

their time to developing young players—and when the field narrows down to as many clubs as can be supported there will be a larger number of good players to pick from—and better teams.”

Bob Fitzsimmons, former heavy-weight champion, who is to be boxing instructor at the Sportsman's Club of America here, proved last night in Williamsport, Pa., that he is not yet ready for the scrap heap.

Fitz traveled six rounds with a person named Knockout Sweeney of Cleveland, and gave the younger man a sound thumping at every turn of the road. His blows were full of force, and, though Sweeney managed to stay the limit, he was down for the count of nine several times.

Fitz's success is not expected to alter his intention of coming here as an instructor. He took on Sweeney to show the New York boxing commission that he was still there with the wallop. Fitz is after a better man than Sweeney now, and ringsiders last night believe he can turn a victory.

A possible occupant of the short-stopping job with the Cubs was nailed yesterday when Herman Bronkie signed his contract for the coming season. Bronkie managed Toledo for a part of last season, and played third base. He batted .269, which is a pretty good mark for American Association time.

Big league company is nothing new to Bronkie. He has been up before with Cleveland, but failed to show the required brand of stuff for a permanent stay.

Charley Smith also signed a Cub contract, and will remain in Chicago until the team goes to Tampa. Smith, branded as through by the American League, turned in some good games for the Murphy crowd last season, being particularly effective against the Giants. He did better work against McGraw's men than any other grape-viner on the Cub staff.

Manager Evers arranged six games with the St. Louis Browns to be played while the two teams are training in the South, and this insures the locals of plenty of hot work before they start their northward hike. Previously six battles had been scheduled with the Athletics.

Three of the Brown games will be contested in Tampa and the rest in St. Petersburg, the training camp of the American Leaguers. Definite date for the opening battle has not been decided on, but the series will be pulled off before March 12, when the games against the Athletics are to be inaugurated.

All was quiet at Federal League headquarters, Joe Tinker holding the fort, but from Tacoma, Wash., comes the report that Jacques Fournier, handy man of the White Sox, has received an offer from the Chifeds, and is on the verge of hopping to the third circuit.

Tinker would not comment on the report, and nothing could be learned of the terms that were offered the Frenchman. Fournier is a youngster and likes to be in the old ball game every day. He was in his element while playing first with the Sox, and enjoyed every minute of the time when he was in the outfield after Chase joined the South Siders.

An injury removed Fournier from the fray, but he was developing rapidly, and gave promise of becoming a hard-hitting outfielder, a species of animal which has become almost extinct in the vicinity of 35th street and Shields avenue.

The Johnston brothers, Jimmy and Doc, the former the property of the Cubs and the latter belonging to the Naps, are much sought after young men these days.

Both received telegrams from promoters of the Federal League, and President Murphy of the Cubs joined the fray by spending some coin for wire messages to the youngster he drafted from the Pacific Coast League.