

Bringing Up Father



Judgments

Q UITE the most important piece of business before the Omaha fans at this moment is to go to the polls on Tuesday and vote for Sunday base ball. The majority in favor of this proposition should be made so overwhelming that no question can ever be raised as to the purpose of the people. No question exists as to the sentiment of the public in favor of the game, but this sentiment must be registered so emphatically as to carry conviction with it to even those who are constitutionally opposed to base ball or any other form of public amusement on Sunday. No one questions the value of base ball as a sport, and not many are locally opposed to the game being played on Sunday. The importance of voting is to get the supporters of the proposition on record. Its moral value will be immense.

Next to voting on Sunday base ball, the local contingent is most concerned with the fact that the Rourke family has shown quite a burst of speed for opening the season. It is too early yet to buy the flag for 1915, but the start is surely encouraging. It has been a long, long time since Omaha stood out so far in advance of the other cities, and it is surely comforting to look at the standing table these mornings. So far as the affair has proceeded, the indications are all in favor of the proposition that Pa has a winning combination. His team has enough of veteran players to give it balance and steadiness, and enough of ambitious youngsters to give it "pop" and Krug has shown himself to be an aggressive leader, fighting for every point, and all that means the team that beats Omaha at any stage of the race will know it has been to a ball game. This coming to life of the Rourke family in Omaha on the map again as a good ball town, and the public is traveling the way to Rourke park again, much as of yore. The crowds have not yet assumed their old-time proportion, but this will come if the Rourke family is true to its start.

All along the line the Western league start has been full of surprises; in fact, the standing table is just about turned upside down from what it was last season, showing the effect of the "home town" start on some of the teams. A couple of weeks more will be needed to determine the relative strength of the organizations, and it may be longer than that before the pennant winner will appear, but it doesn't look as if the league were going to be strung out behind Denver or Sioux City this season.

Jimmy Kane had a really bad time in Omaha during the week, he didn't get a hit in four games, although he swatted the ball hard enough, and he was given a lot of bother chasing after many little bunts on which the Rourke players delighted to feed him. Jimmy is waiting until he gets back home, where he can knock 'em into the old Miszo.

Benny Kauff claimed a great deal of public attention during the week by his foolish jump from the Brooklyn Fedzels to the New York Nationals, thereby showing how little he knows about base ball strategy and how little regard he has for a signed contract. Benny will have a lot of idle time in which to ruminate over the folly of his course. He is not the first player who has listened to the siren song of John McGraw, only to find out that "Muggsy" was kidding him.

That Johnson boy may be a wild man, all right, but he sure can pitch, and so can Biedgett, and Crab, and Clozman and Willis. If you don't believe it, ask Josh Clarke; he knows.

IS JESS AS GOOD AS FITZ?

Comparative Ability of the Present Champ and Those of Old is Debatable Issue.

MUST DEPEND ON FUTURE SKILL
NEW YORK, May 1.—Whether Jess Willard could have held his own had he flourished in the days when Corbett, Fitzsimmons and Jeffries were disputing the title is a question that cannot be answered off-hand. The fistie world as yet has not decided just how to place the conqueror of Johnson, whose victory has so completely upset all white hope precedent. Judgment will be withheld until he defends the honors a few times and gives a better line on his ability.

Of course, the old-time warriors themselves are not disposed to take Willard into the fold and accept him as their equal. For so many years they have been held up as the greatest ever, it is only natural that they should be chary of their praise for the new champion, who threatens to put an end to the myth that they were superior metal to the men of today. Thus Corbett and Jeffries, while they picked Willard to beat Johnson, did so, with many qualifying remarks tending to show that even if he should win he could not be classed as their equal. Fitzsimmons, for his part, was frankly anti-Willard. He declared that the big Kansan and all his tribe were a lot of joke fighters and ridiculed the idea that Willard could beat the man who had taken all Johnson had to offer and then came through and won like a thoroughbred, old Fitz would not relent. Although he congratulated Willard when they met in public, Fitz could not refrain from remarking to his friends, "Give me a few months to train and I could lick that big stiff."

Never Been Hurt.
At one time the boilermaker's most famous assets were his great size and his ability to withstand punishment. Willard is not only bigger in every way that counts for most in the ring, but he never has been hurt by a blow. In his fights with Fitzsimmons, he was out to pieces.

In hitting ability also Willard has the edge. Jeffries fought in an awkward crouch and was unable to put his full strength behind his blows. Tom Sharkey, a much smaller man, fought Jeffries forty-five rounds in all. In not one of those rounds did the rushing sailor take a back step. He literally hurled himself on the man, thereby increasing the force of the impact, yet Jeff could not put him away.

What Willard would have done to Sharkey had he been in Jeff's place can easily be imagined by those who have seen the big Kansan land one of his terrible uppercuts. More than once this blow has lifted a 300-pound opponent high in the air to come down on his shoulder blades. Much has been said of Sharkey's toughness, but he could not have taken one of those blows without going down.

So far as boxing skill is concerned Willard shows up at least equally as well. In the whole history of the ring there is no instance of a champion being made to look so foolish as Corbett made Jeffries appear for twenty-two rounds of their Coney Island battle. Corbett was a mere gymnasium athlete, unable to withstand rough usage. He was long past his best days and could be stopped with a comparatively light blow. It is impossible to imagine him keeping away from Willard's long range jabs, straight rights and uppercuts for that length of time.

Might Have Passed Fitz.
If Willard had met Fitzsimmons he might not have been able to win after taking as much punishment as Jeffries did. On the other hand Fitz would not have been able to land on Willard with the same freedom with which he battered Jeffries around the ring. Fitz developed the science of hitting to a greater extent than any other has been able to approach, but Willard's long arms and great height constitute a defense that might have puzzled the cunning blacksmith. However, the Cornishman's left shift to the body would have been bad medicine for the long-armed Willard, who is not protected by the crouch that saved Jeffries. That body blow might have beaten Willard.

Takes Fall Out of Grief.
Fleider Jones never overlooks an opportunity to take a fall out of Clark Griffith for having induced Walter Johnson to return to the fold.
Gus Yelle Bounced.
In the New England league the Fitzfurg club has released Catcher Gus Yelle and Outfielders O'Connell and Vance.

BILL DONOVAN, MANAGER, AND "BABE" SHIELDS, MASCOT—'Wild Bill' Donovan, rejuvenator of the New York American league base ball club, and by his side 'Babe' Shields, the brand new mascot of the team.



FEDS TO INVADE NEW YORK

Pat Powers Declares Franchise Will Be Given Gotham for 1916 Season.

DO NOT WANT PEACE WITH O. B.
NEW YORK, May 1.—"New York will positively be included in the Federal league next spring or the following spring," said Pat Powers, president of the Newark Federal league club, this week.

"Right now the New York club is just as well organized as any club in the country," continued Powers. "The only thing necessary is to build a park. When the names of the men behind the New York Federal league club are announced to the effect that as soon as the majors decide to take care of Wisconsin, the Wards and other Federal league powers, that peace will be brought about, but that is absurd."

The Federal league magnates in about every instance own their parks outright. The men are so tied up financially and with contracts that they would forfeit everything they own in connection with the league should they accept any terms other than the taking of the Federal league into the organized base ball fold as a third major league.

Old Yank Uniforms Sent to Sing Sing

Members of the newly organized base ball clubs in Sing Sing prison have fallen heir to a lot of the old uniforms of the Yankees, the New York American league club and players in the "outlaw league" at the state prison will wear them in their games this summer. Base ball is one of the means adopted by Thomas Mott Osborne, warden of Sing Sing, to improve the physical condition of the prisoners. One of the prison players wrote to the owners of the Yankees, asking for the old uniforms, with the result that enough were given to equip twenty-eight players with everything from caps to shoes.

Keating to Buffalo.
The Buffalo club has secured Shortstop Walter Keating from the Chicago National club.
Collins Strolls Often.
Eddie Collins so far this season has averaged more than one base on balls to the game, and if the pitchers don't give them over better for him he is likely to break all past records.

Drawn for The Bee by George McManus

CORNELL IN ITS NEW PARK

Track Activities Are Transferred and Foot Ball Baggage to Be Moved Next Fall.

EXAMINATION OF CREW MEN
ITHACA, N. Y., May 1.—Now that all the track activities at Cornell university have been transferred to the new alumni field environment, Cornellians are looking to the future. Next fall the foot ball squad will move bag and baggage from the old field, and this will leave only the base ball outfit down in the hollow, where the frogs raise their June chorus. But the base ball men already have the Bacon Practice hall for indoor work on inclement days, and share with the rest the conveniences, such as showers, dressing rooms and the like of the Schoellkopf Memorial. The alumni field project was launched nearly thirteen years ago, and it will be completed when the base ball playground has been completed.

SEVERAL PLANS ARE ON FOOT
NEW YORK, May 1.—Responsibility and the possession, or at least the custody, of money has awakened the officials of the United States National Lawn Tennis association to a new sense of their duties. The transition from a treasury, ably directed by Richard Stevens, of a few hundred dollars, which paid the cost of postage, the slight expenses of meetings and made up negligible deficiencies in the expenditures of Davis Cup teams to a tidy sum of approximately \$30,000, has been rather sudden. In fact, it may be said to be a matter of two years. Right at this time there is not an officer of the national governing body, from Robert D. Wrenn on through the list, who does not fully realize that it is not a part of the work of the association to pile up funds in a treasury.

George McBride and Crawford Have Real Big League Records

Years ago there was a wonderful ball player who was always injured at the critical stage of a pennant race and it is estimated that injuries, which kept this player out of the game for weeks and even months, had deprived his club of three pennants. Fans and scribes admitted his worth as a player, but came to the conclusion that he was not of such great value to the club because he was out of the game so much. Figuring on this basis, which is undoubtedly correct, George McBride is the most valuable man that can be found anywhere. In eight years of major league playing McBride has missed but six days' play and but seven games all told, a double-header being played on one occasion. This is indeed a remarkable record and is of great importance when one considers that McBride has always been considered the keynote to the Washington infield and its head and steady performer. In this respect Sam Crawford is also a remarkable character. We have not looked so far back in Sam's past, but find that he has missed only one game in four full seasons, and has not missed any since the middle of June, 1911.

Missouri Wins Track Meet from Kansas Aggies

COLUMBIA, Mo., May 1.—Missouri university won the track meet with the Kansas State Agricultural college here today, 70 to 59.
In the running broad jump, Simpson of Missouri broke the Missouri Valley conference record, making 28 feet, 1 inch. In the pole vault Powell of Missouri tied the conference record of 13 feet.

Man Who Hits the Sign Is to Win Overland Machine

When the curtain was raised on the 1915 National league base ball season, at the Polo grounds in New York, ball fans and players were treated to a new one. Out in left field there flares a forty-foot sign proclaiming that the first New York player who hits it with a fly ball is to be presented with a new Overland car. The Overland dealer in the metropolis is the man who hit on this plan to stimulate the New York players in their avocations. "Hit 'er out" will be changed from now on to "Hit that sign, kid," by the routers.
The distance of the sign from the home plate is 24 feet, and there is every likelihood of one of New York's hitters pulling down the Overland car which is offered. Before deciding on this move, Mr. Silver wrote the base ball writers on the New York dailies asking their advice on the matter, and they are of the opinion that the offer is a worthy sporting proposition. As one of the men puts it: "It might be pulled right off the reel, and again it may drag along for quite a period."

STATE FAIR RACE PROGRAM

Purses in Early Closing Events Range from Four Hundred to Thousand Dollars.

Table with columns for race names, dates, and purses. Includes entries like '2-year-old trot, half mile heats, September 2, \$400' and '1000 pace, 'The Cornhuskers' Purse, September 7, 1000'.

MUCH COIN IN TENNIS BANK

And Association is Trying to Figure Some Way to Spend the Thirty Thousand Surplus.

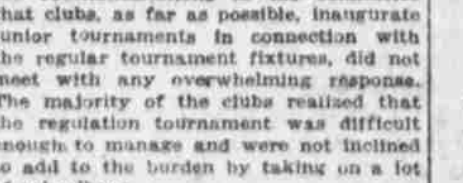
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Work Begins on Big Track at New York

Work has been started on the monster motorrome and sports amphitheater which has been proposed and discussed for New York for the last five years. This project, which is expected to rival the Brookland track of England and the Indianapolis Auto Speedway, will be located on the grounds of the old Coney Island Jockey club. A two-mile track capable of permitting auto speeding in excess of 100 miles per hour and a series of stands to accommodate about 20,000 spectators will be in readiness for the first meet in autumn.

The 1915 Harley-Davidson

with its '55 refinements offers more comfort, power, speed, and all-around satisfaction than any other motorcycle made. Remember, it is the motorcycle that has a shock-absorber that is adjustable on any weight rider. Come in and get a demonstration.



VICTOR H. ROOS
The Motorcycle Man.
2708 Leavenworth St., Omaha, Neb.