

Bringing Up Father

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Drawn for The Bee by George McManus



Judgments

WITH the opening of the baseball season at hand, quite a number of questions that loomed big a few weeks ago have dwindled to their normal stage, and yet their vitality to the business end of the game is not lessened. Chief of these are the points presented to Judge Landis, and not yet passed upon by him. These are fundamental, and on their determination will rest the future of the organization of base ball as a business. If the form of contract in vogue is declared of no avail, because of several objections, then the men who have their money tied up in the game will have to look for some other basis for operation. Players are essential, and players must be held by contract, else the reckless competition for their services will lead to ruinous conditions, just as it already has. Then, too, the player has his own rights, and these must be looked after in the new form of contract, so that the skilled and useful man will have the opportunity to freely market his wares and secure for himself the best price obtainable. To bring about these conditions is not an easy task, and it is quite likely that Judge Landis did not find the problem so simple as it may have seemed to some of the amateur jurists who so readily decided on all the issues raised.

But it is chiefly with the prospects for Omaha is to be asked to vote on the question of Sunday base ball. The substance of the question is under the state law, and is due to the followers of the game as well as to those who stand for a strict observance of the Sabbath day. It will not do to say that the matter ought not to have been submitted to a vote, for it is merely in compliance with the law, and with a demand that the law be enforced. Nor will it do to rest too securely in the belief that the vote is certain to be overwhelmingly in favor of Sunday games. Negligence on part of the friends of Sunday base ball may result in its defeat. So if you really want the Sunday game to be played, go to the polls on election day and vote that way. It is a good thing to find out the temper of the citizens now and then.

The coming season the fans are concerned. What will it be—a restoration of the good old days of the game, when the crack of a base hit was followed by a cheer that split the sky, or will it be a continuation of last season, when the game held the attention of only a faithful few? Let us hope it will be the former. Base ball is too great an institution to be allowed to fall into decay, just because its commercial aspect has been too greatly emphasized. It affords an incentive to get out of doors such as is provided in no other way, and it rewards the spectator as does no other game. If therefore deserves the support of all.

The playing schedule for the Western league's season has not as yet been published, nor is it at all certain it will be. It was made out weeks ago and given to President Norris L. O'Neill to promulgate. He carried it in his pocket to California, and hung on to it there till long past the time when the rules say it shall be made public. Word came from Chicago Saturday that it is now ready, and maybe Omaha will in time get a glimpse of it. Just why the president held it up isn't yet made public.

College men are busy with their outdoor games these days, and while not occupying so much attention in the public eye as when playing football, they are exhibiting a side of sport that is far more serviceable than the more spectacular fall contests can ever be. Track and field training is open to all, and the qualifications required for excellence are within reach of all and should be enjoyed by all.

A volume might be written on the events of last Monday in Havana, but a word will suffice. The better man, apparently, won, and now we see Jack Johnson denied admission to each country he has sought to approach as a haven, while Willard is welcomed as a savior of his race in America. That's just the difference between winning and losing.

The mudhen has finally been vindicated. Hereafter, it has served principally as a target for long range trial shots, but now it is given official recognition by the federal courts as a water fowl.

A week from next Friday will see Omaha's troubles in real earnest; Omaha opens at St. Joseph on that day.

Anyhow, the Fed's picked a mighty good day to open the season, so far as weather is concerned.

The saddest feature of the Havana affair is the amount of aftermath it has engendered.

That's one game Cloutie will not include in his published record.

CHANGE TELLS OF NEAT PLAY

Worked Exclusively by Chance and Tinker and it Caught the Fearless Tyrus Cobb.

WON WORLD'S SERIES FOR CUBS

NEW YORK, April 10.—Joe Tinker, for many years one of the star shortstops of the country, and myself evolved a play several years ago that I have never seen duplicated, says Frank Chance. The play is devised to save a shortstop an error when the play is on a wet and muddy field. We tried the play many times when there was enough rain to make the ball wet and slippery, and in every case it turned out to be the right play.

This play should not be attempted unless the first baseman and the shortstop are in perfect accord. By this I mean the first baseman, by a subtle intelligence which comes to him through his familiarity with first base play, should know when the play is to be made.

We tried the play first during our opening game with Detroit, with the world's series looming in front of us. At first both Tinker and myself were rather afraid of the play. We talked it over on the bench, and finally decided to try it. It looked rather dangerous to both of us, but we thought enough of it to try it in the opening game of the series for the world's championship in 1908.

The play is simplicity itself when it is made right. In the 1908 series with Detroit, after we had made the jump from New York to play the Tigers, we found a wet and muddy field, with a slight drizzling rain falling. We were before a hostile crowd, which filled the grandstand and bleachers.

Bleachers Close to Field. The right field bleachers in Detroit are built close to the field. They are built so close in that a wild throw over first base is liable to bound into the bleachers and turn an error into a home run. Tinker and I were thoroughly familiar with the field. We had played there the season before, when we had beaten the Detroit Tigers for the world's championship in 1907.

The play that was evolved in Detroit that day not only helped us win the first game, but gave us such a "jump" on the Tigers that we had little trouble in winning the premier honors of the base ball world.

When Tinker told me that he was having trouble in handling the wet ball he and I put our heads together and we fixed up a play.

"Bounce the ball to me," I suggested to Tinker. Then and there we perfected the play. We decided that it was too great a risk for him to throw the ball straight across the diamond to me.

"I'll throw it so it will hit about ten feet in front of first base and you can take it on the bound," said Tinker.

The next inning we tried it out and we tried it on that superb hitter, Tyrus Cobb. Cobb hit one to Tinker, and I believe that he hit it slowly on purpose.

Caught Cobb a Foot. Tinker came in fast and grabbed the ball. As he straightened up to throw, Cobb was tearing down the base line at full speed. Tinker let go of the ball, and it hit about ten feet in front of first base. It bounded perfectly. I was standing back of the bag. I got the ball in my hands in nice fashion, and Cobb was out by a step. It was a pretty play, and the minute the umpire waved his hands for the out I knew we had perfected a play that was to help us materially in winning the world's championship. Three times in that same game Tinker and I made the same play, and it went through each time.

The first baseman, in making this play, should stand back of the bag. If he takes this position he can go forward or backward several feet in order to get the ball at the right angle. In this position he can keep his foot on the bag and get the throw in time to get the runner.

Here is a play that often comes up in a game, and most first basemen are extremely liable to make the play in the wrong fashion.

A man is on second base and the batter, in order to sacrifice him along, bunts toward first base. Of course, in this situation, the first baseman is "laying" for a hint. When the ball is hit the first baseman takes one quick look at the runner second. He knows whether he has a good start or not. If the runner has started to third on the bunt—and it is a ten-to-one shot he has—don't make any attempt to get him. Get the runner at first.

GARDNER QUITS AS HEAD OF THE MEMPHIS CLUB

Because of business interests in St. Louis that take up his time, Russell Gardner, chief owner of the Memphis Southern league club, has resigned the presidency of the club and John D. Martin will succeed him at the head of affairs. Martin formerly was connected with the Memphis club under other ownership and is said to know the ins and outs of the game.

Develops Knuckle Ball. Pitcher George Foster of the Boston Red Sox is developing a knuckle ball.

King Cole Now on Sick List



The Yankees are already meeting their usual luck, and have one of the longest hospital lists of any of the big league teams. King Cole is one of the latest of the Yankees to call for the doctor. He is one of Wild Bill Donovan's standbys, and if an operation is necessary, as was at first believed, he will be out of the game until well along in summer. Nunamaker, the big catcher, is another man who is flying the Red Cross colors.

Expect Meredith To Shatter Record For Half-Mile Run

NEW YORK, April 10.—The statement credited to George Orton, track coach at the University of Pennsylvania, to the effect that Ted Meredith will surely break the world's half mile record during the coming outdoor season is an interesting prediction, and because of it the athletic fans will watch closely every one of Meredith's runs during the summer. If Meredith is to perform the wonderful feat of running 300 yards faster than one minute fifty-two and one-half seconds it would seem that he must do it on the fast track at the San Francisco exposition, and for this line of talk there are two reasons. The first is that the Prisco track will be seconds faster than the running track at Franklin Field, Philadelphia, where the inter-collegiate games are to be held on May 22. The second is that in the half-mile championship at the Panama-Pacific games Meredith will probably have David Caldwell of Byfield, Mass., and Homer Baker of Brooklyn in there to force him to a superhuman pace—the kind necessary to accomplish a performance better than 1:52. Without competition such as Caldwell and Baker will furnish Meredith has not a chance to even approach the great mark he made at Stockholm in 1912, and this is the reason Meredith has practically no chance of making a new record at the inter-collegiate.

If George Brown, the great Yale runner, recovers sufficiently from the attack of appendicitis that stopped his running last fall to be at his best on May 22, it is possible that Meredith will be forced to a very fast half, but with Brown below his best form Marty Hayes of Princeton, a 1:35 man, will be Ted's speediest opponent.

NEW WORLD'S MOTORCYCLE RECORD IS ESTABLISHED

Otto Walker on his Harley-Davidson won the International Grand Prix in the 200-mile road race at Venice, Cal. Time, 4:17.4, or an average of 49.6 miles per hour. Red Parkhurst on a Harley-Davidson finished second, only 12.5 seconds behind the winner, Marty Graves, one of the racers riding on the Omaha Motorcycle last fall, finished sixth, 25 minutes later.

Otto Walker, the winner, was an amateur, and this is the first time an amateur has beaten the famous professional stars in a motorcycle race of this duration.

The thirty-seven entries were composed of nine different makes, one of them entering fourteen machines, and the contest was witnessed by 20,000 enthusiasts.

FIRST ROOKIE COMES FROM PANAMA CANAL ZONE LOOP

The Panama Canal Zone league has sent its first recruit to the states. The Memphis club has taken on an outfielder named Drennon, who is so sure that he can make good that he paid his own way from Cristobal, a matter of about 2,000 miles.

Another Callahan Born. James J. Callahan, vice president of the Chicago White Sox, is father to a new-born son, who has been named Daniel Harry Callahan, after his maternal grandfather.

Shifted Heaving Arm. Here's a queer thing about Davis, the rookie trier from Virginia, who has been showing so well with the Athletics. For four years Davis always threw left-handed. Now he is a right-handed pitcher.

Steele Signs Contract. Elmer Steele, formerly pitcher in the National league, has signed a contract with the Bridgeport club.

OLD-TIMERS HAD STAMINA

Pitchers of Long Ago Won Fifty Games in Season, Now Don't Even Pitch That Many.

SPALDING HOLDS THE RECORD

NEW YORK, April 10.—These days a hurler who pitches fifty games or part games of base ball in one season is looked upon as a wonder and is called everything from an iron man to a regular horse for work, and at that the hurler who gets in fifty games is a very rare bird. Back in the '60s fifty games per season was considered a comfortable amount of work for the average hurler, but when it comes to winning fifty full games of big league base ball in one season, then the hurler is touching the miraculous. Base ball history gives the names of several big league pitchers that have accomplished this wonderful feat.

The pitcher who holds the record in games won in a single season is the famous A. G. Spalding, the greatest hurler in his day, and the many records he created stand up to the present time as the best. Of course, Spalding's work was pulled off under different conditions than exist today, but even at that his pitching was wonderful.

It was in 1874 that A. O. Spalding made his great record in games won. During that season he pitched sixty-three full games and won fifty-six of them, a percentage of 89, the highest average in games won in the history of the game.

During the season of 1884 Charles Radbourne, for Providence, then in the National league, pitched seventy-one games of base ball, winning fifty-seven of them. This is the greatest number of games won in a single season in the history of major league base ball. Guy Hecker, another famous hurler of the old school and the star of the Louisville club back in 1884, pitched seventy-one games that season and won an even fifty of them.

Hecker performed in a wonderful manner that year. He whiffed seventeen men in a regular nine-inning contest and he lost it at that. He also had a winning streak wherein he won thirteen consecutive victories, and during the time Hecker was swatting the ball at a clip better than 200 for the big star was a real balman.

How much would a hurler of Hecker's ability bring on the market today?

Open Tennis Play Not Permitted in England This Year

NEW YORK, April 10.—No open tennis tournaments will be held in England during the coming season, according to a decision of the Lawn Tennis association. The governing body's brief notice is "to suspend all open meetings in England until further notice."

The London Field, in commenting on this decision, says: "Indeed, the brevity of the official announcement issued by the council is to be commended, for the functions of the governing body do not require it to express any opinion as to the propriety of playing friendly matches between individuals or teams during the war period. Similarly, we should deprecate any attempt to detract from patrons of the game, however eminent a view which might be used to influence players on a matter which is obviously governed by personal instinct."

"The suggestion made recently that the king should be invited to give the game of lawn tennis the same gracious expression of approval that he has extended to the sport of racing," will not, we feel sure, commend itself to the council. Just as no statutory decree is actually necessary to suspend open tournaments until the crisis of our empire is passed, so no sanction from high quarters is demanded for the pursuit of healthy recreation by those whose duty it is to administer and carry on the civil and industrial life of this country.

PITCHER FINDS NEW WAY TO BUY OUT OF THE ARMY

The Mobile club of the Southern league purchased the release of a pitcher named Crandall from the United States army. Now he has jumped his team and Mobile wonders if the National commission is powerful enough to make Uncle Sam give back the purchase price. It seems that Crandall worked a clever scheme to get his release from the army.

SOUTH DOESN'T CARE MUCH FOR ANTE-SEASON GAMES

Less than 100 persons paid to see a Cincinnati-Mobile game the other day. The exhibition contests in the south no longer draw crowds, and are good only for practice and not for revenue. The bugs wait to come out until there is something at stake.

Graff and Herring Resume Annual Debate on Fishing

With the advent of the balmy weather of gentle spring and the warm showers of April the office of Superintendent of Schools E. U. Graff once more becomes the scene of heated discussion whenever C. E. Herring, attorney for the school board, makes his appearance. For Graff and Herring are ardent fishermen and their methods are distinctly contrary, and each declares his method vastly superior to the other.

Graff and Herring in the summertime make fishing trips to Spirit Lake, Ia., each year, and there they omit the vocal differences of opinion to work diligently to 'bear' out in real fact their positive assertions.

Herring is an expert. His outfit looks like a portable sporting goods store. He has fancy flies, nickel-plated spoons, steel rods and all the other paraphernalia that catalogue say an expert must be equipped with. His argument is that it takes all these instruments to catch fish. Graff, on the other hand, calls Herring a moving picture fisherman and scorns the fancy hooks and lines. An old bamboo pole, a cork bobbin and a penny hook are good enough for him. While Herring goes through the maneuvers of a German general directing an army of 100,000 men when he fishes, Graff sits contentedly by, never making a move except to hold in the lucious bass.

The argument is on in full blast these days, but it is not quite so heated as before. After Herring explains and expostulates, bringing into play all his legal facilities, Graff merely grins and inquires: "Who caught the fish last year?" The argument generally ceases at this point with Herring replying with: "Well, it'll be different this time."

MANY ENTRIES IN RELAYS Former Big League Managers Strive in Ranks This Season

PHILADELPHIA, April 10.—The Pennsylvania relay management is finding difficulty this year in making room for the large number of extra colleges and schools that have entered for the various events in the big meets to be held this month. It was thought that in the first year of a two days' meet the programs for the two days would be rather slim, but the contrary is now sure to be the case. This is shown by the fact that it will be necessary to start Saturday's meet at 1:30 p. m., instead of 2 o'clock, as originally planned. The large number of high school entries is mainly responsible for this. Over 100 high schools have signified their intention of being on hand and they have been put into thirteen class events, which of themselves will take an hour and a half to run off.

The responses from the colleges this year has been unprecedented. Not only will the relay championships be more representative than ever, but all the special events will be filled with the highest class athletes in the American colleges. There is not a single event, with the possible exception of the 100 yards, in which the world's record may not be broken. This fact speaks volumes for the high standard that may be expected from these events.

M. A. C. Enters. Michigan Agricultural college was heard from the other day. These athletes are coached by J. F. Macklin, a Pennsylvania graduate. In addition to having his team in the class B championship, with Columbia, Syracuse and other colleges, Macklin will have some men in the special events. Hearty will compete in the high hurdles and Blue and Blackies in the shot and discus. These three men are all stars in their respective events, but they will have to be in their very best form to have a show against the champions already entered.

Missouri was also heard from and will be represented in some of the special events. If the relay men show up well enough they will run in either the one or the two-mile championship race.

VENICE MOTORCYCLE RACE CAPTURED BY FIRESTONE

The race victories won on Firestone motorcycle tires during the last few months had fair to rival the recent racing records established by Firestone automobile tires.

The famous Venice (Cal.) track on April 4 was the scene of one of the most exciting and important motorcycle meets ever held in this country. Thirty-eight motorcycles entered the race and, after 90 miles of whirlwind riding, Otto Walker on a Firestone-shod Harley Davidson, captured first place. Time, sixty-nine miles per hour, which exceeds the automobile record on the same course by about eight miles per hour.

Firestone equipped machines also took third, fourth and fifth places.

RED SOX FIND SWEENEY LACKING IN TALENT, TOO

For the information of those who thought Roger Bresnahan was going wrong when he released Bill Sweeney, it is stated that Manager Carigan of the Red Sox has turned him loose. Sweeney joined the Red Sox after the Cubs let him out and went to Hot Springs, but he has failed to show anything in a fielding or batting way.

Lang Sold by Reds. First baseman Johnny Lang has been sold by the Reds to the Fort Wayne club of the Central league.

MESSAGE

OMAHA NEAL INSTITUTE, 1502 South Tenth Street, Omaha, Neb. I heard you got two of my friends yesterday. That's all right, I have some more that you won't get. (Signed) JOHN BARLEYCOORN.