

# CATCHER BILL MEYERS WAS DISCOVERED BY CONNIE MACK IN A PECULIAR WAY

## CONNIE MACK'S DISCOVERY OF CATCHER BILL MEYERS WAS MERELY AN ACCIDENT

### Went to Davenport, Ia., to Look Over Pitcher Gould, Where He Saw Promising Receiver in Action

BILL MEYERS, the promising young catcher of the Mackmen, was picked up by Manager Mack in an odd way. Connie went to Davenport, Ia., from Chicago after receiving a message that a pitcher he had heard great things of would pitch against Peoria on a certain day. The pitcher recommended was Gould, who had batted a no-hit game and followed with a 10-inning one-hit victory a week before Mack made his visit.

Naturally Connie was very much interested. He left the team in the care of Harry Davis and went to Davenport to see Gould work. Mack says that his first impression of Gould probably caused him to turn his attention to other players, as the much-touted pitcher was very small though strongly built.

He admits that Gould might make a great pitcher, but says he was not impressed by his general action. It did not take Mack long to see that the youngster who was catching Gould was largely responsible for the twirler's success and he decided that he would see more of the youngster, who was Meyers.

#### Wanted Big Price for Pitcher Gould

Connie remained in Davenport for three days and became satisfied that he wanted Meyers badly. The Davenport owners wanted to sell him Gould for a fancy figure because two or three other clubs, one of which was Cincinnati, were after him at the time. Mack refused to fall, but said he would be willing to take Meyers off their hands.

The Davenport owners did not think very well of Meyers because no other major league teams had offered anything for him, so they gladly sold his release and for much less than Mack would have been willing to pay. Mack wanted Meyers to report at the close of the 1915 season, but upon learning that he caught over 100 games, decided that the youngster must be tired and would be unable to do himself justice, so he permitted him to go home.

#### Mack Has Much Faith in Meyers

When Meyers came to the training camp he was not an unknown and an experiment as was generally believed. Instead he was a youngster Mack was banking upon to take one of the places made vacant by the sale of Jack Lapp and release of Jim McAvoy, and the Davenport lad needs only to continue at his present clip to convince the fans that the Athletics have one of the most promising young catchers in either league.

In speaking of Meyers, Manager Mack says: "I am satisfied that the youngster is going to be a great catcher. He may not shine this season (though I am confident he will), but he will surely come through. I looked him over pretty well before I bought him and also thought twice before letting Lapp and McAvoy out."

#### Told He Made a Grave Mistake

"They told me in Davenport that he could not hit and that I was making a great mistake in passing up Gould, but I want to say that Meyers doesn't need to hit if he can be caught, as much as I think he will be able to absorb. I did not take him for his hitting and have not paid much attention to his stick work down here.

"What I wanted was a high-class receiver and I think this lad will develop into one. He handles the ball beautifully, has lots of ginger and can throw well. The accident which occurred to him yesterday is likely to happen to any catcher who is handling a man with a great fast ball early in the year. Meyers looks very good to me and I consider him a very lucky pick-up. Gould might make a fine pitcher, but I am satisfied with Meyers."

#### Petrograd Has Something on Philadelphia

In spite of the war, Petrograd is going to erect a stadium to cost no less than \$500,000, and probably a good deal more before it is finished. This is something Philadelphia is unable to do. There have been a number of efforts made here to build a concrete stadium which would be suitable for holding the Olympic games and the world's series baseball contests, but to date nothing has been done about it, except a lot of talk in and out of the newspapers.

The czar of Russia, however, in spite of the multitude of details that must be dealt with in conjunction with the war, has given James F. Anderson, the trainer of the Russian athletes, to understand that he will build this stadium, which will accommodate all the people that care to see any kind of athletic contest.

Anderson, who is a Swede, has been in the employ of the czar for some time. He won the javelin throw at Stockholm in 1912, and is, besides, an all-round athlete. He is a great shotputter, and has been able to teach his Russian students many tricks of the athletic game.

At present Anderson is in the United States, and will probably be here studying our methods until the war is over. He states that he is very much surprised that Philadelphia, or some other big city, does not build a stadium of a size needed for the Olympic games. Anderson states that track and field sports alone will pay for Petrograd's stadium in a short time, and he does not see why this same thing would not be true in this country, particularly as the annual baseball classic might be played there.

#### Brewer Probably Lost to Penn

Brooke Brewer, the wonderful schoolboy sprinter of the St. Albans School, of Washington, who equaled the world's record for the 50-yard dash when he defeated Howard Drew, Roy Morse and other great sprinters in the Meadowbrook meet here on Saturday night, is, in all probability, lost to Pennsylvania. The coming world's champion, who last spring covered the 100-yard dash in 9.45 seconds, and who had been claimed by the University of Pennsylvania, has transferred his home to Boston, Mass., and has virtually agreed to enter Harvard in the fall.

Brewer's change of heart is due to a number of causes, not the least of which is the fact that his mother moved last week from her home in Washington to Boston, and Brewer will join her there at the close of the school year. Owing to the fact that Brewer's father is dead, the great sprinter desires to be with his mother as much as possible, and he can only do this by entering Harvard. During the Meadowbrook games on Saturday he hobnobbed with the Harvard contingent and talked over Harvard requirements.

Manager George V. Brown, the Boston Athletic Association leader, who brought the Boston contingent down here, was told of Brewer's intention at Convention Hall and had a long talk with him, with the result that Brewer will probably enroll as a member of the Boston A. A., as soon as he transfers his residence and, as he will not be enrolled in college, he can represent that club in the A. A. U. championships at Newark in the 100-yard dash, and get another chance at the famous Drew and Loomis.

The warm weather this winter on Saturdays has dealt the soccer teams in Philadelphia a severe blow. Virtually all the games in the last three weeks have been postponed because of the soft condition of the grounds. There are over 30 games to be played next Saturday, but judging by the present state of the weather, not over half a dozen will be played.

Roy Thomas, coach of the Penn baseball team, believes that he is going to have one of the best lines he has ever developed, in spite of the fact that he has been able to get outdoors but twice. Thomas not only has a good bunch of fielding players, which can always be gathered together in a college, but he has a team that will be able to hit the ball, and that is what counts.

Allis McWilliams, the crack guard of the Greystock (Eastern League) basketball team, may play with the New York (American League) baseball club. This, however, according to Manager Joe Bailey, of the Greys, will not prevent his playing with the Churchmen next season.

Veon Gregg, who has been going bad for the last couple of seasons, may "come back." The huge portlander is showing all kinds of talent at the training camp of the Red Sox, and Manager "Bill" Carrigan expects him to win many games this year.

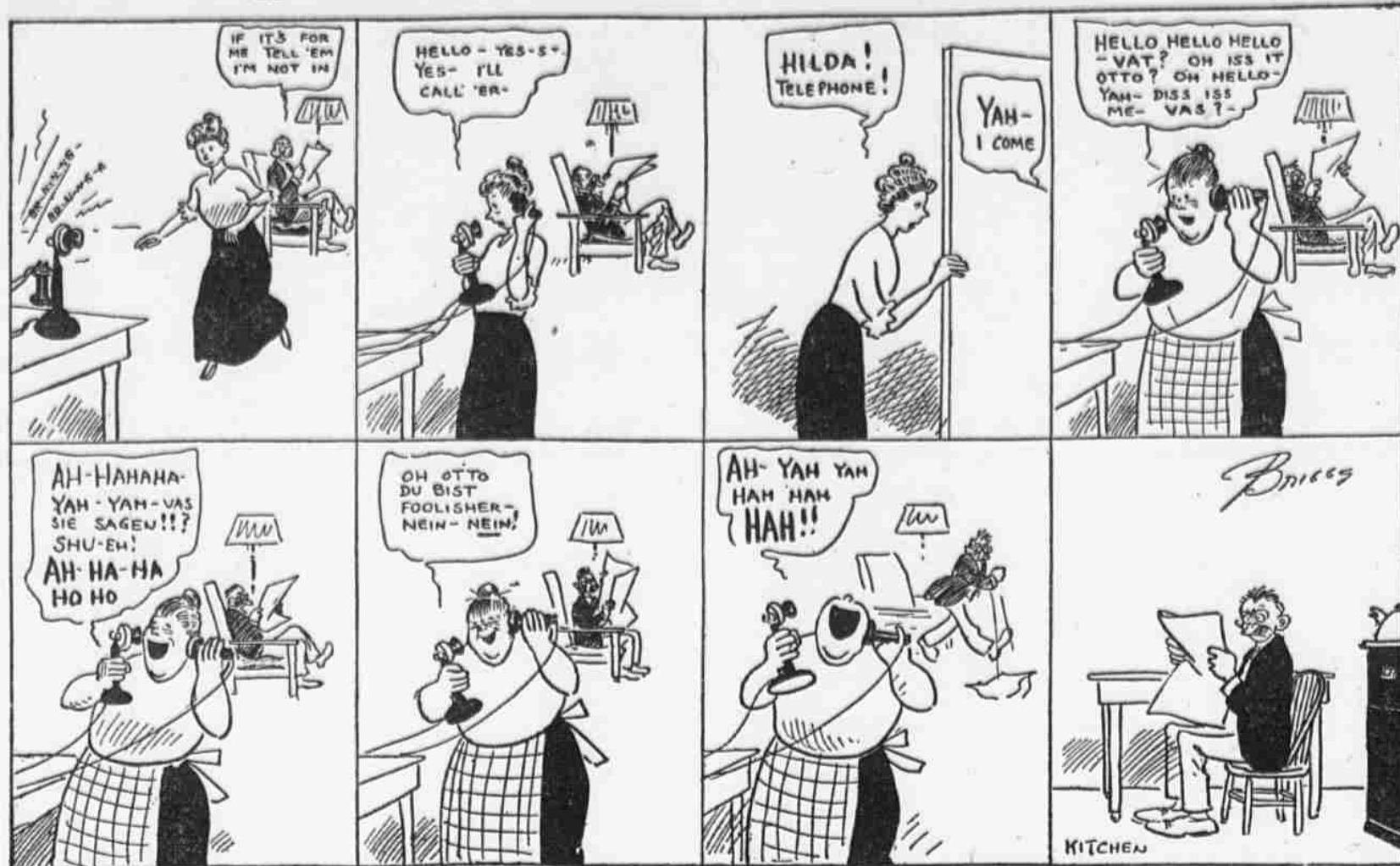
Tex Rickard, promoter of the Willard-Moran bout, is having his troubles these days. When he is not worrying about the physical condition of Jess, he is listening to volunteer advisers who insist that the man from the West is being primed for a "trimming by the wise guys." They are sure that Tex will emerge from the battle with a huge dent in his bankroll.

Yesterday, when Rickard was leaving the barber shop, one of these advisers stepped up to him.

"Could I have your ear, Mr. Rickard?" asked the well wisher.

"Ow!" yelled an innocent bystander. "There goes Rickard. They've taken his bankroll and now they are starting to pull him to pieces!"

### IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST OF REGULATED FAMILIES



## COLLEGE CREWS HAVE ONE MONTH FOR TRAINING

### Coaching This Year, With Four Exceptions, Is Controlled by New Men

#### TIGERS IN BIG REGATTA?

With a little over a month remaining before the intercollegiate rowing season gets under way, virtually every one of the college crews has taken to the water and are going through the preliminary conditioning. At virtually every one of the 10 colleges, from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic, large squads have been rowing, giving the old and new coaches a hard task in picking a representative variety of crews. The University of California, with 250, really leads the colleges in the number of candidates reporting for the eight. In the East big squads answered the call. This year, with four exceptions, collegiate rowing will be handled by new instructors. At the University of Pennsylvania Joseph Wright, former coach of the Argonauta Rowing Club, of Toronto, Canada, is in charge. At Harvard a change has been made. Bill Haines, who comes from the Union Boat Club, of Boston, succeeds James Wray as the professional coach and adviser, and is assisted by R. F. Herrick. At the University of California Ben Wallis, a former Yale oarsman, and Ted Mayer, a Harvard crew man, are in charge. Yale is being tutored by Guy Nickalls, Columbia by Jim Rice and Cornell by Charles E. ("Old Man") Courtney.

The racing schedule for the 10 colleges has been completed, with the exception of the annual regatta between Pennsylvania, Cornell, Columbia, Syracuse and West Stanford. The refusal of the West Shore Railroad to run observation trains to Poughkeepsie, except on June 23, and the refusal of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania to allow the members of the three crews to take their examinations at Poughkeepsie on June 17 has left but one date open, June 24.

There is a slight chance that Princeton may compete in the big race this year. It all depends upon the "Tiger" rowing authorities. Heretofore they have refused to enter a crew, claiming that their men are not good enough for a four-mile haul. All the Princeton men are over the Henley regatta distance, a mile and beyond. However, there is a demand from the undergraduates and a large portion of the Princeton alumni for representation in the 1916 blue ribbon event. The Washington University crew, if it makes a representative showing in the Pacific Coast intercollegiate regatta on April 8 at Oakland, Cal., will be invited to compete against the crew of the East.

## SCHEDULE FOR SCHOOL NINES HAS 84 GAMES

### Frankford and Germantown Added to Scholastic Baseball League

#### AN EIGHT-TEAM CIRCUIT

The official interscholastic baseball schedule for this spring is the largest and most interesting ever arranged by the High School League. The list includes 84 games, beginning Monday, April 3, and ending Friday, May 26. The addition of Frankford and Germantown to the league has increased the number of teams from six to eight.

But there is something in Moran's favor, also. It is this: We recall a certain September, 24 years ago. We look back to it as "through a glass darkly," as through a dim, wavering vista, whatsoever a vista might be.

For our youth was then extreme, being even the youth of Penrod. But we still recall in a dim, wavering way the advance notice that a J. J. Corbett had no sort of a chance against John Lawrence Sullivan. Sullivan was to win in a come-catcher, fighting with one hand while he used the other to stifle a yawn. Corbett was doomed to a far greater extent than Moran is doomed in advance today.

And then there was the temerity of a Fitzsimmons, weight 154, tackling Corbett, the champion, weight 185. Fitz also was doomed. He had only one outside chance, to pursue the advance dope.

You remember what happened. Even More So Still further along there was the case of the raw, untutored, floundering Mr. Jeffries, tossed in against Fitzsimmons, the champion, both second-raters.

Jeff was to be cut to pieces and then knocked colder than an Arctic dund. Fitz knew too much for the big, lumbering Californian.

The man who had conquered the conqueror of Sullivan was not to be annoyed by such a second-rater as James J. Jeffries.

You remember what happened. On and On And what chance had Jess Willard, an overgrown White Hope, against the crafty and powerful Zulu?

What had Willard done? He had lost a decision to Gunboat Smith and Bearcat McMathon, both second-raters.

He had failed to do anything to Carl Morris, the Captain Gorgonzola of the ring—i. e., the greatest cheese of all.

Willard was big, but what else could he do? Johnson was a trifle ancient, but he was still clever and crafty and he could still hit.

## RICE DECLARES FRANK MORAN HAS CHANCE TO BEAT WILLARD

### Expert Recalls the "Dope" Before Jim Corbett's Famous Fight With John L. Sullivan

By GRANTLAND RICE Where did Willard come in to stand up against a ring master of this type? You remember what happened. The Turn Again So today we are shown with logical directness, with simple deductions, that Moran hasn't a chance to beat Willard? Which is the bigger of the two? Willard. Which one is the faster? Willard. Which one knows more about boxing? Willard. Which one is the stronger? Willard. Which one is champion? Willard. Upon what argument should Moran have even an outside chance to win? No argument at all. Why should he have a fair chance? He shouldn't. BUT—as suggested before—remember what has happened in the past.

Wright to Head Williams Five WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., March 16.—Harold Lewis Wright, 17, of Bellevue, O., has been elected captain of the Williams College basketball team for next year. Wright was ineligible to play this year because of studies, but played a hard, consistent game at guard in 1914.

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## CORNELL'S FOOTBALL FAME TO BE EXPLOITED

### "Al" Sharpe Will Tell Story of Gridiron Triumph at Annual Dinner

Al Sharpe, noted coach, who emphasized Cornell's prominence on the football map by bringing out a winning team last fall, is going to tell how he did it at the annual Cornell dinner on the roof of the Hotel Adelphi next Saturday evening. Sharpe coached the Penn Charter football team from 1903 until 1912, so he is well known to Philadelphians. More than 125 Cornell men who reside in and around Philadelphia are expected to attend the dinner. The mouths of Cornellians are already "watering," for they have learned that the dinner will be a "steak affair with embellishments."

Layton Schoch will serve as toastmaster, and it is known that he will call for toasts which will dig deeply into the traditions of old Cornell. He is preparing to tap the reservoirs of enthusiasm and stir memories of the good old college days. The echoes of the Adelphi roof will be awakened by sturdy Cornell songs and college yells.

In addition to Al Sharpe's snappy football talk, Captain Embick, of the Coast Artillery, will give an illustrated lecture. Edward J. Cattell will talk in a humorous vein, and there will be Hawaiian music. It is expected that a delegation of Cornell men from Wilmington will attend the dinner.

## To All Boy Baseball Teams:

HERE is an exceptional opportunity to get \$1.25 Baseballs FREE for your games this season. THOUSANDS OF BRAND-NEW BASEBALLS EXACTLY LIKE THOSE USED IN THE BIG LEAGUE GAMES will be given away in the next few months. Any nine can win these valuable prizes if each member will give a few minutes of his time NOW. FIRST-CLASS FIELDERS' GLOVES also will be given away in the same manner. START NOW and have your baseballs, etc., by the opening of the season. Challenges will soon be coming in, and every team should be ready with the RIGHT KIND of a ball and gloves that will hold the ball and take the sting out of it, too. Apply at Room 230, PUBLIC LEDGER BUILDING. Out-of-town niners should address Room 230 by mail.

## EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—YES, HE'S ALL RIGHT ON "DE-FENCE" BUT NOT ON OFFENSE, PATRICK

