

City Softball Leagues Prepare For Wider Competition This Season

Men's and Girls' Leagues Promise Softball Boom

Girls' Southern or Western Ontario League Proposed—London Will Enter Men's Senior Inter-City League—Other Local Leagues.

Softball, from present indications, is going to boom this summer. The game has been caught on as it never did before. Last year witnessed an avalanche of popularity, and girls especially took to the game. Scores of girls' teams were formed in this city alone, and drew patronage that ranked well with that of their sterner brothers.

This year prospects have brightened still more. Competitive fields will be broadened for both girls and men. In a summary of the extensive softball program for this coming summer, includes an inter-city senior men's league, local, senior and intermediate city leagues, and in addition to the girls' playground league, which was an unqualified success last year, a proposition has been advanced, suggesting the formation of a Southern Ontario Girls' League, which offers splendid possibilities of being extended to even greater proportions—a Western Ontario Girls' League.

A meeting of men's softball enthusiasts and last year's officials will be held at 8 o'clock next Tuesday night at Brisco's when organization plans for the coming season will be discussed and decided upon, and a definite program outlined.

An intermediate city league is planned, and it is expected that there will be a large number of teams. Some manufacturing concerns have already indicated a desire to enter teams, and a definite league is being organized. It is also proposed to draft a senior city league of four teams composed of the best talent in the intermediate league. From this city league, in turn, will be picked the members of the London Senior Inter-City team.

London's entry in the Inter-City League will be strong one, and it is expected that "Bob" Wray will uphold London's interests at the organization meeting to be held in Hamilton on Friday. Hamilton and Brantford have already completed their local organizations, and Kitchener and Stratford have their plans well under way.

The proposed girls' league has everything decided in its favor for success, and is capable of wonderful possibilities. To name a few of the logical entries, St. Marys, Ingersoll, Dorchester, Thamesford, Watford, Strathroy, Glenora, Mount Brydges, and other nearby centres would make compact groups, and the inter-city league would be a success.

While the intention is primarily to form a district girls' league, with London as a centre, and with short, inexpensive trips an obligatory consideration, the proposed league may easily be extended to take in Western Ontario, if sufficient centres are interested. The girls' league and playground leagues here would form groups in themselves.

No town is too small to produce a good team as Hyde Park and other small centres showed last year. In the smaller towns, the pick of the talent would be made up of one strong team, and the team has the right spirit from the start. In the larger centres, the talent is divided up into several teams, and is thus handicapped.

A meeting for the consideration of plans, and a general organization will be held possibly within a week or ten days. The date, place, and other particulars are to be announced shortly.

URGING THAT GRANITES MEET MANITOBA CREW

Fans Wonder If Better Showing Would Be Made.

Winnipeg, March 21.—The four thousand or so hockey followers who were at the arena last night, wondering today just how good the Granites would look against one of the Winnipeg senior teams. In fact, after the clean-cut victory of the Toronto brigade over the Saskatchewan University, President "Toby" Sexsmith, of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, was bold enough to suggest that the Granites take on one of the Manitoba teams in an exhibition contest on Thursday night in order to test the real calibre of the talented eastern aggregation.

But when the Saskatchewan heard of this proposal, they would not listen to it, as they feel that they will not make a much better showing. A little stage fright, they would say, and the fact that they had overestimated the true strength of their opponents put them off their game in the first two periods.

Winnipeg today is talking about the tidy and well-drilled Granite outfit, and are comparing their style of game to that of the senior Manitoba team. The easterners do not mass in front of their goal as much as the local teams, but they are more accurate in their use of the puck to good effect, particularly in a fight for the puck, and often put an opponent off his balance by getting the body in the way. Though they failed to produce a speed attack, they were able to outlast their opponents, and gave a finished exhibition of stick handling.

BRITISH PREPARING PLANS FOR OLYMPIC GAMES, 1924

Associated Press Despatch. London, March 21.—The British are rapidly rounding out their plans for the Olympic games at Paris next year, and more than one-fourth of the proposed fund of £30,000 for support of the team has been raised. The entire United Kingdom is helping to foot the bill. Each town of 1,000 population has been asked to contribute at least £10 to the fund. Before this appeal went out London had subscribed £2,000. The Olympic Association, and has contributed £100 toward the fund. The Prince of Wales and his brother, the Duke of York, re vice-patrons and contributors.

JACK BENTLEY AGREES TO JOIN GIANTS IN SOUTH

Associated Press Despatch. New York, March 21.—Spring training at the Giants' camp at San Antonio, Texas, has reached the stage of decision for Manager McGraw, and of acute worry for the recruits and some of the regulars. The situation of the manager eased today over the announcement from Baltimore that Jack Bentley, the \$85,000 star bought from the Orioles, had decided to report.

"KAZOO" CLUB WILL TRAIN IN ZANESVILLE, OHIO

Special to The Advertiser. Kalamazoo, Mich., March 20.—The Kalamazoo baseball team of the Michigan-Ontario League will train in Zanesville, Ohio, during the spring training. Manager Marty Brecker at that city on April 5, and remain there until the team is ready to report to the league. So far 22 players have mailed in their contracts.

PETROLEA IS UNDECIDED WHETHER TO ENTER O. B. A.

Petrolea, March 20.—A baseball meeting was held by the Petrolea fans last night for the purpose of discussing the possibility of entering the O. B. A. league. The meeting was held at the local hotel, and a strong local team is looked forward to. Nearly all of last year's players are available, and a few newcomers are of known ability.

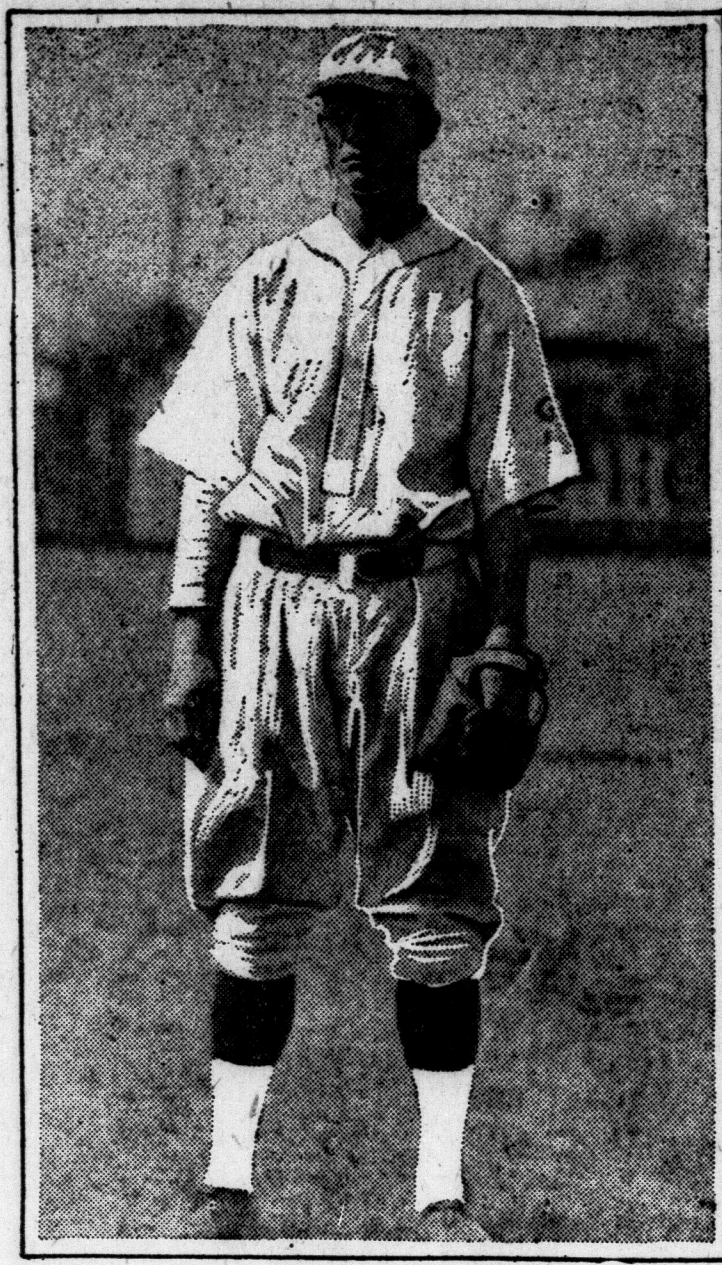
The matter of entering the O. B. A. league is still undecided. The team has been formed, and a town league will likely be formed, as the proposal is finding favor universally here. The league will be a four-team league with Ennisco, Tuxedo, and Marlborough making the circuit.

EXHIBITION BALL

CARDS WIN. At Bradenton, Fla.—R.H.E. St. Louis Nationals 5 14 1 Cleveland Americans 2 7 1 Victoria, Wigan, Haines and Conna, McCurdy, Ansmith, Uhle, Morton and Wray, O'Neill.

SENATORS, 5 TO 2

At St. Petersburg, Fla.—R.H.E. Boston Nationals 2 7 4 Washington Americans 5 8 2 Maryland, Watson and Gower, Zachary, Billhart and Ruel, Lapan, Hargrave.



Homer E. Ezell, taken at Brown's camp at Mobile, Ala.

The career of one Achilles, who played in the mythical League, was cut short because of a tender heel. Manager Lee Fohl of the Browns wasn't troubled by the fact of the Browns' loss to a third baseman was about as disastrous to his ball club last season as was the loss of a pitcher. Every time the doughty Browns got ready to ascend the dizzy heights, knock the Yankees from the lead and romp with the American League bacon, Fohl's third baseman would come in and play an acceptable game at times but his services were lost part of the season through illness. Fohl used Eddie Foster and even the aged Herman Gronke at the last corner because he could find no one else. Both were willing to miss weeks.

Now Fohl is depending upon one young man at Brown's camp to play third base in big league style, plus the gap there and add the necessary defensive and offensive strength to carry the Browns to the flag. Homer E. Ezell is the man. The lad, who comes to the big show from Shreveport in the Texas League, may hold the fate of the Browns in his hands. He is using to handle the hot corner and has been called "the kid" before a general discussion of the team.

Browns Lucky Club. The Browns beat half a dozen big league clubs in the struggle for Ezell. With the Texas League club last year, this young player second base but Fohl put him in the outfield and he has been hurt by his effectiveness. In 1922, Ezell played second base at all around super-stardom. He collected 146 hits and 22 assists and 39 errors. While this record alone does not reveal clearly his ability, it shows that he was busy and ranked well up as far as averages go. What impressed observers most was his natural fielding ability and his headwork.

But he was a bear. His average for 1922 was .321. He went to bat 151 times and while plying out 197 hits scored 113 runs. He specialized in doubles, hitting 28, and collected 3 triples and 2 homers. He showed his skill as a scoring hitter by leading the league in hits on the bases by swiping 52. He worked the pitchers for 35 passes, which indicates that he knows how to look them over. Ezell began his professional career with San Antonio, Texas, where he was after starting with semi-pro teams in that city. He is 26, of medium height and robust build. He seems every inch a ball player.

Says New World Nations To Have Political League

Prophesies Proposed New York-Buenos Aires Railway Will Closely Link the Two Americas.

Special Cable to The London Advertiser and The Philadelphia Public Ledger. Paris, March 20.—The European press is just waking up to the fifth Pan-American conference, which opens Friday at Santiago, Chile.

While confident in the belief that the Pan-American idea that has been heretofore dominated South America will triumph over the consortium of trusts in which New York plays the lion's role, the fact that United States is outside the League of Nations and that the position of Argentina, with one foot in and one foot out of the society, is decidedly equivocal, raises the possibility of a "League of American Nations" that will leave Europe completely outside the program.

The project of a New York-Buenos Aires railway, destined to traverse the new world from end to end, looms in headlines. One writer thus sums up the situation: "Incapable of governing itself, Europe has become the foyer of anarchy. In the face of this danger, young America, full of hope and sincerely struggling for an ideal of peace, intends to fix her future line of conduct. The Santiago conference is for the purpose of securing a commercial union, a unification of customs, and the final achievement is this famous railway that will traverse two continents. The immediate result would be to draw toward New York all the vitality of Latin America."

"But now on account of the story of Mexico, there is a great suspicion of the older brothers in North America, and considerable predilection for Latin countries following the line of strengthening their maritime relations with Europe. However, Pan-American partisans have taken advantage of many incidents that occurred at Geneva, and are holding up the spectre of another European conflagration."

"Thus the advocacy of the pure doctrine of Monroe in a new league of nations."

TRADE COMMISSIONER FROM AFRICA IN CITY

Can Point Out Unusual Opportunities for Export Business to London Men.

An unusual opportunity is afforded the London businessmen who is in a position to consider the export side of his product, in the visit tomorrow of W. J. Egan, Canadian trade commissioner to South Africa. Mr. Egan who will make the Chamber of Commerce his headquarters, may be seen by appointment there or will go out to inspect any product or manufacturing process, so that he may be in the best position to give advice or make suggestions suited to each individual product.

He will be in the city for a day or two. He is most anxious to meet manufacturers, and believes that he has a great opportunity to sell to Canadian businessmen.

HARDING CERTAIN TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN 1924. Associated Press Despatch. Miami, Fla., March 21.—Attorney-General Daugherty, commenting today on his announcement Saturday that President Harding would be a candidate in 1924, declared that his re-nomination without a contest was assured.

"There will be no contest, and those seeking to show that there will be a great fight will be forcibly disappointed," the attorney-general declared.

WARNS CITY INVESTORS OF FRAUDULENT STOCKS

Chamber of Commerce and Council Urge Citizens To Investigate All Propositions.

As a warning to the citizens of London, and in view of the many fraudulent stocks that have been offered lately in this district, the London Chamber of Commerce, together with the city council, has passed the following resolution:

"Whereas it is a matter of common knowledge that many people of this city and district have within the last few years particularly, sustained loss by the purchase of stock in incorporated companies of a highly speculative and even in some instances fraudulent character.

And where as restrictions placed on the sale of stock in incorporated companies by three Canadian provinces and forty-one out of the forty-eight states of the United States, have a tendency to make this province the richest of the Dominion—the happy hunting ground of company promoters and high pressure stock salesmen.

Therefore, be it resolved that the London City Council and Chamber of Commerce issue a warning to investors, to thoroughly investigate all stock selling proposals placed before them before signing applications for stock, and to bear in mind the fact that while there are many safe channels for investment, there are also frequently those who seek to make investments which are more or less a gamble, and should not be considered for a minute by those who have no money to lose.

News From the Churches

KING'S DAUGHTERS.

At the regular meeting of the King's Daughters of Christ Church held last evening, arrangements were discussed for relief work, also for the sending of flowers to the sick. Further plans were made for the sale of work, the society is holding in May.

At the meeting of the C. G. I. T. of Maitland Street, last evening: President, Miss S. Boyd; secretary, Miss M. Coughtrey; treasurer, Miss Schuster; pianist, Miss Heatherly; program committee, Misses Mary Norton, and May Sawyer; social committee, Misses Pearl Motz, Peggy Iloe, Thelma Mantle and Edna Barnes. The balance of \$26, which completes the group's objective of \$100 for the church calendar fund, was brought in. The meeting was presided over by Rev. A. T. Sowerby, and it was decided that the group would hold social hours once a month.

SHORT-STORY EVENING.

Three short stories related by members of the class were interesting numbers of the evening's program at the meeting of the Junior Mission Circle of Askin Street Church, held at the home of Mrs. Ann Dodgson, in Craig street, Tuesday. Miss Hazel Moore's story was "A Pilgrim of India"; Miss Marjorie Coulter told of Le Bi Cu, a Chinese doctor, and Miss Edith Copp gave an interesting talk on Dr. Cameron. The Bible reading was given by Miss Minnie Dobbins, and Miss Marjorie Coulter presided over the meeting in the absence of the president, Miss Genevieve Milton. A dainty supper was served by the hostess, Miss Dodgson.

PLAN HOUSE SOCIAL.

The regular meeting of the Circle of Home Industry of Southern Congregational Church was held Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. B. Wherry, 257 William street. Plans were made for a house social to be held April 6 at the home of Miss F. Northey, 788 Lorne avenue. The circle hopes to hold socials of this nature once a month. Mrs. M. Todman was

POPE PROTESTS OBSERVING ERNEST RENAN'S BIRTHDAY

Associated Press Despatch. London, March 21.—A Milan despatch to the Times says that Pope Pius, receiving members of the Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas, delivered an allocution, in which he protested against the recent commemoration of the centenary of the birth of Ernest Renan, "whose name sounds as a blasphemy against Jesus Christ. The observance of Renan's birth should have been commemorated in Rome, and ordering an expiatory mass for March 24."

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Say House of David Trial Will Take Three Weeks

Attorney Declares Testimony Will Be of Such Divergent Nature That "Truth Will Not Appear."

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Under the ruling only two witnesses for the plaintiffs were heard yesterday and H. T. Dewhirst, counsel for the House of David, informed the court that the testimony opened up a field that could not be covered by both sides short of three weeks. At the end of that time the attorney declared, the testimony would be of such a divergent nature that "the truth would not appear."

Moral Conditions. Walter H. Nelson of Detroit, attorney for the plaintiff, succeeded in opening up the question of moral conditions at the colony on the ground that misrepresentation of conditions to prospective members was part of the fraud alleged by the plaintiff.

He sought to recover \$50,000 as the value of his labor and property turned over to the cult. Hansell was expelled and the return of his property was denied him by Benjamin David Purnell, head of the cult, he charges.

There were reports that special arrangements had been made for the protection of witnesses, following the statement on the witness stand by Mrs. Hazel Wurth that she had received threats since it became known she was to testify, and her statement that she "feared the Israelites."

Chief Witness. Mrs. Wurth was the chief witness at yesterday's session, and the first to disclose under oath in court alleged immoral practices within the colony. As a member, she said, she was one of the "inner circle," and had intimate relations with Purnell, who, she was taught to believe, could do no wrong, and with whom no woman could sin.

These alleged relations, the witness said, she was told, would gain for her her inheritance on earth. Similar experiences were attributed by Mrs. Wurth to other women who were then girl members of the colony who had been seduced by Purnell.

The witness declared Purnell maintained a mock court at which the girls were trained for possible appearance in legal action against the cult, or for an investigation such as was once threatened by Derrien County officials. Miss Hilda Pritchard of Chicago, also testified to conditions at the House of David, the official residence of Purnell, where between 30 and 40 girls were said to reside. She admitted relations with Purnell, and told of alleged group marriages, in which the girls had little or no voice in the selection of their husbands.

An "extra" G. T. R. freight train, eastbound into London, was stalled just east of the Cove bridge by one of its cars leaving the rails. No one was injured, but the train crew was thankful the derailment took place after they had crossed the bridge, otherwise the accident would have been serious.

The accident, which occurred at 7:29 a.m., was caused by a defective truck on the car which left the rails. Only the eastbound half of the right-of-way was blocked, and eastbound trains were derailed over the westbound track from Hyde Park, causing no inconvenience in the train despatching department.

J. M. McEvoy is acting for the plaintiff and Judd and Henderson for the defendants.

TOWN PLANNING BOARD MEETS THIS AFTERNOON. The Town Planning Commissioners meet in regular session this afternoon.

The general impression is that this body will to all intents and purposes cease to exist during 1923, as the council has reduced the estimates from \$5,250 to \$250.

One member of the commission remarked: "It leaves sufficient for postage stamps to notify the members that we have no business to transact."

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CIVIC GARAGE QUESTION AGAIN BEING DISCUSSED

Engineer Near Will Confer With Members of Special Committee.

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