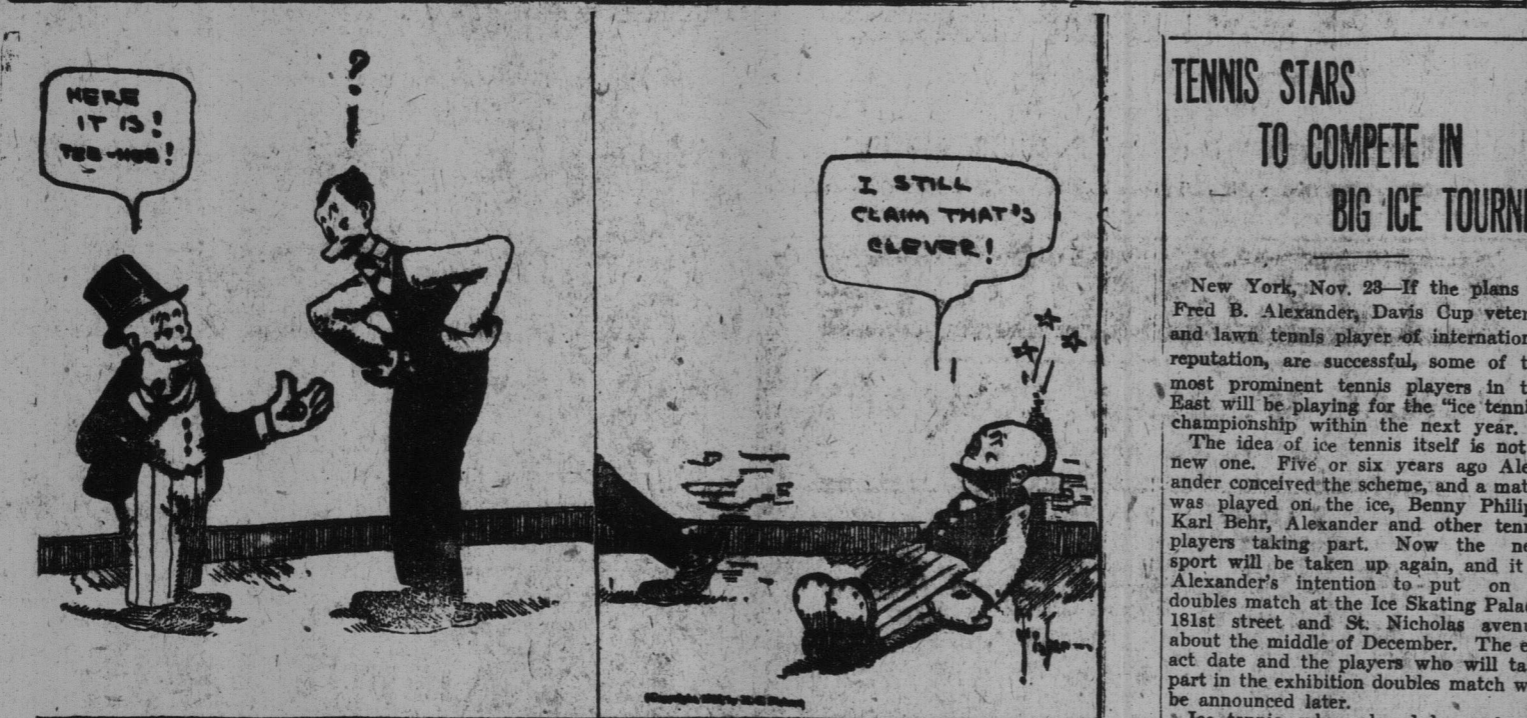


MUTT and JEFF—Mutt Has a Bum Sense of Humor - - - By Bud Fisher

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TENNIS STARS TO COMPETE IN BIG ICE TOURNEY

New York, Nov. 23—If the plans of Fred B. Alexander, Davis Cup veteran and lawn tennis player of international reputation, are successful, some of the most prominent tennis players in the East will be playing for the "ice tennis" championship within the next year.

The idea of ice tennis itself is not a new one. Five or six years ago Alexander conceived the scheme, and a match was played on the ice, Benny Phillips, Karl Behr, Alexander and other tennis players taking part. Now the new sport will be taken up again, and it is Alexander's intention to put on a doubles match at the Ice Skating Palace, 131st street and St. Nicholas avenue, about the middle of December. The exact date and the players who will take part in the exhibition doubles match will be announced later.

Ice tennis, when played by such experts as Alexander and Phillips, is one of the most sensational sports in the world. Not only must the competitor be the most skilled of skaters to make the quick starts and stops necessary, but he must also be a tennis player of the first quality.

The court will be of the regulation kind, with the lines marked out on the ice in black paint. Alexander hopes this special match may lead to a nice tennis tournament this winter, and he and M. H. Greenbaum, manager of the rink, are working along these lines.

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An Interesting Baseball Story of The Long Ago  
The Battle of The National and The Players League — A. G. Spalding's Manly Action

(By Joe Page.)

Base ball stories of the long ago have more or less interest to the present generation of baseball enthusiasts. Also they bring back to the old timer many recollections of by-gone days. From various sources during the last few weeks have come stories of a third major league. Several newspaper writers find in the suggested new league the reason for the late Baltimore Federal League owners dropping their suit against the major league organizations, which, it is said, they would drop, provided such a league was formed and Baltimore was to be admitted as a member of the third major organization. But this as it may be.

However, it brings to the writer's mind a story of the old brotherhood days of 1890-1, after the Players' League was decisively beaten by the National League. The very first conference talk that took place between two Chicago magnates, Messrs. A. G. Spalding and John Addison, representing the Chicago National League club, and the Chicago Players' League club respectively, early in December, 1890, Spalding told Addison in Chicago he had him just where he wanted him, and intended to throw him down just as hard as possible. Mr. Addison and his lawyer took the next train for New York, where he was met by J. B. Hart, of Boston. They talked over the situation one whole afternoon. The tears rolled down Addison's cheeks as he reported his meeting with A. G. "I think I got the best of Spalding," said he, as I rang in my lawyer and had a witness. I tell you, gentlemen, that I will put my horse on the turf before I ever enter into negotiations with this man Spalding again. I have taken his measure and I will now fight him to the bitter end.

This is what really happened. Less than a month later—to be exact—on December 29, 1890—President John Addison, acting for the stockholders of the Players' Club, turned over to President A. G. Spalding and the Chicago National Club the lease of the Thirty-fifth street grounds, the contracts of the players, and all right and title to the same, receiving in return therefor the Chicago club's check for \$15,000.

The amount of unpaid salaries due the players was \$5,925.18, divided as follows: Comiskey, \$1,840.95; King, \$504.69; Sathain, \$220.15; Boyle, \$402.73; Williams, \$368.62; O'Neil, \$293.79; Durkin, \$256.90; Shugart, \$248.78; Dwyer,

\$258.06; Ryan, \$487.80; Duffy, \$307.29; Farrell, \$244.62; Baldwin, \$249.46.

Thus were the men who had played under Comiskey the season before paid their salaries in full, the owner who invested their money in a losing fight against the National League saved an absolute and serious loss, and thus was baseball established upon a solid foundation once again.

It would be contrary to all human characteristics, were the ball players in question other than deeply appreciated and freely sensible of the service rendered them by President Spalding in this transaction. Had the Chicago club decided not to treat with the Players' League stockholders at all—to let these gentlemen get out as best they could—it is dollars to cents that Comiskey's men and Comiskey himself would never have seen a dollar of their unpaid salaries. Further, had President Spalding so desired, he could have compromised matters with Addison at the first meet-



JOE PAGE.

ing by consenting to assume all possible law suits by players and to split the difference on payment money between \$15,000 and \$25,000. In this case the boys would have had to whistle for their money or enter suit for it against the Chicago League club as purchasers of the Players' League club property—a thing few of them would have been likely to do.

Mr. Spalding, however, argued that right was right, and that provision for paying the unpaid salaries must be made before negotiations could be concluded. Mr. Addison, on the other hand,

contended that the players had agreed to look to the receipts for their salaries, and that they should consequently stand their loss. Spalding, however, held the whip hand, and Mr. Addison was compelled to come to A. G.'s way of thinking, which it took him a very short time to do. The result was a \$7,000 Christmas present to the players who, six months before, were doing their level best to down the man who made the present.

Today the bitter animosities of the wind-up of the brotherhood war of more than a quarter of a century ago are but the memories of a long and all but forgotten past. The players, the writer is pleased to say, acknowledged defeat in a straight forward, manly way. As an instance to show the general feeling of the players over the settlement: The day following, while President Spalding was seated in his office, the door opened and Fred Pfeffer entered. The young baseman (and there was none better), shook hands with his old club president, said he was more than willing to let bygones be bygones, and that he would do his best professionally and in every other way to make the future of the game a successful one. Mr. Spalding met his visitor cordially, and in his pleasant, easy way, made Pfeffer feel thoroughly at home and glad that he had called. The call was a manly act on Pfeffer's part, the more so as he brought the will and wishes and promise of best efforts for the future from his fellow players.

Another act at this moment stood Pfeffer in good stead in years after. He refused to put in a claim against the Players' League club for his unpaid salary, saying that the backers of the enterprise had lost heavily enough as it was, and that his claim need not be considered in the negotiations between Messrs. Spalding and Addison. This was all the more generous in view of the fact that Pfeffer had himself been a heavy loser outside of his unpaid salary.

Even Old Billy, the ground-keeper, who deserted the National League club and went over to the Wentworth avenue grounds, received his unpaid salary and, if memory serves right got his old situation back again. Spalding, Williamson, O'Neil and Farrell have passed to the great beyond. Possibly others, but those living know the late A. G. Spalding and what he has done for the game.

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