

SPORTS OF THE AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL

National Championship Athletic Games in August. Tigers Have a Good Grasp on the Pennant.

EASTERN BULLETIN COMING TO FAIR

Championship Meet Under A. A. U. Draws on Fastest and Strongest.

ONLY TIME IN THE WEST

One of the Greatest Triumphs of the Exposition Is the Securing of This Big Meet of Amateur Athletes.

By H. W. Kerrigan.

Portland will have the A. A. U. National championships for August 4 and 5. It will be the first time in the history of athletics that the West will ever be given the great National championships. The greatest athletes in the world today will be here for those games.

It has taken the A. A. U. just 100 years to recognize the athletic qualities of the Western athletes. Ever since the athletic feat accomplished by Lewis and Clark on their cross-country jaunt and canoe race for the Pacific Ocean—for it was only a great athletic feat in the benefit of mankind—the athletic spirit has thrived in the development of the Middle and Far Western athlete, and today he compares favorably with his Eastern brother in athletic ability. But it is only now, with the Lewis and Clark Exposition and the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club at the back of it, that the Amateur Athletic Union concedes the National championship to the Far Northwest, and recognizes the ability of the Western athletes to compete with the Eastern athletes.

The reason the Pacific States should have had the championship meet long before this is that we have had the athletes and the climate favorable for their development. In all the departments of field and track the West has given to the big athletic contests of the East, simply because the conference association, and the A. A. U. has not seen fit in all these years to give the Coast a chance to retain its athletes in the Coast colleges and athletic clubs by giving them the intercollegiate and National championships. For the intercollegiate college football, where you find better men than Heston of Michigan, who should be playing on one of the "Big Four" teams; Rockwell, of Yale; Bishop, of Columbia; and Smith, captain of Columbia, 1903. In fencing there is Barber, of West Point; in wrestling, Gilbert, of Yale; Rose of Michigan in the shot, and others too numerous to mention. And the reason why we have kept such men on the Coast as Dole, of Stanford; Plaw, of California; Miller, of Stanford; Suediger, Williams, Greenhaw, Parsons, Smithson, and a few others, is that we have not come to the A. A. U. of our Western athletes was bound to come and the Lewis and Clark Exposition was paved the way for this recognition and advancement.

West Forging Ahead.

And then again the training system of the athlete of the West is becoming just as finished in its development as that of our brother of the East. Instead of one "Mike Murphy," there are now two or three "Mike Murphys" and it is this that is the reason why the West is forging ahead with the heretofore much better cared for athlete of the East.

From an athletic standpoint the Western athlete is more robust, more powerful, harder than his opponent of the East. The climate conditions are more favorable for an athlete to train in than the weather of the East. But the A. A. U. did not see this, did not come to the aid of our athletes, but made us go to them. They did not try to encourage the athletes of the West by recognizing their ability and helping them to the championships, but must wait for the West to ask them. Truly that was not the right spirit, and when we did get them, they were told of the above facts, which perhaps helped to persuade them to give the championships, they sent the president of the A. A. U. out to see what kind of country the West was and whether they were justified in sending the championships as they thought to such a remote spot. Evidently, the visit was a satisfactory one, for since his return the interest manifested by the Eastern clubs and athletes has been more than marked, as is shown by the entries that have come to the National championships on August 4 and 5. Besides showing them the healthy athletic spirit of the West, and what our athletes were capable of doing in comparison with their Eastern brothers, it was necessary to guarantee before we could have them many things, which the Exposition made possible through its athletic department.

Trouble at Home.

During this period, when the athletic bureau of the Exposition was endeavoring to secure these much-coveted championships, the Northwest athletics were in a chaotic condition, caused by the contention whether or not the Northwest Pacific Amateur Athletic Association should sanction the Exposition games or whether the Pacific Amateur Athletic Union should sanction them. Through the secretary of the N. P. A. A. and a prominent member of the Multnomah Club directors, the N. P. A. A. was given permission to regulate the sports under its jurisdiction. The P. A. A. of the A. A. U. hearing of this, immediately communicated with the Portland commissioner, asking why an opportunity to hold the Exposition games under the jurisdiction of the A. A. U. was let go by. This communication was published in the papers, and the management of athletics, realizing the stupendous task of opposing the A. A. U., which is the strongest organization in the world for pure amateur athletics, and wishing for the success of the Exposition athletes, promptly conceded the jurisdiction, which was determined at a meeting that same evening, to the Amateur Athletic Union.

This sanction, of course, in the face of the N. P. A. A. A., which had already held jurisdiction over the games, resulted in a partial dissolution of the local association. Immediately the mother body, the A. A. U., took advantage of this discontent in the local body, and prepared to see whether it could receive the Northwest association for its own. In the meantime, the clubs in this part of the country could see that if they did not become members of the A. A. U. they would be prevented from taking part. Multnomah was already a member of the A. A. U. and had no fear, but to protect and promote the spirit of athletics in the other clubs in the Northwest, decided on a meeting of the N. P. A. A. members and applied for membership in the A. A. U. The application could not be acted upon, as it included the two British Columbia

clubs. This caused another delay, and an antagonistic feeling of the old association; and all this time the Exposition management was still striving to secure the A. A. U. championships.

Not only was the Exposition trying to gain them, but the New Illinois Athletic Club and the New York Athletic Club as well. One day through the Associated Press it was reported that the Illinois Athletic Club had over a detailed list of the securing of them, and immediately the Exposition telegraphed the different boards of management of the A. A. U. following them westward to the Exposition. Following this, letters were written through the Eastern newspapers and to the officers of the A. A. U. that the games should be given to the West, inasmuch as every organization in the country was doing its share toward making the Exposition a success, why should not the A. A. U. do so? And it did, right at a time when you might say there was no association in the Northwest of the A. A. U. to give the games to. As President Keefe of the A. A. U., said afterward, on arriving here:

"Here we have given the very best of the A. A. U. could give, the great National championships against the will of Eastern athletes and clubs, who consider it a disadvantage to go out so far, into a foreign territory. Whoever heard of such a thing? It was to help the athletics of the West and to show them what the A. A. U. thought of them that we conceded the championships to our Western brothers. And now, before I go home, I want to see the Northwest form an organization of the A. A. U. If you can't do it without the British Columbia club, I promise that every effort will be made at the A. A. U. meeting to bring about the settlement of the two foreign clubs in our Union."

Another meeting was called after President Macombe went home, and on the strength of his (the president of the Amateur Athletic Union) promise, the new P. N. A. A. was organized without the British Columbia club, but with the assured fact that they would become members of the association after November. So along with this and that we should bring out four members of their championship committee, pay for the medals and give them all the entrance fees, the greatest championships on field and track in the world were given to the Far West by the A. A. U. meeting to bring about the settlement of the two foreign clubs in our Union."

Great Athletics Coming.

There will be men in the contests who know the game of athletics, such as Murphy, Stagg and Moulton have taught; men who are world's record holders in their events, such as the Westerner is anxious to see tried out, and

GOSSIP OF THE FANS

Second Half of Series Begins August 1.

PORTLAND MEETS OAKLAND

Seals' Pennant Aspirations Have Small Chance of Realization With the Ball That the Tigers Are Playing.

One week from next Tuesday the Portland and Oakland teams will inaugurate the second half of the season of 1905 with a game at Idora Park, Oakland. This will be the only game played on August 1, for Los Angeles and San Francisco cannot reach Seattle and Tacoma, respectively, on that date, and the opening games of those clubs will be played on August 2.

The loss of the opening games of their series with Oakland puts a crimp in the Seals' pennant aspirations, for although they still have a chance to win out, it does not seem likely, for they meet Tacoma in the final round, and an even break with the Tigers, judging from their past performances with Fisher's men, is the best they can expect. The Seals' only hope lay in their ability to trim Van Halteren's crew at least five out of six, but in this they were disappointed, for the Commuters took the first two games with ease.

Should Tacoma win the pennant for the first half, it will be an unprecedented occurrence in the history of the game on the Coast, for the accomplishment of this feat will mark its third straight winning, as this team won both halves last season. With perhaps a little luck, they may win an emphatic illustration of the honesty of the National game as a sport, for in this instance the victorious club repre-

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seents one of the poorest towns. If not the poorest, from an attendance point of view, in the league. Just suppose the game was fixed, to use a gambling term, and the home directors could frame it up so that San Francisco, Portland, Seattle or Los Angeles would win out, would it not make a greater increase in the gate receipts? For instance, take this city with a regular winner and compare the gate receipts at the local games with that of Tacoma, and the balance in favor of this place would be three and possibly four times as profitable to the league as to have the rag go to the weakest town. This same illustration can be applied to the other cities cited. It is the honesty which the great American sport that makes it popular, and the fact that the weakest towns in a league often turn out winning clubs, to the detriment of the larger cities, is expressed in the same circuit, demonstrating that baseball as a sport cannot be fixed.

The announcement that Sammy Vigneux would again don the mask and protector for the local club is hailed with delight by the local fans, with whom the little catcher is justly popular. Sammy has kept himself in fine shape by bowling and other indoor sports, and will have no trouble in slipping into shape to catch in a short time.

That this acquisition will prove a valuable one to the club goes without question. The clever catcher is in need of a rest, if only for a few days, and with a reliable man to help out occasionally, he would be capable of much better work, for he is likely to grow stale, as it is styled among the players. By all means get a man like Vigneux to help out behind the bat.

The following from the San Francisco Bulletin will interest the local admirers of Umpire Davis:

"Umpire 'Slats' Davis is receiving rough handling at the hands of the Seattle Times, which was once a keen admirer of his. It is not so much because 'Slats' happened to give the Seals a close decision in last Thursday's game, the Times charges him with nearly all the crimes in the calendar. It calls him a drunkard, an associate with tinnish gumbies and crooks, a conceited ass and a lot of other foul things. It strikes the average fan that the Times is altogether too hard on Davis, who is indisputably an able and conscientious umpire. It may be true that Davis is conceited and thinks he is the best ever, but why distillations on him as long as he delivers the goods so nobly. Few people are successful in any business who haven't a little conceit. As far as Davis being a high-ball umpire, an associate of dissolute characters, the writer, who saw a lot of him while he was in San Francisco, has no knowledge that his conduct off the field was bad. Umpires of Davis' class are so terribly scarce that it seems that they should be encouraged as much as possible. Of course, they should not be immune from criticism, but when they are 'put on the pan' they are entitled to be treated with some degree of fairness."

FISHER IS WROTH

Not Only Manager, but Half-Owner of Tacoma Team.

ANSWERS FIERCE ATTACKS

"Can't Run a Baseball Club Without Money," Says the King, "and I May Have to Sell Keefe."

Mike Fisher was decidedly wroth over some recent articles published relative to his connection with the Tacoma club, in which the public was led to infer that the King was a mere figurehead, as far as the management of that club was concerned. Fisher states emphatically that he is not only the manager of the champions, but is also owner of one-half the stock of the club.

He wanted to explain some of the inside history of this club, said Fisher yesterday. "The newspapers, especially in Seattle, have been printing stories to the effect that I am merely an ornament, and an expensive one at that, to this club. In 1901 the directors of the then California League approached me in regards to my investing in the franchise of the Sacramento club, and at a regular meeting of the league it was turned over to me, for which I paid cash—\$25,000—out of my own pocket. At this time I owned a fine home in the California capital, and had a little money in the bank. The first year I had the club was 1902, and that season I lost \$200, practically through the purchasing of so-called Eastern stars, who turned out to be goldbricks pure and simple. Joe Cantillon acted as my agent in the East, and I reckon he shipped me everything in the shape of a has-been that could be had. After several seasons proved failures, I started out on my own hook. I needed men badly at that time. The only men now with me who were in my club at that time are Tommy Sheehan and Charlie Doyle, and in the case of the first named I was importuned by almost every fan in the town to release him. After several seasons had opened in that year Charlie Graham was discarded by the San Francisco club, and I picked him up and made him captain of my club, in which capacity he has acted ever since. After the season saw the formation of the Pacific Coast League, and again I lost money, although my club finished second, from which I readily saw that it was not a paying town, and cast about for a town to which to transfer the Sacramento franchise. I had heard a great deal about Tacoma, so I borrowed \$25,000 of my deposit with the league, and went to that city to investigate. As I was practically broke, something had to be done, and in consideration of Tacoma men putting up \$4000 for expenses, I returned over to Tacoma, and secured a loan for a town to which to transfer the Sacramento franchise. I had heard a great deal about Tacoma, so I borrowed \$25,000 of my deposit with the league, and went to that city to investigate. As I was practically broke, something had to be done, and in consideration of Tacoma men putting up \$4000 for expenses, I returned over to Tacoma, and secured a loan for a town to which to transfer the Sacramento franchise. I had heard a great deal about Tacoma, so I borrowed \$25,000 of my deposit with the league, and went to that city to investigate. As I was practically broke, something had to be done, and in consideration of Tacoma men putting up \$4000 for expenses, I returned over to Tacoma, and secured a loan for a town to which to transfer the Sacramento franchise. 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