

Federals May be Absorbed, Making Two 12 Club Leagues

Ravages Which "Outlaws" Are Making and Will Continue to Make in Ranks of Organized Baseball Are Believed Certain to Result in Consolidation of the Feds With the Majors.

NEW YORK, March 23.—In the not too dim and distant future—unless the present hope is wrong—organized baseball will clutch the heaving Federal league to its bosom and peace will reign again in the land. And, unless the signs point wrongly, the consolidation will result in the formation of two 12 club leagues, the American league absorbing four of the Federal league's clubs, and the National league tacking on to its circuit the other four Fed clubs.

Looking at it from any angle you wish, it seems that the ending of war, no matter what the compromise may cost every one involved, will be for the best interests of the magnates. And because the Federal league will insist that its clubs be treated as major league status and because the organized baseball persons now maintain there is not room for these major league organizations, the difficulty will be overcome by forming two 12 club leagues.

A disastrous financial season faces most of the organized major league clubs this season, and it is possible that the dry spell, as far as money is concerned, will continue for two or three seasons. All this is the result of the activity of the Federal league.

Splitting of Patronage and Stars. The existence of the Feds this year in some of the cities that had to go the limit to hold their players will cause a splitting of patronage, and, of course, will reduce the income of the organized clubs affected. The organized clubs whose cities were not invaded by the Feds with a franchise will feel the effect through the fact that the Feds grabbed off some of their stars. The Philadelphia Nationals are one example. The Federal league has also laid claim to Killifer. No club can lose five of its best players and not feel the effect.

Minors Plend For Aid. The Feds also raided the Class AA teams of organized baseball, and it is so effectively that they almost have wrecked some of the clubs. This has caused the Class AA clubs to shriek for help from the organized majors, and the organized majors are bound, under the ruling of the national agreement, to do something to protect the minors.

Feds Will Open and Finish. The Feds will finish this season and they will reopen in 1915—and with a stronger lineup than they have at present. That's just about as good a bet as anyone can make. The Federal magnates have invested something like \$2,000,000 in players, grounds, grounds and equipment, and it's a cinch when anyone is so deeply invested in a venture that there will be no backing out.

May Wreck Minors. The Feds have the power to practically wreck the minor leagues at the close of the season, and it's a certainty that if organized baseball doesn't make peace overtures they will proceed to do so. The minor leagues make their profits not through gate receipts, but through April 4.

"Billy" Evans's Puzzling Problems of the Diamond

By Billy Evans, Famous American League Umpire.

DURING big games, when the seating capacity of the grounds is not great enough to handle the crowds, it is often necessary to permit spectators on the playing field. As all fans know, this is made possible by stretching ropes around the playing field a certain distance from the fence, the fans being allowed to stand or sit in the territory roped off. A ground rule is always agreed upon between the umpires and managers as to how many bases hits into such territory shall be good for. The wise manager always seeks to gain an advantage, if possible, in the making of the ground rules.

A few years ago when I went onto the field to start a very important game between two teams fighting for the pennant, I observed that the crowd had overflowed onto the field. This particular field has a very deep right field and a fairly deep left field. In the left field the ropes were not more than thirty feet from the fence, while in right field the distance between the fences and the ropes was perhaps a hundred feet; indeed, the distance was so great that there was considerable territory unoccupied. But in left field the spectators had taken up every inch of space.

The home club had many left-handed hitters in its line-up; it was known as a team that did a lot of hard hitting to right field; and I saw at once that the home manager was going to take advantage of this feature, if possible. It was all so raw that I felt the visiting manager would notice the situation, but if he did not I figured that it was none of my business.

The visiting team was a left field hitting club, and the arrangement described gave the home team outsiders much territory to cover in going after fly balls, another advantage. The hit into the left field crowd was much more difficult than a hit into the right field overflow, yet the home captain insisted that the two drives be of equal merit, good for two bases. The situation finally dawned upon the visitors, and they set up an awful howl. The manager of the home team was firm and refused to make any changes. How do you suppose I handled the case?

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Answer to Saturday's Problem.

THE captain of the visiting team had not pulled nearly as wise a stunt as he thought. In forcing the umpire to call the game, and then not being able to resume it after a wait of thirty minutes, he did not cause the score to revert back to the even innings as he believed, which would have given him a victory, 5 to 4. Instead, the score stood as it was when the game was suspended because of the rain, a tie, 6 to 6. The latter part of rule 24, relating to drawn games, covers the point in dispute. It is as follows: "A drawn game shall be decided by the umpire if the side that went second to bat is at the bat when the game has terminated, and if it has scored the same number of runs as the other side, the umpire shall declare the game drawn without regard to the score of the last equal inning." In the game referred to, the home team had tied the score, had a man on third, and an out still due them when the umpire was forced to stop play; hence, the game ended in a tie, 6 to 6. The very best the visiting captain could get out of his delay was a tie, staying off possible defeat.—B. E.

SMAULDING MATCHED WITH JEFF CLARKE

Albuquerque Dusky Middleweight to be Given Supreme Test in Bout With Joplin's Fighting Ghost. Silver City, N. M., March 23.—Al Smaulding, middleweight of Albuquerque, who has been showing championship caliber in recent bouts, is to be given the supreme test of his career.

Smaulding has been matched by a local promoter for a bout here April 2 with Jeff Clarke, middleweight of Albuquerque, who has been showing championship caliber in recent bouts, is to be given the supreme test of his career.

Phoenix Motorcyclist to Set New Distance Record. Phoenix, Ariz., March 23.—Hopling to beat the present transcontinental motorcycle record of 20 days, E. G. Baker, of Phoenix, will leave Los Angeles 3 for New York.

"Fretzel Benders" Win From "Eagles" by 25 to 6. The "Eagles" were defeated Sunday by the "Fretzel Benders" by the lopsided score of 25 to 6.

King George's Announcement That He Will Be Patron of Second Life Guard Boxing Matches Causes a Sensation in Sporting Circles; Williams-Coulton Battle Should Be Fast One.

BY TOM THORP. KING GEORGE bids fair to do down in history as the merriest of the merry monarchs of England. His attendance at the recent baseball game between the world-circuiting Giants and White Sox in London excited nothing short of a storm of interest in the circles of Europe. His announced patronage of the boxing matches of the second life guards has left Europe gasping for breath.

CALL TEAM "GIANTS" MCGRAW SUGGESTS. That John J. McGraw, the Napoleon of baseball, is interested deeply in youthful experiments of amateur baseball, was amply demonstrated when Kenneth J. Connelley, manager of the Herald team, called McGraw, manager of the Giants, leader of the world's best team, to see the Herald team's preliminary work of the Giants.

DETROIT AMERICANS WIN FROM NEW ORLEANS, 1 TO 0. New Orleans, La., March 23.—The Detroit Americans defeated the New Orleans team of the Southern league Sunday, 1 to 0.

NEW YORK NATIONALS WIN FROM DALLAS TEAM. Dallas, Tex., March 23.—The New York Nationals won from Dallas Sunday.

MEMPHIS OUTFITS CHICAGO. Memphis, Tenn., March 23.—The Memphis Southern league team outfit the Chicago Southern league team, Chicago's hits were timely and they won, 7 to 4.

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What Is One to Expect of a Fat Cop? Copyright, 1914, International News Service. By Tad



King's Approval Will Help Fix Boxing Status, Belief

King George's Announcement That He Will Be Patron of Second Life Guard Boxing Matches Causes a Sensation in Sporting Circles; Williams-Coulton Battle Should Be Fast One.

Fox, British Bantam, Seems To Be Real Fighting Man

New Arrival Has Fought 10 Battles and Won Them All; Match With Coulton or Williams Is Now Sought, but Without Success, Though Offering \$5000 as a Side Bet.

Wright is High in Rifle Shoot

Wright was high man with a total of 22 in the individual competition held on the Sunset Heights range by members of the El Paso Rifle club Sunday afternoon. The March cup, donated by G. R. Ledge, will be awarded to the highest average member at the end of this month. Ten shots off hand and ten shots at 300 yards prove were the conditions which governed the meet Sunday.

Wolgaat Spotted His Chances

It was practically the same with Wolgaat and Ritchie, and as long as the referee decided that the blow was fair and gave Ritchie the credit of a clean knockout, it was sufficient to give the champion a shade decision. Wolgaat spotted his chances winning the fight on a foul in case it had been so decided by the club's doctor, when he arose and resumed the contest without any apparent protest. Had he asked the referee for an examination at the time, the matter would have been settled then and there, but he did not and as a result the dispute which followed was made possible.

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