a set of boxing gloves and some gymnasium apparatus with me when I went on board ship and I know the sailors looked on me as some sort of a nut."

"I managed to dig up a few sparring partners and some of the boys started to take a bit of interest in the sport."

"Then I was transferred to the Philadelphia and we were stationed at Honolulu for a long time, and I continued my boxing. It wasn't long before I was the real champion of the ship, and then other ships took up the sport."

"One time in Honolulu they picked a big fellow named Big Burley to fight me and we battled on deck. I beat Burley in eight rounds and the officers who

watched the scrap liked it, and from that time on boxing was encouraged.

"It wasn't long before other ships took up boxing and before long every ship had its champion. The prospects for the 1918 team are not bright. Layton is the only veteran left and it is believed that many other players will soon enlist for the war."

Seven of the regulars on the Syracuse football eleven for the past season have enlisted in the United States service.

Zhyzko easily won from Christensen in their bout at the international wrestling tournament in New York last night. The time was 21 minutes. Old Doc Rolter of Spokane won from some gink by the name of Heracle in 14 minutes. If Rolter could throw Heracle in that time a man who can wrestle ought to be able to put him away in about 30 seconds.

Jess Willard says he will fight if a suitable purse is offered. Suitable is an elastic word, which in Jess' case probably means about half the gold reserve for six rounds.

Jack Dillon and George Chip are the top-liners of a boxing show billed to take place in Duluth this month.

Jimmy Duffy, the Buffalo scrapper, stated in court recently that he cleaned up the tidy sum of \$19,000 in 1915.

Charley Neary, the veteran Milwaukee

## FIELDING BETTER DURING SEASON

### Official Records in National Show Improvement Over Last Year.

The official fielding records of the National league released for the season of 1917 show substantial improvement in this department by comparison with the 1916 ratings. The total fielding chances offered the past season were 52,196, of which unusually large total but 1,877 were cleanly played. In the season of 1916 the total chances offered were 51,732 and the misplays 1,930. The Boston, Brooklyn and Cincinnati clubs increased their respective error totals over their 1916 figures, but these lapses were more than offset by the improved defensive work of the five other clubs.

The champions led the league in fielding and were charged with the lowest number of errors—208. The New York catchers also marked up an unusually low record of passed balls, with seven for the 138 games. St. Louis had the greatest number of fielding chances, namely, 6,880; Pittsburgh the lowest with 6,460.

New York played 45 errorless games, Philadelphia, 43; St. Louis, 37; Boston and Pittsburgh, 35 each; Cincinnati and Brooklyn 34 each, and Chicago, 33.

In individual play, John Miller led the first basemen with an average of .998, with Holke credited with the greatest number of chances offered—1,724. Miller's record of one error in 545 chances is noteworthy.

The second basemen were led by John Rawlings of Boston, a newcomer, with 87 accepted chances out of 478 offered in 96 games. Dave Sheen had 774 chances—the top figure—which he missed 29.

Henry Groh played in 154 games at third and headed all others in that position with an average of .966, he making but 18 errors in more than half a thousand opportunities. Harad had most chances offered (530), followed by Zimmerman with 525.

At shortstop, John Rawlings again appears in first place. The honors, however, belong to Arthur Fletcher, with Maranville following. The first named had 880 chances offered, of which he accepted all but 23.

William Kuntz, playing his first complete season, had 514 chances in 145 games.

Charles Jackson of Pittsburgh heads the outfielders, being charged with but one error in 36 games. George Paskert, having played in 128 contests, is entitled to the leadership. Max Carey had the unusually large total of 478 chances, of which he accounted all but 166. Charles Stengel is first with 30 assists from the outfield, Carey following with 25.

## SLIGHT CHANGE MADE IN SMOKER PROGRAM

A slight change has been made in the card as announced for Friday night's smoker at the Connolly gymnasium.

Instead of Private Ed Hunt meeting "Spider" Kelly, "Ed" Uron will be Kelly's opponent. Hunt and Uron boxed a draw last Friday night and the mixing in the final stages was fast and furious. Hunt says that he wants more time to train before meeting Kelly so Uron has been substituted. The bout should be a good one as both men are in the best of condition.

The prospects for the show as usual have been placed on sale at the uptown cigar stores, and the general public as well as the regular club members will be admitted to the tourney.

Five four-round bouts have been listed and the first will be called promptly at 8:30, with Col. Dan Donohue as the third man in the ring.

## LAYTON IS CAPTAIN

Missoula, Dec. 12.—Jack Layton, a member of the state university football team for three years, was chosen captain of the 1918 eleven at a meeting held yesterday. Prospects for the 1918 team are not bright. Layton is the only veteran left and it is believed that many other players will soon enlist for the war.

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## FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



HE GOT A RIDE—ON DAD'S KNEE.

At The Butte

He will a front The Even to He Meyer JAZZ ORCHESTRA

It's an Entertainment To Tell About in Private

You will have to be in attendance to appreciate this de Luxe orchestra. An elegant tableaux, soft lights and palpitating music.

**BUTTE GR**

Every Evening

27—East Broadway

**SPORTS CHATTER**

"Irish" Patsy Kline proved to be a surprise when he clashed with Benny Leonard last night at Philadelphia. He had the champion working hard and the best Leonard could get from the critics from the bout was a "shade." Kline made the champion go at top speed all the way.

Henry Irstinger, who claims the middleweight championship, has started work from Atlantic City, N. J. Irstinger claims that he has cleaned up everything in his class and now he is going out after the heavyies. His next opponent will be "Bill" Demetral, the same "Bill" that appeared before Butte audiences on several occasions. The bout will be staged in Chicago on December 19.

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**THE FIXED**

When old man Alan was in Greece so long ago. He never missed a chance. His views on the subject.

He told of all the stories. And when he got back to the States he missed a chance in the whole island of...

But of all the tales of the one that I told you. Is the one in which the... When the rabbit took...

Believe me, he has done well. The rabbits had the... Before their belt was...