

First Speech In National League

Made Behind Locked Doors

Hulbert Wanted to Keep Crowd Out but Same Time Taking No Chances on Insiders Getting Away.

The baseball season of 1925 will be the first season of the National League. In commemoration of this anniversary, which will be commemorated during the coming season by the present heads of baseball, John B. Foster, former newspaper editor on the case, is writing a remarkable series of articles about the National League. These articles will deal with the history of the league and its founders and how they happened to organize it; the first teams of the league; the 15 greatest players of the league; the five leading pitchers; the six most famous managers; the greatest games; its early championships and the development of the rules.

By JOHN B. FOSTER
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To the permanent organization meeting of the National League, which were held in New York City, William A. Hulbert sent invitations to G. W. Thompson of the Athletics of Philadelphia; N. T. Appolonio, Boston; M. G. Bullock, Hartford, and W. H. Cammeyer, Brooklyn, the latter being at the head of the New York Mutuals. Each invitation called for a different hour of arrival at the hotel. On February 2 Hulbert was present to receive his guests. When all had arrived to their astonishment, he went to the door of his room, locked it, put the key in his pocket and, turning to the open-eyed men who confronted him, spoke as follows:

"Gentlemen, you have no occasion for uneasiness. I have locked that door to keep the crowd out. Incidentally I prefer to have all of you remain until 11 o'clock. That is a second reason why I locked it. What I have to say to you will take about an hour and I wish all of you to be present until I am finished."

The guests of the Chicago men laughed a little when they had recovered from the surprise which had been forced upon them and resumed the seats which they had left when they had seen Hulbert lock the door. That was the first speech that the National League ever heard, although at that particular moment it was still the National League in embryo. The organization has held many meetings since at which the doors were locked, not to keep the members in, but the other fellows out.

After Hulbert had gained the attention of the men present he proceeded to outline what he had in mind. He told them in plain language that the gamblers had the same by the throat and that it was time something was done to take the control of affairs from the players who had too much

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If you want a rule interpreted—
If you want to know anything about a play or player—
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Little Fellows Give All They've Got For Victory

Football Outfits of Smaller Colleges Have Little or No Reserve Strength and Every Man on the Team Feels that He Must Last Out Season

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

New York, Dec. 8.—Just a few words about the little fellows in football. Most of them remain from the beginning of a season to its end. Others through sheer grit and ability overcome natural handicaps and flash into the public eye.

But whether they emerge or remain hidden, never forget they are taking their bumps and giving every ounce of their strength and skill in no less degree than their brethren or more famous outfits, and are contributing no less signally to the good of football and the cause of manhood.

Washington and Lee, one of the smallest institutions in the Southern conference, is entitled to ranking this season as second among the fine eleven of the country. Jimmy Dehart, the coach, has no assistants, except a graduate manager and one or two alumni who coach for nothing. W. and L. is situated in a very small town with poor railroad facilities and has never been able to make enough money out of games even to pay her coaches adequate salaries.

Washington and Lee is the only important college in the South which has no support of any

church or state—and there is a \$250 initiation fee for each student. There were no Virginia boys on the Generals eleven this year which indicates they go elsewhere in the State where tuition is either free or not so costly. Dehart coached his team three months last spring. That is devotion for you—on the part of coach and players. But the work told this fall.

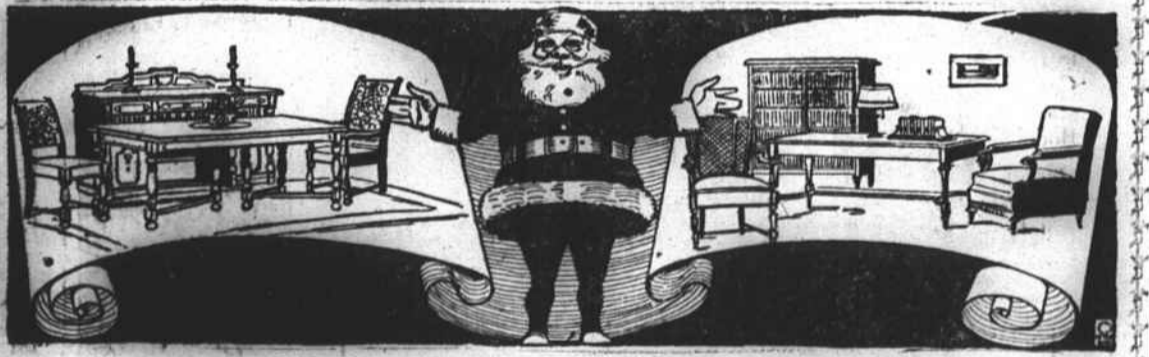
Then, Centre, the Southern champion. Centre has had more than its share of publicity in recent years; at least the writer thought so when he went to Danville the other week. But, honestly, one cannot give those Kentucky boys much credit. The college has about 250 students, and just eleven football players who were qualified to face the sort of opposition the team was meeting from the big Southern eleven this season. Those men had to play in every important feature. Guards, 160 pounds each. Tackles, 160 and 177. Center 175 pounds.

When the powerful Georgia team met the praying Colonels last Saturday one of the Centre tacklers had a broken foot; he crawled into position on his knees to save it when the team was lining up for defense or attack. Other men were splinted and band-

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and—they had to last out that Georgia game, every man jacked or 175, that one guard weighed 162, one end 150 and the full back 162.
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