

News and Gossip From the World of Indoor and Outdoor Sports

LONDON'S CAPTAIN-SHORTSTOP HAS A BRILLIANT RECORD

Charles W. Bird Has Played With Several Fast Teams in the East and Has an Envious Reputation At Bat, On Bases and in the Field.

From what can be learned of Charles W. Bird, of Newark, N. J., who will captain the London baseball team, he is a player of no mean ability, and one who believes that nothing is so successful in baseball as hard, conscientious work.

Mr. Bird writes to The Advertiser as follows:

"I have now been playing baseball about ten years. In 1901 I piloted the Elizabeth Y. M. C. A. team to victory, and the following season I had an excellent chance of making the Rochester Eastern League team under the management of George Smith, now head of the Buffalo ball team. I was with the team one week, and caught four games for the club against Jersey City. Then I went home and prepared to go on the road with the club and as a result never went back, my wife persuading me that baseball was not the most desirable profession in the world. Simply a case of 'My wife wouldn't let me.' And I missed my chance.

"In 1902 I signed up with the New London, Conn., state league, and played 115 games as shortstop, and caught a few games. My batting average then was .231, and I finished second to Jack Hannifan (now with the New York Giants), in fielding. Hannifan was then with the Norwich, Conn., team. I was held by the New London team for two years, and then secured my release as I refused to report.

"In 1906 I played in the Lackawanna League and Atlantic Coast League, playing only at intervals, however, as I was just recovering from illness, and had been forbidden by my physician to participate in daily games. At that I batted .238, and went through 90 games with 12 errors.

"Last year I signed with the Allentown Club of the Atlantic League and played from April 25 till Aug. 14, when I met with an accident, breaking my ankle in an exhibition game in Lansford, Pa.

"Last year I was to have gone with the Detroit to Cuba, leaving New York on Sept. 20, but the accident prevented.

"This is about all I can tell you about myself until I arrive in London. However, I can say that the club I handle will never quit or show a yellow streak, and that the other clubs will be 'peppered and gingered' all the way. I won't have any drinking men on the team. I don't indulge myself and men can't drink and play baseball too. Yours truly,

"CHARLES W. BIRD,
"67 Charles Street, Newark."

A Brilliant Shortstop.
Mr. Bird incloses clippings from various papers to substantiate his statements as to playing ability, and they bear him out fully. An Allentown paper, in describing the accident mentioned, says: Charles W. Bird, Allentown's brilliant little shortstop, the favorite of all the fans, and a general all around, well-liked little chap, is at the Allentown Hospital with a broken leg, as a result of the game at Lansford Wednesday.

"Bird was running between the bases when the accident happened. He slipped and fell, sustaining the in-

jury, which it is feared will keep him out of the game for the rest of the season.

"It is doubtful whether there is another man on the team who is as generally popular as the little shortstop. General always, with a smile and a good word for everybody, whether the game's going right or wrong, his 'What do you care for that is going to be missed, and his teammates and the patrons of the game in this city will regret for his sake and the team's to hear of his misfortune.'

His Newark Record.
A Brooklyn paper offered the following comment: "Charles Bird, the Newark player, who is refusing almost daily offers to jump, is playing a sensational fast game at short for Allentown. At his present pace there is nothing on the track that can touch him. Ten chances were accepted in Thursday's game without an error."

Bird will probably report in London along about May 1, and will possibly bring with him Leiberberger, the Pennsylvania twirler, and one or two other players.

Athletic Meetings

The following officers were elected by the Y. M. C. A. Association Football Club last night:

Honorary President—John Macpherson.
President—E. F. H. Parker.
Vice-President—Elmer George.
Secretary-Treasurer—S. Crawford.
Captain and Manager—Elmer Sage.

At an organization meeting of the Y. M. C. A. Tennis Club, the following officers were selected:
Honorary President—S. F. Glass.
Honorary Vice-Presidents—Capt. Robson and John Macpherson.
President—A. C. Norton.
Vice-President—C. M. Manning.
Secretary-Treasurer—J. W. P. Jones.

TORONTO TEAM LUCKY TO WIN

Portsmouth, Va., April 7.—According to Manager Kelly his Toronto Eastern League team had an off-day yesterday and this alone accounts for the close score. But for two timely hits, a bit of clever baserunning and a little sprinkling of good luck, the Virginians would have carried off the honors of the contest, which were evenly divided up to the eighth inning. There was lively ballplaying on both sides, and the performances of the Canadians in the field often elicited applause. Killroy, who put in on Richmond, was touched up rather lively, but after he was relieved the Portsmouth boys were retiring in easy order. There was comparatively poor showing made by Toronto yesterday but by no means discouraged the team, and it was easily seen that they had the material and were not measuring up to the standard of last year's pennant-winners.



CHARLES W. BIRD.

Bird will captain and manage the London International Baseball team during the coming season. Despite his youthful appearance, Bird has been playing professional baseball for ten years.

BOSTON LOSES TO THE ORIOLES

Results of Yesterday's Big League Pre-Season Series at Philadelphia and Boston.

Philadelphia, April 7.—The local American League team defeated the Nationals today in the second game of the series, in a poorly-played contest. Score: R. H. E. Nationals.....0 0 10 4 0 0 1 0 3 3 Americans.....10 0 5 1 0 0 0 7 3 Batteries—Moren, McQuillen and Doolin; Dygert and Schreckengost.

Boston Nationals Lose.

Baltimore, April 7.—The Boston National League club was defeated today by the Baltimore Eastern League team, 4 to 5, in a well-played game. Score: R. H. E. Nationals.....0 2 10 2 0 0 0 5 10 Boston.....10 0 0 1 0 2 0 4 10 2 "Skaters" Win From Princeton.

Princeton, N. J., April 7.—Jersey City today defeated Princeton by the score of 4 to 1. Score: Jersey City.....2 0 10 10 0 0 0 4 7 2 Princeton.....3 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 8 3 Batteries—Lafette, Flinn, Mason and Vandergriff; Clark and Dawson.

STEWARDS WILL RULE WITH IRON HAND

Washington, April 7.—When the racing season opens at Aqueduct on April 15 there is every indication that matters will be ruled with an iron hand. The many abuses that have been overlooked in the past, in consonance with the "no scandal" policy of the jockey club, will be penalized with the severest punishment. This will be the rule is shown by the actions of the officials during the past twelve days of racing here.

One spot which has called forth criticism for many years has been rough riding. Time after time the spectators have seen their horse bumped by a rival, thrown out of its stride and lose a race that it should have won. That the officials are going to handle the situation without gloves is apparent by the manner in which they have handled out suspensions within the past two weeks. To the great delight of the turfites, there were no favorites played.

EWRY REINSTATED.

New York, April 7.—Ray C. Ewry, the champion steeplechaser, who was suspended recently for competing in unsanctioned meets, was reinstated by the registration committee of the Metropolitan Association of the Amateur Athletic Union tonight.

CURRENT SPORTING GOSSIP

BY SOUTHPAW

With but few exceptions all of last year's crack city leaguers will be found wearing east end uniforms this year. Billy Graham, for example, has signed up with the Ramblers; Tommy Dewan and Jack McHugh will perform for Billy Begg's fast Anchors, as will also Joe Clarke, the former Perrins' player.

Meeting of the east end league will be called shortly when the schedule will be revised.

Hamilton is badly afflicted with the baseball bug, one of the papers there having begun a score guessing contest. The writer started something like that there one time and narrowly escaped being lynched when the time came for awarding prizes.

When it was mentioned to a local fan that Manager Bird had been playing pro ball for ten years, he remarked that he guessed the London manager-captain was "an old bird."

All of which reminds us that Magistrate Love has sentenced people to thirty days for much less.

Speaking of spring hats, how would one with a beaver, a wreath, and a bird on it, do?

Work will shortly be begun on the tennis courts surrounding the county buildings. The Y. M. C. A. secured permission from the county council to make use of the grounds several months ago.

Local trundlers—the indoor brand—are preparing for the Detroit tournament, which begins next Monday. With a trifle better luck than was experienced at Toronto the locals should annex some of the hardpan.

BIDDLE-OBRIEN WAS FIERCE BOUT

Jack's Hair Terribly Lacerated in a Go With Leader of Quaker City Society.

Edgerton, in the New York World, says:

The great Biddle-O'Brien battle is history. On Saturday night Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, leader of Philadelphia's pink tea set, so to speak, met Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, the professional fighter. They fought four rounds in the ring of the Merion Cricket Club at Haverford, Pa. It was without doubt the fiercest round battle ever pulled off in that arena—as well as the first. There was no knockout, but so furiously did the Social Lion carry the fight to O'Brien that the timekeeper was forced to cut each of the rounds short to save Mr. Biddle from becoming fatally wounded.

For weeks Philadelphia society has been on tiptoe for the great event. Society has always claimed that Mr. Biddle carried a kick in either mitt that would make him a new fortune if he lost a few millions. The big fellow so greatly depended on has had less opportunity than the rest leaving the Tiger camp just when he was working well to go to the bedside of his sick wife in Detroit.

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TWO PLAYERS LET GO BY TORONTO

Norfolk, Va., April 8.—Manager Kelly, of the Toronto Club, released two of his superlative players today. Hughie Jennings, shortstop, goes to the Madison Club of the Wisconsin League, and Eddie Rudolph, outfielder, has been placed with the Holyoke Club of Connecticut League. President J. J. McCaffery wired today that he will join the team at Wilmington, Del., tomorrow. Outfielder Walsh is also expected to report there.

BASEBALL. MONTREAL AT PRACTICE.

Easton, Pa., April 7.—With the weather more suitable for football than baseball, Dr. Casey and his bunch of ballsters took their first practice here Saturday. After some stiff work it seems as if it would not take much training to get the men into first-class form. All practice consisted of catching and batting flies and grounders. Twelve uniformed men appeared on the field, those who arrive since last night being McManus, Corcoran and Stanley. Corcoran seems in excellent form, ready to go into a game tomorrow and eat up grounders with avidity.

THE TURF. Winners Yesterday.

At Benning—Oxford 7 to 10, Elizabeth Sweeney 10 to 1, Dress Parade 100 to 1, Pennants 3 to 5, Alloy 3 to 2, Clements even.
At New Orleans—Alice 9 to 2, Mer-

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Sporting Jottings From Scissors, Pen and Wire