

# SPORTING NEWS AND KINDRED SUBJECTS

## UNION FIVES WON 2 GAMES

### BAKER LOSES BOYS' AND GIRLS' GAMES.

Small Margins Between Scores, However, in Interesting Games.

Union, Feb. 2. — (Special)—Union boys and girls won from Baker again last night by a narrow margin. The boys vanquished the Bakerites by a score of 13 to 12, in a brilliant game. The girls won from the Baker girls by a score of 5 to 3. The audience numbered 200 and over and excitement was rife from start to finish.

The city team is in Wallawa today and will play the team there this evening.

Those who saw the high school in action last Friday night will want to go again Saturday night when Milton college comes. The ability of the highs was something of a surprise when actually put to the test, and fans want to see them come back even stronger.

Next week is a strenuous one for La Grande in a basketball line and it will produce two fast games. In the first place the fans will get the first glimpse of the city team which has been running up enormous scores out of town but has not played at home this year. Many fans will want to see how they work and it they will get their most sanguine hopes fulfilled, too, for the team has dash and go that is creditable to any club team in the team has dash and go that is creditable to any club team in the state. The club team takes on Milton (Columbia) college early in the week and the high school takes the same team on Saturday night.

The Freshmen defeated the sophomores Wednesday night in a spirited game of basketball. Crawley for the Freshmen and Carpy for the sophs were the stars of the occasion.

Summerville, Feb. 3. — (Special) — Summerville defeated Imbler here last night by the big score of 63 to 9. The Summerville lineup follows: A. Mackinzie, forward, 32 points; Will Hamilton, forward, 12 points; Al Hug, center, 11 points; Claude Mackinzie, guard, 8 points; McCrea guard.

In the second half Imbler put in some older players but couldn't overtake the lead gained by Summerville. The Imbler lineup is forwards, J. Morris, three points, N. Pratt, four points, Hunter and Kellum, center, Coble, Henry and Mulberry, guards. Henry scored two points.

### GOSSIP ABOUT BASEBALL.

Pitcher Tesrau, who was tried out by Detroit two years ago, has been signed by the Giants.

The Chicago White Sox have signed Catcher Jack Nelson who played in the New Brunswick league last season.

Another Bergen is coming into base ball for a trial with the New York Americans. He comes from Ossining, N. Y.

John M. Ward says that Mike Donlin will draw the highest salary next season of any outfielder in the national league.

The New York Highlanders sent Blair back to Rochester and now Manager Wolverton is up against it for an extra catcher.

No wonder "Black Hand" ginks are trying to hold up ball players for a piece of change when so much dope is published about the enormous salaries paid the tossers.

Manager John Kling, of the Boston Nationals, intends to make a catcher out of "Hank" Gowdy. "Hank" worked at first base last season, but has had experience behind the plate.

## MODERN RACE TRACK IS AIM SEARCHING FOR FIRST BASEMEN

Plans looking toward a splendid race track that will not only make harness events of high caliber possible but will make La Grande the mecca for automobile speed fiends in Eastern Oregon, are well under way. Men with \$500 checks ready to be signed for the cause cannot be listed on one hand by any means, say those who are advancing the cause, and as there are a great many other elements that are to be recruited into the backing of such a venture it now seems but a matter of weeks until the scheme will crystallize in a well-formed association with sufficient working funds to carry out the high ideals of the promoters. At a dinner

given at the Foley grill this week, some dozen of the warm friends of the project met and appointed committees and it is to be expected that these committees will report shortly as to what they have accomplished.

The matter of location is not right now made public, but the general scheme is to provide a race track on which harness and automobile events can be held with such success that the annual events will be to La Grande what the roundup is to Pendleton. The theory is not far fetched, either, and the Observer misses a guess if a movement to that end is not well launched within the next few days and culminated in actual realization.

### PITTSBURG IS IN A BAD FIX TOO, FOR GOOD PLAYERS.

Six League Clubs After Crack Initial Sackers.

Good first basemen are at a premium in the two big leagues. For more than two years the managers of most of the major league teams have been scouring the minors for material that will fit in at first. The New York teams are well supplied with first sackers. Fred Merkle fills the bill for the Giants, and Jake Daubert for Brooklyn last season demonstrated that he is the class of the National league. With Hal



Photo by American Press Association. ARTIE HOFFMAN, WHO MAY PLAY FIRST FOR CUBS NEXT SEASON.

Chase on the job, the New York American team will be all right at the first sack.

Both the Chicago teams have been looking over the youngsters very carefully for such a player. The indisposition of Frank Chance last spring left the first corner of the famous old Cub machine without a high grade man, and the departure of Frank Isbell two years ago left the White Sox destitute of a seasoned man. Chance announced recently that he would occupy his old position next season. But the Cub players say Artie Hoffman, the crack center fielder, will play the bag. Hoffman during Chance's absence last season put up a creditable game at the initial station.

The Chicago teams are not alone in the hunt. The Pittsburgh Pirates, Detroit Tigers, St. Louis Browns, Washington Senators, Cleveland Naps and Boston Nationals are all seeking a first baseman who can be depended on for a timely wallop and a thinking part when it comes to fielding the ball.

The Cincinnati Reds, St. Louis Cardinals, the champion Athletics and Boston Red Sox will have men at first base the coming season that they can rely on, but in the other clubs the initial base will have to be looked after by inexperienced men, with the possible exception of the Cubs in case Chance returns to take care of his old job.

The dearth of first basemen is easily explained. It is one of the hardest positions on the team to fill, for it is necessary to have physical qualifications as well as mental to come up to the standard required by most of the managers.

Tall men, like Kouetchy of the St. Louis Cardinals, Hohlitzel of the Cincinnati Reds and Chase of the Highlanders, are necessary in order to properly handle the high and low throws and to guard themselves against the base runners.

To find a fielding star and a man that can hit the ball as well as act with necessary intelligence is about as hard a proposition as it would be to try to buy Christy Mathewson from John McGraw.

Fred Clarke of the Pirates is making a strenuous effort to land a first baseman for the Pirates that will make good. His team has been weak in that position for years because he has failed to find a youngster that could fill the place, although he has spent many thousands of dollars in the quest. It has been reported that Clarke has offered the Toronto International league club \$7,500 for Tim Jordan, but Manager Joe Kelly of the Maple Leafs says he has never heard of the offer.

### WITH THE BOXERS

Matt Wells and "One Round" Hogan will most likely meet in London on Derby Day next May.

It about time Carl Morris and Al Palzer signed up for a wrangle to determine who is the real "hope."

### ZBYSCO CLAIMS MAT TITLE.

With Champion Retired, Big Pole Seats Himself on Vacated Throne. Jack Herman, who has been guiding the destinies of the big Polish wrestler, Zbyesco, for several years, lost no time in putting in first claim for the world's championship title, which Frank Gotch says he will no longer defend. Herman has posted a forfeit of \$1,000 to meet any grapple in the world with Zbyesco defending the crown which he believes himself entitled to. Furthermore, Herman says he is willing to wager



Photo by American Press Association. ZBYSCO, WHO HAS CLAIMED WRESTLING TITLE.

any reasonable amount that no man in the world can down the big Pole, best two falls in three.

As Zbyesco has been the most persistent of Gotch's challengers and has tossed every wrestler of prominence in this country and Europe, he appears to have a full Nelson hold on the championship, provided, of course, Gotch is honest in his announced retirement. No one can stop the Iowa farmer from quitting the game, and for over a year he has steadfastly refused to listen to any proposition from the Pole.

Canadians Try Lacrosse on Skates. Regina, Canada, is trying out a new kind of sport, lacrosse on skates. Three or four teams have organized, and the game is becoming very popular.

Sh! Close the door and come inside. They've signed up a bunch of Visigoths in the New York state league. Vesokoslesynski has signed with Troy; Coskoliskmet with Elmira; Nemishanyi with Wilkes-Barre and Greenhalghet with Albany. Keep this quiet and says nothing about it.

### Track Prospects Good.

University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore., Feb. 2. — (Special)—Track men of the university decided at a recent meeting to brave the hardships of early spring cross country running in the hope of putting out a superior team again this year. Oregon will be unusually strong in the distances this year and rather weak in the sprints, unless some new material shows class. Although McConnell, the local 880 record holder, has not returned to college, McClure, McGuire, Huggins and Miller are back, and Boylen, the Eastern Oregon runner, will add to the team. Johns will apparently be the only sprinter for Oregon. Ben Williams, champion pole vaulter, who is taking a post graduate course here, will annex five points in any meet. The track team will go to Seattle, to San Francisco, and to Idaho this year.

### SAYS EMSLIE'S EYES ARE O. K.

Hank O'Day Ridicules Story of Umpire Bob's Failing Sight.

When one desires to make former Umpire Hank O'Day shake with laughter just mention to him in a casual way that it is said that Bob Emslie's eyes have gone back on him.

Nothing seems so absurd to the new manager of the Cincinnati Reds as to have some one tell him it is time that the National league was putting Emslie on the pension list, as the American league did Jack Sheridan.

O'Day had him for a partner during two months of last season's schedule and found him as efficient in rendering decisions on the bases as any other man in the league.

"I stopped off at Toronto on my way back from the east," said O'Day, "and found Emslie in fine shape. He was just after winning a gun shoot and was wearing a classy diamond medal."

"I watched him shoot one day, and he killed forty out of forty-five birds. Now, that is some shooting. Then they say his eyes are bad. Do you know, I honestly think his work on the bases was the best of the league."

"While we were together there was less kicking made on his decisions than on any other man who worked with me. In fact, there was hardly any. Of course the players yelled, but they never objected strenuously."

"Bob is still a high class umpire, and I do not think it is necessary to put him on the pension list. When they say his eyes are bad they do not know what they are talking about. His eyes surely cannot be bad when he wins a shooting match every fall."

### SWIMMERS FROM HAWAII.

George Freeth of Los Angeles Has Two Good Men in Charge.

George Freeth of Los Angeles, for several seasons connected with water polo teams in southern California, is managing two speedy Honolulu swimmers, Duke Kahanamoku and Vincent Givones, who have startled the Hawaiian people by their performances.

The former is a sprinter and holds a record of 55.25 seconds for 100 yards and has covered fifty yards in 24.15 seconds. Givones is a star at 440, 880 and mile races. They will be entered in events on the coast.

Playing 18,000 Point Billiard Match. George Gray, the Australian billiard champion, and H. W. Stevenson are matched to play a series of three 18,000 point games for the championship. The first series is now being played in London. The second will take place at St. George's hall, Liverpool, and the third at Caxton hall, Westminster.

May Form Professional Billiard League. Plans are under way for the formation of an intercity professional billiard league which will be composed of teams from Kansas City, St. Louis, Denver and Chicago.

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LA GRANDE

### Application for Grazing Permits.

Notice is hereby given that all applications for permits to graze cattle, horses and sheep within the Wenaha National forest during the season of 1912, must be filed in my office at Walla Walla, Washington, on or before February 15, 1912. Full information in regard to the fees to be charged and blank forms to be used in making applications will be furnished upon request.

J. M. SCHMITZ, Supervisor.  
Jan. 18 20 25 27 Feb. 1 3.



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