

JUDGMENTS

THE possibility of Pueblo returning to the Western league to displace Wichita, which is encompassed about by an anti-Sunday base ball sentiment, is seen to reflect favorably on the hope of the city being realized. Pueblo fell out of the ranks for lack of patronage, that is true, but so did St. Joe. The case is not unique. St. Joe, after several years outside the fold, returned and is more than making good. Pueblo might do the same thing. There is no reason why it should not, every reason why it should. It is well, therefore, that Frank Isbell inclines favorably to the Colorado town as an alternative. The expense and trouble of transferring would be small. Colorado ought to give balance and symmetry and financial proportions to the circuit, have two cities in the Western league. It has been the rule. It is too long a jump for only one town. True, since we added Wichita and Topeka the jump is broken somewhat, but it would still be better if we had the second Colorado city. It would help Denver, too, for that matter. Denver does not need help as much as some other towns in the league, for it has always been one of the best base ball cities in the west, but just the same we who know the history of this league know that Denver is always a better town when one of its sister cities is in the circuit. The treasury reports of the league, of course, will show what two mountain towns mean. If a winning team were put into Pueblo, things would take on new life and continue good, we feel certain. It would not need to be a pennant winner, but a team such as Frank Isbell has had and may be relied on always to have—one of the old White Sox type, always fighting. That is what that town demands and the only reason it ever failed to support a team was because the last one it had went dead on its feet and could not be revived. No live town would support such a team. Take the example of Topeka, and even Des Moines. This looks like a good proposition and, if Wichita must drop out, by all means move over the line to Pueblo. The climate is fine, anyway.

Charley Murphy is quoted as saying that he and Chance have several surprises in store for Cub fans in the matter of their 1911 line-up. Evidently, then, Steinfeldt is not the only veteran slated for the axe. But as has been frequently suggested, the other places of possible improvement for next year, outside of the base, are not wholly apparent. Of course no false move is going to be made by the Cub management toward letting go of any veteran before it is determined beyond a doubt that the recruit will make good. The signing of Doyle, Lindaville's third baseman, therefore, means nothing conclusive as to Steinfeldt's fate. Doyle has proved himself. The same is true of Pittsburgh, where so much talk has gone on about Hans Wagner being suspended. Let it first be realized that the Pirates have several weak spots and that it is very dangerous to remove all the old supports until the new ones have proved their durability. First base has been uncovered in Pittsburgh ever since Kitty Bransfield went to Philadelphia. It is to be filled by Fred Hunter of Kansas City and formerly of Sioux City, a great young ball player, but he is new time. They are talking about Niehoff, late of Des Moines, for Myrne's successor at third. That sounds foolish, Niehoff is a promising youth, but by no means a shrewd veteran. And so the shape-up process goes on, reaching into the minors and culminating with Kansas City, which it is said that two of last year's team will be retained for 1911. That means one of the most radical sweeps ever made in base ball. The result must be problematical, of course. It is admitted that Kansas City can afford to put the ax to under many of its present roster.

Jimmy Callahan, the old White Sox star, gives our Norris L. O'Neill a grand send-off in a recent article in the Chicago Journal. He says the Western league president the most tribute of being an "honest, quiet, painstaking official." He says that "he is a wealthy man and is in base ball because he loves it." He ranks Tip as "among the men away up in base ball affairs. The Western league magnates seemed to have shared that view when they paid O'Neill even a higher compliment by elevating him to five years more of service as a player before his former five years' contract expired. That was about a strong testimonial as could be paid. It was a declaration to the base ball world that things in the Western league were going along all right, for the action was unhesitating and wholly unknown to O'Neill before he was advised of what had been done. O'Neill has grown in his present position. He was a wide streak of loyalty through him, loyalty to a duty and a friend and this quality shows itself to great advantage. He is one of the men who have come up from the minors, having been a player and later an umpire.

It is to be hoped they decide the ownership of the Boston Doves before the next season opens, for it would never do to have the secret uncovered. If, as now stated, the ownership does not represent syndicate base ball, then all decent base ball men may have a sigh of relief. Some folks will insist on further light, however, before believing all they hear. If the arrangement has been made by which Fred Tenney, the old Boston and New York first baseman, is to manage the Doves, it will be another good piece of information and welcome. Too. A man of Tenney's education and training ought to be able to produce results as manager.

Gotch insists he will not return to the mat. Instantly Heckenroth says he wants to meet everybody, Gotch included. Hack, with his Russian lion tail up and ran all over Europe to keep out of Gotch's way once, after showing his yellow streak in this country. It is too bad if Gotch means this, for it would be interesting to see him go after Hack in real earnest again. But those wrestlers are such humorists.

The latest bit of sporting news is that Kid Wedge, who wedges himself in between second rate prize fighting and third rate preaching, off and on, is recovering from a sick spell in a San Francisco hospital.

The catcher crop has been scarce, so several big league teams are leading up on all the stock they can get in the hope, of course, that they can develop a few stars.

Chuck Austry, the record breaker, only batted .35 last season. The Chicken went along for a while without batting at all. He seems to lack nerve at crucial times.

Old Father Winter has not been able to stop operations on that new grandstand of Tom Rourke's. Pa is getting it ready for Rourke's White Sox April 1.

John L. Sullivan and Jack Johnson have met at last. It was in their autos whirling around a corner in opposite directions.

WEIRD TALES OF PROWESS

Travelers Tell of Wonderful Feats Seen in Africa.

AFRICA, COUNTRY OF RECORDS

Jumps Recorded in Meters and No Account is Kept of Feet Inches and Divisions.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—Reports that would be set down at us as incredible if not actually fictitious were they not backed by such excellent authority, come from the heart of Eastern equatorial Africa. They record athletic feats on the part of the natives which make reading alongside of which anything in Colonel Roosevelt's accounts of his African adventures must assuredly appear very tame. Incidentally they will cause the much vaunted prowess of athletic ancient and modern, whether Hellenic, Celt, Teuton or Yank, to sink into comparative insignificance.

It is the tribe of the Watassi, dwelling within the confines of Ruanda, who appear to be destined to go down in history as the world's record breakers of all time. The seemingly impossible height of eight feet two and one-half inches stands to the credit of one dark-skinned athlete in the high jump.

It is the Duke Adolphus Frederick of Mecklenburg, one of a small group of princely explorers, the civilized world is indebted for the information concerning a race possessed of such superhuman and undreamed of powers.

Africa is forever beating records, whether in the size of its diamonds (not base ball) or its cricket scores. The latest revelation of the mysteries of the dark continent is of a kind to stagger humanity. In the recently published account of his travels in German East Africa the Duke Adolphus Frederick of Mecklenburg tells of a tribe of athletic blacks who in their daily exercises make the deeds of our Olympic heroes ridiculous. If there was one performance on the list of authenticated feats which seemed insuperable it was the high jump of Mr. M. P. Sweeney of New York, carefully measured six feet five and five-eighths inches. Duke Adolphus Frederick has assisted at the sports of the Watassi, and has seen them overtopping this height by a couple of feet, more or less. His volume shows the photograph of one M'Tusal clearing by many inches a tightly-stretched cord, beneath which a couple of stalwart white travelers stand with upturned gaze, like some watcher of the starry skies when a new planet plunges into his ken. The jump was measured at two and one-half metres, no accounts being taken of beggarly inches, to say nothing of eighths. It is true that the African jumpers "take-off" from a little round ant-hill of a foot or so in height, but what of that? Even the committee of the American Olympic association would think, could hardly be so mean as to quibble at such an informality, when there is another foot to spare in a claim for the best on record.

Records of Ancients. And what after all, are our modern champions? Between the Homeric heroes who tossed land-marks and milestones at each other's head; the long jumper Phaullos, who cleared fifty feet (not round figures); the weight lifter Milo, and the modern black barbarian of the heart of Africa, whose high jumps are reckoned in metres, how futile must seem our vast stadiums and puny antics! Let us try to imagine the effect of a wireless telegram arriving at Stockholm in 1912 to inform the enthusiastic Olympic crowd that the (white) people jumping record has just been equaled at the Pan-American games by a negro without a pole.

Further particulars are to be had from the duke's book on his travels. It transpires that the performance occurred in the course of a sporting program, which formed part of the festivities arranged in honor of the exploring party. This part of the book reads like a fairy tale: "A line which could be raised or lowered at will was stretched between two slender trees, standing on an incline. The athletes had to run up to this and jump from a small terrace base a foot in height. Despite these unfavorable conditions, exhibitions were given which would place all European efforts in the shade. The best jumper, slender, but splendid figure, with an almost Indian profile, attained the incredible height of 25 meters (82 feet 3/4 inches), and another boy made the same feat, no less wonderful performance of 15.45 feet (11 inches) to 1.5 meters (5 feet 2 inches). Then a number of Watassi exhibited their remarkable skill in javelin throwing. Tossing a run of ten steps, bending backward almost to the ground, they hurled their javelin up to almost prodigious heights, and with such impetus that two of the spear shafts broke in the air from the vibration. It was the same with the shooting matches with bow and arrow, in which the trunk of a banana tree was used for the butt. The shooting average at fifty meters (164 feet) was really good. Running races, too, were organized, but owing to the lack of the necessary measuring instruments I am, unfortunately, not in a position to give the times. I have no doubt, however, that in this department also the European records were at least equaled."

Water Sports Billed at Next Olympic Meet

Stockholm Contest Will See Many Swimming Races—Australian Records Rejected.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—Evidently there will be no mistake about the aquatic program at the Stockholm Olympic games, for the events have already been selected. A real novelty this time will be the inclusion of a 100-meter swim for women, and it is possible before the date of the games that there may be a couple of additional games for the fair sex. It is understood that the British Olympic association will ask that a 25-meter and 40-meter, both team races, will be added. The program as it now stands is 100, 200, 400 meters, 800-meter team race, 100 and 200-meter breast stroke, 100-meter back stroke, water polo, high diving and fancy diving. There will be a woman's diving contest, the height to be from six to ten meters.

At a recent meeting of the Amateur Swimming association of England, a long string of records made this year by Frank E. Beauregard, the Australian, were passed upon, and not a notable one was rejected. There was not much question that the Australian did the time correctly enough, and there was no doubt as to the ability of the timers and the honesty of the other officials, but still the rules with regard to record breaking were not observed, consequently Beauregard's great effort was consigned to the junk pile. When a record is pronounced genuine on the other side of the pond, it has to be done in the presence of a member of the executive board of the association must be present. Record committees on this side of the water could easily imitate the Amateur Swimming association so that the record list, especially in athletics would be above reproach.

Lack of Material Defeats Yale Crew in Harvard Race

Former Crew Captain Says More Available Men Are Needed at New Haven.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 10.—Yale's rowing defeats are declared by ex-Crew Captain Cameron Waterman to be due to lack of material. Waterman scores recent attacks on Coach John Kennedy, who, he declares, is the greatest rowing coach. Waterman says: "For years I have watched with alarm the trend of Yale rowing conditions and the underlying causes. As early as 1904 the result could be and was foreseen by many. Harvard men with whom I have conversed on the subject very erroneously attribute the decline to our coaching system, as this was the entire trouble in their own case not many years ago."

"At one time there was much trouble with our coaching system, and by looking over a table of Yale-Harvard races one can easily locate its date, but that time is past, and I believe our present coaching system to be the most possible to meet American conditions. My own rather unusual experience with Yale rowing placed me in a position to judge it better than anyone who has rowed at Yale in recent years."

"I entered college in the fall of 1907, in time to see the last of the Cook regime, viewing it from the inside, and I remained on the ground until June, 1909. In 1907 Bob Cook was in his rowing detour, so to speak; his ideas were not fixed, as he had formerly been, and he had lost his self-confidence. The graduates who returned for the spring coaching for a day or two at a time could not be in a position to be of valuable assistance in active coaching. There had not been an hand to watch the development in the rowing of the men as individuals or as a crew."

"Dr. Gallaudet, who followed Bob Cook as coach, put his whole heart and soul into the work, but although a finished oarsman himself, he had not the coaching experience that is essential to accomplish results. His theories were not based on sufficient practice."

"I have seen graduates coach men for weeks at a time in vain endeavor to make them row like the rest of the boat and then appeal to John Kennedy, who corrected the trouble over night by simply changing the rigging of the boat. By raising or lowering the man's slide or outrigger the correction would be made and the next day that man would row like the rest of the crew, without ever knowing that things were different—except that he might feel more natural or comfortable and be able to get more power into his stroke. The rigging is something that does not enter into the matter in foot ball coaching, and it is a coach's responsibility to make a different proposition. When I was in law school in 1909 I saw John Kennedy come into actual control. With him a supreme control of the active coaching Yale turned out winning crews, the coaching problem was solved, and while he holds the same position we must look elsewhere for the cause of the trouble."

Suggestions from Abroad for Rules in Foot Ball Game

England and British Colonies Offer Ideas for Modification of American Play.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—Suggestions from English, Canadian, Australian and Korean foot ball authorities always flood in at the end of the open season for pickin' chargin'. Some of these criticisms are valuable, and others are simple. At any rate, they all give the rules committee something to ponder on before deciding next autumn's gridiron modes. Alexander Knox, former president of the New South Wales Rugby Foot Ball league, however, has issued an interesting statement on his own criticism of American foot ball. He saw the army-navy game, itself, uninteresting, and blames the rules. In part he said: "Recently I had the opportunity of seeing a first-class game of American foot ball. I was greatly impressed with the tremendous enthusiasm and magnetic influence of such an enormous audience; also, with the rival calls, songs and hurrahs of the spectators, and more especially with the quiet and unobtrusive demeanor of the navy goal."

"As the play goes no doubt it is in one sense strenuous, that is, as far as sheer physical force goes. But, as a game where individuality, originality and that faculty to grasp an opportunity and take it is considered, to my mind it is, on account of the code, very deficient."

"Several attempts were made at goal from place kicks. The place kicking was very poor. We have players in Australia that can send the leather oval over the bar five out of six times from midfield. I have seen Merzenger (one of the greatest place kickers in the world) frequently kick a goal at the extreme right wing from midfield. There were several brilliant dashes that brought the vast audience on masses to its feet. This proves my contention. Make the game open, give the players a chance to display their faculty of grasping the opportunity at the right time, and the audience will be better pleased."

"Foot ball is the great winter game in nearly all countries speaking the English language. The German emperor has quite recently advised his subjects to take up the game. France has adopted the rugby rule. It is a pity we could not form a foot ball federation with international contacts. What a spectacle it would be to see teams from England, Scotland, Ireland, Russia, Africa, Australia, Canada, America and Germany competing for the championship of the world! This affiliation of genuine sporting interests would do more to promote good feeling and peace in the world than all political conventions."

PLAN WORLD FOOT BALL UNION

Knox of New South Wales Proposes a Federation.

KAISER WILHELM INTERESTED

Emperor Wants German Leads to Take Up Sport—Australian Offers Criticism of Game—Too Highly Specialized.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—A plan to form a federation of foot ball interests the world over and to create an entirely new game combining elements of the American intercollegiate contests and rugby is proposed by Alexander Knox, former executive chairman of the New South Wales Rugby Foot Ball league. He desires the building of a new game which will be a sort of Esperanto foot ball played by American, English, Canadian, Australian, Irish, French and possibly German teams.

Mr. Knox, who is now in this city, has seen several games of foot ball as played by American colleges and has been quoted with opinions of the game in various cities. Naturally, he believes rugby is the better game, but unlike some other visitors he has no desire to hurt the able form of athletics wholly into American institutions. "I wish to organize foot ball so that it may become an international sport like the Olympic games and Marathon running," said Mr. Knox.

"I have no idea of attempting to devise a new game of foot ball myself, but I have a plan to interest the governing bodies of foot ball playing peoples in an international game. As for criticizing American foot ball I am in no position to do so. I do not like the game as played here as well as I do rugby, but it must interest Americans intensely for the big contests draw thousands of people. Rugby attempts in a similar way wherever it is played."

"Important men are enthusiastic over foot ball as a game. The German emperor has advised the young men of the nation to take up the sport. The elements of foot ball are beneficial and interesting. If a game could be devised which every country might play under a universal code no athletic field could hold the crowds which would gather for an international championship match. The game should have the best elements of all the present variations. A movement to form such a game I desire to start."

To Issue Letter. Mr. Knox's plan is to send a letter to the intercollegiate rules committees in this country and a similar letter to the rugby foot ball associations of England, Canada, Australia, South Africa, France and California, asking the bodies if they are willing to attempt the formation of a new game and are willing to send a delegate to an international convention for the purpose. If favorable replies are received to such a communication and the main foot ball interests of the various countries are willing to consider the plan, Mr. Knox is ready to take the first steps in securing the necessary securities for the organization and selecting a place for an international conference.

The Australian, who has been identified with rugby for many years, takes a more favorable view of the American game than does Prof. Edwidge Linton of Washington and Jefferson colleges, who has joined the ranks of those who desire the adoption of rugby and the complete assassination of the American game. He has been involved in the faculty control of athletics in Washington and Jefferson for some time, and has had an influence on intercollegiate athletics among the rivals of his college.

His recent attack on foot ball reads in part as follows: "Why this insistence for a radical change in the rules year after year. No such demand is or ever has been made for any other game which is used in intercollegiate athletics. Bluntly, my answer is that it is because the game as it has developed in this country has so many undesirable characteristics that the only reform which is possible is its final and irrevocable burial in the scrap heap of the world's follies. I shall give very briefly a few of my reasons for this opinion:

Too Much Specialization. "First, the game is too highly specialized. It is not a game in which a large number of the students can take part. Furthermore, the team cannot be got into the shape required for success without a sacrifice of time and energy on the part of the legitimate functions of a college can justify.

"Second, the cost of carrying on the game is increasing. On account of the highly specialized nature of the game, coaching is necessary. Good coaches cannot be secured without adequate salaries. The officials; Mr. Knox goes on as I mention them. Those who have been trying to devise rules which will remove the greatest reproach of the game, viz., the opportunity it gives for the indulgence of ungentlemanly tendencies, have attempted to meet the difficulty by adding rule upon rule and multiplying officials, until it has come to pass that the officials in an important foot ball contest cost more than the combined charges for umpire, guarantee and advertising for the ordinary game of intercollegiate base ball.

Yale Has Nearly Two Thousand Men in Athletic Work

Some Are for Sport's Sake and Some Simply for Exercise.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 10.—Yale has 1,988 students in athletics and gymnastics, according to statistics published by Prof. William Anderson, director of the university gymnasium. He estimates, however, that nearly 200 are in more than one kind of sport and that there are not more than 1,600 of the 2,222 students of the university who are in actual physical exercise for sport's sake for general conditioning. As gymnasium work is compulsory for freshmen, all members of that class are included in the summary. A summary of the statistics follows:

University statistics: Crew, 21; cross-country, 73; soccer, 20; gymnastics team, 31; wrestling, 40; bowling, 58; foot ball, 50; base ball, 24; tennis, 117; fencing, 15; hand ball, 100; gun team, 28; track, 25; basketball, 40; golf, 22; boxing, 4; squash, 120; swimming, 60. Total: 1,846.

For Freshmen—Foot ball, 45; crew, 22; track and cross-country, 21; basketball, 21; boxing, 15; wrestling, 15; fencing, 15; regular gymnasium, 110; special gymnasium, 20. Total: 222. Grand total: 1,988.

There are 2,000 swins taken per week, which points to the fact that some 600 men use the tank. The number of men who use the gymnasium per day can be judged best by the demand for towels, of which the daily use is 300.

In considering the number of men from the class of 1914 who engage actively in a recognized form of athletics it is found that there were forty-five men on the freshman foot ball squad. Thirty-two were on the crew squad. For track and cross-country thirty-five men reported, while the same number have come out for basketball. Fifteen men took boxing or wrestling for exercise, while five chose fencing. In the regular gymnasium classes are 110 men, while thirty do special gymnasium work.

Prof. Anderson describes the effect of an interesting series of experiments on students as follows: "What takes place when a person uses any part of the brain continuously? That part tires out; and as soon as it is fatigued it borrows energy from the parts with which it is connected. A simple illustration will make this plainer. Data was collected from a set of men who went from the gymnasium to the classroom, after very exacting exercises. These men failed in their recitations because of over-physical exertion. Again, a series of experiments was made on students who applied themselves with great assiduity to laboratory work. They were clever performers on the gymnastic apparatus, but after the laboratory work, which called for close attention, they usually failed in their physical feats."

"From these simple tests we may deduce the inference that certain brain centers borrow energy from one another. If this be true, and we have good reason to credit it, we are justified in believing that the building up of cells in one center aids weaker cells in another."

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