

MINORS ARE RETRENCHING

Some of the Bigger Leagues May Abandon Spring Training.

TRIP IS QUITE EXPENSIVE

Cost Five to Ten Thousand Dollars and the Profits Derived Are Not Worth the Money It Takes.

By FRANK G. MENCKE. NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Some of the big minor league clubs may abandon the spring training trip this year in keeping with the retrenchment policy.

"It costs us from \$5,000 to \$10,000 each year to take the spring trip, and past experience has convinced most of us that the trip isn't worth the outlay," said one minor league manager. "If we hit a streak of nice weather during the training camp days it is likely that our men will get into pretty good shape. But even at that it doesn't mean that our men will come north in much better shape than they would be in if they had remained north and worked the kinks out of their systems during the winter."

"Very often a club hits a spell of very bad weather and that means that the benefits of the trip are almost nil. The players come back in but little better shape than when they left."

"Another thing is this: Players who train in the south get used to the warm climate. When it comes time to travel north they begin to feel the cold weather, and when they reach the home town it often happens that their muscles have become stiff again, and it will be a month before they are foned out."

North Training Advantages. "If a club trains in the north its men will work out in the same sort of climate that they will face when they begin the regular season. If the weather is cold during the first two weeks of the regular season it would not prove a setback, as it does when the men train in the south. The men won't be so liable to get sore arms and stiff muscles, because they will be used to the weather."

"The major league clubs make up part of their expenses by playing exhibition games while heading back to the north. The minor leagues are not so much of an attraction, because there are so many major league clubs down south, and it rarely happens that we can get an exhibition game that will bring any sort of a gate receipt divvy."

It looks just now as if the big league clubs in Organized Baseball are not going to observe the new rule that limits the roster to twenty-one men between May 1 and September 1. Most of the managers have balked at the plan. A club can operate for a season with twenty-one players, argue the managers, but it can't build for the future by carrying twenty-one men, and a successful manager is one who builds for the future by keeping a lot of substitutes on the bench throughout the regular season.

If the twenty-one-player rule had been in force some years ago it is more than likely that McGraw wouldn't have hung onto "Rube" Marquard so long. "Rube" would have been taking place of a man who was more valuable to McGraw at the time. Charlie Mack probably wouldn't have kept Eddie Collins if the twenty-one-player rule was in force, for just at the time that Collins broke into the game, Connie had a large flock of veterans and he would have given them the preference over Collins if he had been forced to let some of the excess baggage loose.

See Fully in Limit. There are a score and more of instances similar to the Marquard and Collins cases and the managers who are howling against the twenty-one-player rule point to them as examples of the folly of limiting the roster to twenty-one men. Therefore, it is more than likely that the National League at its February meeting will rescind its rule and place the limit at twenty-three.

The American League, it is said, will not force the managers to adhere to the twenty-one-man rule, and the managers will be permitted to carry about twenty-three men.

If the twenty-one-player rule wasn't supposed to be in force in the National League right now, John McGraw wouldn't waste much time in getting the signature of "Germany" Schaefer to a contract. The funny man from Washington has been wanted by McGraw for a long time. McGraw figured that "Germany," with his awful fire flow of humor, would do an awful lot to keep the Giants in good spirits, and that "Germany" would keep the fans amused during the dull moments of the game.

Kiviat to Save His Strength for Mile Record Smashing

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Abel Kiviat's ambition to break the American amateur mile record of four minutes fourteen and two-fifths seconds is responsible for the determination of the Irish American Athletic club middle distance runner to stay out of all special events for the remainder of the indoor season. This will be regretted by those who have had a chance to see the wonderful form displayed by the Staten Islander this winter, but at the same time experts agree that in view of his proposed attempt on the record he is wise to keep out of strenuous competitions.

Hints the hope of lowering John Paul Jones' figures for the mile, Kiviat is anxious to be in condition for the big athletic meeting on the Pacific coast next summer, and he feels that the wear and tear of special events would serve to take his legs off his speed. His idea is to let his matters ease during the winter by competing in handicap races and relay events, for which much training will not be required.

At present it is Kiviat's plan to try for the mile record as early in the spring as he can get in condition, perhaps at the games of the New York Athletic club in June if the track is right and a race to suit the purpose is on the program. In case he fails, then he will still have the chance at the championship meeting in San Francisco.

Fast Deeded to Giants. The city of Martin, Tex., has presented the New York National club with a deed to Emerson park, in Martin, where the Giants have been doing their spring work since 1903. The property owned to the New York club as a gift under an agreement between the late President John T. Brush and the Martin Commercial club, in which the city of Martin agreed to transfer the New York club's present site of the ball park, provided they did their training there without any interference for seven years.

DESIRE COSTS WELSH MONEY

Fanatical Ambition Has Taken Tidy Fortune from Champ's Pocket.

WORKS TOO MUCH AT ONCE

Famous Boxer's Vigor Sapped as Result and He Is Obligated to Take a Compulsory Lay-Off at Great Expense.

By RINGSIDE. NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—A fanatical desire to prove to a fickle boxing public that he is a champion worthy of the name has cost Freddie Welsh a tidy little fortune. Since attaining the premiership in the lightweight division, Harry Poilack's industrious little charge has demonstrated beyond peradventure that he is a capable titleholder and is willing to consider as an opponent anybody who has pretensions to his crown.

When Welsh, upon his return to this country after relieving Willie Ritchie of the title in London, engaged in six fights in as many weeks, the cry went out that the new champion was avaricious and was trying to corner the money market. But Welsh has a different explanation, and one that sounds plausible. Freddie insists that the desire to fight at least once a week was not actuated by cupidity, but by a sincere desire to prove that he was a real champion.

True, Freddie cleared up approximately \$50,000 in those few weeks; but look at how long he has been passive. He has been idle over a month now, and the compulsory layoff has cost him thousands. He was forced to rest in order to regain his waning strength. The strain of fighting week in and week out sapped the champion of vigor, and it was deemed advisable by Manager Poilack that Freddie take a prolonged sista.

Welsh Never Shirks. But Welsh is not the sort that shirks work when there is work to be done. While enjoying his little vacation he has found time to combine business with his pursuit for pleasure. Freddie has had an eye for the future ever since he came on a boxing career, and it will soon be seen what a foresighted young man the world's lightweight champion is.

When Johnny Kilbane, boss of the featherweights, fought over in Philadelphia the other day (his opponent being Willie Houck), there was one spectator who watched with a microscopic eye every movement made by the Kilbane person. That spectator was none other than Freddie Welsh, kinsman in spirit. His disapproval was manifestly great. He said little, but his silence bespoke great thinking power. For Freddie was thinking hard as Kilbane went through the mazes in beating up his unchooled rival.

Welsh's presence at the bout started all sorts of conjectures. Finally the champion was asked pointblank the reason for going all the way from New York to see his most persistent challenger in action. Welsh evidently was not unprepared for the inquiry. He seemed to divine the question and unhesitatingly answered: "Well, what I saw tonight may come in handy soon. I had heard so much about Kilbane's cleverness that I thought I would see for myself. He is clever, extremely clever, but I do not think he can deliver a hard punch."

Will Take on Kilbane. "Kilbane has been molesting me to fight him with my championship at stake. That's a go. But he must wait his turn. The fact that he is the favored of the champions cuts no figure with me. There are any number of good lightweight who are more entitled to meet me than is Kilbane."

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Hockey Stars of the East Start the Season



These photographs show two of the leading hockey players of the east. On the left is Hobe Baker, formerly captain of the Princeton foot ball team and an all around athlete. He is playing with St. Nicholas in the Amateur Hockey League this winter. On the right is Eric Klerner, one of the present Princeton team.

WOULD SWITCH STATE LOOP

York and Superior Said to Be Willing to Sell Franchises.

TWO SUBSTITUTES READY

Fairbury and North Platte Both Eager for Berths in Nebraska League and Are Doing Their Best to Land.

The topography of the Nebraska State League may be altered a bit next season if several changes now in contemplation are effected. At the recent meeting the information was given out that no changes in the circuit would be made, but since that time two clubs, Superior and York, have evinced a willingness to dispose of their franchises.

Since the winding up of the 1914 season there has been considerable internal strife in the circuit. First some dissatisfaction was expressed regarding the official conduct of President C. J. Miles. Mr. Miles, however, was re-elected to the office at the meeting as he has proven himself an able director of the league.

Violate Salary Limit. Next changes of violations of the salary limit were made and even admitted by one or two clubs. At the meeting the culprits promised faithfully to abide by the agreements set by the national association at the Omaha meeting and that difficulty was disposed of.

Both Eager for Franchises. North Platte is pretty far west, but it is a live city and the impression prevails that it would be a good paying location. Whether Fairbury would support a team or not uncertain, but Fairbury wants that Superior franchise and the fans there are working hard to swing it their way. If they evince as much enthusiasm in attending the games as they are in trying to bring the club there, financial success is assured.

Two new towns in the Nebraska league would be a beneficial boost, as it would attract the interest and enthusiasm in the other cities.

To Save St. Paul. Henry F. Conrad has applied for an option on the St. Paul club of the American association, and will endeavor to organize a stock company to take over the property. He is also planning to incorporate for a sum sufficient to take over the entire holdings of the St. Paul club, including players, franchises and grounds.

A Real White Hope. There is a gink named Corsey. For Corsey's he's called Chick. He's one in many thousands that gambol about on the tip of Postoffice Department: If nobody wants that \$500, our address is Omaha Bee, Omaha, Neb.

Would that all base ball managers were like Clarence Rowland in their demand for speed. We might occasionally get home in time for midnight lunch.

It has been suggested that all American league clubs furnish Ruppert players to strengthen the Yanks. But can you con-

Starting the New Year Just as Easy

By F. E. KURTZ.

Ode to the New Year. The new year is among us, And his wings are white and pure, And he's filled with resolutions That are good ones, we are sure, And this year will be the best one, Is what every one will say, But we'll bet our weekly stipend That things will be the same old way.

We will bet that Europe's fighters Will be fighting all the time, And the dove of blessed peace, sir, Will be scattered like our rhyme, And the chosen and J. Gilmore Will continue in their fight, And our hopping little athletes Will keep hopping day and night.

Oh, You Contract. Twinkle, twinkle, base ball star, You'll be wondering where you are; When the magnates cease to fight, For you 'twill be a sweet good night.

The following lines are dedicated to Mr. Robert C. Moore, a business office vantage, who committed matrimony the night before New Year's eve.

We will hand you credit, Robert, And when your time is up, You should join the fighting allies, For you would face a Krupp.

Eddie Plank says he will quit base ball in two more years. If things continue as they are, it will be base ball that will quit in two more years.

Duluth is planning a big ski tournament, among others who will compete will be Walter Johnson, Bill Killefer and Karl Hamilton.

Robert McLean and Platt Adams have been accused of being professional. Things have come to a pretty state of affairs when an honest, conscientious amateur can't make a living without annoying investigations.

Willie Ritchie says he'll fight Freddie Welsh, Charley White or Joe Shugrue if the financial inducements are satisfactory. Probably Mr. Ritchie would think the state of Texas satisfactory.

There is a gink named Corsey. For Corsey's he's called Chick. He's one in many thousands that gambol about on the tip of Postoffice Department: If nobody wants that \$500, our address is Omaha Bee, Omaha, Neb.

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Chicago Will Bid for Next Champion Billiard Tourney

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Chicago, represented by the Sportsmen's Club of America, will bid for the next championship tournament of the National Association of Amateur Billiard Players, the opening date of which has been set for February 22. The directorate of the unique Chicago organization is enthusiastic over the possibility of securing this tournament, for which its members have already set their caps.

Charles F. Conklin of Chicago, former national and international champion, with whom rests the task of selecting western entrants to the national tourney, will confer with President Pugh and other officers of the Sportsmen's club relating to holding the championship series in his home city. All signs point to Chicago landing the tournament.

Of the eastern clubs likely to bid for the tournament the Union League of Philadelphia has the best chance. The Union League's membership has a seating capacity of more than 1,100, and in 1912 the amateur billiardists seldom failed to play before a capacity house. Chicago, nevertheless, feels confident of equaling, if not beating, this record.

In all probability Chicago will enter three players unknown so far as the outside world is concerned. These are Wilson Henderson, August Bloese and Robert Lord.

It is probable that sixteen players will start in the next amateur "national." Several of them are former title holders. The entry should be as follows: Champion Joseph Mayer, Philadelphia; Champion Edward W. Gardner, Montclair, N. J.; ex-Champion Ferdinand Poggenburg, New York; ex-Champion Morris Brown, Brooklyn; Dr. Uffenheimer, Philadelphia; Charles Holden, Douglass, Mich.; Eugene Milburn, Memphis, Tenn.; J. Cape Morton, Philadelphia; William Henderson, August Bloese and Robert Lord, Chicago.

BIG THREE IN GOLF PUZZLE

Followers of the Sport Staggered on How to Place Leaders.

QUIMET IS BEST IN SOME WAYS

White Chick Evans is Good, but Cannot Control Nerves, and Travers Great, but Lacks Confidence.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—While looking over the names of the amateur golfers, who, in the opinion of the writer, have been deserving of a rating, it is worthy of mention in passing that during a period of nine consecutive years there are only two, Walter J. Travis and Fred Herreshoff, who have never been omitted. Unfortunately golf has no official ranking list, the nearest approach being the national handicaps, compiled annually by the United States Golf association. This work of the United States Golf association executive committee is for the purpose of determining who shall and who shall not have the right to compete in the annual championship tournament.

The list of names includes those from scratch to five, inclusive, and numbers more than 20. A large percentage of these clubs are grouped in the five classes and many others at four. The Lanikman, to the best of his ability, picks the first sixteen. He has no two on an equality.

Without question the "big three" in amateur circles at present are Francis Ouimet, Charles Evans, Jr., and Jerome D. Travers. Just how these men should be placed has puzzled a good many. In fact, selecting the leading golfers any time is a ticklish undertaking, like playing with fire, but after facing this sort of danger for years one naturally becomes more or less hardened.

Quimet is Led. Returning, therefore, to the leaders, when it comes to making the rubber copy, where there is the equal of Ouimet to be found among the amateur golfers in the United States with him the object of the game—to get the ball into the hole with the least number of strokes—is never forgotten. He applies that motto to match as well as medal play.

You don't hear Quimet say, "I had medal play," or "I never could score over that rotten course." Open champion in 1912 and amateur title holder in 1914 is surely going some, without doing anything else. But he has done a great deal more. Playing almost daily over a variety of courses from Springfield well into the autumn, the Massachusetts product averaged close to seventy-five. Ability to score and win, not merely at home, but on strange courses and on testing links, is say nothing of the calibre of opponents met, should all be considered as factors before rendering the final decision. Ouimet, therefore, without a weak spot in his armor, may be said to be almost in a class by himself.

Cannot Control Nerves. Evans, No. 3, on the list, cannot always control his nerves, and when nerves enter into the game it is a certainty that the ball will go a-wandering. "Chick" is a wonder at medal play. He proved that again in the open championship at Midlothian, when he came within a stroke of tying Walter C. Hagen for first place. Like Ouimet, there is no shot in the bag over which Evans is not master, yet again he fails himself at the match game. There is little to choose between these two stars, but what mar-

gin exists clearly lies with Ouimet. Travers is another past master, who for years has been striving to regain confidence with his wooden clubs. Despite this handicap, rare powers of recovery, supplemented by putting as readily as at times to be almost mechanical in its accuracy, and an ideal fighting temperament, have worked to keep the Upper Montclair man close to the top, when his driving went wrong it shook his confidence. Even so, he is a hard player to defeat in a match. Travers never was a good medal player. He is third on my list this year. In fact, only once has his name been missing and that was because of his lapse in 1910, when he was practically dropped out of the game.

How Golf Players Have Been Ranked Since 1906.

Table with columns for Name, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, 1910, 1909, 1908, 1907, 1906. Lists names like Francis Ouimet, Charles Evans, Jr., Jerome D. Travers, etc.

O'LEARY IS ANXIOUS TO MEET THE BEST OF THEM

Freddie Welsh, Charley White and Joe Shugrue had better look toward their laurels. Johnnie O'Leary, a youthful lightweight with ambitions, is coming eastward and he is heralding his advance by expression of willingness to meet any lightweight in the world, bar none. Freddie Hogan, O'Leary's manager, has written to Omaha that he would like to show his man here. O'Leary declares he has annexed the championship of the Pacific coast and Canada and is destined to become the champion of the universe before the passing of another New Year's day.

Advertisement for Bond & Lillard Billiard Tourney. Includes text 'Quality Tells', 'BOND & LILLARD', and an illustration of a man in a suit holding a billiard cue. Text describes the tourney and the quality of the whiskey.