

## SPAIN IS AFTER THE DAVIS CUP—WELL, THEY CAN PUT SOMETHING IN IT OVER THERE

## ALL RECORDS FALL AS NEW YORK OFFERS BRANCH RICKEY \$300,000 FOR ROGERS HORNSBY'S SERVICES

ROBERT W. MAXWELL  
Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

**T**HE limit has been reached in the price of ball players. That is to say, the January limit has been reached. What will happen next month or in March or April is difficult to determine. However, if the magnates persist in pulling the frenzied finance stuff the lid will be blown so high that it will never come back to earth.

Yesterday, down in Houston, Tex., Branch Rickey, while conversing with a couple of natives, admitted that he had received an offer of \$300,000 and four players from a "certain" National League ball club for Rogers Hornsby. Rickey evidently is handling out the straight dope, because he is not a drinking man nor does he do and day dreaming. Therefore, there is nothing left but to believe the wild yar and the pop-eyed price.

Last year Hornsby was sought by the Giants and an offer of \$100,000 was made. After it had been turned down the ante was raised until it reached \$200,000. Then the matter was dropped. This year the Giants tried again, and while Rickey did not name the club making the \$300,000 offer, it has all of the earmarks of a New York enterprise.

Times certainly have changed in baseball. When Speaker was purchased for \$50,000 the sports world was amazed. The same \$50,000 deal between the Red Sox and the Athletics under Melvin Schmid and Bush went away from here. Eddie Collins was sold to the White Sox for a price now reported to be \$15,000, and last year Babe Ruth broke all records when he brought \$137,500 on the hoof.

All of these men proved to be good investments. They brought much money to their owners and everybody was satisfied. Ruth made more money for Colons Ruppert and Huston than they ever made before, and the same goes for Collins and Speaker. But can any player bring back \$300,000 in real money through his individual efforts in his playing career?

It must be remembered that no matter how many people a ball player can draw to a ball park, he can't draw beyond capacity. After the park is filled and the receipts show a loss, then there is something to worry about. Hornsby is a great player, a batting champion and all that sort of thing, but he is big enough and has the power to draw the mob like Babe Ruth, Tris Speaker or Ty Cobb? Many experts say he can't, and the chances are they are right.

If a ball club plays to 400,000 paid admissions in a year a profit will be shown. Few clubs ever pass the 500,000 mark. Then, when expenses are paid and the other clubs get their share of the receipts, there isn't much left for the magnate. Therefore, this \$300,000 offer leads us to ask, how come?

## Near-Scandal in the South

HERE almost was a terrible scandal connected with this latest story from the South. The enterprising author who put it on the wires was a bear for details and did not overlook a bit. Here is part of the yarn which was dot-and-dashed into the office:

"Rickey mentioned the latest offer for Hornsby to President John H. Crocker, of the Houston club, after a conference between the two and Connie Mack at Lake Charles on exhibition game dates. Rickey, however, did not name the city making the offer."

This brings the name of Connie Mack into it. But Connie does not figure in the deal. Far be it from that. We are mentioning this to avoid arguments in the future.

But to return to Hornsby. That young athlete has been reading about himself all winter and now knows how much he is worth. It's a cinch he will not be satisfied with his lot unless the St. Louis club pays him a big salary, and you can't blame him for asking for it. If

Rickey thinks enough of him to turn down an offer of \$300,000, he should kick in with a contract which will make Babe Ruth look like a piker.

Too much publicity about high prices and carelessness juggling of amounts like \$300,000 will do the game of baseball lots of harm. The fans don't care to look at a price list—but all they want is a good strong line-up with all the players in it. However, the players will absorb all of the financial news, realize that the bosses are making money and modestly demand a boost in compensation. This will cause a flock of holdouts and a lot of trouble. In a little while baseball news will be printed on the financial pages.

If this deal goes through somebody will be accused of being a swindler. Well, if a club has the nerve to put up \$300,000 it deserves to be paid. But it is hard to imagine that a bundle of kale like that will change hands.

In the past the baseball magnate has not qualified as a philanthropist. He never kicked in with the dough until the gun was placed at his head or he was backed into a corner. Perhaps he has changed.

**I**N REGARD to St. Louis, a ball club which has been operating on the other side of the ledger for years, wondering every year if the ball park could be opened and then have a chance to get a fortune for a player, all we can say is that somebody should have his head examined.

## Baseball Times Have Changed Vastly

ALL of which is in striking contrast to the methods of fifteen years ago in baseball. Some of the greatest baseball machines ever assembled, and ones which could stack up with any of those financially equipped clubs, were put together for amazingly small sums of dough.

Back in 1907, 1908 and 1910, when Frank Chance had one of the best clubs in the country, his team cost so little in the assembling that it was a negligible figure compared to the small salaries of that period in baseball's history.

What Connie Mack did after his famous 1905 club had collapsed is almost too well known to repeat. What he did, in brief, was to go out and get such players as Eddie Collins, Jack Barry, Stuffy McNamara, Chief Bender, Eddie Plank, John Coombs and Frank Baker for mere songs and develop them himself.

This is not the method used today. Now it appears that managers are unable to develop players, except in rare instances. They purchase the finished product rather than struggle with the raw material. This is in keeping with the times.

The managers and owners want good players, and they want them quickly. They haven't the time, or think they haven't, to send their scouts into the bushes, grab a few hopefuls and wait for their development. Of course, scouting is still performed, but it usually happens that most of the men who come into the majors now and make good are the ones who have been developed in the minor leagues and who bring prices before they have ever had on a major league uniform that would have startled the baseball world of 1915 off its feet.

This reckless expenditure of money for players will soon have the effect of weakening all of the major league clubs, because they will all be forced to follow this lead, buy their players instead of developing them. And when the process of developing is halted even for a few years there is sure to be a season of lean years in baseball talent.

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## JACKSON-MITCHELL MATCH PROVES TAME ENCOUNTER

"Pinky's" Continual Holding in Latter Rounds and Willie's Early Lethargy Result in Most Unsatisfactory Contest

By LOUIS H. JAFFE

**T**HREE thousand miles away at a visitor's stand-on points, but he was the lower in popularity. Pinkie failed to make an impression with his easy, defensive, and holding style.

## Gold-by Johnny Murray

Sammy Seiger, a New York feather-weight, ascended to the heights of dangerous contenders for Johnny Kilbane's title, and with his rise came the fall of Johnny Murray. Murray was knocked out in the second round when Referee Jack Stelle stopped the bout three rounds after the start of the bout.

Murray, right, was the only one of the ring who did not feel the effects of the judges' knockout, and the noise did not subside until the referee had rendered a draw verdict.

There were frenzied and shrill shouts of "Jackson" with hundreds of voices rent the smoke-filled atmosphere with cries of "Mitchell." Still others could be heard above the din shouting a "draw." When Announcer Joe Humphries voiced the 50-50 decision of Referee Lew White, the Jackson and Mitchell adherents were perfectly good sports, but poor verdict.

The only thing poor about the entire affair was the bout itself, and that goes for everything that this word implies. It seemed to be misery for most of the spectators to sit through so many rounds of such uninteresting boxing.

Mitchell was to blame, so far as the referee's decision goes, for being a knucklehead.

As one of the ringsters shouted up to Jackson, between rounds, "You've never been hung so much in all your life, have you Will?" Time and again Mitchell, pink-clad and the tallest of world's lightweights, wrapped himself around Jackson like a cloak. On one occasion Jackson was cautioned for blood splashing an unnecessary roughing. Referee White cautioned both men several times and once threatened to send them from the ring, but he didn't do it, and that's where White, in the opinion of many, was at fault in his second.

Neil Fitzgerald, an Australian, showed a remarkable grip and strength against Pete Hartley, who was decided a winner by the referee after the judge disagreed. There was hardly any doubt that Hartley had won. Fitzgerald, besides being dropped in the eighth, suffered a terrific lancing, his left eye being completely closed.

Another knockout resulted when Referee White spilt George Sharkey in the third.

## Scraps About Scrappers

Joe Herman, the tiny little Chicago ten-year-old, will appear in the National A. C. when he battles Knockout Joe Donalson every minute he is in the ring but O'Donnell may be called upon to make a quick party.

Silent Pavey is after all the leading infantile star, will appear at Chester on January 10.

In a semi-final at the National amateur, Tom Thompson, former boxing referee in the marine corps with most Frankfort, Martin Judge, Knockout At Warner vs. Johnny Sherburne.

George Russell has recovered from his eleven-period, six weeks' absence, according to Samuels Goldstein, his manager.

Joe Nelson and Jimmy Mendo furnish the most exciting fight of the year, when the preliminaries are over.

Frankie Burns of Philadelphia vs. Young Lewis and Charlie O'Meara of Newark.

Johnnie Ruggert of Reading was most successful boxer over Ping-Pong and Major Peacock in this city, is anxious to make his talk opponent to set the pace.

It is agreed as if Jackson had planned to catch Mitchell with a right-hand coming in, but Pinkie managed to make a Gotham gloverian miss with most vicious hooks, crosses and swings.

## SENDS TO EUROPE FOR HOCKEY SHOES

All-Philadelphia Girls Will Have Big Supply of Shin Guards, Too

## By SPICK HALL

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Murray, right, was the only one of the ring who did not feel the effects of the judges' knockout, and the noise did not subside until the referee had rendered a draw verdict.

This knockout scored over Murray came as a big surprise. He was being picked by many critics as the logical exponent for Kilbane in a matter of title.

America Seiger, he was going strong, showing to advantage though his reverses were the most in short order. A right uppercut caught him flush on the chin. Gray, forthwith placed the order with a British firm to supply the shoes which the girl will not use until next year.

The reason for the sudden yearning for cheap shoes developed on New Year's Day when the all-Philadelphia eleven was handed a masterful lacing by the Tourist team which recently returned from an invasion of England.

The opening day of the year, as some are able to remember, was not one conducive to outdoor sports. Nevertheless, the girls, who had been training in the gymnasium in front of the clubhouse of the Philadelphia Cricket Club at St. Martin's, and after ninety minutes of amphibious play, the Tourists had amased six goals to all-Philadelphia's lone tally.

That was a bitter blow to Captain Anne Townsend and her co-strikers who had immediately gone to the dressing room and it wasn't hard to find. There was one of the athletes sized up the astute tunicing: "Don't think we are trying to slip over an alibi on you," said the fair diagnoser. "but we could have put up a much better game had we been equipped with our own equipment."

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The new Union Trotting Association will issue times this year, but will have a ten-second allowance for each race, making one of the most important in the judges' stand, and so often neglected.

Yes, that mud was awful, and we got more of it than the Tourists. Besides, the mud was greater in extent, and the mud was thicker.

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Gould Defeats Moss in Exhibition

Jay Gould, world's champion of court tennis, and his American opponent, Tom Francketti vs. Philadelphia Joe Wells, Tom Vaughn, and Leo Stahl, Carl Herold, Harry Clegg, and Mattie Bell, two six-round preliminaries.

A triple wind-up is on the card at the Auditorium, Saturday evening.

The participants are: Gus

Francketti vs. Philadelphia Joe Wells, Tom

Vaughn, and Leo Stahl; Carl Herold, Harry

Clegg, and Mattie Bell.

Two six-round preliminaries will also be staged.

Branch Rickey has agreed to pay \$300,000 for Rogers Hornsby's services.

## AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'?



## NEED LAW AGAINST "THROWING" GAMES

Act of White Sox More a Crime Than Theft or Arson and If There's No Law One Should Be Passed

By GRANTLAND RICE

**G**host Winds of Winter, come, wind out from the far gray north, and sin once more of snowdrifts, deep and white; come, with your old-time cheery roistering, And tell me stories of a winter night, Where ice-bound eaves moan with a dull refrain Of whispering echoes, starting up dim Or, in your sweep against the shaken pane, Blow back old dreams across life's vanished years.

Come, North Wind, with your stories of the night, That reach the dreamer with each rushing blast; Sing once again brave ballads of the fight, Or yet croon tender memories of the past, Come, with the long, gray evenings from the hill.

**A**s a vivid drama, "Seven Years in the Cellar" has something, even upon "Ten Nights in a Barroom."

**S.**—thirtieth home run on the 19th of July. Copyright, 1921. All rights reserved.

TEMPLE VS. VILLANOVA

Local Five Will Meet Main Liners Here Tonight

Temple University and Villanova College are down on tonight's basketball schedule to meet at the Second Regiment Armory, Broad and Diamond streets, and in view of the fine records of both contests a hard-fought contest is looked for.

Coach Mike Saxe, of Villanova, announced that there will be no changes in the line-up of the Main Liners and will use either Mitchell or Connolly at center in place of Pickett, and Vise at guard instead of Loughlin.

The Temple line-up is perhaps the strongest in the history of the North Broad street institution. The five has suffered but one defeat, and that was in the game with Penn a few weeks ago. The team is being practiced all week and is in excellent shape.

Temple will line up with Schipps, center; Herzog and Gray, guards. There will be dancing after the game.

Offered Army Appointment