

The Sporting Page

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"DEACON" WHITE PENS PORTRAIT OF TYRUS COBB

World's Champion Never Saw First Base as Going Was Poor

"DEACON" IS ENTHUSIASTIC Casts An Eye Over Some of Other Aggregations With Satisfaction

The editor of the Free Press is in receipt of another letter from "Deacon" White, former baseball fan of Edmonton, and now in Chicago on his vacation. "Deacon" tells of the game between the White Sox and the Tigers, with distinct emphasis on the playing of one Ty Cobb, who seemed to be favorite with the spectators. Incidentally Joe Jackson hit out a three bagger during the game which won the game for the White Sox. "Deacon's" letter follows:

"Despite the fact, as it were, that Chicago is deep in the throes of another Victory Loan, and endeavoring by every artifice of acquisition to catch up in her allotment, the old ball game rolls on its way. And today the first real live baseball day, as regards weather, that I have seen in these parts, saw the pale hose of Comiskey's White Sox clashing with the illustrious Ty Cobb and the rest of Hughie Jennings' Detroit Tigers. Incidentally they were to have opened their series yesterday, but it was too cold.

I said the game was with Ty Cobb, and that is the way it is generally advertised on this front. The famous "Eyah" Jennings, manager, and the rest of his Tiger tribe are nothing but other ranks alongside the immortal Ty. Yet, mind you, there are some mighty swatters and good ball players amongst these ranks. Included among their array of sharpshooters, or to use a more homely term, pitchers, is one, Kallio, known to Western Canada League fans as a member of Bill Hurley's 1914 Saskatoon pennant winners.

But Ty is the man I want out to see, and I'll dismiss the game with these few words, Chicago 3, Detroit 1. It was a bad day for the Georgia Peach, and I couldn't have seen him in a worse setting. The going was wet and heavy, and this detracted from his speed of hoof. There was not a single ball hit into his territory, which is the area called centre field. I'll say that this was quite remarkable, and unknown to the element of frequency. And lastly, Ty was up against the left-hand pitcher, Williams, who was more than ripping, then through with a side arm delivery. Ty is a left-hand hitter, and everyone knows what a hard time these port-side batmen have against south-paw pitching. Any way, the leading batsman of the world, struck out twice to the intense delight of the "hoi polloi," grounded out once to the second baseman, and the other time hoisted a long high fly to the right fielder.

But, despite these adverse conditions, anyone could see with one eye shut that here was the great natural batsman. We can't say anything about his fielding or base-running for the simple reason that we did not see any; but we did see him stand up to the plate and swing a bat. That alone was sufficient for me. Cobb looks better striking out than many players getting a clean hit.

It is a treat to see any man as he takes his stand, for he is a shapely athlete from head to toe; built like an Apollo. A finely chiseled head and face, a broad, square, even pair of shoulders, and a gradual tapering from there to the waist line. A straight pair of legs of symmetrical length, and a shapely pair of calves complete the construction of this far-famed ball player. I'll say he seems to radiate strength and speed. He is very easy to look at.

He stands at the plate with both legs straight and feet from six to eight inches apart—as near as I could tell from where I sat; his position is a little to the rear of the home plate—his body from the hips up incline slightly forward, but very slightly. The bat is gripped very tightly and close to the end of the handle, and while he waves it backward and forward some, while the pitcher is getting ready, yet it is always well to the rear when the ball is coming along.

And the swing he takes at that ball is a masterpiece to those who know. The bat comes around like lightning in a plane that is absolutely parallel to the ground. His arms fling out to full extent, which with his step, throws the full weight of his body into the blow. His form is ultra-perfect. It is simply a question of eyesight whether he connects on the nose. When he does, you have the picture of a ball annihilating space on a line, and when he misses the nose and meets the ball above its centre, you have the picture of a streak of lightning going down to first base.

If it doesn't rain tomorrow, I'll see more of this fair-haired bird, and its odds on bet that he will get on those bases too. I forgot to mention that he has fair hair, which contradicts the theory that some people have that the champion's of anything are generally dark haired.

There were other luminaries besides Tyrus Raymond Cobb in the ball game

MERCANTILE LEAGUE STARTS WITH VICTORY FOR THE SWIFTS

The first baseball game of the Mercantile League between Swifts and National Railways resulted in a victory for Swifts by a score of 5 to 3. About two hundred enthusiastic fans attended the contest at Diamond Park last Tuesday night. The contest seemed to centre around the pitchers. Both pitchers showed class, being weak only on control. The game was called at the end of the first half of the seventh inning on account of darkness.

The schedule of the Mercantile League so far as has been arranged is as follows:

May 17—Journal vs. Marshall Wells, at Diamond Park.

May 19—N. W. Biscuits vs. Swifts, at Boyle street.

May 20—Esdale Press vs. Journal, at Boyle street.

May 22—Marshall Wells vs. Burns, at Boyle street.

May 24—C.N.R. vs. Ramsey at Diamond Park.

May 26—Journal vs. Swifts at Exhibition grounds.

May 27—Burns vs. Ramsey at Diamond Park.

May 29—C.N.R. vs. Marshall Wells at Victoria High school.

May 31—N. W. Biscuits vs. Esdale Press at Diamond Park.

LACROSSE LEAGUE AWAY TO A GOOD START

With three teams entered the Edmonton lacrosse league was organized at the Y.M.C.A. on Tuesday night and excellent plans are now laid for a record breaking season this year. Representatives of the South Side, the Eskimos and Jesuit College participated in the meeting. Officers to direct the affairs of this sport were chosen as follows: President, Mayor J. A. Clarke; vice president, Joseph Moir; secretary-treasurer, P. S. Dunn. Each team will be represented on the executive. Those chosen for this position were: Jesuits, A. Boucher; South Side, James Smith; Eskimos, J. Steele.

MAC WAS WATERPROOF

A policeman on a west-side beat saw a man leaning against a fence recently. The policeman went up to him and found him to be a brawny Scotchman. "You better go home right away, or you will get wet," said the policeman. "There's a shower coming up." The Scotchman looked at the policeman, smiled and waving one arm, replied: "Dinna ye worry about me, mon, I'm a McIntosh."

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today, and one of them who has been a close rival of the illustrious Georgian, did quite a bit of illuminating in this very game. All he did was to hit a three bagger for the White Sox, that virtually won the game. His name is Joe Jackson, and I'll tell you about him another time.—"DEACON."

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LAWN BOWLING POPULAR SPORT

Now Well Established With Many Enthusiastic Participants

Several years ago lawn bowling, or bowling on the green, as it is often called, was started in Edmonton, but after a short time it gradually died out and no more was heard of it for some time. What was needed was some enthusiastic bowler to take hold of the sport and boost it along until there was a sufficient number of players to make a success of it.

About seven or eight years ago Dr. D. Marion, an enterprising dentist of the South Side, conceived the idea of a green on his own lawn where he and some of his friends might spend a few of their evenings in this pleasant pastime. He accordingly had his lawn put in shape and with a few of his neighbors used to enjoy themselves while creating an interest in the game. It was hard work, for sometime to get together enough to have a proper game. Some very good and hard fought games have taken place on the little green with J. McTavish and the late Capt. B. J. MacDonald as opposing skips. Some of the early bowlers who used to contest these games under the two skips were Dr. D. Marion, R. H. Darke, Capt. J. C. Bowen, J. S. Armitage and later on several of the now prominent bowlers of the South Side. It was a slow but steady growth that marked lawn bowling in Edmonton until Mr. A. E. Serase and later Mr. W. J. Magrath heard of Dr. Marion's green and they arranged to have some of their friends go over and try their luck with the veteran bowlers of the South Side. Several games were played with these bowlers and the next year saw two organized clubs.

This then in short is really the starting point of lawn bowling in this city. The Edmonton Club then moved to the larger green on the lawn of Mr. G. P. Downes which they still use. Other clubs were soon formed including the Civil Service and Wetsakiwin and on July 1st, 1917, the first annual tournament was held between the four clubs, which was won by one of the visiting rinks from Wetsakiwin.

Governor Brett had four greens made on the lawn at Government House and in a closely contested game there that fall Wetsakiwin again won the day. The second Annual Tournament took place on July 1st, 1918, with five clubs competing. The fifth one being Robertson Presbyterian church, Wetsakiwin, having a large proportion of Scotch blood in their make-up again won the tournament, defeating the Marion rink of the Edmonton Club in the final game.

Hon. A. G. MacKay, whose rink lost out in the semi-finals at the Annual Tournament, offered a handsome cup to encourage inter-club games. This was won in the initial stages by the Hurst rink from the Highlands. A new governing body was now organized and A. E. Serase, the president of the Edmonton Club, was elected as president of the Northern Alberta Lawn Bowling Association. This Association now controls the game in this part of the west and handles all games for the MacKay trophy.

The McTavish rink of the Edmonton Club issued a challenge and in a closely contested game won the cup. They then successfully defended it against several rinks from the Civil Service, Highlands and Wetsakiwin, losing to Ramsey of Robertson church. They now in turn defended the cup for four successive games and losing in the fifth to the McTavish rink, who are now the holders of Alberta's first lawn bowling trophy.

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