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AINSMITH APPEALS TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Baseball Draft Test Seen in Case of Washington Catcher

BOARDS ACT DIFFERENTLY

Finneran of Yankees Released, Killefer of Cubs in Class 1A —Cobb to Enlist

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, July 18.—Baseball is still on the anxious seat as to whether it is an essential line of business or not. Some of the draft boards have excused players, while others have decided that baseball is non-essential. The draft board which considered the case of Catcher Ainsmith of the Boston Braves, decided that baseball is non-essential and ordered Henry to report for service.

The East Orange, N. J., board released Joe Finneran, Yankee twirler, on the ground of essential occupation. Eddie Ainsmith, of the Washington club, was held by the Washington board while the case of Roger Hornsby, star St. Louis Cardinal player, before the Texas board, is still undecided. Catcher Ainsmith has appealed his case to the Secretary of War and a decision is being anxiously awaited.

The Washington club will also probably lose First Baseman Joe Judge, he having been called in the "work or fight" order.

Herzog on First for Braves Catcher Killefer of the Cubs has been placed in Class 1A, and the veteran Top Clarke has been engaged to fill the place. Charles Holocheer, the Cubs' sensational shortstop, whose hitting and fielding helped largely in keeping the team in front, has been ordered before his local draft board.

The Boston Braves have been forced to put Buck Herzog at first base, owing to the weakening of the team. Three outfielders, Kehn, Powell, and Kelly, have enlisted in the Navy Reserves, and Shortstop Marvynville is back only on a short furlough.

Ty Cobb is quoted as saying that he will enlist in the service at the close of the present season.

The Chicago Cubs and the Boston Braves have arranged to play an exhibition game at Montreal, the proceeds going to a war fund.

The Detroit Tigers, by defeating Washington, broke Pitcher Harper's string of seven consecutive wins.

Civil War in Big Leagues

The American and National leagues continue in their angry fight over the refusal of the Philadelphia Athletics to accede to the decision of the National Board and turn Pitcher Scott Perry over to the Boston Braves. Captain Dan Johnson of the American league backs Connie Mack, who is suing out an injunction against the decision handed down by the National Commission. President Tener of the National league declares that he will quit the National Commission if Perry is not turned over to the Braves.

Baseball is getting somewhat dull owing largely to the drafting and enlisting of players. The present squabble between the two major leagues over Perry is a boon for the sporting writers, but it will probably end soon.

The Second Naval District team, comprised of many Boston Red Sox players, defeated the Cleveland Indians in an exhibition game at Newport, the count being 3 to 2.

SPORTING COMMENT

Benny Vahgar, the little French bantam, who has been in the States for the past nine months, has been showing pretty good form in recent contests and promises to develop into quite a star. He has been fighting around Philadelphia, New York, and other eastern cities, and although he has invariably come out quite a bit of weight to his opponent, he has won some good battles. He has taken Frankie Burns, Dick Laddman, Joe Louch, and others into camp, and several weeks ago, at Cleveland, he won decisively over Alie Orlin, of Lorain, Ohio. Although he can easily make 118 pounds, he met Miller at 124 pounds at 3 o'clock. He is a stable mate of Willie Jackson at present, and is in line for some good matches. Frank Bagley is acting as his manager.

One of the sensational athletes back home during the present season is Frank Shea, the sterling quarter miler of the University of Pittsburgh. In the intercollegiate he romped in a winner in the 16 in the remarkably fast time of 47.35 seconds, one of the fastest double furlongs ever run in a college race. He was not crowded, otherwise he might have established a new mark for the distance. He is called a second Ted Meredith and Maxey Long. He helped the University of Pittsburgh get second place in the big meet. Cornell's easy one at present, and the other Cornell athletes, they have no different material at their disposal from any of the other big schools, but somehow or other Mackley is always able to build up a winner.

"Big 10" football schedules will be played through the same as last fall, according to the latest decision of the board of control. Indiana voted to have the same schedule as the other members decided, that athletics are essential to put men in shape for real warfare.

Comparison of the records made by eastern and western athletes shows the West to lead in three over their eastern rivals. Howard Drew ran the 100 faster than did Hayward of Pennsylvania, his time being 10. Jackson of Michigan out-jumped Fetter of Cornell, and Oshorn of Missouri reached a higher mark than Fitor of Johns Hopkins.

Speaking of come-backs, old Nick Altrock pitched a game for Washington against Detroit and won it, 3 to 2. Nick's system was to get them out first, and then grab them off with his old ball motion. Nick has been the comedian of the Senators for three years, but he had another game on his sleeve and he got a bigger laugh by beating Cobb and Co. than he has by his antics on the firing line.

Alie Orlin and Phil Douglas, who was operated on the stomach, is back on the come-back and pitched the Cubs into first place, winning his opening game by a shut-out with only three hits, two of them scratches.

That makes the Cubs look almost as strong as if they hadn't lost Alexander. Alex, by the way, was married the other day at Camp Funston to one of his school girl chums.

The American association is having a close race for the pennant this year. On June 20 Milwaukee was leading by the narrow margin of two games, with Kansas City second, Columbus next, and Louisville, Indianapolis, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Toledo following in the order named. Just what effect the trade of the Milwaukee club with St. Louis Nationals will have on the race it is hard to predict.

CAPTIVE YANKS IN GAME

American soldiers who are prisoners of war in Germany, or those who may be taken prisoner in the near future, shall not suffer for lack of baseballs and the like, if the Y.M.C.A. can help it.

Already the Y.M.C.A. has done its part by shipping a half carload of athletic goods. This consignment consisted of tennis sets, baseballs, bats and mitts, volley balls and footballs.

They were addressed to Dr. A. C. Harte of Bern, Switzerland, and are intended for transport by him to the Yanks captive in Germany. Dr. Harte had sent for them, presumably after making arrangements for their reception and distribution inside the enemy Empire.

BABE RUTH, RED SOX, IS YEAR'S SENSATION

Pitches, Plays Infield and Outfield, 400 Hits

QUIT TEAM FOR FEW DAYS

But Trouble With Owners Has Been Patched Up, and All's Well Now

Babe Ruth of the Boston Red Sox continues to be a regular Dick Merrill.

His exploits are becoming the talk of baseball back home. Ruth pitches, plays first and also the outfield, and besides that is among the leaders in the American league in batting. His feat of four home runs in four consecutive days is alone enough to make him famous. Ruth had some trouble with the owners of the club last week. He quit in a huff, but the trouble was soon patched up, and he is back clouting the ball again.

It is by no means unusual for a pitcher to occupy a place at the top of the batting list for a few weeks in the spring, because he may have had one big day with the bat and then stayed out of the game for a long time. But when a fellow that is credited with appearing in the majority of his team's games is hitting over .400 in the middle of June it is time to sit up and take notice.

Ruth is the hitting sensation of the year, and in fact, of American league history. He is batting right now as well as anyone has batted for the same number of games since the foul strike rule came into being, and he promises to stay out in front all season.

A Slagger of Parts

Babe always has been known among ball players as a slugger of parts. He was generally said that if he had to play every day opposing pitchers would soon find his weak spot and make a fish out of him. This spring, when the Boston Red Sox found themselves short of batting strength, it was decided to use Ruth in the middle of the first base when he was not pitching. His average did not suffer a bit when he began to play every day, but, on the contrary, the longer he remained in the lineup the better he got. Instead of the pitchers finding out his weakness, he found theirs.

Babe is a tremendously powerful man who handles a bat as though it weighed no more than a toothpick. He takes a full swing and hits the ball out in front of the plate, giving him tremendous drive. Home runs are his specialty, and in any park that has a short right field fence he usually makes two or three in a series.

He is credited with the longest hit ever made in the American league, driving one into the center field bleachers at Fenway Park, Boston, in a game against Detroit last year with Bill James pitching.

Into the Two Bill Seats Anyone that has ever seen Fenway Park will realize what a tremendous thump this was. The ball went into the 25 cent seats about four rows from the top. It was the first time on record that anyone ever had succeeded in driving one into this stand, though now and then someone hits a homer into the right field section. Ruth's lick would have gone over the fence in the Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis, Philadelphia or Washington American league parks. It would have been into the bleachers in New York, and it was as far as the scoreboard in Chicago.

In addition to being at present the boss hitter of the league, Ruth is also an accomplished first baseman and a fair outfielder. His defensive play is improving all the time. And of course he is one of the best left-handed pitchers in the world. Aside from these few accomplishments and some speed on the bases, he is of practically no value to the Red Sox.

DIAMOND FLASHES

Michigan's champion "Big 10" team had little trouble in winning the last game of the season from Notre Dame, 14 to 6. Scheider held the Notre Dame team to five hits and not a runner reached second base.

All the players on the Boston National league team have promised to get into some kind of service next fall, whether they are called or not.

Word comes from the States that the Government is to take over the green horse-hold to such an extent that there will be little left for the manufacturers of baseballs.

Pop Anson says the only thing new in baseball in the last 30 years is the spitball and commercialism. Pop forgets that some members of the Louisville team in his time were barred for trying to throw games.

After Three-Fingered Brown succeeded in hitting as manager of the Columbus, Ohio, team, his men won 14 out of 37 games, all of which were played on the road.

The Milwaukee team under Joe Egan, former Providence manager, is the surprise of the American association.

Long Tom Hughes, twirler for Minneapolis, held Toledo to a lone hit. Roy Patterson performed the same feat against the Mud Hens, the week before.

Stoney McGinnis, former St. Louis and Milwaukee twirler, is twirling in the Lake Shore league in Wisconsin this summer.

Automobiles are being used in the Pacific Coast league to make the jumps between cities, because of the increased railroad rates. The trip between Salt Lake City and the coast cities are made by train as formerly.

Fletcher Koster June, of the University of West Virginia, has joined the Cleveland club.

Alec Reilly has been sold by Louisville to the Toronto club.

TOURNAIE CIRCUIT IS REAL BIG LEAGUE

These Sixteen Teams Are Not Worried About Traveling Expenses

FIVE MORE IN OVERFLOW

Major Straight Cup Going to Winner of Diamond Championship

When you speak of the "big leagues," usually you refer to the American and National, because in these circuits you find the fastest class of baseball played in the world. In fact, American league fans, proud with pride to the results of the last few world's series, say that you can be even more specific than that and confine the term "big" to their circuit alone.

Be that as it may, the real "big" league, when you view it from the standpoint of numbers, is playing at Tours.

There are 16 clubs in this league, as many as there are in the American and National combined. Five other teams are playing in the same town, but there was no room for them in the circuit and they are holding an overflow meeting in their own. They say that they want to play the pennant series in the regular race, and perhaps at the end of the season there will be another world's series.

Every Game on Home Grounds

At first glance it might appear that a 16-club circuit would be too ponderous to be interesting, but this has not been found to be the case. There is no traveling to be done, for one thing. In the old days of the National league, when there were 11 ball clubs and Louisville in the circuit, they did find it a bit messy to get all the battles fought in one town.

When a club went out for a swing on the circuit, its members might be in the heyday of youth, but when it had visited 11 towns and returned to its own park the players were apt to be creaking in the joints, and with long walks. Here, however, the clubs all can walk to the park, and they are always on their home grounds.

The class of baseball played in the Tours league is good. There are a number of men enrolled who have had minor league experience, and a few who have had at least a cup of coffee in the big show. One pitcher, who is winning regularly, was once signed by Connie Mack, who happened to be going by the church where this youngster was being christened and slipped him a contract, with a promise of a big salary.

Usually Connie reads the statistics in the paper and is waiting on the front steps the morning after a male infant makes his squally advent.

Officers Boost Sport

The immense thirst for baseball at Tours is due in part to the natural enthusiasm of the garison for the sport and in part to the energy of G. W. A. Zahn, a Y.M.C.A. physical director, in organizing things for the men. Zahn, who is a great hustler, thus disproving all the things said about Philadelphia being a sleepy town, is a baseball enthusiast himself, and running a baseball league is his favorite outdoor sport.

Officers stationed in Tours have given the sport great support. Major Willard Straight has donated a fine cup for the winners of the diamond championship, a trophy that will be more highly prized than a world's series emblem back home. The schedule calls for each team to meet the others once. Then there will be a second round for the "first division."

MISKE SINKS GUNBOAT

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, July 18.—Billy Miske had little difficulty in defeating Gunboat Smith in an eight round battle at Jersey City.

Miske outboxed Smith throughout and also did all the forcing. Smith just managed to stay through the eight rounds.

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DUKE STILL SMASHING 'EM

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, July 8.—Duke Kahanamoku, the Hawaiian swimmer, established a new record for the 60 yards, crawl stroke style, in an aquatic meet at Chicago, covering the distance in 25.15 seconds. The previous mark of thirty seconds was made by C. M. Daniels at Pittsburgh in 1917.

In the 220 yard event, Perry McGillivray, of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, defeated Kahanamoku and established a world's record of 2:21.25 against his former mark of 2:24.15.

RAILROAD FARES BOOST BALL COSTS

Coast League Arranges to Have Teams Move by Auto

Baseball has been hard hit by the Government order increasing railroad fares all over the country. Some of the little leagues may have to stop, and even the big leagues will suffer, although if the present attendance keeps up they can stand the additional expense.

The Coast League intends to keep going if the teams have to walk from town to town. President Al Baum has made arrangements for the teams to travel from city to city by auto, which ought to make a pleasant summer. But imagine "Game postponed—blowout," or "No game—excuse trouble," or having a leading team smashed up or pinched for speeding. Why, a motorcycle cop could decide the pennant race.

The owners are doing everything possible to keep the game going, and it is hard sledding, but they aren't kicking. They know there's a war on.

WITH THE MITT WELDERS

Kid Williams got the decision over Young Cluskey at Baltimore in 13 rounds. Johnny Ertle has been suspended for four months by the Wisconsin Boxing Commission, because he did not notify the examining physician that he had an abscess on his ear when he lost to Dick Ledman in three rounds.

Heavyweight bouts evidently are not wanted in Wisconsin, the boxing commission having notified clubs that no heavy weight matches should be made without first consulting with the commission.

Mike O'Dowd did not meet Eddie McGonerty at Camp Grant, claiming he did not have time to train. Andre Anderson and Homer Smith fought a draw.

Benny Leonard helped to turn in \$12,000 for the war fund when he gave an exhibition with Louis Resca at Los Angeles, over whom he was awarded the decision.

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WAR CLOUD HAILED AS YEAR'S CHAMPION

Three-Year-Old Beats Johnren and Other Good Bets at Aqueduct

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, July 18.—War Cloud, by his decisive win over Johnren, Jack Hare, Jr., and Elmendorf at Aqueduct, is being hailed as the three year old champion of the year.

Elfin Queen was beaten in the Astoria Stakes for two year olds by the improved filly Terenti, in a record breaking race, the winner making the five furlongs in :58.15, clipping one-fifth of a second from the mark made by High Time, winner of the Hndson Stakes, on the opening day of the meet.

The aged gelding Roamer won the Empire City Handicap by ten lengths from Hollister, making the mile and a furlong in 1:51, equalling the best record for the race and the track.

DRAFT HITS CARDS

Because of the draft the St. Louis Cardinals have been so badly weakened that they are floundering about in the cellar position in the National league race. The owners, however, have determined to get the team out of the rut and many changes are planned.

Players are being grabbed up everywhere, three being taken from Milwaukee and four from Little Rock. Outfielders McFerry and Beal of Milwaukee, and Twirler Hankin Johnson of the same club are to join the cards.

From Little Rock will come Johnny Brock and Tony Brottem, catchers, and Distel and Grimm, infielders.

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