# BIG CROWDS ATTENDING GAMES OF THE EASTERN BASKETBALL LEAGUE THIS SEASON

## PHILADELPHIA BASKETBALL FANS BELIEVE SCHEFFER HAS SAVED THE LEAGUE

Eastern League President Has Put Organization on High Basis and Proved Integrity of the Game

AFTER the flasco of the 1914-1915 season of the Eastern Basketball League, it was freely predicted that the game would be a losing venture this season, but to date the attendance has been better than ever. Christmas Day is usually the turning point of the season for many of the teams. If they are not drawing the fans up to this time, a club invariably loses money.

The Christmas Day crowds at Reading. De Neri and Greystock prove conclusively that the fans have great faith in the honesty of the game and that President William J. Scheffer saved the organization when he took matters into his own hands, suspending the offending club owners of Reading and Camden

for their alleged attempt to "fix" the race.

The defeats of Greystock within the last formight have increased the interest in the race and now several teams have an excellent chance to overhaul the Greys, whereas it looked for a time as if the downtown five was going to make a runaway race of it. Allie McWilliams, Greystock's wonderful guard, was injured Christmas afternoon and De Neri won from the Greys in the evening because of weak defensive play.

If McWilliams' injury proves severe enough to keep him out of the game for a time, it would be no great surprise if the race was tightened up still more, as Reading and De Neri are both playing great ball, while Trenten is going to trouble the leaders if it can keep its line-up intact.

#### Veterans Have Been Out of Game

Trenton's two star veterans, Joe Fogarty and Harry Hough, have been out of many games, almost all of which have been lost.

When Fogarty and Hough are in the game the Jerseymen compare favor-

ably with any team in the league. The team is composed of veterans and is not as fast as Greystock or De Neri, but it plays better inside basketball and gets excellent results without the speed by never making an unnecessary play. Reading is very much in the same condition, but is sure to be in the running. The return to form of Charley O'Donnell, whose brillant floor work and

field tossing have been responsible for many of the Bears' recent victories, has inspired the other men and they are now moving along at a dizzy clip.

The greatest disappointment of the season has been the miserable playing of Camden. The Skeeters finished the 1914-1915 season with a wonderful spurt which enabled it to tie Reading. With a younger team than Reading the fans looked for a great battle between Camden and Greystock, which finished the season strong with a team of youngsters. Friction in the ranks is said to be the cause of Camden's poor showing.

#### Brown Playing Far Below Form

Last season the Skeeters played well together, but so far this year there has been too much individual play and two or three men do not get along well, according to rumor. Jimmy Brown, the brilliant guard, has been far below his form of 1914-1915, and perhaps it would be a good thing if the management could make a trade for him. Brown is a star of the first water and any other team in the league would find him invaluable, whereas he has been of little use to the Skeeters.

Jasper's showing has also been disappointing, but the fans have stuck to the team well and it will be a money-maker if it can take a spurt in the near future. The only team which has not been drawing well at home is Camden, but they have played to excellent crowds on the read, particularly at Reading where the hall was packed to the doors for the afternoon and evening games

#### Difference Between Eastern and Western Football

Buck O'Neill, coach of Syracuse's varsity eleven, declares that the difference between football in the far West and in the East is fundamental. The lack of good prep school material has been a great handicap to the coaches, as they are forced to drill their men from the ground up after they report for a college team, as the school elevens are so weak that a boy learns but little which will do him good in the collegiate game, according to O'Neill.

The Eastern coach, whose team played three of the representative elevens of the far West, thinks that the material is naturally better, as the men are bigger and faster and that it is only a question of time before the Pacific coast will have to be reckened with when it comes time to award the football

### Montana and Oregon Linesmen Strong

Bill Horr, All-America Syracuse guard of 1998, who once matriculated at Penn and then suddenly disappeared, declares that the Syracuse line was outplayed by the forwards of both Montana and Oregon Aggles. Outplaying the AN AMATEUR DEFINED Syracuse line was a feat which no Eastern team was able to accomplish.

"There isn't enough difference between Eastern and Western football to distinguish," says O'Neill. "After watching Montana and the talking with coaches and players in the West I am convinced that the only differences are of such a slight character that they will entirely disappear within the next few years

"The West plays football like it does everything else. There is the same characteristic hustle and bustle about the gridiron warrlors that one finds in the people engaged in commercial and industrial pursuits. The spirit of the West seems to be speed and the football elevens have absorbed a generous quantity of this atmosphere

"In the East they think Western football very crude, and it is to a certain extent. The absence of preparatory schools causes a lack of well-trained beginners in college at the game. In the East the preparatory schools contribute many of the stars, and their chief value lies in their experience." . . .

### Work Ahead for the Boxing Commission

It is hoped that the New York State Boxing Commission will investigate conditions at the Clermont A. C., where a boxer was billed to appear under the name of Tommy O'Keefe, of Philadelphia, on Christmas afternoon, while O'Keefe was fighting Frankie Conifrey at the National A. C. here. The club probably will use the alibi that it was imposed upon by the manager of the pugilist, but as the matchmaker is supposed to know whom he is dealing with, the club should not be allowed to get off without a penalty. The "ringer" was knocked out in the first round, which will injure the real O'Keefe's drawing power in New York.

caused hardly a stir in the pugilistic game. The fans must be shown, and until Fulton proves that he has a right to meet the world's champion by defeating some first class men, the public will not look upon him as a contender for the crown. Tommy Burns, who is managing the affair, says that his reason for dropping the match was that the New Orleans papers criticised the match instead of boosting it, as expected.

If Frank Moran can again stop Jim Coffey, the Dublin Giant, or clearly outpoint him in their coming bout in New York, he will be the logical opponent for Willard. Moran gave Johnson a hard battle over the 20-round route when the champion was far better than on the day Willard brought the title back to the white race, and the public will at least be assured that it will see a real fight, regardless of the outcome.

State College's soccer team received but little credit for its work during the last season in the summing up of the Eastern championship, despite the fact that the up-State collegians romped away with an easy victory over Haverford College's intercollegiate championship eleven. State had the best soccer team in its history.

Charley O'Donnell, Reading's great veteran, made a wonderful record in the double-header against Camden on Christmas Day. In the two games O'Donnell made 11 field goals and six assists, besides going up for the jump successfully time after time.

Frank Baker was in Philadelphia yesterday and still insists that they will have to come to him with a large contract if any team wants him to return to the game. If what the magnates broached on the subject at the peace meeting can be taken as a criterion Baker is due to remain out of the game for another season unless he drops his price.

Vernon Gibson won the Port Richmond Business Men's Association run on Christmas Day. In a sort of vague, hazy way. "Vernon" and "Gibson" suggest something to us that is rather far removed from outdoor athletics.



## "SUMMER BALL" WILL BE THEME AT CONVENTION

College Men Will Discuss This Important Affair at Gathering in New York

By EDWARD R. BUSHNELL

The National Collegiate Athletic Assoclation, when it holds its annual conven-tion in New York this week, will concentrate most of its time through the me-dium of papers, speeches and debates on the poor "summer baseball" player. This troublesome individual has resisted all the efforts of associations, faculty men and college presidents for a seneration or more. He will have another inning this week, and perhaps before the college baseball season opens in the spring there will be some agreement as to what shall be done with him. be done with him.

I am convinced however that no nermanent cure will be provided by the N. C.
A. A. unless it changes its rules and
makes them mandatory on all members
of the association. Under its present constitution and bylaws this body, which
represents nearly all the leading universities and colleges of the country, can do
nothing but recommend. It has no power. nothing but recommend. It has no power

### The Two Methods

the allowed to get off without a penalty. The "ringer" was knocked out in first round, which will injure the real O'Keefe's drawing power in New York.

Not Much Stir in the Boxing World

The probable postponement of the Jess Willard-Fred Fulton match has used hardly a stir in the puglistic game. The fans must be shown and until the probable postponement of the Jess Willard-Fred Fulton match has used hardly a stir in the puglistic game. The fans must be shown and until the probable postponement of the Jess Willard-Fred Fulton match has used as the puglistic game. The fans must be shown and until the probable postponement of the Jess Willard-Fred Fulton match has used as the puglistic game. The fans must be shown and until the problem. One is for the association to agree upon certain legislation which shall be binding upon all its members. The other is for the association to agree upon certain legislation which shall be binding upon all its members. The other is for the association to agree upon certain legislation which shall be binding upon all its members. The other is for the association to agree upon certain legislation which shall be binding upon all its members. The other is for the association to agree upon certain legislation which shall be binding upon all its members. The other is for the association to agree upon certain legislation which shall be binding upon all its members. The other is for the association to agree upon certain legislation which shall be binding upon all its members. and agree upon uniform rules to govern under what conditions students may play baseball during the summer for other than their own colleges.

It is not likely that the big universities would consent to be bound by a majority vote of such a big organization. If they did they would be at the mercy of a group of small colleges. Legislation suitable to the majority might be extremely distanted to some of the big institutions. Of course the delivation to the tions. Of course, the delegates to the as-sociation do not have authority to vote for legislation which shall be binding. Thus the N. C. A. A. can never be any-thing more than a big conference to uss matters pertaining to college

### The Solution

The second suggestion is the more applicable. College baseball has never had an association as other sports have, and of them all it needs one the most. The simplest solution would be for a group of half a dozen or more universities in the East as near uniform in size and eligibil-East as near uniform in size and engine-ity requirements as possible, to organize for the control of college baseball, adopt the usual definition of an amateur, and then draw up certain regulations for the absolute control of the sport during the

It seems to me that the best way to do this is to permit college students to play during the summer under certain condiduring the summer under certain condi-tions. The practice now most prevalent is for college men to accept positions for the summer with industrial establish-ments or hotels and to play for the base-ball teams of such erganizations once are twice a week. In this city, for example, nearly all the big department stores and

#### STATE CHAMPIONS

MEN
Alabama John C. Allison
Colorado M. A. McLaughlin
Connecticut Hamilton K. Kerr
Carolinus Louis Grimball
California Ervin S. Armstrong
Florida James R. Hyde
Indiana John Simpson
Iowa Arthur M. Bartlett
Kansas T. B. Griffith
Kentucky Bradford L. Eldridge
Massachusetts Francis Ouimet
Michigan James D. Standish, Jr.
Minnesota Dudley A. Mudge
Mississippi W. E. Ware
Missouri Cyrus More
Nebraska John W. Redick
New Jersey Maxwell R. Marston
New Hampshire Clifford W. Bass
North Dakota John Reuter, Jr.
Ohio Holland Hubbard
Oklahoma George Frederickson
Oregon Rudolph Willhelm
Pennsylvania Franklin W. Dyer
Rhode Island Harry E. Kenworthy
Tennessee Gardner Watkins
Texas George V. Rotan
Vermont W. A. Barber, Jr.
Virginia Matthew W. Paxton, Jr.
West Virginia Julius Pollock, Jr.
Wisconsin Richard P. Cavanagh
WOMEN
California Mrs. A. R. Pommer
Florida Miss Lillian B. Hyde
Michigan Miss Madge Miller

industrial organizations maintain base-ball teams which play other organizations on Saturday afternoons or during the week. These students are supposed to do a certain work in return for their salary, just as do the other non-athletic em-ployes. But as a matter of fact, few of them could get such situations except upon the understanding that they are good baseball players and will play for the teams maintained by their employers. In one respect this is a species of pro-fessionalism, because the men get their employment principally because of their baseball skill. ndustrial organizations maintain base-

But playing baseball once or twice a

But playing haseball once or twice a week and doing a man's work in the store besides is certainly not making a business of baseball. In fact, it is no worse than track athletes representing the athletic associations of similar organizations and competing under their colors under the same conditions. Yet a sirict interpretation of the spirit of the amateur rule would bar all such men from amateur athletics.

If a baseball association of leading colleges could be formed, it would be an easy matter to agree upon a plan whereby students could receive permission from their faculties to play in this manner for certain organizations if, after investigation, it were shown that the men actually did enough non-athletic work to earn their salaries and that their athletics were merely recreation. There certainly ought to be a distinction made between this sort of baseball and making a living out of their sport.

IN GOLFING YEAR

Connecticut Hamilton K. Kerr Carolinas Louis Grimball California Ervin S. Armstrong Floridia James R. Hyde Indiana John Simpson Iowa Arthur M. Barllett Kansas T. B. Griffith Kentucky Bradford L. Eldridge Massachusetts Francis Ouimet	Noted Shoot Scheduled for Million Dollar Structure in September
Michigan James D. Standish, Jr. Minnesota Dudley A. Mudge Mississippi W. E. Ware	COOKE TO GET \$1800 CUP
Missouri Cyrus More Nebruska John W. Redick New Jersey Maxwell R. Marston New Hampshire Clifford W. Bass North Dakota John Reuter, Jr. Ohio Holland Hubbard Oklahoma George Frederickson Oregon Budolph Willhelm Pennsylvania Franklin W. Dyer Rhode Island Harry E. Kenworthy Tennessee Gardner Watkins Texas George V. Rotan Vermont W. A. Barber, Jr. Virginia Matthew W. Paxton, Jr. West Virginia Julius Pollock, Jr. Wisconsin Richard P. Cavanagh	By way of Christmas cheer for the trap- shooters of the country, and of this city in particular, Neaf Apgar, president of the Westy Hogans, noted shooting or- ganization, which started here and spread all over the country, has just made an an- nouncement that the event is meeting with great favor. This is to the effect that the annual trapshooting tournament of the organization, which is held an- nually at Atlantic City with upward of 200 shooters in competition, will be held next September on Young's Million Dol-
WOMEN California Mrs. A. R. Pommer Fiorida Misa Lillian B. Hyde	lar Pier out over the ocean.  Apgar writes the Evening Lenger since the old pier, on which this shoot was held

until five years ago, was burned, there has been a steady demand among shooting men in all sections of the land that the Philadelphia shooters get together and put some pressure to bear to make it pos-sible again to stage the shoot on a pier. Now that this has been accomplished it is going to be difficult to accommodate the great entry list.

In all likelihood the 1916 event will be far superior to any ever staged in point of quality and quantity of attendance, with the possible exception of the Grand American Handicap of this year. The holding

ican Handicap of this year. The holding of the shoot on Young's Pier will be a distinct novelty in shooting.

Special piers will be built at the end and along the side of the pier far out over the shore. On these traps will be mounted with shooters' stands built on the pier itself. This will give ample freeboard. The target then will be thrown out over the water, but at a sufficient distance from the bathing beach so that there will be no danger of shooting into the bathers. be no danger of shooting into the bathers.

WILLBE 1916 SCENE

OF WESTY HOGANS

#### RACING DATES ANNOUNCED

British Steeplechasing Season Will Begin This Week

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The important dates of the British steeplechasing season have just been announced, and despite the war most of the big fixtures will be held. The season will open at Gatwick on January I and the stewards have sanctioned despite. further meetings during the month at Lingfield on January 7 and 8. Windsor January 14 and 15 and Gatwick on Janu-nry 21 and 22. The results of these meet-ings will guide the authorities as to ar-ranging further fixtures.

## **CLOSE CONTESTS** MARK NATIONAL SOCCER CLASSIC

Number of Tie Games Played in Early Rounds. Disston Surprised

OTHER CORNER KICKS

This season's competition for the Dewar Trophy, the national soccer classic, is furnishing keener strife than ever before, In every district there were a number of drawn first and second round matches, and a few of these matches were again drawn when repladed. The West riudsons and Yonkers F. C., In the New York district, tied twice, and the Hibernians and Viscose elevens, of the local district, have met in two no-decision battles. The Packards, of Detroit, one of the best of the Middle West teams, played two drawn matches in the second round with St. George's F. C.

George's F. C.

The first round ties between Bethlehem, holders of the Dewar Trophy, 1914-15 American League champions and recognized everywhere as the country's leading soccer eleven, and Disston, of Tacony, and between Viscose, of Marcus Hook, and Hibernians, of this city, were played off on Saturday and the result of each match was a distinct surprise. The surprise of the Disston-Bethlehem go was not so much the fact that the latter won as that they won so easily. This was the third meeting of the season for these clubs. The first was in an American League game six weeks ago, Disston winning, 2-1. On December 11 the clubs met at Bethlehem in the second round for the mational cup—John Dewar Trophy—and a 1-1 draw resulted.

In view of this excellent showing

In view of this excellent showing against the steel champs, Disston, while not necessarily the favorite, was expected to at least hold its own. But Bethlehem won as it pleased, by 3 geals to none. Disston's defeat may have been due to the absence of Captain McEwan and Centre Halfback Fisher, who were injured early in the week in practice. But, even so, Disston made such a sorry showing in team-play that it is doubtful if the presence of McEwan and Fisher would have changed the result, except, perhaps, to lower Bethlehem's score.

Bethlehem stuck to the short passing

lower Bethlehem's score.

Bethlehem stuck to the short passing game which, in the long run, is the best. Disston's attack consisted principally of long passes to the wings, and most of these long passes were easily intercepted by Bethlehem's halfbacks. Quite early in the game it was evident that this type of attack would not prove successful, but instead of changing to the shorter and truer passes Disston clung to its original plan of attack.

Disston Boya' Club, present holders of the Philadelphia League championship, slipped further from the top by losing to Christ Church. Wissinoming, a newcomer in the league ranks at the open-ing of the season, gained a firmer hold of Christmas cheer for the trap- ing of the season, shooters of the country, and of this city on the lead by defeating the Boys' Club of the Church Club.

> The Disston Boys' Club is not the only holder of a league championship that is experiencing difficulty in retaining its laurels. In the Allied League Putnam is having its hands full, while Feltonville has been making an uphill fight all season in the United League. In the Cricket Club League Merion White (formerly Merchantville) is being pressed hard by Merion Maroon and Moorestown, while Bethlehem is far from being assured of the American League title. The Disston Boys' Club is not the only

## MORE THAN 10,000 FANS SEE LOCAL

CHRISTMAS BOUTS Farrell, Ertle, Smith and Thomas Winners in

Star Scraps

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Once again, as on all holidays when special matinee boxing bouts are sused. Philadelphia proved itself one of the foremost fight centres in the country when five clubs played before capacity crowds Christmas afternoon. More than 10,000 fams saw fisticuffians in action had at the National, Olympia, Quaker Oth Nonparell and Douglas Clubs.

Nonparell and Douglas Clubs.

In the wind-up to a crackalack show at the National, Mickey Pat Bradley make his first appearance in this city, and while he showed up as a tough and hard hitting fighter, Marty Farrell had little trouble in outpointing the Gray's Ferry man. Johnny Ertle had little trouble adding Joe O Donnell's scalp to his sirks at the Olympia.

at the Olympia.

Homer Smith, heavyweight, who halls from Paw Paw, Mich., made good by dropping Fred Jordan twice and winning by a wide margin at the Nonparell, while in the main mix at the Quaker Cay Charley Thomas gave a vocal exhibition and then proceeded to wallop Johnsy Miller.

New York "smart guys" pulled over two jobs Saturday with a Philadelphia audience and a Philadelphia boxer as the goats. At a Gotham cub a dub introduced as Tommy O'Keefe, of Philadelphia, was knocked out in less than a minute by Patsy Kline, of Newark, O'Keefe, as it were, met Frankie Conifere bera. The Billy Fitzsimmons, who was stopped by Young Jack Toland at a local cub, was said to be not the original Fitzsimmons, who boxed in Albany Saturday.

## CHRISTMAS FIGHT RESULTS

nan drew.
ALLENTOWN.-Mickey Pening outpoints
Fighting Bob Givler Battling Nelson des
with Ren Carlin, Rid Alberts fooled Rington
Hiley, Joe Mack knocked put Kid Kirk

### SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

Willie Mechan, a 200 pound heavyweight, and Eddie Miller, a bantamweight, are in Philadelphia from the coast with Moore Taussi, of San Francisco, as their manager. Taussig is confident his proteges can hold their own in matches with the best in their respective classes. Four years ago, Moore says, Mechanwas a bantamweight and fought a draw of the coast with Eddie Campt. Since become a feasyweight Mechan has had it comounts a feasyweight Mechan has had it comounts a feasyweight Mechan has had it comounts from the Campt. The says weight in the country, barring Jess Willard Mechan is the best heavyweight in the country, barring Jess Willard March 4 in New Orleans is to be canceled Because local papers would not lend their support. Tommy Burne, bromber, declared the bout off. Frank Moran, who is matched in a return fray with Jim Coffey, Jonuary I in New York, will substitute for Pulson against Willard, according to a rumor.



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