They Never Look for a New Manager to Take Charge of a Pennant Winning Team

CALL'S DOUBLE PAGE OF SPORTS

CINCINNATI HIT IS ON ITS WAY

Powers of Baseball Likely to Legislate It Out of Commission Next Year

By JOE MURPHY

The "Cincinnati base hit" is likely to pass out of existence before the followers of the game are really acquainted with it. It has lasted a season in organized baseball, which was entirely too long, and lawmakers of baseball who are to meet shortly and frame rules for the coming season are about to put the crusher on Garry Herrmann's crude piece of baseball legislation.

The passing of the Cincinnati hit will be welcomed by the players and followers of the game, as there is nothing to recommend it. A player is given credit for a hit that he does not deserve, while the pitcher is given a black mark when he really is deserving of credit.

When the fans became acquainted with this farcical rule, they voiced their disapproval of it. The players were always against it, as they realized that it was entirely without merit.

The "Cincinnati hit" is almost certain to be abolished next season. This is one of the important matters to come up for consideration when the baseball moguls meet shortly to frame baseball rules.

Up to the season of 1913, the "Cincinnati hit" was credited as a fielder's choice.

The worst knock this particular piece of baseball legislation sustained was during the world's series. In one of the games Frank Baker, the mighty third sacker of the Athletics, grounded to Merkle, who was playing first for the Giants. Merkle lost Baker on his way to first, and Eddie Murphy scored from third. Merkle should have had either Baker or Murphy. At the same time Baker was credited with a hit.

Mathewson, who was pitching, did everything that was expected of him, but was a victim of Merkle's crude work, but still at the same time Mathewson was credited with allowing a hit.

The "Cincinnati hit" is really the result of a player's poor judgment. They make a play for a man on the bases on a hit ball. The result is the player reaches the sack before the ball gets there, or else the throw is wide, drawing the guardian of the sack off the bag, and though he handles the ball perfectly is not in position to make the out. If the fielder had played for the batter he would have been able to make an easy out.

The pitcher, who is nowise at fault, gets the discredit on the score sheet. The lawmakers of baseball will make no mistake in putting this rule out of commission.

* * *

The California league is having its troubles. The usually easy going Henry Berry of the Los Angeles club, who is also the leading spirit of the Fresno club of the California league, is opposed to Happy Hogan of the Stockton club putting Ham Patterson in as manager of the Slough city team. Hen thinks that Ham is too much of a belligerent to run any club and he is afraid that Patterson might disrupt the league if he was allowed to be the boss.

Berry has come out boldly and stated that there would not be any California league if Patterson was in command of the Stockton crew. Apparently, Hap is not going to start any trouble, and he is now looking about for another manager.

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The big league moguls are worried at the advancement made by the Federal league, and it is predicted that in less than two years the so called outlaw league will be allowed to enter the fold of organized baseball.

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There seems to be a field big enough for three major leagues. Fielder Jones, president of the Northwestern league, made the startling announcement that he is in favor of the launching of the outlaw Federal league. Jones is regarded as one of the shrewdest men in baseball. Jones contends that a third league would be a benefit to the game.

Connie Mack Paid A Nice Tribute by Governor J. K. Tener

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 17.—Governor John K. Tener, former baseball star and now governor of Pennsylvania, arrived in Detroit recently with Mrs. Tener. The governor had some characteristic remarks to make regarding baseball and politics, his interest in the former topic having been quickened by the fact that he is the president of the National league.

"Politics and baseball are in no sense alike," said Governor Tener. "Today we find that baseball is a business institution of great proportions. Its chief asset is its honesty. I want to make clear my belief that there is no faking in baseball, and as an institution it depends on a continuation of honesty.

"People are no different now than they were in P. T. Barnum's day. They like to be fooled, and very often in politics the man who fakes the most is the man who has the greatest success."

Governor Tener paid his respects to Connie Mack and his world's champion club at Philadelphia.

"His success is largely due to the fact that he can put a team in the field of nien men who have never tasted liquor," said the governor. "Of that wonderful infield of his none ever tasted liquor and but one ever used tobacco.

"Connie Mack's success is substantial. Every move he makes is with a definite purpose. There is no grandstanding, no playing to the gallery with him. He is in baseball to win games, and his every effort is devoted to that end.

"I have no policy for rebuilding the National league, because the league needs no rebuilding. Baseball is not sick, in that league or any other league. The National league is in a splendid condition."

Harry Slips Another One Over on the Judge

By Tad

Slattery's Spikes

NOW that Ritchie and Murphy have been rematched, the followers of affairs pugilistic will be willing enough to leave them alone for a while and turn their attention to the big fellows, Gunboat Smith and Arthur Pelkey, who are going to furnish the ring attraction on New Year's day. It's the most important heavy weight bout that San Francisco has known in a great many years, and there is a chance that the winner will be proclaimed heavy weight champion of all the world. Anyhow, he will have just as much of a license to claim said title as any of the others of either color.

* * *

EVERYBODY is telling everybody else that Smith is going to be a favorite over Pelkey, although nobody has started any betting up to the present time. Two years ago, any bruiser with a mortgaged reputation could step in here and rule a choice over the Gunner, but there have been many switches during that time.

* * *

THE Gunner is without doubt the most formidable looking white hope in existence today. The way in which he managed to clean up all comers around New York and other eastern cities is proof positive that he must pack the right brand of stuff around with him, although he never showed it to us here.

* * *

SMITH must be given credit for fighting his way up to the top and winning what he has won on his merits. Pelkey, on the other hand, gained fame and a reputation through one unfortunate battle last spring. This does not mean that he is not a capable fighter, but it just goes to show what luck and circumstances will bring about.

* * *

TOMMY BURNS, the former heavy weight champion of the world, is authority for the statement that Pelkey is the best big man in the ring today. Burns has had experience enough as a fighter to know a live one when he sees him. He believes that he has solvd the white hope puzzle in this New England giant.

* * *

IT IS unfortunate, indeed, that the sports of San Francisco have been unable to get a good line on Pelkey before this very important battle. History tells us that our fans like to know a fighter before they trust him or bet their money on him, but, of course, it is not Pelkey's fault that he never took a flyer in the ring here.

* * *

HE'S a big, strong, dangerous looking chap and he is going to have many a pound on the Gunner when they square off in the ring. If weight and strength count for anything, Pelkey is sure to have a splendid advantage. But you can't figure weight and size, because the case of Bob Fitzsimmons will kill off that argument.

* * *

BOTH men are talking about invading Europe if they are victorious. This would lead one to believe that the game is very good on the other side of the water or else to come to the conclusion that Jack Johnson and Sam Langford are surely in and will be soft for any good, husky, younk fellow who happens to tackle them.

* * *

"IF SMITH can't beat Pelkey, then he may as well quit trying to be a white hope," says Manager Jim Buckley. "And, mind you, I would not bring him all the way out here if I did not think he could, for there was plenty of money waiting for him around the big town. But it's the honor that we are after this time."

* * *

SMITH is going to have the advantage of experience and practice over Pelkey and these qualities ought to come pretty near offsetting the edge which the New Englander will have in weight and strength. Smith has been fighting right along, while Pelkey has devoted most of his time to the stage.

* * *

BUT no matter what the outcome, the battle is going to attract a whole lot of attention, not only here, but all over the world, in fact. Any time that you put on a couple of heavy weights and bill the attraction as a championship or a near championship mixup, you are bound to make the universe do a little thinking and gazing.

* * *

THE latest European dispatches lead us to believe that Jack Johnson is sure a broker and ready to grab most anything that they toss his way. He's taking on second class wrestlers now and doing the best he can. What a chance for the giant smoke to play any game like that if the bankroll were at all fat.

* * *

THIS probably is another reason why so many of our hopes express such great anxiety to cross the pond. They have about come to the conclusion with the rest of the world that the champion that was is no more and that the first man to get a crack at him will clean him up and it looks like a reasonable argument, at that.

* * *

SO THE Wisconsin boxing commission has set down Packey McFarland for a year for his conduct before and during his recent mixup with Jack Britton in Milwaukee. It's about time that they handed something to Packey, for he has been getting away with more stuff than any other fighter now before the public.

* * *

IF McFARLAND is a game fighter, he never showed any outward signs of gameness. For years and years he has been fighting so called suckers and never taking a chance. He even refuses to weigh in. And still they call him a great performer. As a matter of fact, McFarland has displayed nothing but cowardice ever since he started to mount the ladder of fame some five or six years ago.

St. Ignatius Quintet Outplays Cogswell

The 120 pound basket ball team representing the high school department of St. Ignatius colllege yesterday met and defeated the 120 pound team from Cogswell Polytechnic college by a score of 31-10. The game was played on the St. Ignatius court. Olsen, center, starred for the Cogswell quintet, with Forwards Ragan and McLoughlin playing the star game for the winners.

The teams lined up as follows: St. Ignatius, McLoughlin and Ragan, forwards; Garratt and Oliver, guards, and Doran, center.

Cogswell, F. Brant and H. Brant, forwards; Jason and O'Brien, guards, and Olsen, center.

The Sacred Heart high school five will meet the Mission high school basket ball team this afternoon on the Sacred Heart court.

MORAN LOSES TO JOE AZEVEDO ON A FOUL

Once Great British Lightweight Makes Sorry Showing Against Youngster

Owen Moran, a near champion of two years ago, has gone the route of the many. He deliberately fouled Joe Azevedo in the sixth round of their mill in Oakland last evening and Referee Jim Griffin quickly disqualified him. Moran butted his opponent several times and refused to desist when the referee warned him.

Last night's miserable showing means the passing of one of the greatest of the modern English fighters. It is difficult indeed to figure how the Britisher could have gone back so far in such a short space of time. He did not show anything last evening and he was beaten at every stage of the bout by a mere busher.

It means another feather in the cap of the Sacramento youth who leaped into the limelight last Labor day by getting a 10 round verdict over Ad Wolgast in the same ring. Azevedo showed wonderful improvement, and if he takes care of himself in the meantime he will stand an excellent chance of going to the front.

FINISH COMES IN SIXTH

The betting was 2 to 1 on Moran, with even money that he would get the decision, the other side to collect in the event of a draw. Some of the fans were a bit suspicious that a job had been put up, but their theory was wrong, for the simple reason that the so-called wise birds were all backing the Englishman.

The finish came about the middle of the sixth round, when Moran waded right in and butted his opponent several times. He was warned by Griffin, but he failed to heed the warning, coming right back and again butting Azevedo. The referee quickly stepped in between the men and proclaimed Azevedo the winner on a foul.

Moran was loud in his protest over the decision. He appealed to the newspaper men and claimed that he was doing the best he could, and that he did not foul his opponent on purpose. Nobody fell for this excuse, however, as it was very evident that the Britisher fouled to save himself from a bad beating.

AZEVEDO TAKES LEAD

Azevedo took the lead in the first round, using a straight left and a right cross to the head. Moran was bewildered and could not get away from these punches. It was almost the same in the second and in the third. Moran started to heel his opponent with his gloves and the crowd began to hiss and hoot him.

As early as the fourth the Britisher did some butting, but the referee did not see him. He showed signs of weakening in round five and his youthful opponent rushed him hard and landed nearly at will. The Moran backers gave up all hope then, and when the finish came in the following period none of them was very much surprised.

Jimmy Fitten, the Oakland welter weight, won by about two city blocks from Racehorse Munso in the four round special event, but the referee, Gus Matto, called it a draw.

Henry Hickey and Fred Hammond, substituting for Sally Salvator, went four rounds to a draw. Willie Fitzsimmons put the crusher on Jake Cohen in the third round. Kid Silva knocked out Joe Morgan in the second round. Kid Zuckarее stopped Joe Crumb in the third and Joe Belasco lasted only half a round with Kid Tobasco.

Johnson to Greet Globe Trotters

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 17.—President Ban B. Johnson of the American league and a party of Chicago baseball enthusiasts will travel to New York on a special train next March to welcome back to this country the world touring Chicago White Sox and New York Giants, according to plans announced today. The party will leave here on March 5, arriving in New York the next day in time to meet the tourists on their arrival.

EBBETS IS STILL ON TRAIL OF JOE TINKER

NE WYORK, Dec. 17.—Charles H. Ebbets, president of the Brooklyn baseball club, said today that he would reply to the message received yesterday from the Cincinnati club directors, seeking to cancel the sale of Joe Tinker to the Brooklyns for $25,000.

"I shall say in substance," said Ebbets, "what I have already said, that the deal was made in good faith and that we stand pat. For me to consider any other suggestion as to acquiring Tinker would be tacit admission that I consider the present agreement not binding.

"I am satisfied we can make satisfactory arrangements with Tinker when the time comes. The Brooklyn club would not accept $25,000 cash for him this minute. The action of the Cincinnati club is entirely without precedent. Only the highest tribunal of baseball could take him away from us. The deal was made with President Herrmann as an accredited representative of the Cincinnati club, and I shall not brook any interference from outside parties trying to influence Tinker. In purchasing him at the price we did I feel we have shown evidence of our good faith with the fans of Brooklyn."

The Brooklyn club's formal statement regarding the Tinker agreement was received tonight by John A. Heydler, secretary of the National league.

BIG FELLOWS ARE IN TRIM FOR A FAST BOUT

La Grave and Rogers Promise Plenty of Action for the Fans

Antone La Grave and Al Rogers, the husky middle weights, are hard at the grind and promise to be in the best of shape for their four round meeting at the Pavilion rink on Friday evening. Each is playing for a knockout, and unless all signs fail, one of the big fellows is surely going to fall down for the count of ten.

Every Butchertown fan with the price will be on the job to root for La Grave. He stands better over south right now than he ever stood before, and if he gets away with Rogers he will get backing to start against Sailor Petroskey or some other top notcher. Therefore, it is up to Antone to deliver this time.

But Rogers is a very tough customer. He has the punch and the strength and his awkward style has puzzled the best of them in the four round ranks. In his last meeting with La Grave, Rogers pulled a big surprise by holding Antone even, although the wise ones made the Butchertown lad a hot 2 to 1 favorite.

Another good looking mill for Friday evening is the special event, which will bring together Young Joe Gans, the highly touted black lightweight from New Orleans, and Bubbles Robinson, also black and very clever with his mitts. Gans has shown up well in his training bouts and is likely to spring a sensation on the crowd.

The bantam weight championship of the coast is at stake, and it will be up to Eddie Miller and Owen Hooker to settle it. These boys are without doubt the lleverest of their weight in this section of the country, and each has a big following.

Fred Wharton, the sensational feather weight who has been stopping all his rivals in a round, will get another chance, this time against Leo Crevier, a good boxer. If Wharton hangs one on Crevier he figures to go right to the front.

YACHTING DATES SET

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17.—Dates for two important yachting events next year were announced last night at the annual meeting of the Delaware River Yacht Racing association. The Bermuda motor boat race, under the auspices of the yachtsmen's club, will start on June 6, and the long distance offshore race will be held early in May.

ATHLETIC CHATTER

We always thought that the Englishman prided himself on the fact that he was never too old to put on a running suit, a football suit, cricket flannels, etc. How times change. How Johnny Bull has ever got in into his head that an age limit should be set is beyond us. Listen to the very drastic steps taken by Oxford university:

"Rule one, which originally provided for the disqualification from the freshman sports of a student who had resided at any time in any other university or similar institution, will exclude all competitors over 20 years of age.

"Rule two will provide that in the Oxford University Athletic club sports no competitor shall exceed the age of 24 years.

"Should the Cambridge university agree," Sporting Life says, "a third resolution may be adopted barring all men exceeding 24 years of age from the Oxford-Cambridge sports."

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If the Pacific association were to adopt this age limit business it would be pretty hard on our old Dipsea friend, Isaac Day. How about the cross country champion, Fred S. Robbins? Neither is bashful in owning up to 50 years or more.

* * *

Then if we were to go a step farther and make the rule apply to officials there would be a great slump in the official market for all kinds of sports and games. Our old standby, John Elliott, would have to pass in his checks as referee of track meets. Pete Smith has been refereeing the old football game long past the Oxford limit, and then Ed Scully and Pop Bell would have to fall overboard from the rowing association.

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If the New York Athletic club is able to bring Jean Bouin, the great French distance runner to New York, it should be a dingdong race between France and Finland. The N. Y. A. C. will stage its indoor meet at Madison Square garden in February and if Bouin accepts the invitation there will be a special race in which Kohlemainen and the Frenchman will be the headliners. The two ran 5,000 meters neck and neck at Stockholm.

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Bobby Beck is now a member of the Olympic club, which means that the winged "O" has two of the best distance swimmers in the state, with Beck and Pomeroy as a team. Beck is a comer and has a bright future, and under Coach Syd Cavill should make good in the meets next year.

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How to swim in the warm waters of the Pacific oceon on New Year day? Ask any member of the Olympic club.

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Found—A track team which refuses to take the honors of a meet on a technicality. Toronto university won the Canadian intercollegiate championship last October, but the meet was awarded to McGill because Toronto had failed to register eligible competitors. McGill positively refused to take the honors away from Toronto on these grounds. Well, well, well. Some local football leagues please take notice.

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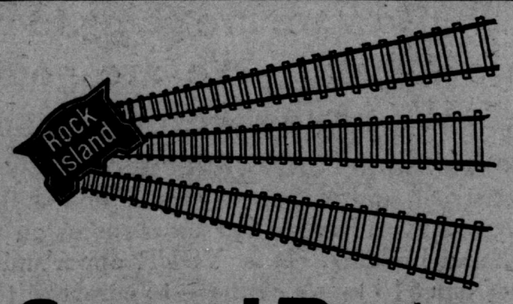

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