

CIRCUS MAY CLAIM ANOTHER VICTIM—PHILS CAN BLAME DOWNFALL TO LURE OF SAWDUST

CIRCUS CAN AFFORD TO PAY \$35,000 TO ALEX FOR 35 WEEKS' WORK, AND BIG PITCHER IS CONSIDERING OFFER

Phillies' Star Twirler Fails to Come to Terms With Club and May Turn Back on National Pastime to Answer Call of Sawdust Ring

The lure of the tanbark, the sawdust ring and the Big Top probably will cost the Philadelphia Ball Club one of the best pitchers in the universe and a first division team this coming season. Grover Cleveland Alexander, the mainstay of the Phils since he joined the club, is thinking seriously of turning his back on the national pastime and joining a circus this season, where there will be no dickering about a contract or lengthy interviews on how much or how little a pitcher is to receive for keeping a club in the pennant race and drawing thousands of dollars in gate receipts. Alex has been offered \$35,000 for thirty-five weeks' work with the Big Show and has been refused \$15,000 a year from a club which owes its present high standing to his individual efforts. He has not yet signed a contract, and judging from his present attitude he will not until he receives the salary he asks. The chances are that he will dicker with the club for possibly another week and then call everything off and answer the call of the sawdust and canvas top.

When the news flashed across the wires that Alexander was to be the star attraction in a wandering circus this season at a salary of \$1000 a week, the wise ones shook their heads and softly murmured "Bunk!" They figured that no ball player was worth that much as an attraction and the offer merely was a club to hold over the heads of the owners of the Phils to enforce the big pitcher's demands. But it has turned out to be more than pure undulation "Bunk." A bona fide offer has been made and Alexander now is carrying around a telegram from Bill Pickens, a Chicago promoter, asking him to accept or reject that \$35,000 contract.

Circus Can Give Alex \$35,000 and Still Make Money IT IS a great little idea and will pan out profitably if Alexander answers the call. A salary of \$1000 a week is not such an enormous sum, when one considers that the circus holds fourteen shows every week and only 2000 extra admissions are needed to make it up. That means that only 143 extra tickets must be sold to each show, and it is a cinch that Alexander will draw that and many more. There isn't a kid in the United States who hasn't read of the big twirler and hoped that he could get a chance to see him in action. The more mature fans feel the same way about it, and they will gladly dig down in their jeans to watch him perform. A man like Alexander would cost the circus \$71.50 for each performance. Figure out for yourself if he is worth it.

Here is another angle. Jess Willard receives \$500 a day with a circus and the owners are making money. When Johnny Kilbane appeared in this city, Bobby Morrow gave him \$1000 for a week for star athletic attractions, so why shouldn't a circus be able to do the same thing, when it plays a different town each day and visits places far away from the spots where big league baseball is played? From where we are sitting, it looks as if Alex the Great has a real proposition to think over, and he will be foolish if he turns it down.

ONE of the star baseball players at the Sports Writers' banquet at the Walton Hotel last night cornered Alexander and spoke as follows: "Grab that \$35,000 contract with the circus as soon as you can and don't waste any time. It's more money than you ever will be able to earn again in a single year, and it will not hurt your standing to any great extent. There is no chance for you to go stale or get into poor condition, for you will be working twice a day for 245 days, and you will be in better shape at the end than if you had pitched forty regular games with the Phils. You will warm up each day, your arm will constantly be in trim, but you will not take enough strenuous exercise to hurt it. After a year with the circus you can come back just the same and the club owners will be glad to get you."

The Trials and Tribulations of Leslie Darcy IT WOULD not be at all surprising if Les Darcy's reputation as a fighter exploded with a terrible BANG! one of these days and the Australian slugger was forced to pack up and his himself to some other neutral country. After being panned and roasted for his attitude toward the American boxers and coming in for more criticism for signing up for a bout with Albertus McCoy, he now is the vortex of another storm of disapproval because of his tilt with E. Timothy O'Sullivan, his manager and companion in that famous transcontinental and transoceanic leap last December. E. Timothy has been turned out into the cold and cruel world, while Leslie is living the life of ease and plenty in one of Grant Hugh Browne's very best stables on his Goshen estate. The erstwhile manager is thrown among hard-hearted strangers, while the nonfighting boxer hobnobs with a string of thoroughbred horses in their warm stalls. "It's not a square deal, says O'Sullivan, and he threatens to start something that will make Mr. Darcy feel very uncomfortable, to say the least. E. Timothy says he had a contract with Leslie and was to have received twenty-five per cent of all of his earnings in this country. Now the contract is gone and Les is accused of pulling a hocus-pocus stunt in putting it out of business. And E. Timothy tells a harrowing tale.

Contract Disappears While on Voyage IT WAS some place in the South Seas when the good ship was pushing her way through the waves, northward bound. O'Sullivan says that he and Darcy were on deck, taking in the scenery and waiting for another wireless message from Tex Rickard, when Les excused himself and went below. He was gone some time, but when he returned a smile covered his entire face, and he wears that same smile to this day. E. Timothy, according to his story, then went below and found that all of his things had been ransacked and all of his baggage—consisting of a suitcase—open and the contents strewn all over the place. He hastily looked for the precious paper which called for that twenty-five per cent out, but it was missing. It had been removed, torn to shreds and the pieces scattered to the four winds, O'Sullivan does not accuse Darcy of swiping the papers. He only says that they were in the stateroom before the boxer's visit and they were missing after he left. It is on this torn piece of lost paper that O'Sullivan expects to base his case.

But Les Has Different Tale DARCY, on the other hand, has something else to say. He asserts that it pains him more than he cares to admit to attach the tinsare to his dear old friend and pal, E. Timothy. He wanted to be real nice and decent about it and slip E. T. some large wads of dough when those large wads flowed into his coffers. He does not say how much he would hand to his companion, but inferred that it would be enough to keep him in cigarettes. If O'Sullivan had acted like a regular guy and not taken so much on his own hands, everything would have been lovely at this writing; but E. Timothy took it upon himself to sign up for a couple of matches that failed to make a hit with his boss. One was with Mike Gibbons in Milwaukee for a purse of \$50,000, but even this huge flock of money failed to impress Leslie. He wants to sign up for his own matches, and now that E. Timothy is fired the Milwaukee mill has been repudiated. This does not make Darcy any more popular, and if the McCoy match goes through, which is not probable, there will be no wild shouts of joy if he comes through with the long end of the verdict. Leslie's actions since his arrival in this country show that he is anything but a pugilist, and it is about time for the public to hand him the "ras"—whatever that is.

Willard and Fulton Pass Up New York and Take Milwaukee EARLY last month it was published exclusively in the Evening Ledger that Jess Willard wanted to engage in one or more battles before he retired and Fred Fulton would be his opponent. It also was stated that the mill would not be staged in New York, but in the Auditorium, at Milwaukee, where Willard's money would be used to finance the show. Developments of the last few days have borne out this statement. Promoters in New York have failed to put up a purse large enough to attract Big Jess and his unsilent satellites, Tom Jones and Jack Curley, although Grant Hugh Browne went as high as \$70,000 for Willard's share. This did not seem enough for a ten-round no-decision battle, so the managers packed their grips and departed for the West. Then came the news that Milwaukee probably would be the scene of battle, and we are anxiously awaiting the next move.

There is no doubt that the change of scene will increase the box office receipts. Fight fans in the Middle West are anxious to see a big battle and will pay almost any price for the privilege. Chicago is only eighty miles away and thousands of spectators will come from that city. It is almost certain that the receipts will be close to \$250,000, and this is too good a bet for Jess to overlook. He has had Milwaukee in mind for some time, and all of the advertising given the proposed New York match boosted his own game. Then there was Fulton to be considered. His manager, Frank Force, said that he wanted \$30,000 for Fulton's share of the purse and there wasn't a chance in the world for him to get it in the big city. In Milwaukee, however, where they still believe Fredward is a great scrapper, he may be able to get his price. If the inflection is staged in a month or two, the Auditorium, which seats 7500, will be used. If it is staged in May, the ball park or a special outdoor arena will be used.

"Comet" Has Begun Work for His Eastern Invasion NOW that the amateur rule has been cleared in the tennis world, Maurice E. McLoughlin has started training for another and perhaps his last invasion of the East. The well-known "Comet" and other stars on the Pacific coast are looking forward to competing in the national championship tournament at Forest Hills and other big events to be put on this summer. McLoughlin will not be content with taking part only in the national tourney. He realizes the mistake he made last summer and will come here prepared to play in several big tournaments. He probably will play in the doubles tourney which is to be held in Boston, the Longwood Cricket Club. Ward Dawson or Johnny Strachan will be his partner. He is giving the players more time to rest up after the other tourney. The National Association intends to start the championship singles on August 25. This will give the entrants an opportunity to...

BROWN TOPS LIST OF GOAL GETTERS

Passes Ray Cross for Individual Honors in Eastern League

Records of the Eastern Basketball League disclose the fact that Jimmy Brown has ousted Raymond Cross as the leading scorer of the organization. Last week the Camden man added eleven goals to his total, making thirty-nine or an average of 3.25 per game. Cross, on the other hand, was virtually standing still, getting only a solitary pointer in two starts and now has thirty-six or an average of three per contest. Harry Franckle, Johnny Beckman, Ernie Reich and Marty Feinman all started during the week. Players who have scored in every latter are Reich, Beckman and Kerr. The honorees really go to the leading man, as Kerr and Reich have only played a couple of games. Joe Fogarty, of the Greys, tops the one-point-getters, with Adams second and Bark third. The statistics follow:

Table with columns: Team, Games, Goals, Points, Average. Lists statistics for various teams like Camden, Trenton, etc.

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One week from tomorrow night all independent basketball clubs in the Philadelphia area will attend a banquet at the Hotel Walton. An association will be formed, it is believed, to see that the Philadelphia basketball scene is in the independent ranks. Everybody knows him and he is a real sportsman, so you'll recognize the name if omitted.

Several Camden-sourced critics are of the opinion that Marty Friedman is too tough. But they do not say what they consider regarding his ability as a drawing card. He has filled the Auditorium, but the one occasion at the stadium witnessed his biggest crowds on the night he visited. Marty may be tough all right, but don't forget to cheer and also cheer in the fact that no matter how hard he is hunted never utter a complaint. Marty Friedman is a game.

Before the American League series were started it was pointed out that the champion ship would be decided on foul tossing and each club possessed a consistent shooter. Strange was evidently prominent, but Wood was no failure. This would be a credit to baseball, a gentlemanly player who always plays clean and fair. He captains the Vagabond baseball team.

Jasper and Reading are the two Eastern League teams undefeated on the home floor. Trenton has lost only one game, but the Greys having defeated the champions in two out of four games at Cooper Station Hall.

De Neri fans are real enthusiastic over the boys that now wear the Musical Fund Hall colors. De Neri, however, is no doubt one of the best players for the club he has rounded to gether.

The Eastern Basketball League is like this. An early start is used for the police carnival all week. The game scheduled with the Greys will be played on Saturday night in the near future.

Creely and Maney, both Camden Eastern League players, have been playing great ball all season for Philadelphia.



BILL HOLLENBACK He was dropped by Syracuse as football coach.

Bowling News

In the Insurance League, Mather (company) won three from Camden, bringing 200 to his second game. The winner, Reliance won two from Trans Mutual. Hoosiers won three from Trenton, getting a 200 score. Eastern, of Camden, rolled scores of 132, 159 and 150.

Commonwealth won two from East Estate in Trent and Insurance, after. From Mutual beat Trent in all three, winning the second game by one fall-off of a ball. Philadelphia won two from Trent in all three, winning the second game by one fall-off of a ball. Philadelphia won two from Trent in all three, winning the second game by one fall-off of a ball.

Strawbridge & Clothier League matches, rolled on Keystone alley last night, resulted in a 200 score for the winner, Reliance. Hoosiers won two from Camden, Trenton and Philadelphia. Hoosiers won two from Camden, Trenton and Philadelphia.

Nationals won two from Eskin Manufacturing Company, the former registering three big hits and the latter a home run. Philadelphia rolled the latter, after winning the first game by one point. The second game, Hoosiers won all three from Camden, Trenton and Philadelphia. Hoosiers won all three from Camden, Trenton and Philadelphia.

Carl Mays Must Sign or Pay Training Expenses BOSTON, Feb. 21.—President Harry H. Frazee, of the Boston American League baseball club, has delivered an ultimatum to pitcher Carl Mays, which, he said, applied to all players who are withholding their signatures to contracts tendered them by the club because of salary differences. Mays had written that he would go to Hot Springs and discuss terms there.

Walking Loses Its Charm The patient, although recovering from an operation, seemed discontented when the surgeon met him on the street. "What's the matter?" asked the surgeon. "You said you'd have me up on my feet again in three weeks," replied the patient. "Well, I did it, didn't I?" challenged the surgeon.

ARROW COLLARS MARLEY 2 1/2 IN. DEVON 2 1/2 IN. Hot-Water Treatment Best Aid for Car Stiffness in Winter One gallon of hot water will work wonders with an automobile that is balky because of cold weather.

Suits or Overcoats TO ORDER \$11.80 See Our 7 Big Windows Reduced from \$30, \$25 & \$20 PETER MORAN & CO. MERCHANTS 8, S. E. COR. 9TH AND ARCH STS.

Lock Your Car Automobiles are being stolen right and left. It is no longer safe to leave your car on the streets. The Perry Auto Lock baffles the cleverest auto thief. The car cannot be towed or driven, as the front wheels are wild when the car is locked. A different key for every lock. It is handy, compact, and can be attached to any car.

EAST-WEST TENNIS PLAY ON MARCH 7

Annual Intersectional Meet to Be Held at Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 21.—Plans have been completed to hold the East-West tennis matches here March 7, 8, 9 and 10, on a specially constructed asphalt court, at the University of Southern California. The personnel of the western team has not been decided, but it probably will include William M. Johnston, Clarence J. Griffin and John R. Strachan, of San Francisco, and Maurice E. McLoughlin, Thomas C. Bundy and Claude A. Wayne, of Los Angeles.

NORTH CAROLINA GOLF ANTI-SUNDAY GOLF BILL

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 21.—A bill which would have prohibited Sunday golfing in North Carolina has been killed in the lower house of the Assembly. Representative Page, of the Pinebluff and Southern Pines district, succeeded by one vote in obtaining exemption for his district after the bill had passed second time. On third reading many supporting members refused to vote for it because of the exemption.

Hoelke and Schupp Sign Up NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—The New York National League club has announced that signed contracts had been received from Eric Bauman, Walter Hoelke and pitcher Ferdinand Schupp.

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EARL MELRATH WILL DEFEND TRAP TITLE OF PENNSYLVANIA AGAINST BIG FIELD IN HARRISBURG MEET

Champion to Compete in Thirtieth Annual Tournament of Sportsmen's Association Tomorrow Afternoon—Davy Paul Is Entered

EARL B. MELRATH, of this city, present holder of the Pennsylvania Challenge Trophy, emblematic of the State live-bird shooting championship, will defend his title tomorrow at Harrisburg against the best marksmen of the Keystone domain. The event is the thirtieth annual live-bird trapshoot of the Harrisburg Sportsmen's Association, the classic of pigeon matches, and calls for each gunner to shoot at twenty birds. The contest, which is of a handicap type, gives all gunners of mediocre ability a chance to win, as the better shooters are handicapped twenty-seven to thirty-two yards, according to their ability.

To win the test will be no "pipe," as fifty rugged and seasoned wing shots usually grace the traps in an effort to bring home the "baccan." William Miller, of Reading, who on February 8 romped home with the Great Eastern Handicap by scoring perfect, will be one of the men of whom great things are expected, and one person whom Melrath, the Philie crack, must beat to even up old scores. Last year Earl Melrath, in order to win the title, had to "grass" em' all, just twenty speedy birds. This year the little Quaker will wing shot is out to repeat. He is in good form, having lately scored nineteen out of a possible twenty birds in competition.

Other Philadelphia gunners—Davy Paul, Ike Knowles, George Elber, Billy Clegg and Izzy Hoffman—will also shoot in the big event. Two semi-leat gunning clubs have slated target sports for tomorrow. At Darby the Clearviews have a fifty-target card, while...

Keep Tires in Dark Place Automobile tires should be kept as much as possible away from light, heat and oil, which work great harm on the rubber fabric. Exposed to light or heat, the rubber dries, hardens and cracks. Tires not in service, therefore, should be stored in a cool, dark place. Oil, which is less destructive, should be wiped off with gasoline or benzine.



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