

Late Sporting News

Confident Ball Player Is Usually Successful

Did you ever notice that the majority of the ball players who are accused of being swell-headed, are the stars with the war club, in the fielding end of the game and as pitchers?

You never did?

Well, you just overlooked a bet, that's all. Now, do not get the wrong impression. Just because a player happens to be swell-headed is no reason in the world why he should be suspected of being a star.

But it's so easy to win the reputation of being swell-headed in baseball that about the time a man begins to do things he wins the title or the reputation.

Look at Ty Cobb, for instance. When he began to run wild on the bases some of the players said he was crazy. They had an idea that if he ran wild long enough sooner or later he would be caught. When they discovered that he knew when to turn to a new line, it became quite popular for the men on the opposing team to call Ty Cobb names. Then it was discovered that he was as quick with his tongue as he was on his feet.

Apparently he didn't have a vulnerable spot. Then someone discovered that he was swell-headed. But he certainly was a ball player.

There is a story that Pat Tebeau tells on Mike Doblin every time he gets the opportunity. If you happen to know a fan who is the intimate friend of a ball player, that friend will tell you that Mike had the swell-head.

Well, Tebeau was managing the St. Louis team when Doblin broke into the major league game. He arrived in St. Louis a raw recruit.

At the clubhouse they greeted Doblin with laughter. He looked pretty much of a gawk.

"How long do you think you'll last?" queried one of the vets.

"Oh, a couple of years, I have to."

"Have to?" queried the vet.

"Sure." I just signed a two-year lease on a house that my sister and I will live in," retorted Mike.

Mike struck. He was a pitcher in those days. It's true his pitching arm

didn't make it possible for him to live to the teams of the lease, but his war club did.

Swell-headed? Mike wasn't swell-headed. He just had a pot of confidence, backed up by a lot of nerve, which is about the same thing. The trouble was the ball players couldn't differentiate between being swell-headed and being confident. So they said Mike was a swell-head.

Take Johnny Evers, for instance. The Cub second-baseman has an idea that confidence is one of the greatest assets that a ball player possesses. He thinks that Hans Wagner had a bad year because he got away to a bad start and the pitchers recovered their confidence when pitching to the big German.

"In the years gone by Hans had it on the pitchers," said John.

"Any time he went to bat they felt that they were in the hole and that, unless luck came to their assistance, the big Dutchman would get a base hit. As a result they did not pitch as well to him as they do to weaker batters and he got a lot of base hits. But the moment the cowbirds saw that maybe he wasn't such a terror after all they got up their nerve and instead of the Dutchman having it on the pitchers the twirlers got it on the batter."

"And it cost Hans some base hits."

But getting back to Evers proper. Away from Chicago they will tell you that he is swell-headed. That's because when he goes to bat he will hammer the cover off the ball. Immediately the fans get the impression that he is smitten with himself.

Well, any man who knows Evers is aware that that is not the truth. But it has its effect. The pitcher, if he is a young fellow, becomes a bit nervous and John either soaks the ball or walks.

Confidence and nerve are as essential to a ball player as good eyes and a pair of fleet legs. And any time that you get a fellow who doesn't think pretty well of himself you have one who will be a dub in the big show or a candidate for a minor berth.

"You put the ball over the plate and I'll hit the third baseman with a line drive," is the kind of conversation the manager likes to hear."

Tom Apers, in the Atlanta Journal puts it up to the public in this fashion:

If You Were Running Things. Would Jack Johnson be world's champion?

Would Jim Corbett be a minstrel man?

Would aviation be classed as a sport?

Would horse racing be conducted as it is now?

Would there be no all-night street cars?

Would there be any roudyism in basketball games?

Would golf balls cost \$9 a dozen?

Would there be any professional politicians?

Would Barney Oldfield be allowed abroad without a muzzle?

Would there be any joy-riding at night?

Would there be any speeches at "banquets?"

Would the hand-book men be allowed to breathe?

Would Birmingham win the 1911 pennant?

Would there be any of those fuzzy hats worn?

Would business interfere with baseball?

Wouldn't everything be fine and dandy?

Singing Sparks Are Successful

Berlin, Jan. 25.—The success of Herr von Lepel's "singing sparks" system of wireless telegraphy would seem to be assured. The Anglo-German Wireless Syndicate, Ltd., of London, in conjunction with the Compagnie Generale Radiotelegraphique, of Paris, have secured rights of the system, which it is believed will be widely adopted in the near future.

The syndicate has an important wireless experimental station at Slough, where numerous interesting developments, have been made, and visitors to the recent Brussels exhibition will remember the two Lepel stations in constant connection with Slough and Paris. Lepel's system is a development of the Paulsen ear system, which succeeded the ordinary spark system identified with the name of Marconi and others. From the former systems telegrams coming at the same time cannot be discriminated by ear. In Lepel's system each is easily distinguished by its own distinguishing note.

If several stations are telegraphing at the same time Lepel's system provides for a code of bugle calls when necessary. For use in war this is of great advantage, as the enemy with other systems would be unable to disturb the communication. Both arc and spark systems are here powerless. By the Lepel system it is possible to telegraph music even of a complicated character by means of an electrical keyboard.

Two transportable stations have been sold to the British war office, and to the navy and the post office. These stations are claimed to be simpler and less expensive than others.

Herr von Lepel is now in France pushing his patent in that country. Owing to the portability of Lepel's stations they are well adapted for aviation purposes, and Dr. Burstin Lepel's assistant, is engaged in perfecting a station suitable for aeroplanes.

It is interesting to note that Lepel is not yet 30 years old. During the Russo-Japanese war he accompanied Admiral Rodzjevsky as chief of his wireless staff, and was present at the "Battle of Hull."

Ni - News Of Sports

Sunday baseball in Kansas was given a new lease of life when the lower house of the legislature went against a vote of 63 to 55 against any further laws to prohibit the game. More than half of the members took part in the debate, in which the Bible was quoted, sermons delivered and arguments against the bill made by those who favor the sport.

Frank Gotch, world's champion wrestler, will appear in New York in a finish match before the end of February.

This announcement was made by President Herk of the Empire Athletic club. The selection of a good man to oppose Gotch is the only thing standing in the way of the immediate closing of the deal for the match.

Gotch does not believe he is ready to meet Hackenschmidt, Mahmut is considered out of the question, as he lost to Zbyszko, and Zbyszko is considered poor material, inasmuch as he suffered defeat at the hands of the Humboldt giant last spring.

It is a dreary day indeed when some manager of a club has no "phenom" on his list.

Advance money has not been furnished to any players, this far, notwithstanding the insistent requests.

Fred Lake has quit playing baseball. He has signed a contract with the St. Louis Browns whereby he is engaged as official scout for that organization.

By wiring Petersburg (Virginia League) baseball club officials yesterday that he would be in Petersburg the last of the week to whip a team into shape for the coming season, "Heine" Busch, of Cincinnati, who last year played shortstop for the Norfolk (Va.) team, practically closed a contract to be player-manager of the Petersburg team.

Evasion of the law governing salary limit of the clubs in the South Atlantic Baseball League is to be expected following the adoption of the \$1,900 limit by the league directors at Jacksonville Saturday, according to N. P. Corish, secretary of the Savannah Baseball Club.

The University of Michigan team may be represented in track or field events this year by one or more Chinamen. There are 14 Chinese in the University. Also there are 14 in the gymnasium taking the preliminary athletic training and expressing a determination to emulate their American classmates in college sports.

President Carpenter, of the Tri-State League has received a telegram from George W. Heckert, saying that the Williamsport franchise had been sold to Wilmington, and that a check for \$2400 had been mailed to the president, who held the option on the club. Carpenter is gratified at the sale.

Manager Connie Mack and his bride arrived in New York Saturday on the Mauretania, which made a record-breaking run from Liverpool to New York in honor of the leader of the world's champions. Connie was greeted at the pier at 8 a. m. by a number of his friends.

Will Jack Johnson Fight At Kaufman?

New York, Jan. 28.—The probability that Jack Johnson, the heavy-weight champion, would meet Al Kaufman in a six round bout in Philadelphia some time during February is the absorbing topic of discussion today among followers of pugilism here. Johnson's reported recently expressed desire to appear in Philadelphia if a big guarantee was offered him for a six round bout, is declared to have paved the way to the making of a match with Kaufman as the latter has long expressed a desire to meet the champion.

Current reports here have it that Jack O'Brien would come east and that the Call'ornian is already on his way. Should Johnson decline to meet Johnson, Joe Jeanette will be substituted, it is said.

Great Auto Show Opens. Chicago, Ill., Jan. 28.—The annual Chicago automobile show opened today with every inch of space in the Coliseum and the First Regiment armory occupied. Twenty automobiles were unable to secure space. The combined value of the exhibits is placed at \$2,500,000.

PAY JUDGES MORE—COURTS ALL RIGHT.

To the Editor of The News:

It was a few months ago that several of our leading newspapers were congratulating the people upon the splendid behavior of our citizens, as evidenced by the few lynchings during the past year, together with the few outbreaks of lawlessness over the state. All of a sudden things seem to have gone radically wrong and the entire legal procedure demands immediate rehabilitation, unless crime goes unpunished and evil is allowed to stalk abroad in the land.

Why these unwarranted attacks upon the legal procedure of our Commonwealth, unless it be that a critic is a man who has signally failed in life?

There is nothing wrong with our criminal procedure, it needs no renovation. Statistics show that crime has daily decreased. The conscience of the public is keenly sensitive to its duties. Our state is making great strides along all lines. If there is an undue delay in the enforcement of the law and in the trial of the causes, it is a delay (quoting from law notes) "which is injurious to the business of the country, and consequently, to the people in the disposition of civil actions rather than in criminal prosecutions. In nearly all, if not all, criminal courts a prisoner who is not out on bail must be tried at the next term of court after he is indicted, unless it appears that the interests of justice demands otherwise; and, if he is out on bail, he will be tried when his case is reached in its regular order, which generally speaking, is quite promptly. In either case, no real harm is done. But great delay in trial is done. It has given trouble all over the country; it is nothing unusual to see from the records of our courts that cases have been pending anywhere from three to ten years."

Law Notes further says: "With reference to the minor courts of some states a few complaints against the justice or magistrate, are worthy of attention where the presiding officer of minor courts has to depend for his fees on the litigants. If he decides for the plaintiff, and the defendant is obliged to pay the costs before he can appeal, the magistrate gets his fees; if he decides for the defendant, and the plaintiff is not a person from whom the costs can be collected, the magistrate does not get his fees; and it is a common practice to pester individuals by attaching wages, issuing writs, and generally by putting defendants in such a plight that they appeal, or pay something, or both, for the sole purpose of providing the magistrate, or other minor officer, with the wherewithal." And tersely suggests why not reform them? Those who would deprive a defendant in a criminal prosecution of the present number of peremptory challenges and otherwise deface our long honored and well approved established system of criminal procedure forget what it has cost the English speaking people to found such a procedure of fairness, equality and justice unsurpassed by others. They also forget that a defendant is placed at a tremendous disadvantage when forced to contend with the state. Whether he be guilty or not, the fact to be proven, he has no recourse, save to make his defense against fearful odds, and usually if he obtains a verdict of not guilty, finds himself a pauper in character and purse.

The tendency of the times is to commercialize and subsidize everything with the dirty dollar. To a few, it had been hoped that the sacred temples of justice would escape the ravages of the love of money, but not so. In our mad rush for time and inordinate desire for filthy lucre, a new device for speeding upon the rights of the individual has been invented, to wit the recorder's court, which in the language of one of our most distinguished jurists and beloved citizens "is a ravishment of the constitution." A lack of convictions for the crime of homicide seems to be the "causa causans" for the railing accusations and entreaties hurled at the criminal procedure. However, to an observer living the simple life, it appears that the fault lies with a change of heart and public sentiment rather than the courts. Ex, the forefathers were once bloody enough to enforce capital punishment against the commission of three hundred and sixty offenses. Today men being imbued with the spirit of the Nazarene, in all of the states, except a few, capital punishment has been reduced to four offenses. Some of us were taught to believe in the hickory withe, literal hell fire and damnation, the popular idea of today is to eradicate such a sentiment. A law is not any better enforced than the public sentiment sufficient to execute it.

Law notes, a standard authority, in a very interesting compilation of statistics, showed conclusively that the enforcement of the criminal law in the United States compared favorably with that of England, or any other country.

Our Superior court judges have authority sufficient, as they are now the most powerful legal machine in the state. The law giving an attorney the right in capital cases to argue the cause of his client to the jury for such a time as he may think best, grew out of the tyranny of some of the Superior court judges. The act curtailing the power of a Superior court judge was drafted and its enactment brought about by an able lawyer, who afterwards graced both the Superior and Supreme court bench and died an honored dean of the University of North Carolina.

What we need in North Carolina is not a needless interference with the present system of our criminal procedure, or the rights or liberties of the citizens, but a higher and better and pay our Superior court judges a salary commensurate with the service rendered. It is a lamentable fact that our parsimoniousness makes it difficult to secure the best legal talent to honor the bench and administer justice. A man who has a family to support and desires to lay by for a rainy day, and who possesses ability, cannot afford to accept a judicial position.

Pay the judges more salary, give us better judges and let the procedure alone.

T. L. KIRKPATRICK, Charlotte.

Slowly but surely withal moveth the might of the gods.—Euripides.

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