

BIG LEAGUES ARE HOLDING TO PLEDGE

Only Five in National and One in American Sign 1917 Contracts.

HUSTON HAS NOVEL PLAN

New York Yankee Magnate Would Tear Up Schedules and Play Games Between Nearest Major League Teams.

The big league magnates may be right in saying that there will be no strike of their ballplayers, but just the same, the big league players are keeping the promise to David Fultz and are not signing their contracts.

Although contracts were sent out to all unsigned players in the national and American leagues some time ago, only five signed parchments have been returned by National League athletes, and but one by an American leaguer.

Claude Williams, the former Coast pitcher, sent in his document to the White Sox, but, unfortunately for Claude, he is not a member of the White Sox.

The strike ultimatum is rather tough on some of the big league stars who have no grievance and who face a serious split with their employers.

New York Clubs Well Fixed. The two New York clubs appear to be better fixed than any of the others. The Giants have only two unsigned regulars and the Yankees four or five.

Captain Huston, one of the owners of the New York Americans, has evolved a novel plan to combat the strike.

Huston's scheme is to throw the regular schedules of the two leagues into the wastebasket and have each club play double-headers two or three times a week with its nearest rival.

The St. Louis Cardinals would play the St. Louis Browns; the Chicago Cubs would play the Chicago Sox; the Boston Braves would play the Boston Sox; the New York Yankees would play Brooklyn and the New York Giants, Cleveland would play Detroit; Cincinnati would play Pittsburgh, and so on.

This plan, Huston argues, would eliminate the vast expenditures now made for spring training, railroad fares and hotel bills and would make big league baseball profitable, strike or no strike.

Does Not Be Increased. Fultz denies that the dues of the fraternity will be increased so as to raise a war fund. The present dues are \$18 a year for major leaguers, \$5 a year for AA leaguers and \$3 a year for Class A players.

According to Fultz 1215 members are enrolled in the fraternity. Kid Ehmke, who was a sensation in the Coast League a couple of years ago as a busher, thinks he will play a good year with Detroit, owing to the fact that Ty Cobb has taken quite an interest in him.

When Los Angeles sold him to Washington, in the Federal League he proved a flivver, but last year, after a great start, he was bought by Detroit, and finished the year like a streak.

To be exact, he won four games out of five, in one of them defeating Walter Johnson.

MAYBE VERNON WON IN 1916 League Yet to Decide on Date of Crandall-Davis Deals.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23.—Baseball followers were indulging in speculation today as to whether the Vernon club might be the one to get the pennant in the Pacific Coast League.

One of the charges made two days ago by Eddie Maier, former owner of the Vernon club, that his team had "been jobbed out of the pennant" has developed considerable uncertainty as to the date of the Crandall-Davis trade, which Maier named as one of the factors of the alleged frame-up.

If it develops this trade was made after September 15, the Oakland and Los Angeles clubs are each liable to fines of \$100 and the games played in Los Angeles after the date of the trade are liable to be thrown out. If this was done, the pennant would fall to Vernon.

The date of the transfer will be definitely settled at the annual meeting of the Coast League next month, it is said.

RAINIER ALSO CLAIMS GAME Argument Made That Clatskanie Scored After Whistle.

RAINIER, Or., Jan. 23.—(Special.)—The Rainier high school basketball team contends that it won the recent game from the Clatskanie quintet and as a result the locals claim the 1917 championship of the Columbia. Clatskanie asserts the score of the disputed game was 12 to 11 in its favor instead of 13 to 12 in favor of Clatskanie.

One of the Clatskanie athletes, it is declared, threw a basket after the final whistle. A definite claim on the Lower Columbia title can be made by Rainier if the Astoria High School team must be met, says Manager Gallagher, of the Rainier contingent.

DOG RACE WILL START TODAY Twelve Teams Expected to Start 322 Miles From Winnipeg to St. Paul.

WINNIPEG, Man., Jan. 23.—Arrangements were being completed tonight for the start at noon tomorrow of the 322-mile dog race over the Pembina trail from Winnipeg to St. Paul. There were seven teams here tonight and five more were expected from the Lake Winnipeg district and Le Pas, making a probable starting list of 12.

The drivers are a picturesque, hardy lot and appear capable of enduring the hardships of the long journey, which will send them through miles of untracked and drifted snow.

Experts figure that the winning team should arrive at St. Paul before dusk next Tuesday.

Officials Stop Boxing Bout. SUPERIOR, Wis., Jan. 23.—A bout between Fatsy McFarland and Billy Whelan, of St. Paul, was stopped after the third round here tonight by Commissioner Hart, of the State Boxing Commission, with Whelan holding a wide advantage.

1917 BEAVERS ARE SCATTERED OVER ALL PARTS OF COUNTRY

McCredies Face Problem in Assembling Team in Time for Honolulu Trip. Beebe Is Sold and Nixon and Kelly Traded for Brenton.

HOW would you like to be a baseball magnate?

Pretty soft, the average fan would answer. Right now Judge W. W. McCredie, president of the Portland Baseball Company, differs with friend fan. Why? Because he is in an awful stew worrying about how a score of ballplayers are going to report at Vancouver, B. C., on February 14 to watch the Niagara, bound for Honolulu, where the Beavers will condition.

For you fans who think that being a baseball magnate is a soft job, let it be said that the tossers who will compose the Portland club this season are scattered to a "fare-you-well."

It will cost the McCredies \$1500 to bring their men from their respective homes to Vancouver, B. C. In addition to this it will cost \$4000 to take them from Vancouver to Honolulu and return to San Francisco.

This makes a total of \$5500 before the team starts playing exhibition games in California prior to the opening of the 1917 campaign. Of course, the McCredies have a guarantee of \$4000 from the Honolulu people with an option of 50 percent of the entire gate receipts, but it is not likely that they will find it necessary to exercise this option.

To give friend fan an idea of how the Portland players are scattered the names of each is shown:

Pitchers—George G. Heltrich, Utica, N. Y.; L. D. Brenton, Peoria Ill.; Harrington Hill, Detroit, Mich.; Charles V. Schorr, Portland, Ore.; Oscar F. Harst, Byron S. Houch, John Brandt, and Al Zweifel, Portland; Alfred Leake, Rocky Mount, N. C.; Kenneth W. Pennington, Lyle Higbee, Waterloo, Or.; Ernest W. Pruitt, Merlin, Or.; William Fincher, Holly Grove, Ark.; Herman Schatzlein, Los Angeles; William P. Schorr, Seattle, Wash.; and Mark L. Higbee, Duluth, Minn.

Catchers—Gus Fisher, Portland, and meeting will consider the re-employment of Fred Tom as referee with the understanding that he will not be asked to referee games in which Portland is a contender.

PULLMAN QUINTET WINS AGAIN Whitman Beaten, 37 to 19, in Second Clash at Walla Walla.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Jan. 23.—Washington State College made it two straight victories in basketball over Whitman College here tonight, 37 to 19. The game was a bit slower and not so rough as Monday night. Oregon Agricultural College is the only conference team now standing between Washington State and the Northwest championship and the right to play the California five for the Coast championship. The lineup:

W. S. C. Position Whitman
Moss R. F. Clerin
Bohler R. G. Demott
Copeland R. G. Boits
Sorenson J. C. Sorenson
Field goals—By W. S. C. 20 to 1; by Whitman, 19 to 10. Free throws—By Bohler, 3 out of 6; by Demott, 1 out of 2; by Sorenson, 1 out of 1.

JOHNSTON WINS AT 3-CUSHION Portland Player Takes First Block of 150-Point Match.

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 23.—(Special.)—Billiard fans were treated to a pretty display of three-cushion billiards tonight when Walter Johnston, of Portland, the ex-Northwest champion, won the first block of a 150-point match with Charles Jordan, the Canadian expert. Johnston, who was backed by the Oregon Athletic Union, won by a score of 50 to 41 in 99 innings. Johnston's high run was five, while Jordan gathered a cluster of seven.

The match will go down as one of the prettiest ever played in the city. Both players were in the form of Johnston took the lead from the halfway point, and from then on never was headed. His safety play was very strong throughout.

The second block will be played tomorrow.

Perfect Score is Bowled. ABERDEEN, Wash., Jan. 23.—(Special.)—Julius Berggren, of this city, bowled his second perfect score of the 1917 season here yesterday in a match game. He defeated Edwin Phelps on games out of five on the Shafter Bowling Alley. Berggren made his 300 in the first game and followed with 223, 225, 211 and 178, for a total of 1126 and an average of 227.

Phelps rolled 172, 192, 201, 161 and 211 for a total of 837, and an average of 167. Mr. Berggren is competing in a series of games. He has ambitions of competing in the annual bowling congress tournament at Portland late in April.

Mitchell Wants Postponement. MILWAUKEE, Ky., Jan. 23.—As a result of the postponement of the annual wrestling, Ritchie Mitchell last night telegraphed the promoters at Cleveland, O., who had arranged a bout between him and Johnny Kibben, a featherweight champion, asking that the date of the match be postponed at least a week. The fight was scheduled for January 30 at Cleveland.

Chappelle Signs With Braves. BOSTON, Jan. 23.—The signed contract of Larry Chappelle, an outfielder, was received at headquarters of the Boston National League baseball club today. Business Manager Walter E. Haggood said that six members of the team were now under contract for next season.

Zbysko Wins on Mat. LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 23.—Wladek Zbysko won from Yusuf Hussane in a wrestling bout here tonight, two falls out of three. Zbysko took the first fall after one hour and 21 minutes of wrestling, and the third fall in two minutes and 20 seconds. Hussane took the second fall in 34 minutes and 30 seconds.

Canby 35, Woodburn 32. WOODBURN, Or., Jan. 23.—(Special.)—Canby High School basketball team defeated the Woodburn High School quintet, 35 to 32. A disagreeable feature of the contest was the fouling, according to those present. Both the referee and the judge of play-are said to have been unfamiliar with the rules.

Open Golf Tourney Set. NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—The National open championship golf tournament next season will be played at Braeburn Country Club on June 27, 28 and 29, it was announced here tonight by Herbert Strong, secretary of the Professional Golfers' Association.

Cornell Five Defeats Penn. ITHACA, N. Y., Jan. 23.—The Cornell University basketball team defeated the Pennsylvania five by a score of 24 to 11 in an intercollegiate league game here tonight.

UNCLE SAM HAS WORKOUTS Practice Held at Ice Palace Preparatory to Spokane Game.

A strenuous practice was held last night by the Portland Uncle Sams in the Ice Palace. The Portland team is scheduled to meet the Spokane Canaries here Friday night. Moose Johnson, the big defense man of the locals, showed considerable speed in the workout last night.

The greatest event Auto Hockey Club team of the Portland Amateur Ice Hockey Association, took advantage of the practice of professionals, and all combined into a strong squad. The amateur line worked with the Portland defense, while the professional forwards line went over with the amateur defense.

A good game was played. Captain Tobin was in charge of the ice. Dr. Earl Smith, the club physician, is still attending William F. Scott, who was overcome with ammonia fumes at Seattle last week. Scott is at his home a great part of the time.

The game Friday night in the local Ice Palace will be the only one of the Pacific Coast Ice Hockey Association. The game will be called at 8:30 P. M.

HOCKEY MEETING IS CALLED Ion May Be Re-employed, but Not to Work in Portland Games.

SPOKANE, Jan. 23.—A special meeting of the Pacific Coast Hockey League will be held in Seattle Thursday, it was announced here today. The

NATIONAL BACKLASH ON COAST

Baseball Fight in California Is Rumored on Heels of ex-Magnate's "Expose."

REPORT IS DISCOUNTED

Cliff Blankenship Mentioned as One of Possible Club Owners, but He Says No Proposal Has Been Made to Him.

BY HARRY B. SMITH. SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23.—(Special.)—Outlaw baseball in California, with the millions of Ed Maier and his Southern California brewery to back up the sport, is the latest of the day dreams that has broken in connection with Maier's so-called expose of the baseball situation on the Coast. It is hinted, more than asserted, that Maier will be willing to throw his support to an independent organization, with a view to embracing his former associates, and the name of Cliff Blankenship has been drawn into the controversy as one of the possible club owners in the event of forming such a circuit.

As the builder of this, the latest of the ball leagues, has it, the scheme would be for the clubs to be placed in Sacramento, Fresno, San Jose and Stockton, with a possible invasion of San Francisco and Oakland.

Blankenship Discounts Plan. Blankenship does believe that independent baseball—played on Saturdays and Sundays—would be feasible for the interior cities in Northern California, as he has never argued, but he has never argued for a new league of larger proportions and said quite frankly today that he didn't believe it would be possible for such an arrangement to be brought about.

Also, according to Blankenship, he has not discussed the subject with Maier and has information which would lead him to believe the Southern Californians has any such scheme in view. "When I read the statement made by Maier," explained Blankenship, "I remarked casually that it would be a good time for Maier to start an outlaw league; I have not had any information on the subject and don't suppose any such scheme is being arranged."

Though Maier would unquestionably like to sit at the head and front of a scheme to cause confusion to his enemies on the Coast, it is quite likely that even a chap possessed of the financial backing of Ed R. would hesitate before jumping into such a fight.

A fight in baseball is an expensive proposition for all parties concerned, and especially in this case with the fellow who is breaking into such a battle.

State League Not Enough. A state league made up of interior cities to play but two games a week is hardly big enough to suit the caliber of Maier. He could hurt the Coasters, of course, but not in the fashion that he would desire.

If Maier is to be associated with such a proposition, he will go the wide and want to include the large cities, including San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles.

That would mean a small fortune for the leasing of suitable parks and the building of grandstands, to say nothing of the gathering of baseball teams.

Furthermore, it is too late in the present season to think of such a stupendous task. Coast League officials are apparently not disturbed over the prospects of opposition of this sort.

VERNON MAY LOSE FRANCHISE Transfer to Pasadena Is Rumored at Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 23.—(Special.)—It was reported today that the Vernon franchise will be switched to the meeting of the league, scheduled to take place in San Francisco next month.

When the Vernon club was sold by Edward Maier, the former owner retained his Vernon ball park, representing an investment of \$50,000.

Darmody obtained a lease on the park for one Sunday morning game a week.

Baseball men high in the confidence of the magnates say the league will not use Maier's park, now that he has made charges of crooked baseball.

Pasadena, a city of 60,000 population, has been mentioned by league directors in the past year, and it may be that the franchise will be transferred there.

Maier's belief, however, will start an outlaw league if the Coast League attempts to play politics with him. The former owner of the Tigers is firmly convinced that he will not get a second lease in recent years and it is said he is willing to "go the limit" if the Coast League wants to do battle with him.

The following statement was issued today by Maier:

"I expected them to yell. That is natural. This 1917 series has been a joke among the ballplayers of the Coast for all these years. Losing that pennant or any other pennant means nothing to me now.

"I do not know whether anybody in the league except Mr. Darmody is to blame for this. I have nobody to account to but him and want to assure him that I did not make this statement to hurt him in any way because I think former conditions will not continue. I told Mr. Darmody a month ago that I had promised a statement. He did not enter any real objection outside of saying, 'What's the use of stirring things up again?'"

"I like Tom and would not knowingly injure him or anybody else. He is a good square fellow and deserves all the support the fans can possibly give him, and I hope he makes his team a hundred percent better. I don't care what that's how much harm I wish him."

"So far as prohibiting games at Vernon is concerned, it means nothing to me one way or another. Just so it does not hurt Darmody. If they fix up matters to suit him, I do not care what they do."

"I have cleared my chest now. Bring on your training season."

Maier refused to answer the statement of Henry Berry, Johnny Powers and other Pacific Coast League magnates, saying he did not care to enter into a controversy with them.

Anglers' Club to Meet. The January meeting of the Multnomah Anglers' Club will be held next Friday night at the fifth floor of the Oregon building at 5:15 o'clock. The legislative committee will report on the progress of the anglers' bills now before the State Legislature. R. E. Limes, as popular as mine, on the out-hatcheries, will give a talk on the out-hatcheries of hatchery work for the coming season.

Interscholastic Basketball Standings. —Points— Washington High W. L. P. For. Agst. 1 0 1000 41 25 Jefferson High 1 0 1000 33 15 Columbia University 1 0 1000 33 10 Commerce High 1 1 500 41 20 Benson Tech 1 0 1000 41 25 Franklin High 0 1 1000 13 20 Hill Military Academy 0 2 1000 14 25 James John High 0 2 1000 14 25

Advertisement for Velvet Joe cigars. Features a large illustration of a man in a suit holding a cigar. Text includes: 'A NUMBER 8 hat may cover a mighty intellect or it may cover a plain case of big head.', 'They're the same—yet different. They're both hats-on-heads.', 'Don't judge by externals. Several kinds of tobacco come in tins. VELVET tobacco is put up in tins. But that doesn't make it like other kinds.', 'The finest selected leaf from Kentucky's richest Burley fields is only the beginning of VELVET. Then a full two years' ageing in wooden hogheads—a matter of large storage and investment expense. Then a careful manufacturing method employing the widest experience of life-long tobacco men.', 'What goes into the tin governs the pipe satisfaction that comes out of it. And we believe you will prefer VELVET to any other pipe tobacco at any price.', 'Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co.', '10c Tins 5c Metal-lined Bags One Pound Glass Humidors'

JAMES JOHN LOSES

High School of Commerce Wins Its First Contest, 25.9.

STENOGRS MUCH IMPROVED Franklin to Play Columbia Today.

Champion Oregon Aggies May Meet Multnomah Club in Portland Saturday.

Interscholastic Basketball Standings. —Points— Washington High W. L. P. For. Agst. 1 0 1000 41 25 Jefferson High 1 0 1000 33 15 Columbia University 1 0 1000 33 10 Commerce High 1 1 500 41 20 Benson Tech 1 0 1000 41 25 Franklin High 0 1 1000 13 20 Hill Military Academy 0 2 1000 14 25 James John High 0 2 1000 14 25

The first athletic victory scored by the High School of Commerce since its admission to the Portland Interscholastic League was registered yesterday afternoon when the Stenographers walked on the James John High School basketball team, 25 to 9, in the Jefferson High gymnasium.

The game put up by the Pandfushers was far different from that exhibited when the Columbia University trimmed them 47 to 18 early last week. The Commerce boys have been laboring under difficulties of late, as they have no regular coach, although Hyman Schwartz, former star on the Jewish Boys' Athletic Club quintet, and Abe Kanter, of the "Wops," have been doing as much as they could in their spare moments.

The feature of yesterday's clash was the work of Morris Rogoway, of Commerce. He alone was responsible for 12 points, while his teammate, August Belch, was good for six more. The score at the end of the first half was 17 to 9.

The summary for yesterday's game follows:

Commerce (25) James John (9)
Zakwinski (12) F. Myers Rogoway (13) F. Schneider (4)
Belch (6) M. Wilf (2)
Sage Margulis (2) G. Spickman Sojan (2) B. Winkler (2)
Truman (2) S. Tool

Officials—H. A. Goode, Jefferson High.

CLASS 'D' RATING ASKED

INTER-CITY LEAGUE WANTS TO GET IN ORGANIZED BASEBALL.

First Meeting Called Tonight by President Bay—McCredie to Be Asked to Grant Permit.

President Fred Normandy Bay, of the Inter-City Baseball League, will gather his forces tonight at 7:30 o'clock in his office, 270 Fourth street, to arrange for the 1917 campaign. Election of officers is the most important item. The present officers are: Fred N. Bay, president; George Roberts, Grayson, vice-president; Wayne Francis Lewis, secretary; June S. Jones, treasurer.

It is thought that President Bay will be re-elected.

The Inter-City League will seek a Class D rating and the president will write Judge William Wallace McCredie, president of the Portland Baseball Company, tomorrow asking him to gain the Pacific Coast League's permission for the Inter-City League to ask classification from the National Association of Baseball Leagues.

If the rating is given the young circuit it will afford towns around Portland excellent opportunity to secure a lot of publicity through baseball by applying for and securing a franchise. The league consists at present of the following clubs: Baby Beavers (Clyde J. Rupert), Montavilla (Ed Jessup), Camas (E. E. Dale), St. Helens-Rainier (Ed L. Ballough), Bradford (A. R. Grayson), Kirkpatrick (William R. Heales), Salem.

It is expected that all the magnates will be present at tonight's gathering and it is thought that all these clubs will be represented the coming season.

McMinnville 25, Tigard 16. TIGARD, Or., Jan. 23.—(Special.)—After playing four games without a defeat, the Tigard public school basketball team lost, 25 to 16, to McMinnville Junior High here last night. Robert Berg and Bonesteel scored for Tigard and Trent and Shipley for the McMinnville. A return match is probable before February 1.

Central Point Fives Win. CENTRAL POINT, Or., Jan. 23.—(Special.)—The Central Point girls' basketball team last night won from the Gold Hill girls' quintet, 17 to 12, and the Central Point boys' team defeated the Gold Hill boys, 65 to 2. Captain Burley scored 12 field baskets.