

Judgments

AS THE everlasting toll of time tears another twelve sheets from the calendar and 1915 becomes a mere matter of history, we greet the new year with the optimistic hope and confident prediction that 1916 will surpass all previous years in the success of every kind of American sport.

With peace fully declared in professional base ball come voices against the contract jumpers who deserted Organized Base Ball in response to the tempting bait of the Federals while the war was in progress.

An example of the manner in which the minor leagues are usually treated by the big league magnates comes from Milwaukee. Outfielder Flack, a star with the Chifed, jumped a Milwaukee contract to become affiliated with the outlaws.

Les Darcy is coming to the United States. Now watch a few of our precious middleweights who take lessons from Vernon Castle and therefore have no affinity for money young persons with the good night, 42-center wallups, entrench themselves for the winter.

Among others neglected in the base ball peace compact are the umpires who labored in the Federal league. The life of the ump is always a hard one even though, as the late Tim Hurst was wont to say, "you can't beat them hours."

The ice skating game is said to have landed a neat little hook under the right optic of the dancing craze. Thus Vernon Castle, Freddie Welsh and other experts of terephore agree with Wall street that it's a hard winter.

Nebraska university profited nearly \$4,000 on the recent foot ball season. If this keeps on all our base ball magnates will transfer their affections to foot ball.

It has been charged that the Federal league lost out \$200,000 during its existence. The conventional brand of currency is still in circulation, it seems.

It would seem that of the seventy-one Federal league players on the open market the New York Yankees would like to have seventy-one.

At least from the success attending the press agent's efforts, the Willard-Fulton bout is a regular championship scrap.

So far as we can make out in the settlement of the base ball bill, Baltimore was very effectively reclaimed.

If Johnny Dennison keeps on Omaha's amateur base ball will be confined exclusively to the Luxus next summer.

Marty Krug will be in Omaha in a day or two. Then let the green grass grow all around.

Hugh Jennings Has Never Had Any Luck in Picking Hurlers

Hugh Jennings admits that one sorrow of his life is that he can't get a good pitching staff. "Clarke Griffith and I were talking about it," said Hugh. "Put a Washington uniform on any sort of a pitcher, I told him, and he becomes a star in the box."

ALL SPORTS EXCEPT BASE BALL FLOURISH

Professional Base Ball Only Branch of American Sport Which Did Not Prosper.

NEW CHAMPIONS SPRING UP

(Continued from Page One.)

on the other hand the annals of amateur base ball will show the year to have been a most prosperous one.

Professional base ball's troubles were largely internal. Observers attribute the decline in receipts to business conditions, due to the war of the nations, the Federal league's opposition to Organized base ball and a disposition on the part of the players to jump contracts, to display disloyalty and to openly show far greater interest in their salaries than in their playing on the diamond.

But the return of base ball to the pinnacle of American pastimes is predicted for 1916. To wind up the year Organized base ball and the Federals compromised and declared peace. Under the new conditions it is thought the game will boom once more and become the great American sport.

The Boston Red Sox of the American league won the world's base ball championship, defeating Philadelphia, the National league pennant winners, four games to one.

The victory of the Phillies in the National league was one of the big surprises of the year. It was the first pennant ever won by the Philadelphia National league club in the thirty-four years of the circuit. This feat was accomplished by Pat Moran, serving his first year as manager, and Grover Cleveland Alexander, a St. Paul, Neb., boy, who proved himself the greatest pitcher of the year.

The game's star performer was Ty Cobb, who finished the season with a batting average of .350 and led both major leagues in stolen bases, having ninety-six to his credit. Larry Doyle led the National league in hitting and Bennie Kauff, the Federals.

Boxing has flourished throughout the country in the last year despite the usual attacks upon it by purists and the fact that no long-route, decision bouts were held.

The prosperity of the manly art was largely due to the astonishing victory of Jess Willard over Jack Johnson, the Galveston negro, at Havana on April 5. The heavyweight division of this sport fell into disrepute on July 4, 1910, when Johnson won from Jim Jeffries at Reno. The championship of the negro was not popular and the game suffered accordingly until Jess Willard made history by upsetting the dope when he knocked Johnson out in the twenty-sixth round of the Havana mill.

The heavyweight title was the only one to definitely change hands during the year, although it is generally agreed Kewpie Erbe should be given the banter honor over Kid Williams, who lost to him on a foul.

In the lightweight division Freddie Welsh retained his laurels by sedulously refusing to do more than enter ten-round no-decision bouts largely with pugilists of doubtful reputation. He was out-pointed, according to newspaper decisions, in half a dozen bouts, but technically he retains his crown.

The middleweight championship goes to Les Darcy, the sensational Australian pug. There was no holder of this title in 1914 and there is still a dispute as to Darcy's right to have it now. But the Australian intends coming to America shortly to tackle the American doubters and it is the consensus of opinion that he will eliminate them all.

Johnny Kilbane retains his grip on the featherweight title, while in the welterweight division there is no holder, although Willie Richie declares he has that honor.

The golf trust—Quimet, Evans and Travers—received a blow that all but mortally wounded it in the national tournament last year. Successively these champions of one golf division or another were bowled over.

Robert A. Gardner was one of the upspringing factors which had largely to do with the defeat of the above mentioned "trust." Gardner, considered a good golfer, but not a wizard, won the national amateur championship with

Some Champions of the Diamond in 1915



ALEXANDER'S WINNING SMILE



DAN GAINER

Dan Gainer is Now Base Ball Magnate

Dan Gainer, proprietor of the Merchants hotel and prominent sportsman of Omaha, is now a base ball magnate or at least nearly one. Gainer has subscribed the sum of \$200 to the stock company organized by Dukey Holmes for the purchase of the Lincoln club from Hugo Jones. As Holmes has raised enough coin to buy the club and the deal is about ready to be consummated, Gainer lays claim to admission to the magnate class.

NOBODY IN THE WORLD HAS ANYTHING ON BILL KLEM

Johnny Evers and Bill Klem had a hot little argument over golf the other day. Johnny had a little the best of it, and John McGraw, who just had to ride Klem over something said: "He's got something on you, Bill."

Tragic Side of Sport, Deaths That Occurred During the Year

- Fatal Accidents. January 6—Ludwig Anderson (Jack Newton) died as result of injury in fight with Ike Cohen, San Francisco. January 17—John Zaczowicz died from hemorrhage caused by concussion of the brain in fight with Leo Jagla, near Chicago. February 4—Cortez Wagoner died as result of internal injuries in basket ball game, Wichita, Falls, Tex. February 15—A. V. Brown died from injuries sustained in bout with Clarence Stearns, near North Dakota. March 2—Roy Layfield, Johns Hopkins quarterback, died as result of injuries received during previous foot ball season, Wilmington, Del. March 14—Lincoln Beachey killed as result of fall in airplane flight, San Francisco, Cal. March 15—Jockey George Beason died as result of spill in race at Beason, St. Louis. March 27—Edward F. Zachritz died as result of basket ball injuries two years ago, St. Louis. April 16—George Brogan died after boxing bout with Arthur Stebbins, New York. June 4—Fred Farwell killed in motorcycle race, Sacramento, Cal. May 5—Guy Kneass, Iowa City, Ia., killed in motor race, Coffeyville, Kan. May 10—Hall Lafouel (Kid Tolle) died from fracture of skull in fight with Kid Kerns, New Orleans, La. May 24—Mickey McGuire, aviator, reported killed in flight in Mexico. June 15—Edward H. Hester killed by fall in polo scrimmage, Lake Forest, Ill. June 27—Clarence O. King killed in motorcycle race, Sacramento, Cal. July 4—Charles C. Cox killed in motor race, Sioux City, Ia. July 4—Paul Franzen killed in motor race, Tacoma, Wash. July 4—R. Downing, Leland Stanford student, killed making dive, Honolulu. July 5—William Carlsen died as result of injuries in motor race at Tacoma, Wash. July 4. July 5—Byvester Egin died after fight with John Harvey Mount Carmel, Pa. July 5—Arthur Lejal, Jr., killed in motorcycle race, Corry, Pa. July 5—W. L. Luongo, killed in motorcycle race, Sacramento, Cal. August 1—Joe Cooper killed in motor race, Des Moines, Ia. August 14—Alfred L. Cornwell, veteran horse trainer, killed during workout, Minnesota. September 24—Roy Canfield, amateur, killed in motor race, Cedar Falls, Ia. October 2—Lance Francis, driver, and Frank Tuttle, mechanic, killed in motor race, Fresno, Cal. October 7—Harry Grant, motorist, died as result of burns received in practice on New York track, September 18. November 11—John Shupick, Corpus Christi college, died from heart failure during basket ball game. December 23—Harry Snif died as result of injury in foot ball game of two years ago, Pittsburgh. Deaths During Year. Anderson, Thomas, golfer, West Orange, N. J., August 12. Bort, Guy L., ex-foot ball player, Denver, December 18. Brady, Wallace L. (Happy Hogan), ex-foot ball manager, Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 11. Elyers, Parker, A., ex-billboard player, Lafayette, Ind., January 11.

Fair Champions of Net Game



Johnny Ertle Will Invade Baltimore

NEW YORK, Jan. 1—Johnny Ertle is planning to invade the enemy's country early this month, when he will tackle Jimmy Taylor for fifteen rounds in Baltimore, the stronghold of Kid Williams, whom he disposed of as bantam champion some months ago. The bout will be a decision affair, but Ertle means to protect himself by insisting upon a neutral referee. Ertle has been offered a match with Frankie Burns at New Orleans and the promoters promise to bill the affair as a championship match, although Burns and Williams were matched there recently they informed their patrons that the title was at stake.

Frank Moran Tells His Life History

In answer to the hundreds of queries as to Frank Moran's birthplace and nationality, Moran has furnished the information as follows: "I was born at the corner of Lake and Alabama avenues, Cleveland, O., on March 18, 1887. I am the son of Irish parents. My father was born in Killmensa, County Mayo, and my mother at Cashel, Tipperary. I went to Pittsburgh in 1892 and have lived there most of the time with the exception of the four years I spent in the navy, from 1904 to 1908."

WEIGHMAN SOME GAMBLER

Starts to Spend \$20,000 in Base Ball and Winds Up by Blowing Half Million.

BUT EXPECTS TO GET IT BACK

This is a time for making confession in base ball, and one of the most interesting stories that comes out along this line is that told by Charley Weeghman of how he got in up to his neck in the outlaw venture when he only meant to just wet his feet.

Weeghman was spending in New York from Chicago on the peace special when he unburdened himself to a group of friends. "I'd always taken more or less interest in base ball," declared Weeghman, "but I had no idea of backing any club. They came out looking in by advancing some salaries to the Federal league club, not so very much, but enough to get him started. Gilmore finally got the idea that the Feds could be made a real big league and every time we got together he got after me to get behind the Chicago club. If I told him 'No' once I did it 400 times, but he kept after me and finally grabbed me off."

"I must have been drunk or out of my mind or something that day, but I told Jim I'd just gamble \$20,000 on his word. 'Make it \$20,000,' said he, 'and we'll make it a \$50,000 corporation. That will give you control,' and honestly, I thought that I'd not spend another cent. I intended either to lose that or to rake in the profits."

"Well, sir, do you know I got worked up in this base ball and lost all sense of proportion. I went out and nabbed Joe Tinker, signed him to a three-year contract at \$20,000 a year, and gave him \$10,000 cash as an evidence of good faith."

"That made \$20,000 I put up or guaranteed to put up—\$20,000. One thing led to another, and I simply went mad. Got to talking big money and then got hooked in for big money. Signed up players right and left."

"Of course, I was up against all sorts of holdups. Would you believe it, I paid almost \$50,000 to clear the land of tenants after I had our grounds. One guy took me for \$20,000 and he had only a one-year lease on a sixteen-foot strip of ground."

"Then I had planned wooden stands, but when I took our plans to the city hall I was told I would have to use steel and concrete. I had counted on spending \$20,000 or \$40,000, but this meant I'd have to pay more than \$100,000. I was in so deep, however, that I couldn't afford to back out, so I went ahead and got modern stands."

"When everything was totaled up I was on the nut for \$400,000 before we ever opened our gates. And I had started out to gamble just \$20,000."

Omaha Gun Club to Hold Turkey Shoot

The annual turkey shoot of the Omaha Gun club will be held this afternoon at 1 o'clock at the Carter Lake Gun club traps. A warm club-house will be provided for the marksmen and everything will be in shape so that blue rock shooters can make an afternoon of it. There will be an abundance of birds for the winners of the events.

BAKER NO LONGER HAS A CHANCE TO GET BIG COIN

J. Franklin Baker is one of the big "roasts" of the base ball peace pact. Two weeks ago Baker refused a big contract for \$100,000 bonus offered by the Federals, and also declined to sign a fat contract offered by the New York Yankees. Now, if he plays ball, he will be forced to work at the magnate's terms.

MAY LENGTHEN STATE MEET

Plan to Prolong State Basket Ball Tournament One Day at Nebraska Uni.

SHORT TOURNEY HARD ON MEN

The problem of so arranging the state tournament as to eliminate the strenuous features of the three days' play is already coming in for consideration from official circles. The fact that two Omaha athletes were confined to the hospital for a matter of several months after the close of the session last year has made it imperative that something be done. According to announcement of M. R. Clark, chairman of the athletic board at the University of Nebraska, the tournament will be prolonged one day longer. Under this new arrangement it will be possible for teams of each division to play no more than two games a day, these being not less than twelve hours apart.

Examples from last year's tournament when the two Omaha fives, Hastings and Lincoln played four games in less than twenty-six hours, a little over a single day, convinces officials at the university and coaches throughout the state that the playing is far too strenuous. South High met four of the strongest teams in the state—Auburn, Crete, Alliance and Central High—while Central High, with the exception of their first match with Dodge, met three topnotchers in Geneva, York and South High. The game between South and Central High schools was undoubtedly the most spectacular and hardest fought of the entire tournament, notwithstanding the fact that both teams were so tired that they could hardly travel about the floor. Omaha was compelled to play Lincoln the night following this strenuous schedule for the state championship when their condition was far from the best. On the other hand Lincoln had a comparatively easy time in wiping out Wilbur and Oskade with second string men in the first two rounds, while they easily won their game from Hastings in the third round.

Last year University of Nebraska officials made an effort to eliminate the objectionable features of the meet by dividing the teams into two classes. This reduced the number of games to the minimum, and all that is needed to make the tournament a physical success is to lengthen the periods of rest between games. But it would be rank injustice to compel a team that has a splendid chance for the championship to play three of the best teams in the state all on the same day, morning, afternoon and evening.

Stars from Small Towns

For the reason that athletic stars of the state university hall in a large part from the small towns, the level officials are unable to accord the larger cities of the state any more favors by reason of greater population. Shonka, All-American tackle in 1908, Halligan, All-American tackle in 1914, and Chamberlain, All-American end in 1915, are stars that come from small towns, as do both North Platte and Blue Springs. "Bill" Chaloupka, 1909 foot ball phenom, came from Wilbur; Captain Jim Harvey of the 1908 eleven from Aurora; "Buck" Beiter, member of the famous undefeated 1909 aggregation, from Broken Bow; while a score of famous athletes have hailed from other small towns of the state.

Local influence is being brought to bear on the tournament problem. Officials of both Central and South High schools intimate that unless a better schedule is arranged neither team is likely to attend the tournament next March. The financial situation of the university is an issue at present and if the state university committee finds it possible to increase their allowances to permit four days of playing instead of three, the trouble will probably have been eliminated to the satisfaction of all. The committee hears the money is low, only twenty cents the number of miles traveled by the men. Last year the Omaha management received but \$9 each as their share, but as the interest in the game is good here, the local teams have but little trouble in making enough money to send their squads to the capital city.

Except for the games between Fremont and Cedar Rapids, Arlington and the Townsend Reserves of Omaha, the basket ball field in the state was devoid of battle during the last week. Fremont defeated Cedar Rapids Monday evening by a score of 27 to 22. The game was fast, the Fremont boys having only twenty-one points at the end of the first half. Arlington defeated the Reserves, 24 to 15, in a hard fought game. The Arlington five is the team that gave South High a scare last year in mid-season. The town youths still have three of their old men back and are looking forward to a new season. They will play Fremont soon.

J. Evers Knows Who Rowdy on Braves Is

Johnny Evers was talking to Christy Mathewson the other day about the letters which President Gaffney sent to all of the Braves recently, warning them against rowdiness next season. "He might just as well have put all those letters in one envelope and sent them to one address," said Evers, "for they were all aimed at one man." "If he had done that," asked Matty, "where would the letters have gone, John?" "Troy, N. Y.—that's my home," replied Evers.

HOWARD DREW WILL GO EAST TO MEET JOE LOOMIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 1—Howard F. Drew, champion sprinter, telegraphed his acceptance the other night to an invitation of the Millrose Athletic association to compete in their all-star games in Madison Square Garden on January 25. Drew will make the long trip from the coast for the special purpose of meeting Joe Loomis of Chicago, who captured the national sprint title in the Panama-Pacific games.

CAP ANSON WILL SPRING NEW ACT ON THE PUBLIC

Adrian C. Anson is going to put on a new vaudeville act, in which his two daughters will help him out. It is to be distinctly different from Cap's former line of monologue, for it will get away from base ball exclusively and there will be some singing and dancing in it—by the daughters, to be sure.

ATCHISON MAKES TRIP OVERLAND IN A WAGON

Raleigh Atchison, the former Wichita pitcher and now the property of the Brooklyn Nationals, and Mrs. Atchison are on their way from Fisher, Ark., to Columbus, Kan., making the trip overland in a covered wagon.