BILL JOHNSON A STAR

Chicago Boy Hailed as One of Wonders of Athletics.

Meteoric Rise of Former Semipro and Basketball Player—Manager Connie Mack Orders Him to Report in the Spring.

"Keep your eye on Bill Johnson, the Philadelphia Athletics' new outfielder, next year!"

Thus hundreds of Chicago semi-pro baseball fans and amateur basketball enthusiasts are voicing their opinions of Connie Mack's latest find—Bill Johnson, late outfielder with the Garden Citys and last season star forward on the Illinois Athletic club's championship basketball squad, writes Fred A. Marquardt in Chicago News. Johnson, whom Connie Mack signed just before the last series between the Athletics and the Browns, returned to Chicago and spend the winter with his parents. The Quaker city pilot was very much satisfied with the youngster's showing in the St. Louis games, and has ordered him to appear at the Athletics' training camp next spring at Jacksonville, Fla.

Rise in Athletic World.

Johnson's rise in the athletic world has been almost meteoric as one of his home runs or triples that within the short space of one year gave him the reputation of being one of the hardest hitting outfielders on the local semi-pro circuit. Although the national pastime has been his favorite sport ever since he was big enough to wield a baseball, fans first became aware of his ability in 1912.

As captain of the Doremus church baseball squad that year he led his team through the season without a defeat and succeeded in taking the senior championship of the Cook County Sunday School association. The following two seasons he played with

Bill Johnson.

various amateur prairie teams about Chicago. Last season Pilot Billy Niesen of the Garden Citys—picked him up. Johnson became the mainstay of Niesen's batting order.

Baseball however was not the only sport in which Johnson excelled. Basketball took his eye when he was barely more than 100 pounds in weight. He became an ardent devotee of the floor game in 1909 as a member of the Armour Square Midgets, the team that won the city championship of its class that year.

Was Star in Basketball.

As a forward on the old Cornelis he starred in the games that netted them the Central A. A. U. and National A. A. U. senior championships. When basketball was introduced at the Illinois Athletic club two years ago, Johnson became a member of the squad. The tri-color team won the Central A. A. U. title and made the trip to the coast for the national tourney.

The I. A. C. team won the central states' title a second time last spring, but was nosed out for the national championship by one point at the hands of University of Utah players.

If he fails to make good with Connie Mack it will be the biggest surprise in years for local sport enthusiasts.

Philadelphia's Tennis Champions.

Philadelphia has a monopoly of tennis championships. In addition to R. Norris Williams, national champion, the world's champion court tennis player is Jay Gould, a member of the Philadelphia Racquet club, while the world's racquet title is held by a professional of the same club, Jack Soutar.

To Lift Player Limit.

It seems to be a very popular idea in the National league that the player limit should be lifted so that the old league teams can be put on the same basis, in that respect, with the American.

Northern University to Operate Dredger

A dredging plant of its own is the central figure in a plan now under consideration by the board of regents of the University of Washington. The plan is the outcome of a campaign for the improvement of the new waterfront along the shores of Lake Washington adjoining the campus.

When the water recedes, after the government canal between Lakes Union and Washington is opened, a vast, oozy, soft mud will separate the present embankment from the new harbor line, and a shallow expanse of water along the shore line will hinder free use of the harbor.

The work must be done in sections allowing one fill to dry thoroughly before the next layer is added. Under this plan only enough mud would be scooped from the outer harbor to fill two or three feet at a time on the drained flats. This wet layer would then be allowed to dry thoroughly and form a solid floor for the next layer. The work is to extend over a period of five years.

Such a plant, owned and operated by the university, would cost approximately $100,000, according to the figures of Prof. C. W. Harris, of the engineering department.—Ex.

$3,500 for Prisoners

Minnesota will send about $3,500 as its contribution to the $150,000 fund being raised by the students of the United States for the relief of the prisoners in the presion camps of Europe. Of this amount $1,015 was raised at the university farm and the remainder on the main campus.—Ex.

Washington has established a lecture course in which the students learn how to prepare and deliver lectures and talks.—Ex.

New Hampshire college of Durham, N. H., was so fortunate as to hear John Kendrick Bangs in the opening number of a lecture course given there. Mr. Bangs last year addressed nearly five hundred audiences in forty states of the union.—Ex.

Boston Tech

A trip through a sugar factory will be taken by the Chemical society. Later they will visit a glass factory.—Ex.

Maine

The entire university regiment of cadets went in seven coaches to Bangor to welcome back the Maine militia.—Ex.

McGill

Every member of the sophomore class, with the exception of the laws, has been fined one dollar for participating in recent disturbances.—Ex.

The preparedness movement among women has resulted in the founding of a school at Washington which will be known as the Theodosus Baily Mason House. Mrs. Dewey, wife of Admiral Dewey, is chairman of the board of governors. The secretary of the navy has consented to place at the service of the school a wireless equipment and a detail of instructors.—Ex.

Cornell has received a donation of $10,000 for the equipment of a summer military camp on Lake Cayuga.—Er.

A character and personality record will be kept of the students at Kansas state agricultural college. Information concerning the things other than scholarship has long been wanted by employers and a start is now being made to gratify that want.—Ex.

Iowa

Twenty senior electrical and civil engineers are spending this week on a trip of inspection. Keokuk, Chicago and Milwaukee are the points to be visited.—Ex.

When police officials in Boston attempted to stop the publication of the Boston Tech paper on Monday because the staff had to work on Sunday, the editor claimed that the "Tech" was not a newspaper.—Ex.

Cornell held its yearly interscholastic track meet last Saturday. Although but fourteen schools were entered, the event was the biggest of the kind held in the past ten years.—Ex.

FANCY STROKES HURT

Woman Tennis Wonder Believes in Hard Hitting.

Molla Bjurstedt Says Value of Chop and All Cut Strokes Lies in Their Unexpectedness—Talks About Her Own Game.

Molla Bjurstedt, the great tennis champion, who has again won the National Women's Tennis championship at the Philadelphia Cricket club, has taken to the pen, too, just like all other great athletes have done and are doing. And in doing so she endeavors to discuss various plays. The controversial point of the chop stroke is discussed at some length by her in her book, "Tennis for Women."

Defines Chop Stroke.

The chop stroke, as she defines it, "hangs the ball in the air on account of the back spin and drops it almost dead after crossing the net." The value of the chop and of all cut strokes, Miss Bjurstedt says, lies in their unexpectedness and consequent disconcerting effect upon the opponent. The danger of this stroke and all other strokes which, she says, she chooses to call "fancy" strokes, is that "they absorb the whole of one's game." The result, Miss Bjurstedt declares, is a game in which tricks take the place of straight, hard plays. Fondness for the chop stroke she is inclined to trace to its efficacy against weaker players.

Tells of Own Game.

As to her own game, the champion says:

"I have never used the chop stroke or a stroke with an excessive top spin. I do not know how to play them, and I do not care to learn. Even if I thought I could learn these strokes without weakening my drive, I am not at all sure that I should go to the bother. To my mind they do not pay. I consider tennis a hard-hitting, placing game, and I think speed and placement must eventually win. . . . I

Molla Bjurstedt.

do not consider any game sound which is based on other than straight tennis. . . . I class all strokes as good which make for speed and accuracy, and I class all strokes as bad which sacrifice either speed or accuracy."

In concluding her discussion of putting a twist on the ball, Miss Bjurstedt remarks that she included consideration of chop strokes, not because she thinks they are good tennis, but in order to make her book a more or less complete survey of tennis. She presents a number of rules of advice about fancy strokes "for what they are worth."

"A ball always twists and curves in the direction opposite from that of the racquet in striking and bounces in the same direction as the racquet.

"Let the spin die out of heavily-cut strokes before you return them."

NOTES of SPORTDOM

Bill Carigan is going into politics.

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Mabel Trask has won more than $30,000 this season.

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Nap Rucker has officially announced his retirement from baseball.

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Hollywood Inn, Yonkers, N. Y., will hold a marathon race January 1, 1917.

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It must be a ferocious battle when Del Howard and Frank Chance are opposing each other.