

GREAT RACE IN BASKETBALL LEAGUE MOST IMPORTANT TOPIC IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS

EASTERN LEAGUE PENNANT AT STAKE WHEN JASPER TACKLES REJUVENATED TRENTON FIVE

Victory for Jewels Virtually Will Clinch Title for First Half of Season—Greystock in Wonderful Form

THE pennant for the first half of the Eastern League race is virtually at stake when Jasper meets Trenton at Nonpareil Hall tonight. At the present time Jasper is leading Greystock by half a game, each team having scored the same number of victories, but the champion Greys have lost one more game. Greystock has only one more game to play while the Jewels have two, one with Trenton tonight and another with De Nerl Saturday. It is a foregone conclusion that the Kensingtonians will be able to defeat De Nerl on Saturday if they can get away with Trenton tonight. This means that a victory over Trenton tonight will virtually clinch the pennant. Two weeks ago it looked like a romp for Jasper if Camden could be eliminated, as the schedule seemed to favor the Jewels. The Trenton game scheduled tonight was looked upon as a snap two weeks ago; but things have changed considerably since then. The trade that sent "Doc" Newman, the brilliant De Nerl forward, to the Potters, proved the making of the North Jersey five. Since Newman joined Trenton it has won five straight victories, and is playing better basketball than any team in the league, barring Greystock.

Jasper Strong on Home Floor

JASPER will enjoy a great advantage in playing on its home floor, as the Jewels are considered invincible at Nonpareil Hall. Not only this season has Jasper been beaten on its home floor, and it will require sensational work in all departments for Trenton to turn the trick. Despite Jasper's sensational work in all departments for Trenton to turn the trick. Despite Jasper's sensational work in all departments for Trenton to turn the trick. Despite Jasper's sensational work in all departments for Trenton to turn the trick.

Jewels Have Edge Even If Beaten Tonight

EVEN if Trenton does succeed in defeating Jasper tonight, the latter is virtually certain of at least a tie. The Kensingtonians are more certain of defeating De Nerl than the Greys are of defeating Reading in Reading. The Greys will have a terrific struggle with Reading, while De Nerl is not likely to fight the Jewels very hard. It is an odd feature of the race that almost every team in the league is strictly a home team. Seldom has the home team, barring De Nerl, been beaten, and Reading stands next to Jasper for registering victories on its own floor. It is said that the Bears are extremely anxious to defeat Greystock, as had feeling cropped out in a recent game between these teams. If this is so, Saturday night's game in Reading will be worth going miles to witness.

Greystock Playing Wonderful Ball

READING will have to play better basketball than it has at any time this season, according to the belief of close followers of the cage game. Greystock is on a winning streak and is playing the same brand of ball that it did at the start of last season, when ten of the first eleven games were won, and the Greys got so far out in front that they never were headed. Greystock's teamwork surpasses that of any other team in the circuit, but until recently the champions were inclined to be erratic. This was due mainly to the fact that Allie McWilliams, the greatest guard in the game, was on the sidelines, while other men were crippled at one time or another. The team was slow in striking its stride and apparently was out of the race two weeks ago. The expected spurt came just in time to give the Greys a fighting chance for the flag. One need look no further than the assist column in Greystock's recent games to find the secret of the downtown team's success.

Records Due to Team Play

AGAINST Camden, which for a long stretch looked like a certain winner, the Greys established the wonderful record of twenty-eight assists in the double-header on Christmas Day. Seldom does an Eastern League team register twenty-eight field goals in a double-header against the weakest aggregation in the league, but to almost double this number of baskets and pile up such an unusual number of assists is conclusive proof that the Greys are playing better team basketball than any five in the league. Camden was swamped in both games and eliminated from the race. Last night De Nerl was helpless before the dazzling passing and brilliant defense presented by the Greys. The champions could have doubled their total if it had been necessary, but they were content to ease up and improve their passing game after getting a large lead.

Dividing Season Helped Game

DIVIDING the season is going to prove a profitable venture for the Eastern League. This is the first time this has been tried and it will result in the greatest financial year the game has had in years. Thanks to the sudden spurts of Greystock and Trenton, there are virtually two climaxes to the season, as it is certain that the second half of the race will be a terrific struggle, with five teams in the running for the right to meet the winner of the first half of the season in a post-season series. There are many followers of the game who believe that it would be an excellent thing if Jasper won the pennant for the first half, as they contend that Greystock will win the second half and that if it also won the first half, it would mean that there would be no post-season series.

Pro Football League Plan Jolted

THE professional football league idea received quite a jolt before it got far enough to attract attention. Not only did both local baseball owners frown upon the idea, but reports from Pittsburgh, St. Louis and New York state that the baseball magnates are in no way interested in the plan to organize a football league. Personally we believe that there is a great chance for the professional game right now. It could be made a paying venture for a local team if its schedule was arranged properly. Too many home games for a professional football team would be a serious mistake, while playing on the days Penn is scheduled away from home enough money probably would be made to defray expenses. If enough stars were signed, a professional team representing this city should be able to draw very well in other cities.

A Little Bit About a Wonderful Team

THE Athletics and Philly owners are not anxious to take a chance, however, after their experience of 1910, when they gathered a wonderful array of talent, only to lose a large sum of money. For one game against Homestead, of Pittsburgh, the team playing for the Phillies had in the lineup many men who had made wonderful reputations at college, but they failed to attract the fans. Al Bull, John Teas, Fred Stehle, "Doc" Zeller, John Barrett, Davidson Kennedy, Oscar Lang, Jack Barry and others played on that Philly team, but they were no match for the wonderful players brought here by Dave Fultz, former Brown star, and now president of the Players' Fraternity. Fultz had Artie Pop and "Hopple" Hunt at end, Hawley Pierce and John Outland, tackle; Bemis Pierce and Ed Kirkoff, guards; Pete Overfield, center; Dick Richardson, quarterback; Fultz and "Duff" Gammons, halfbacks, and Fred Crolius, fullback. This probably was the greatest professional team ever organized, but it also failed to make money. Conditions are different now, however, as there is more interest in the game.

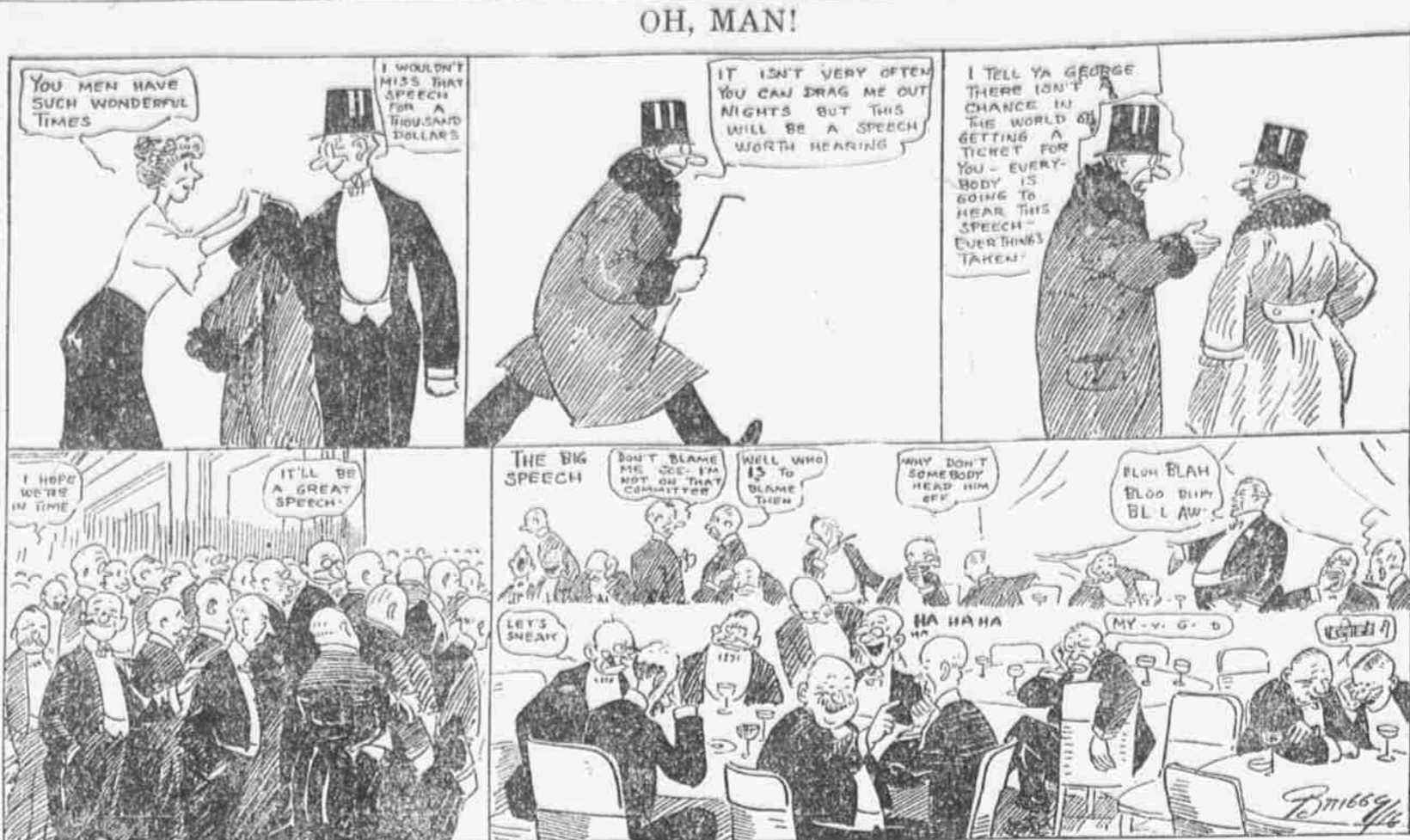
Kaufman as Much to Blame as Louisiana

BENNY KAUFMAN's manager has issued a statement upholding his protege and placing the blame for Benny's disquieting match with Louisiana entirely on the latter's shoulders. This energetic manager may be surprised to learn that the outcome of a Kaufman-Louisiana bout was predicted as "a most horrible contest that ever could be staged" several weeks ago. One of Philadelphia's match-makers, who is considered to be a great man in pairing off bouts, recently said when a set to Louisiana and Kaufman was suggested to him, "Why, it would be one of the most horrible bouts that could be staged." He was right; it was a horrible contest, and even worse, if that is possible. Kaufman is just as much to blame as Louisiana, and neither should be excused for the biggest blarney put over on the Philadelphia fans this season.

THE National Commission closed its session in Cincinnati without taking any definite action on the plea of the Class AA minor leagues. Just why the supreme body failed to act is not known, as now is the time either to grant the request or turn it down. The National Commission would do well to clear up everything before the teams start South for the spring training trips, as the fans are sick and tired of reading baseball politics and do not want it mixed with real baseball.

JEFF SMITH, the Bayonne middleweight, who is credited with a victory over Les Darcy, declares that the Australian quit in both bouts with him in the Antipodes. Smith calls Darcy a "false alarm" and says that he is willing to fight him, winner take all. No one in this country ever accused Smith of being a world-beater, but if he has enough nerve to go through with the winner-take-all proposition, it is up to Darcy to take a chance before demanding an enormous sum for boxing no-decision bouts. Needless to say, Darcy will not accept. His managers are after all the easy money in sight.

PENN'S basketball five will be tested for the first time on Saturday night when it meets Dartmouth at Weightman Hall. This will be the first intercollegiate league game of the season for Penn and the followers of the Red and Blue are anxious to find out whether Jourdet's team has been strengthened enough to be in the running for the championship. Dartmouth has a veteran team that will out-weight Penn's green combination greatly, but Coach Jourdet expects his fight, fast team to get away with the Hoosier five on the large floor.



AMERICANS LEAD IN ICE SKATING

Gustave Hoglund Gives U.S. Athletes Edge Over European Performers

EXCEL IN FIGURE WORK

Gustave Hoglund, the well-known continental figure skater, in a discussion of skating in this country and abroad, said: "I have skated in practically every city in Europe where rinks are maintained, and I must admit that the skaters here are more generally proficient than they are abroad. For long I skated at St. Moritz, and it is conceded that some of the best skaters in the world skated there; but when one considers the average American skater, the prize, figuratively speaking, must be handed to the American skaters. "I attribute this to the natural athletic ability of Americans. There is no doubt that Americans excel in nearly every branch of athletics, and when everything is taken into consideration skating is a part of athletics. "It is like running, jumping or anything else. It requires a great deal of practice, and the more practice the skater gets the more proficient he becomes. "The European skaters are the most difficult continental figures more readily than any other skaters. I have given instructions in all of the cities where I have skated, and therefore, I feel that I am in a position to judge. It is the ability of Americans in other lines of athletic endeavor that helps them so much in skating. "Suppleness of the body is an essential in skating. The body must not be rigid and stiff. This is true in other athletic sports as well. "The European war is over and international competitions are resumed on a broad scale. I know that the American skaters will prove more proficient in the aggregate than the European skaters."

A. M. GILLAM DEAD

MORRISETTE IS SIGNED BY NEW YORK GIANTS

SANFORD AGAIN TO COACH FOOTBALLERS AT RUTGERS

Columbia Cage Team Loses Captain

CHICAGO BECOMES CENTER OF STAR TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES, SAYS MEREDITH

Western Performers Invade Newark and Take Away Many Big Honors in National Championship Events—Title Brought Back

By J. E. (TED) MEREDITH

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

HORSEMEN START SESSION TO REVISE TRACK RULES

GIBSON AFTER GIANTS' JOB

STAR HURDLE BACK AT HARVARD

Fire Destroys Baseball Stands

GREYS ADVANCE TOWARD THE TOP

De Neri Falls Heavily Before Joe Bailey's Eastern League Quintet

CLUB STANDING table with columns for Club, W, L, P.C., and Games Played.

By SPICK HALL

Joe Bailey's pennant winners of 1916 appear to have remained all of the punch that gave them the flag last season and are now sending chills down the backs of the vanquished De Nerl. The Greys advanced to within a half game of the Jewels last night when they took De Nerl over the ropes at the rate of 28 to 10.

PENN FIVE DRILLS FOR GREEN GAME

Quakers to Play First Intercollegiate League Match Saturday Night

EMERY BACK AT GUARD

GERMANTOWN A ON TOP

Strong Combination

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—(Special Telegrams.)

First No-Hit Pitcher Dies at Newark

A. A. to Move Offices to Louisville

SUIT OR OVERCOAT \$11.80

Advertisement for Billy Moran, 1103 Arch Street, Tailor.