

# Lively Ball Hasn't Upset Pitching, Says Christy Mathewson, Greatest Hurler

New York, Dec. 17.—Christy Mathewson, the acknowledged peer of baseball pitchers of all time, rested his 319 pounds of overweight in a hotel lounge chair, adjusted his tortoise shell spectacles, and proceeded to shell out his bits of advice to "Babe" Ruth and bits of reminiscences of "the good old days" when Matty was king.

Coming down from Saranac, where he has been countering the scourge of tuberculosis, Matty is aiding in the sale of anti-tubercular stamps to the Christmas trade. But wherever Matty is, baseball is talked, and so he was asked his opinion of the lively ball which has resulted in hundreds of home runs in the last two seasons.

"All this talk of a lively ball appears to be all stuff," Matty answered with a smile. "I don't think the lively ball has really upset pitching. It makes no difference whether it's a lively ball or an old-fashioned one, a batter must get hold of it to smack it. It's the pitcher's job not to let them get hold of it."

Matty is reminded that "Babe" Ruth frequently gets long drives on balls apparently not pitched perfectly—on balls that "Babe" did not "get hold of" just right.

"Yes," replied Matty, "but that bird does get hold of many of them. 'Babe' is the best pitcher in the world's series that I ever saw in my life. You remember the one that Tinker hit over Cy Seymour's head in that play-off game with the Cubs, in 1908? He played away back and then missed it. Let me tell you something: On this one hit by the 'Babe' to Cunningham—well, if Cy had been that far back he would have had to run in 50 yards to have caught Tinker's smash—that's how far out it was.

"Then you don't think the lively ball is tough on pitchers?" "Sure," it's tough on 'em to see the old pill plasted out of the lot. They can learn how to pitch it, though. You noticed they pitched it all right to 'Babe' Ruth, didn't you?" "By the way," Matty added, laughing, "if 'Babe' will keep his head up next season he can cross these fellows. It's a hundred to one that every pitcher in the league will try to slow ball the 'Babe' to death after what happened in the world's series. One time I noticed he choked his bat and whipped one of those slow ones into left field—didn't try to take his swing for a homer. Suppose he chokes up on 'em next year that way and tries to slap one into left—why hit a cinch. Well, the first thing you know they will have to stop pitching slow ones. Then he can belt 'em into the stands. There was never such a hard hitter as that bird."

"How do you account for all the home run busting this year?" "Why, the fellows are using long handled bats and are trying to hit home runs because they are popular. In the old days if a batter took a swing like that he'd be fined. That's it. Why, Hornsby, Williams, Ruth—all of them—are taking that long swing simply trying to hit home runs. That's it."

"Feel like you'd like to get in there again?" "No, but I would. I'm getting good at that. You know," he added, exhibiting his 220 pounds of weight, "I am a full exercise man now. Know what that means? It means the doc has said that I can take as much exercise as I want. Up to a few weeks ago I could take only 20 minutes a day. I haven't got a sign of 'em any more. 'Tm about well—but I'm running on one cylinder."

Incidentally, "Babe" Ruth himself has been down from his farm, near Sudbury, Mass., for a couple of days, although it has been thought he would stick religiously to the farm until time for making some next spring. The "Babe" insisted he is training constantly.

Walking, hunting and shopping trees are the three P's in the Babe's forest catechism. "I get up at 7 o'clock every morning," he explained, "and take a ten mile jaunt through the woods. Half of it's jaunt and the other half I jog, and it has worked wonders with me. I went up there scaling about 235 and I was flabby. I'm down to 215 now. "My eyes are stronger and keener than ever," he continued. "The other day I was out hunting and out of eight shots I came through on seven."



Babe Ruth

## Denver Will Remain in League—After New Manager for Next Year—Need Players

### Giants' Kidding New to Bezdek

Mention of Hugo Bezdek's name as successor to Irving Wilhelm as manager of the Phillies calls to mind an incident of his first week or so as leader of the Pirates. The Giants visited Pittsburgh for a series and during the first game the boys had considerable to say to the stocky Bezdek, who was on the coaching lines.

Most prominent in this connection was Charles Herzog, then the Giants' second baseman and widely known as a goat getter. His running fire of comment aimed at Bezdek, evidently got under Herzog's skin, for that night the Pirate manager sought Herzog out at the Giants' hotel and demanded an explanation from him. Plainly he was ready to fight if the explanation was not satisfactory.

"You should have a little thing like that," said Herzog, with a laugh. "You're new to the game, so we just thought we'd put the bridle on you and ride you around a bit."

This jargon of professional baseball was quite beyond the comprehension of Bezdek, whose experience up to that time had been solely in collegiate athletic circles, but Herzog made it plain to him that the boys merely had been kidding; that it was the accepted thing in professional baseball; that no harm was intended.

"We didn't cuss you or call you any names, did we?" insisted Herzog. "Well," answered Bezdek, rather dubiously, "you did say I looked like Barney Dreyfuss."

Creighton Followers to Start Drive for Stadium and Field Fund  
A drive to raise \$2,000,000 to erect a new stadium and athletic field at Creighton, will be launched early next spring, according to present plans of Creighton university officials.

## Maroons Play Tabor Soon

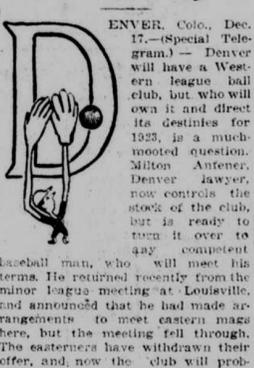
Retiring Army Officer Is Presented With D. S. C.  
Columbus, Dec. 17.—Retiring from active service in the army after 27 years, Col. James Swilson, medical corps, was presented with the Distinguished Service Medal for "exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service as chief surgeon of the American Expeditionary force in Siberia."

## "Battle of Tijuana" Raging Between Croffroth and Bassity

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 17.—Out here they call it the "Battle of Tijuana" this fight between the Croffroth and Bassity interests for possession of the Tijuana race track. Aside from one day's suspension of racing, however, the horsemen nor public has been inconvenienced.

Who had rendered some decision in the Croffroth-Bassity controversy. The judge, resenting this treatment of the judiciary at the hands of the military, issued his protests to Mexico City. The colonel and his big sword were relieved from duty at Tijuana and ordered into Sonora.

## Breaks Most Targets at Ak Traps



Says "Bugs" Baier: ALL-AMERICAN, 'TIS OF THEE Sweet Team of Guessers, of Thee We Sing.

After having broken your leg in two places for one college, it's a lot of butter on your bread to get picked for somebody's All-American football team.

Population of United States and averages is 110,000,000. There are 10,000,000 experts. Every expert picks 11 people for his All-American football party.

That's the reason they call it All-American. Everybody in works plays on it. Like beauty contests, All-American team is picked by photographs.

No two experts agree on same players. If any man is picked for two teams, he must be twins.

Expert doesn't have to see his picked birds play to know that they are good. All he does is read list of other experts. Then he disagrees with them.

If one of these guessing teams were to play against Weejeo team for championship of colleges, swamps or Automats, it would be the worst game played since 1492 or any other historical date.

Fortunately, All-American teams don't play. All they do is to get picked up and put into catalogues like Burpee's flower seeds.

Why not get two of those teams together and let 'em play and prove something? Nobody knows what it will verify. But if it only endorses Einstein's theory of universal flying pans, that would be something.

Tickets on sale at all reliable buckshot shops.

## Joe Stecher Wants to Know What Has Become of Charlie Hanson

By RALPH WAGNER.  
It's a open season on wrestlers. Joe Stecher, former world's king in among the mat artists, has armed himself and brother-in-law manager Tony, with a flock of challenges and is going to step forth in the cold, cold world and hurl his challenges at all the wrestlers in the land.

## Work on New Creighton Athletic Field Will Probably Start Early Next Spring



Creighton university is to have a new football stadium. Work on the new structure will probably begin next spring and will be completed in time for the 1923 football season.

The stadium, being erected in connection with the new \$2,000,000 expansion plan recently adopted by Creighton and to be undertaken next spring.

The initial cost of the new stadium will be about \$150,000 and plans have been so drawn that additional units of seats may be added as needed.

The new stadium will be located on the Creighton campus along Burt street from Twenty-fifth street to Twenty-seventh street.

The Nebraska woman champion contested against such local shots as John Dawson, Isaac Noyes, W. J. McCaffrey, F. A. Marshall, H. W. McNamara and R. C. Kingsley and managed to place high in two out of the three events of the afternoon.

In the first event for 20 targets, Mrs. Edmiston, shooting from the 18-yard mark, broke 19 out of the 20 shots.

W. J. McCaffrey, 19; Isaac Noyes, 18; F. A. Marshall, 17; H. W. McNamara, 16; R. C. Kingsley, 15; Mrs. W. C. Edmiston, 14; J. E. O'Neil, 13; W. J. McCaffrey, 12; R. C. Kingsley, 11; Meyer, 10; Duke, 9.

## Promising Cagers at Chadron Normal



Chadron, Neb., Dec. 17.—Two veteran players and a substitute of last year's team will form the nucleus of the Chadron Normal school and Teachers' college basketball team this season, according to R. E. West, director of athletics at that institution.

New men of considerable playing ability from which the team will ultimately be selected in part are Earl of Alliance, center; O'Connor of Alliance, center; Lingle, Morrill, center; Kulkik, Gordon, forward; Chalfout, Chadron, forward; Fisher, Chadron, forward; Powers, De Moines, Ia., forward, and Greenman, Indiana, Ia., guard.

Yates of Ottumwa, Ia., last year's captain, did not return to school this year and it will become necessary to select a new captain from the two letter men on the team.

The Chadron basketball schedule about complete. It is as follows: December 20—Chadron High school at Chadron; January 12—Spearfish Normal at Chadron; January 13—South Dakota School of Mines at Chadron; January 15—Wayne Normal at Chadron; January 23—Midland college at Chadron; February 6—Wayne Normal at Wayne; February 7—Midland college at Fremont; February 8—Corney college at Bethany; February 9—Peru Normal school at Peru; February 14—Kearney Normal at Chadron; March 1—Kearney Normal at Kearney; March 2—South Dakota School of Mines at Rapid City; March 3—Spearfish Normal at Spearfish; March 8, 10.

## Hampton Roads Boxers Defeat Great Lakes Team

Norfolk, Dec. 17.—The Hampton Roads naval training station boxing team defeated the Great Lakes training station at the Hampton Roads Naval base, in five out of eight bouts which, by the way, is the largest city in the Missouri Valley conference.

## Legion Planning Fight Show

Cancelled the match because of a toothache or something. Anyway, Isaac of the Douglas Legion athletic committee, says the Legion is ready to stage the match any time Stecher and Hanson can get together.

## Paisley and Joella J. Best Derby Prospects

San Diego, Dec. 16.—M. L. Allen's Paisley and Tam O'Shanter stable's greatly improved filly, Joella J., have shown to be the best derby prospects of the 2-year-olds that have been seen here under colors since the meeting.

## Ray Elliott Compares Present Day Grid Game With Old Style of Play

By RAY ELLIOTT.  
Miller's Note—One of the best quarterbacks who ever played on a 1908, but has been closely identified with Nebraska football ever since. He was a member of the team in the early days excepting in the class of play used during the season. He was a member of the "Hurry-Up" team which won the 1908 "Hurry-Up" Yost directed a Nebraska team in 1911.

## Plenty Material at Peru Normal

Peru, Neb., Dec. 17.—Peru normal will enter the 1922-23 basketball season with plenty of playing material which includes six veterans and 22 recruits, according to a statement just issued by W. G. Spurr, director of athletics. In addition to fine prospects, the team has acquired a new floor for the practice and playing of home games. This floor covers a space, 78 by 48 feet, with the ceiling of the room 5 feet above the floor. Seating capacity has been extended to a balcony in addition to a great main floor allotment.

Among the players reporting for practice, the list includes the following veterans, showing the length of time spent in basketball at Peru, either as regulars or substitutes: Roath (captain) Harvard, forward; Frazier, Auburn, forward; Farnce, Nebraska City, forward; Place, Nebraska City, forward; Milan Auburn, center; Buitengaugh, Peru, center and running guard.

New men out for places include Gilkerson, Clay Center, forward; Willy, Hebron, guard; Wehner, Hardy, center; Burmiston, Peru, guard, and Bell, Beatrice, guard.

Last year Peru normal school and Teachers' college went through the entire season without defeat and played each of the following twice: Kearney normal, Doane college, Midland college, Cotter college and Wayne normal college. York college was played once. The Peru team was awarded the state college championship.

In addition to the state championship games, Peru played several other games, among them being two with Tabor college, an Iowa institution, and one game with the Syracuse Athletic association team. The opponents in all three games were defeated.

## Basket-Ball Facts You Should Know

Q. In an annual game, after dribbling down the floor, takes a shot at basket and misses. May I follow in and shoot another shot before the ball has been touched by another player?  
A. Yes, as soon as you let your first shot your play is completed and the ball becomes a free ball.

Q. If two opponents strike a ball at the same time, is it a foul?  
A. No, the referee makes it a jump ball, three feet in on the court from the point it went out of bounds, to which side the referee sees fit.

Q. If at the end of the regular period a score is a tie, do the teams change ends for the extra five minutes period?  
A. No, the additional period of five minutes will be played without change of baskets.

Q. Shooting. As most of the basket ball throughout the country is played under the standard rules, the following are to be followed when given with the understanding that the basket is six inches from the backboard. In the professional game, where the basket is 12 inches from the backboard, nearly all the shots are attempted clean. The backboard is seldom contacted by the shooter, although many goals are scored on the ball.

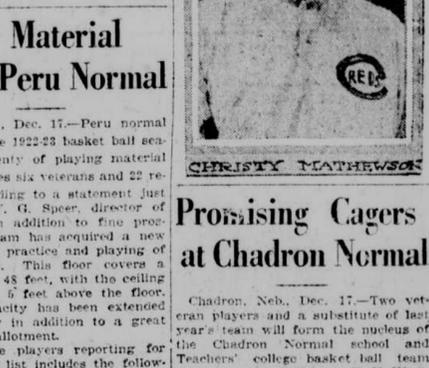
In basket ball there are three classes of shots to be learned. First, those made from a position close to the basket. It does to the basket is meant that the shooter, when he leaves the floor to make his shot, can reach the basket or at least within five feet of it. Second, all shots made from any distance greater than those specified above. Third, free shots made from the foul line.

Q. Football playing should be called football working. I have seen men who did not look good to start work hard and use their head and by doing this climb to stardom, where the man with plenty of natural ability refused to work and didn't get any place.

Q. My contention is that instead of having one man star in the backfield, every back should have the same stuff. Then the opponents would be watching all of them instead of having the star marked.

Q. An ideal backfield was represented in the one developed by Coaches Dawson and Frank at Nebraska this year. Every one of the backfield men could stiff-arm, sidestep and twist. Under these conditions the going is made mighty tough for the opponents.

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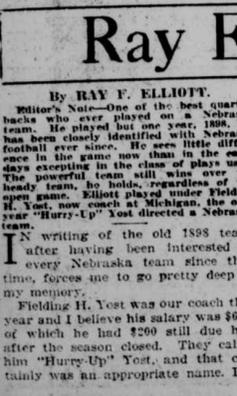
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Ray Elliott