

NATIONAL COMMISSION HAS MADE MANY MISTAKES, BUT WILL NOT BE ABOLISHED

Governing Body of Some Sort Necessary to Health of Game and Present Officers May Profit by War-Time Blunders

CARRY HERRMANN, chairman of the National Baseball Commission, declares that there is absolutely no truth to the report that the final step in the peace arrangements would be the dissolution of this body, which has presided over organized ball since the declaration of peace between the National and American Leagues in 1903. Herrmann says that the same officers were re-elected for the 1916 season at the recent meeting in Cincinnati, but that the news was not made public for various reasons.

No doubt the commission will again rule the baseball world if conditions are as Herrmann says, but one must agree with George Young in his declaration that the magnates had tired of the blundering of this august body which has been vested with too much authority. It is significant that the magnates of organized ball in every city where there was Federal League opposition during the war favored the dissolving of the National Commission.

It has been claimed, and no doubt it is the truth, that the blundering of the commission made the Federal League possible and that its many mistakes in handling the issue permitted the Feds to make great headway; whereas clever handling by the supreme body would probably have shut off the Federal League's source of supply and caused it to die a natural death two years ago.

Commission Failed to Act on Important Cases.

It was not so much what the National Commission did that caused the fans, magnates and players to lose confidence in it, but what it failed to do. The failure to act on several questions of utmost importance in recent years caused the players to become unruly. It made possible the Players' Fraternity, as the players, led by Dave Fultz, were quick to take advantage of the first sign of weakness on the part of the powers that be.

The manner in which the commission handled several cases brought forth much criticism from the press, magnates and fans. Among them were the Tinker-Ebbetts deal, which resulted in the former jumping to the Feds. Tinker's jumping was the making of the Feds.

Other blunders were (1) Benny Kauff's jump to the New York Giants, which was apparently sanctioned by the National League and upon which the commission failed to act until public sentiment demanded it. (2) Allowing the Cubs to break a five-year contract with Johnny Evers. Fortunately, Evers was transferred to the Braves, whose sensational spurt saved the National League in 1914. (3) Ousting Frank Chance and Mordecai Brown in Chicago. (4) The scandal attending the race for the batting championship of the American League between Cobb and Lajoie.

Commission Is Really Necessary for Good of Game.

At the peace gathering in New York last month the general impression among those attending the session was that the commission would either be abolished or be reconstructed with four major leaguers and one minor leaguer comprising the new body. While the National Commission has made its mistakes, it has been proved that some such body is needed at the head of the game.

Whether the commission has too much authority and is not exercising good judgment rests entirely with the magnates and they are apparently satisfied to allow it to remain as it is for another year. Perhaps the close of the baseball will enable the august body to get its bearings and in the future its ruling will be satisfactory to all.

Carrigan Believes Strategy Beat Alexander.

A veteran baseball man says that Bill Carrigan, manager of the Red Sox, told him that Alexander had just as much "stuff" when he faced the Red Sox as he did during the National League season, but that the famous Nebraskan was beaten because one of the Red Sox scouts discovered a flaw in the work of the Philly marvel.

According to the story, the scout watched Alexander when he was mowing down National Leaguers and discovered that the Nebraskan was at his best when pitching fast. It is a fact that Alexander, when right, wastes but little time between pitches and that opposing batsmen have marveled at his ability to control the ball, when apparently taking no aim or time to balance himself.

Fast Pitching One of Alexander's Greatest Assets

The story as told to the veteran by Carrigan follows: "Alexander is a remarkably fast worker. He never stalls around in the box. As soon as the ball is thrown to him he winds up and lets it go back at the batter. That is why most of the games he pitched are played in less than 1:40. One of my scouts noticed this and I instructed the boys to step out of the box whenever they had two strikes called upon them. They did this throughout the series, stepping out to rub dirt on their hands or perhaps they would start a bluff argument with the umpire just as Alexander was preparing to pitch.

"It was all new to Alexander, as he was used to working particularly fast when he had the batter in a hole. When he was forced to stand in the box and wait for the batter he became as nervous as a flly. He had all his natural stuff until two strikes had been called on the batter. Then he lost it through anxiety. In the game we beat the Philly marvel, Lewis had two strikes called and stepped out of the box. He argued with the umpire until Alexander started bouncing the ball in the box. Then Lewis stepped back in the box and hit the first ball, which had nothing on it, for a single, driving in the winning run."

Faculty's Lack of Interest Handicaps Penn.

Without doubt sentiment is growing in favor of a resumption of the "Big Four" in college football, if for no other reason than to relieve Princeton and Yale of the unequal burden of their schedule arrangement with Harvard. But while every reason favors meeting Pennsylvania annually on the gridiron, it would come more quickly if the Quaker faculty would take the initiative in bringing about the control of undergraduate athletics. Harvard, Yale and Princeton have complete faculty control, while at Pennsylvania the faculty exercises more of a supervisory capacity or acts as a check upon the students.

The principal reason Pennsylvania and Princeton have been kept apart so long is that the graduates who had control of all sports when the two broke nearly 20 years ago have never brought together. But the students of the two universities cherish none of the old animosities and surely the faculties do not. If the Pennsylvania faculty men would interest themselves in the conduct of undergraduate athletics, as Professor Corwin does at Yale and Dean Briggs at Harvard, resumption of football relations with Harvard, Yale and Princeton would follow.



BILL HOLLENBACK

HOLLENBACK TO COACH ELEVEN AT SYRACUSE

"Big Bill" Signs Three-Year Contract to Tutor New Yorkers

HAS GREAT RECORD

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Jan. 12.—Bill Hollenback, former Penn star and Penn State coach, yesterday signed a three-year contract to coach the Syracuse University football squad.

Hollenback assisted in coaching the Naval Academy eleven and was also in full charge at the Pennsylvania Military College last fall, and is regarded as one of the best football directors in the East.

His four years' work at Penn State, where he turned out winning teams, attracted the attention of football authorities throughout the country, and he was sought by many colleges. He turned down several flattering offers then to accept the position at Syracuse.

The terms of the contract were not made public.

Syracuse expects a successful season under Hollenback's training. The local team lost but one game all last season, and that to Princeton, 3-0. Many of the best players are retained.

Hollenback's signing with Syracuse did not come as a surprise, as it was known for a few days that the New York State institution was trying to land him. He was called to New York city last Saturday for a conference with the Alumni Committee.

Big Bill, as he is better known, was a candidate for the head coaching job at Penn, but when his old teammate, Bob Fowlwell, was selected, Bill announced that he would not act as assistant. It was then that Syracuse started to bid for his services.

Hollenback was captain of the 1908 team and one of the best backfield players the Red and Blue ever had. He was famous as an open field runner and punter.

After leaving Penn he went to State College, and in 1909 was at the University of Missouri. He went back to State in 1911 and stayed until the close of the 1914 season, and in that time the Blue and White enjoyed its most brilliant football record. In his last year at State his team tied Harvard. He coached a winning team at P. M. C. last fall.

Award Prizes Tonight

The prizes won by the successful contestants in the New Year's day marathon run at the Theodore Starr Club and the South Street Business Men's Association will be awarded to the winners at the Starr Garden Recreation Square this evening at 8 o'clock. All winners of medals and survivors, as well as club winning team and time prizes, are invited to be present. An entertainment in honor of the officials who conducted the event will follow the distribution of prizes.

FRANK MORAN WISHED ON JESS WILLARD FOR BOUT

Scribes of Land Have Matched the Pair, But They Have Not Yet Agreed to Meet

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL

FRANK MORAN has been elected to swap a few punches with Jess Willard for the heavyweight championship of the world. Jess probably knows nothing about it, and the chances are that Frank has not been consulted; but many of our very best scribes have arranged the match to be fought some time and some place.

Ever since the blonde Pittsburgher played nurse to Jim Coffey and put him to sleep a second time this "logical contender" stuff has been spilled throughout the East, and we are beginning to take it seriously. It is true that Willard will be forced into the ring to defend his title in the near future, for even the Dear Old Public grows tired of a circus champion.

Jess will have to fight, and, looking over the crop of very poor heavyweights, Moran does not look as bad as the rest of them. For that reason, the scribes have picked on Coffey's conqueror and wished the fight on him. All that remains to be done now is to obtain Willard's consent and find a promoter who will hang up about \$1,000,000, to be divided unequally between the fighters. Outside of these minor details, everything is lovely.

Willard Not Anxious

But Mr. Willard is not at all anxious to get back into the fighting game. He has been picking up soft money since the Johnson battle, and there are some \$3,000 healthy dollars to his credit in the bank to prove it. Moreover, Jess has not fought for almost a year, and he weighs close to 300 pounds. "This means that Willard must take off 60 pounds to get into fair fighting trim.

The writer visited Willard in Chicago a couple of weeks ago and was told that the champion was eager, willing and anxious to yuss up some new "hope." In fact, Willard himself admitted that such was the case. But the big fellow has had a taste of the easy life and is about as anxious to don the mitts again as a guy about to take his first trip in a crippled aeroplane.

But he need have no fear, so far as Moran is concerned. The Pittsburgher has aroused some little enthusiasm over his work in the past year, but as a regular fighter he is a large joke. It is true that Willard is not invincible, but it is hard to figure how Moran has even a reasonable chance with the champion. In the Coffey bout Frank did some clever blocking with his chin, was jabbed all over the ring and showed everything but a good defense. He fought like Battling Nelson, taking a blow to give one in return.

How Long Can He Last?

Now, how can a man like that stand up under the powerful drives of a man like Willard, who packs a knockout punch in either hand? It's a cinch that Moran would look like a third-rater in a championship bout.

Moran's left is practically useless for hitting purposes. He does not punch with it, but uses it to push his opponent away. True, he has a dangerous right, but he generally "telegraphs" the blow before delivering it. He possesses no speed to speak of and his principal asset is his ability to take punishment. How long he can take it is another matter.

So it can be seen that Willard should worry. A short session with Moran will increase his drawing powers with the circus, and perhaps he can "rest up" for another year.

MILLER BEATS FARRELL

Referee Stops Unequal Bout at the Douglas A. C.

The referee at the Douglas A. C. permitted Young Herman Miller of Baltimore, to hammer Knockout Jack Farrell of this city, about the time he saved the local man from punishment. The Baltimore boxer won all the way through five rounds, and at the end of this time Farrell was practically motionless. Frank Jones defeated Harry Allen in the seventh round. In the other bouts Joe Coons and Tommy Lightner boxed a draw; George Evans and Knockout Hanson went six rounds to an even break while Johnny Mullin beat Max Webster.

Jones Asks for Waivers

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 12.—Fletcher A. Jones, manager of the combined St. Louis American and Federal League teams, announced here last night that his submission of a waiver to the National League clubs was not an acknowledgment that such waiver is a prerequisite to the disposition of Federal players.

Old G. Rice in Limelight

PINBURT, N. C., Jan. 12.—Better golf was played yesterday by the adventuring men in their handicap tournament because the weather was better. They had a warm day, with occasional rain showers. In Class A, Marshall Whitlock returned a gross score card of 82, and he leads in the best gross total for two days with 176. E. P. Manson comes next, with 181, then J. J. Hazen and Grandland Rice, with 182 each for 36 holes. Lorenzo Daniels and D. M. Stewart tied for the best score prize for the second day, each with 85-15-77.

Harvard Beats Cornell

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 12.—Harvard's hockey team, having Cornell 2 to 0. The Harvard team were strong on the defense and were able to hold the Cornell scorers until the middle of the second half. On attack, however, the Harvard team were not at all strong and all credit only seven steps to make and most of them were easy ones.

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