United States Atheletes Sustain Their Prowess During 1913

ABOVE are grouped the celebrities who will go down in athletic history as the champions of 1913 in their respective lines of sport. Key to layout: Top—left to right—Jock Soutar, racquet champion; Pat Ryan, hammerweight champion; Miss Mary Browne, women's tennis champion; Miss Gladys Ravenscroft, of England, American golf champion; John Paul Jones, champion miler. Second row, left to right: Walter Johnson, premier American league pitcher, and Harry Payne Whitney, captain of America's victorious polo team. Third row: Jake Daubert, champion batsman of the National league; Jerome D. Travers, amateur golf champion; John J. McGraw, manager of National league champions. Fourth row: Francis Ouimet (extreme left), open golf champion; Maurice E. McLoughlin, hero of Davis tennis trophy victory and national champion; Connie Mack, manager of winners of world's baseball championship; Frank Kramer, champion bicycle sprinter; Ty Cobb, champion American league batter, and (at extreme left) Joe Fogler, champion six day rider. In the center at the bottom is Christy Mathewson, leading twirler of the National league.

Fine Performance of American Champions Feature Year in Athletics.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—International competitions heightened the interest in many branches of sport during the past season and the prowess of American exponents was well sustained. The season lacked the glory of the Olympic games, but there were many competitions to engage the attention of American sport followers and to maintain their enthusiasm at concert pitch in probably as wide and varied a program of contests as the history of games and recreations in this country has ever vouchsafed.

From the international viewpoint, in all likelihood the most sustained interest was in connection with the arrival of a challenging team from the Hurlingham club of London to compete for possession of the international polo cup, which had been in its keeping for 23 years until regained for America by the Meadow Brook team under the captaincy of Harry Payne Whitney in 1909.

Baseball passed through its most successful year in the history of the national sport. There was nation wide enthusiasm over the world's championship series, played at the Brush stadium between the Philadelphia Athletics, winners of the American league pennant, and the Giants, leaders in the National league race. The result was a decisive victory for the Athletics by four games to 1.

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America was successful in regaining the Davis tennis cup from the Britishers, who won it from Australia in 1912. The American team was captained by H. H. Hackett, but the honors of the contest were gained by Maurice E. McLoughlin, of California, who was the chief factor in the triumph of the Americans. McLoughlin retained the American single championship, which he had won for the first time in 1912, and with his Western partner, T. C. Bundy, he also gained the championship doubles. Miss Mary Browne, of California, remained in possession of woman's championship.

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There was a revival of racing on the tracks in the vicinity of New York. The most successful horse in the classic events was Harry Payne Whitney's Whisk Broom II, which gained a permanent place among the stars of the turf by winning the Suburban handicap when carrying top weight in the record time of two minutes for one and a quarter miles.

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There was unusual activity in rowing. Syracuse won an unexpected victory over the hitherto invincible Cornell oarsmen at Poughkeepsie and Harvard easily won from Yale in their annual races at New London. In the American single sculls championship of the United States the United States oarsmen had to bow before the skill of a Canadian R. Dibblee, who defeated the title holder, E. B. Butler.

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Among the amateur sailors the highest honors in yachting circles among the schooners were awarded to Morton F. Plant's Elena, and a similar distinction was bestowed among the sloops to Ralph N. Ellis's Iroquois. An incident in the closing of the season was the acceptance by the New York Yacht club of a challenge from sir Thomas Lipton to race next year for the America's cup.

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Trotting and pacing did not attract as much attention as in former years. There were few records made in the light harness competition although the racing was of a high order. C. K. G. Billings's champion Uhlan, 1:58, retained his honors.

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In football there was a succession of stirring reversals of form. Harvard won the intercollegiate championship for the second consecutive time. The features of the season were Colgate's victory over Yale; Dartmouth's defeat by the Indians; West Point's remarkable success in the annual game with Annapolis, and Cornell's triumph over Pennsylvania.

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It required many years to beat the mile record of Tommy Conneff, but John Paul Jones, of Cornell finally succeeded in clipping one-fifth of a second off the mark. This was one of the greatest performances in track field athletics. Of the record performances of the season none stand out more prominently than those of Hannes Kolehmainen, the Finn runner. His five and ten mile races were American record breakers, but lacked a few seconds of Alfred Shrubb's wonderful time. Jean Bouin, the French runner, set a new mark when he beat Shrubb's time for one hour. In the shorter distancs, Howard P. Drew, a negro runner of Springfield, Mass., and Donald P. Lippincott, of Pennsylvania university appeared to advantage.

Billy Evans' Baseball Problems

Written Especially for This Paper by the Famous American League Umpire.

THERE are some batters who can hit equally well from the left or the right side of the batter's box. "Wally" Schang, the famous young catcher of the Athletics, is such a batsman. When southpaws are working against the Athletics, Schang hits right handed and vice versa. He prefers hitting left handed, as it renders his speed of greater value, but he finds that he has much better success against southpaws when he shifts to the right side. This by way of preface to the description of a simple play that caused a big riot, with a well known International League umpire as the central figure.

This umpire had been selected to preside over a series of games at a big baseball tournament held at one of the county fairs in the west, where such events are very popular. All the teams were heavily loaded for the games with minor league talent, while one team had two big league players in the line up. The team with the two big leaguers happened to be one of the teams in the final play-off. On the other team was a first baseman who had been very much in evidence with his hitting. He hit left handed.

Going into the last half of the ninth, the team with the two big leaguers led by a one run margin. With men on second and third and two out, it was the turn at bat of the hard hitting left handed first baseman. A southpaw pitcher of considerable minor league reputation had been warming up and was rushed into the fray to try to battle the left handed hitter. It so happened that this player could bat equally well either way. Believing that he was pulling something out of the ordinary, he remained in the left side of the box until the pitcher started to wind up, then he shifted to the right side, and, hitting right handed, singled cleanly to left on the first ball pitched, driving two runs across the plate.

The big leaguers rushed at the umpire as the crowd rushed on the field. Who won the game, and what did the umpire do?

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Answer to Yesterday's Problem.

THE umpire was right in ruling only one man out. While second base belonged to the man who originally held it, the runner who came up from first was exempt from being put out while standing on the base just so long as the other runner was not on it. On the return of the runner to the base in safety, then the runner who came up would be forced to vacate and be unprotected. But in this case, the man standing on second was touched before the other runner slid into the bag, hence he was not out, as at that time he was exempt. The only man out was the original holder of the base, who was tagged out before he could get back in safety. The umpire in charge of the game advanced an argument which easily makes clear the situation. Said he: "Instead of the play coming up as it did, say the runner slid into third in safety instead of into second and there being retired, would the man on second be declared out? Of course not."

Babe Adams Is a Ragtime Pitcher

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Pirate Likes Band Accompaniment

BABE Adams, the big right-hander of the Pittsburg Pirates, is a ragtime pitcher. When Adams twirled for the Pirates in the world's series against the Detroit Tigers, he always pitched better ball when the band in the grandstand was grinding out tunes. Hereafter Fred Clarke will have a brass band in the grandstand every time Adams goes on the mound.

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Sailor Ed Petroskey has arrived in Los Angeles and is after a match with either Jimmy Clabby or Jack Dillon. Louis Paraente, manager of the tough middleweight, says that although Clabby holds a decision over his charge, Petroskey believes he can defeat the Indianan in a return bout. If not Clabby, then Parente wants either Jack Dillon or Bob McAllister.

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British sporting men are making efforts to unearth a champion heavyweight boxer. A purse of $25,000 has been put up by two well known sporting newspapers for the best heavyweight fighter in Ireland, England, Wales or Scotland. The best man developed is to be matched to meet Georges Carpentier for the title of Europe.

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J. Franklin Baker is the only player in baseball who has hit more than .300 in three world series. Baker performed this feat by batting over the mark in 1910, 1911 and 1913. Frank Chance, Jack Barry and Danny Murphy have hit .300 in two successive series. One peculiarity of Baker's hitting is that he bats better in a world's series than in the regular season.

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George Engle, manager of Frank Klaus, who was recently knocked out by George Chip, says that the Pittsburger is out of the game forever because of carelessness training. Engle added that in the few years which he and Klaus had been together, they had made something like $125,000. Klaus will enter the saloon business in the east.

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Ad Wolgast former lightweight champion, is grieving because the Wisconsin state boxing commission has barred Packey McFarland. Wolgast believes that he has doped out McFarland's weak spot, and will consent to match with the Chicagoan if he weighs in at 128 ringside. Ad believes that Packey cannot stand punishment around the body.

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Packey McFarland, Windy City welterweight, has received an offer of $15,000 to box the winner of the Gibbons-Clabby fight, scheduled for Vernon on Jan. 17. James W. Coffroth, who made the big offer to McFarland stated that a bout between the victor of the Vernon fight and Packey would draw a record house. The chicagoan replied through his manager that he thought $15,000 would be reasonable. New York matchmakers will give him $10,000 to box Gibbons ten-rounds, according to Packey.

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Buddy Ryan, former Nap outfielder turned over to Toledo, has announced that he has received an offer of a two-year contract from the Federal league. Ryan says that he will hold out for $8000. It is well known that he would rather play on the Pacific coast than in the east.

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Tom McCarey, promoter of the Pacific A. C. at Vernon, has given lightweights the hook and will hereafter give the fight fans a change of diet. McCarey intends to give two belts this winter. One is for the middleweight championship and will go to the winner of the Clabby-Gibbons go. The other will go to the winner of a welter elimination tourney.

WISCONSINS NOW WED EUGENICALLY

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 1.—Wisconsin's new eugenics marriage law became effective today. It requires a thorough medical examination of both parties intending to wed. It stipulates that physicians may charge a maximum fee of $3 for such examination. Many doctors have declared they will not make the necessary tests for that fee.

Fear that county officials will refuse to issue licenses unless the medical certificates state that comprehensive blood tests have been made caused the record demand for wedding permits in the closing days of the year. Reports from other counties in the state agree that an unprecedented number of permits have been granted.

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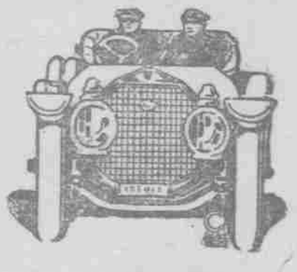

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