

Up-to-Date News and Gossip of Interest to Sport Fans

Basket Ball Is Only "Made to Order" Sport

First Game 30 Years Ago
Joke to See—Peach Baskets as Goals Placed on the Floor.

By I. E. SANBORN.
In the winter sports season, which is near closing, basketball has stood out so prominently that it has enjoyed a special period in every way that it challenges by its rapid growth the record of America's greatest outdoor pastime, base ball.

The origin of the nation's all fresco sport is shrouded in considerable doubt and required the services of a special committee to establish whether it grew out of the ancient game of rounders or the more elderly sport of cricket. Aside from that, it is certain that professional base ball has existed in organized form for more than 50 years.

James Naismith, who is now a Dr., and head of the department of physical education of the University of Kansas, drifted into the sporting department of the paper for which I had been toiling in Springfield, Mass. He was then a student in the Springfield Y. M. C. A. Training school, now called Springfield college.

Evolved Game from Lecture.
He brought a flock of diagrams and a skull full of ideas about a new indoor game he had invented, in response to a lecture by Dr. Luther Gulick of the training school, advocating a winter game to break the monotony of gymnastics exercises between the outdoor seasons.

It didn't listen like much of a game to me, but because of the novelty of it I wrote the story—the first ever written about basketball. Shortly afterward—early in 1892, as I recall it—I "covered" the first game ever played.

The goals originally were two ordinary peach baskets, and for this "contest" they were placed on the floor, but afterward elevated 10 feet from the playing surface and fastened to the walls.

Nine Players to a Team.
The sides then were composed of nine men instead of five, and the rules made it one of the most lady-like sports you can imagine.

Out of that ludicrous offspring of Dr. Naismith's brain, has grown the major indoor sport of America. It also has become a stalwart outdoor pastime, particularly in the south, where it can be played in the open between seasons.

"Pres" Roughen Game.
Basket ball grew so fast in fact, that it came near killing itself. In western Massachusetts Dr. Naismith's idea was taken up early by professionals, who revised the rules to suit themselves, and by eliminating most of the fouls evolved a game almost as rough as foot ball.

A professional league was formed, and its interpretation of the rules made the game too severe to be played where walls and floors were unyielding. So many serious injuries occurred that the sport received something of a black eye, but its amateur growth was more gradual, and it survived to become a tremendous factor in the development of young America.

Margaret Woodbridge Wins 220-Yard Title Swim
New York, March 19.—(Special).—Miss Charlotte Boyle of the local Women's S. A. was defeated by Margaret Woodbridge of the Detroit A. C. in the National A. A. U. 220-yard title swim in Philadelphia, but she swam one of the greatest and most remarkable races of her brilliant career.

Managers Guy Holland of the Towson Club, announced that he will have one of the fastest line-ups in the City, class A league, which has signed Simpson, Hiett, Rosenberger, Murphy, C. H. Rodgers and John Hopkins, Frank Kellier, Johnson, O'Keefe, Frank Mancuso and John Broz.

Managers of amateur teams in Greater Omaha are requested to send in notes about their players to The Bee sporting department from week to week. Notes in this column must be received not later than Thursday night for the Sunday's edition.

John Hickey, former Holy player, will try out with the Drive-It-Yourself team this season.

Bee Sport Album—Charles Morearty



Life's greatest ambition is health and strength. In many cases physical training and athletics have proven the master of the situation.

For had Charles B. Morearty, who is known better as "Chuck" to his many friends in the athletic world, not followed the advice of his physician, he would probably not be here today to relate the events of his boyhood days.

"Chuck," when at the age of 13 was in poor health, weighing but 60 pounds. He started to take up physical training and athletics in the grade schools, attending both the Lathrop and Lake schools.

That was 10 years ago. He rapidly regained his health and strength and today is considered one of the greatest athletes in the city.

Morearty entered the Central High school in 1914, playing on the Purple and White grid-eleven that year. He was a member of the Central team during 1914, 1915 and 1916, being captain of the eleven in 1916.

Coach Morearty is promoting a meet for high schools and the open air meet this year, which will be held soon.

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Leach Cross Winner of Knockout Verdict With Sullivan on His Pins

It does not happen often that a boxer is knocked out standing up, but it happened one night at the old St. Nicholas club in New York when Leach Cross was the victor over Sullivan.

Leach drove another left to the jaw, which stood Sullivan up against the ropes. As Paddy rebounded the left jabbed Sullivan a hard smash to the jaw which sent him tottering back on the ropes.

Leach followed with a shower of right and left smashes on Sullivan's unprotected jaw. Paddy was out, but his muscles had stiffened and held him erect. The referee finally realized the situation and stepped in and stopped Cross' bombardment of the Irishman, ending the bout.

Lynch was not so rugged as Sullivan, but he met for the in his right whippecked a punch that had wrought havoc with many an aspiring youth.

Four Tennis Players Report for Practice at Kansas University

Lawrence, Kan., March 19.—(Special).—Kansas University tennis started last week with four likely candidates reporting to Captain Art Johnson. The new recruits are: Roy Zieson, and Forrest Rogers are out.

Other teams will probably be arranged with Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas Aggies and Ottawa University.

Second Annual Pin Meet for Women Will Be Held at Cleveland

Cleveland, O., March 19.—The second annual tournament of the National Women's Bowling association will open here April 30. Women bowlers from all parts of the country have already signified their intention of entering.

State Amateur Mat Meet Next Saturday

Present indications are that the fourth annual open amateur state wrestling championship meet, which will be held under the auspices of the local "Y" Saturday night at the "Y" gymnasium, will be the greatest of its kind held here.

Peek Wants Matches Since He Threw Finn

John Peek, the Nebraska wrestler who forced Armas Laitinen, the Finnish champion, to quit recently, is wondering where he can get some real worthy opponent to fight him.

Lifetime Batting Records of Fifty Major League Players to Date

Table with columns: Player Name, Team, H, R, E, S, B, P, C. Lists lifetime statistics for 50 major league players.

Meet in Finish Match Wednesday

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Babe's Contract Calls for \$50,000

If Babe Ruth breaks his world's record of 54 home runs this year, it is reported he will receive a total salary of \$50,000 from the owners of the Yankees.

Signs of Matching Martin and Tunney in Future are Promising

There are signs of a match shortly between Bob Martin and Gene Tunney, heavyweight champions. Several weeks ago it was hinted that Gene's hands had gone back on him.

Bob Martin Scores K. O. Over Tommy McCarthy

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 19.—Bob Martin, A. E. F. heavyweight champion boxer, knocked out Tommy McCarthy of Montana in the third round of a scheduled 10-round contest Friday night.

"Strangler" Lewis in Win Over Belgian

Dallas, March 19.—Ed (Strangler) Lewis, heavyweight wrestling champion, downed Carlisle Belg, Belgian champion, in two straight falls here Friday night.

Hunter Kills 14 Snakes With One Shot

Frank Tetton in an active, red-headed youngster who played at Flint, Mich., has been credited with the feat of killing 14 snakes with one shot.

With the Pin

Tables for FARNAM LEAGUE, MERCANTILE LEAGUE, and Y. M. C. A. LEAGUE. Includes team standings and individual averages.

Fohl Lashes Browns Into Hot Pennant Race

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Whist Club Scores

Table showing scores for various whist clubs.