

BEAVER CONTRACTS WILL BE DELAYED

McCredie Not to Mail Papers to Players Until About February 15.

ALL EXPECTED TO SIGN

Berger's Case Illustrates Fate of Holdouts, as He Will Go to Class A at Lower Salary.

BY ROSCOE FAWCETT.

Portland Coast League ball contracts will not be sent out this year until about February 15. Hereafter contracts have had to be mailed to prospective ball stars on or before February 1, but this date was moved along one month at the recent session of the league at San Francisco.

"I don't know any special reason for this," said Walter McCredie yesterday. "But it was done so it gives us 30 days more to line up talent. We will not mail contracts before February 15." McCredie doesn't expect any great difficulty in signing the players this year. In the first place, his team finished so far down the ladder that no ballplayer would have "struck" enough to demand a raise. Then again, the removal of the Federal League bugaboo and the flooding of about 150 extra players on the market, gives the manager a wide choice of talent after two or three years of self-cleaning.

Joe Berger's case illustrates to what extent the magnates are running things. Berger came back to Vernon last year from the Chicago Sox and Vernon considered a big league contract. When the Vernon club was sold to the Federal League for his 1914 contract, Joe kicked over the tracks and refused to sign.

As a result the Vernons went out and paid \$1000 for Melchior, of the Western League, and now Berger is on the market. One report has it that Vernon has sold him to the White Sox of the Western League, and if this is true Berger will have to sign at an even lower figure than Vernon offered him. Wichita is in a Class A league, one degree lower even than the Pacific Coast.

Berger's refusal to do business with Vernon also practically eliminates him from the league. The chances are that Walter McCredie was asked if he would attempt to sign Berger if Joe got an unconditional release by Vernon. "No," said McCredie. "Vernon," he replied. "Vernon is paying just as big salaries as Portland can afford, and Berger is not satisfied with Vernon's offer. I don't see how Portland could please him."

Fred Durbin doesn't take to the idea of playing ball next year in the Southern Association. The Portland Real Estate man dropped Walter McCredie a letter a few days ago protesting against any such suggestion. Durbin desires to stick in the Coast League, and is decidedly eager to go to Vernon.

Sam Agnew, the old Vernon catcher, will work under Fletcher Jones next year at St. Louis. In the course of the progress of the Federal League league, Sam Agnew has been in Boston. Jones had this sale annulled by Sam Agnew, however, on the grounds that Agnew belonged to the Federal League and was not legally transferred during the progress of sale negotiations. St. Louis will acquire Agnew when he says he has two great Federal League catches in Hartley and Chapman.

CIRCUIT RACES ARE ALLOTTED Montreal Drops Out and Cleveland and Columbus Share Dates.

STRIKING PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING OPPENHEIMER MOUNT TAKING HURDLE LIKE FOREST SMITHSON IN HIS PALMY DAYS.



Eugene K. Oppenheimer Eugene Oppenheimer jumping his favorite mount. Mr. Oppenheimer has been a frequent winner in Portland Hunt Club paper chases, and will be an entry in the postponed New Year's chase on Saturday.

RIDERS WANT RAIN

Hunt Club Fears Cold Will Prevent Paper Chase.

ENTRIES COMING IN FAST

Breakneck Event Over Zigzag Course to Be Staged Saturday

With Mr. and Mrs. Nat McDougall as Hares.

Portland Hunt Club fanciers are preparing for rain or a relaxation of the cold weather. Already snow postponed the annual opening paper chase of the season is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, and unless a thaw sets in the affair may suffer another postponement, according to Harry M. Kerron.

The trail has been marked out by bits of paper scattered along the route by the hares. The hares are Mr. and Mrs. Nat McDougall. The trail is a zigzag one, several miles long, and the riders do not know where the finish is to be, nor how many blinds may have been laid, so sagacity and shrewdness enter into the race, as well as courage and horsemanship.

The hares who go ahead to lay the paper for the chase in next Saturday's race Mr. and Mrs. Nat McDougall are the hares always try to choose a stretch of country which affords some open territory, so that the onlookers may have the excitement of watching the race.

It is intensely thrilling to see the riders string out single file along some narrow trail for a moment; then watch them dash into the underbrush, where they are out of sight for awhile, only to emerge later at some unexpected place in the landscape with perhaps a different man in the lead, because each rider can use his own judgment in following the blinds, and the slower ones sometimes profit by the mistakes of the faster ones and dash in ahead at the very last, winning the trophy.

VOLLMER SETS SWIM RECORD New York Crack Goes 150 Yards in 1 Minute 29 4-5 Seconds.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—Herbert E. Vollmer, crack swimmer of the New York Athletic Club, last night negotiated 150 yards in the New York Athletic Club tank in 1:29 4-5, and it is said will lay claim to a new world's record for that distance.

FULTZ ASKS CAUTION

Players Warned Not to Give Up Old Fed Contracts.

PACTS TO BE RESPECTED

Men Advised Not to Sign With Any Club of Organized Ball Without First Getting Consent of Former Owners.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—David L. Fultz, president of the Baseball Players' Fraternity, has addressed a special communication to the members of the organization calling attention to the complicated contractual relations which will exist between Federal League players and magnates under the proposed peace agreement, involving organized and independent baseball interests.

"Although the peace agreement between organized baseball and the Federal League has not been made public, authoritatively, it can safely be said that organized baseball will not assume the long-term Federal League contracts, except where it desires to do so."

It will probably respect these contracts, but will not necessarily assume them. In other words, if an organized ball club desires the services of a player who has signed a long-term contract, it will make terms with the Federal League owner and will then be obliged to assume the contract in its entirety.

LOOKING THEM OVER

WALTER JOHNSON, star pitcher of the Washington team, is often referred to as the "Human Bullet," because of his terrific speed. In the last few years Johnson has been beaten more than usual. Failure to win with the almost monotonous regularity that for a long time featured his work on the diamond, has caused much conjecture as to the real cause.

Tennis Players to Open Store.

CAMEL CIGARETTES advertisement featuring a large illustration of a camel and a pack of cigarettes. Text includes: 'will delight your fancy in many new ways. The blend of choice Turkish and choice Domestic tobaccos does away with tongue-bite and throat-parch and leaves no unpleasant cigarette aftertaste...' and 'R. J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO COMPANY, Winston-Salem, N. C.'

FEWER BIRDS KILLED

Weather Mars Season Now Ending for Ducks and Geese.

MORE SHOT LAST YEAR

Game Officials Estimate Total Bag in Oregon at 26,000 and for Last Season at 36,000.

Only 3 Days Remain.

Guess how many ducks, geese, rails and coots were killed during the 1915-1916 open season, which closes Saturday night in the state of Oregon.

Weather Mars Hunting. Early in the season many of the lakes on the islands between Government Island and the lower end of Deer Island were dried up, necessitating pumping and later in the season, about the middle of December, too much moisture produced the opposite extreme.

ABERDEEN SEEKS FUNDS RE-ENTRY IN NORTHWEST LEAGUE DISCUSSED BY CHAMBER Campaign Soon Will Be Waged to Get Money to Meet Old Debts and Start Club Out Anew.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Jan. 11.—(Special)—A campaign to raise funds to support baseball will be launched here shortly with the end in view of Aberdeen seeking readmission to the Northwest League. This action followed a discussion by the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce last night which was favorable to the plan.

Y. M. C. A. COMETS WIN, 28-2 Quest Club is Defeated in Fast Basketball Contest.

WESTERN LEAGUERS TO MEET O'Neil to Delay Turning Over Records, but Zehring Wants Action.

SPORTSMEN FACE DULL TIME

All Shooting Ends January 15 and Fishing Closed Until April.

REGISTRATION OF FEEDERS

Elimination of Several Fed Cities Not in Violation of Sherman Law.

PEACE MERGER HELD LEGAL

Spokane Tennis Players to Visit Joseph Trier, of Spokane, Northwest tennis champion, is a Portland visitor.

Dr. Paul C. Yates PAINLESS DENTIST. PORTLAND, OREGON. I HAVE CUT PRICES I will save you 50 cents on every dollar on the best dental work made by human hands and without pain.

WHITBY ATLANTA, 2 1/2 in. high WHITBY, 1 1/2 in. high ARROW COLLARS 2 for 25 cents Chett, Peabody & Co., Inc. Makers

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