

SPORTS

By — Prof. M. L. Turner

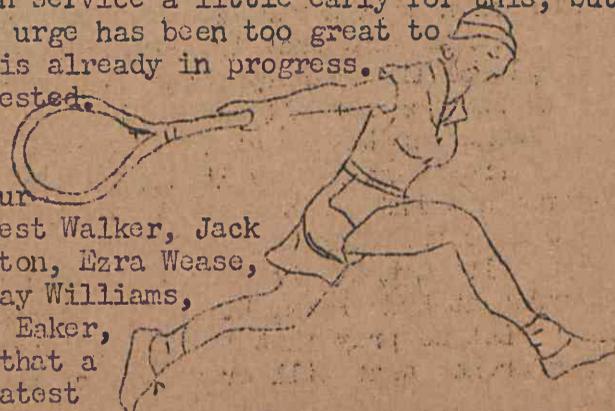


For the past few weeks there has been the lull in athletic games that is annually sandwiched between the end of the basket ball season and the beginning of the favorite summer pastime, baseball. Of course most of the high schools that go in for the game of baseball have already begun their schedules of games. As those of you who hail from Lawndale know, the students of the Piedmont School do not enter into the playing of baseball with the zest that is exhibited when basketball is involved. Then too, normally the rural schools of Cleveland County close too early to permit the placing of much emphasis on baseball.

As matters now stand the big handicap here at Piedmont in so far as baseball is concerned is the lack of a suitable play-ground. Our play-ground might do very well for a game of marbles or of horse-shoes. But it is simply too small for real baseball. To speculate on what might happen to a baseball when batted on our miniature diamond is at least amusing. If fouled it might go through a window in the agricultural building and perchance be bisected by a rip-saw. A second ball, provided one can be rounded up, if fouled might force its way through a window in the Home Ec. building and land in the middle of a pudding. Even if the ball should be driven into the right field in fair territory it could land in a briar patch, or if hit a little harder, would likely fall within the confines of the school's septic tank. A long hit to centerfield could conceivably end up by the ball's rolling into Maple Creek or First Broad River. Finally, a long clout into left field would likely mean that the old ball would bound from oak tree to oak tree, then crash through a window in the science laboratory, roll across the stage, pass on through the auditorium and wind up in the principal's office. The ball would then be placed behind the door and the bell rung for the beginning of the next period.

Yet despite the few minor handicaps referred to above, our boys have actually played three games with other schools. Two of these contests were with Belwood. Piedmont won both games. A third game was played with Shelby. Here Shelby was the winner. No doubt the few games that are being played will do something towards getting those Piedmont boys in shape who have their eyes focused on American Legion baseball during the coming summer.

As we walk down from the Piedmont Hill to the company store and the original Hoover Rail we observe that the familiar summer game of checkers is getting off with a bang. It may seem to you fellows who are in service a little early for this, but this has been an unusually early spring. The urge has been too great to be taken lightly. Why, a checker tournament is already in progress. And a great deal of enthusiasm is being manifested. We are certain that you will be interested in reading the familiar names of those persons who are taking part in the above mentioned tournament. The participants are as follows: Forest Walker, Jack Eskridge, Jake Ward, Tom Forney, Shannon Blanton, Ezra Wease, Summie Eaker, J. B. Brackett, Horace McKee, Ray Williams, Buck Southards, Sam Jeffers, Yates Lee, Alden Eaker, Dewey Dixon, and Lefty Blanton. It is hoped that a winner will be determined by June 1st. The latest reading of the bulletin board showed that Summie Eaker had four wins against one loss,



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