

PICKING THE NEW YORK GIANTS TO WIN IS LIKE SHOOTING SPARROWS WITH A GATLING GUN

IF FUTURE OF GIANTS DEPENDS ON MCGRAW THE 1917 PENNANT WILL WAVE OVER POLO GROUNDS

Critics Who Pick New York With Planted Alibi Would Hedge if They Had a Bet on Sun to Rise in the East

A HOST of citizens who perpetrate baseball dope for a living are consuming reams of white paper and miles of typewriter ribbon in the process of assuring their trusting readers that the Giants will win the National League pennant. As a matter of fact, "picking the Giants" has become one of the favorite indoor sports and virtually every scribe of note has secured a seat on the band wagon which plays only Broadway airs.

As an alibi the stuff would be funny were it not so pathetic. The idea of a ball club running away from John McGraw would go big if worked into a vehicle for Eddie Foy or any of our well-known comedians, but as a serious thought it is ridiculous.

THOSE who offer the suggestion that the Giants may run away from their manager point to the unfortunate affair at the Polo Grounds at the close of last season when McGraw virtually accused his men of not trying to beat Brooklyn.

Where McGraw Is Manager McGraw Is Boss

JUST where can be found anything in John McGraw's career to support a suggestion that there is any combination of ball players in the country which he could not control? The Little Napoleon has always ruled his men with the mailed fist, and it must be admitted that he has handled some tough ones in his time.

It is generally conceded that McGraw has two or three bad actors on his payroll, but the manner in which troublesome players have been handled by John J. in the past left little to be desired.

Two Golf Belts Pass On in Two Starts

HUGH L. WILLOUGHBY, former Philadelphia golf champion, has now come another cropper and is another "former," for he has just been despoiled of his title as champion of Florida. He held the Philadelphia title for one year and also held the Florida belt for one year.

IN BOTH challenge matches the very unexpected was the actuality. Few fans would have said beforehand that Willoughby would not beat Burton in the Philadelphia championship last year, though all might not have agreed that he would win the finals again.

West Skeptical About Molla

OUT on the bright, sunny tennis courts of California they are beginning to be skeptical about the reputation of Molla Bjurstedt as a world beater. When the nimble Norse raquet "champ" goes into action east of the Rockies she digs through the field like a juggernaut and leaves a heap of badly beaten contestants in her wake.

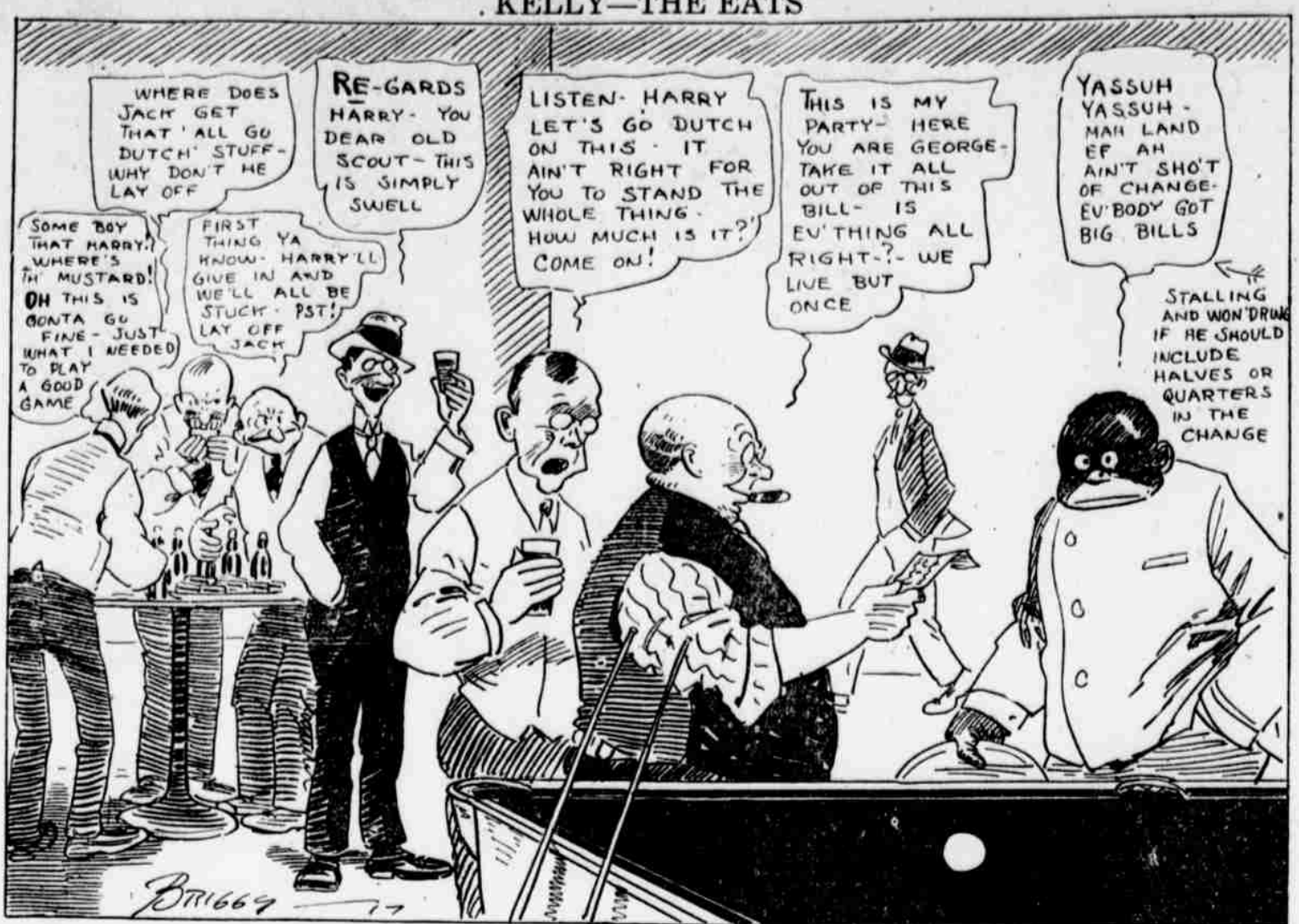
Ever since Molla Bjurstedt began her successful reign in the matter of national championships and minor titles there has been considerable speculation as to the showing she would make against Mrs. Bundy, who, as May Sutton, ruled over the feminine tennis players a decade ago.

IN HER trips to California Miss Bjurstedt has opposed Mrs. Bundy five times and has only once been victorious. Now it is reported that Mrs. Bundy will be in the competition for the national championship at the Philadelphia Cricket Club this year.

Whitman Has New York Boxing on the Ropes

ANY idea that any one might have had that boxing wasn't on his last legs and entering unsteadily to its corner for the final bell should be thoroughly dispelled by recent actions of Governor Whitman.

WHITMAN'S attention naturally was called to what was going on in the boxing world by the fact that he had been helping to fund the fight between the two champions in the prize fight about him.



STECHEK AND HIS LEGS HURL DEFINITIVE

Scissorhold Wizard, Back in Condition, Will Defend Championship Claims

STANDS ALONE IN CLASS

"Bring forth the unwashed matmen from the Baltic shores or the demon grapplers from Greece and I will fetch them with my mull scissor," is the sentiment expressed by Joe Stecher, the husky Nebraska farmer lad, who has recovered from the illness that has prevented his appearance in several big wrestling matches during the last winter.

Stecher has perfected the hold until he can clamp it on to his opponent from almost any position. He may be nearly down himself and still lock his man with those powerful limbs.

Frank Gotch reached the top of the ladder through his use of the toe hold. Gotch is a powerful rough-and-tumble wrestler, and the gorilla-like strength of his arms and shoulders and the employment of the hold landed him the championship. The big toe-holder is getting along in years now and Stecher is in his prime.

Opponents Try "Safety First" The best grapplers who have swapped holds with Stecher have tried to work almost anything but the defensive when they stepped on the mat with the farmer, for when on the defensive they had a better chance to ward the famous hold.

With his legs and hips the Nebraska boy is some Goliath, and his breath-taking deeds in the ring probably will enable him to retire from the game an unbeaten champ.

MARIE WAGNER IN SEMI-PLAY FOR TENNIS TITLE

NEW YORK, March 15.—Miss Marie Wagner, several times holder of the women's national indoor lawn tennis championship, advanced nearer to another triumph at the Seventh Regiment Armory when she gained a semifinal round bracket in this year's tournament by defeating Miss Margaret Taylor decisively by a score of 6-0, 6-1.

YATES, FRESHMAN STAR, IS ELIGIBLE FOR PENN NINE Joe Yates, Penn freshman first baseman on last year's championship nine, has been declared eligible. Yates, it was thought, would be unable to represent the Red and Blue team this year.

PITCHER PFEFFER AGREES TO BROOKLYN CLUB TERMS HOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 15.—Jeff Pfeffer is the first of the three Brooklyn holdouts to sign a contract. Pfeffer has agreed to the salary offered by the Squire of Flatbush with the addition of a bonus for winning twenty-five games, and half if he won five or ten less.

GIANTS CHALKED UP NEW RECORDS IN STRAIGHT WINS, BUT TWO-THIRDS OF '16 ERA PLAYED TAIL-END CLIP

Won 43 Out of 43 Starts in Two Wild Dashes, But the Rest of the Season Played Jowl to Jowl With Cardinals and Reds

By GRANTLAND RICE

CERTAIN citizens one meets up and down the highway of this spiral existence always insist that figures are boring, dull and irrelevant that figures are boring, dull and irrelevant.

It was interesting to note, for example, that in the last ten years it has required 165 for thirty-six holes, an average of \$2 1/2 to the round, to qualify for the amateur championship.

Yet, there are any number of golfers who could never qualify in an amateur championship who consider \$2 at least four times as much as the cost of a "game."

"The Phillies," observes Colonel Hugh S. Fullerton, "haven't much of a ball club." The other hand, we should say that Cleveland Alexander was one of the best little ball clubs we have ever seen.

This Date a Year Ago Hal Chase has passed from the big league forever. Alexander had a bad shoulder and was in for a poor season.

HALPIN OUT FOR SEASON Captain of Boston A. A. Track Team Goes Under Nasal Operation

BOSTON, March 15.—Captain Thomas J. Halpin, of the Boston Athletic Association track team, will be unable to compete during the rest of the indoor season, as a result of a nasal operation ordered. As a result, David S. Caldwell will be captain of the team, which will represent the association at the national indoor championships at New York on Saturday.

THRASHER SIGNS WITH ATHLETICS

Heavy-Hitting Outfielder Has First Workout and Shows Good Form

MILITARY DRILL AGAIN

By a Staff Correspondent

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 15.—Preceded by the regular military drill, members of the Mack squad settled down to baseball affairs at the heat of the morning sun again beat down on the players.

After the short baseball session, which was sandwiched between drill and luncheon, several of the Athletics' players remained in the shade of the palms near the clubhouse.

Certain players lounged a trifle too long in the sun during luncheon hour, and as a result fell asleep. General Mack put his men through the usual paces this morning and appeared pleased to see Thrasher in the regular squad.

"Middle West to Welcome Les Darcy." A statement we doubt very much. The arrangement to make a quartet out of the Australian fighter and fugitive leaves us with a large, ingrowing and strictly localized pain.

ROUSE, CAPTAIN OF FRESH FOOTBALLERS, QUILTS PENN

Penn has lost another good football man, Charles Rouse, captain of last season's freshman football team, and who was looked upon as one of the most promising gridiron players on the freshman squad, has quit.

Nationals Would Like Boat Ride AUGUSTA, Ga., March 15.—The Washington Nationals are planning to get to Philadelphia via autos and boats if the brotherhood strike.

PHILS ROASTED, BUT NOT BY FANS

Southern Sun Plays Heated Role in Conditioning of Moran's Squad

MIKE DEE IS BUSY MAN

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 15.—Pat Moran's athletes now are wearing compression suits which resemble hunks of rare-roast beef.

Notwithstanding the loss of their attractive winter looks, the Phils worked hard today. The sun beat down unmercifully on the playing field, the temperature rising to ninety-five degrees in the shade.

Reducing Belts Trainer Mike Dee is doing great work with the players and is the busiest person in the camp. He has invented a new reducing belt which is quite successful and the heaviest men in camp are wearing them.

Daily Practice

The daily practices consist chiefly of preliminary training stunts. The regular line-up has been selected and the men are all taking trials at the various positions.

Bowling News

Artisan League bowlers resumed their tug-of-war with the "Formals" last night. In Section A, Adolphus increased his lead to three games over Terminal.

In Section B, the Bezzam squad, which occupies fifth position, won two games from the "Formals" in the fourth round of the season.

The first season of the Philadelphia Dock Pils League was brought to a close on Conant alley last night. Eurika is the champion, having won all three games from Zulus, who set the pace the entire season until the last two games.

The United Gas Improvement studies called as follows: Spring Garden best Controller's two games; Tarento and Cherry street two games; and the fourth best of 45 shops was the old game from Second Vice President's feet.

San Salvador Council holds first place in Knights of Columbus (parade) by winning the prize cup in the fourth round of the 200-yard handicap race.

Cann Breaks Swimming Records NEW YORK, March 15.—Ted Cann created two American records at the New York Athletic Club in the fourth round of the 200-yard handicap race.

Advertisement for Admiral Cigarettes. Text: "In Command! Already those who really choose their smokes have been won by ADMIRAL EISENLOHR'S MASTERPIECE The new size of the famous Henrietta 10c Straight Go to any good dealer Exact size 5 1/4 inches. Otto Eisenlohr & Bros. Incorporated"

Advertisement for Spring Suits. Text: "SPRING SUITS \$11.80 To Order. Peter Moran & Co. Merchant Tailors. 15th Market St. Entrance 15th. S. E. Cor. 9th and Arch Sts. Broadway A. C. Tonight Great Heavyweight Battle Homer Smith vs. Jack Taylor. Saturday Night-Saturday Night National A. C. Jimmy Murphy vs. Jack Burke. Dan Miller vs. Paul Hanson. Other All-Star Contests. Adm. 25c. Eastern League Basketball Tonight at Nonpareil Hall. Reservations 10c. Gambia A. C."