Athletics Make for Building of Character in Boys if Evils Are Controlled and Curbe

LOCAL OFFICIALS RAP ATHLETIC VIEWS OF ENGLISH EDUCATORS

Headmasters in British Schools Prohibit Youths in Teens From Participating in Relay Games, Claiming Publicity Develops Swelled Heads

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL.
Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

THE sportsmanship of the Americans at the Olympic games in Antwerp during the late summer of 1920 made a huge hit with the athletes of all nations present, and particularly with the British. In an effort to welcome United States athletes, the English officials have been planning a big track meet for April 8, when the University of Pennsylvania relay team opposes the Oxford-Cambridge combination in London. The well-laid plans of the authorities have been knocked loose somewhat by a recent decision at the headmasters' conference, in which schoolboys in their teens were barred from participation in relay races.

Two reasons were given by the headmasters for taking this stand. They deemed it wise, first because the expense involved would fall too heavily on the shoulders of the parents whose sons proved themselves good enough to run on any of the teams, and second, because the publicity which follows athletic activity would "turn the heads" of the youthful competitors.

These reasons are interesting because they are new. We know nothing of the manner by which the English run the financial end of the track athletics and therefore are not qualified to comment on the first argument advanced by the educators. However, here in America relay racing is a prominent part of schoolboy athletics and, as far as we know, there has been no call for larger Mackins in our high schools. There usually is a temporary swelling of the dome, but it is temporary, and therefore not serious.

Dr. George W. Orton and Dr. Matthew C. O'Brien, who know as much about athletic heads as Joe Mayer does of ivories of another variety, are two who differ greatly with the British headmasters.

"Relay racing has done much to build up character in schoolboys," said Dr. Orton, manager of the Penn games, which are the largest of the kind in the world. "In many schools relay racing was the first form of sports. It didn't cost much to maintain the sport and only four students were needed to compose a team. And out of track athletics came the spirit for competition in the other lines of athletics.

* * *

"THERE have been thousands and thousands of boys in their teens who have competed in relays at Franklin Field. It is a wholesome sport and clean. It is in the lead among sports that make for character-building."

Control Evils in Sport, Says Dr. O'Brien

DR. O'BRIEN, who for years has been training schoolboy athletes at the Central High School, agrees with the English headmasters. He has seen many cases of swelling above the neck.

"The statement that schoolboy athletes get swelled heads from publicity is absolutely true. I have had so many cases of it here at Central High. For instance, take a boy who runs on the winning relay team at Franklin Field. A good example would be the anchor man, who won the race after being touched off to a poor start. He is lionized by the students, and even the professors pat him on the back and say, "Good boy," or words to that effect.

"What is the result? Within a few days the boy's interest is self-centered. He neglects his studies and athletic training and begins to fail in both. It is one of the great evils in sport."

With this off his chest, Dr. O'Brien sat back in his chair, as if the conversation were finished.

"Then you believe that relay racing does the schoolboy a lot of harm and boys in their teens should be prohibited from participating in the sport?"

"Absolutely NOT!" he replied with emphasis. The statement seemed to get under his collar. The athletic director moved to the edge of his chair and started to deliver another lecture.

"The swelled head is one of the evils of sport and there are others. But should we condemn and give up athletics because of this? Absolutely NOT! That's a weak man's attitude. The evils in sports must be controlled and curbed.

"Because some of our college athletes play with professional teams, should colleges give up football? Absolutely NOT! There is too much good in football just as there is too much good in relay racing to give them up.

* * *

"THE thing is to control the swelled head. This can be done by proper training in school and at home. If parents will cooperate with instructors, it is an easy matter. The swelling soon goes down and the boy becomes normal again."

Transfer Conceit to Self-Confidence

THE problem of the swell-head is ably handled in a criticism of the English headmasters, which appeared in London Field. It follows in part:

"The headmasters' conference has decided against the participation of boys in the relay races. The motion of disapproval was brought forward by Mr. Vaughan, of Rugby, and Mr. Plum, of Kelly College. Mr. Fife, of Christ's Hospital, was their most eloquent supporter. These three and the other speakers on the same side relied on two arguments. They pointed out that participation in the proposed meeting would cause some expense to fall on the parents of boys selected, and they alleged that publicity is bad for the morals and manners of athletes still in their teens.

"The former argument has some weight and might be almost conclusive, if it were inevitable that expenses should be high and borne entirely by the parents.

"The proposition that publicity causes the heads of boys to swell is maintained by the very men who spend much time and energy in the endeavor to plant the seeds of ambition in youthful minds.

"Is it common ground between them that the boys who take part in the schools match at Lord's, one of the chief events in the London season, become more conceited than the other cricketers in their schools who escape the limelight of publicity? Would Mr. Vaughan or Mr. Plum or Mr. Fife, having a son at Eton or Harrow, prefer that he should just secure or just fail to secure a place in the school eleven and undergo or be spared from the ordeal of publicity? Publicity may increase conceit in the congenitally conceited, but for the rest it is likely to strengthen their sense of proportion.

"When a boy makes his appearance before a large and sufficiently critical company at Lord's or Queen's he is up against the real thing. Unless he has already become hidebound in conceit as the result of his training at home and in the comparative privacy of his school publicity gives him knowledge. And knowledge of the truth never did harm to anybody, though it has made many hideously uncomfortable. We maintain the exact contrary opinion to that expressed by Mr. Vaughan.

* * *

"IT IS good for boys that the conceit natural to those who are destined to make their mark in the world and fostered by the artificially sheltered privacy of school life should early be knocked out of them and ultimately transformed into the admittedly valuable and kindred quality self-confidence."

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MORE MEMBERS IS 'CHEAP GOLF' IDEA

State Official's Plea That Waiting Lists Be Taken In to Lower Dues Is Discussed

CLUB MGRS. PROPOSED

By SANDY McNIBLICK

"KEEP the bunkers burning" is the latest slogan of club officials in the New York and Massachusetts golf districts. It is the call for cheaper golf, which is becoming louder and louder lately. It is echoing around the local links loop, too, these days.

The "bunker-burning" idea in a nutshell is that most clubs these days have a waiting list. High golf officials in Massachusetts recently came out with the idea that every man, woman and child who wants to play the game of golf should have the opportunity. The urge was for each club to take in more members until the general average of play per day was believed to be near the top notch possible for comfort.

Figures pointed out that very seldom was a course kept working to its capacity, and that if a hundred clubs in that State added fifty members apiece to the roll the 5000 new members would not only materially decrease the individual sums paid out yearly for dues, but would also take good care of those who are on waiting lists and are now dependent on friends for weekly visits to good links.

Cuts Down Dues

John G. Anderson, in the New York Herald, writes that this is similar to the "country club membership" idea of some standing, where the newcomers have access to the course from Monday to Friday for less dues. The scheme would cut about $10 at least off individual dues.

"There is nothing more desolate looking than a deserted golf course in the middle of the day," writes Anderson. "Why not let the 'waiters' into the fold on the lax days, get the good out of the course and reduce the cost for all?

"The reason advanced at several committee and governors' meetings which we have attended was that $10 or $20 did not matter. But seemingly a change of heart has taken place and lower priced golf has been a slogan for the last two or three months. The test will come some time between a golfer's selfishness and his desire to secure a year's recreation at a more reasonable price.

Many Schemes

"There have been many schemes advanced lately by those contemplating the building of new courses which have much to recommend them. Club houses are to be made much simpler, with golf instead of country club features as outstanding sureties; the dues are in all cases lower than is the general average of links today, which means that the country club expense, as apart from the golf play, is considerable of a burden to the golf player. But the one feature which has appealed to many would-be members is the small stated sum per month they can pay toward securing a permanent ownership bond in the property."

The "budget system," advocated by J. Weston Hibbs, Gulph Mills, at the last Philadelphia district meeting, cannot be put off long in clubs which have not already adopted it.

Mr. Hibbs said that if "business were run like clubs, those pushing the former would soon be bankrupt," which is probably true. There is a tremendous amount of waste.

"All Take"

One local course was built with such a lack of method that nobody kept track of the laborers. They reported for work, and then most of them couldn't be found until the "whistle" blew at quitting time.

Laborers on a nearby road, hearing of the cinch, used to line up with the others for pay, and get it, so the saying goes.

Anyway, members of the club paid for all this. The expense of maintaining the course and club is greater, in most cases, than the cost of playing the actual game of golf. Therefore, more than one club is thinking of hiring an expert manager for its club to actively "work at" the expenditure and receiving of club moneys and as an efficiency expert, as it were.

Labor is down 30 per cent, we are told. Figures also show that food prices are down, but club restaurant prices aren't. These are some of the material things in connection with playing the game which should make more moderate club charges possible.

Golfers believe the game is worth all it costs, but, bending the disbursing arm, they believe it costs too much.

SHIMIDZU WILL RETURN

Japanese Tennis Player Will Make His Home In New York

San Francisco, Calif., Feb. 7.—Little Zenzo Shimidzu, the wonderful lawn tennis star from Japan, whose playing on American and European courts last year was a sensation, is coming back to the United States and to New York City, which he will make his permanent home.

"Shimmy," one of the most popular foreign players who ever visited these shores, will bring his bride with him.

This will be welcome news for all of those who had the good fortune to meet Shimidzu last summer. No finer sportsman ever trod a court and, with the probability that Ichiya Kumagae will also return this summer, Japan will be splendidly represented in the big tournaments.

Y's Krax

MORE and more we are convinced that the Volstead act is all wet. Dry humor.

* * *

Naturally, the mention of "ringers" always follows the washing of dirty football linen.

* * *

Our Daily Guessing Contest—What color is rain?

* * *

Music hath charms—it's played in bars.

* * *

The A's have been leading one end of the league for seven years, but show no signs of cracking under the strain.

* * *

Saturday night humor at the Eureka—"The dog stood on the burning deck—woof—Hot Dog!" (Prolonged laughter).

* * *

The challenge—Q. How'd you divide three apples among two boys? A. Make apple sauce. (Delirium.)

* * *

The Come-back—Q. How'd you divide three horses among two men? A. Make horse radish. (The riot.)

* * *

Pitchers will soon be winding up for

SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE

"The Hardest Battle of My Ring Career"

Infighting of Ad Wolgast Made Richie Mitchell's Toughest Tilt With Gloves

GOT EYES BLACKENED

By RICHIE MITCHELL

THERE have been very few easy matches in which I have participated since starting a boxing career. From the outset I was asked to go against the best, and, believe me, some of them were good.

RITCHIE MITCHELL

However, the match which I consider the toughest of my life was with Ad Wolgast. You remembered that terrific, terrible, ever-tearing-in Adolphus. That bout was held back in 1915.

I weighed only about 128 pounds in those days. That little Dutchman surely could punch and he hit me from every angle. I have never met a man who could do so much damage at infighting than Wolgast.

Wolgast gave me the prettiest pair of black eyes I ever have had. Exchanging blow for blow with the trip-hammer punching Wolgast, it seemed as if I could make no impression on his tough hide. At the same time his clouts had a sting to them, all right.

There was no let-up throughout the bout. That Dutchman kept boring in and never stopped hitting with all the weight he had back of each punch.

I have been knocked down by several opponents, found myself in gruelling matches with a lot of lightweights, but I do not hesitate in saying that Wolgast gave me the hardest of all my battles.

The hardest match for me to lose was that with Benny Leonard in January, 1921. Benny had me down three times in the first round and I came within an ace of landing him right after it.

Leonard went down for nine and only his remarkable coolness and grit saved him that night. He is a wonderful boxer, and I take my hat off to him, but still would like another chance.

Gene Tunney will tell about the hardest battle of his ring career in Thursday's edition of the Evening Public Ledger.

"Bat" Nelson Wins Case, but Lawyer Is Robbed

Chicago, Feb. 7.—Oscar Matthew ("Battling") Nelson, once the greatest of lightweight fighters, and his lawyer won an easy decision over the law in a police court here, but were badly beaten by some unknown crook.

"Bat," arrested for disorderly conduct after a fight in a flat which he said he entered in response to calls for help, was discharged.

Then it was discovered that "Bat" and his second had only won half a victory, for some one had picked the lawyer's pocket—right in the police court.

OLYMPIC FUND GETS $1000

Boston A. A. Will Give This Sum as First Contribution

Boston, Feb. 7.—The movement begun by the Boston A. A. to raise a fund to finance the United States team at the next Olympic games by a percentage of receipts from all athletic contests meantime will have as its first contribution approximately $1000.

Announcement was made that the B. A. A., in setting aside 5 per cent of the net receipts at its annual games, held before a full house at the Boston Arena Saturday night, would contribute that amount.

GIRLS TO DECIDE BASKETBALL TITLE

Rival Feminine Sextets From Bridgeport and Norristown to Play Here

SELECT A NEUTRAL COURT

The girls' basketball teams representing Norristown and Bridgeport are at loggerheads as to which is the better team and they have decided to pay a visit to this city on Thursday evening to settle the dispute on a neutral court.

The game will be played at New Auditorium Hall, Seventh street and Snyder avenue, the home of the South Philly Hebrews, the largest and best playing space being used for basketball in the city today.

Norristown men's team will play the Sphas the same night, but the contest between the male players has been compelled to take a back seat for the one between the ladies. Manager Harry Passon had another game between junior teams for the South Philly amateur title, but called it off to accommodate the out of towners.

Several weeks ago he scheduled Norristown for Thursday and yesterday received a letter from the manager in which he told of the rivalry existing between the girls' teams of Norristown and Bridgeport, which are opposite each other on the Schuylkill River.

The girls have met on several previous occasions, but each time the "home stuff" alibi was working overtime and it was decided that the proper way to decide which was the better club was to secure some neutral court in this city.

Cubs to Play Indianapolis

Chicago, Feb. 7.—The training schedule of the Chicago Nationals has been completed except for a few details, it was announced today, with the booking of exhibition games at Indianapolis April 10 and 11 with the American Association club there. Following these games the Cubs will go to Cincinnati, where they are scheduled to open the National League season April 12.

BIG MEN IN SPORTS GET JUMP ON FIELD

Physical Power in Competition Turns Trick With Less Effort Than Small Man Needs and Gives Stamina Over Long Route

By GRANTLAND RICE

"I HEAR a lot about mental control, brains, nerve and co-ordination in sport," writes I. P. H., "but isn't it true that most of the champions are big men physically, with a decided advantage in sheer strength that counts more than anything else?"

Most of the present-day champions have a decided physical advantage, but this factor doesn't count more than anything else. Without mental and physical co-ordination and the knack of applying their power, they would be a lot of third-raters, even if they were twice as strong and twice as big.

Physical and Mental

BY MENTAL processes here we are not referring to any intellectual superiority or surpassing brain power.

"Rube" Waddell and "Bugs" Raymond, for two examples, were 97 per cent dumbbells in many respects, but they were smart enough on the ball field.

Every one has known certain stars who were quick thinkers, mainly through instinct, in certain sport, but who could never be rated as any intellectual pyramids, towering above the run of ordinary existence around.

Many men are undoubtedly born with knack for a certain sport. They take it quickly, without having to strain either brain or nerve. For many of these the game comes too easily to ever leave them at the top.

Ty Cobb and Brickley had the knack, but a big part of their success was due to the hardest sort of work and application.

The Advantage

THE physical advantage is undoubtedly a big one. "Babe" Ruth weighs 220 pounds.

Ty Cobb weighs 185. Jack Dempsey weighs 195, when pruned down.

Hornsby and Heilman are both big, well-built entries. Paddock has a world of physical power to work on.

Miss Hollins and Miss Leitch are both powerfully built, and so is Mrs. Mallory among golf and tennis champions. Tilden hasn't bulk, but he has height, reach and leverage, all decided physical advantages when properly applied.

The big man or the strong woman in competitive sport can turn the same trick with less effort and, as a rule, with greater stamina over the long route. It is here they get the big jump on the field.

Something to Watch

THE entry with an excess of physical power may often be at a disadvantage in baseball, golf or tennis, because he finds this surplus power harder to control.

Most pitchers with terrific speed are as wild as eagles. Johnson is an exception, because he has a perfect pitching motion. No man has ever come along before who could hit a baseball as hard as Ruth with as little apparent effort.

The big fellow usually has a hard time keeping his hands, arms and body movements working together.

One too often gets in the way of the other two. But when the athlete with the combination of physical power and control of the same steps into the fold, his advantage is too marked to be checked. Which accounts for the old saying that a "good big man can always whip a good little man."

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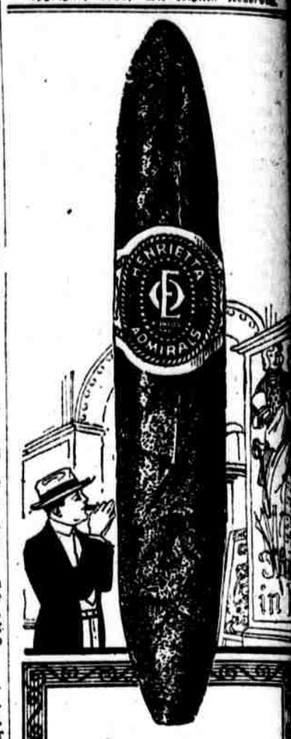

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WANT DUGAN OR SCOTT

Detroit After Infielder, but Will Accept No Others

Detroit, Feb. 7.—Frank J. Navin, president of the Detroit club, left today for Washington to attend the American League meeting there tomorrow, when, it is expected, some trade may be effected to bring an infielder to the locals in exchange for Outfielder Bob Veach.

Manager Cobb will also attend the Washington parley, coming up from his home in Augusta, Ga., in response to Navin's request.

The Detroit owners are uncertain as to the outcome of the trade negotiations, but have let it be known that Everett Scott, of the Yankees, or Joe Dugan, of the Red Sox, are the only infielders who will be considered in an exchange.

EXTEND BOWLING CONGRESS

Will Require More Than Month for A. B. C. Tourney

Toledo, O., Feb. 7.—Four days and possibly more will have to be added to care for the entry list in the American Bowling Congress Tournament, which starts here February 27, according to Secretary A. L. Laugtry, who is here arranging the schedule.

He announced today that 1125 teams are entered to date, with still more expected this week. The tournament was intended originally to close on March 26, but it may take nearly the first week in April to clean up the schedule.

Construction of the sixteen alleys at the Terminals Auditorium, where two former A. B. C. tournaments have been held, began today.

"Terry Snoddy" Is Now Snowday

Owensboro, Ky., Feb. 7. — The name "Terry Snoddy" will not be in the Centre College line-up next season, although the player will be there. Today he is using his first-time his "new" name, Terry Snowday and his brother, Boxer, Snowday. A court to permit them to use [illegible] of the word "Snoddy."

Boots and Saddle

Horses which appear best at New Orleans today are:

First race, Pluribell, Louis Letchenheim, Sun Time; second, Ras. Ettahe, Service Star; third, First Pullet, Betsinda, North Shore; fourth, King's Belle, Iron Boy, Capt. Tom; fifth, Gourmand, Gray Gables, King's Champion; sixth, Scotch Verdict, Merchant, Verity; seventh, Miss Rankin, Quito, Napthalus.

Havana—First race, Dragoon, Cortez, Parol; second, Fictile, Acosta, Last Girl; third, Money, Ed Garrison, American Eagle; fourth, Belle of Elizabethtown, Judge Pryor, Mayor House; fifth, Major Park, Sea Urchin, Chimera; sixth, Sibola, Mary Jane Baker, Bianca.

After Muledber won the other day at New Orleans there were no less than a dozen regretful horsemen willing to tell just how close they came to bidding on the son of Vulcain-Tarbola at the Nalapa Farm dispersal sale last August. C. B. Allen, the fortunate one, who obtained him for $1350, considered he had found a rare bargain when the gelding's ankle responded so quickly to the firing iron, and nominated him for all the rich stakes which will be run at Tia Juana during the next six weeks.

For the first time in several years a Fair Grounds meeting progresses without Bradley's Choice and Korbly, a pair who used to run so consistently in the Milo Shields colors. Both are on the Shields farm in Kansas undergoing the snow cure for feverish legs, and an effort will be made to return them to racing during the spring. Bradley's Choice is yet good for a few more races, despite his ten years.

After the Alabama court ruling Saturday that oral betting is not illegal in the State it was announced that a fifteen-days' race meeting would be held at Mobile, at the close of the New Orleans winter meeting.

To Run in A. A. U. Title Meet

Boston, Feb. 7.—Six Boston A. A. athletes will represent New England at the national indoor championship games of the A. A. U. at Buffalo next Saturday. The men chosen are Harry Cuthill, 1000 yards; Tom Biggman, shot-put; Cecil Leath, two miles, and a relay team made up of Earl Dudley, Bill Meanix, and a third runner to be selected [illegible] Caldwell, Tom

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