

WILLIE HOPPE EXPLAINS THREE IMPORTANT THINGS TO LEARN IN BILLIARD GAME

SPRING SERIES BETWEEN ATHLETICS AND PHILLIES MAY BE PLAYED IN SOUTH

National League Champions Plan to Follow Lead of American Leaguers and Curtail Stay at St. Petersburg—Hoppe's Marvelous Work

ARRANGEMENTS now under way are completed, the spring series between the Athletics and Phillies will be played after all, but local fans will have no opportunity to witness the games. They will be played at Jacksonville and St. Petersburg, Fla., during the training season. Business Manager Shetline, of the Athletics, and Manager Mack, of the Athletics, are arranging their schedules, and an attempt will be made to get in a five-or seven-game series.

According to the present plans of President Baker and Manager Moran, the Athletics will follow the lead of the Mackmen and will not depart for the South until the second week in March. With the line-up of the National League Champions practically decided upon, unless one or two of the youngsters make an unexpected fight for a regular berth, Moran can see little advantage in spending a large sum of money to keep the team in the South for five weeks.

Teams Will Return Late

Neither of the local teams will return to this city until they are scheduled to open the championship season. In case the schedules of the National and American Leagues are arranged so that either the Phils or Mackmen take a swing around the East before opening up at home, the team which does not draw the opening home game will not be seen in action by the local fans until the end of April.

The Athletics plan to leave St. Petersburg about April 5 and will play one of two games en route to Washington, where a three-game series with the Senators will be played, starting April 8. Manager Mack has not decided whether his team will play any exhibition games. These contests have seldom made over expenses, and with a fall-end team, instead of a championship aggregation, the attendance would be even smaller than in other years, and Mack is thinking of abandoning the idea.

Hoppe Has Broken All Balk-Line Billiard Records

Since the first of January Willie Hoppe, the world's champion balk-line billiard player, has played a total of 60,000 points, and hung up a record which has never been equaled in the history of the game. In this string of 60,000 points, divided into blocks of 400, 500 and 1,200, Hoppe has compiled an average never approached, and performed the marvelous feat of having a run of over 100 in every match played.

Forty-four times this year Hoppe has made runs of over 200. At Hartford, Conn., five weeks ago, the wizard made an unfinished run of 400 in a regular match; in February, at Hartford, he made another unfinished run of 388, while at Vancouver, B. C., he ran 388 before he made an unfortunate miscue. On the shot following the miscue, Hoppe ran 105. A miscue on the break prevented him from breaking his own world's record average of 188 2-5 for a 500-point match.

Hoppe So Wonderful He Is Heavily Handicapped in All Matches

Hoppe's greatest run was made in Paris several years ago, when he completed a game with a run of 622. So wonderful is Hoppe that the greatest masters in the game now refuse to meet him unless they are allowed liberal handicaps. In no other game coming in the category of sports has an individual so completely outclassed the field that he must be heavily handicapped. The uncanny consistency of this artist is unprecedented in the annals of billiards. Ives, Schaefer, Sutton and Blossom, when they were in their prime, performed some wonderful feats, but they never approached Hoppe in any department of the game, and all were subject to erratic streaks.

R. B. Benjamin, who is managing the modest young champion, declares that Hoppe will shatter all his own world's records before the winter is over. According to Benjamin, Hoppe will play continuously every afternoon and evening until April, in hopes of making new marks. It is likely that the champion will return to Philadelphia for two more matches in the near future.

Major League Will Try to Bar Freak Deliveries

Believing that the craze which has seized major league pitchers to invent freak balls and deliveries is the direct cause of long games, a concentrated action, to discourage such efforts is predicted for the annual meetings of the National and American Leagues next week. The object is not to aid the batting, as generally stated, but to shorten the games and to make the work of the umpires easier.

The Rules Committee of each league will try to provide means by which umpires can cope with any situation which may arise in the future if a pitcher seeks to gain an unfair advantage by some method not at present forbidden by the rules. The long games in the American League last season caused President Johnson to ask his umpires to submit their opinions as to the cause, and five of the eight blamed it on the time wasted by the spit-baller and other freak-ball pitchers between deliveries.

Fans Do Not Approve of Organized Ball's Method

Organized ball is said to be making an effort to have streets cut through the property recently purchased by the Federal League for its new ball park in New York. Perhaps this is considered good business, and as a war measure all right, but good sportsmen would rather see the battle fought out on the ball field.

Federal League Press Agents Going Too Strong

The Federal League has a wonderful array of press agents, and they certainly keep the independent organization in the limelight, but erroneous information, such as has been handed out recently to the effect that Hughie Jennings and "Stuffy" McInnis contemplated jumping, will do the league harm.

An odd feature of the American League pitching records is the number of men hit by pitched balls by the Detroit hurlers. The total of Jennings' staff almost doubled any other in the league in this respect. It also recalls the fact that the Cleveland and Boston players became involved in brawls with the Tigers last summer because it was claimed that Detroit pitchers were trying to "bean" batmen.

Football Players Sometimes Are Students

That gridiron athletes can gain fame in the class room as well as on the field of battle has been proved on three different occasions at the University of Virginia. Yesterday, George Wayne Anderson, Jr., of Richmond, right tackle on the team this year, was awarded a Virginia Rhodes scholarship. He will enter Oxford next fall.

Robert Kent Gooch, all-Southern quarterback last year and one of the best football men developed below the Mason and Dixon line, won the scholarship in 1914, and John V. Ray, fullback on the 1913 eleven, won the honor from West Virginia.

Baseball magnates are united on the question of college baseball. A number of them, including Charley Comiskey, Charles Weeghman and Thomas of the Cubs, have publicly stated that they are anxious to see the colleges continue the national pastime, as many stars are drawn from this source to fill the vacancies in major league clubs.

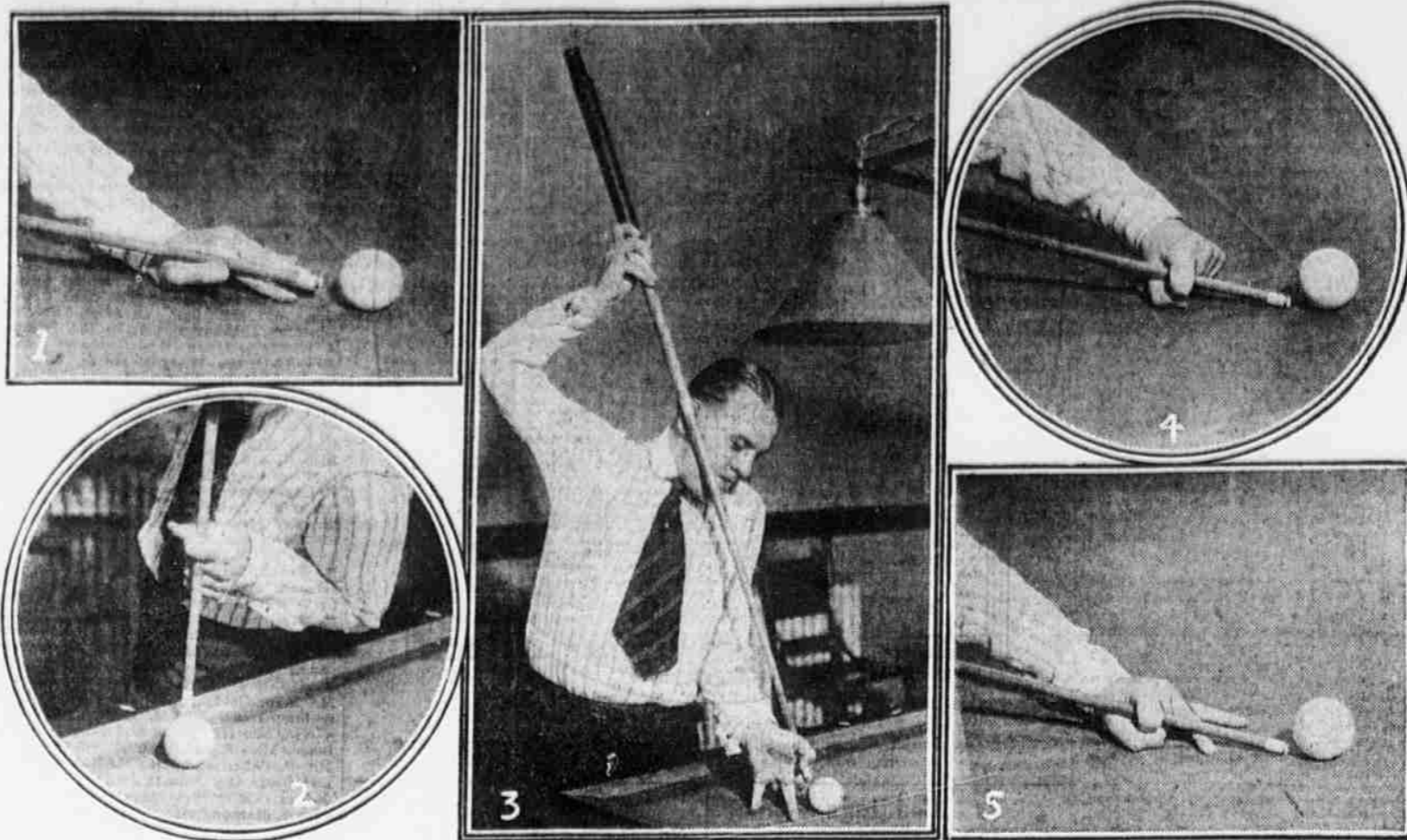
A number of colleges are considering the question of abolishing baseball as a recognized collegiate sport. This has given rise to the interest taken in the matter by the diamond moguls.

New Yorkers call Philadelphia "Sleepy Hollow," but it is noticeable that Gothamites are still going crazy over six-day bicycle races. Unless past performances are misleading, the present six-day affair will end in a tie, with three or four teams riding off on Saturday night. If they pulled that as often in "Sleepy Hollow" they would be run out of town.

Henning, Dorizas and Witherow have reported for the weight events at Penn. Dorizas and Witherow have had experience, but Henning is absolutely green. The wonderful strength of the star guard gave Coach Orton the impression that he would be a valuable addition to the track squad, and considerable time will be spent developing him this winter.

Despite the fact that it has always been claimed Walter Johnson possessed such wonderful control that American League batmen never feared being hit by him, the records charge Walter with 19 hit batmen, a mark beaten only by Grover Loudermilk.

HOPPE ILLUSTRATING SOME OF HIS BEST BILLIARD SHOTS



POOR BILLIARD PLAYING IS CAUSED BY BAD START

By WILLIE HOPPE
(World's Champion Billiardist)

I have often been asked why such a small percentage of the vast army of persons who find amusement and recreation playing different styles of billiards never attain proficiency at the game. The answer is simple: They start wrong. And once having acquired an incorrect style it is a difficult thing to unlearn bad habits and start right.

There are three things one must learn to play even an average game of billiards. They are: First, making the right "bridge" for all shots; second, holding the cue properly with the driving hand; and, third, the stroke. Each of these three depends on the other, and I believe the bridge is the most important of the lot, although some billiardists do not agree with me.

I have often been criticized because I did not attempt to master the game at the three-cushion carom style, but, as the two strokes vary so greatly, I will not attempt injuring the delicacy of my balk-line stroke to please a few people who would like to see me attempt the other style of game. Therefore, I suggest that all beginners take up one particular style and stick to it.

I will try to explain in the simplest language the bridges I have found to be most effective and easiest to master. The accompanying illustrations will help explain the text.

In illustration No. 1 is pictured the bridge most often called into play. It is used for the delicate nursing stroke. The heel of the hand and the finger-tips rest firmly on the bed of the table, with the knuckles elevated and thumb extended.

The cue, slipping easily between the hand and thumb, finds a solid resting place. This bridge I use mostly for the balk-line nurse when the balls are close together and a delicate stroke is necessary. A few minutes' practice will serve to show how simple and effective is this manner of holding the cue. It gives perfect freedom of action and prevents a cramped movement.

The offhand massé bridge pictured in illustration No. 2 is used very seldom in championship matches, but is shown more in fancy and exhibition work, which will enable the executor to get force on the cue ball for a driving massé, such as could not be obtained by holding the bridge hand in any position on the table. By using the offhand massé stroke the player can hit the cue ball with such force as to drive the ball the entire length

of the table and return without striking cushions or any object balls.

The close massé bridge stroke shown in illustration No. 3 is most difficult for the novice. It is used only when the balls are "lined up." The cue is held perpendicular by the stroke hand grasping the cue with the thumb and two fingers.

Only the tips of the fingers on the bridge hand touch the table, the cue merely resting on the side of the hand. It seems an insecure method of guidance, but a little practice will show how serviceable it is. Beginners will do well to either pass up the massé stroke for a time or try it out on an old table. A slight slip means a torn tablecloth. For this reason many first-class rooms bar the shot except for experienced players.

In illustration No. 4 is seen the bridge I use for close draw shots when the balls are so near together that a broader bridge is impossible. Only a few inches of space are required, yet a strong, firm resting "groove" for the cue is attained.

While all of the bridges I have mentioned are regularly used by the advanced player, the first two will serve all needs of the beginner. Never allow the bridge hand to become cramped. Never start a shot unless the cue is traveling easily or over the bridge hand. The whole game of billiards depends upon ease of movement.

In illustration No. 5 will be found the draw-stroke bridge. It is made with the hand lying flat on the table with the index finger around the cue shaft and touching the thumb in a very firm manner, so as to prevent the cue from taking an irregular stroke, which is oftentimes caused by the executing hand, and the other three fingers of the hand should be in position exactly as that shown in the illustration, which will give the hand a firm setting and hold the cue in position for a terrific drive or a very heavy draw shot stroke, used for gathering the balls into position in most of the round-the-table shots.

SPECIAL MEETING OF ALLIED SOCCER LEAGUE TONIGHT

Election of Secretary, Vice Hemingway, Resigned on Card

OTHER SOCCER NEWS

A special meeting of the Allied American Football Association is called for this evening at the league headquarters, 10 West Huntingdon street, for the purpose of electing a secretary to replace Oliver Hemingway, who recently resigned.

Hemingway was elected secretary of the association four years ago, when only 23 clubs were affiliated with it, since then the membership has been increased to 42 clubs, playing in five divisions. In other words, the present membership of the Allied Association represents about one-half of the total number of soccer clubs in Philadelphia.

At the time his resignation was tendered the former secretary was quoted to the effect that he always believed in close adherence to the rules of the association, and because others did not stick to them so closely he had decided to quit. Who the individuals were who broke the rules Hemingway did not say.

There are no candidates for the job, at least none who could be seriously considered.

There are several men who would like to have it, but could not handle the mass of detail and other work connected with the office. The board of directors intends to propose President John B. Farrell to fill the vacancy, but the latter declines that he will not permit his name to go before the meeting.

A meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Electric Storage Battery Company tomorrow evening to form the Industrial Soccer League. Representatives of the athletic associations of the Electric Storage Company, the Crescon-Morris Company, the Heffelford Company, the Wheeler Manufacturing Company, Hale & Kilburn, American Pulley Company and Allen & Co. will attend. An eight-circuit is planned, and one vacancy will be filled.

Mulvaney, the old Pennsylvania League player, got back into the game last Saturday after an absence of seven years. He played center forward for Woodland in a United League match with Falmouth.

The final game of the intercollegiate season between Haverford and Penn. originally scheduled for December 14, has been set back to Saturday, December 18. It will be played at Haverford.

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