

CLEANER BALL IN WEST NOW

Purchase of Oakland Club by Walter Johnson Believed Likely Put Crimp in Gambling in West.

By JOHN B. FOSTER (Copyright, 1924, by The Advance)

New York, Nov. 20.—One of the best things that is likely to come out of the purchase by George Weiss and Walter Johnson of the Oakland Club of the Pacific coast league is the rooting out of the gambling pests who have haunted the Oakland grounds to the great annoyance of the baseball fans in that city.

Oakland and Los Angeles have been the plague spots of the Pacific Coast League and the injection of new blood with establishment of the new owners at Oakland should have an effect not only in that city, but throughout the entire circuit where there have been rumors of gambling and "something doing" all season.

It is said that an investigation is under way now to try to fasten guilt upon suspected players. If any collusion between gamblers and players can be proved the players will be dropped. They may not be expelled outright, but they will not be likely to get a chance to play in organized baseball next year.

Most of the troubles on the coast followed the trip of "Nick the Greek" from Chicago to that section.

There is a lot of enthusiasm in Oakland about Weiss and Johnson entering the city, because Cal Swink, the retiring owner of the club, had paid more attention to baseball policies than to the building up of a winning team and Oakland has been a trailer so long that the fans had almost given up the idea that it could ever be anything else. Oakland has been with the Wrigley faction as against San Francisco in coast baseball politics. It is not likely that the new owners will side with any faction as they have no axes to grind with other club owners.

Oakland has kept up a relationship with both Brooklyn and Pittsburgh in the National League, and while it has never been a farm for either, there have been several exchanges that have benefited the major league clubs more than they did Oakland.

The team did better in 1924 than it has done in years, finishing fourth, and being in the pennant race part of the season. Still, if the amount alleged to have paid for the franchise is correct, the new owners paid a round price for what they got.

The purchase of the Oakland club by Easterners puts an end to any offers for Salt Lake City by outsiders. That club will go on next year and will be financed by its present owners.

The sale of the Portland, Oregon club to Turner and Shibe gives the Athletics a feeding ground on the Pacific coast. They have taken advantage of it at once by pulling Cochran, the Portland catcher, East. He batted .333 last year, which is a lot more than Perkins of the Athletics ever will bat. He made seven home runs. Behind the plate he fielded .959 with 278 put-outs, 49 assists and 14 errors.

Two Sprinting Ages Meet



Arthur Duffey of Boston was the first man to be timed in 2:55 seconds for the hundred. Duffey is now a Boston sports writer. Frankie Hursley, high school boy who ran for America in the Olympic dashes, has been timed unofficially in 2:55 for the same event. Hursley is attending school in Boston, and the other day he met the old sprinting king for the first time.

THE FALLEN IDOL ROLE SUITS LUIS

Undisturbed by Roastings in Home Newspapers Calf of Pampas Still Thinks He Can Lick Dempsey.

By FAIR PLAY (Copyright, 1924, by The Advance)

New York, Nov. 20.—Out in Newark Luis Firpo professes to be undisturbed by the roasting he is getting in Buenos Aires newspapers. From any indication he is just as well content to be a fallen idol as an idol. The "calf of the pampas" as they now call him in the Argentine, said to the writer today that he will spend the remainder of his stay in this country proving to Americans and South Americans that he is still a logical contender for Dempsey's crown.

Whether he shows this or not depends upon Tex Rickard. As long as Luis stuck to Tex he got along finely, but the minute he went off on his own hook he got in Dutch. Luis needs Tex. But just now it is not so certain that Tex needs Luis. Rickard knows it will take a lot of his best showmanship to overcome the bad showing Firpo made against Weinert. He may decide that effort involved is not worth the candle.

Rickard has pulled the wild bull out of more than one hole. He discounted Luis' rotten showing against Homer Smith and also "saved" him when Joe Downey, a poor scrapper went the distance with him.

The fact that few readers will recall these bouts will show just how cleverly Firpo was steered by them. Whether some one does a Ironman for Luis in order to rehabilitate him depends upon whether or not the promoters think he still has possibilities as a drawing card. He could go on the road and pick up good money, but in the eyes of Eastern promoters good money is not what counts. It is the big million dollar bouts that count.

Firpo's most recent conqueror, by the way, has been offered a booking on a Western vaudeville circuit.

Gene Tunney through his manager, Billy Gibson, signed up for an engagement that is likely to prove no cinch. Jeff Smith is the opponent and the two will meet in New Orleans on December 8.

Lots of the good ones are inclined to let Jeff severely alone. He has a style of fighting that makes almost anyone look bad. He is hard to hit and at the same time he lays about him with blows that are well directed even if they come from crazy angles.

Jeff, in other words, is sort of a Harry Greb, not so spectacular, but equally difficult as an opponent.

Smith to Greb has been like the mongoose to the cobra. Lots of things can lick the mongoose, but the cobra can't. Greb can lick lots of fighters but he can't lick Smith.

Mike McTigue took a 15 round decision from him in 1921 and Mike O'Dowd from him in 1920.

FOOTBALL QUESTION BOX

If you have some question to the game as writer and official, ask about football.

If you want a rule interpreted—

If you want to know anything about a play—

Write to Lawrence Perry, for 15 years an authority on your question will be answered in this column. Otherwise if you want a personal reply enclose a stamped, self-addressed in this column.

Address: Lawrence Perry, Special Football Correspondent of The Advance, 814 World Building, New York.

Question—In our game with Reform the referee called the game on account of darkness immediately after Reform scored the touchdown that beat us 12 to 14. There were still four minutes of playing time left. The referee wanted to shorten the last period to ten minutes and I agreed, but Coach of Reform would not. The referee went ahead and took it upon himself to call the game on account of darkness. I objected when he did that on the ground it was not fair to Tuscaloosa. Reform had scored in the dark and I knew our team could do likewise. If your answer is that the referee has not the authority to call the game on account of darkness we will proceed to contest the game.

Answer—Under Rule 4, Section 2, the referee, during an intermission, that is between the first and second periods, between the second and third periods, and the third and fourth periods, the referee "with the consent of the two captains may shorten the playing time of the remaining period or periods." Thus it would appear the referee of the Reform-Tuscaloosa was not within his rights in arbitrarily calling the game.

Question—Team A is near an opponent's goal line and decides to forward pass. The ball is thrown and the receiver gets over the goal line clear and is about to receive the ball when a defender punts him down. What is the penalty?

Answer—Ball on defending team's one yard line.

but since then Smith has been going his way without a defeat, smothering rivals right and left. Tunney is likely to find him a puzzling adversary.

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This is the way Charles W. Barlow of Elmira, N. Y., retired engineer thinks the earth looks in this model globe, the depression in the center represents the ocean, he says.

WAKE FOREST OUT NAIL CHAMPIONSHIP Wake Forest, Nov. 20.—A nice made to order State Championship

and possibly South Atlantic Honors, await the Demon Demons of Wake Forest College if they defeat State in Raleigh on Saturday. If the Demons do not beat State then there is a home for Davidson State, Carolina, and Wake Forest to growl over. Perfectly aware of these facts, Garrity's men are working at top pace for their Saturday contest.

Unless unforeseen circumstances come to pass, the Wake Forest team will go against State in the best physical condition it has attained since it defeated Carolina here on September 27. The team came through its 32 to 9 victory over Trinity in fine shape and the 41 to 9 victory over Elon was easy work.

In the Elon game Garrity did not send Jones, Lentz, or Pagano—tried and true regulars—in at all. "Flash" Greason remained in only about five minutes. On the other hand, every substitute who appeared on the field in uniform got into the game. In all Garrity used 18 substitutes or a total of 29 men in the game. Bill Elmer, regularly a tackle, gave the Wake Forest students a new sight in performing as full back. The big player ran well with the ball and accounted for good gains.

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FOR THE GAME'S SAKE

BY LAWRENCE PERRY (Copyright, 1924, by The Advance)

New York, Nov. 30.—If Harvard should succeed in Yale next Saturday it is not at all likely that Robert Fisher will remain at Cambridge. He head coach Fisher is a man of fine personality and is a competent football instructor.

Despite the fact that the material he has had to handle in recent years has not in any way compared with the sort of players that the Crimson found available in the Haughton regime, the deadly parallel between Fisher and Haughton eleven has been drawn with ever increasing frequency.

The Princeton debacle seems to have brought dissatisfaction to a point and a sound beating by Yale will accentuate this state of mind, if that is possible.

Percy Wendell, who played at Harvard under Haughton and has been doing well at Williams, is the one name mentioned as successor to Fisher.

Roper says he will remain at Princeton if the Princeton athletic authorities invite him to stay. As it is foregone that such an invitation will be extended no coaching change at Princeton can be expected.

Talk that William Alexander will depart from Georgia Tech is idle. Alexander is working along the right road and, with the assistance of Hanson (Hills) as line coach, may be depended upon to keep the Yellow Jackets in the top flight of southern teams year after year.

Alexander has the solid backing of the most influential men in Atlanta. But at Wisconsin friends of Jack Ryan may have a fight on their hands to hold him. Ryan is a coach of real ability and with responsive material is qualified, the writer believes, to produce satisfactory results. It would be going far to say that this year's eleven has been responsive to its coach. Just why this is so the writer is unable to say, but it might be the part of wisdom for Wisconsin alumnus to look beyond the coaching problem when

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