

MAGNATES MAY FORM SPRING BASEBALL LEAGUE FOR TEAMS TRAINING IN FLORIDA

CHARLEY EBBETS WANTS TO FORM FLORIDA LEAGUE FOR SPRING TRAINING

Brooklyn Owner Trying to Interest Connie Mack in Plan, but Athletics' Leader Doubts Its Efficacy

CHARLES H. EBBETS, president of the Brooklyn National League club, is trying to interest Manager Mack in a spring training league, consisting of four National and two American League clubs, which will meet each season and play a regular schedule of games in Florida.

At the present time the Athletics, of the American League, and the Phillies, Brooklyn, Boston and Chicago, of the National League, have permanent training camps in Florida, and many interleague and sectional contests are played each spring, but the games have not drawn as well as they should. Ebbets believes that with an organization formed the fans would have greater confidence in the major leaguers and would turn out in greater numbers.

It is Ebbets' idea to interest an American League club in Palm Beach and have its owners seek the famous winter resort as a training camp. The wonderful success of the Braves in drawing large crowds and getting beneficial training at Miami has convinced Ebbets that Palm Beach is now ripe for the venture.

Wants Yanks to Train at Palm Beach

Ebbets would like the Yankees to adopt Palm Beach as their permanent training camp, and it would not be surprising if Owners Ruppert and Huston switched there next year.

On the surface, the idea is a good one, but Florida cities always have proven disappointments from a drawing standpoint after one season, and for this reason Manager Mack doubts very much if the formation of a league would help matters any. Teams training in Florida are under an enormous expense, and Mack, like other magnates, would be only too glad to join the alliance if he could be convinced that it would be a success and would not tend to take the edge off the regular season.

Mack says that his experience with training in Florida has taught him that no team can make money by staying in one city for more than a year. He cites the great drawing power of the Cubs the first season they trained at Tampa and the great falling off the following year.

Great Falling Off in Attendance

The same was true of the Athletics at Jacksonville. In the spring of 1914 the Mackmen were champions of the world and drew large crowds. They were still champions of the American League when they went there last year, but the attendance fell off woefully.

At Daytona there is virtually no chance to draw crowds under any condition. The ball park is five miles from the city, and the trolley service is so poor that the fans who cannot afford a bus must walk or take a chance at strap-hanging on small cars which run every 30 minutes.

An attempt was made to form a winter league in Florida several years ago, but the plan fell flat when the National Commission let it be known that it did not take kindly to the idea, and it is likely that Ebbets' present plan will also fail.

Bancroft Due for a Great Season

Dave Bancroft, shortstop of the Phillies, is destined to have a great year with the Phillies. Last season Dave was fresh from the Pacific Coast League. Consequently, he did not know one-third the baseball then that he does now. Bancroft will begin this season with a far greater knowledge of the game than he had in 1915; he will also have the confidence, because he realizes that if he had made good his first year he should do far better this season, and he will have the confidence of his fellow-players, which will aid him as much as it does the general team-play.

Since he has been in St. Petersburg this season, Pat Moran has been drilling Bancroft in the gentle art of bunting until the young shortstop is now one of the best. He will be second this year in the batting order, as he was last year. With his additional experience, his added knowledge of the opposing pitchers and his actual improvement with the stick, Bancroft should be a deadly man as follows to the lead-off hitter. He is hard to pitch to, which helped him last season and will help him more this year, because he will be able to use this fact to better advantage.

There's a Reason for Wilbur Good's Showing

Reams of copy paper have been consumed in describing how Wilbur Good is progressing with the Phillies in St. Petersburg. Although there is no doubt that he is playing better ball now than he did last season with the Cubs, it is also true that every man makes a better showing against his old club than against any other team.

This has proved true almost invariably in baseball from Class D to the majors. Many fans have no doubt noticed that when a pitcher is released from one team to another, the manager always starts that pitcher against the club from which his release has just been obtained. Not only that, but the pitcher usually makes a great showing against his ex-team-mates.

This same thing is true of players in other positions as well as in the pitcher's box. That this should be true is not in the least astounding when the facts are analyzed. Rarely does a player go from one club to another without developing a well-formed grudge against his old team. Consequently, when he goes in against that club he puts forth every ounce of energy he has to make a good showing. Then, too, he is familiar with their styles of attack and defense; possibly he can steal their signals and thereby greatly benefit.

While Philadelphia fans hope that Good will do well with Moran, too much must not be thought of his work against Tinker's Cubs in the recent seven-game series which the Phils took without the loss of a game.

The difference in the relative strength of the Paterson and North Hudson basketball teams, now playing a series of games to decide which one will play Greystock for the so-called professional basketball championship, is very slight. Paterson has a two-to-one bulge in a series, the best three in five. Not more than three points have separated the teams in any one game, and in the three games played the teams have scored the same number of points—61. Paterson won the first game, 24-23, and lost the second 13-10. The third game went to Paterson, 23-27. The third game was the only one in which Paterson outscored North Hudson from the field. In the three games North Hudson has scored 20 field goals to 14 for Paterson.

This will be the last season for Jole Ray, the Chicago distance runner, on the path of cinders. And, in announcing his retirement, Jole says there are two things he wishes to accomplish before packing his spiked shoes away, and these are not incidents in passing, either. He wants to better Abel Kiviat's 4:18 4-5 seconds record for running one mile indoors and Norman Taber's 4:12 2-5 seconds records for running the mile on the turf. Ray has assigned himself two mighty big tasks in trying for both of these records. He ran 4:16 2-5 seconds last year, and he is confident that by a course of preparation he can lower both records. His pluck is admired, at any rate.

Jimmy Walsh has been playing great ball for the Athletics and is hitting better than ever. Before the regulars reported, Mack said that he was about ready to count Walsh out of his plans, as he had been told that Jimmy was 25 pounds overweight. When Walsh reported lighter than he was at any time last season Connie was agreeably surprised. It will take some hustling on the part of Thompson and Steilbauer to keep Walsh out of the line-up.

Larry Miller, the young Brooklyn outfielder, is a son of Sebastian Miller, the famous professional strong man who has often appeared in Philadelphia. Larry is a chip of the old block. He is one of the most powerfully built men in the game. He was purchased from St. Boniface, of the Southern League, and looks to be a good hitter, but is having a great deal of trouble with his throwing.

A Philadelphia boxing man has called the attention of the A. A. U. to the entry of Tony Melichar, of Chicago, who recently won the Central A. A. U. heavy-weight championship in Detroit, so that some action can be taken in his case before the national amateur championships are staged in Boston early in April.

A Western newspaperman found that the night before the championships fight in Chicago Melichar was fighting professionally for a big purse in a club on the outskirts of Chicago. When questioned about the matter, Harry Forbes, the former bantamweight champion and manager of Melichar, did not deny the fact, but appeared to have the hope that Melichar could get away with the amateur championship. Whether he will be withdrawn now is not known.

In speaking about the pessimist who can see nothing but sore arms among the Mack pitchers, Amos Strunk is reported as saying: "I guess he must have seen only those who stayed with the Yankees. One look in the clubhouse door when this squad was dressing would make one think of a hospital with several of the boys wearing plasters on their throwing arms. It may look different with the regular hurlers here now."

UNIQUE TOURNEY IS PLANNED BY LOCAL GOLF MEN

High-Grade Performers. Public Course Progresses

LAKEWOOD OPENS SEASON

The 1916 schedule of the Golf Association of Philadelphia, which will be announced within a few days, will contain several entirely new events, including a tournament for high-handicap golfers, something on the order of the tourney played at the Seaview Golf Club last spring. At the annual meeting of the Golf Association it was suggested that that body include, among its events for the 1916 season, a tournament open only to golfers affiliated with local clubs who have an association rating of 12 strokes or more. The question immediately arose, "What happens to the golfer with a handicap of 17? He is not permitted to play in the amateur championship, which is confined to golfers with handicaps of 10 or less, and if this new tournament is scheduled he will be barred from it." At the last meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided to give this event a trial, but it was agreed to open it to all golfers with handicaps above 10, or all those who are not permitted to enter the local championship. No definite date has been agreed upon, although the dates under consideration are July 13, 14 and 15. Arrangements will be the scene of the event, provided the Drexel Hill organization wants it. There will be three sixteens, the first for players handicapped 11 to 14, inclusive, the second 15 to 18, inclusive, and the third over 18. The matches will be played at scratch.

The qualifying round of the Suburban Team Cup competition, made necessary this year owing to the fact that 17 teams entered for 16 places, will be played at the Philadelphia Cricket Club on May 2, instead of April 27, as originally decided, the Executive Committee feeling that the St. Martin's course would be in better shape at the later date. Each club will enter a team of five players, and only the team with the highest aggregate score of the five men will be dropped out. The matches this year will be played on Thursdays instead of Saturdays.

The wet weather of the last few weeks is holding back the opening of the Municipal Links at Cobbs' Creek. The Park Commission hoped to announce the date of the opening a week ago, but until the greens and fairways show improvement over their present state the announcement will be withheld.

In order to obtain a locker at the Municipal Links golfers and those who intend to take up the game on the public course should apply to the Park Commission. These requests will be filled in the order of their receipt until all the lockers are exhausted.

The first golf tournament north of the Mason-Dixon line will be held at the Country Club of Lakewood, April 20, 21 and 22. Instead of following the usual program and having its tournament the next week, the Country Club of Atlantic City has announced the Northfield tournament for May 4, 5 and 6. There will be the usual five 18s, with the usual prizes for the winner and runner-up of each 18, for the winner of each defeated eight, for the low scorer in the qualifying round and for best net and gross scores in the handicap. Northfield is one of the few tournaments where prizes become the absolute property of the winner. They do not remind one of the athletically inclined employer, who, upon presenting a cup to an employee who had just become the father of twins, was asked, "Must I win it three times before it becomes my permanent property?"

Canuck Is Champion Bowler

TOLEDO, O., March 29.—Canada won its first bowling title when it gathered the individual championship of the American Bowling Congress here last night through the prowess of Sam Schilling, of Toronto. Schilling shot 584, setting up the title in the last game with two strikes and eight spares. Ben Bowman, of Cincinnati, ran second, with 519, and Frank Shaw, of Chicago, was third, with 479.

Stecher Downs Doctor Roller

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 30.—Joe Stecher, of Dodge, Neb., defeated Dr. B. F. Roller, of Beatrice, Neb., in a straight fall in a wrestling match here last night. Stecher's time was 3 min. 30 sec. and 3 min. 32 sec.

Frank Kramer's Mother Dead

EVANSVILLE, Ind., March 30.—Mrs. Helen R. Kramer, mother of Frank Kramer, the champion cyclist, died at her home here. She was 53 years old.

'WHY DID MR. HEARST WAIT SO LONG TO DECRY BIG FIGHT?'

Grant Rice Says Publisher Didn't Want to Stop Tilt While Willard Was Under \$26,000 Contract for Famous "Diary"

Mr. Hearst paid Mr. Willard \$26,000 for his stuff, running from April to April. Which is why Mr. Hearst waited until the boxing match was over before trying to have it stopped. He saw a chance to use the Celebrated Diary, for which he had paid, a few weeks longer.

What a Duffer Is

Sir—In reference to golf, I often see the word duffer used. Just what is a duffer in golf? I mean by that, what is the dividing line or the average score separating a duffer from a regular player? A duffer is a golfer who:
Has never beat a 22;
Who rarely knows the blissful fate of slipping under 28;
What thinks his game is getting fine when he can shoot a 39.

"I have no intention of retiring," says Jim Willard, who may not like to fight, but who can still use the money.

If boxing, as now conducted in these 10-round, strictly business affairs, is brutal, then dancing should be stopped on account of its innate cruelty and savagery. There are times when even an expert can't tell which of the two sports is under way.

One Difference

"The Difference of 1916," says Fielder Jones, "are a better ball club than the White Sox of 1908, that only lost the pennant by a game." Probably so, in many ways. But hasn't

By GRANTLAND RICE

Mr. Jones forgotten that the Browns of 1916 have no Ed Walsh to take part in 65 games, which Mr. Walsh did for the White Sox in 1908?

And Mr. Walsh using the right arm of 1908 in as many as 65 games makes more difference than one might think, though Jones isn't the one who should have forgotten.

Henry W. Haughty, Himself

They say he's haughty and austere, The mighty Czar;
He moves with a lofty sphere
Like a star
But for true haughtiness, I say,
There is no man,
Like him who drives the padded dray,
Or moving van.—Exchange.

He may be haughty and austere, The mighty Czar;
He may move in a lofty sphere
Without a bar;
But for true haughtiness, I shout,
There's none to shafe
Like him who calls the runner out
When he is safe.

Ah, daily in the stands I've wept,
Forlorn and sore;
And cursed him for a thieving klep,
With maulin roar;
But oh, there is no autocrat,
Or near the like
Of him who stands behind the bat
And calls the strikes.

ORGANIZED BALL NOT LIABLE IN FEDERAL SUIT, SAYS TENER

Claims All Negotiations Consistent With Anti-Trust Acts

NEW YORK, March 30.—We fail to see where we are liable in the suit in the Baltimore Federal League Club," is part of a statement today, by President John K. Tener, of the National League, in comment on the \$300,000 damage suit brought by the Baltimore Federal Club against organized baseball forces.

TEXTILE TO PLAY 12 GAMES

Baseball Season Opens April 1 With Villanova Prep

The Philadelphia Textile School has favorable prospects for a good baseball season this year. A lot of promising material has shown up for practice and a fast team is expected. Manager Brown has arranged the following schedule:
April 1, Villanova Prep; April 5, St. Joseph's; April 8, Haverford; April 13, Pedagog; April 15, open; April 19, Wenhonah Military; April 29, Williamson Trade.
May 2, Cheltenham; May 6, open; May 9, La Salle College; May 13, Norristown High School; May 20, Bordentown Military Academy.

HAVE YOU TRIED A "LORD" CIGAR
"EXCEEDINGLY BETTER"
Henry's Cigar Co., Philadelphia

HUHN WINS AT TENNIS

Defeats Trotter in Racquet Club Tourney—Wister Is Victor

W. H. T. Huhn easily beat W. H. Trotter in the semifinal round of the Racquet Club by 2 goals to 0. The scores were 8-1, 8-3. Trotter received the handicap of half-thirty, but was unable to do himself justice because of rheumatic twinges in his right arm and shoulder. As it was, he put up a plucky fight, and was beaten out only by the brilliant play of his opponent.

Sloan Defeats Newcomb

Participating in "The President's Annual Shoot," Harry Sloan and Charles Newcomb had a hard match at Camden yesterday afternoon in a match at 100 targets. The victory went to Sloan, who splintered 91 of his targets, two more than Newcomb.

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PALACE A. C. NORRISTOWN, PA. 13368.—TUESDAY, APRIL 4.—J. EDS. JACK McCARON vs. EDDIE REYDOL. 10-ROUND SEMI-FINAL. JOE HUNNING vs. BOB O'DONNELL.

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Guess Who's Adv.?

55c
Reg. Trade Mark
March 18, 1916.

A Pair of Cuff Links Free!

Just to see if you know who sells exclusively the famous "55" Pull-proof Slidey Scarf, we offer a pair of cuff links to the man or woman who presents this advertisement at any of our stores on or before Saturday, April 1st.

EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—THAT'S THE REASON, PROBOSCISUS, HE DEVELOPED CHARLEY HORSE OF THE WALLET SO SOON

WHEN MY COUSIN LEO STARTED DOWN SOUTH WITH PAT MORAN HE HAD A MOST MAGNIFOLIOUS WARD-ROBE. IN FAKT HE BOUGHT A HANDKERCHIEF FOR WHICH HE EXPENDED FORTY SHILLINGS. WHAT ??? FO-HORTY SHILLINGS FOR A HANDKERCHIEF? GRAYT HEVVINGS CARL— THAT'S TOO MUCH TO BLOW IN! How nice! This feat was seen on by MURKIN THOMPSON.