

ABSENCE OF STADIUM HERE CAUSES TRANSFER OF ARMY-NAVY CONTEST TO NEW YORK

ARMY AND NAVY OFFICIALS ADMIT ANNUAL GAME WILL BE PLAYED IN NEW YORK

Both Institutions Ask University of Pennsylvania to Release Them From Contract, as Stated in the Evening Ledger of Feb. 3

ONCE, again we must use that time-worn "I told you so" expression. On February 3 the EVENING LEDGER printed in these columns an exclusive story to the effect that the annual Army-Navy game would be played in New York, despite the existing agreement which called for the contest to be decided on Franklin Field next fall. Incidentally, the sale of Frank Baker, which took place just a day prior to the opening of the American League meeting in New York, was presaged in these columns two months ago. Both stories were denied strenuously by all parties concerned.

In reference to the Army-Navy game the EVENING LEDGER stated on February 3:

"The absence of a stadium in this city which can seat 45,000 spectators or more in all probability will cause the officials at West Point and Annapolis to transfer the annual Army-Navy gridiron game to New York again next fall, despite the existing agreement which provides for the playing of the 1916 game in Philadelphia. Nothing definite has been done by the representatives of the two schools, but it is known that they desire to break the agreement because more people can be accommodated in New York and facilities are considered better.

"If Philadelphia had a stadium such as has been suggested, the Army and Navy probably would only be too glad to play all of their games in this city, but as it is out of the question to build such a structure before next fall, one of the greatest events of the year in the sporting world is likely to be lost.

"Franklin Field can accommodate but 32,000 spectators, whereas the Polo Grounds in New York can seat between 42,000 and 45,000 persons. Last fall 42,000 attended the annual battle, despite the fact that miserable weather prevailed. The first disagreement between the University of Pennsylvania and the authorities at the two schools, which resulted in staging the game at Princeton for one year, was due primarily to the fact that both West Point and Annapolis insisted that their allotment of tickets was not satisfactory, each claiming that it could not possibly fulfill its requests from the block of 12,000 tickets allowed each.

"The agreement between Penn and the Government school calls for the two schools to divide three-quarters of the tickets, while the Red and Blue Athletic Association sells the remaining one-fourth, or 8000 seats, and then turns the money over to the Home for Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors. As this annual contest does not net any of the parties concerned, excepting the New York National League Club, any financial gain, the desire to stage the game in New York is due entirely to the absence of a stadium in Philadelphia."

Nitche Issues Official Statement

After a conference with Lieutenant Smith, a statement was issued by Doctor White to the public. At the same time George E. Nitche, who had charge of the details of the games for eight years, gave an explanation of the reversal of the decision. He said:

"The academies had reached their decisions and it is quite proper that they should do so because it is manifestly certain that now or in the near future the University of Pennsylvania will not be in a position to have a stadium of sufficient magnitude to supply the demands for seats for the annual service game.

It is undoubtedly true, however, that if the University or the city of Philadelphia had a stadium large enough the academies would have chosen Philadelphia as the most central point between West Point and Annapolis. This is a matter which concerns Philadelphia quite as much as the University. Thus Philadelphia loses what has become the most spectacular athletic event in the world.

"It was brought to Philadelphia through the efforts of Doctor White; it was developed here and is now lost, perhaps forever, to this city. It is peculiarly sad to Philadelphia because the game had its origin in this city. Philadelphia is indebted entirely to the efforts of Dr. J. William White for bringing the game here, as well as for the resumption of football relations between the two academies."

It is such an unusual thing for anything of importance occurring at an American League meeting that the attention of the baseball fans throughout the country has turned to the meeting of the junior organization in New York tomorrow with only passing interest. The main purpose of the meeting is for the drafting of the 1916 schedule; but many other events of importance will probably take place.

As a usual thing, American League meetings are called to order by President Johnson, who tells the other magnates just about what they are going to do. A magnate then seconds the motion and a resolution is passed to vote Ban Johnson the greatest leader in the world, and then the meeting adjourns.

Tomorrow, however, a different condition will present itself. For a change, some real business of importance will be transacted. One important item will be the final disposal of the tiresome Baker case. Baker has been sold to the New York American League Club, but whether he has accepted the terms offered him is another matter. In all probability the famous slugger will have little trouble coming to terms with the new owners of the Yankees, as they have shown a disposition to be generous with salaries in the past.

Lajoie May Go Back to Indians

The sale of the Cleveland Club is another important item which will be settled at this meeting. The Banker's Committee which is in charge of the affairs of Owner Charley Somers has insisted on the club being sold, and the buyer is to be announced at the present session of the league. It has been said that President Johnson has been "stalling" for time to line up a syndicate of Cleveland men who are anxious to operate the club.

If this syndicate of Clevelanders succeeds in purchasing the club, an attempt will be made to get Larry Lajoie from Manager Mack to manage the team, despite the fact that Lee Fohl holds a contract for this season and has apparently done well in his short regime at the head of the Indians. Manager Mack recently stated that Lajoie would be a regular second baseman again this season, but Connie has never stepped in the way of a player with a chance to better himself, and when he is convinced that Lajoie is really to be offered the position, will willingly give up this wonderful veteran.

New Draft Plan Will Be Discussed

One point will be brought before the meeting which may cause a bitter argument, which is a rare occurrence in the American League. If such a thing should take place, it is not likely that the trouble would be aired, as the American League usually keeps its secrets from the public. The point in question will be the suggestion presented by the National League to adopt the new drafting plan suggested by President Ebbets, of Brooklyn.

The National League at its meeting last week decided to accept the plan if it was looked upon with favor by the American League. It would then be merely a formality in having it passed by the National Commission and the National Association of Minor Leagues, but if an American League magnate who was present when the resolution was accepted by the National League can gain any supporters, the suggestion may be turned down by the American League.

According to what the magnate said to the EVENING LEDGER representative, the new rule has some excellent features and reads very well, but would not work out effectively. He expressed himself as being against it and believed fellow magnates would feel the same way about it.

Then there will be the purchase of Federal League players. The impression appears general that the National League got all the desirable Federal League players during the last 10 days, but such is far from the truth. It will also be remembered that scribes throughout the country declared that there were not more than a dozen players in the Federal League capable of making good in the National and American Leagues.

The EVENING LEDGER contended on December 23 that there were at least 25 players in the independent league who would be purchased, with 90 per cent. of them making good. To date 45 Federal Leaguers have been purchased, and there are still a half dozen who will surely make good, and a dozen more with an excellent chance.

One of the most promising track stars matriculating at Penn in years was lost when Charley Boughton, the old Newark High School miler, was dropped from the University because he failed to live up to the scholastic requirements. Boughton was the American one-mile scholastic champion before entering Penn and was one of the few runners in the game today with possibilities of going under 4:20. It was predicted that collegiate coaching and training would enable the youngster to get under this mark within a year.

MOVIE OF A MAN CASHING A CHECK



CENTRAL LEADS INTERSCHOLASTIC CAGE CAMPAIGN

Victory Over South Philadelphia Gives C. H. S. Half-Game Advantage

MEDIA HIGH FIVE WINS

A temporary break in the four-cornered tie in the High School League basketball game resulted from Central High's 26 to 29 victory over South Philly in a game played yesterday in the West Philadelphia High School gymnasium. Prior to the contest the four teams were deadlocked with four victories and the same number of defeats, and the Crimson and Gold took the lead in the scamper for the Dutch Company trophy, indicative of the scholastic championship, while the loser dropped into last place.

In spite of Central High's ascendancy into first place, its position after today, however, will be shared with either Northeast or West Philadelphia, dependent on the outcome of the game at the Quaker City A. C., 25th and Dauphin streets, today. This game was originally scheduled for yesterday, but Northeast asked for a postponement of one day. After the playing of this game a deadlock for first and third places will be the result, as two teams will be tied with four wins and three losses, while the other two will be on even terms, with three victories and four defeats.

Media High School gave Swarthmore High, leaders of the Delaware County High School Basketball League, an unexpected jolt in the game played at Media High's cage yesterday afternoon. Clever passing, fast teamwork and quick scoring by Lavery and Agnew, the forwards, gave Media the victory by a score of 23 to 16. The Media quintet led at the end of the first half, 13 to 9.

Swarthmore High's students were not overconfident, but they looked forward to a victory, which would have clinched the Delaware County League title for them. Pierce, Reese, Yarnall, E. Wood and W. Wood, the regulars, were all in the contest, but were lacking in speed and aggressiveness. Only five field goals, two by Pierce and one each by Reese, Yarnall and E. Wood, were made by Swarthmore.

On the other hand, Media played a great game at all times, with Lavery, Agnew, Davis, Rhoades, Weasot and Schuehardt, the regulars, on the winning team. Lansdowne High will meet Swarthmore in a game at Swarthmore on Saturday.

The league standing:

Team	Won	Lost	P.C.
Swarthmore High School	4	0	.667
Media High School	4	0	.667
Darby High School	3	1	.600
Chester High School	3	1	.600
Lansdowne High School	1	4	.200

THE THREE-HUNDRED HITTER MAY SOON BECOME EXTINCT

That Rare Species of Ball Player Has Declined Rapidly Since the Season of 1912

By GRANTLAND RICE

THE Dodo is extinct. The Mammoth no longer frolics through rugged vales. The Dinosaur has long since ceased his pilgrimages across Montana's plains.

Only their bare, bleak bones, dug up from prime-old quarries, remain to tell us of an immortal life that will never be again. Which reminds us—shouldn't the skeleton of the next 300 hitter that dies be packed away in some natural history museum, to sleep through the centuries with the mummy of Rameses?

For the 300 hitter, the noblest specimen of the tribe, is fast fading into twilight. Within a few years, at the present rate, he will soon be tottering through the graveyard at the border of No Man's Land.

No Piffle "Piffle," you remark, "and likewise tut-tut. The 300 hitter is far from being extinct. He is as plentiful as ever." You, Fronted Fanatic, are offering an opinion. Against this we counter with a broadside of facts. You have your fancy. We have the figures. And since entirely a matter of percentage figures, figures in this case cannot lie.

Hence this Call to Arms before it is too late, where 20,000 melancholy fans look through the afternoon upon the 300 and the 350 type, but never again another Cobb, another Lajoie, another Wagner or another Collins.

The Overshadowing Figures The batting averages of the American and National Leagues for the last four years ought to give a fairly tidy line on the general situation.

In 1912, including those who played in 50 games or more, the National League had 24,300 men and the American League had 20—complete total of 3,300 hitters. 44. In 1913 the National League had only 15,300 hitters and the American League 11, Total, 26.

Yale Defeats Williams

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 16.—Yale defeated Williams last night, 45 to 8, at basketball, leading the first half 17 to 4. The rival captains, Charles Tait, of Yale, and James Garfield, of Williams, starred.

Chinese Track Star Hope of College Team

CLEVELAND, Feb. 16.—Paul Kinkwell Ball Young, of Kwangtung, China, is the athlete Case School is depending upon to win the pole vault, and possibly the broad jump, in the Ohio Conference track meet next May.

Young, who is one of eight Chinamen being educated at Case, was the second largest point winner at the Oriental Olympic track meet held at Manila two years ago. It has been several years since Case had a pole vaulter or broad jumper of ability, but in Young it seems to have a real vaulter, as he registered 11 feet 8 inches at Manila.

Mrs. Grumbach Wins

PALM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 16.—Lillian B. Hyde, metropolitan and Florida champion and one of the best-known women golfers in the country, was defeated here in the first round of match for the State championship by Mrs. Louis Grumbach, Century player who has yet to win her first tournament. She never had Mrs. Grumbach more than one down and lost three down on the 17th hole.

YACHTSMEN PLAN CONSISTENCY FOR MOTORBOATING

Salem Club Revives Old Scheme to Replace Annual Cruise of Fleet

GIVES CHANCE TO ALL

Racing on the consistency plan will be a feature of the motorboat game in this vicinity and other nearby points this season. While the consistency plan of racing is not an innovation, it is growing in favor with the regatta committees of the yacht clubs affiliated with the three associations in this district.

The plan of the race will be for each boat owner to make the run from Essington to the finishing point. Each elapsed time, according to the owner, will be handed in to the regatta committee in charge. The regatta committee will figure out the starting time of each boat according to the highest elapsed time of craft taking the longest time to be sent away first.

Several years ago the Flat Rock Motor Boat Club, which had its headquarters on the Schuylkill River above Shawmont, organized the consistency scheme for the Hoot Cup race. Every class of craft was allowed to compete and each had an equal chance of winning.

The Salem Rod and Gun Club, of Salem, N. J., with Commodore Waddington as its head, plans to hold a consistency race in place of the annual cruises of the fleet of the yacht clubs affiliated with the Delaware River Yacht Racing Association. Instead of holding a cruise for the visiting boats, Commodore Waddington has planned for a race, starting from the Riverside Yacht Club, of Essington, to the club's anchorage, just above the mouth of Salem Creek.

The race will be open to any sort of craft, including open boats, glass cabin, raised deck, cruisers and speed boats, both the displacement class and the hydroplanes. Each boat has a chance to win the contest, as the coming nearest to its given time will be declared the winner.

In the races held by the Flat Rock Motor Boat Club two years ago the open boat driven by Mrs. Edgar Johns was the winner, covering the course in the same time as was given to the Regatta Committee.

EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—YES, MR. BRIGGS, THOSE WERE THE DAYS OF REAL SPORT, NOT REEL, AS NOW