

LEAGUES ARE STILL "WET" BECAUSE OF THE "BOOS" THAT GO WITH CELLAR POSITION HOLDERS

STEVE O'NEILL HAS BEST AVERAGE AMONG BIG LEAGUE CATCHERS

Cleveland Backstop Allowed Only 61 Stolen Bases in 123 Games During 1919 Campaign—Walter Schmidt Leads in National

BASEBALL FANS!

Just about six weeks from now the baseball season will be breaking in on us and you will be flocking to Shibe Park and Broad and Huntingdon to see what Connie Mack and Garry Cavanah have in the way of new and old baseball talent.

BOB MAXWELL

(You know Bob)

It is on his way South in the land of the training camps. In a few days he will start telling you daily through these columns just what to expect in talent this baseball season.

Evening Public Ledger

GET WISE!

IF ANY baseball fan has an idea that it's not so tough to steal a base in any kind of a ball game, that particular fan is a fanatic who should step up and interview some one who has tried to kill against Steve O'Neill.

Stephen Francis O'Neill wouldn't make a bad candidate for Jim Connelley's staff of plain clothes men. He prevented more steals, or rather, he allowed fewer steals last season than any other catcher in the two leagues.

In the 123 engagements in which Mr. O'Neill participated in 1919, only sixty-one bases were stolen. Thirteen of these were ninth-inning stuff, when nobody cared.

Walter Schmidt, the Pirates' backstop, was the leading nonsteal catcher in the National League, but he was as far behind O'Neill as Saturday is behind Sunday.

Walter caught in eighty-five contests and sixty-three bases were stolen on him, for an average of 0.62.

Chet Thomas, also of the Indians, and Pickles Dillhoefer, of the Cards, led the two leagues in actual figures, but they were in few games compared with O'Neill and Schmidt.

Most of the big league maskmen limited the steals to less than one per game, but there were nine whose average ran over this. Walter Mayer, who has left St. Louis to join the Senators, has the poorest record of any of the backstops.

The thefts against him averaged close to two per game. Forrest Cady, who was with our Phils until Jack Coombs was dropped as manager, led the National League in reverse English.

He allowed 1.79 steals per game.

RAY SCHALK is the iron man among the maskmen of the major leagues. The White Sox backstop engaged in 120 games last season and allowed only sixty-four steals.

Steve O'Neill was second in durability with 123 games. Bill Killefer caught more games than any other entry in the National League.

There were only half a dozen catchers in the majors last season who caught 100 or more battles. Five of these are on American League rosters.

Sixth-inning steals, which passed into the discard at the recent meeting of the joint rules committee in Chicago, were more numerous on the National than on the American League circuit last year.

Of the teams in the junior organization as against ninety-three in the senior body. Of the teams in B. B. Johnson's league, Cleveland and Washington fanned most the theft that backstops make no effort to stop.

The averages follow:

Table with columns: Player and Club, Games, S.B., Stolen Bases, etc. Lists players like O'Neill, Schalk, Killefer, etc.

BABE RUTH GAVE WAY TO PINCH-HITTER IN DEBUT

BACK in the winter of 1919-1914, the show "Along Came Ruth" made quite a hit on Broadway. But in the spring of 1914 the phrase "Along came Ruth" began to shift over to the sporting pages.

One Babe Ruth, an unknown youngster on the pitching staff of the Baltimore Orioles, kept tripping up all the big league clubs that played exhibition games in Baltimore.

Ruth hit for such a figure in the International League in the first three months of the 1914 season that in July the Red Sox purchased Ruth, Eddie Shore and Ben Egan from the Baltimore Orioles for something like \$10,000 for the trio.

The price on Ruth was said to be \$27,000. "Tint" was the first year of the Federal League war, and after Duane's several months he gave up and sold all his stars for the best prices obtainable.

On July 11, 1914, we find Babe hitting his first big league game. He didn't hit a home run; he didn't even hit a single. In fact, Duffy Lewis was called in to bat for him with the score tied in the seventh inning, and a single by Duffy helped the Red Sox score the winning run.

The first big league pitch that Ruth had a chance to get a crack at was when Mitchell, the left-hander, and even to this day Babe doesn't care much for the gentlemen who serve the ball up on the plate with their left hands.

Ruth pitched a terrific game for six innings in his big league start, but got into a jam in the seventh.

In his second game on July 16, 1914, Ruth lost to the Tigers in three innings. Detroit got to him for two runs, enough to beat him. Joe Lanning, who then owned the Red Sox and the Providence International, sent Ruth down to Providence to get to the best Carlisle Brown, the Yankees, holding New York to six hits.

AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELING?



CUP LEAGUE GOLF DATES ARRANGED

Season Will Open May 19, With 18 or More Clubs Represented

Fourteen of the eighteen clubs comprising the Suburban Cup League of the Golf Association of Philadelphia met at the Arcadia yesterday and arranged the schedule of games for the season, which will open on Wednesday, May 19.

They have opened a credit of \$50,000, holding that the sports will benefit Brazil greatly. The government will contribute to the fund and transport the athletes on one of the nation's steamships.

The Brazilian team will participate in water polo and football, in both of which sports the Brazilians are the champions of South America; swimming, rowing, tennis, hockey, boxing, wrestling, cycling and gymnastics.

A motion to change the playing dates to Saturdays was defeated, as the majority of the delegates felt that playing the interclub matches on Saturdays, when the courses are congested with the members of the club, would not work out satisfactorily.

Division A—Llanerch, Haddon County, Pa., Woodbury and Livingston. Division B—Montgomery, Merhantville, Bucks County, North Hills and Woodbury.

Division C—Torresdale, Pottsville, Ardmore and Lansdowne. Division D—Old York Road, Stenton, La. Tr and Frankford.

In the event of two other clubs joining, there will be a Division E, made up of Riverside, Woodbury and two new clubs. Should there be no new additions, the five clubs comprising A and the five clubs forming B will meet on a neutral course to be selected by Francis R. Warner, secretary of the local golf association.

Each team will be represented by ten men, and the four clubs whose gross total for the eighteen holes of medal play are the lowest will represent the Lawn Tennis Association.

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FOLWELL WOULD COACH MIDDIES

Former Penn Tutor Anxious to Succeed Dobie as Navy Grid Mentor

Robert C. Folwell, who was let down to make room for John W. Heisman as coach at Pennsylvania, may be the next tutor at the United States Naval Academy.

Gilmour Dobie, the famous western coach, who has been the gridiron mentor at Annapolis for the last two years, has been released from his three-year contract by naval authorities to accept the coaching post at Cornell.

Folwell has been mentioned at the home of the Middies as Dobie's likely successor and from new developments it appears as if the Mulliken Hill farmer will guide the Annapolis eleven next season.

"I did not know that Dobie had been released," said Folwell over the long-distance telephone this morning. "It has been some time—a matter of two or three weeks—since I have been speaking to any navy men and at the time it was understood that Dobie would be back next year under his contract. This puts a different light on the question."

"I would like to coach at Annapolis very much. I was in touch with Commodore Howard, the officer in charge

of athletics, some time ago, but as I said nothing definite was reached. "I have had several offers from colleges to coach next fall, but I am in no hurry to sign. In fact I haven't decided whether I want to coach or not. However, if the Annapolis men want me, of course I would be willing to talk things over."

Folwell coached Pennsylvania four years and gave the Red and Blue some great teams. In those four seasons he lost only seven games, which is a record that compares favorably, if indeed, it does not surpass, the record of any other tutor in the history of Quaker athletics.

WANT SMALL-YACHT RACES Indian Harbor Y. C. Asks England to Consider International Races

New York, Feb. 27.—International yacht racing within another year will not be confined to the historic America's Cup event if an invitation sent to Great Britain by the Indian Harbor Yacht Club of Greenwich, Conn., is received with favor.

According to an announcement made yesterday by William Hamilton Childs, who has been commodore of the Indian Harbor Yacht Club for a number of years, an offer of an international cup has been made to British sailing officials for a series of annual races between comparatively small craft of about twenty-foot water line length—the Class R sloops, to be exact—with the request that the matter be taken under consideration at the earliest possible date.

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OLYMPIA HARRY EDWARDS, MGR. Monday Eve. Mar. 1, 1920

Lee Reynolds vs. Martin Judge Bobby Burman vs. Artie Schick Mike Connors vs. Billy Murray Jimmy McCabe vs. Farmer Sullivan MIKE JACK O'Dowd vs. McCarron

Holland Seeks Tennis Honors London, Feb. 27.—Holland has entered a challenge for the Davis lawn tennis cup to be held at Australasia. It was announced yesterday by the Lawn Tennis Association.

COMPLEMENTARY TICKETS 1409 Arch St. Elks Hall—1320 Arch St. and 2d West Armory. Broad & Susquehanna Ave.

The Roving Marines

Tonight, 8 P. M. Elks Hall—1320 Arch St. Saturday Night, 8 P. M.—2d Regt. Armory Broad and Susquehanna Ave. Ladies Invited—Adv.

RUTH TOPS SCHULTE ONLY IN PHYSIQUE

Wildfire Had Almost as Much Power as Babe, Despite Slight Build—First Big Leaguer Since 1900 to Pass Twenty-Home-Run Mark

By GRANTLAND RICE (Copyright, 1920. All rights reserved.)

What's In a Name? If Cobb was known as Jones or such he'd still be just as loved to throat; And Bodie wouldn't differ much If christened J. H. Aristotle; Or if a squaw was called a beet

As Avon Hill said long ago "A name's a name for prince or vagrant"; A certain animal I know Whatever called, would not be fragrant; Or limping our Parisian streets To try to earn an honest penny; If I was known as Byron Keats Would that improve these verses any?

Ruth and Schulte IF FRANK SCHULTE had only had the physical power of Babe Ruth, the ex-Cub would have been fully as much of a home-run monarch. He might have had even a bit more timing upon his royal scepter.

In comparison to the immense Babe, had almost as much power in his drive. No man ever struck a baseball with a cleaner, freer snap of the wrist.

Schulte was the first big leaguer since 1900 to pass the twenty home-run mark for a year. In 1911 he ran his count up to twenty-one home runs, and most of these were made in big parks.

Ruth is the first ballplayer we have seen to come along with unusual physical power and Schulte's snap and follow through. The result had to be a world's record. Nothing else.

Books Golfers Should Read "The Trap." By Maximilian Foster. "Bunker Bean." By Harry Leon Wilson. "The Call of the Wild." By Jack London. "The Pit." By Frank Norris. "The Barrier." By Rex Beach.

SULLIVAN is the one ring champion who has been to the United States what "carpenter" now is to France. There have been no other national idols of the ring, at least among the heavyweights. No one could call Jeffries, Johnson or Willard popular types. Fitzsimmons ran next to Sullivan. Dempsey might have been upon a par with Sullivan if his symmetrical frame had ever been draped with khaki. The champion has to be extra careful of his step, as the shining mark always makes the easiest target.

HOW MANY? How many citizens between the ages of eight and eighty years are interested in sport in the United States? Some census of future generations will develop this information, for, in addition to other questions, this will be asked.

"What is your favorite sport?" Baseball, counting those who play it and those who act in spectacular roles, claims more millions.

Almost every young American has played baseball at one time or another. Golf claims are between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000. Tennis around 1,000,000. Football, in the line of those who play and watch, appeals to many millions. So does boxing. So does bowling. So do track athletics. The most widely played game is baseball. The game that interests a greater variety of ages between fifteen and eighty is golf. The most exclusive is polo. It is one of the greatest, but a trifle too expensive for the great majority.

And then there are racing, billiards, hunting and fishing. And the list still remains uncompleted.

Willard and Nelson IKE O'NEILL, Willard's trainer at Toledo, says that no one can deny the ex-champion's gameness.

Willard had gameness, minus the fighting instinct. Can any one imagine Bat Nelson requesting a second to toss in a sponge, admitting defeat? O'Neil brings out the point that Willard was bitter at the treatment he received from the public—at the catcalls and hisses he received after leaving the Toledo ring.

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