

FANS LIKE SCRAPPY GAMES

Polite and Attentive Athletics Fail to Attract Fickle Bug.

UMPIRE BAITERS POPULAR

Ty Cobb, the Great Elm, McGraw, Pugilists Extraordinary, Are the Men Who Act as Magnet to Bring Fans to the Park.

By FRANK G. MENKE. NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The base ball club that draws the crowds and brings home the bacon for the manager is the club that is composed of scrappy, unpolite bating players—the club that has color, even if it lacks the base ball skill. And the club that falls as a drawing card is one that proceeds about its daily job with machine-like regularity and whose tactics on the ball field are of the Sunday school pupil order.

Ty Cobb Draws Crowds. With such a club, and with the added distinction of being the champion of the Detroit Tigers and of Chicago Cubs, there never was a smoother working machine assembled than that which Connie Mack sent into action in 1914. It was as near perfect as a ball team can be. At nearly every position it had a player who either stood head and shoulders above every other man in the game, or, at the worst, was the equal of the best man at those positions.

And the fans turned away from the Athletics. When Connie Mack brought his wonderful machine to New York the crowds used to average around 3,000. They were in first place and they were headed for the pennant. In view of this it would have been safe to assume that they would outdraw any other club two to one. But they didn't.

Play Polite Game. The 1914 fourth place Cubs were a better drawing card than the first place Athletics. Why? Simply because the Cubs had in their lineup a fellow named Heinie Zimmerman who could be counted upon to start a little something each day, whether the "something" involved causing the umpire or soaking an opposing player or one of his own teammates.

Queensberry Rules Against 'Wrestling' in Boxing Matches. NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—No wrestling or hugging allowed," reads article 1 of the Queensberry code.

Grand American Handicap is to Be Shot at Chicago. NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—At the annual meeting of the International Association for the Promotion of Trap Shooting it was decided that the Grand American handicap, the blue ribbon classic of the trap, will be shot in Chicago the third week of next August.

RESUME BOXING NEW YEAR'S

Bouts of Championship Calibre Scheduled for New York City.

McFARLAND IN CALCIUM GLARE

Wants to Fight Welsh for Lightweight Title, But Would Have Nothing to Do With One Mike Gibbons, Middleweight.

By RINGSIDE. NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Boxing in the states where the much condemned sport still thrives will be resumed with renewed activity with the coming of the new year. There was really no holiday lull, but the bouts that were contested yesterday lacked class and the principals were not of the first rank.

Welsh Again in Shape. Welsh has recovered from his recent strain, due to overwork, and is ready for McFarland, Ritchie, Shugrue, et al. The illustrious Paeky is first on the calling list, as Freddie thinks that the sooner he disposes of the Windy City wizard, the less obnoxious will their challenge be to the others who are molesting him for a chance at his title.

McFarland's Outlook. The outlook for a McFarland-Gibbons battle does not appear as bright as it did a few weeks ago before Paeky came to town a honeymooning. Upon his arrival those who welcomed him were astonished at the width of girth displayed by Paeky. But closer inspection revealed layers of flabby flesh, the sort that comes rolling off with a little exercise.

Will Fight Only Welsh. "I have been misquoted if anyone said I was contemplating returning to the ring for a series of bouts, I have but one match in view and that's the one with Freddie Welsh, the lightweight champion. It is my sole ambition to bring back the title in the 135-pound division to the United States, and I feel confident that I will succeed if I ever meet Freddie in the ring.

Win or lose with Welsh, I do not intend fighting again after that contest. As champion I would be content to rest on my laurels. The title could then go to the winner of an elimination series in which the country's leading 135-pounders would participate.

Wants Name of M. Gibbons. "I do not think I shall ever fight Mike Gibbons. In the first place, I do not think he would undertake to make the weight I would insist upon—145 pounds—ring side. He could make the pounds, but I don't think he'll even attempt it.

Gibbons and McFarland had had one battle already, although it does not appear in the record books. They matched wits when Gunboat Smith and Jim Coffey battled in the Garden, Paeky being Coffey's chief second, while Gibbons advised Smith. After it was all over a number of spectators expressed the wish that they would like to see what this pair would do in the ring proper.

Gibbons is Willing. Gibbons is quite willing to trade wallops with Clabby. There will be no halloo over the weights for this bout, as both can make the middleweight limit without trouble.

Remember Jim Flynn? Well, the battle-scarred veteran heavyweight, who has been mostly on the receiving end in thirteen years of fighting—and what fighting!—is about to retire to the quietude and seclusion afforded down on the dear old farm.

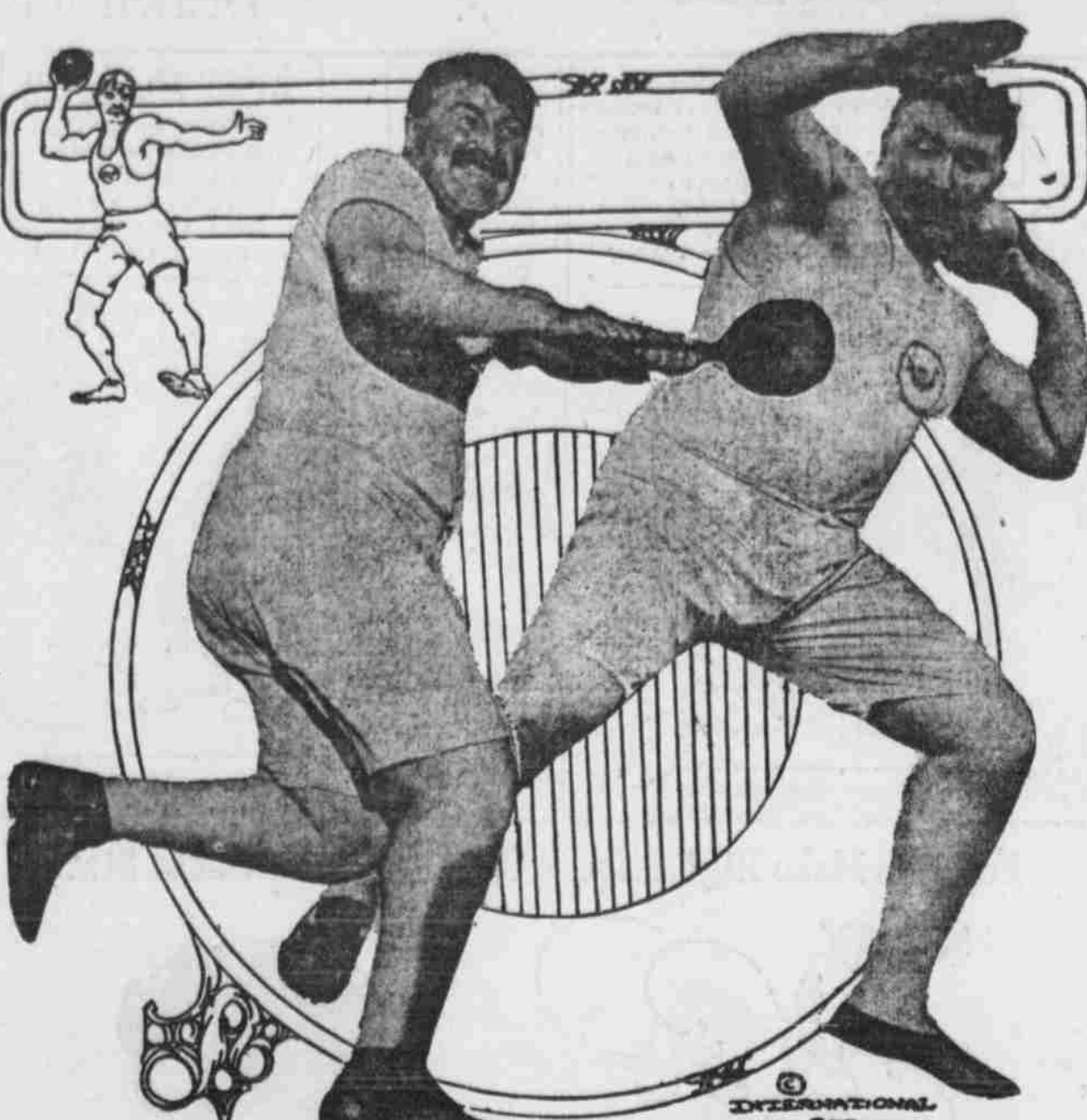
Track Records Broken. Many new track and field records were shattered during the year. Howard Drew, George Parker, James Meredith, Homer Baker, John Eller and Mannes Kohnsmann, all clipped records at their respective distances. A big international event at Philadelphia, a relay race with Oxford of England entered, was disastrous to America, as the Oxford team allpped over the wire inches ahead of Pennsylvania, the next American team.

Three boxing titles changed hands during the year. Freddie Welsh annexed the lightweight championship from Willie Ritchie. Al McCoy copped the middleweight laurels and Kid Williams took the bantamweight belt from Johnny Coulan. The deathknell of boxing sounded in California on December 15 when the anti-fight bill went into effect in that state.

1915 Outlook Promising. And the outlook for competitive sport for 1915 couldn't be brighter. Prospects to regain international laurels lost last year are perhaps dim, but tentative challenges will be sent to holders of the Davis cup, the Harmsworth trophy and the Westchester Pole cup. The United States Golf association has been assured of foreign entrants in the open championships in this country and American golfers are anticipating revenge for defeats suffered last year in England.

George White, who with Mike Domin has drawn his unconditional release by the Giants, is getting around in the fertile field of minor leagues in an effort to locate a lucrative management. It is said both of these New York idols are in line for coming world titles.

The Great Patrick McDonald in Two of His Great Feats



THESE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW THE WONDERFUL NEW YORK POLICEMAN THROWING THE WEIGHT AND PUTTING THE SHOT. IN THE LAST YEAR HE HAS WON SIX SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, AN UNPRECEDENTED RECORD.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Since the inception of athletics in this country no athlete has ever accomplished that which Pat McDonald, the giant weight thrower of the Irish-American Athletic club, has done this year. He won six senior championships. Many athletes have swept the boards in their specialties and captured three senior titles; some sprinters have won more than three by winning 100-yard and 220-yard titles. But no one ever corralled six senior titles in a year before.

After a rest of three months McDonald began training a few days after the first of the year. He didn't work hard on a track or field. He simply regulated his mode of living and did a little extra walking in order to reduce his weight.

McDonald is a policeman attached to the traffic squad. The work on this job is trying and tiring, but it keeps him in good physical condition all the time. A week before the indoor championship McDonald began a series of hard training stunts. He worked on the "gym," took long walks, and despite the cold went to Celtic park and threw the weights.

With these two titles to his credit, the big policeman took another "lay-off."

He did only the training that went with his work until the opening of Celtic park. Then he began preparing for the senior "meets" and the senior national by competing in handicap events. He won many of these, and with each competition he got himself in better shape. As in the indoor "champs," he captured the shot put and "55" at the metropolitan and national championships. Besides winning these he scored more points in each meet by finishing third in the sixteen-pound hammer event.

During the year he hung up a new world's record and scored nearly 100 points. At Celtic park on May 30 he hurled the eighteen-pound shot from a seven-foot circle and to the unprecedented distance of 46 feet, 2 3/4 inches.

German army since he has been fired from the big-time circuit.

Charley Murphy, it is said, has no more interest in the base ball war than the Kaiser has in the war in Europe.

We also presume Charley Somers of Cleveland made a handsome profit when he sold Pitcher Bishop to Charley Somers of Portland.

Walter Johnson seems to be in the same class with Bill Kilgiver when it comes to long-distance jumping.

The German crown prince must be a careless sort of chap. He is reported killed as often as Heinie Zimmerman is traded to the Giants.

Clarence Rowland, never having managed a club of higher class than Class B, should be right at home with the White Sox.

We haven't quite made up our mind whether Clarence will be called upon to manage Eddie Collins or Ping Bodie.

But you can imagine a man named Clarence managing Ping Bodie.

Old Connie's been in base ball many, many years. He's had his many pleasures and he's seen his many fears. But now that he's grown quite independent and doesn't give a care.

But you can imagine a man named Clarence managing Ping Bodie.

But at that Connie can be excused. He didn't select a sink named Algernon.

Charley Wegman has refused the \$6,000 advance money from Walter Johnson. And they shoot men like Lincoln.

We see Harry Thaw is back in his old time form, occupying the front page again.

We also note that the Kaiser has returned to the front. But, have no fear, the front to the Kaiser is about as close to the European battle line as Charley Murphy is to the base ball battle line.

They now divulge the startling information in N'awk that Maurice McLaughlin is the greatest living tennis player. Showing what an up-to-date, progressive town N'awk is.

From the way Sam Johnson is talking, declaring that the appointment of a manager for the Yankees will startle the world, one would think Sam has induced General von Kluck to jump.

Charley Ebbets said he won't sell his Brooklyn club for \$1,000,000. Naturally, nobody would give him that for it.

There is a suspicion that Jacques Forner has jumped to the Reds. No other reason could influence Walter Johnson to return \$6,000 regular currency.

APROPOS W. JOHNSON. A movie showing travel views. Flashed upon the screen. It said, "These grow in Mexico. It is the jumping bean."

"You make me laugh," Clarke Griffith said.

"They're not as they would seem, I've got the biggest one there is Upon my base ball team."

Gilmore Might Grab Hick Johnson

By F. S. HUNTER.

The Sportsman's Dirac. Ring out the old year, ring in the new. Think of the dawn of the first New Year day.

In England, Fred Welsh is the new lightweight champ; Again, our crack runners at the Penn relay games.

In base ball we found a state of affairs. That (we must admit it) was a disgrace.

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MANY JOCKEYS NEED JOBS

Outlook is There Will Be a Surplus During Coming Season.

LOTS OF THEM INCOMPETENT

Any Number of Races Are Lost by Good Horses Simply Because Their Riders Are Poor in Generalship.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Indications point to a surplus of jockeys in this country this coming season, especially if the secretaries of the many associations will be lenient with their conditions and make horses carry weights which will permit the old-timers to get three or four mounts a day at the least. Looking over the jockeys now doing duty at Charleston and Mexico the names of many efficient horsemen are noticeable. They are doing winter duty because the secretaries give them opportunities.

Running over the list of jockeys who should do daily and profitable service next season, and who are efficient horsemen, there are Robinson, Stuart, Bauer, Lindley, Carson, Grimer, Vandusen, Trostley, Peal, Jones, Davies, Collins, Burns, Hanover, Small, Molesworth, Rice, Feeney Loftus and O'Brien.

Many Lack Opportunity. If the weights were as low during the winter months as they are in the summer there would not be enough jockeys to fill the bill at one track. There is many a good rider who drops out of recognition for no other reason than lack of opportunity to work. Many a good horse loses a race on account of incompetent jockey-ship. Incompetency is caused through the lack of better jockey material, scores dropping out of the profession just about the time they have learned how to ride a race with intelligence.

There are at the present time probably ten or a dozen finished horsemen in this country who have been riding abroad for the last five or six years. Some of them can scale 110 pounds without sacrificing their physical strength by road work. The majority could do from 112 to 115 pounds and step on the scales at their natural weight. They would probably remain in this country if given a chance to ride without having to reduce to any great extent.

In a field of fifteen horses at Saratoga last August the riders of the first three horses were Fairbrother, Davies, Woods, Ford and Callahan. Butwell, Turner, Notter and McCahey were the only riders of note in the race. What a more interesting contest it would be next year if the horses in the Metropolitan were ridden by Shaw, Loftus, Borell, Garner, Archibald, Notter, Turner, Henry, McTaggart, Troxier, Miles and O'Neil, all of whom might be seen in the saddle next year, not only in stake races, but in all races, if the weights were adjusted to even a reasonable limit.

Eleven Start Race. In this year's Metropolitan handicap there were eleven starters and among the horses were Fairbrother, Davies, Woods, Ford and Callahan. Butwell, Turner, Notter and McCahey were the only riders of note in the race. What a more interesting contest it would be next year if the horses in the Metropolitan were ridden by Shaw, Loftus, Borell, Garner, Archibald, Notter, Turner, Henry, McTaggart, Troxier, Miles and O'Neil, all of whom might be seen in the saddle next year, not only in stake races, but in all races, if the weights were adjusted to even a reasonable limit.

Southpaws in Feds. Left-handed hitters in the Federal league are in for a tough time next season. The off-side swatters had a fine time the last season, because there was a glut of right-handed pitchers in the Federal league, but now that Hank McGilford and Frank Allen have been signed to pitch in the new league, the left-handed hitters will find it a whole lot harder to hit .300 in 1915 than they did in 1914.

Becher Develops Kick. Bob Becher, who is wintering in Dayton, is said to have announced that he will jump to the Federal league if the Giants attempt to trade him, as has been reported. Becher says that he considers his indignation as a contract with the Giants as worthless if he can be shifted about without his consent.

EXTREME CALM OVER SOCCER

Foot Ball Game Meets with Only Cool Reception at Universities.

TAKES YEARS TO LEARN IT

Finished Players Do Not Come Into Their Own Until They Have Spent Several Seasons in Tuition of Sport.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Viewing the extreme calm with which soccer has been conducted at the leading universities this season, one cannot help wondering what has become of all that fine spirit of enthusiasm which set in last season and seemed destined to carry the sport upon a high crest of popularity. Princeton reports interest in the game as many as fifty tried for the team, and yet the game has been played without a great deal of interest on the part of the undergraduates as a whole. At least, this was my impression as a spectator at the Harvard-Princeton and Yale-Princeton soccer games. The attitude of the Princeton students, indeed, seemed rather a humorous one. The wish more than once was expressed that the Nassau team might lose, or at least tie, in order that no "jinx" would be established to turn the afternoon's variety foot ball match to Yale. At Harvard the students viewed the game, very frequently with laughter, at the gyrations of the players. Qualified observers, such as, for example, as Walter Camp, have pronounced the game ineffectual and hence never likely to rival the American game of foot ball. Yet, on the other hand, there is a lot of fine exercise in it, and for that and for the possibility it offers the students who have not the physique to play the gridiron game it deserves encouragement. Here is the way in which an expert speaks of the game:

Variety is Meddler. The trouble with soccer in this country so far, and especially at the colleges, is that it is a very mediocre kind. A great number of players have grasped the rudiments of foot ball, but the majority have missed the fine points. This is because soccer cannot be learned in one or two seasons, and, taking all things into consideration, it is wonderful that the college players have done as well as they have in so short a time.

Takes Years of Work. It takes quite a number of years to make a first-class soccer player, and for this reason we cannot hope to have really first-class teams at the colleges for several years. However, now that the private and public schools are taking up the game with such zest, the outlook for the future is distinctly encouraging.

Soccer is not a money-maker, and therefore, the athletic committees have had very little time for it. To commercialize a game is, in my opinion, to ruin it, and yet I realize that under existing conditions soccer in the future must more than pay its way if it is to receive the unqualified endorsement of the athletic associations. The soccer coach never will command a high salary, for the simple reason that when the game once becomes firmly established the services of a coach will be almost superfluous. The strategy of the game can be worked out by the players themselves when they have absorbed the rudiments of it.

Thirty-Five Killed in Base Ball Games During Last Season

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Thirty-five deaths and 215 injuries were caused by base ball during 1914, according to figures made public today by a sport writer who kept a tabulation of the season's records. Of the players who died from injuries twenty were hit by pitched balls, five were struck by bats, four were in collisions, four overexerted themselves, one was hurt sliding to a base and one was killed in a fight. Injuries to amateur players are classified as follows: Broken limbs, 314; concussion of brain, 18; fractured skulls, 13; paralysis, 4; sprains, 37; spliced, 23; fractures, 17; dislocations, 7; torn ligaments, 10.

Players hurt in the minor leagues numbered 118; American league, 69; National league, 41; Federal league, 58, and college teams, 2.

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