

In the World of Sports

WRIGLEY HOBBY FOR BASEBALL PROVES COSTLY

Chewing Gum Magnate Owns Three Clubs—Six Million Investment—Never Banked a Cent of Profit—Likes Rajah.

By Paul R. Mickelson. Associated Press Sports Writer. CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—(AP)—William Wrigley, Jr., is a man with a \$6,000,000 hobby.

Wrigley, who built one of America's largest fortunes on a stick of chewing gum, has perhaps the most expensive hobby in the world. It is baseball.

Six million dollars has William Wrigley, Jr., invested in this hobby through ownership of three baseball clubs, the Chicago Cubs, the Los Angeles Pacific coast league club and the Reading International. Yet he admits he has never banked a cent on his investment for himself.

He wants just one return—a thrill. And he hopes to get his biggest thrill next season by cheering his club to a National league pennant. Not since 1918 have the Cubs won a pennant, but with Rogers Hornsby in their lineup, Wrigley visions the prize all but won.

Postponing a business conference, William Wrigley, a husky man with a perpetual overflow of enthusiasm, told the Associated Press of his dream for a pennant, why he loves baseball, why he gets such a thrill out of it and why he thinks it is the greatest sport.

Loves Game. "I have approximately \$6,000,000 invested in baseball, but I wouldn't get out of it for \$50,000,000 because I love the game and because it supplies me with thrills every time I watch a game," he said.

"While I have never received a cent for myself from baseball, I have received thrills that money cannot buy. And think of the fun millions of other people get out of that game!"

"My ambition, naturally, is to have the Cubs win the National league pennant next year. And I believe we have got the goods this time, barring injuries to two or three of our best players."

"Let the critics condemn Hornsby if they want to. I believe Rogers Hornsby is not only the greatest hitter in baseball—greater even than Babe Ruth, the figures will show—but also that he is one of the cleanest men and one of the greatest characters in baseball."

PRESIDENT SHOTS FOR MOVIES



Mrs. Coolidge was on hand with her movie camera when the President shot play pigeons at the Swannoo Country club in Virginia.

PUNCHING IS TAME, COWBOY SIGNS UP WITH U. S. CAVALRY

A young man, who applied for enlistment in the United States army recently, impressed Sergeant Grover Owen, local recruiting officer, as being the most unusual applicant he had ever had. He came from northern California and time of the carefree life of a cowboy.

"You look as if you want to join the army," returned the sergeant, "and you appear as if you might be all right, but what have you to show me that you are an honest man and that the army wants you as one of its own. You know, we want men who are men and are willing to take the bitter with the sweet."

The would-be soldier set down his apparently heavy suitcase and took from its roony capacity a pair of heavy chaps, which he tossed to one corner of the office. After fumbling in the suitcase a few moments he found his certificate of graduation from an eastern Oregon school which showed that his first name was Norman. It also gave his last name, but the recruiting sergeant seemed to have forgotten it when telling the story of the enlistment.

He also brought out two dangerous appearing pistols which he placed gingerly on the recruiting officer's desk.

He passed over to the sergeant several newspaper clippings from his home town paper, telling how he could play football when in high school.

"I call myself a cowpuncher," he said, his mouth turning up in a friendly smile, "or you might call me a broncho buster. I just quit punching cows in California and every year I've made all the young-uns in the west, including the big time they have in Pendleton."

"But cowpunching," he continued, "is getting too tame and it wasn't so long ago when I was down in the border country and saw the U. S. cavalry on patrol duty. They sure are riders and I've always admired the way they do things, making me wish that sometimes maybe I could be only 'Too.' But somehow I never really could decide whether I wanted to sign a contract for three years, but finally I decided that it would do the army good and, maybe myself as well."

Upon being weighed by Sergeant Grover, he balanced the scales at 175 pounds, and he measured six feet and four inches tall with every appearance of perfect health.

Sergeant Owen received a report yesterday from army headquarters at Portland that the strapping young fellow had been enlisted, and is now a full-fledged member of the Seventh Cavalry at Vancouver Barracks.

ALL-AMERICAN CONVENTION IN COAST FINALES

East-West Fray and Pasadena Classic Test Talent—Tech's Troubles Exaggerated—Season Proved Most Profitable.

By Alan J. Gould. Associated Press Sports Editor. NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The football season winds up with a few appropriate flourishes on the Pacific coast within the next fortnight. The east-west fray, assuming something of the proportions of an all-American convention, will revive this Saturday the argument that Stanford and Oregon State started in New York. The New Year's day classic at Pasadena between Georgia Tech and California will have considerable to do with the final ranking of major teams for 1928.

The all-star game at San Francisco, played for the benefit of the Shriners hospital for crippled children, is of more than usual interest as a test between the talent of the east and west, who will clash head-on in spite of all that Kipling had to say about it. Howard Harper of Carnegie, the east's greatest quarterback, will direct the eastern attack, which not only hopes to offset the sting of several well known defeats this year, but turn the tables on the west for the first time in this all-star game.

The east has been marshaling its forces at the Golden Gate for the past three years without a victory to show for its efforts.

No Worry for Tech. If a few outstanding precedents are worth anything Georgia Tech will not need to worry about the "flu" and injuries that have hit the Yellow Jacket gridiron squad. The crippled and worn-out New York Yankees leapt upon the unsuspecting Cardinals with all the robust energy of able-bodied men when the world's series came along. The memory is even fresher of the "flu-stricken" Oregon State football team that came across country to upset New York University, as well as the dope.

California, therefore, may as well regard as exaggerated the reports of Tech troubles, even with such stars as Frank Spear, Warner Mzell and Stumpy Thompson on the hospital list.

The two games on the Pacific coast will close football's most profitable season. The gridiron game had another boom year that stands out conspicuously because its two main rivals in gate receipts, baseball and boxing, experienced something of a relapse in 1928.

The biggest "gate" was collected for the Navy-Notre Dame game at Soldier Field, where the receipts probably totaled in excess of \$500,000 from a crowd of 120,000.

Boxing failed to even muster up a million dollar spectacle for the year, as the Tunney-Heeney bout fell short of Tex Rickard's expectations. Baseball attendance fell off a trifle here and there, and the Yankee sweep out short a possible world's series harvest, but the biggest crowd of all time

COLLEGES WISH MORE COMMITTEE PLACES

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Colleges will seek more places on the American Olympic committee at the annual convention of the national collegiate amateur athletic union at New Orleans Friday and Saturday. Major John L. Griffith, athletic commissioner of the Western conference, reports.

Griffith, who leaves for the conference tomorrow night, said the colleges were not adequately represented and that he hoped an adjustment would be obtained.

Coaches and athletic directors from universities and colleges in all sections of the country will attend.

HORWEEN UNDECIDED FOR FUTURE CAREER

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Arnold Horween is undecided whether to return to Harvard as football coach or to devote all his time to business, his father, Isadore Horween, has revealed.

The elder Horween is president and his son treasurer of a Chicago tanning company and the latter may decide to quite coaching for that business, the elder Horween said.

Couch Horween is on a honeymoon trip in Jamaica.

REBELS USE POISON IN PERSIAN WELLS

BASRA, Iraq, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Reports from Persia state that Dost Mohammed, a tribal leader, is heading a rebellion in Persian Baluchistan. He is rumored to have poisoned all the wells up to a point 120 miles southeast of Kerman. Troops are being moved against the rebels across the great desert from Kerman to Medhed.

backed the Yankee stadium for a September double-header between the champions and the Athletics.

OLENT, Switzerland.—(AP)—The Swiss association against alcohol, at a conference, decided that fruit juice was the most popular non-alcoholic beverage and that its use should be encouraged. The association approved new measures for combatting the use of distilled spirits.

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