

WILKES-BARRE WINS OVER INDEPENDENTS BY ONE POINT MARGIN---MAJOR MEETING

JOHNSON WANTS GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL SPORT

Chicago, Dec. 10.—President Ben B. Johnson, of the American League, has suggested that the government assume control of the major league baseball clubs during the coming season and operate them, giving the club owners 4 per cent. of the profits.

This does not mean 4 per cent. on the investment but simply 4 per cent. of whatever profits the government may make in operating the plants and I am sure there is not a club owner in the league who is not willing to operate at a loss next season, if it will help the government in any way.

A British officer, one of Scotland's best known players, brings back word of war golf, which is not precisely the game to be played down South this winter by wandering bands of tourists hunting their place in the Sun.

WAR GOLF

"In our section," remarked the Briton who had served two years on the Western Front, "we found it possible to lay out nine holes back of the lines. There were no extensively long holes, but most of them were interesting. As we were unable to keep greens in shape, we merely dug a hole for the cup, where it was possible to chip the ball in with mashie or midiron.

EVEN MORE SO

"This isn't the worst of it. There were times when a hole would be freshly or newly trapped and bunkered while we were playing it. A man would creep up to the hole and while he was addressing his ball would hear an explosion and suddenly find that he had a big shell crater to carry some 170 yards away—a crater that hadn't been in existence before he reached the tee.

THE NEW "FORE"

"The word 'Fore' in this war golf also means something different," he continued. "When a man shouts, 'Fore!' over his shell hole or seeking other means to the immediate danger is over. Whereupon we resume play and continue along our way. The true golfer isn't to be stopped or have his play ended by any such small detail as shell fire. There are times, however, when it gets on one's nerves in putting. When you are expecting a ball to fall into your hole, and you are expecting a shell to be fired, there is an added factor of nervousness upon playing short chip shots not ordinarily known in the game we played before the war. But for all that, the game is an interesting one, is highly diverting, and keeps one's swing in fair order of preservation."

THE GAME GOING

This play back of the lines, while a trifle harassed in spots, evidently keeps the game going on. For the British officer in question tried out the game on two occasions. On the first he was playing it, and at his third attempt was able to turn in a 74. This would hardly indicate that the game of war had wrecked his effectiveness at golf, despite two years' hard service at one of the toughest points of the Western line around Ypres.

LITTLE CHANCE FOR TENNIS

There is very little chance for tennis back of the Western front, for where golf and football, and even baseball, can be played over rugged surfaces, tennis requires a smoother and a better conditioned surface.

NO FOOTBALL HANDICAP

Football draws the least handicap of them all. Any open field, however rugged, can be used for a football game, which accounts largely for the fact that more football of various assortments has been played than anything else.

BILLIARD'S CONTRIBUTION

Dear Sir: No doubt you have noticed the activity displayed by the billiard and pocket billiard players throughout the country recently regarding the raising of funds to provide ambulances for the boys across the sea. It is astonishing to those who are not familiar with our sport when one mentions the number of clubs in the country. There are over 85,000 billiard clubs in the country. Add to these the clubs, societies, etc., and one can easily figure where the sport holds forth in over 100,000 places.

It is the intention of the Billiard Players' Ambulance Fund to have all resorts hold some sort of billiard entertainment, whereby collections will be made. If the average collection amounts to \$10, the Government will receive a million from this project. We do not claim any credit for this movement, as it is at least the duty of all to do whatever they can to help this work, but we like to call attention to the fact that billiards is keeping shoulder to shoulder with other sports. Cordially, JOHN DOYLE.

Penbrook Flies Service Flag For 86 With U. S.

Penbrook borough will fly its service flag this week. Recently a subscription was taken in the borough to raise a fund to purchase the flag, as there are eighty-six young men in the town who have answered the call and are now in service.

Nat Wills Killed by Gas Fumes in Garage

Union Hill, N. J., Dec. 10.—Nat Wills, who had a nation-wide reputation as a comedian, was killed by gas fumes yesterday in the garage on his estate here. He died while preparing to set forth upon a mission of human kindness, for he was to have taken part in performances last night at the Hippodrome in New York, for the benefit of the soldiers at Camp Epton.

WOMAN SHIPPING TOBACCO

Rheems, Dec. 10.—Mrs. Michael Spangler, 83 years old, is daily putting in her time assisting in farm work, as a number of the young men have gone to the front from this section. During the corn husking season she was daily on the job, and she is now assisting in the stripping of tobacco. She does remarkably for a woman of her years, and expects to go behind the plow next spring if it is necessary.

A Man's Gift From a Man's Store Wm. Strouse

DECIDE BARROW LEAGUE FUTURE

International Conference Today Is of Vital Importance; May Not Start

New York, Dec. 10.—The first of a series of baseball meetings which will have an important bearing on the sport next year will be held in this city to-day, when the International League magnates assemble in annual conference.

The chief problem that will confront the club owners will be the advisability of continuing the league during the season of 1918. The National League meeting opens here Tuesday.

Opinion appears to be divided in the international ranks upon the subject, and the outcome of the conference cannot be predicted in advance. The more conservative among the owners and officers of the league advocate a waiting policy in order that the league may take advantage of any favorable developments during the winter and early spring, rather than a definite decision at this time.

Plan Tentative Schedule It is believed that a tentative schedule which may call for a shorter season than last year and other arrangements may be made in the near future. It is decided to place the league affairs in condition for play next summer.

Louis Guisto Gets Fat Working For Uncle Sam

Portland, Ore., Dec. 10.—"Yes, there is quite a difference in the weights of a big league baseball uniform and the khaki suit of Uncle Sam," said big Louis Guisto, Cleveland American first baseman, who visited here the other day.

The khaki uniform of a soldier of Company 12, One Hundred and Sixty-sixth Infantry Depot Brigade, breezed into Portland with a smile on his face extending from ear to ear. He is considerably heavier than when he appeared last in a Portland baseball uniform in 1914.

"I lost over forty pounds in six weeks when I was in training camp with Cleveland, and they nearly killed me setting off the superfluities," said Guisto. "No wonder, I was weak with the stick, but believe me, if I manage to dodge Guisto's lead pills while we get across the pond and get back alive, long enough to don a Cleveland baseball uniform, I am going to make a bet of those fellows sit up and take notice."

"I am not offering any alibi for my showing. My physical condition during the time I was with Cleveland speaks for itself. But I only want one crack at that old cork center again in the big tent and then watch my smile."

When Guisto joined the National Army at Camp Lewis he weighed 184 pounds. He now raises the arrow at 195.

Rosewood A. C. Holds Big Patriotic Rally

Rosewood A. C. held a patriotic meeting Saturday night at their rooms Thirteenth and Market streets. An address was made by Ralph Egan, and a large service flag was unfurled. Those in service are: Simon Beach, Wilson Black, Raymond Books, Russell Challenger, Joseph Cooper, Ray Chambers, Clyde Dunlap, George Fitzpatrick, James Gardner, Henry Guibransen, William Gardner, Howard Goodman, Ellsworth Hess, Charles Hiller, Dwight Kent, John Kling, Hershey Miller, William Metzger, George Moltz, James McFarland, John Mumma, Joseph J. Oelsby, Karl Peters, H. W. Perry, T. Willis Patterson, H. Runkle, John Shade, George Shunk, Charles B. Snyder, W. L. Shellenberger, Howard Seidel, Geo. Trump, Harry Wilhelm, Franklin Yowler, Guy Ziebler, Melvior Zerbe, Arthur Speece, John McAllister and Ray Wilson.

Y. M. H. A. Secretary Now in England With Army

PHILIP GOLDSMITH, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Goldsmith, has now arrived in England with the Eighty-eighth Aero Squadron of the Signal Corps, and is serving in the front lines. He was sent first to San Antonio, Texas.

Philip Goldsmith, prior to his enlistment, was secretary of the Elliott-Fisher plant and was secretary of the Y. M. H. A. at Steelton. He resided at 425 Main street, Steelton.



Car Repair Shops Planned For Lewistown Junction

Lewistown, Pa., Dec. 10.—A number of prominent railroad officials were in Lewistown last week to start a movement that will make Lewistown Junction a busy little suburb. Their visit was for the purpose of establishing repair shops that will give employment to a large number of men. New buildings will be erected west of the junction and the siding facilities will be enlarged.

GAS RATES INCREASED

Carlisle, Pa., Dec. 10.—An increase in the gas rates for Carlisle, effective December 15, was announced to-day by the Carlisle Gas and Water Company. The features are raises of from 10 to 20 cents per thousand with a special meter charge of 25 cents quarterly. High cost of coal, oil and supplies are given as the cause.

FOUR-FOOTED CADDIE IS FEATURE AT PINEHURST; LOCATES LOST GOLF BALLS

Pinehurst, N. C., Dec. 10.—Champion Bodo von der Wellen, caddy of the police force of Stuttgart, Germany, has been brought to Pinehurst by J. V. Hall, of New York, and was exhibited at the other day at the Sandhill Fair the new dog. Bodo does everything that a well-trained caddy dog can be reasonably expected to attend to. He traces the footsteps of a fleeing "criminal," scents his way unerringly through a crowd, takes ten-foot fences on either way as a matter of course, and, ever taking his quarry, pins him to the ground in the most approved fashion.

WILKES-BARRE IS CLOSE WINNER

Take Game From Local Independents by One Point; Many Fouls

The Independent team suffered their third defeat in as many games in the last two weeks, being taken into camp by the Wilkes-Barre team of the New York State League in the Chestnut street auditorium Saturday evening, score 37 to 36.

The home club was outclassed in all departments of the game by the visitors during the first period. The visitors played a sensational first game and showed ability and caging baskets.

The Wilkes-Barre team made the appearance of a league team and was on edge every minute of play. In the second half failure to locate the basket proved fatal to the visitors.

Cross For Carpenter For Conspicuous Bravery

New York, Dec. 10.—The "big gun" of America's pugilistic world have not a single in the world war. Carpenter, Wells, Piet, Wilde and others who have added to the glory of the ring history of France in the front lines by gallantly serving at the front. No boxer has shown more courage than this Carpenter, once called a quitter in the ring fight.

1,000 U. S. Airplanes Now in French Fields; Liberty Motors Rushed

Washington, Dec. 10.—Production of Liberty airplane motors on a quantity bases actually has begun. American Army aviators have been recently from an inspection trip to plants and flying fields are satisfied that another sixty days will see men ready for service and machines being turned out at a rate that insures the ultimate success of their plans.

RAILROADERS KILL BUCK

Lewistown, Pa., Dec. 10.—A crowd of railroad men headed by Nick Miller, shot a five-prong buck from a herd of several deer which have been feeding for several days near VP tower. The carcass tipped the scales at 180 pounds. The party was made up of J. V. and Nick Miller, S. C. Wilcox, Arthur and Edward Graham, Clayton Price, J. F. Anders, Charles Campbell, Francis Gilliland and L. M. Carbaugh. Gilliland fired the shot that brought down the buck.

NAME MERCANTILE APPRAISER

Carlisle, Pa., Dec. 10.—The appointment of county officers for 1917 was announced late Saturday by the board of commissioners, when the selection of Oscar Goodhart, of Shippensburg, as mercantile appraiser for the year was given out. He is a livlyman in that town.

Duncannon Red Cross Ships Supplies to Harrisburg

Duncannon, Pa., Dec. 10.—Members of the Red Cross branch here have been active in the past several weeks and during the month almost 1,000 articles were completed and have already gone forward to the Harrisburg Chapter. The list includes: Sixty-five abdominal bandages, 185 many-tailed bandages, 70 triangular bandages, 110 roller bandages, 110 6x3 folded gauze strips, 160 gauze compresses, 110 gauze sponges, German bandages, three suits of pajamas, five sweaters, 16 pairs of gloves, two pairs of wristlets, two pairs of stockings.

Allison Hook and Ladder Company Unfurls Service Flag For Its Soldiers

The home of the Allison Hook and Ladder Company was the scene yesterday afternoon of a patriotic gathering, largely attended, at which was unfurled a service flag in tribute to the twenty-eight firemen who have enlisted with Uncle Sam's various forces. It began with music by the Municipal Band, followed by a prayer from the Rev. A. L. Taxis, pastor of the Olivet Presbyterian Church.

Five Fast Horses Win Rich Stakes This Season

Philadelphia, Dec. 10.—Five crack race horses, the best that is to try out players next spring who are 17, 18, 19 and 20 years old.

McGraw's War Suggestion to Train Many Youngsters

New York, Dec. 10.—John McGraw, manager of the Giants, comes out with a wartime suggestion. "Undoubtedly," McGraw said, "the long season will take many star players out of baseball."

McGraw's War Suggestion to Train Many Youngsters

"There is only one thing for major league clubs to do and that is to try out players next spring who are 17, 18, 19 and 20 years old. It will give youths a chance to play in baseball, and our club is spending many years in the minors. It will add new zest to baseball and be satisfactory in every way. I am going to load up with youths if my stars are drafted."

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In adopting the above policy, McGraw is only carrying out ideas that Connie Mack has practiced for a dozen of seasons.

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PLAN MEETING DESPITE TENER

Herrmann Arranges With Johnson For Joint Conference; Fix Thursday

Chicago, Dec. 10.—After a long distance telephone conference with August Herrmann, chairman of the National Baseball Commission, President Johnson, of the American League, said to-day that the joint conference of the National and American Leagues, scheduled to be held here next Tuesday, would be held as previously arranged.

Herrmann told the American League executive that five of the eight club owners in the National League were in favor of holding the meeting on the date selected.

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WELLY'S CORNER

High salaries and war completely upset the Eastern Basketball League plans. That famous organization after a record of sixteen years, has passed into history. First of all, the present war had much to do with the crippling of the circuit.

One player in the Eastern League who holds a good position, was getting \$100 a month for his services. This he demanded \$25 per game or \$200 a month. Now that there is no league, these players will have to play for less money or not at all.

The coming week will mark a critical period in both of the major leagues and also in the International League because at the annual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Wednesday wartime policies for next season will be adopted.

An unqualified approval of both amateur and professional boxing was given Saturday afternoon by a resolution of the American Football Association. It is a conviction of the association that the game cannot go along arousing its usual interest among the public save in the hands of thousands of American soldiers in Europe.

NATIONAL RECORDS SHOW PHILS SECOND IN FIELDING; JACKSON STAR OUTFIELDER

New York, Dec. 10.—The Phillies finished second to the Giants in the fielding averages for the season of 1917, according to the official records of the National League, which have just been announced by Secretary Heydler. Several of Pat Moran's players also figured prominently in their respective departments.

Jack Adams led the catchers in fielding with only one error in 171 chances. Bill Killefer, who with Ivy Wingo, participated in 120 games, had the greatest number of chances offered, 478. Adams led the catchers in fielding with only one error in 171 chances. Bill Killefer, who with Ivy Wingo, participated in 120 games, had the greatest number of chances offered, 478.

Better Fielding

The averages show substantial improvement in fielding by comparison with the 1916 ratings. The Boston Red Sox and Cincinnati club increased their respective error totals over their 1916 figures, but these lapses were more than offset by the improved defensive work of the five other clubs.

Jackson Best Outfielder

Charles Jackson, of Pittsburgh, heads the outfielders, being charged with only one error in 36 games. George Sauer, having played in 138 contests, is entitled to the leadership. Max Carey had the unusually large total of 478 chances, of which he accepted all but 10. Charles Stengel is first with 30 assists from the outfield. Carey following with 28.

Leading First Baseman

In individual play, John Miller led the first basemen with an average of .988, with Holke credited with the greatest number of chances offered—1,724. Miller's record of one error in 545 chances, is noteworthy.

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