

# HARRY DAVIS AND IRA THOMAS ARE GREAT AID TO CONNIE MACK WITH YOUNG PLAYERS

## CONNIE MACK ABLY ASSISTED IN RECONSTRUCTING HIS CLUB BY AIDES DAVIS AND THOMAS

### This Corps of Helpers Expert in Selecting "Possibilities" and in Developing Them Into Major League Players

ONE of the essentials in the rapid reconstruction of a baseball club is, besides the manager, an able corps of assistants. This explains why Connie Mack has retained the services of Harry Davis and Ira Thomas. There was never any question in the minds of Philadelphia fans concerning Davis as long as he was captain of the White Elephants, but many wondered why Mack kept Thomas on his payroll.

If these same fans who did so much wondering and even more "knocking" would see Davis and Thomas at work with the youngsters in Florida and at home and abroad during the playing season, they would cease to marvel and would probably put away their verbal hammers.

Davis and Thomas are not only invaluable in separating the chaff from the real baseball material, but they are past masters at the art of teaching the finer points to those who they believe are endowed with the ability to become major league players.

#### Various Methods of Getting Best Results

Harry Davis, like Connie Mack, studies his men and uses methods of making them ball players according to the disposition of the individual. For example, Davis has often used the "kidding" method to get the best results from a player, rather than the more generally used tactics of abusing them.

There was a certain young candidate for third base last spring who did not have as much fight in his system as Davis deemed necessary for success. One day, while the Athletics were playing the Louisville club in Lakeland, Fla., this player was injured. He said so, at least. Davis allowed him to retire from the game without question. Later he inquired into the nature of the injury. Under the thick coating of a iodine solution one could discern a slight swelling on the third baseman's thumb where the ball had struck. It was not an injury that would have kept a real, live ball player out of the game.

Davis did not say anything to the player, but later in the evening, with a crowd of rookies gathered around, he began to tell a series of blood-curdling stories about how injured ball players stayed in the game, even though the contest was only a regular scheduled league affair. He cited so many instances to show that the great players did not consider a bad spike, a sore arm or ankle, or a split finger anything more than a little tough luck, that the player in question began to show visible signs of unrest. He couldn't stand it very long and retired. The next day the third baseman was at his position and did not so much as hint that he had ever been hurt.

That player did not make good, but it is a safe bet that if he ever happens to be on a club in charge of Harry Davis, he will be in the line-up if he is able to don a uniform and stand on his well-known spikes.

#### One Great Trouble With "Kidding" Method

There is only one trouble about trying to show a baseball player his faults by Davis' "kidding" method. A large per cent. of the recruits who go south are so dense that they do not realize they are being "kidded."

But on one is quicker to see the "dumbness" of a player than Davis. Hence if he has been taking a few subtle shots at a player and sees that they are taking a bad "hop," or going completely over the young man's cap, he talks to him in a language that he can understand.

While many baseball players are actually brilliant at repartee, there are others who show a lack of mental nimbleness that is scarcely believable. As the Athletics were being swirled along over the Illinois Central tracks along Lake Michigan early one morning just before getting in Chicago, Harry Davis remarked that the Pacific Ocean was very calm that day. One of Mack's young men, to whom the remark was addressed, said: "It sure is, and say, Harry, y'know I almost forgot Chicago was on the ocean till you mentioned it."

That actually happened, and that young man believed he was gazing on the Pacific. Incidentally, he is still with the Athletics, but he has learned a little more about geography since that time.

#### Thomas Is the Battery General

Ira Thomas has been and will continue to be a great help to Mack with the battery men. Having been an astute receiver himself, he knows how to develop both the catcher and the pitcher. He is thoroughly familiar with the batters of the American League and during the season he can show the slabmen points about pitching to individuals which would help any man, no matter how great his experience, in Ban Johnson's circuit.

At present, Thomas is in Jacksonville, trying to make great pitchers out of Bressler, Wyckoff and Bush, and also looking over the younger material for something to work on in the future. According to the reports he has a number of men who look exceedingly promising, which means that in the course of a year or so Mack, as he himself stated recently, is going to have another hurling corps equal to his former greats, Bender, Plank and Coombs.

#### John G. Anderson Praises Merion Golf Course

John G. Anderson, the famous golfer, who was in the finals of the national amateur championship last summer with Robert Gardiner, pays a tribute to the course of the Merion Cricket Club, over which the national amateur championship will be decided late this summer.

"I played at Merion last fall in the Lesley Cup matches," says Anderson, "and I remarked at that time that both courses were of championship calibre. I have traveled far and seldom found a better combination of golfing possibilities, or two better handled and better kept courses. Philadelphia should be able to handle any size entry list in the nationals this year with such a wonderful lot of facilities."

Jerome Travers, the open champion, and Francis Ouimet, also were contestants in that tournament, and they agreed that the Merion course should have the nationals. That was long before Merion put in a bid for the tournaments.

"In addition to the mechanical facilities, meaning by that the course and clubhouse accommodations, Merion has the finest type of men handling the golf affairs and they deserve the event. Howard Perrin, the vice president of the National Golf Association, is from Merion; Robert W. Lesley also belongs, and I do not know anybody who could and would do more for golf than they."

"I think that this year will have an exceptional entry list in all respects, and I look for the comeback of some of the stars of recent years, as well as the playing through of some dark horses, as was the case last year. Golf is growing so fast and is so widespread that we must look for these surprises each season."

#### Western Indoor Games Equal to Those of East

Although the events which made up the programs of the eastern and western college track and field meets do not admit of a fair comparison, there were a number of unusual performances in the Western Conference games held at Evanston, Ill. A wonderful distance runner was uncovered in Mason, of the University of Illinois, who ran the mile in 4:24, and then for good measure romped around the track for two miles in 9:43 4-5. Both were new records. In the shot put, Mucks, the young Wisconsin giant, made a heave of 45 feet 7 1/2 inches, not only a new conference record, but within three inches of the eastern outdoor record.

Comparing the western meet and the indoor games of the Intercollegiate A. A. A. held in New York on March 4, there were just three events in common, the shot put, high jump and pole vault. Compared to Mucks' shot put the winning heave of Cross, of Michigan, in the eastern meet was only 43 feet 9 1/2 inches. But in the pole vault and high jumps the eastern men showed superior form. In the pole vault three men—Foss of Cornell, Newsletter of Pennsylvania and Buck of Yale—did 12 feet 6 inches at New York against 12 feet for Culp of Illinois in the West. Similarly in the high jump Richards or Cornell led the East with 6:03 against 5:11 for Webster of Illinois, the western winner.

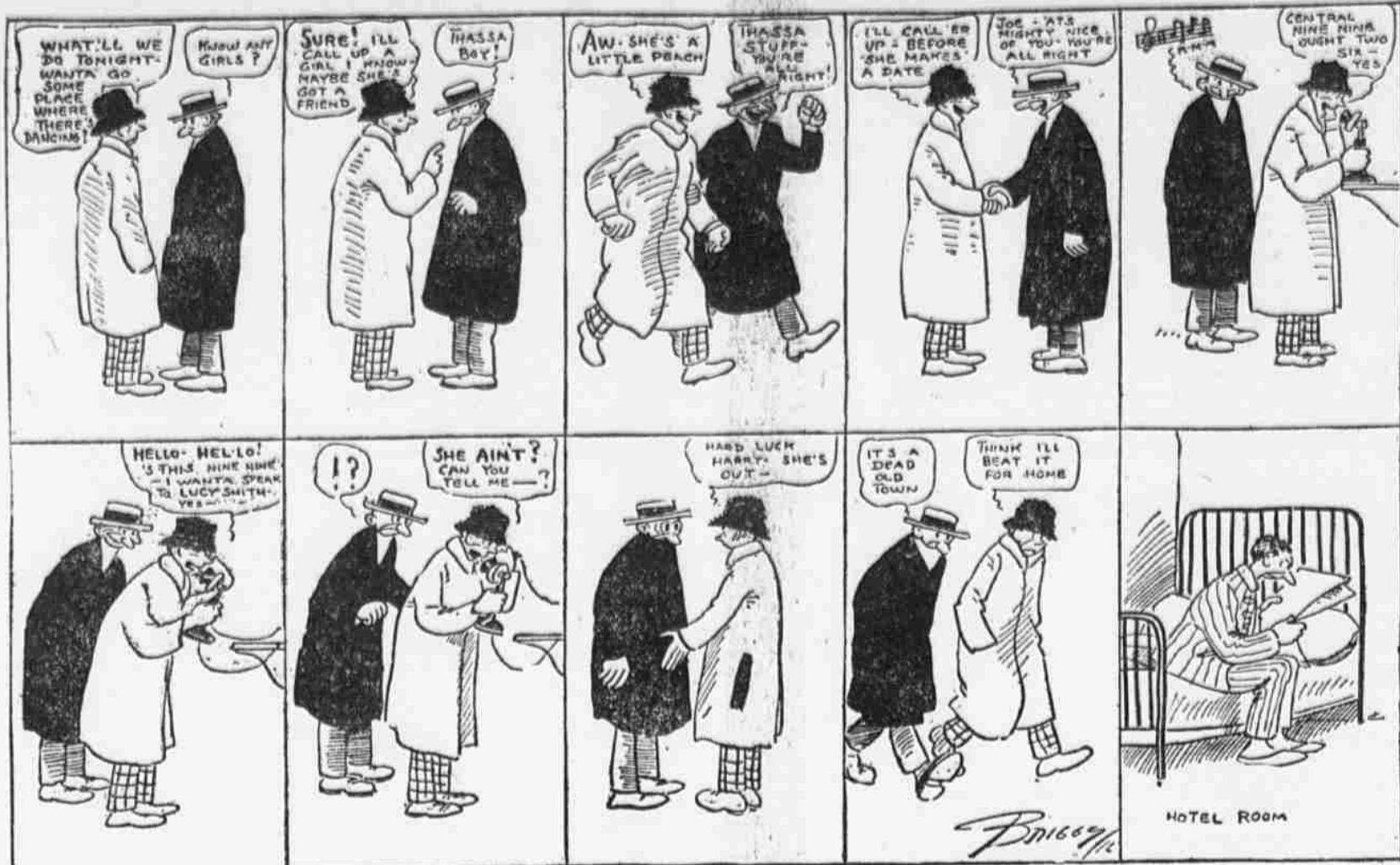
In the sprints, hurdles and relays the distances were so varied that accurate comparison is impossible, but all the evidence is that the West is holding its own pretty well with the East.

#### Money no Object to Californians

The University of California intends to be well fortified with football coaching material next fall. Apparently, money is no object. "Andy" Smith, the former University of Pennsylvania player and coach, and who has been at Purdue University for the last three years, will be the head coach, and his assistants will be Eddie Mahan, captain of last fall's Harvard eleven, and Robert Vaughn, the former Princeton baseball and football player.

Vaughn has been assistant coach to Smith at Purdue ever since he graduated from Princeton. Vaughn will take charge of the line men and Mahan the backfield, with Smith overseeing the work. Vaughn will also coach the basketball and baseball teams of the California college. Smith sounded an important note in his coaching policy when he announced right after he landed in Berkeley that he would not cut a player off the football squad just as long as that player is willing to work.

### MOVIE OF A MAN TRYING TO MAKE A DATE



## WILLARD-MORAN SEAT SALE NOW AT \$115,000 MARK

### Rickard All Smiles as Tickets Go Out and Coin Comes In

### LEVINSKY IS IN PRELIM

#### Evening Ledger Decisions of Ring Bouts Last Night

NEW YORK—Al McCoy defeated Leo Benz, Fred Welsh won from Phil Bloom, ALBANY—Frankie Brown drew with Babe White, BOSTON—Mike Glover and Joe Egan drew.

NEW YORK, March 22.—There was a smile of satisfaction on Tex Rickard's face today when he looked over the ticket chart for the Willard-Moran bout at Madison Square Garden. The chart showed that most of the tickets have been sold or reserved. In the coffers of the Show Corporation there is \$115,000 in cash, with orders for \$20,000 worth of seats. They are being called for rapidly, and Rickard predicted that the house would be sold out by tomorrow night.

The ticket sellers state that the \$10 pasteboards were the most popular. The demand for these was so great that many orders were declined. All of the \$25 seats have been taken and all except a few of the \$20 and \$15 seats have been taken. It is impossible to ascertain how many seats have been bought for women. "Many men told me that we were foolish to offer such a sum for this bout," said Rickard, "as the limited capacity of the Garden would not permit the sale of enough seats to pay for the enormous expense and trouble we have been put to. I know the public which patronizes boxing pretty well by this time and I know from the first that the best people in New York and surrounding cities would patronize it, and my prediction has come true. We can see our way clear already, and on the day before the fight I expect that there will be a seat for sale. And let me tell you that a lot of New Yorkers who have waited until the last minute are going to be disappointed."

Many of the tickets have fallen into the hands of speculators, and several of them were seen yesterday outside of the ticket office at the Garden offering seats for sale to buyers who left the ticket window disappointed.

The preliminary to the big bout probably will bring together Charley Weinstock, the Jersey heavyweight, and Battling Levinsky.

## WILLARD MUST BEAT MORAN TO MAINTAIN HIS PRESTIGE

### Essential to Either Knock Him Out or Clearly Outpoint Him—Necessary to Be Very Aggressive

By GRANTLAND RICE

Where souls hold a hate that is greater than death, Where Ghosts of the Alamo gather again. These are trying days upon the pacifists. In addition to the ground covered by the European war, there is the Mexican melee. And over what little soil remains, the gaunt shadows of Willard and Moran fall.

About the only chance now for the pacifist to keep an unperturbed soul is to go into Mr. Bryan's grape juice cellar and lock the door.

After the Fight Just what Mr. Willard or Mr. Moran must accomplish to maintain prestige after the B. F. (Big Fight—not Bull Festival) is a matter of debate.

A 18-round affair in which neither is particularly aggressive and in which no certain verdict is rendered will cut heavily into the present prestige of both men.

Willard, to hold his fame, must either knock Moran out or clearly and cleanly outpoint him by a fairly wide margin. To finish in front by a bare shade will bring him no additional cheers.

Moran's task is somewhat shorter in stature. He doesn't have to prove that he is champion of the world.

By waging an aggressive contest that will leave him upon fairly even terms with Willard, his position will be established. But if both should refuse to take any undue chances and remain content to play it safe, the aftermath will contain very little cheer.

Additional Statistics Very few statistics on the Willard-Moran imbroglio have been overlooked. Yet one of the most essential details has not yet been tabulated. We refer here to the vast expanse of language, to the number of words, that have been used since the debate first opened.

In New York alone, 12 papers have been using 3,000 words a day. This makes 36,000 words a day for 50 days, or 1,800,000 words from the start up to ring-

I hear Crockett's voice as he leaps from the dust And waits at the call for an answering hail; And Pacific caresses a blade red with rust As deep in the shadows he turns to the trail; Still lost in the darkness that covers their sleep Their bodies may rest in a sand-mounded den, But their spirits have come from the red starry steep Where Ghosts of the Alamo gather again.

You think they've forgotten—because they have slept— The day Santa Anna charged in with his slaves, Where five thousand men on a bare hundred swept And stormed the last rampart that stood for their graves! You think they've forgotten; but faint, from afar, Brave Travis is calling the roll of his men, And a voice answers "Here!" through the shadows that bar Where Ghosts of the Alamo gather again.

There's a flash on a blade—and you thought it a star! There's a light on the plain—and you thought it the moon! You thought the wind echoed that anthem of war! Not knowing the lilt of an old border tune; Gray shades after shade, stirred again unto birth; Gray phantoms by phantom they charge down the glen,

### Swimming Club Election

The annual meeting and election of the Philadelphia Swimming Club was held last night in the main parlor of the Hotel Walton. The president, Harry McMillan, announced that the club was in the most flourishing condition of its career, having 15000 worth of assets and no liabilities. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Harry McMillan; vice president, Fred W. Asmann; recording secretary, W. Frederick Darris; corresponding secretary, William C. Schmidt; treasurer, Joseph A. Warren; captain, John C. Mals.

### George Glenn, manager of the La Salle College baseball team, has arranged his schedule for this season. Now that it is certain the St. Joseph's College-La Salle College baseball game will not be played tonight, owing to injuries sustained by the La Salle youngsters, the North Broad street collectors will turn their attention to baseball.

April 18—Swarthmore High, at Darby. April 21—Media High, at Media. April 22—Chester High, at Chester. April 28—Ridley Park High, at Darby. May 1—Haverford High, at Haverford. May 2—Swarthmore High, at Chester. May 12—Media High, at Darby. May 13—Chester High, at Chester. May 19—Ridley Park High, at Ridley Park. May 23—Haverford High, at Darby. May 25—School of Pedagogy, at Darby.

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## DARBY BASEBALL PLAYERS TO OPEN GARNET SEASON

### First Game on Home Diamond April 18—Late Start Popular

### SCHOLASTIC COMMENT

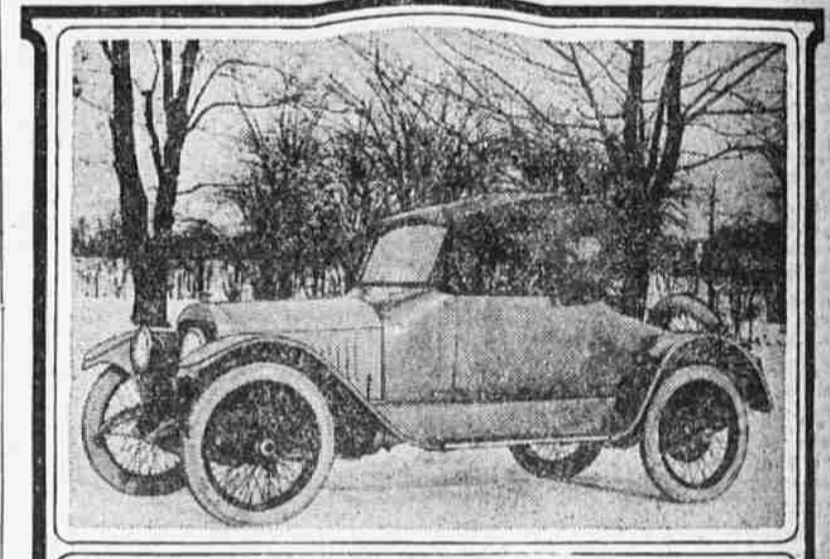
Darby High School made an excellent showing in basketball, giving Swarthmore High, winners of the Delaware County League title, a merry chase for the championship. Now the Darby athletes have turned to baseball and, with opening game at home on April 18 with the Swarthmore team, are eager to start the season with a victory.

Fortunately for Darby, a late start will be made and the players will have the opportunity of getting in some practice work. Media High, Chester High, Ridley Park High, Haverford High and the School of Pedagogy athletes have been listed for games. More contests will follow for Darby still has June 2 and June 3 as open dates and is willing to schedule a game for May 5.

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# Stearns

Knight Type Motor

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Model L, 4-cyl. Knight type motor \$1445 F. O. B. Cleveland  
Knight type "8"-cyl. motor \$2100 F. O. B. Cleveland

Above Prices to Take Effect Monday, March 27th

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## VIM DELIVERY CARS

Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

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