

BASEBALL HAS BECOME VERY TOPHEAVY FINANCIALLY DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS

BASEBALL FRANCHISES NOW BRING FAR MORE CASH THAN THEY ARE WORTH TO BUYERS

Even Pennant-winning Teams in the Recent Past Have Proved to Be Financial "White Elephants"

THE grand old game of baseball becoming top-heavy and is a thorough reorganization necessary to prevent its ruin?

Since has been made between the warring factions, and it was freely predicted that the game would flourish again, but recent developments prove conclusively that baseball is really in a bad way.

Instead of bringing the grand old game back to a solid and sensible foundation they believe peace has brought about a condition of affairs which is alarming. No doubt there are many who will disagree, but the plain facts are that the men who are now buying major league franchises are throwing their money away and have but little chance of ever getting out of baseball what they put into it, much less receive an income as much as the investment of such a sum should bring.

Purchasers Pay Too Much for Franchises

When a man buys a ball club at the present time what does he buy but a lot of players who are here today and elsewhere in a few years, the good will of the old owners and a scrap of paper called a franchise?

We are told that the salaries of the ball players will be gradually cut until the men who draw the people to the gate and make the game possible will get about half what they are receiving today.

The hot-headed individual will tell them to go to blazes, but he will be rewarded with a tail-end team. The men who are paying such fabulous sums for franchises have but one chance to realize anything from their investment and that chance is a winning ball team.

Must Have Winning Teams to Pay

There can be but one pennant winner in each league, and unless the new owners of teams in the major leagues can develop a pennant-winning team within the course of five years they will be far in the hole.

The bankers' committee in charge of the affairs of Charles Somers, owner of the Cleveland Club, has set a price of \$500,000 on the tail-end Indians; the St. Louis Browns sold for \$525,000; Weegman paid \$500,000 for the Cubs without the grounds; Percy Haughton purchased the Braves for \$570,000, while \$1,250,000 is asked for the New York National League club by its owners, who are negotiating with Harry Sinclair.

At Cleveland the new owners will receive the right to operate a team, a poor bunch of ball players and the ill will of the fans of the Sixth City. The Indians had no Federal or National League opposition, yet the fans in Cleveland have turned to independent ball. Baseball men say the franchise is a bargain at that price, but facts prove otherwise.

The other American League magnates have promised to come to the aid of the new owners and strengthen the team; but did they not also promise to aid Charles Somers? When it was too late the league voted to loan Somers \$100,000 to finance the team.

Weegman Received 25 Good Ball Players

Weegman, in Chicago, received 25 players and the right to operate a club. He already had the good will of the fans, and immediately put more than half of the players on the market. In other words, the new owner of the Cubs paid \$500,000 for a dozen players and the privilege of consolidating the Whales and Cubs.

In buying the Braves, Percy Haughton's syndicate purchased a rattling good ball team, but one that is not worth anywhere near \$570,000. The new owners will be under terrific expense in renting the wonderful new park, owned by James Gaffney, and not included in the sale.

It is no sure thing the Braves will not go to pieces, as other great teams have. Its salary list is enormous, the expense of operating the team still greater, and without a pennant-winning Haughton and his associates are likely to be years and years before they are even with the game.

Tail-end Team Brought \$525,000

In St. Louis Phil Ball and Otto Steifel purchased a tail-end team, which has been a drug on the market, for \$525,000. A winner in St. Louis will prove a money-maker, and the consolidation of the Reds and Browns should give the new owners an excellent team; but it will also be years before they are even under any condition.

Then we consider the New York Giants, which is generally recognized as the most valuable franchise in the country. John T. Brush was the principal stockholder of the Giants since 1902, and it was thought that he was immensely wealthy, considering the fact that the Giants had always been a top-notch team until last season, had taken part in the world's series of 1905, 1911, 1912, 1913 and had won the National League pennant in 1904; but when he died it was learned that he was not half so rich as had been supposed.

The reports of the New York club shows that it earned nothing last year, and that its profits have been by far smaller than is generally supposed since 1902. Therefore, why is the franchise now worth a million and a quarter with a team that finished in last place? These are just a few of the incidents which prove that the grand old game has become top-heavy, and when any business gets in that condition it is due for a fall.

Murphy Started Rush into Baseball Business

As stated before, the marvelous luck of Charles Webb Murphy, who is said to have run a shoeing into a million, is responsible for the mad rush into baseball of moneyed men of other businesses. In the long history of baseball Charles Murphy is the only man who ever owned a ball team who retired from the sport a big winner until the last year, when the price of franchises took a sudden jump.

Charley Comiskey is still in baseball, so is Barney Dreyfuss, Charley Ebbets and Mack and Shibe. Perhaps all of them have become wealthy from the game, although Mack declares he is broke and Ebbets is known to have had financial troubles two years ago.

When Jim Hart sold the Cubs eleven years ago he made a little. Like others who have sold franchises in a growing business, he sold for much more than he paid; but while in the game his losses were such that there was not much of a balance. Soden and Couant, the old owners of the famous Boston team, cleared some money while in the game, but not what such a wonderful organization should have made, and it is the same with others.

SWARTHMORE IS TIED FOR FIRST IN CAGE RACE

Delaware County Basketball Teams Are Evenly Matched

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

Swarthmore High School and Darby High School are tied for the lead in the Delaware County High School Basketball League and the big game of the week will be between these two teams next Thursday afternoon on the Darby High floor.

The Swarthmore High School team still has a clean slate in the scholastic games played to date. The game with the Swarthmore College Freshmen, playing under the name of the Mills-Swarthmore Club, resulted in a defeat, 25 to 24, but as this was with a college quintet and not with the Ambley High School team, as originally planned, it can hardly be marked up as one of the season's defeats for the Garnet.

Place, the star centre, hopes to be back in the game when Darby is played, as this contest will go a long way in deciding the championship. The team members are: Yarnall, Farley and E. Wood are members of the Swarthmore team. The officials of the Delaware County League are: President, Doctor Joslin, Media, Pa.; vice president, Fred Parsons, Ridley Park, Pa.; secretary and treasurer, E. E. Himmann, Swarthmore, Pa.

The league standing follows: Teams. Won. Lost. P.C. Swarthmore High School... 1 0 1.000 Darby High School... 1 0 1.000 Media High School... 0 2 .000 Lansdowne High School... 0 2 .000

The revised Chestnut Hill Academy basketball schedule, as announced by Manager W. S. Bailey, shows that the first game of the season by the Hillers will be played next Wednesday afternoon, when the Germantown High School quintet will be visitors in the St. Martin's gymnasium. As Captain Loranger did not return, Coach Stocking has shifted his players somewhat. The probable lineup is: Graham and Gaston, forwards; Bob Martin, centre; Bailey, Hillyer and Archie Elias, captain of the football team, guards. Either Wharton or Elliott may replace Bailey as a guard, for the race is close between this trio.

The schedule follows: January 12—Germantown High, at St. Martin's. January 15—Chestnut Hill Academy Club, at St. Martin's. January 18—Germantown Academy, at Manheim. January 22—Philadelphia Trades' School, at St. Martin's. January 25—Germantown Friends' School, at Queen Lane. February 1—Darby High School, at St. Martin's. February 8—Narberth High, at St. Martin's. February 12—Germantown Academy, at St. Martin's. February 19—Germantown Friends' School, at St. Martin's. February 21—Swarthmore Preparatory, at St. Martin's. February 23—Chestnut Hill Alumni, at St. Martin's.

Episcopal Academy's gymnasts have an annual exhibition meet with the University of Pennsylvania team. This year the event will be held in the Academy gymnasium on Friday, January 14. No official result will be announced, but it is usually a good meet and the coaches of the teams make up a score for themselves.

Episcopal's hockey players have been getting plenty of practice in their interclass games and the ice hockey contest with Germantown High took place on Wednesday on the Chestnut Hill Park pond, which is now frozen over, should be well contested. The Sixth Form leads with two games won and none lost and the Fifth Form is in second place.

The Interclass League standing follows: Teams. Won. Lost. P.C. Sixth Form... 2 0 1.000 Fifth Form... 1 1 .500 Third Form... 0 1 .000 Fourth Form... 0 2 .000 Sixth Upper... 0 2 .000

Penn Charter School beat West Philadelphia High in football last season by a score of 14 to 6. Next fall the Quakers will meet the team across the river on October 20. The only change on the Penn Charter football schedule is in the game with Chestnut Hill Academy, the Hillers taking the place of Norristown High School.

Germantown Friends' School is showing much improvement in the cage game. Wonard is shooting field goals in this season form, and Button, his running mate, at forward; Patton, the centre; Wood and Dodds, guards, are playing a nice game. Coach Smith looks to get to many more victories before the season ends.

Carlin, the Jenkintown High School centre, is easily the star of the suburban team, but there are other good players at the school, including such youngsters as Prescott Shillett, Armstrong, Rickert, Alteman and Stringer.

FEW GAMES FOR RED SOX

World's Champions Have Very Short Spring Schedule

BOSTON, Jan. 10.—The world's champion Boston Americans will have less training for the coming American League season than ever before, according to the spring schedule announced by Manager Carrigan. Hot Springs, Ark., will be the site of the Red Sox camp, as in other years. The battery candidates will go there March 10, a week later than usual, and other players will be ordered to report March 17.

The squad will leave Hot Springs before April 1, the date of the first of three games to be played with the Memphis team in that city. Louisville and Cincinnati, exhibition stops on previous schedules, have been dropped this season and the world's champions will go directly to Brooklyn, unless, possibly, a game is arranged for April 5 at Baltimore or Newark. Three games will be played with Brooklyn, April 6, 7 and 8.

OLYMPIA A. A. Broad & Bainbridge

TONIGHT—8:30 SHARP JIMMY COSTER vs. MICKIE BROWN YOUNG JACK CURLEY vs. ALBIE LEBIS SAILOR SMILEY vs. YOUNG PALMER MICKIE BROWN vs. JOHNNY DENNE JIMMY MURPHY vs. JOHNNY DENNE Adm., 50c. Bal. Res., 50c. Arena Res., 75c, \$1.

PALACE A. C. NORRISTOWN, PA.

TOMORROW NIGHT, 8:30 SHARP KID CURLEY vs. YOUNG PALMER BULLY vs. YOUNG PALMER 8-ROUND SEMI-WINDUP JARIE CLARK vs. EDDIE ROYVORE



"SOL" METZGER

SOL METZGER CHOSEN TO FILL FOLWELL'S PLACE

Former Penn End Signed to Coach Washington and Jefferson

RED AND BLUE STAR

WASHINGTON, Pa., Jan. 10.—"Sol" Metzger, former captain and end of the University of Pennsylvania football team, has been named head football coach at Washington and Jefferson College here to succeed Bob Folwell, who was chosen by Penn as head coach for next year.

Metzger, who coached the last two seasons at West Virginia University, came here last night, and early this morning conferred with the W. and J. manager and committee. His selection was made unanimously by the committee and terms were quickly agreed upon, although they have not been made public.

EDDIE M'ANDREWS TO MEET FREDDIE WELSH

Bout Will Take Place at Olympia Next Monday

Philadelphia Jack O'Brien matched Eddie McAndrews, his speedy young light weight, to meet World's Champion Freddie Welsh in a six-round bout to be held at the Olympia a week from tonight.

Harry Pollok represented the Britisher and the pair lost no time coming to terms. Both agreed to weigh 140 pounds just before entering the ring.

Phils Sell Mattison

The Phillies today sold E. G. Mattison, a young right-handed pitcher, who hurled several games for the Phillies in 1914, to the Syracuse team of the New York State League. Mattison was a promising-looking youngster, but was handicapped by poor health and lack of weight. He was farmed out by the Phillies last season, and is apparently a high-class minor leaguer.

Joe Golden Is Angling

CHICAGO, Jan. 10.—Joe Golden, representative of San Antonio, Tex., men, was here today hoping to arrange a championship battle between Freddie Welsh and Charley White.

ONE-SIDED RACE IN SOCCER LEAGUE HANDICAPS GAME

Disston, Bethlehem and Hibernians Too Strong for American League Teams

OTHER NEWS OF SOCCER

Saturday's games in the American League clearly demonstrated the one-sidedness of that organization. The three leaders, Disston, Bethlehem and the Hibernians, gained remarkably easy victories over Boys' Club, Victor Talking Machine Company and the Rangers, respectively. Just why the American League moguls permit this situation, which has existed for several years, to remain in a question that puzzles soccer fans all over the city, but particularly those up Kensington and Frankford way, where the majority of the games are played.

For the first time since the start of the season there were three American League matches played here in one day, but the total number of the spectators at all three games was less than half the number that saw the Disston-Bethlehem match on Christmas Day. Unless this condition is remedied before the close of the present season or previous to the start of the championship race next fall, it would be no longer unlikely if Bethlehem withdraws from the American League, perhaps to join one of the New York district organizations. This would react on the local soccer fans, who would thereby be robbed of the opportunity of seeing the country's leading soccer eleven in action.

The position of the three leaders in the American League is unchanged. Disston leads the Hibernians by the same margin. Disston, with "Mike" Owens at inside right and goal-keeper and Pearce at centre forward, had a picnic with Victor Talking Machine, winning 5-0. Boys' Club defended well against the Bethlehem attacks early in the game, but soon these attacks became irresistible and Bethlehem tallied five goals, holding Boys' Club scoreless. The Rangers managed to score a goal against the Hibernians, their third since the start of the season, but the Hibs, playing well within themselves, scored five. The Bethlehem and Hibernians took no chances with the frozen turf on Saturday, the players of both teams not wishing to risk injury in view of next Saturday's National Cup game at Bethlehem.

Feltonville and Shamrock were scheduled to meet last Saturday, with the lead in the United League at stake. The largest crowd of the season was on hand, but at the last minute the game had to be called off owing to the nonappearance of Referee Oates, who was selected by the Referees' Association to officiate. True, the teams played a "friendly," but with no league points at issue there was little action that was other than commonplace.

There was a general shake-up in the United League standings on Saturday. Vinco, by gaining a well-earned victory over Anacostan 4-3, tops the 19 teams with a total of 15 points. Bristol not two points at the expense of Wissahickon, and is now tied for second place with Shamrock. Each team has 14 points. North Philadelphia had an excellent chance to gain on Feltonville, but was held to a draw by O'Hara and is tied with the 191-15 champions for fourth place at 12 points.

Shamrock and O'Hara are scheduled to meet at 19th street and Hunting Park avenue on the first Saturday in February. Jack McGuigan, Harry Edwards, Lew Bailly et al. please notice.

CENTRAL HIGH COACH SCORES MANAGEMENT OF SOUTHERN

Usilton Claims Saxe, Former Tutor of Downtowners, Should Not Be Allowed to Referee in Their Cage Games

WHAT promises to bring about a tempest in the scholastic teapot occurred yesterday, when Jimmie Usilton, coach of the Central High basketball team, scored the management of the South Philadelphia High cage team and the Supervisory Committee on Athletics for permitting a former coach of a league team to referee in the present race for the public high school basketball championship.

The Central High coach said it was unfair to his team or any other team to play against a five whose former coach acted as referee. Usilton made reference to the recent Central-South Philadelphia game, played on the latter's floor and refereed by Mike Saxe, at one time coach of the downtowners. The game resulted in a defeat for Central by the margin of one point.

The Crismon and Gold tutor arraigned the South Philadelphia authorities for suggesting and the supervisory committee for permitting Saxe to referee, and was outspoken in favoring an official that in the past had no connection with any of the league teams. He said that this was the only means of eliminating future criticism and unpleasantness.

Referee Saxe several years ago coached the downtown five and was instrumental in winning two championships. After he severed his official connection with the team he made application to the league authorities to officiate the games.

"The Supervisory Committee," said Coach Usilton, "was organized to advance scholastic sports along the right channels, and in selecting a former coach to handle the games it has taken a decided backward step."

"While Central High does not think that Saxe was deliberately unfair, we are of the opinion that on account of his former coaching position at South Philadelphia and his lingering interest in the team, an other neutral and disinterested official should have been selected."

It was pointed out that the home team has the privilege to select the referee from a group of eligibles named by the Supervisory Committee. In the case of the game last week the Central High authorities did not register a protest against Saxe, fearing their action would be taken as a discourtesy. Rather than pass the way for any ill-feeling the matter was allowed to pass unnoticed.

Coach Usilton said yesterday that he has no personal grievance against Saxe. The former South Philadelphia basketball instructor, he said, is the victim of peculiar circumstances which have never been between the big high schools.

"When Saxe was mentioned as referee for the recent game," said the Crismon and Gold coach, "I called the attention of several authorities at Central High to the fact that Saxe was at one time coach of our opponents. To avoid any criticism that might later develop I said it would be a wise move to suggest this fact to the South Philadelphia in hopes that their former coach would be withdrawn. Of course, had we entered a vigorous protest it is likely that our rivals would not have noticed."

"But after consideration it was thought that it would be a courtesy to South Philadelphia to let Saxe referee, and consequently we let the incident pass unnoticed."

"After the game, however, many students and members of the team came to me and said that the game would have been more pleasant and free from criticism had another man been in charge. I even heard one of the boys say that Saxe intentionally delayed the game in the interest of South Philly. A man whom I never saw before came to me after the game with the asseveration that Central was robbed of many chances to shoot field goals by the referee calling a foul to the play when the ball was in scrimmage under South Philly's basket."

"Of course, I am saying only what I have heard from my friends and others interested in the welfare of the game."

Advertisement for Jeffery Sedan, featuring a car illustration and text: "Jeffery Sedan \$1165 The first custom-built enclosed coach to sell below \$2000 HURLEY & EARLEY, INC. S. E. Cor. Broad and Race Streets Bell Phone, Walnut 700"

Large advertisement for Camel Cigarettes, featuring a camel illustration and text: "Camel CIGARETTES will delight your fancy in many new ways. The blend of choice Turkish and choice Domestic tobaccos does away with tongue-bite and throat-parch and leaves no unpleasant cigarette aftertaste, no matter how many you smoke! Smokers quickly realize that the absence of coupons or premiums is due to the cost of the tobaccos. You compare Camels with any cigarette for quality, flavor, aroma; for satisfying "body"—for anything any cigarette ever did offer you! You'll prefer Camels to straight Turkish, or straight Domestic, or any cigarette you ever smoked! And Camels will not tire your taste! R. J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO COMPANY, Winston-Salem, N. C."

Comic strip titled "EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—KILBANE BELIEVES, AUBREY, THAT THE SECOND ROUND IS A STILL MORE VITAL SPOT—SEE KLINE FOR DETAILS". Panels show a boxing match with dialogue: "YOU SHOODA SEEN ME THE OTHA NIGHT.", "I WAS BOXING PUGILISTICALLY IN THE RING.", "AND YOU SHOODA SEEN THE OTHA FELLOW!", "WHEN I SLIPPED ACROST MY HAYMAKER", "HE MUSTA THOUGHT A HORSE KICKED HIM.", "BELIEVE ME, I HIT HIM REAL UNDELICATE", "WHERE DID YOU HIT HIM TIMOTHY?", "IN THE THIRD ROUND.", "GOING DOWN!"