

Late Gossip Of The Sporting World At Home And Abroad

OAKES SAYS KONECHY IS BEST EVER

Augusta, Ga., March 13.—"Konetchy is the greatest first baseman in the world—fact, the best the world has ever known," said Rebel Oakes, manager of the Pittsburgh Reds.

"I'll tell you why I think he is so great," Oakes continued. "He is so different from every other ball player. He does so many things that other ball players would never think of doing. When a ball is hit Ed never loses sight of it. He knows where it is going and about where it will stop. He follows every pitch and every movement of the players, whether they are base-runners or batters, and he knows where they are going to go. He hits that ordinarily would count for three bases are cut down to two-base slams and sometimes to singles just because Konetchy is in the game. He's on the job every minute and is waiting for the return of every ball that goes out of the infield.

"If somebody hits one into left, Konetchy is there waiting for the return. If it is hit into middle Ed is on the job. It doesn't matter where the ball is hit—you can always find Konetchy there to assist in the play. I have seen many a runner die trying to make another base when Konetchy was there to take the throw. He can throw a ball like so much lightning, and the fellow that beats his throw is a runner. I'm not saying all this because he is on my team. He was the same way when he and I played in St. Louis. When a ball was hit into my territory Koney was always on the jump. If it was a long hit Koney would be out there where I generally play. He cut many a runner down in this manner."

COOMBS IN RARE FORM

Daytona, Fla., Mar. 13.—Jack Coombs, the famous "Iron Man" who helped to pitch the Philadelphia Athletics to more than one world's championship, scoffs at the theory that "they never come back." Jack is coming back he says, and he hopes to help pitch the Superbas to victory in the coming campaign.

"I never felt better in my life," said Coombs in response to a query regarding his health. "I feel as strong as ever in all my life, and, in fact, I may truthfully say that this is the best training I have ever put in. Now it may be that I am speaking a little too soon, but all signs point to a complete recovery. I have been testing my arm, and I can put a lot of stuff on the old leather when I cut loose a little, but I'm going along easily."

QUIMET AND SULLIVAN

Francis Quimet, National amateur golf champion, has changed his plans for leaving Boston for the South, where he will be a competitor in the championship tournaments at Pinehurst the latter part of the month.

Instead of leaving next Tuesday he will go to New York Sunday night, with his clubmate, John H. Sullivan, Jr., and to Philadelphia Monday. He will play at the new Pine Valley course near Philadelphia Tuesday with Still, and from Philadelphia they will proceed to Washington. They may play a round at the Chevy Chase Club while there. From Washington they will go to Pinehurst, planning to arrive Friday. That will give the National title holder a week to get accustomed to the links.

The dates for the championship tournaments at Pinehurst are: March 26, amateur; March 27, open United North and South championship; March 29, qualifying round of the United North and South amateur championship.

THISTLES, 52; MONCTON, 42

On Saturday night at the Thistle rink the Moncton club, three rinks strong, were defeated by a score of 52 to 42. The following is the score by skips:

Thistles.	
S. W. Palmer, skip	16
W. A. Shaw, skip	11
F. A. McAndrews, skip	25
Moncton.	
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Percy Dickson, skip	9

After the match the visiting curlers were entertained to lunch.

WANDERERS WON GAME, BUT COULDN'T CLINCH THE TITLE

Montreal, March 14.—The Ottawa's victory over the Wanderers established the "Senators" champions in the National Hockey Association, and makes them eligible to play the Vancouver, champions of the Pacific Coast Hockey League, for the world's championship. They will leave Ottawa at a very early hour tomorrow morning for the coast, to meet the Vancouver.

The Ottawa lead of four goals over the Wanderers in the game at the capital last Wednesday night gave them the N. H. A. championship, as the best Wanderers could do in the final game in Montreal last night was to reduce this lead by only one goal.

Montreal, March 14.—Allowing the Wanderers to wear themselves down in the early stages of their almost superhuman efforts to get on even terms in the N. H. A. championship, the Senators last night the Ottawa retained sufficient of their four-goal margin to give them the coveted championship. The Wanderers won the final match of the home-and-home series for the honor by the narrow margin of one goal to nothing. To Donald Smith, a substitute, goes the honor of scoring the only goal of the game. The total on the round of the two games was four to one for the Senators.

Unable to shoulder their heavy handicap of four goals, the reds started out almost as nervous wrecks, while the Ottawa, having much the better position of the two clubs, went into the game showing every confidence, as well as a determination to maintain the lead secured by them on their own ice in the mid-week game. The local players did not start out with the dash and determination that has marked many of their previously easy victories over the Senators, and for the first few minutes they showed marked signs of bewilderment as to what style of play to adopt in their attack. Plays that had been well planned during recent practice hours, were forgotten and the team became disorganized.

The Wanderers were not only out-generalled on the ice, but the judgment shown by those in charge of the players on the Ottawa bench offset every move made by the local management. When a Wanderer regular was relieved for a resting spell, there was also a switch made on the visiting team. The visitors with their four goal margin could afford to wait, and allow their opponents to carry the play to them and the locals were forced to be the aggressors at all times.

The teams lined up as follows:

Wanderers.		Ottawa.	
McCarthy	Goal.	Benedict	Goal.
S. Cleghorn	Defence.	Ross	Defence.
P. Rodgers	Wing.	Merrill	Wing.
O. Cleghorn	Centre.	Gerard	Centre.
Hyland	Defence.	Duford	Defence.
Roberts	Defence.	Broadbent	Defence.

LOTZ A SPEED ARTIST

San Antonio, Tex., Mar. 13.—Smockey Joe—that's what they called him in Oshkosh, Wis., and Smockey Joe Lotz, promises to make Smockey Joe Wood, Fireball Walt Johnson, Iron Man Jack Coombs and Joe McGinnity do the side-step act to make room for his curving fame with the Cardinals this summer. The first tip of the spring training trip has arrived, and it is this Smockey Joe boy from Oshkosh, the town which was made famous by Cosy Dolan.

Smockey Joe is a right-hander who stands five feet ten inches on his heels. He's not much down at the bottom, but gradually he increases in width and when you reach the shoulders, take a rear view for that reason they've nicknamed him Casey.

But the Smockey Joe and Iron Man Joe part was gained up in Oshkosh last summer. Oshkosh is a member of the Wisconsin-Illinois League, and when Smockey Joe won so many one to none games with few hits, the baseball scouts immediately began inspecting Oshkosh and the Wisconsin-Illinois League territory. One scout after another arrived. All but Eddie Hern were late. Edward saw the smoke ball and decided it was fast enough for a trial with the Cardinals. Joe Wood is responsible for the smoke ball. When Joey joined the Boston Red Sox he shot such a fast shot that he was given this nom de plume. Walter Johnston became the Fire Ball owing to his speed, and Coombs and McGinnity were Iron men, because of their ability to rush to the mound in the pinch and out of turn.

O'DAY IS CONSIDERING

Chicago, Mar. 13.—Henry O'Day, after serving the National League as an umpire for sixteen years, and as a manager for two years, has been declared a free agent. He is considering offers, he said today, from the American and Federal Leagues.

O'Day received a letter from John K. Tener, president of the National League, advising him that he was free to sign with any league. He said, however, that he would not consider an offer from the National organization.

The veteran umpire was last season of the Chicago Nationals last season. He was succeeded by Roger Bresnahan.

THE QUICKEST STARTER.

There are three men in baseball with practically the same amount of speed—Cobb, Lobert and Maisel. In a 100-yard dash this trio would probably lead the field and finish together under a clover leaf.

But at the important art of quick starting, Fritz Maisel of the Yanks has something on them all. Fritz is undoubtedly the best man in the game at 40 yards. He seems to bound the first 10 yards as if catapulted from a standing start. Which accounts largely for his great base running.

Any man who can bat under .240 and piff 74 bases is a base-running wonder. Milan once stole 88 bases, but he batted over .300. Cobb once led the league with 84 steals, but he batted .420. He had 248 hits that season, while Maisel acquired 74 steals with 131 safe blows. If Maisel ever batted .300 or better he would slip by the mark of 100 steals, something no man has done for many a waning year.

MAY QUIT BASEBALL

Detroit, Mich., Mar. 13.—Pitcher Fred Blanding, who has been a member of the Cleveland club's twirling staff ever since he broke into the major league, is at his Michigan home.

Blanding says he intends to quit baseball.

Huggins Wants

Becher for Ferritt

It is reported from Martin, Texas, where the New York Giants are training, that Miller Huggins, manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, wants "Bob" Becher in exchange for Pitcher "Pol" Ferritt, who was recently acquired by McGraw, but the Giants' manager would not agree to it.

BRITISH FOOTBALL RESULTS

London, Mar. 13.—The following are the results of the leading British football games today:

English Cup Replay
Newcastle 0, Chelsea 1.
Sheffield United 3, Oldham 0.

English League, First Division
Aston Villa 3, Millwall 0.
Blackburn 2, Everton 1.
Bradford 5, Tottenham 1.
Notts County 1, West Bromwich 1.
Bolton 3, Burnley 1.

Manchester United 1, Bradford City 0.
Sunderland 3, Sheffield Wednesday 1.
Liverpool 2, Manchester City 1.

CHICAGO PLAYER IS GREAT FISH

Chicago, March 13.—Harry Hehner of the Chicago Athletic club of Chicago is, the greatest all-around swimmer in the world, according to water experts. Even though there may be one or two men able to take his measure at some particular distance, the fact cannot be doubted that in all-around test Hehner would score an easy and brilliant victory.

In free style swimming Hehner is joint holder with Daniels and Rathel of the record of 54.45 seconds for 100 yards in a sixty-foot pool; at 220 yards he has done 2 minutes 21 seconds, the fastest time ever made under any conditions. In swimming on the back he leads all home and foreign rivals, holding every international standard in existence.

That Hehner cannot claim the quarter and one mile records is due to conditions. In swimming on the back he leads all home and foreign rivals, holding every international standard in existence.

IS MUCH SOUGHT FOR

Akron, O., Mar. 13.—Johnny Griffiths, crack Akron-Hightweight, is receiving more offers for bouts than he can possibly fill. Manager Bernie Strapp practically agreed to terms offered by Matchmaker Mason of Pittsburgh for a six-round bout with Champion Freddie Welsh at the Duquesne Garden the night of March 18. Welsh will receive \$1,000 with the privilege of forty per cent. Griffith will receive twenty-five per cent.

COMEDY A DRUG.

President Lannin smiled when Schaefer remarked that he wished that he could be with the Red Sox. Then he said:

"Schaefer is a bright fellow, but we can get along without the comedy this year until after we win the honors. If we will not do to grow too confident, and the club that wins will know they have been in a race with the Athletics, with the Chicago White Sox and the Detroit Tigers also in the running."

GENEROUS GIFTS.

St. John curlers who were in Boston last week brought home with them \$25.00, a gift from the Country Club, Brookline, Mass., to the local Patriotic Fund. The money has been paid over to the treasurer, C. B. Allan, and its receipt gratefully acknowledged. Another generous gift to the Patriotic Fund was \$20 from city workmen employed along the water front.

FEDERALS ARE ANXIOUS TO GET JOE JACKSON

KICK AT THE SALARY CUT

It has leaked out in Cleveland that the Naps' mighty slugger, Joe Jackson, has received a tempting proposition from the Fed. Jackson's friends say that the Fed. have offered to pay him \$35,000 a year and will sign him to a three year contract. President Rogers of the Naps is quoted as saying that Jackson's contract last year did not contain a ten day release clause and that the big hitter sold an option on his services for 1915. Jackson, according to the latest information, is willing to remain with the Naps for a salary of \$15,000. Somers lost big money last season, but it is believed that he will have to accede to Jackson's demands.

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PLAYERS KICK AT THE SALARY CUT

NEW YORK, March 13.—The Evening Sun today says: A wholesale reduction in salaries by the International League clubs, which went out on contracts March 1, has not been favorably received by the players under reserve. It is reported that many of them have refused to sign at the terms offered and are threatening to remain idle. The players, however, seem to forget that the National and American League teams soon will drop nearly 150 men, enough to equip all the teams in President Barrow's circuit. The players who will be looped off the payroll of the big league clubs probably will prefer engagements in the International League to herds in the lower classes. President Barrow has ordered his club owners to stand firm in this crisis. His league dropped nearly \$200,000 last year, and the club owners cannot afford to pay the former salaries if they expect to live through this season.

FEDS COMPROMISE

Chicago, March 13.—Officials of the Federal League headed by President James A. Gilmore, were en route to New York today for a conference with Harry Sinclair, purchaser of the Kansas City franchise, which was transferred to Newark, N. J. They plan, it was said, to induce him to keep the club in Kansas City and thus settle the dispute which was taken into the circuit court here.

A possible solution of the difficulty, it was said, today is the transfer of the Indianapolis Club, which won the 1914 championship, to Newark instead of the Kansas City Club. It was brought out during the court proceedings here that the league had contemplated the evacuation of Indianapolis.

RACE COURSE ON ONE OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS.

This is not a reproduction of the grand stand and track at an American race track, but of a race course on one of the Bahama Islands, where the natives and English residents amuse themselves at almost every opportunity with horse racing. When there are not enough thoroughbreds to supply the demand for an afternoon's entertainment the owners of polo ponies add to the attractions. The grand stand is on the pill box order, and its thatched roof is typical of the country. But it is large enough to accommodate the crowd. It is unnecessary to say that the natives speculate on every race that is run and look forward to race days with as much interest as an Englishman does in his Derby Day.

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