LOCAL PASSERS MEET VANDY TUESDAY NIGHT

First Big Game of the Season Booked at Y. M. C. A. Gymnasium—Tackle Michigan Next Thursday Night.

BY BOB PIGUE.

The first big game of the local basketball season will be played next Tuesday night at 8 o'clock, when the Memphis Y. M. C. A. five will clash with the Vanderbilt university quintet on the local gym floor. The Commodores are coming with what is said to be the strongest combination the Gold and Black has ever shown, and are confident they will be able to give the local passers a busy evening. Coach George Gleaves, of the Memphis outfit, says his team is in great shape, and ready to give the Commodores the battle of their lives.

Coach Gleaves has been taking his men through a fast workout every evening at the local "Y," and states that when they take the floor against Vandy Tuesday night they will be in rare form, and will have no alibis to offer in case they get beat, which, he says, they will not. He realizes it will be a hard struggle, and that it will require all the Memphians have to come out with a victory, but says they are determined to win, and will let nothing stand in their way.

PERRY GETS READY.

Oliver Perry, captain and guard of the local team, says that he believes the local outfit will win by 10 points, and that when they meet on the field of battle there will be no letup from the opening whistle until the final minute. Action in large quantities should result, for both teams are among the best in Dixieland, and are sure to extend themselves in their approaching mixup.

Every one of the "Y" regulars will be available for the Commodore skirmish, and as they will be in fine condition, they should give local basketball fans the fastest game they have witnessed in a long time.

ABOUT VANDY.

The Commodores have not shown up this year as was at first hoped by Coach Zerfoss, and followers of the Gold and Black, who saw a championship team produced in the ranks of the S. I. A. A. with the unbeatable Cody-Adams-Norton-Zerfoss-Graves combination.

This season the Commodores had some likely looking material on hand, but the job of plugging gaps left by the departure of the "big four," Cody, Adams, Norton and Zerfoss, has proved one that is not only Herculean in its proportions, but almost impossible of accomplishment.

However, the Commodores are humping along at a good clip in practice, and managed to dispose of the Middle Tennessee Normal five in fair shape. They will be given an opportunity to show their caliber on the coming trip.

Coach Zerfoss and his team will reach Memphis early Tuesday morning, and will be quartered at the "Y." It will be the first game of a Southern trip, which will take Vandy to Birmingham and other Southern points.

TO MEET MICHIGAN.

Following the Vandy game, the local basketeers will make ready for the invasion of the University of Michigan team, which will be the attraction on Thursday night.

The Wolverines are on a Southern invasion and are meeting the best that Dixie has to offer in the way of basketball teams. They will pass on to Atlanta, Birmingham and New Orleans after they leave Memphis.

Several members of the Michigan football team are on the basketball outfit, and a hard game is assured.

HARGRAVE AND RAPP IN DRAW

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—Official batting averages of the American association place Goldie Rapp, third baseman with the championship St. Paul club, and Catcher "Bubbles" Hargrave, also with St. Paul, in a tie for the 1920 championship, each with an average of .335.

Although Brazil, a pinch hitter with St. Paul, topped the list of batters with an average of .373, he only participated in 52 games as compared with 155 for Rapp and 142 for Hargrave. Grover Martley, of Columbus, in 80 games, batted for an average of .351, and "Reb" Russell, of Minneapolis, had an average of .339 for 85 games.

Rapp, who will join the New York Nationals next season, gave Leo Dressen, his teammate, a spirited race for honors in base stealing, falling one short of the record of 50 established by Dressen. In home-run hitting, Bunny Brief, of Kansas City, nosed out Hargrave. Brief connected with 23 homers, and Hargrave, who was sold to the Cincinnati Nationals, banged out 22.

Dressen proved to be the best scorer in the association, registering 131 runs in 154 games. Mostil, of Milwaukee, was next in line with 125 runs. Hyatt, of Toledo, led in drawing bases on balls.

MARSHALL'S ANSWERS

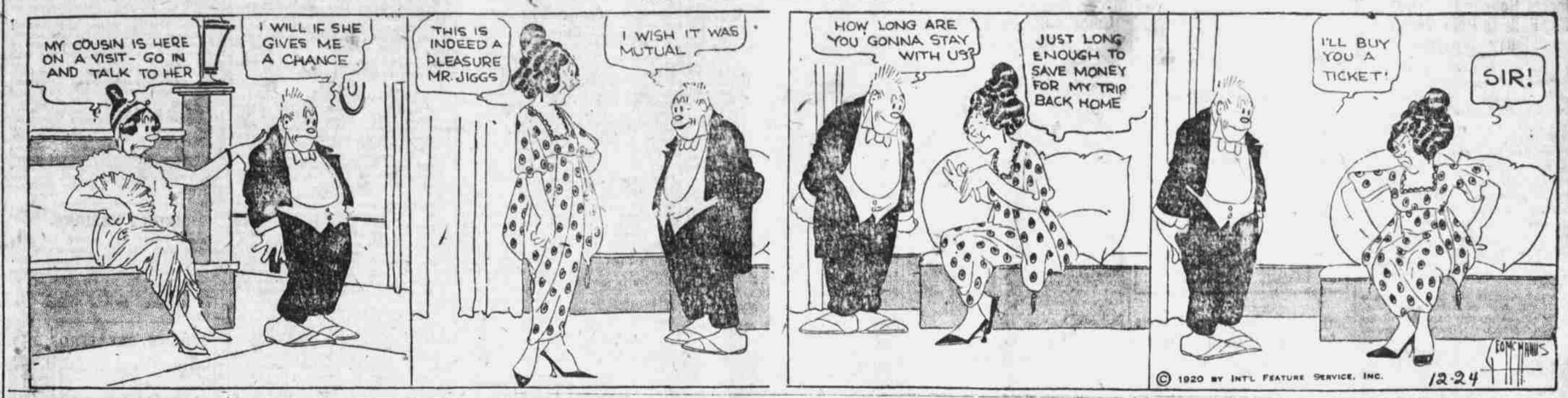
Is the interest in trapshooting increasing? How many gun clubs are now in active operation in the United States? How are they distributed?

FRANK DENNING.

Canton, O.

An estimate was made a short time since, based upon authentic data returned by one of the ammunition companies. The United States has 3,961 clubs. Pennsylvania leads with 492. New York second with 344. Illinois third with 287, Iowa 220, Ohio 187, Minnesota 187, New Jersey 168, Wisconsin 164, Missouri 142, balance of the clubs are scattered through every state where a gun is owned. In Pennsylvania over 400,000 men take out a hunting license; in New York 184,000, New Jersey 95,114, Illinois 153,126, Wisconsin 150,095, Ohio 150,632, Washington 124,091, California 160,140. Over 4,000,000 men annually take out hunting and fishing license in the United States, and equally as many more are interested in sports afield who do not expect to get an opportunity to hunt during the season and do not purchase a license. No sport in the world has one-half as many devotees as shooting and fishing.

BRINGING UP FATHER—By George McManus



CHINESE BANTAM BELIEVES HE WILL BEAT DEMPSEY

George Lee, Celestial Fighter, Battles Local Midget Next Monday Night at Southern Atheltic Club.

"I will take the bout with Young Dempsey, providing Mr. Haack will give me a match with Pal Moore in in the event I win."

So said George Lee, the Chinese bantam, when advised that Billy Haack wanted him to meet Dempsey on Dec. 27. It don't sound like Chinese talk and it isn't because Lee, though born of Chinese parents, does not talk the Celestial tongue.

Lee says he is sure he will beat Dempsey. Lee can and does talk as good English as any other human. He was educated in the public schools in Sacramento, Cal., and worked for several department stores on the Pacific coast. He's a modest and an intelligent little fellow and from New Orleans comes the tip that Memphis fans will like Lee immensely.

The desire to meet Pal Moore which Lee expresses is two-fold. He is after a bout with Pete Herman right in Pete's own home town—New Orleans—and the other reason is that George figures he can add to his bankroll by meeting and defeating Moore right in his home town.

Chink Confident.

"I understand that Red Watson and Simons gave Moore good fights so I believe I am not overrating myself when I say that I can do the same. I defeated both Watson and Simons and on this basis ought to have at least an even chance with Moore," is the way Lee dopes it.

However, Lee has to get by Dempsey before he can lay claim to a bout with Moore. This he will attempt to do Monday night when he makes his bow to Memphis fans.

There will be three other good bouts carded.

OFFICIAL SOUTHERN PITCHING RECORDS

Name and Club.	H.	R.	G.	W.	L.	Pct.
Ching, Mob.	28	20	7	4	..	1.000
Matteson, N. O.	13	6	4	4	..	1.000
Manners, Atl.	13	6	3	1	..	1.000
Dodd, Nash.	14	11	3	1	..	1.000
Dahlin, Nash.	5	3	2	1	..	1.000
Mayer, Atl.	5	1	1	1	..	1.000
Daniels, Chat.	5	2	1	1	..	1.000
Fields, L. R.	63	28	14	6	1	.857
Yellowhorse, L.R.	255	115	46	21	7	.750
Markle, Atl.	142	60	26	17	6	.739
Glazner, Bir.	258	95	40	24	10	.706
R. Walker, N. O.	281	104	47	26	11	.703
Robinson, L. R.	308	98	52	26	12	.684
J. Morrison, Bir.	248	103	47	26	13	.667
Wolfe, Mem.	53	26	8	2	1	.667
Barfoot, N. O.	162	56	27	12	7	.632
Gallagher, Bir.	202	91	34	16	10	.615
Sheehan, Atl.	306	106	48	26	17	.605
Albris, Mem.	162	71	29	9	6	.600
Murchison, N. O.	58	33	10	6	4	.600
Meis, Nash.	219	106	37	10	7	.588
Boone, Atl.	229	96	35	15	11	.577
Statham, Nash.	79	37	18	6	5	.545
J. Suggs, Atl.	231	99	37	15	13	.536
Torkelson, N. O.	223	106	39	16	14	.533
Lohman, Nash.	278	116	44	20	19	.513
Phillips, N. O.	238	103	40	17	17	.500
Heid, Mob.	228	105	37	14	14	.500
Tuero, Mem.	126	57	18	8	8	.500
Prieste, Atl.-Mob.	73	38	16	7	7	.500
Thorburn, Atl.	102	39	15	6	6	.500
Payne, Nash.	60	29	8	4	4	.500
Fowlkes, Mem.	13	11	5	1	1	.500
Hodge, Nash.	223	108	43	17	18	.486
Vance, Mm.-N.O.	253	104	45	16	17	.485
Coffindaffer, Bir.	248	124	38	13	14	.481
Goodbred, Mem.	248	99	37	12	14	.481
Cunningham, Ch.	264	111	40	19	21	.475
Thweatt, Mem.	188	118	34	8	10	.444
Canavan, Mem.	141	73	27	7	9	.438
Claude Jonnard, Nash.-L. R.	246	118	47	13	17	.433
Fulton, Mob.	237	75	39	15	20	.429
Vines, Chat.	208	129	40	12	16	.429
Lukonovic, Mob.	218	118	42	11	16	.407
Hengeveld, L. R.	173	88	34	11	16	.407
Marshall, Chat.-Mem.	324	163	45	15	22	.405
Roberts, Mob.	253	141	38	9	14	.391
Tomlin, Nash.	229	114	36	9	15	.375
Sigman, Mob.	271	112	48	11	19	.367
W. Stewart, Nsh.	84	37	14	3	6	.333
Utt, Mob.	44	28	7	1	2	.333
Bradshaw, N. O.	21	8	5	1	2	.333
R. Morrison, Bir.	20	10	3	1	2	.333
York, Chat.	244	129	40	9	22	.290
Meeker, Bir.	138	82	23	4	10	.286
Perdue, Nash.	159	75	23	5	13	.278
Duffy, N. O.-Cht.	83	44	12	2	6	.250
Carlson, L. R.	23	13	7	1	3	.250
Noel, Chat.	264	118	39	6	19	.240
Ledbetter, Atl.	46	27	6	1	4	.200
Herbst, Bir.	58	31	10	..	7	.000
Masters, L. R.	34	18	12	..	2	.000
Webber, Mem.	18	10	3	..	2	.000
Knowlson, L. R.	26	17	4	..	2	.000
Lankenau, Nash.-Atl.	54	30	10	..	1	.000
Nemitz, Mem.	29	25	6	..	1	.000
Murray, Nash.	12	7	3	..	1	.000
Swan, Nash.	4	5	1	..	1	.000
Morris, Atl.	11	7	4	..	1	.000
Foreman, Mem.	14	14	1	..	1	.000
Whitehill, Bir.	11	7	1	..	1	.000

TENNIS TOURNEY BEGINS JANUARY 10

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.—Play for the professional court tennis championship of America starts at the Racquet club in this city on Jan. 10. The leading professionals of the country are entered in the event, which will continue throughout the week. They include R. Duston, of Boston, who will meet J. Miss, Philadelphia, in the preliminary; Jack Soutar, Philadelphia, who will play Otto Glocker, Boston, in the first round, and C. J. Fairs, former champion of the world, who drew a bye.

KAISER BEATS MANELL.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 24.—"Pewee" Kaiser, of St. Louis, was given the newspaper decision over Harry Manell, of England, in an eight-round bout here last night. They are bantamweights.

Shines On Grid Despite Loss Of Hand And Eye

BILL JENKINS.

Bill Jenkins is the star halfback on the Meaderville, Mont., independent football team. The team belongs to a league of picked teams in the mining country. Jenkins plays with college stars from all parts of the country. He lost his right hand and forearm and the use of one eye when a babe, but hasn't allowed the handicaps to keep him out of athletics.

$50,000 PURSE FOR KY. DERBY

Increase Made That Brings Figure Up to High Mark.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 24.—The purse for the Kentucky derby, to be run at Churchill Downs, Louisville, May 7, 1921, has been increased to $50,000, it was announced here last night by Col. Matt J. Winn, general manager of the Kentucky Jockey club.

This sum, together with entry and nomination fees, will make the total value of the race in excess of $60,000. The value of the race to the winner in 1920 was $33,000.

The spring racing season in Kentucky will open in Lexington, April 23, and extend 61 days to July 8, the state racing committee decided at a meeting yesterday afternoon. Lexington will have ten days of racing, Louisville will have 20 days at the Churchill Downs track, and Latonia was allotted 31 days.

A committee representing the Thoroughbred Horse association appeared before the committee and asked that the association increase the value of its purse races. The request was turned over to a committee for consideration.

JOE LYNCH WILL REST A MONTH

New Bantam Champion Will Then Start on Tour Over Country.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Joe Lynch, new bantamweight boxing champion of the world, will take a month's vacation and then start the "serious business of defending his title," Eddie Mead, his manager, announced today. Lynch went into seclusion after the fight Wednesday in which he triumphed over Pete Herman.

A tour of the country, in which he will meet many bantamweight aspirants is being planned, Mead said. "One thing is sure," he added. "He will not go to England; the little old U. S. A. is big enough for us."

"Y" RESERVES DEFEAT CLARKSDALE PANTHERS

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Dec. 24.—The "Y" Reserves defeated Clarksdale Panthers, score 44 to 35.

"Y" Reserves.	Position.	Clarksdale.
Ransom	Forward	C. Crutchfield, (c)
B. Crutchfield	Forward	Gilliland
Taylor	Center	Williams, Bender
Brownfield, Kinney	Guard	Sellers, Scruggs
Campell (c)	Guard	Fried

Score: Field goals—Ransom 6, B. Crutchfield 6, Taylor 7, Brownfield 2, Bender 3, Gilliland 7, C. Crutchfield 6. Foul goals—B. Crutchfield 2, Fried 3.

STECHER IN HOSPITAL.

OMAHA, Neb. Dec. 24.—Joe Stecher, who lost his crown as heavyweight wrestling champion to Ed (Strangler) Lewis in New York last week, was in a hospital here today suffering from neuritis. The specialist attending him said that the attack was caused by straining his left arm in the Lewis match. He probably will be out of the game the rest of the winter, it was said.

Merry Christmas To All

TO READERS AND FRIENDS
EVERYWHERE
WE EXTEND YULETIDE GREETINGS
AND GOOD WISHES
FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.
MAY THIS BE THE
MERRIEST CHRISTMAS AND THE
HAPPIEST AND MOST PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN.

BOB PIGUE.

Descamps Explains Why Carpentier Met Levinsky

Tells French Fight Fans That Fight With the Battler Was Necessary Before Dempsey Match.

(By International News Service.)

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Georges Carpentier was forced to take on Battling Levinsky because American public opinion demanded some proof of his prowess before a match with Dempsey, according to Francois Descamps, his manager, who has just sent a letter to a French sporting paper.

"Now that the contract for the famous match has been signed," writes Descamps, "I can at last give an explanation of the motives which led me to accept the fight against Levinsky, for contrary to what is supposed, the match was necessary for American public opinion, which did not have any confidence in Georges, and believed that his reputation was overdone; they were still under the impression of a Carpentier beaten by Frank Klaus, Billy Papke and Joe Jeannette; they took no account of the fact that at the time of the Klaus fight Georges was 18 years old; that with Papke he was not beaten on his merits, but that he had trained down to make the weight, while Papke paid a forfeit of 5,000 francs. As for Jeannette, I owe it to the truth to say that the great majority of the press and the spectators found that on that day my old friend Frantz-Reichel had made a grave mistake.

Press Picked Levinsky.

"All these circumstances the American people did not know, or did not wish to know. That is why a match in America, before the one with Dempsey, was made necessary by public opinion on this side of the ocean, especially since the all-powerful press and a special series of articles had practically challenged me to stage a fight.

"As for the opponent, it was not I who chose him, it was the majority of the papers, which said: 'Why does Carpentier want to attack the heavyweights? Let him first fight our champion of his class, and then we shall see whether he is qualified to meet Dempsey.'"

TAD'S TID-BITS

ALL OUT OF SHAPE.

Strange, isn't it, that all sporting writers, speaking of a heavyweight champ who lost his title, invariably insist that the loser was out of shape.

From the days of John L. Sullivan right down to Jess Willard, that old squawk has gone up.

Writers who were on the spot at the time and writers who were 3,000 miles away said the same thing.

Every heavyweight titleholder from John L. down who lost his laurels went into the ring a favorite in the betting. We don't include Tommy Burns, as he was a gift champion.

Sullivan's backers offered 5 to 1 that he would beat the dude Corbett. Betting men rarely wager on sympathy. Sullivan must have looked good in order to call for such odds. After the K. O. they said that John L. wasn't right.

Corbett was favorite over Fitzsimmons at Carson City, yet after the bout his backers insisted that he was overtrained.

Fitzsimmons was a sweet favorite over Jeffries. He stopped a punch with his chin and listened to the numerals. Fitz himself declared that he wasn't right, as he had dallied with the gin bottle on the day of the fray.

Jeffries, after training a year for Johnson, got himself into splendid shape and fought 15 gruelling rounds only to be stopped. Experts at his training quarters pronounced him physically perfect. So did the examining physicians. He met his master, though, and then once more the Jeffries backers, including scribes who picked him, declared that he was but a shell.

Jess Willard trained for six months before he met Jack Dempsey at Toledo. He worked hard at Toledo, too. He was in good shape and his friends were satisfied. He met a better man in Dempsey, however, and was beaten. He, too, was a favorite. Now they insist that Jess wasn't in shape.

Isn't it strange that these wise guys who declare the losers in the heavyweight class to be out of shape never bet on the winner? There hasn't been a heavyweight champion yet who was on the short end.

They are all favorites until the big smear comes. Then, boys—then the scribes get up on their hind legs and yell: "He never was a champ," or "The big bum wasn't in any sort of shape at all."

It's an even money bet right now that a year after Dempsey hears the cuckoos calling, the scribes will swear that he was stiffened because he was slack in his training although we've never had a heavyweight champ who takes the care of himself that Jack does.

IN THE SPARE RIB CLASS.

The most promising boxer in the A. A. U. tourney, held at the Garden this week was a 108-pound kid by the name of Willie O'Connell. He won the honors in that class and showed more boxing skill than any dozen of the others. He had a snappy left, a cool head and a jolty right. He used his feet well and was a master at blocking.

After the fights we saw Willie going up Broadway, the medal in his pocket, his cap on the side and a dozen or so admirers following him—after the fashion of Gibson's picture, "The Champion."

WORK OR FIGHT.

Dear Tad—During the war an order was issued from the war department declaring that every able-bodied man in the United States had to either work or fight. Too bad that rule isn't in effect now, isn't it?

Have the reformers who have given us prohibition and now threaten a Blue Law ever worked or fought?

Have they ever done anything but collect?

What we want in this country is producers. Have they produced anything but discord? What a great country it would be if we were all like Anderson, Bowly and Billy Sunday. Yours,

CHAIN GANG CHARLIE.

PRESENCE OF MIND.

One Gotham scribe, in commenting upon Welling's gameness, says: "Most anyone would be game with a $15,000 end staring him in the face."

True, Welling did get a flat guarantee of $15,000 smacks. He had presence of mind enough for that. His game showing, however, had nothing to do with the gilt. Welling never did show the white feather in any of his fights.

We must, however, give him credit for his presence of mind. In that he reminds us of Sam Morton, of vaudeville fame. Sam used to tell of his wife in the street car accident.

She bawled him out for taking her on the ride, and he retorted:

"If it wasn't for me you wouldn't have had a nickel damages. You got $2,000, didn't you? If I didn't have the presence of mind to kick you in the face you wouldn't have had a cent."

LIKES FRENCHMAN.

Willie Ritchie, former lightweight champion of the world, is one of the many Carpentier boosters. Willie says that if the frogeater is wise he will dance away from the ferocious Dempsey for four or five rounds and keep Jack on the jump.

"Dempsey usually beats his man early," says Willie. "They all try to trade wallops with him. The way to beat him is to keep away and make him anxious. If the Frenchman is as foxy as we are led to believe, he can sneak over one and finish it. We all know that he packs a nasty kick in that right."

IF ANTONY SAID IT TODAY.

Friends, Romans and local blokes! Slip me your listeners. I come to plant Caesar—not to put the swell on for him.

The SPORTING SPOTLIGHT By Bob Pigue

The fourteenth manager of the Memphis Chicks, who has been selected and signed by President Thomas R. Watkins, and who will be introduced to Chick fandom early in the New Year, will have a job on his hands when he arrives in Memphis, for he is going to have to work fast if he gets the Tribe's house in order in time for the grand opening next April 13. The Chicks have the foundation already laid for a ball club, but unless the missing links are added, it is going to be a sad looking outfit that goes to the post next April.

Prexy Watkins states that his manager is already on the job and that when he reports to Memphis sometime in January, he will likely have some good news to spill about players. He has been given an opportunity and currency to sign some badly needed talent, and Watso said he expected him to have made considerable hay by the time he gets to Memphis.

REASON FOR SECRECY.

The reason the pilot's name has not been made public as yet is that he is trying to wind up his former connections before letting the cat out of the bag that he has signed with Memphis.

According to President Watkins, Memphis fans are sure to like his selection, and that he is of Class A caliber.

Further than that the deponeth sayeth not.

Whoever he is, Memphis fans are willing to give him an opportunity to put the Chicks up in the world. They have seen many managers fall down on the job, but are always ready to give a newcomer an opportunity.

If he makes good—if he is successful in giving Memphis a first division ball club—he'll have the whole city at his feet and be proclaimed a real miracle man.

ABOUT JACK LEWIS.

Jack Lewis, Memphis second baseman, who managed the club after John J. McCloskey was let out last season, has stated that he will be back, and he is being counted on to play the keystone cushion for the Tribe next season.

Jack is spending the winter at his home in Steubenville, Ohio, and in a recent communication stated that he would be ready to start headin' South about March 12.

While Lewis wanted the managerial reins of the Chicks, he said that he'd be perfectly willing to serve as a private again if the local officials preferred someone else. Lewis acted very fairly about it, and he'll have nothing to worry about in the way of remuneration when he comes to the Chicks' tepee next March.

Lewis will likely again serve as captain of the club, as he is a good field general, and fully qualified to direct the play of the team on the diamond.

We have a communication signed "An Old Fan."

It is timely and to the point, but can not be used because no name has been signed.

JOE LYNCH'S VICTORY.

Joe Lynch's victory over Pete Herman which resulted in the removal of the bejeweled bantamweight championship emblem from the dome of the New Orleans Italian to the slanting brow of the New York Irishman should have a healthy effect upon the boxing game. Champions of all divisions have been notified by those who have the game under control that unless they battle for their titles within a reasonable length of time, they will have their championships taken away from them.

Benny Leonard, lightweight champion, and one of the real kings of the glove pastime, fought the toughest opponent he could find to prove that he was the real monarch of all he surveys. Leonard met Joe Welling, a rugged Chicagoian, and after 14 rounds of vicious hammering, he subdued Welling, one of the gamest boys in the business.

Then Jack Dempsey, heavyweight king and a fighting champion, was called upon to defend his laurels. Jack met Bill Brennan, a hard-boiled heavyweight, who gave the champion the hardest battle of his life. Dempsey slugged away at Brennan and was dismayed when he let loose all he had in the early rounds of the mill and Brennan refused to go down. Finally in the twelfth, after a steady battering down of the rugged foe, Dempsey was successful in getting over the finishing kick.

HERMAN AND LYNCH.

And then Pete Herman, bantam titleholder, was notified that he'd have to show whether he was a real champion or a camoufleur. Joe Lynch and Jack Sharkey were matched, with the winner to get a chance at Herman. Lynch disposed of Sharkey in 14 rounds after a fierce struggle and earned the right to meet Herman.

Lynch and Herman came together Wednesday night in Madison Square garden. Lynch, one of the greatest 118-pound boys in the world, beat Herman all the way and was clearly entitled to the verdict that brought him the world's title. Herman was shown up in his real light, as one of the champion in name only, and really but a good ordinary boxer.

Lynch has always been a busy bee in the ring. He has met all comers in decision bouts anytime they so desired.

He promises to do the same, now that he is champion. He will make a tour throughout the country taking on all comers, just to show that he is a real dyed-in-the-wool legitimate champion. He says he has nothing to fear from any bantamweight in the world, and that he's going to risk his headpiece any time he is assured the monetary consideration that is a champion's due.

The boxing game, which has been groggy and on the ropes for some time, is showing signs of coming back in a fashion that will soon have it in a more healthful condition than it ever knew before.

And the biggest tonic the game has had is the plan to smoke out the cheese champions and make them show their class.

It's a case now of putting up or stepping down and out.

BETWEEN ROUNDS

WITH BILLY HAACK.

Fast Black one time posted $10 to make 135 pounds for a fight, and after working for three days to take off six pounds, and getting down to 134 pounds the day of the fight he came in the office and weighed 134 at 2 o'clock. He was to weigh at 3 o'clock.

I went out a few minutes later and there was Black and another negro eating a big watermelon.

When he got on the scales at 3 o'clock he weighed 141 pounds.

"That 25-cent watermelon cost me $10," said Black, wistfully.

It now develops that Judge Landis, in the beginning of his career, studied law in the office of John E. Bruce, who later, as everybody knows, became secretary of the national commission and baseball's chief legal adviser. Bruce can be a big help to Landis now.

FEDERAL LEAGUE VERDICT REVERSAL HELPS BASEBALL

Reserve Clause Sustained Which Will Also Prove Big Boost—Majors and Minors Meet in New York Saturday

BY JACK VEIOCK,
(International News Service Sporting Editor.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Baseball has taken a new lease on life.

The decision of the court of appeals of the District of Columbia reversing a verdict won by the Baltimore Federals and sustaining the reserve clause is the biggest boost the game has had in years.

As a result of the verdict the work of the joint major and minor league committee, which meets here Saturday to recamp the government of the game and adopt a new national agreement, has been greatly simplified.

"The verdict is going to prove a great boom for the game," said John Heydler, president of the National league. "It is also going to leave the joint committee untrammeled in drawing up our new national agreement. The upholding of the legality of the reserve clause and the decision that baseball is not interstate commerce but genuine sport could not have come at a more opportune time.

"Everybody knows that without the reserve clause we could not operate. The court has appreciated that fact, too, and the fact that we must have the clause to enforce discipline. This, at least, is what it comes down to in the last analysis."

The decision also means that hereafter baseball men will have no fears of going into court to defend themselves or protect their rights.

Formerly the reserve clause did not look overly strong in court. It was once attacked on the ground that it was peonage.

RAY TO ATHLETICS.

STILLWATER, Okla., Dec. 24.—Wilbur Ray, the only athlete who has won a letter in four different sports at the Oklahoma A. and M. college here, has signed a contract with the Philadelphia Americans as a pitcher, he stated here today. He will report, he said, at the Athletics' spring training camp, at Lake Charles, La., late in February.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.—Rufus Clarke, former star pitcher of the University of South Carolina baseball team, has been signed by the Baltimore club of the International league in response to "a very flattering offer," Manager Jack Dunn announces.

Clarke is a brother of Sumpter Clarke, of the Chicago Nationals.