

RETURN OF OLD BALL WOULD IMPROVE HITTING AND INSPIRE BASE RUNNING IN BIG LEAGUES

USE OF LIVELY BALL IS ONLY PLAUSIBLE WAY TO IMPROVE BATTING IN MAJOR LEAGUES

Legislation Against Methods of Pitching Would Be Too Sudden to Aid Game and Would Ruin Great Hurlers

WHEN the Evening Ledger suggested that the only plausible way to increase the batting and base running was by putting more rubber in the center of the official ball several magnates, in discussing this idea at the National League meeting in New York, insisted that it could not be done, as the small parks in several cities would give the home team a tremendous advantage over visiting teams. They contend that the last season the lively ball was used, which was 1911, certain teams enjoyed too much of an advantage on the home field, and that is why the old ball was brought back into use. It is evident that the National League magnates who object to a livelier ball fear that one particular team, the Phillies, would have even more of an advantage than they enjoy now because of the small field at Broad and Huntingdon streets. All other arguments against the return of the lively ball fall flat, and the one great obstacle—the small fields—can be eliminated, and must be in time, even though the ball question is in no way concerned.

Wasting Money With Two Parks

IT IS only a question of a few years before the magnates will realize the value of using one park in every city where two major league clubs are located. This not only would be an immense saving, but would be more pleasing to the fans. It also eliminates many of the objectionable features of the game at the present time. With few exceptions, the National and American League clubs own the plot of ground upon which they play, and every owner looks upon the purchasing of the ground as an excellent investment for the future, and they could be used for other purposes. In cases of teams playing on fields belonging to persons not interested in baseball, there has been dissatisfaction for years over the enormous sum demanded for rent. It will not be long before these leases run out and the rent will be increased. It will be then that the magnates will realize the folly of allowing these enormous stadiums to be unused one-half of the season.

Enormous Rental Paid by Phillies and Braves

WE DO NOT know just what rental the Phillies are paying, but it is safe to say that it is upward of \$25,000 per year, while it is a well-known fact that the Boston Braves are paying Jim Gaffney \$50,000 for the use of the wonderful Braves Field. It would cost these clubs quite a sum to get a release from the contracts they have signed to use the parks for a certain length of time, but in the long run it would prove a paying venture. It would be much better in every way if the Phillies and Athletics both used Shibe Park, while the Braves could move over to Fenway Field in Boston. The latter is not quite so big or beautiful as Gaffney's field, but the saving in the long run would make the switch worth while. Both New York clubs are playing on the Polo Grounds, and it would be an excellent idea if both Chicago teams used Comiskey's park, with the St. Louis teams playing on the American League field. In every instance the teams moving out would play on larger fields, and the lively ball would make little difference.

Lively Ball Responsible for Interest in 1911

THERE is a whole lot to Percy Haughton's proposal to increase the batting and base running. The fans in this city never enjoyed baseball more or supported the two local teams better than in 1911, when the lively ball resulted in some wonderful batting feats by the famous Mack machine and the slugging Phils, who led the National League until accidents deprived the team of the services of three star players at a critical stage of the race. Figures show that there were 515 home-run drives in the National League and 219 in the American League in 1911. Last season there were just about half this number. The lively ball is the answer, and the hits were apportioned on the same ratio. It stands to reason that when there are more hits and extra base drives there will be more base running and the fans get more action.

McGraw's Suggestion Not Practical

OTHER suggestions have been made, but there is something radically wrong with each. None of the magnates is able to agree as to the best way to solve the problem. The suggestions that the batter be given his base on three called balls and doing away with one of the foul strikes have been picked to pieces by persons in position to kill any motion to adopt either. John McGraw, who really is responsible for the movement to increase the batting and base running, favors the elimination of the spit-ball and suggests that all illegal deliveries could be abolished if the pitcher were compelled to keep his hands below his shoulders until he starts to swing. This might eliminate the spit-ball, but other more harmful deliveries could be used without fear of detection, while the great overhead pitchers of the game would be ruined by enforcing such a delivery. The more one goes into the matter, the more he becomes convinced that it is too late to rectify the trouble by legislating against the pitchers at the present time. Some one may strike upon an unmentioned plan, but it is doubtful if the present light hitting and falling off in interest can be eliminated by anything but the return of the lively ball.

Lively Ball the Only Solution

IT IS said that the high cost of rubber will cause the magnates to frown upon the lively-ball idea, but if the owners go through with their threats to cut salaries right and left they should be able to afford a ball that will cost a few cents extra. It is certain that the ballmakers could solve the problem if the magnates give their consent, and it would be a wise move to consult the leading baseball makers before tampering with rules that have proved satisfactory in every way, so far as the playing end of the game is concerned. Of course, the National Agreement, National Commission and other legal rulings never will be so perfect that every one will be satisfied, but if the game is improved the fans will not care, as they really are not interested in the magnates anyway.

Chinese Infielder a Wonderful Performer

WORD has been received from Honolulu that Ayau, the Chinese shortstop, has signed to play with Seattle, of the Northwestern League. Last season Ayau signed with Spokane, but never reported. An unwritten law barring Mongolians from the national game is said to have caused Spokane to notify Ayau not to report. We have seen this chap Ayau, who was recommended by several major league scouts three years ago, and believe that nothing but an unwritten law can keep him out of the major leagues. He is without doubt the finest looking infield prospect we ever have seen out of the major leagues. Ayau is just about Dave Bancroft's size, is much faster on his feet and hits the ball harder. Of course, he is not the finest product yet, but is every inch a ball player and would be another Bancroft if developed properly.

Many Yale Men Take Part in Sports

STATISTICS show that 250 Yale students took part in fall sports. Is it any wonder the Ells are coming back? It is the kind of spirit and interest in athletics that carried Yale to its supreme height a few years ago. Then came the falling off in interest, due to too much success. Penn's big football year and the enthusiasm shown by the students throughout the season indicates that the Red and Blue may soon be a rival of Yale for all-round athletic interest. It has been years since Penn has had even 500 students taking part in sports for the entire season. But let us forget the past and look to the future, with Penn leading the collegiate world in all sports.

Some Interesting Figures on Athletic Economics

DR. WALTER PEET points out the difference in economics of college sports by using two notes appearing in the same column of a New York paper recently. One was: "As an example of the present coaching system, Harvard gave its football coaches \$50,000 last year." Another was: "The students of the University of New Hampshire are going to build their own stadium. They will do all the work, including bleachers, track and field. Engineers of the university have completed all details, and work will begin within a few days. To show the great saving that has been made, the field and stands will cost little more than \$500." Which reminds us that Penn needs \$3,000,000 to build its stadium, and does not anticipate a great deal of trouble raising it.

NEW YORK paper headline says, "Syracuse Has Greatest Tank." New York papers should know better than that. The National League meeting was held there.

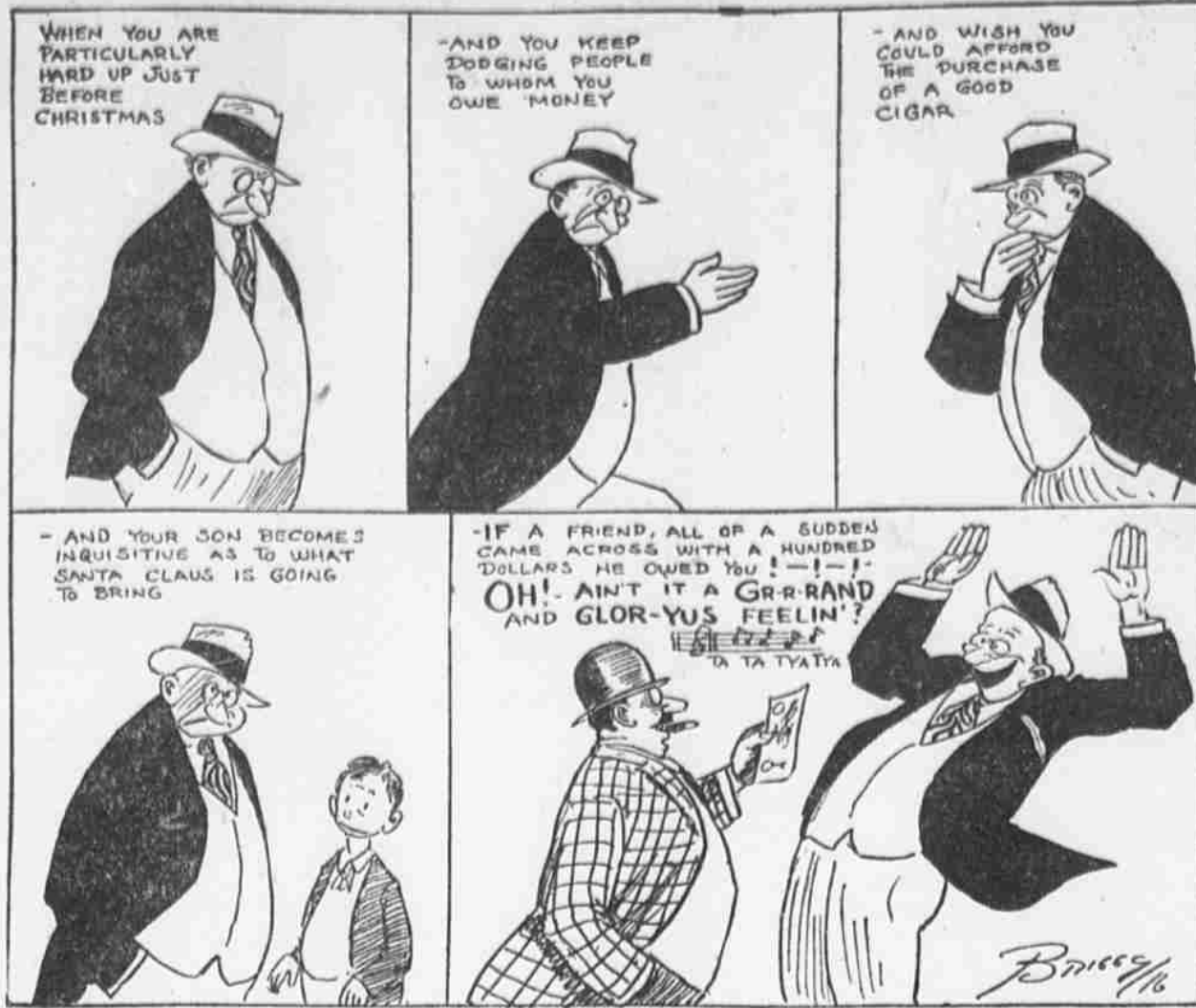
BASKETBALL critics insist that the loss of Harry Hough probably will cost Jasper the Eastern League pennant. It will be recalled that Trenton released the veteran because he was slowing down and demanded a large salary. At the present time Trenton has the largest salary list in the league, but is next to last. How can you figure out these magnates of all sports?

THIS weather is fine. At least that is what Bill Sykes says. We asked Bill what he was doing with his spare time now that snow covered the golf links. Bill replied: "This is just what we needed. It's gonna put the greens in great shape. They were fierce."

ANOTHER local boy will lead Penn's champion soccer team. Ted Edwards, who was recruited from De Laney School, will succeed Mohr, the brilliant forward of this season's eleven, that again won the intercollegiate championship.

IT HAS been said that Hattie Miller would lead the Penn team against Oregon, but he will not, as Ned Malheur will continue to captain the Red and Blue until the season ends. When Miller heard the rumor he requested that it be denied, as he refused to deprive Matty of this honor.

AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELING?



AMERICAN LEAGUE STANDING SHIFTS

St. Columba Five Passes Xavier and Girard Quintet Hits Rock Bottom

TRENTON BEATS READING

American League Standing			
Team	W.	L.	Pct.
Hancock	5	0	1.000
St. Columba	3	3	.500
Xavier	4	2	.667
Girard	3	3	.500

By SPICK HALL

Last night's games in the American Basketball League made a number of important changes in the standing of the clubs. Both of the contests staged on the court at Natatorium Hall furnished thrills galore for the contending quintets, although neither of the scores was particularly close. When Simpson trounced the fast Xavier team by the score of 25 to 23, the latter dropped from second to third place, while St. Columba, one of the clubs that was not scheduled, automatically went next to the leading Hancock five. The other game, that between Fiftieth and Girard, resulted in a victory for Manager Rosenbaum's team by the count of 28 to 19. That victory sent Fiftieth up to the 500 mark, while the defeated Girard five slipped gently to the bottom of the league.

In the Simpson-Xavier game, Donaghy, the former's speedy forward, played a remarkable game. He not only followed the ball in great style, but shot six goals from the field, the largest number made by any player during the evening's athletic entertainment. Alde, Donaghy's running mate forward, also had a good evening. He shot three field goals, had several assists and was all over the floor throughout the forty minutes of play. Livingston, of the losing quintet, had eleven foul goals to his credit, against seven for Alde, his opponent. Ehlers, who played guard for the Girard team, played a magnificent game against Fiftieth, and in spite of the fact that his team was defeated he had no less than five field goals, while Stevenson, against whom he was pitted, only shot a couple from the field.

The defensive work of Freddie Geig, erstwhile of Swarthmore, and Frankie was the large and outstanding feature of the game last night in the Trenton Armory, where a big crowd watched the home club defeat Reading in an Eastern League contest that was replete with thrills. Although Trenton outscored the visitors, 33 to 24, there was no dragging and no lack of interest.

BASKETBALL NOTES

A field team by Gass in the extra five-minute period, enabled Trenton to take a hotly played Brotherhood League game from Gaston last night at the Trenton Armory. The teams were in at 27 all when the regulation forty minutes expired, the preliminary game Richardson won, 24 to 21.

Covenant gained a one-sided victory over Twenty-ninth Street M. E. Church five last night at First Dutch Hall, the score being 42 to 6. Heartland scored the sixth straight victory in the Northwest Church League, defeating Olive Covenant by 48 to 16.

Holy Trinity defeated St. James in a District League game last night by the score of 31 to 23, and Westminster trounced Mediator, 21 to 23.

The Berkeley vs. Keystone Brotherhood League basketball game has been postponed owing to the Berkeley management being unable to secure its hall.

Second Presbyterian easily defeated Olney Presbyterian in a Germantown Church Athletic League contest by 39 to 13. Trinity Lutheran had a little harder time defeating St. Michael's Lutheran, the score being 27 to 18.

Cloverdale won a close contest from West High, the former's score being the score of 40 to 35.

FOOTBALL MEN TO CONFER ON RULES

Football officials, coaches, managers and players will gather at the Hotel Walton tonight at 8 o'clock to talk over the happenings of the last season and suggest much-needed changes in the rules for 1917. Special notices have been sent to fifty central board officials, but every one interested in football is invited. It is thought that more than 100 persons will attend. This is the second meeting of the football men, the first having been held one year ago. At that time several changes in the rules were suggested, and the rules committee adopted the changes in the 1916 code. It is possible that other laws will be found tonight. The forward-pass legislation has been unsatisfactory to many, and some of the weak spots will be pointed out.

LEHIGH HONORS BACH

South Bethlehem Collegian Elected President Athletic Committee

SOUTH BETHLEHEM, Pa., Dec. 19.—The athletic committee of Lehigh University has organized for the year with the election of A. Bach, Jr., of the senior class, as president; W. H. W. as treasurer and H. R. Heller as secretary.

Holmesburg Club Holds Banquet

The Holmesburg Club last night held its annual banquet at St. Dominic's Hall. Fully two hundred guests attended. "Bob" Folwell, coach of the University of Pennsylvania football team, was the principal speaker of the evening. The other speakers were Lon Jorjald, St. Paul's; Robert Patterson, Lieutenant Jolly, Congressman William Boat; William Williams, Philadelphia; Coach Henry Eaves, Manager Eracer and Captain Russell King. The last three were presented with gold watches, while each member of the football team was given a white sweater.

Hancock Wins Captain

MADISON, Wis., Dec. 19.—Howard Hancock of Shullsburg, Wis., was unanimously elected captain of the University of Wisconsin football eleven for 1917.



SWARTHMORE'S 1917 LEADER
Allie Corog has been chosen to lead the Swarthmore football team on the gridiron next season. He has been one of the Garnet's dependables for the last three years.

Say, You Can Certainly Make Good Clothes! If you are not satisfied with what you made me last year, let me hear every day, let us make four suits to suit you. Suits to suit you. \$16.50. Billy Moran, 1103 Arch THE TAILOR Open Evenings

MANY STUDENTS TO LEAVE WITH TEAM

More Than 200 Homeward Bound for Holidays to Accompany Penn

ARRIVE PASADENA DEC. 26

Coach Bob Folwell and his football aggregation from the University of Pennsylvania will not start on their long trip across the continent on Friday afternoon unaccompanied, for more than two hundred students homeward bound for the Christmas holidays have booked berths on the same train that will carry the Red and Blue warriors westward to Pasadena, where they will play the big game of the season with the University of Oregon on New Year's Day. The University of Pennsylvania Special will have a capacity of two hundred and fifty, and up until noon yesterday there were more than two hundred men who had decided to accompany the team as far as they could on their way to their homes. Some of the students who will accompany the Quaker gridironers, Edwin L. Lewis, district passenger agent of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, who will travel to the West with the team, has arranged for all manner of entertainment on the trip, and there is certain not to be a dull moment the entire time. The special will run direct to Chicago and will arrive in the Windy City on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. As soon as the players arrive in Chicago practice will be held at the University of Chicago's athletic field, and at 8 o'clock the same night the men will board the California Limited for the West, and will arrive in Pasadena at the Tournament of Roses on Tuesday afternoon, December 26. There are about ten men other than players who will accompany the team to this big game on New Year's Day. There will be a monster mass-meeting before the team's departure on Friday according to a statement given out by Cheerleader Clarke. Friday afternoon many of the students will be on their way home, but there is certain to be a banner turnout to send the Red and Blue youths westward. The football team will be the guests of Clem Urrubart's parents tonight at a dinner at the Bellevue-Stratford. Clem was the first Penn player to score against Cornell this year.

PHILS WILL NOT BE TARGETS AS LONG AS COMBINATION OF PAT MORAN AND ALEX REMAINS

Phils' Pilot Rigged With Qualities of Firmness and Judgment and Aided by Great Pitcher Certain to Keep Quakers in Race

By GRANTLAND RICE

We know how long we've parted from the dreams that used to find us; We know how far we've wandered From the way we meant to go; But we never think about it Until old-time scenes remind us With the white and scarlet berries As we face the Christmas glow. We have drifted with the Westwind And we've heard the Eastwind pleading; We have followed with the sunlight And the starlight out the years; And it doesn't often matter Which direction Fate is leading Where we've gained our part of pleasure And have known our share of tears. But when Christmas echoes gather And the clans are congregating, And the winds of night are cluttered With forgotten ghosts at bay, Then we turn to last roads pointing Where the ancient herds are waiting As we hear again the story Of the reindeer and the sleigh.

The Worth of Patrick Moran
OF ALL leading managers, who have achieved a distinct success in the game, it strikes us that Pat Moran, the Philly director, has obtained far less than his share of praise.

Pat won a pennant in 1915 with a ball club than no one figured as a first division team. This last season, with a club rated fourth or fifth, he remained in the fight until Bancroft was injured in the final week with a club that beat Brooklyn in seven of the last eight games through the stretch. Pat was firing away at the peak until within two days of the close with one great pitcher, where the leading batman of his club was dead at 243 and where Bancroft, his infield star, dropped to 213. Moran is rigged out with the qualities that a winning manager needs—firmness, good judgment and the respect of his club.

As long as the combination of Moran and Alexander is around, the Phillies are not very likely to be regarded again as open-faced targets for any hostile fire.

The controlling powers in the American League are baseball men. The controlling powers in the National League are business men. The rest of it is obvious enough.

"What would happen, Johnny," some one asked Evers, "if you should make an 80-yard run in a football game and the referee should call you back for holding in the line? About what would you say?" "Not a word," said the Trojan, "not a word, probably choke to death before I even had a chance to take another breath."

JOHNNY DUNDEE DEFEATS FLEMING

New York Lightweight Too Speedy for Gray's Ferry Lad—McCabe Wins

Johnny Dundee, Scotty Montell's walloping boy, had decidedly the better of Buck Fleming, Herman Hindis' hustling hammerman, in their six session setto at the Olympia last night, repeating of one balmy night last spring when he clearly outpunched, outfigured and therefore outpointed the Gray's Ferry flash. Dundee did not have things entirely his own last night. He was forced to the limit by Fleming and to the limit he went to beat Buckie. Dundee's left, which seemed to come from nowhere in particular but always found a landing place, was more of a puzzle to Fleming than a United States note in code. The blow from Dundee's portside couldn't have caught Fleming offener if he had a chin larger than Al Demaree's, and when the frequency with which he found Buckie's physog became monotonous, Jumping Johnny merely would switch his attack to the body, meeting with equal success. The mill was what press agents are prone to call "tearing, crashing, smashing" engagement. Fleming contested every second of the eighteen minutes he was obliged to face the uneasy Dundee and the house was noisier than a battlefield on the Somme in the fifth round, the premier frame of the fray. The furious fighting in the fifth caught the crowd with better effect than a package of sneezing powder and the yells and root-

Dundee's tantalizing left and a short right crammed to the mid section formed an attack much too strong for Fleming, and the fourth round was virtually the only one in which he made an impression. Fleming began an aggressive campaign as the session opened, but it had not gone two minutes before Dundee started an offensive and when the bell tinkled the Gray's Ferry representative was devoting his time solely to warding off Johnny's fusillade of blows, delivered from any and every position.

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