

Baseball's Johnson Is Dead

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP)—Two generations of baseball fans were saddened today by the passing of Walter Johnson, the fireball thrower who virtually wrote the pitching record book during his 21 years with the Washington Senators.

Known as "The Big Train" and a member of the game's official hall of fame, the kindly one-time Kansas farm boy died just before midnight at Georgetown hospital. He was 59 years old.

For eight months his life had been dimming from a brain tumor which doctors dared not try to relieve by surgery.

In Washington, where he spent his entire big league pitching career, Johnson was almost as celebrated as presidents, cabinet members and supreme court justices. During the time he lay dying even school-boys unborn when he was in his prime called the hospital to ask how he was doing.

Game's Greatest
Clark Griffith, 76-year-old president of the Senators, summed it up for the lanky Johnson's admirers today when he said:

"He was the greatest pitcher of all time."
Johnson, whose boyhood was spent on a farm near Humboldt, Kas., came to the Senators in 1907 from an independent team at Weiser, Idaho.

Playing with a team which was said "First in peace, first in war and last in the American league," the six-foot-one, 200-pounder with the buggy white right arm won 413 games and lost 280.

At one time or another he held just about all the modern pitching records and some still stand.

During more than two decades in Senators' livery, he struck out 3497 batters, pitched 803 games, chalked up 113 shutouts, turned in one stretch of 56 scoreless innings, fanned six hitters in a row, struck out more than 200 men in seven consecutive seasons.

On July 1, 1920, he pitched a no-hitter against Boston.

The best season he ever had was 1913 when he won 36 while losing only seven and compiled the amazing earned run average of 1.14 per game.

But his ball club usually was deep in the second division. Not until 1924 did Johnson appear in his first world series. The Senators won the league title again in 1925.

Decided Series

Johnson's fast ball had lost some of its hop but he won three and lost three in those two series. After losing his two starts in 1924 he went back to the mound in a relief role in the seventh and deciding game. He won the game and with it Washington's only championship.

Johnson left the Senators after the 1927 season to pilot Newark in the International league. He returned to the capital as manager of the Senators in 1929-1932 and ended his baseball days as manager of the Cleveland Indians in 1933-1935. He farmed near Germantown, Md., until entering the hospital last April.

Trippi Awarded Maxwell Trophy

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 11 (AP)—Charley Trippi, who left the state of Pennsylvania to lead the University of Georgia to the Sugar Bowl and win All-America honors, is the winner of the Maxwell Memorial Football club award as the outstanding gridiron player of 1946.

Trippi, who will be presented the club trophy January 14, thus succeeds Army's Doc Blanchard, who copped the award last year. Blanchard's playmate, Glenn Davis, was the 1944 winner.

A flock of professional football clubs are after Trippi but many expect him to become a pro baseball player. The Philadelphia Phillies, Boston Braves and Philadelphia Athletics all have made offers for Trippi, who batted .473 in 28 games for Georgia last spring.

Mouzon Stands Eye Operation

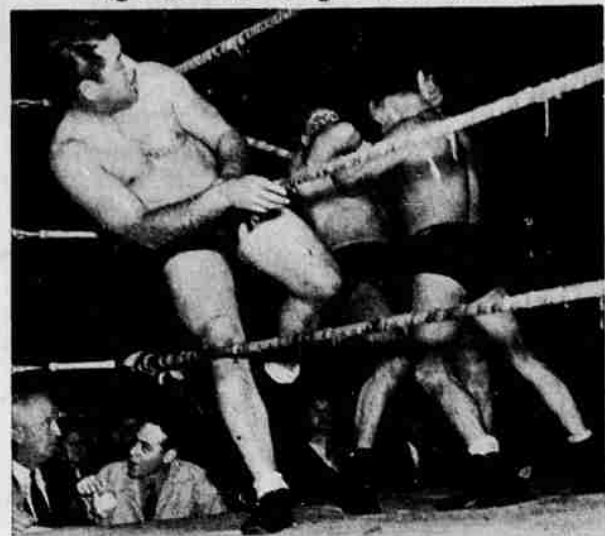
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 11 (AP)—Wesley Mouzon, who failed in his bid for the lightweight championship two weeks ago, underwent an operation yesterday in an attempt to restore complete vision to his right eye.

Official of Wills eye hospital said results "probably won't be known for at least ten days to two weeks."

Dr. Ralph Lanciano, physician for the state athletic commission, said the retina in Mouzon's eye was partially detached as a result of an old ring injury prior to the title fight with New York-Pennsylvania Champ Bob Montgomery.

Auburn Star Sets Pace For Gridiron Offense

Big Ike Will Tangle With Mask



Big Ike Casell, shown here making what the army calls a strategic withdrawal, grapples the Grey Mask in a winner-take-all, no limit fight for the army main event Thursday night. Also in the picture, taken during last week's battle royal, is Buck Lipscomb and Billy Weidner. The latter fights Billy Fox on the next card, and Buck Davidson tangles with Sammie Cohen.

Coast Conclave Report Due Today On 1947 Scheduling

PASADENA, Calif., Dec. 11 (AP)—Representatives of the Pacific coast conference wind up their annual winter meeting today and report on three days' consideration of athletic eligibility, football schedules and a code of ethics framed by the National Collegiate Athletic association.

A pattern for the proposed code, designed to make uniform policies of scholarships, aid to athletes and eligibility rules, was drawn by the NCAA in Chicago last summer.

Grid coaches admittedly tackled a bigger problem than ever in mapping 1947 schedules. This was due to the many inter-sectional games booked by the conference schools next fall.

"And in between some of our tough games, some of us might not be against scheduling a breather," one athletic head confessed, intimating that the two schools of less grid-prominence, Idaho and Montana, would be included in conference play on the coast next year.

The faculty section, which controls the conference, debated eliminating the GI eligibility rule January 1, 1948, on the grounds that most veterans by then would have returned to the school of their choice. If individual instances arise, such as a hospitalized veteran being detained from re-entering college, his case could be handled separately.

These Athletic Dentists---

CHICAGO, Dec. 11 (AP)—Dr. William Osmani has hung up his dentist's shingle and now he's ready to hang up his cleats.

The balding, 30-year-old full-back for the Chicago Bears will retire from pro football after one last fling Sunday when the Bears collide with the New York Giants in the Polo grounds for the National league championship. Then he'll devote full time to his Chicago dentistry practice.

SEATTLE, Dec. 11 (AP)—Ned Stickle, former Whitman athlete and Seattle Rainier shortstop, has no intention of retiring from baseball and will be on hand when the Pacific coast Rainiers open spring training in Bakersfield, Calif., he said today.

Stickle, an off-season dentist, has been considered a question-mark by the Seattle directorate which said it was making 1947 plans in the belief that he might not report.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 11 (AP)—Announcement yesterday that a group of 12 business men had mailed Crosey an offer to purchase his interest in the National league club brought this comment from the president of Crosey Motors, Inc., the chairman of the board of the Reds:

"I have said on numerous occasions that I'm not interested in selling the Reds. I wish they would quit picking on me and try to buy the First National bank or Coney Island."

Moyer Captures Welter Crown

SEATTLE, Dec. 11 (AP)—Tommy Moyer of Portland held the northwest welterweight boxing crown today by virtue of his 10-round triumph last night over Johnny Wells, clever Seattle negro. Each weighed 146.

Neither battler had been defeated in a professional bout up to their meeting. Wells shaded the eighth round and won the closing heat by a good margin but couldn't overtake Moyer's early lead. There were no knock-downs.

CAUTIOUS

TOPEKA, Kas., Dec. 11 (AP)—L. P. Brooks, assistant attorney general of Kansas, shied away from explaining the legal ins and outs of wedlock to prospective bridegroom, saying that caution has its limits.

A Kansan wrote the attorney general, wanting to "know all about the marriage law... and all about the divorce laws, because I never did like to get into anything I couldn't get out of."

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Freshman Was Entire Show

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (AP)—Travis Tidwell, Auburn's hard-working freshman, is the ground-gaining king of college football for 1946.

Closing with a terrific burst in his last two games, Tidwell outdistanced his closest pursuers and replaced Bob Fenimore of Oklahoma A. and M., who had reigned for two years as the individual offensive leader of the collegiate gridirons.

Statistics released today by the national collegiate athletic bureau show Tidwell not only topped the country in combined yardage gained on the ground and in the air but also was the No. 1 passer on the basis of total completions and the seventh best ball carrier.

Tidwell, who threw or carried the ball 339 times to be far and away the workhorse of the country, accounted for a total of 1715 yards in Auburn's ten games. He completed 79 of 158 forward passes for a total of 943 yards and picked up 772 yards on 181 running plays.

Thus the yearling star personally provided for 61 per cent of his team's total gains of 2828 yards and was the key man in more than half of the 674 plays which Auburn used in ten games.

He is the second freshman to win the individual offensive title and with colleges due to return to the three-year rule he may be the last. The other was Bob Hoerschmeyer of Indiana, who gained 1648 yards in 1943.

Tidwell's total was considerably short of the record of 2187 yards set by Frank Sinkwich of Georgia in 1942 but was the second highest of the past four years. Fenimore gained 1758 yards in 1944 and 1641 last year.

Bobby Layne of Texas finished the season as runner-up to Tidwell in both forward passing and total offense. Layne completed 77 of 140 passes for a total of 1115 yards and added 338 yards on 81 running plays for a total gain of 1453 yards.

Harry Gilmer of Alabama, runner-up in 1945, finished third this year, although his total of 1427 yards was only 30 short of his combined effort for 1945. Gilmer also was fourth among the passers with 69 successful tosses in 160 attempts for 930 yards.

Beavers Trounce Bearcats, 66-29

CORVALLIS, Dec. 11 (AP)—The fast moving Oregon State college basketball Beavers overran the Willamette University Bearcats 66 to 29 last night with Lew Beck setting the pace for the Stars.

Beck tossed 13 points with Substitutes Carey and Martin helping on the heavy scoring duties as OSC raced to a 34-11 halftime lead.

Willamette's McRee opened scoring in the first 15 seconds of play with a field goal, but Beck quickly dropped in two baskets and the Beavers were never threatened after that.

Rocha was replaced at center by Martin for most of the game and Scotty Sebern, who led Willamette scoring, was out of most of the second half due to fouling.

Pilots Win, 63-42

PORTLAND, Dec. 11 (AP)—Paced by Devich's 22 points, the University of Portland Pilots outran St. Martin's College cagers 63-42 here last night. Houseman topped the losers with 10 points.

Pilots Sailing

PORTLAND, Dec. 11 (AP)—The University of Portland Pilots placed the emphasis on low, hard tackling today as they awaited Thursday's departure for December 15 and 22 contests against the Island All-Stars in Honolulu.

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New Starting Gate Takes Guessing Out

CORAL GABLES, Fla., Dec. 11 (NEA)—The new United starting gate, invented by starter George Cassidy, is in action at Tropical Park. It is two tons lighter than similar 14-stall gates, more compact, measuring 59 feet 10 inches against 67 feet for other gates of that capacity.

Stalls are 40 inches wide, compared to 42 to 46 in others. Horses are unable to lean, haven't too much freedom of movement backward and forward. Lowering of the padding on the front gates gives horses a full view instead of causing them to rear seeking to look over the gates.

The United is equipped with stall doors which close parallel to the gate itself, rather than in a V-shape. Strong springs operated by heavy batteries give faster opening, safety catches prevent doors from flying back and hitting either rider or horse. Another safety device prevents ringing on the starting bell unless the gates open.

Well padded, with smooth surfaces where horses contact any portion, the structure is easy to move. An airplane type running gear works so smoothly one man can swing the wheels. There is a loudspeaker attachment.

The United gate is designed to provide perfect starts and safety for horses and riders.

Stars Lined Against OSC

PORTLAND, Dec. 11 (AP)—Buck Grayson lined up a cage staff of impressive independent all-stars today for a Friday night "stop the college runaway scoring" game against Oregon State college.

Grayson said his opening lineup would have Paul Valenti, former OSC all-Constar, Bob Mulder, Bruno studio star, Bob Bohlman of Fee's, Lloyd Jackson and Keith Starr of the Portland Preferred Stocks. Jack Vaughn of Pen Forest will be in reserve. Except for Vaughn, they are 6 feet 5 inches in height. Vaughn is 6 feet, six inches.

For speed and shooting accuracy, Grayson will count on Morris Stremich, Dave Lebenzon, Irv Rotenberg and Jay Hollingsworth.

Tule Hoopsters Open Schedule

TULELAKE, Dec. 11—Tulelake opens its 1946-47 conference cage season with a tilt with Ft. Jones here Saturday night, a doubleheader with both A and B squads in action. The first game is slated for 7:30.

Norman Esser is coaching the Honkers this year, and has 12 boys out for basketball, but has not yet decided on his starting quintet. M. P. Tanzy will mentor the B string.

Tulelake is in the Northern Siskiyou county loop, but California schools this year will be graded on a percentage basis in basketball instead of by a tourney. Dunsunmyr, Weed, Etna, McCloud, Mt. Shasta, Yreka, Ft. Jones and Dorris are the other towns in the league.

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Omaha Boy Gets Bout

Joe Dixon Will Meet Roy Hawkins Tuesday

The opponent for Roy Hawkins in the heavyweight main event of next Tuesday's boxing card will be a colored fighter by the name of Joe (Killer) Dixon, out of Omaha and making his first ring appearance on the coast.

Dixon only recently came to the northwest with the idea of fighting in Portland and Seattle, but was nabbed for the fight here before booking could be found for him elsewhere. Tex Salkeld, Portland promoter, who was looking for a spot for Dixon, has seen him in the gym and says that Dixon is a wild fighter of the type which is extremely unpredictable in the ring.

His fight with Hawkins is listed for 10 rounds, although as an actuality, Hawkins has never gone that far. He has ended his 10-round fights earlier. His longest trip was nine heats before he knocked out Jack Huber last Friday night, and before that he had taken an eight-round decision from LeRoy Evans.

The semi-windup of the card will have two flashy local welterweights, Earl McGill and Monte Montgomery in a five-rounder.

A stablemate of Dixon, Sonny Kelly of Omaha, is matched with Bruce Miller in a 155-pound bout, also five rounds. Kelly, also a colored fighter, is making his coastal debut.

In two four-heat prelims, Rudy Carlson will tangle with Ralph Weiser and Bunny Weiser has a scrap slated with Gene Gist of Redding.

Reserve seat tickets for the first professional card are on sale now at Matt Finnigan's sporting goods store, and there is a strong indication of standing room only by fight night.

VMI In Market For Head Coach

LEXINGTON, Va., Dec. 11 (AP)—Virginia Military Institute was in the market for a new head football coach today following the resignation of Allison T. S. (Pooley) Hubert, head man on the Keydet football field for the past 10 years.

Hubert, who succeeded Bill Raftery, in 1937, said he had been approached by two colleges and inasmuch as his contract at VMI terminates January 1, his resignation was offered now for the benefit of all parties concerned. He did not name either institution that he has under consideration.

Return Sought

FORT LEWIS, Dec. 11 (AP)—Having romped through 10 available opponents to the cumulative tune of 389 to 34, the Fort Lewis Engineers start back along the trail today with a return match with Fort Lawton, previously downed 45-0.

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More Track Doe Wagered, State Of Washington Wins

SEATTLE, Dec. 11 (AP)—Five and a half per cent fewer people bet 5 1/2 per cent more money at Longacres race track last season, but percentage-wise, Spokane was the state of Washington's hottest horse park.

Perhaps it was the enlarged track and improved facilities that accounted for it, but Spokane's Playfair showed an increase in the handle of 22.6 per cent, and an attendance increase of 10.5 per cent. This takes into consideration that the 1946 season was five days longer than in 1945.

At Longacres, on the other hand, attendance dropped 5.5 per cent, while the handle went up 5.6 per cent.

The silent partner of track operations—the state of Washington—consequently benefitted with a higher take of 22.6 per cent at Spokane and 5.6 per cent at Longacres, taking in \$885,568.10 from the combined operations, compared to \$730,622.45 in 1945. This latter figure also included the three-day meet at Wilbur, which brought the state \$335.15. They didn't run at Wilbur this year.

An offhand glance at the com-

parative figures indicated quite an increase all around. But when broken down to daily averages, because Longacres' season increased from 54 to 59 days, and Spokane's from 28 to 31, a different set of conclusions were ad-

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