

NEW YORK GIANTS HAVE NOTIFIED TY COBB THAT HE NOW CAN PLAY BALL WITH THE TIGERS

MAGNATES TREMBLE AS BASEBALL ENTERS 1917 SEASON, BUT THEIR FEARS WILL PROVE GROUNDLESS

National Game and Kindred Sports Will Prove Their Real Value as Means of Developing National Efficiency in War Time

IT HAS been many years since the men who have their money invested in baseball have approached an opening day with so much fear and trembling for the future, and this at a time when the national pastime should be at the portals of a period of good sport and financial success. When the last disturbing factor was eliminated from the baseball world last winter every one prophesied a wonderful season for the sport. But the outlook has been dimmed by a war cloud, and most of the magnates are just about as comfortable as Larry McLean formerly was in a dry town. They have visions of empty seats and lean purses, with a dozen or two high-priced stars expecting inflated checks twice a month. There is reason to believe, however, that the magnates are worrying themselves unnecessarily, and while the attendance at games will undoubtedly be cut down by the war, there will be plenty of fans filtering through the turnstiles with regular coin of the realm. There is talk of selective conscription for men between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five, and, of course, the enlistment of 1,000,000 men in the course of the year will make a difference, not only in the attendance at baseball games, but wherever men gather. It must be remembered, however, that the real wild-eyed fan—the dyed-in-the-wool baseball bug—is usually thirty-five years of age or over.

There are a number of reasons for this. The young man prefers to take his baseball first hand. The time that he has to devote to sport finds him out on the diamond, playing the game himself. Further, a large percentage of men between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five cannot afford to attend baseball games day after day, and so we find the "regulars," the men who attend from three to five games of professional baseball a week, are somewhat older.

A NATION at war has no time to waste, and the paramount question is, "Is baseball a waste of time, or does it give an adequate return for the time spent by promoting physical health in a nation?"

Long on Spirit, But Short on Logic

THE college athletic heads who fostered the movement to do away with all intercollegiate sports with the coming of war are now wondering whether they did not make a big mistake. Military and naval men are advising those in charge of intercollegiate athletics to continue the work, and some even go further and favor an expansion of athletic activity. With logic once more enthroned, it is likely that the college athletic heads will heed the advice of those who understand the wonderful asset athletics are in war time and reconsider their action in sweeping away all sport. It is even probable that official word will be sent from Washington to resume athletics and do everything possible to keep the athletes in military training.

In promoting sport at such a time it is important that those in charge keep in mind two salient requisites. First, to avoid letting athletics interfere in any way with recruiting. It is better for a team or a crew to lose every event on its schedule than to hold a man for one minute who is needed by his country. Second, the goal to be striven for is to get and keep just as many youths in physical shape as is possible, making the winning of victories for alma mater a secondary consideration.

A THLETICS so conducted will do much to augment the fighting power of the nation. Let us have athletics, and then more athletics—but let us have them right.

Another Gotham Review of the Cobb-Herzog Battle

JUDGING from belated reports from the ringside, Tyrus Cobb was entirely to blame for the fist fight with Buck Herzog in the South recently. This is not at all startling, but the mere fact that Herzog had nerve enough to challenge Cobb means that the Detroit slugger is losing his reputation as a "bad guy" among the players. It also means that the Terrible Tyrus will not be able to get away with his customary rough stuff on the diamond without defending his right in some back room after the ball game. W. O. McGeehan has a few ideas which he expressed in the NEW YORK TRIBUNE:

"With the opening of the season the spiking of Herzog by Cobb will be forgotten," writes McGeehan. "The pair hardly will be pitted against each other again, unless, of course, the Tigers should meet the Giants in a world series. Should this happen there would be a world series in which the extra emoluments due the players would be distinctly a side issue, a mere bagatelle. In the opinion of your correspondent, who saw the spiking from a lofty perch at Gardner Park, at Dallas, Cobb was entirely to blame. He threw his spikes high. He afterward admitted that the attempt to maim the Giant player was intentional and premeditated. His excuse was that Herzog had been riding him and that he told him that he would spike him at the first opportunity.

THIS certainly will lower the prestige that Cobb has held as a baseball player and a sportsman. A man who will let his ego and his temper carry him that far has no right to play baseball or any other game. In work and in play the man who cannot stand a "riding" is not fit to take part.

"Cobb Maintains a Germanic Attitude"

UP TO this point Cobb has been maintaining a Germanic attitude toward the game and to the opposing players. It had been reported that he would use his spikes on anybody that tried to stop him, if he could. The success of Cobb in his base stealing was due largely to the fear of his flaying spikes. But at last he met a man who had the nerve to challenge his right to slide steel-shod into whoever tried to check him legitimately. He got the same sort of shock that must have been felt in Berlin when the United States failed to recognize Germany's right to sink everything afloat. It is recognized that the base-runner has the right to hurl himself at the base and that the man covering the base must protect himself as best he can. But the game does not permit the base-runner to throw his spikes high for the purpose, not of reaching the base, but of injuring the man defending it. Cobb was not trying to reach the base. He was trying to injure Herzog. And he admitted it.

There is a certain type of man who is temperamentally unfit to play any game. This is the man who, in the heat of play, resorts to primordial savagery to gain a point. Unless Cobb can see that he was wrong in that Dallas affair there are many who will put him in this class. If he is really as big a man as his ardent admirers insist he should have admitted his error before this. "One is moved to wonder if the challenging of Cobb by Herzog may not have some psychological effect upon the baseball career of Cobb. Hitherto the gladiator of his name has awed opposing players, and even umpires. He did as he pleased. He was seldom crossed or contradicted, because he was Cobb. He was accorded liberties that would not be extended to the average baseball player.

FOR once his right to ride over rules, customs and ethics was challenged by a smaller but pluckier man. Will this not lead other players to challenge the great Tyrus when his ego runs amuck?"

Trapshooting Might Help in Hun Gunning

ONE of the most likely of all sports in these perilous times is athletic endeavor before the traps with the highly explosive shotgun. Army and navy officials themselves have been among the many to take up the cause of sports and to urge against their abandonment until there is more serious need for it. There are few sports on the calendar which present the same claim for attention to the Government as a means of fitting persons for potting the enemy that practice from the trap deck gives. Not the least important among the attacking or annoying bands of the infantry is the sharpshooter troop. There is the gas-bomb-hurling string, which has its uses, as has the cutlass-armed, throat-cutting delegation which follows in its train. But among the most feared of the land adversaries are those that hide in the ruins to pull the old-fashioned surprise trigger on the casual pedestrian in a war zone, or the persons who creep up disguised in some of the bushes and other scenery tied to their backs to represent a section of the landscape, and thus do their sniping unnoticed. There is a great need for sharpshooters in our best armies, and thus there would seem to be a wide opening for thousands of trapshooters in America who mingle in the "sport alluring," as it is called, at the traps. Persons able to collapse a spinning disc in the bat of an eye as it sails out of release are being figured by military experts as most promising to hold up with a bullet the Hun coming forward, broadside first. Expert trapshooters report that there is quite some difference between an army rifle and the twelve-gauge shotgun used to shatter the hurdling clay. But it would seem that this difference would dwindle rapidly with practice, so that gun work is being encouraged. For to the average person and the gun lubber an army rifle is as easily as handling a barrel over Niagara Falls.

This Will Be as Popular With the Greys as the Smallpox

THE ways are set for a change in the method of tossing foul goals in the Eastern League. At a recent rules interpretation meeting Coach "Bill" McAvoy, of Colgate College, suggested a method which he contended will eliminate considerable of the roughness. His idea is to have the man committing an offense on the ball at the opponents' basket. If he cages the leather he has stoned for foul, but if he fails the opposing side is credited with a point. It looked so that it was made in the form of a motion at a meeting of the Eastern League which likely be passed when that organization convenes next week. The new scheme was given a trial when Greylock played Germantown Y. M. C. A. last Sunday night. That it proved a success is expressing it mildly. The crowd was unanimous in expressing their approval, and, furthermore, Germantown's score, 58 to 51. At fouling the foul the Eastern League would be one of the most dangerous clubs in the race, for you can gamble that they have the punch." If Matty the Manager was only Matty the Pitcher of 1905!

MOVIE OF A MAN WHO WAS ONCE A CZAR



SPORT HAS ITS PLACE IN WAR-TIME FOR PHYSICAL STAMINA AND NERVE JUST AS MUCH AS NEW ARMAMENTS

As Long as They Don't Interfere With the Country's Leading Purpose, Athletics Still Have a Distinct Place in American Life at Home

By GRANTLAND RICE
The Story of the Drums

What is the story of glory that comes
From the roll of the drums?
The echo of feet keeping time to the beat
Of men who are marching by 'cross-road and street
To the call that has echoed by land and by sea
For the fate that may be?
And the story is this—they have come to the day
When the big debt is due in the smash of the fray
And if it be only the death which they owe,
Or if it be only to suffer and grow,
They are ready to pay.

Even for those who are ready and strong
The road's none too long;
Times moves on the fly as the seasons flash by
Where the shadows drift in and the last echoes die;
Where each in his turn passes on through the gate
To whatever may wait;
And the story is this—when the hour is due—
And it may be for me and it may be for you—
Today and Tomorrow are one and the same
If we stick to the highway and play out the game,
Be it early or late.

Wednesday's Opening

Baseball, in all its varied span has known but one international crisis before this. There were no leagues in the days of '61. Baseball was then an undeveloped, almost unknown sport—a sport just emerging from its cradle. After the first league was organized baseball traveled on through over twenty-five years of peace before the Spanish-American War came on. It has been nineteen years now since that shadow moved by, so no one can say just yet what effect the present situation will have upon the sport.

All competitive sport now is in the shadow. But as long as it doesn't detract from the main job at hand and doesn't interfere with the country's leading purpose it may still have its place until more serious days arrive.

If every baseball league in America, with 10,000 physically trained men, would only take its part in the preparation of the times, a double purpose could be served.

War and Sport

War and sport are in no sense alike. There is no touch of sport in war. The two games are entirely different. One is a physical development. The purpose of the other is physical extinction—for the enemy.

But sport has its place in development for war, for, despite all the new inventions and new armaments, physical stamina and vitality are still qualities which have their place.

Other conditions being anywhere near the same, a nation in fine physical shape would have that much of a start. And this country, physically, has in one way been well prepared. There has never been another nation in history that has sent so many entries into many varieties of health-giving sport.

The Player's Attitude

"What is the attitude of the ball player toward war?" we have been frequently asked.

It might be summed up from a recent statement made by Frank Baker, the home-run monarch.

"I'm not crazy about war," he said, "but if I have to go in it will be with this idea in my mind: to figure in advance that they are going to get me, but to go out and get as many of them as I can before I'm through."

Which, at the least, is not abad idea.

"If Cincinnati had the pitchers," remarked a member of the Boston Braves, "the Reds would be one of the most dangerous clubs in the race, for you can gamble that they have the punch." If Matty the Manager was only Matty the Pitcher of 1905!

Reader: Alan Seeger's "Renderous With Death" can be found in his published poems. Among those looking upon war with a serene face are some 98 or 100 umpires who, above them all, can chant the old requiem: "O Death, where is thy sting?" O Grave, where is thy power?

Montgomery Fair Adopts Race Program

READING, Pa., April 10.—A meeting of the Montgomery County Fair Association speed committee was held at Comings's Hotel Windsor, of this city. A. H. Comings, chairman, presided. The program of early closing stake races for the fair, August 14-17, was adopted as follows: 2:10 pace, purse \$1000; 2:15 trot, purse \$1000; 2:24 pace, purse \$1000; 2:25 trot, purse \$1000; two-year-old trot, purse \$500; three-year-old trot, purse \$500. Nominations will close April 30.

Reading Nine Signs Six Pitchers

READING, Pa., April 10.—Manager George Wilcox, of the Reading club in the New York State League, announced the signing of the following players: Pitchers—Harold Devlinney, William Donahue, Sal Davis, John Clifford, Edward Thompson and Lyle Stringer. Catchers—John Haddock, Leo Kelley, Frank Foley and James Cororan. Outfielders—Fred Oakes, C. S. Breckenridge, Timothy O'Hearn and Glen Washburne. Infielders—Richard Brent, Al Holt, Herbert Armstrong, Edward Barry, George Diener and Walter Sullivan.

SOLONS TO DECIDE ROWING QUESTION

City Schoolboys Await Action of Supervisory Committee Tomorrow

GAMES ARE POSTPONED

The fate of rowing among the schoolboys will be decided at a meeting of the Supervisory Committee on Athletics to be held tomorrow. The matter was held over from the final action from the last meeting of March. The advocates of rowing will be well represented and many arguments will be heard both in favor of continuing and abandoning the sport.

W. Brander MacPherson, chairman of the Central High School, will lead the delegates who have been granted a hearing by the committee in favor of retaining the sport. He will have many reasons why this city should hold its own with other big centers in supporting school crews.

The war has also had its effect upon the schools, and it is rumored that the question of discontinuing all sport will be brought before the board. Just why the schoolboys should cancel their games and turn to military training is hard to understand, but it is said on good authority that certain representatives will bring up the question.

SCHOOL CONTESTS POSTPONED
Because of the rain and snow the school baseball fields are in terrible condition, and even practice is out of the question for the majority of the squads. The opening of the interscholastic League and Inter-academic League seasons will have to be deferred until later in the week.

Ten games will either have to be canceled or postponed until some future time. Penn Charter hoped to play Cheltenham High, but playing conditions even at such an excellent field as the Yellow and Blue athletic field are favored with at Queen Lane is impossible. If possible, Coach Merritt will take his players out for practice, but until the grounds have been inspected and he has a report that conditions are fair.

WEST PHILLIES LOSE COACH
West Philadelphia High School's baseball affairs are in a chaotic state, for without a coach and faculty adviser and without a home field the youngsters across the Schuylkill are doing considerable worrying. Fred Vail, their baseball tutor, has joined the naval coast defense, and Manager King Swing doesn't even know whether he secured a place for the game with Germantown High.

Germantown High School's athletes were asked to report for tennis, track and baseball this week. The interscholastic games will start next Monday and the school tennis tournament as soon as the weather fits. The track athletes were notified to begin training for the inter-sectional meet to be held on May 8.



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