

Athletics Show Up Better Than Last Year, is Belief

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Following is the fourth of a series of analytical articles by Frank Getty, special sports correspondent for the United News, giving the dope on the major league clubs of 1927 as they head north and east for the season's opening April 17:

Philadelphia Athletics

1926 lineup: Dykes or Bishop, 2b; French, rf; Lamar, lf; Hale, 3b; Simmons, cf; Poole, 1b; Cochran, c; Galloway, ss.

1927 line-up: Cochran, c; Collins, 2b; Cobb, rf; Simmons, cf; Wheat, lf; Brannan, 1b; Hale, 3b; Boley, ss.

A glance at the contrasting line-ups above shows that in five positions the Philadelphia Athletics are much stronger than in 1926.

Moreover, Connie Mack has retained all his regulars from last year for use in case of need. Bishop, French, Lamar, Poole and Galloway—banned to make way for high paid stars purchased since the close of last season, and fitted into the line-up during spring training—are all on hand, ready to step into what is obviously a pennant winning machine should any of the veterans or new stars meet with an accident.

Although he has put together what amounts to two champion ball teams, reversible, if he sees fit for left and right handed pitching, Connie Mack has such a wealth of tried material on hand that when he cuts the squad to 25 players on April 15 it is doubtful if a single rookie is retained.

The Athletics' pitching staff is the strongest in the league, including, as it does: Sam Gray, Howard Ehmke, Ed Rommel and Jack Quinn, right handers, and Bob Grove, George Walberg, Charles Willis and Joe Tate left handers.

If any rookie makes the grade it may very likely be Spike Hunter, a southpaw pitcher from Dallas, Texas.

The Athletics' catching staff is the strongest in the league. Cochran, Perkins and Fox cannot be equalled by the receivers of any other club. There is no other club that could afford to use as bench warmers as the following:

Poole, 1b; Bishop, 2b; Dykes, 3b; Galloway, ss; French and Lamar, outfielders; Perkins and Fox, catchers.

On paper Connie Mack's club figures to win the American league flag by at least ten games. Everything, it was said before spring training commenced, depended upon coordination among such stars and erstwhile managers as Ty Cobb, Eddie Collins and Zack Wheat.

The Florida season has proved that the lions can lie down with the lambs, or play ball with them. Ty Cobb has gone at his work with the enthusiasm of a rookie.

"I am going to give my best for the fans unless I break a leg," the former Detroit manager announced this week. Cobb already has staged several rows with umpires to show he is in fighting trim.

Zack Wheat and Eddie Collins seem to have fitted into their new uniforms and are merely awaiting the warmth of late spring to cut loose with their best baseball. Boley and Brannan, high priced stars from the minors, have been assimilated into the infield without a hitch.

What manner of disaster can keep the Athletics of 1927 from a pennant cannot at this writing be foreseen.

PLENTY OF PUNCH IN LIBERTY FILM

The man or woman—or child, for the matter of that—simply doesn't exist who won't get a great, big, tingling thrill—or, rather, a succession of them—out of "The Fighting Thorobreds." Billy Sullivan's new picture, scheduled for presentation at the Liberty Theatre for two days beginning today.

Billy is cast as a youngster who, on his way to a brilliant success in the prize ring, is compelled to abandon his career as a fighter by conditions over which he has no control. His downfall—No, it's not fair to call it that, for it leads, eventually, to tremendous happiness. At any rate, all his troubles are directly traceable to one man, and when, after a series of gripping events, he finally faces that man—now risen to the championship—in the Squared Circle, Billy—

GOLDEN BEARS MAY GET PAID FOR EARS IN GAMES

BERKELEY, April 4, (U.N.)—The cauliflowerers that bloom in the fall and the teeth that fade away in the serenade have been dignified by places on the expense accounts of the University of California athletes.

W. W. Mottahan, graduate manager, appeared before the executive committee of the associated students and obtained sanction for the following expenses in connection with university sports:

Roy Niswanger, repairing ear \$20; Dick Blewett, repairing teeth broken in football games \$75; Lane Becker \$50 and James \$7 for replacing teeth lost during baseball games, and James E. Johnson, wrestler, \$20 for repairing cauliflower ear.

SWIMMING STUNTS PART OF CUBS' TRAINING



Swimming stunts are a part of the Chicago Cubs' training program at Catalina Island, Calif. Photo shows "Galby" Hartnett, catcher, learning how to dive while teammates look on. Left to right: Andy Latsch, trainer; Tony Kaufman, James Conner, Clyde Beck, Harry Grand, Jimmy Glenzie; and Dave for the training season, is the man in knickerbockers.

Cicero Basketeers Win National Title

BARTLETT GYMNASIUM, Chicago, April 4, (U.N.)—Morton high school at Cicero won the annual interscholastic basketball championship of America, defeating the strong quintet from Batesville, Ark. 18 to 16.

Cicero is a city of 50,000, completely surrounded by Chicago, but never absorbed as part of the metropolis. It is known for its underworld haunts, the hiding places of some of Chicago's most desperate gangsters and gunmen.

But the gang of high school boys who represented the city was a totally different gang from those which brought fame to Cicero. They were a scrappy bunch, but played a clean cut, furious game that brought rounds of cheers from the huge throng that packed every available nook of the University of Chicago gymnasium.

Third place in the championship round was won by the Florence, Miss., team, which nosed out Huron, S. D., 19 to 16.

Dead Son's Horse Takes Race Honors

LIVERPOOL, Eng., April 4, (U.N.)—The ten-year-old jumper, Sprig, which her son Sir Richard bequeathed to her before he fell in France, won for Mrs. M. Partridge the most valued steeplechase prize in all English racing and the \$40,000 purse which goes to the winner of the Grand National.

Twice circling the Aintree course the most difficult in the world, Sprig rewarded his thousands of backers at odds of 8 to 1, while nearly 150,000 spectators looked on. But to Mrs. Partridge, who was congratulated by King George and the prince of Wales after the race, Sprig means more than a Grand National winner.

"This horse means more to me than anything else in the world," said the 74-year-old woman owner as she threw arms around the steaming winner's neck and kissed Sprig affectionately on the nose. "My son left him to me. Richard died for his country in France and shortly before he died Sprig was foaled. Richard would have bred him for a jumper if my son had lived, and when he left him to me in his will, I knew he wanted to see the horse win a great race like the Grand National. Now that's been done for my boy."

Richard Partridge died in action a few weeks before the armistice. He bred Sprig in France just before going to the front.

Mrs. Partridge has tried to win the Grand National steeplechase with Sprig for three years, this being her first success. In 1925 and 1926 the horse ran fourth, but showed its ability by finishing the gruesome four miles in good condition.

BRITISH GOLF CHAMP WON'T DEFEND TITLE

ASHEVILLE, N. C., April 4, (U.N.)—Jesse Sweetser, who won the British amateur golf championship last year, will not return to England this summer to defend his title, he said here today. He told friends he will enter only one major tournament, the national amateur championship.

He was prevented from competing in this event last year by a breakdown following his victory in the British amateur event.

Sweetser came to Asheville last fall and has been recuperating in the mountains of western North Carolina.

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VARIETY IS OFFERED ON VAUDEVILLE BILL

An incomparable vaudeville show with many new and novel features, hilarious comedy, harmony songs, and colorful dancing numbers will be seen at the Pine Tree Theatre today and Wednesday.

The Echo Trio is known as "The Three Wise Hicks" and consists of a conglomeration of comedy songs, wise cracks, funny situations, and harmony singing numbers. Johnson Duo provide a novel and imitable blend of magic and comedy.

Carr & Paul present "Fun in a Taxi," a clever characterization of the trials and tribulations of a taxi driver showing the humorous side of everyday life in his run-about with mishaps and surprises. Frank Burt offers "Aerial Nonsense," a sensational aerial novelty with a comedy twist. Lead and Leroy novelty instrumentalists with some new effects on the marimphone offer a program of orchestral and snappy up to the minute numbers.

LEAGUE STANDING FOR PACIFIC COAST

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
Sacramento	5	9	1.000
San Francisco	4	2	.666
Seattle	4	2	.666
Oakland	3	3	.500
Mission	3	3	.500
Portland	2	4	.333
Los Angeles	2	4	.333
Hollywood	0	5	.000

The above include a Monday's games.

COAST LEAGUE SCORES

Club	R	H	E
Mission	0	1	1
Oakland	1	4	1
Ludolph and Whitney; Dickerman and Baker.			
Seattle	3	8	1
Los Angeles	2	10	4
Brett and Jenkins; Sanders, Mays and Hannah.			
Portland	11	13	2
San Francisco	12	15	2
Ponder, Kinney, Duff, Ortman, Hughes and Wendell; May, Geary, Mitchell, Turpin and Agnew, Stokes.			

Only games played Monday.

SPEED DEMON WILL ENTER FRENCH RACE

DAYTONA, Fla., April 4, (U.N.)—Major H. O. D. Segrave, English racing driver who lowered the world's motor speed record by driving his Mystery 5, more than 200 miles an hour, has announced that his next race will be at Marseilles, France, where he will enter the 500 mile event, with a car that will have a piston displacement of 51 cubic inches.

SWEDEN BREAKS RECORD

NEW YORK, April 4, (U.N.)—Edvin Wide of Sweden won the international 1½ mile race here tonight in the new world's record time of six minutes 36.5 seconds, clipping 1.3 seconds from the old time made by Paavo Nurmi of Finland in 1925. He beat Willie Goodwin of the N. Y. C. A., the second man, by 75 yards.

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Probe of Racing Graft to Cease

SALT LAKE CITY, April 4, (U.N.)—No further investigation of the charges of graft and misconduct made against members of the Utah racing commission and the state fair board in connection with the conduct of racing in Utah, will be made by the special committee named by the recent legislation for that purpose, it is understood.

The committee held an executive session here today and drafted a communication to the governor on the matter.

Charges were made against the commission and the fair board on the floor of the house of representatives during the recent session.

On the last day of the session, the committee made a partial report finding members of the racing commission had been on the payroll of the state and the racing interests at the same time and that one member of the fair board had drawn the racing contract as attorney for the racing interests, which as a member of the fair board he was presumed to pass upon in the awarding of it.

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Hornsby Must Sell Rival Club Stock

NEW YORK, April 4, (U.N.) Within the next fortnight, Rogers Hornsby must do something for the New York Giants besides playing secondbase and batting around .450.

It is up to "The Rajah" to toss overboard \$23,000, or what he believes to be \$23,000, in disposing of his stock in a rival ball club.

Judge Landis, President Heydler and Chas. A. Stoneham are agreed that Hornsby's retention of stock in the St. Louis Cardinals while a member of the Giants would constitute "syndicate" baseball.

"I have told Hornsby that he must sell his stock before April 17," said Stoneham recently.

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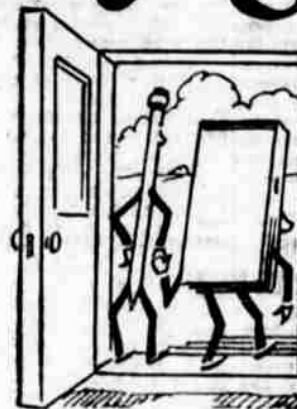
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