

There was an old deacon named Tom Who hunted for ducks a great deal. The ducks were all tame And he flattered the same With the tire of his automobile.



Some noses, it seems, were unjointed to see a fat party in clover, So they had a commission appointed to look the commissioner over



There was an old author named Jinx Who wrote about golf and the links. When a story he'd sell He'd skate for a spell Not, not upon ice or in rinks.

Judgments

DAVY FULTZ' very cute and foxy move of seeking affiliation for the players' fraternity with the American Federation of labor has missed fire, according to reports from Washington, which say the Fultz application has been denied by the labor leaders. Notwithstanding any merit the strike of the players may or may not have, the labor leaders have taken the right action. If Fultz could have secured admittance of the frat it would have been a ten-strike for him and would unquestionably have been a big aid. But the players' fraternity has existed three years now and not until a few days ago did it apply for membership in the federation. A strike is impending. On the surface it is apparent the Fultz move was a strike move, that the players' fraternity hoped to use the labor federation as a club, not that players really desired to take a part in the work of the federation. Can you imagine one of our \$10,000 a year athletes taking any interest in a bricklayers' or carpenters' strike? Can you see the players' fraternity paying any dues into the federation after the players' strike has become a lost issue? What? Evidently the labor leaders saw it in the same light and refused to fall for the sly political move of the foxy Fultz. But you have to hand it to Davy at that; he's a shrewd bird and overlooks few bets.

The automobile speedways of the United States apparently have made a discovery, said discovery being that co-operation is a better method of doing business than cut-throat competition. The speedways have banded together and have secured the passage of legislation which will force the five leading drivers of the country to appear at every championship event. Last year when contest directors of the various speedways tried to sign up drivers they encountered trouble among the leading stars. The big fellows wanted guarantees or appearance money. As a result some of the speedways did not get some of the big stars, they didn't have the money to pay for them. If any automobile driver deserves appearance money it is the little fellow, the chap whose car isn't fast enough to win prize money for him consistently. He has a hard time getting along, while the big fellow, who has a swift machine and makes enough in prize money to net him a substantial income for the year, goes out and collects a lot more in guarantee and appearance money. But that day apparently has passed and the goose that laid the golden egg for the big drivers has been killed.

Mr. Waldo Zbyszko has announced to the palpitating world that he intends to start immediately in pursuit of the wrestling championship of the United States, Europe Afghanistan, Mars and a few other points which we fail to recall, and furthermore, asseverates that Joe Stecher is destined to be the ultimate victim. Mr. Zbyszko's intentions, no doubt, may be very commendable and very laudable, but we have a suspicion Waldo is going to encounter some rough going if he attempts to invade the dense underbrush of the wild and woolly frontier of barbaric Nebraska. If Waldo will only come this way we can refer him to half a dozen young savages who will do their best to entertain him, and we'll also risk our share of the Bethlehem dividends he'll be ready to beat it back to that dear old Broadway George Cohan used to write songs about after he tangles with any one of them. And we are confident Messrs. Stecher, Plestina, Peters, Caddock, Pesek et al will bear us out.

Base ball critics seem to be awarding the 1917 National League pennant to John McGraw already. On paper Muggsy's crew of prize pippins have all the earmarks of flag winners. Hollie, Zimmerman, Fletcher and Herzog look like the classiest infield in the business. And what better outfield could one ask than Robertson, Burns and Kauf? McCarty is about the best of the National League catchers, while Benton, Perritt, Tesreau, Schupp, Sallee et al make up a formidable hurling staff. And in addition, of course, McGraw has a score of rookies any one of whom may prove sensations. On paper it looks like a McGraw pennant. But peculiar things happen in base ball; you'll remember the Braves once beat the invincible Athletics four straight, and even Cincinnati might even take the Giants to a cleaning. There is an old adage that's almost become a bro-mide about "don't count your chickens," and it's one proverb that bats a thousand in base ball.

If the Western League observes one new rule established by the big leagues, a few of our hurling experts are going to have a tough time. The majors have prohibited the use of rosin by pitchers. Ball games in the Western last year generally ran from one hour and forty minutes to two hours and thirty minutes, and about half of the time was taken by pitchers digging into their pockets after a chunk of rosin. Some pitchers never threw a ball without plastering it with 40 cents worth of the gummy substance. The Western league moguls would be wise to put the ban on rosin, not only because it is an artificial aid to the pitcher, but it wastes a lot of perfectly good time and long drawn-out, tedious ball games are not relished by the fans.

Once more has Dan Cupid been dealt a k. o. blow in the world of sport. Charley Weeghmann has informed his athletes that the training trip to California is no joy ride and that wives and families will be strictly opposed, barred and tabooed. It will be entirely a stag affair, because Weeghmann avers the presence of the fair ones has a tendency to remove the athlete's attention from his work. Which should now start the argument all over again. "Is the married or single man the best ball player?" Beatrice Fair, please note.

TALK OF SECTIONAL TOURNEYS IS HEARD

Increased Size of State Basketball Event Leads to Speculation Over Problem.

SIX TEAMS ARE FAVORED

By KARL LEE.

The increased size of the annual state basketball tournament, coupled with objections offered by larger schools, has brought up the question of a sectional tourney and asking whether a big majority of the teams of the state shall be eliminated, according to locality, at a smaller tournament in their own section of the state, after which winners will fight for the highest honors in a central metropolis, or whether the present system shall be allowed to maintain itself, growing larger and larger each year. State university officials, of course, will be on the latter side.

The question concerning the central tournament has been successfully solved by Guy Reid, assistant director of athletics at the Nebraska university. According to records for the season the hundred or more teams are divided into three distinct classes, A, B and C, and the championships of each division fought out during the four days of the tourney, the final winning team receiving a silver cup. This system is as excellent as could be conceived, provided the classification committee does not discriminate.

Leading teams are lining up in splendid order thus far and at this late pre-season moment give promise of affording the keenest competition yet witnessed on the university floors next March. New men form the majority membership of practically every squad in the state, while for the most part all of the new recruits have been experts in grade school or Young Men's Christian association. Beatrice opened the season with not an old regular in the lineup. Fremont had but one, but since the return of the Nebraska National Guard has since added three veterans. Lincoln and Central High are practically together in preserving all of their last year's fives, while South High recruited but one man. The fight for the championship, to all appearances, will center among six teams, Central High, Lincoln, Fremont, Friend, Geneva and South High. Lineups of these favorite teams this year and last are as follows:

1916.	F.P.	1917.	Patly
Maxwell	.....	.....	Smith
Payton	.....	.....	Parmer
Groves	.....	.....	Konely
Logan	.....	.....	Logan
Hulligan, Coach.			

1916.	F.P.	1917.	Wilson
Corr	.....	.....	Corr
Arthurson	.....	.....	Corr
Nixon	.....	.....	Corr
Smith	.....	.....	King
Boit	.....	.....	Ritter
Reese, Coach.			

1916.	F.P.	1917.	Gardner
Ellerbrock	.....	.....	Pisanimmons
Dana	.....	.....	Dana
Smith	.....	.....	Brian
Schroeder	.....	.....	Pillard
Hulligan, Coach.			

1916.	F.P.	1917.	Kyle
Castford	.....	.....	Stevens
Shellenberg	.....	.....	Stevens
Ward	.....	.....	Stevens
Burroughs	.....	.....	Stevens
Hubka	.....	.....	Stoll
Webb, Coach.			

"SCOTS WHA HAE" SPED THE STANES TO VICTORY—Balmoral Rink, who won the Omaha championship at the roarin' game and now hold the John L. Kennedy trophy. From left to right: Alex Melvin, Ed Tracey, Bob Galt and Bob Melvin, skip.

PLESTINA-CUTLER MATCH POSTPONED

Will Be Held About February 20 on Account of the Stecher-Peters Mill.

MAY CHALLENGE WINNER

The wrestling match between Marin Plestina and Charley Cutler, originally scheduled for Omaha on February 12, will be postponed probably until about February 20, because of the Stecher-Peters match here February 9. After his match with Freddie Beell, in which he threw the little Wisconsin man two straight falls, Plestina challenged Cutler and Cutler wired back "name the date." Plestina named February 12, but when Stecher and Peters were matched for February 9 it was decided this date would be too close, so Cutler has been advised that a later date will be selected. Cutler is the man who came out to Omaha two years ago to make Joe Stecher's reputation for him. Cutler made it by succumbing to Joe's celebrated scissors hold twice in about twenty minutes.

Hopes to Meet Stecher.

Plestina, who has high hopes of some day wresting Stecher's laurels away from him, says he intends to throw Cutler in even quicker time than Stecher did. He will have to show some speed, though. It is said Plestina is contemplating challenging the winner of the Stecher-Peters match. Plestina has been thrown by both Joe and Charley, but that was when he weighed about 250 pounds and was in no shape to wrestle anybody, let alone one of the caliber of Stecher and Peters. He now hits the scales at about 210 or 215 pounds, is in good shape, trains faithfully every day and believes that in his improved condition he can throw either Stecher or Peters.

Pittsburgh Stove League Will Hold Doings for Wagner

The Pittsburgh Stove league is planning a big celebration for Hans Wagner on his birthday, February 24. It will be the first "public appearance" of Wagner since his marriage, and the occasion is to be made of more than ordinary interest, with some gift for the veteran player that he will appreciate.

Michigan Will Not Play Foot Ball With Princeton

The University of Michigan will not meet Princeton on the gridiron next fall. The reason given for the failure to arrange a game is that Princeton would not enter into a two-year contract. The eastern institution was willing to play one game with Michigan, but would not agree to a return contest.

Wallop of Omahan Knocked Cubs' Catcher Into Chance of Career

By "SERK."

Billy Dillhoefer, known in Cleveland, O., under the pseudonym of "Pickles," possessor of an enviable reputation as a classy amateur backstop, has just been given an opportunity to try his luck with the Chicago Cubs, all because an Omahan hit him across the head with a ball bat and swiped a bicycle away back in 1906. Joe Harris, concessionaire at the Gayety, is the Omahan. In 1906, Harris, who now wears glasses and drives a flivver, was slugging on a sandlot crew which had Dillhoefer for its catcher. One day in a practice game, Joe was at bat and Dillhoefer was catching. Harris swung his willow and accidentally caught Dillhoefer on the head, flattening him. Dillhoefer's bicycle was on the ground nearby, and Harris saw it in a safety-outr. He seized it and pedaled for dear life down Euclid avenue as fast as he could go, with Dillhoefer, mad as a wet hen, in hot pursuit. As he pedaled, Harris was explaining that it was all an accident. "If you wouldn't get so easy, you'd be a good catcher, Pick!" Joe alibied, his legs still clawing the pedals. "Stop, you son-of-a-gun! Stop!" begged Dillhoefer, still running. "Honest, Pick, you're the best 'ol' catcher I ever saw! If you'd only stand a little farther off from the plate you'd be the best in the world," answered Harris, still pedaling. He finally winded Pickles and got away. In a couple of days he "made up" again with Dillhoefer and the latter acquired the habit of standing back from the plate. "I made him what he is today," proudly declared Harris when he saw the story of Dillhoefer's rise to fame, as published in a Cleveland newspaper. "He'd have died on the gallows if I hadn't copped that bike and made my getaway that day, and now look at where he is!"

The Hypodermic Needle

By FRED S. HUNTER.

YES WE WOULD. We care not if the players strike, For we can get along, For ball games, bo, mean work for us, And work that is no song.

But, oh, what gloom 't would be to us, 'T would change our life about, Would make us worry, fume and fret, If the wrestlers should walk out.

Freddie Welsh, after getting his can knocked off by Ritchie Mitchell, came to bat with the alibi that he was suffering from a cold. In the feet perhaps?

The principal objection, it is said, to Gene Melady's boxing bill is that boxing is too rough, showing the objectors have never seen our modern fighters in action.

Boxing as she is practiced today is about as rough and uncouth as a croquet match.

Hoodooed. Speaking of useless labor, Illinois box fight enthusiasts are trying to put a bill through the legislature with No. 13 tagged to it.

THE REASON. "I'm going to strike," the player cried. In accents wild the world defied. "I don't know what it's all about, But I am going to strike," I shout, "Because Fultz told me to.

Like the players we are not sure whether the strike is for, but we have a hunch it's Davy can hold his job.

Fultz has called the players' strike for February 20. A most propitious time, the players don't go to work until April.

Which leads to a point of question, how can a guy strike before he gets a job?

There is no truth in the rumor that Ban Johnson has complimented Dave Fultz on his astute business judgment.

There is also no truth in the rumor that Ban Johnson called Fultz "one of the nicest chaps I know."

Harvard foot ball players have started winter training in the base ball cage, it is reported. A padded cell would be a better place for gridiron guys who practice at this time of year.

Or Tom Thumb. Les Darcy, 'tis said, will meet Al McCoy in his first bout in America. Why didn't Les choose Vernon Castle?

Oscar Stange has been expelled from the players' fraternity, which should make Oscar feel woefully woeful.

Horrible Thought. A players' strike would be a terrible thing, but just imagine what a dire calamity it would be if the peanut vendors walked out.

Fred Fulton and Frank Moran are to fight in Havana, which is some relief to the much-oppressed United States.

The paramount issue now is whether the European war will stop before Jess Willard pulls another fight.

When it comes to speed in signing up for matches, Jess Willard makes the well known small look like Dario Resta and Eddie Rickenbacker rolled into one.

Les Darcy says he will enlist after he has had three fights. At his present speed Les should be ready to enlist about three years after the war is over.

FIVE STATES WANT TO TACKLE BOXING

Measures Introduced in Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, California and Michigan.

THAT WILLIAMS MATCH

By RINGSIDE.

Chicago, Jan. 27.—Boxing, given a black eye in days gone by because of the shady actions of its adherents, may come back into his own in 1917.

Already in five states—Illinois, Missouri, California, Michigan and Nebraska—bills have been introduced to legalize the game of fistcuffs, and there is every indication that they will pass.

In Illinois Colonel Garrity of the Second Illinois infantry, impressed by the success of boxing among the men while on border duty, is behind a measure to grant boxing to the cities of the state under proper restrictions.

In Missouri, where boxing in limited number of rounds is already permitted, a measure has been offered to raise the limit to twenty rounds. It is fostered by Dr. C. W. Westerman, chairman of the St. Louis Boxing commission, under police supervision and without decisions, are in vogue. In Kansas City and St. Joseph fifteen rounds to a decision are permitted or barred, according to whether the police administrations are favorable or unfavorable. In Joplin short contests to a decision are put on. The Western man bill would make all parts of the state equal.

Funds to Mothers. In California the proposed law provided for a state boxing commission and ten-round contests conducted by regularly incorporated clubs. The remainder of the commission's receipts above actual expenses would go to the mothers' pension fund.

Conditions in Michigan are peculiar, and over-eagerness on the part of the promoters may spoil the chances. During the administration of Governor Ferris both houses of the legislature passed a measure legalizing boxing. When the measure reached the governor it promptly was vetoed. Boxing enthusiasts were leading opponents of the re-election of Governor Ferris and supported the new executive, A. E. Sleeper, who is said to look favorably upon glove contests.

Promoters Miss Guess. The promoters, however, took too much for granted, and no sooner had Governor Sleeper taken office than they began staving bouts all over the state, whereupon the governor instructed the sheriffs to clamp the lid on and keep it on until such time as the sport had been made lawful.

Minnesota is in danger of losing the game as the result of the boxing commission's interpretation of the law passed two years ago. George Moeller, a representative and author of the law, intended that the entire state should be permitted to stage bouts, but the commission construed it to apply only to St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, and Moeller, angered at what he believes unfair rulings, is asking for a repeal of the law.

Even South Doubts. Even down in New Orleans, where they are strong for the south and all things southern, there is some doubt of the justness of the decision of Referee Billy Rocap of Philadelphia in awarding the bantamweight crown of Kid Williams of Baltimore to Pete Hermann of New Orleans after their twenty-round mill. The papers generally expressed surprise over the decision and frankly doubted whether Hermann was entitled to any more than a draw at best.

Rocap, in a statement issued immediately after the decision had been handed down, had been hooded in three of the city's leading hotels, declared that he based the award on the fact that Hermann beat Williams to most of the leads and the effect of the southerner's blows. Williams, he said, landed often and hard on the body, but he asserted it required no skill to do that.

Those who saw the fight declare that Hermann displayed a surprising lack of aggressiveness, that after a minute or so of whirlwind fighting he invariably sought cover and did not follow up his two knockdowns of the champion. It might be mentioned that when the pair met a year ago Rocap gave Williams the decision when all the speculators believed Hermann was entitled to it.

However, all arguments aside, Hermann now is champion by virtue of the decision. It would be only fair that he give Williams a return battle at an early opportunity, although he declares he will not defend his title for at least a year. He plans to pick off some of the grapes from vaudeville engagements and Williams, "Kewpie" Erle and Frankie Burns, as well as other championship aspirants, will have to wait until he is ready to meet them.

Incidentally, a little sidelight on how the new king acts in the ring should be of interest in view of the fact that outside of a few short engagements in the east, which failed to attract attention, he has not displayed his wares in many places outside of his home city. "Red" Dolan, now of Chicago, but who often boxed with Pete while down south, has this to say of him:

"He is a wonderful two-handed fighter. He started as a bootblack and acquired a reputation as a good boy in rough and tumble scraps before he actually became a pugilist. Like his countryman, Johnny Dunoe, Hermann is a regular jumping-jack in the ring. When he first started Frankie Burns stopped him in twelve rounds and that has been his only serious setback. He is a whale in a distance fight and the longer he goes the better he seems to get."

In case there is any curiosity about it, Herman's right name is Peter Gullato.

OPTIONAL BUYS HURT BASE BALL

International League Makes Ruling Not to Accept Players on Such Agreements.

ZBYSZKO IS ON WARPATH

By JACK VEIOCK.

New York, Jan. 27.—When Ed Barrows called his International leaguers together here during the early part of the month they passed upon a question that has long been like a burr under the saddle to minor league club owners the country over.

The question was whether to accept players from major league clubs under optional agreements, which give the big league owner the right to recall them before the season closes. The International leaguers, voted against the practice, and from now on, if they live up to their agreement, no players will be taken off the hands of big league managers unless they are to be permitted to stick through-out the playing season.

The move was just one more evidence of the unrest that is prevalent within the minor leagues all over the country. At the meeting of the National association in New Orleans last fall the club owners of all minor leagues talked over plans whereby they might better conditions, and the optional agreement came in for a share of discussion, particularly among the magnates of the three big minor leagues.

Not Quite Fair. It isn't quite fair to a minor league club owner to be called upon to give up a player in mid-season when his club is likely to be in the midst of a fight for the leadership of the league. Take one good player out of a lineup, and the winning combination—if the club is a winner—is broken up. Under the optional agreement the minor leaguer has no chance to protest. He took players with strings tied to them, probably against his better judgment, but principally because other club owners were doing the same thing and he had to do so in order to build up a strong team.

With the International league agreed as a unit to keep away from optional agreements, no club owner in the circuit will be in a position to benefit by grabbing good talent off the big league benches and thereby "putting it over" on his fellow mags. That is—if the Internationals live up to their pledges.

Club owners in the American association and the Pacific Coast league have long been against optional agreements. They realize that their ball clubs may be weakened at any time if they carry such players on their rosters. Jimmy McGill of the Indianapolis Indians is one magnate who has been strongly opposed to purchasing such talent for his teams. Even when he owned the Denver Grizzlies, McGill seldom took players with strings tied to them, and he has always managed to keep the ball clubs in the running.

Zbyszko on Warpath. Jack Zbyszko tells us that Wladek Zbyszko is preparing to go after the catch-as-catch-can wrestling sky-piece with teeth and toe nails. The Pole, according to Curley, has nicked off the championships of all of the foreign countries at the catch-as-catch-can style, and just as soon as Joe Stecher announces his willingness to re-enter the wrestling arena, Wladek is going after a match with him.

"I'm out for the championship and bar nobody," says Zbyszko. "I will go to any country, any distance, to prove my right to the title. Frank Gotch is absolutely better, and he has so announced, so I figure Stecher the logical man to seek for my first match."

"If Stecher doesn't want to wrestle within a reasonable length of time I'll tussle on anybody else. There's Rogers, Hussans, Aberg, Lewis and Americus. Any of these will do. All I want to do is establish myself as soon as I possibly can."

Willard Surprised. Jess Willard was surprised, and not without reason, when Fred Fulton topped Tom Cowler off his feet in one round in their meeting in New York. Jess was frank about it, too. Said he: "It's the biggest surprise I ever had. I had no idea that Fulton was as good as that. I thought the match would go ten rounds and that Fulton would manage to win it on points. I would have bet a good-sized roll on that."

"I've always thought that eventually I will get on with Fulton, and I am satisfied now that the time is coming soon. If he defeats Frank Moran he will be entitled to a match, though I would rather wait until warmer weather comes so that the bout can be staged out of doors."

"I don't like the idea of fighting in a stuffy hall. The big outdoors is the place for me, and besides it is fairer to the fighting public. Where a match is staged indoors the promoters have a limited amount of space for seating the crowd. They have to charge big prices to get out with a fair profit. In an outdoor arena prices need not be boosted to the skies and I think it is much fairer to the fight fans."

The managers of the sixteen big league clubs are all named, the last to be installed being Jack Barry, at Boston. They are as follows: American League—Boston, Jack Barry; Chicago, Clarence Rowland; Detroit, Hughie Jennings; St. Louis, Fielder Jones; New York, Bill Donovan; Cleveland, Lee Fohl; Philadelphia, Connie Mack; Washington, Clark Griffith.

National League—Chicago, Fred Mitchell; New York, John McGraw; Pittsburgh, Jimmy Callahan; Brooklyn, Wilbert Robinson; Boston, George Stalling; St. Louis, Miller Huggins; Cincinnati, Christy Mathewson; Philadelphia, Pat Moran.

Puts Up 58,000 Bucks to Break Into Base Ball. Thomas J. Darmody, who recently gained possession of the Vernon club in the Pacific Coast league, paid \$58,000 for the controlling interest in the club.

Upton, Wyo., Says Caddock Does Not Belong to Anita

New York is said to be fiercely jealous of Chicago. St. Paul of Minneapolis, Portland of Seattle, San Francisco of Los Angeles, but now comes to light a rivalry of cities that promises great results. Upton, Wyo., has come to bat to dispute Anita, la's right of proprietorship to Earl Caddock. Upton declares that Caddock is from Upton and not Anita and its citizens protest strenuously against all references to Caddock which aver he is from Anita. Upton bases its claim upon the fact that Caddock is said to have a homestead at Upton and is only absent now on the five months' leave allowed all homesteaders. Let the fun go on.

Tom Andrews Issues Sporting Record Book

The T. S. Andrews Sporting Record Book published for 1917 has just been published. Among the features of the new issue are the complete ring records of about 150 prominent boxers, including the sensational Les Darcy and Jimmy Wilde, the new world's champion in the fly weight division. A fund of miscellaneous information regarding the record events in all departments of sport is included. The book is for sale at all news stands, or will be sent by mail on receipt of 12 cents in stamps. Address T. S. Andrews Publishing company, Milwaukee, Wis.

Nephew of Pat Flaharty Will Get Another Trial

Young Ed Flaharty, nephew of the famous Pat, will get another chance to make good, Clark Griffith having decided to take him to the training camp.

South Dakota Will Not Have Place on Creighton Schedule

After nine years, during which the two eleven clashed every Thanksgiving day, it is said to be probable that Creighton and South Dakota will not meet on the gridiron this year. When Creighton went after Syracuse for a Thanksgiving game the Coyotes felt slighted and informed the local school they thought they should be entitled to first consideration for this date. Now, according to reports from Vermillion, South Dakota has decided it probably will not play Creighton and is negotiating with Ames or Iowa.

John Pesek Will Tackle One of Terrible Turks

John Pesek, the Buffalo county mat marvel, who stood Earl Caddock off without a fall for one hour ten days ago, will clash with Bob Managoff, one of the species of terrible Turks, at Ravenna, Neb., Tuesday night. It will be a finish match, two falls out of three. Managoff is well known in Omaha. He has appeared here a number of times and was with the Sells-Floto circus when it appeared here last summer.

Get This! Speaker Works for \$3 a Day

This Speaker and Bobby Roth, Cleveland's great star and nearly great star, respectively, are working on Owner James Dunn's railroad in order to keep in condition for next season. For devoting eight hours of their energies to railroading they draw the sum of \$3 per day.