

# The Morning Watch

WITH Edward Sachs

### On Abe's Birthday

We didn't expect to work last night, Abe Lincoln's birthday, you know, but the sporting scene was unusually active so we'll have to consider several things this morning. Whistling that popular ditty "Marching Through Georgia," let us look over the following:

First a gentlemen answering to the name of Raymond D. Christmas comes through with a suggestion, to wit, a high school bowl game between New Hanover High school's football team and a leading eleven from one of the five surrounding states to be played each Hangover day in American Legion stadium.

We don't know if anything has been done to back up Mr. Christmas's suggestion but in place of a bandwagon, this corner will jump on Mr. Christmas's letter, which ran on the editorial page of the Star, Monday morning, and say at last someone has suggested a sport's promotion that seems tailored to the needs of Wilmington.

We hope that, unlike so many things, this idea does not die a stillbirth. The possibilities of such a game are unlimited. Picture a team like Boys High of Atlanta or Miami or even a strong team from Virginia, Pennsylvania, or New York in the stadium against a good New Hanover eleven and you know that the attendance would make the game a fixture.

Next, the Carolinas Association of the AAU wants a vote on the leading male and female athletic stars of the two states for the annual Louis E. Teague Memorial awards. When first contacted by the AAU last month we nominated Jim Jordan, North Carolina basketball player, and Estelle Lawson Page, North sports writers nominated Carroll Bowen, Catawba three-sport man; Marion Butler, Clemson football and basketball player; Grady Hutton, Greensboro ORD all-around athlete and semi-pro baseball player de-luxe; George Clark, Duke's football player; UNC's swimming stars, Billy Kelly and Bobby Temple, amateur boxer from Florence, S. C. Women nominated include Greensboro swimmer, Evelyn Barbee, softball star Bertha Dunn; girl athletic ace basketball and swimming, Francis Kenney and Mrs. Page.

Each scribe participating in the balloting is given three votes in each division and "after the careful consideration" requested by AAU President L. J. Fisher of High Point and Award Chairman Jake Wade of Charlotte, we pick Jordan, Bowen and Clark in the men's division and Page, Kenney and Dunn of the girls.

Furman Bisher, sports writer of the Charlotte News, upon his return from service, has come through with several good yarns. Today's Star sports page carries a Bisher epic on the pride of Mineral Springs, Gil Coan, the Washington Senator's outfield rookie. Bisher is an eager young man who seems to get a big kick out of his work. In these days of sports editors who have taken the job because it was the only one available, Bisher seems to be a pleasant exception.

When Commissioner Jay Jenkins, the pride of Cleveland county was in Charlotte for the Class B meeting, Bisher cornered Jay and proceeded to pump him on Wilmington's baseball background and with the intensity of a Collie puppy. However, Jay, schooled in the College of Shelby politics parried, stalled and gave one of the nicest exhibitions of a man talking but not saying anything that we have seen in a long time.

Bisher didn't get a story but in payment for the really nice way he and Ray Howe of the News treated us when we were in Charlotte we are printing his Coan saga. It doesn't make bad reading, at that.

Last but not to use a cliché, far from least, is the news that Jimmie Metts, one of Wilmington's best golfers has been named manager of the Carolina Skyways.

## Lonnie Frey Of Reds Returning To Second

(Compiled From The Wires of AP and UP)

Lonnie Frey, one of the outstanding second basemen in the National league before joining the army two years ago today signed a contract for the 1946 season, the Cincinnati Reds reported yesterday. . . . The Reds also signed Jim Prendergast, rookie GI who before the war played with Little Rock. . . . Pitcher Johnny Rigney, in military service since 1942 has signed with the Chicago White Sox. . . . Highly-touted Toledo rookie, Babe Martin will play with the St. Louis Browns as a catcher not as an outfielder because he is too slow for garden-work, the Browns announced yesterday. . . . In the Browns fold by signing his contract is catcher Frank Mancuso. . . . Danny Gaudella reported to the Giants training camp at Miami yesterday but was not allowed to work-out because he is not under contract. . . . He is reported slated to be sold to the Milwaukee Brewers of the American Association. . . . Outfielder Buster Maynard reported to the Giants at Miami while Warren Sandel who played at Jersey City in 1941 acted as the Gotham slugger's batting practice pitcher. . . . Chamber of Commerce boys are the same the world over. . . . In Balboa, Canal Zone the C. of C. reported that the rain which fell yesterday was the first to fall during the dry season in 20 years. . . . The Yanks went ahead with their drills anyway. . . . Pitchers Spud Chandler, Jake Wade, Flyd Evans, Herb Karpfel, Emerson Roser, and Marvin Emberson were host to hitting practice. . . . Dodger Shestov Tom Brown received notice to report to his draft board for induction. . . . Ripper Radcliff, former White Sox outfielder left last night for his post in the Detroit Tiger outfield. . . . Boston Braves woke up to the fact last night that their first string catcher, Phil masi, is holding out.

## WINTER PARK NINE READY FOR SEASON

The Winter Park baseball team will take to the diamond in the latter part of May, Manager Frank Hines informed the Star yesterday as the 1946 baseball season began to take definite shape in Wilmington. The team will be the main rivals of the Masonboro Ramblers, who Frank Manor plans to build into a notable semi-pro diamond club.

The Parkers expect to use the Winter Park field, which has been worked over in the past season, as their training site and home diamond. Manager Hines is making preparations for a full summer season schedule with surrounding towns and teams within the city.

The roster of Winter Park is by no means complete at present as many of the New Hanover High School stars and a few former ball players from the Wilmington Pirates and other Piedmont Leaguers are expected to sign before spring practice.

As things shape up now, Norwood Skipper, former Pirate, will do most of the hurling for the Park club with Robert McKensie sure to handle the catching burden. The infield looks like a good fixture with Harry Smith at first base, Paul Horton at the keystone, Frank Hines at the hotcorner, and "Dunk" Futrell handling the short-stop duties. This is an inexperienced bunch of base guardsers, but with added practice may develop into a smooth working group.

The meadow crew, where the batting power lays, looks very well with a fine trio in Luke Collie, a splendid hitter, and Edwards, who possesses a great arm from which he has been able to nab many base runners at the plate, in the past, are the two High School lads in the outfield where they may develop into star players.

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# Wildcats Face All-Star Cagers Tonight

## FORMER COLLEGE PLAYERS MAKE UP GRAYSTONE FIVE

### YMCA Varsity Meets Ivanhoe Quintet In Preliminary Contest

By GENE WARREN  
Star Sports Writer  
The powerful Graystone All-Stars trek to Wilmington today to try their luck at routing the New Hanover High school Wildcats, who are trouncing everything in their path in the Eastern A conference. Coach Leon Brodgen said last night that the All-Star-Cat game would start at 8:00 following a pre-game tussle at 6:30 between the Y. M. C. A. Varsity and Ivanhoe.

Graystone, a quint composed mostly of Marines that live ashore in the Morehead City area, boast one of the best clubs in eastern North Carolina, having a perfect season. John Mercer, coach of the team, has at his command players from such colleges as Kingsly Prep, University of West Virginia, University of Pittsburgh, Westminster College, and the University of Indiana plus several high school stars. All in all, the squad averages about six foot in height, which will prove a big factor against the small locals. In their last game, the All-Stars came out on top 56 to 31, and are anxious to stop the rampaging Wildcats.

Brodgen's plans for tonight's tilt were interrupted somewhat when lanky Johnny McKoy failed to report to practice because of a fractured finger, which hampers him in his shooting, and the other half of the "Mutt and Jeff" combination, W. A. Brown, stayed out with a cold. Both Brown and McKoy are exceptional cagers, both being very popular with Wilmington fans, especially the tiny Brown. Even though both were out of action yesterday, there is a chance that they may take part in tonight.

If the duo is not prepared for the battle, their places on the first team will probably be filled by Don Hyatt and Charlie Smith. Smith has seen plenty of action in the 'Cats' last two affairs, and may be called the 'six' man on the first string. "Hackshaw" Tuttle, also a reserve, may alternate with Hyatt if McKoy is not on hand.

The remainder of the initial lineup is composed of regulars Luke Collie, Tobby Fennell, and ace ace shot Billy Lee, who can Carnevall of UNC scouted at Durham.

The Y. M. C. A. team in the preliminary attraction is led by Leonard McKoy, probably the best basketball player ever to don NHH's togs. Leonard, who has worked out continuously at High school and the 'Y' in the past weeks, is expected to display rare form in the first fracas. R. L. Church and tall Walter Deal are also set to pace the 'Y' five along with Harry Williams, another Hanover High alumnus.

Little is known about Ivanhoe, but that the team is composed of discharged servicemen, who three seasons ago rolled over basketball rivals all over the state and won three tournaments in succession before the five was broke up by the players being called into the service.

## BASKETBALL SCORES

Duke 73, Georgia Tech 51.
Hiwassee 35, Tennessee Wesleyan 25.
Appalachian 43, Catawba 39.
Ohio Wesleyan 60, Wooster 30.
University of Miami 53, Florida Southern 47.
High School
Durham 39, Rocky Mount 27.
High Point High 35, Reynolds High 31.
Davidson 37, Citadel 30.
William & Mary 65, Hampden Sydney 38.

The kangaroo, when standing erect, occasionally reached a height of eight feet.

with added practice may develop into a smooth working group.

## GREENSBORO ACE

### Rick Ferrell On Sidelines

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—class brother batteries in big league history; 2—Setting a new American League record last season for total number of games caught, 1,769; 3—His skill in handling the knuckleball, described by perplexed batters as "the craziest pitch ever conceived."

Ferrell and knuckleballers were almost inseparable in recent years—the team that had a good knuckleballer wanted Rick to do the receiving.

Not even the pitcher knows how this unpredictable delivery is going to break and Ferrell, 5-feet-11 and weighing 162 pounds, had the quickness of eye, hand and foot to follow it.

## Local Fan Asks NCHSAA For An Open Meeting

Mr. C. E. McIntosh, Secretary N. C. High School Athletic Assn. Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Mr. McIntosh: I have been following with much interest the "muddled" situation involving one Johnny McKoy, who is the star center on the New Hanover High school basketball team.

I originally came from the greatest basketball state in the union, Indiana, and until the latter part of August 1945, lived in Atlanta quite a few years, where I have always been an ardent follower of baseball, basketball and other sports; having played both myself. From reading all the news I could gather on this case through the local papers, it seems to me that somewhere, certain persons got mad at the way this high school team ran "rough-shod" over their basketball, and through some minor technicality, they saw a chance to throw "mud" in the face of not only the high school team, but a young member of that team, who is trying to get an education, enter into activities of sports he loves and learn to be a real American. What has been "handed" to him now, will linger in his memory for many years and we should be helping our boys instead of trying to put a "dishonorable discharge" from the playing of American sports as is in this case.

In the first place, why should the secretary of this association give Coach Leon Brodgen of Wilmington, permission to play McKoy, if he did not have the authority? Is he trying now to "crawl away" from some thing that is too big for him by passing the "buck" or was he trying to pull a "fast one"?

I feel, and know that thousands of other real, red-blooded American sports, that a meeting should be called, open to the entire American public (who wish to attend) and the members of the press, regardless of the by-laws or constitution of this association.

Yours very truly,  
Don Hassler  
2650-A Adams Street, Wilmington.

## DAVIDSON DIRECTOR SHEPARD INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC MISHAP

DAVIDSON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Davidson College Athletic Director Norman W. Shepard and Mrs. Shepard were recuperating in their home here today from injuries recently received in an automobile accident in nearby Cornelius.

Shepard's condition was improving, college officials said today, but Mrs. Shepard was suffering from internal injuries and the seriousness of her condition has not been determined.

## HANOVER JAYVEES IN WINNING SPREE

Coach Wallace West's high-flying Junior Varsity cagers continued at a hot pace yesterday evening, capturing their fourth straight victory in two weeks from St. James, 70 to 36.

The one-sided triumph followed the team's 25 to 24 edge over Dixon High of Camp Davis on Monday in which Homer Ellis, steller guard took high scoring honors with 11 points.

In yesterday's game it was just a question of how high a total the Jayvees would run up as the third team started the game holding a 19 to 12 lead at the quarter. The first quint was sent in by West, and the score climbed with the Junior Varsity out in front at half-time, 32 to 16. The slaughter continued in the third period at 56 to 18, and when the smoke had cleared at the finish, the 13 man squad of Jayvees left the floor with a 70 to 26 win.

Mike Austin paced West's five in scoring as the husky freshman ran up a 16 point total, while Raymond "Football" Smith was tops for the losers with 12 markers.

The Jayvees travel to Long Creek today where they hope to stretch their win streak to five straight.

JAYVEES	FG	FT	TP
J. Hilburn, f	4	1	8
Parker, f	4	0	8
Austin, f	8	0	16
Hickman, f	1	0	2
Warren, f	0	0	0
Penny, c	3	0	6
Taylor, c	3	0	6
C. Hilburn, c	1	0	2
Gregg, g	3	0	6
Ellis, g	2	0	4
West, g	5	0	10
Bradshaw, g	0	1	1
	34	2	70

ST. JAMES	FG	FT	TP
Holland, f	1	0	2
Symmes, c	5	0	10
Taylor, g	1	0	2
Smith, g	6	0	12
	13	0	26

## Coan Eager For Big League Spot

### YEARLING PLAYER SENATOR'S CHOICE FOR OUTFIELD POST

### Outstanding Performer Of Southern Association Gets Major Tryout

By FURMAN BISHER  
NEA Special Correspondent  
CHARLOTTE, Feb. 12.—There were big Coans and little Coans, young Coans and old Coans, single Coans and married Coans in the growing line at the station. Young Gilbert Coan was coming in from Texas, where he spent the off-season with his wife's family. He was headed for the family home at Mineral Springs, a village hard by Charlotte.

His mother hadn't seen him in a year, and the remainder of the family—father, brothers, sister and sister-in-law—were just as anxious to see whether headlines had turned this laughing boy into a man who takes himself seriously. They could have spent their worry on other matters.

Gil Coan acts like a fellow who never saw a sports page.

He has never seen Clark Griffith, owner of the Washington club; manager Ossie Bluege or Griffith Stadium. As a matter of fact, he's never been in Washington. When he goes to bat come mid-April, it will be his first look at a big league game.

In Coan is the kid outfielder from Chattanooga who was named the outstanding minor league player of 1945. His .372 led the Southern Association. He set a record for triples, 28, showed the way in doubles, home runs—and stolen bases. It isn't very often that a power hitter leads a league in stolen bases.

Washington had only to exercise its working agreement with Chattanooga to obtain Coan while other big league clubs fell all over owner Joe Engel of from Louisville to \$100,000.

Manager Bert Niehoff of Chattanooga was one among many who rated Coan the greatest prospect in minor league baseball.

Big and eager as a kid at Christmas, the 22-year-old, 197-pound Coan reports to the Senators' Orlando, Fla., camp Feb. 24.

He has been told, by way of sports pages, that right field is his until it is demonstrated he can't handle it. This comes from president Griffith, present boarder of such outfielders as Buddy Lewis, Jeff Heath, Stan Spence, George Binks and Jose Zardon.

Two years ago Coan was working for a paper manufacturing corporation at Brevard. He had gone to Brevard Junior College in 1941, decided not to accept a Washington contract for 1942 offered by Zinn Beck.

"I didn't think I could make it then," he explains. He put in two years at the paper plant, and when scout Beck came around again in the spring of 1944 he was ready. He spent the first half of the campaign with Kingsport of the Appalachian. Finishing the season with the Lookouts, he batted .335.

Ball playing, especially hitting, comes natural. Coan has not had to work on himself.

## COACH FINDS BARE PANTRY



Harry Belick, new football coach at Erskine college in Due West, S. C., knows just how Old Mother Hubbard felt as he looks into the storage room for football equipment—and finds the cupboard pretty bare. When the school discontinued athletics in 1941, it disposed of all football equipment except a few odds and ends such as a couple of sh. oulder pads, a jersey, a blanket and a few balls.

## Nine Hanover Gridders Aiming For Backfield

### BLUE DEVILS BEAT RAMBLING WRECK QUINT, 73 TO 31

DURHAM, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Bouncing back from its worst defeat of the year, Duke's Blue Devils defeated Georgia Tech in a high-scoring basketball game here tonight, 73-31.

The Yellow Jackets led in the early going but Duke spurred near the end of the half and went to intermission with a 28-25 advantage.

John Seward and Ed Koffensberger sparked Duke to its victory, the former getting 18 points and the latter 16.

## ACME-DELCO LOSES TABOR CITY TILTS

TABOR CITY, Feb. 12.—(Special to The Star)—The Boys and Girls of Tabor City swept a double-header basketball game from the lads and lassies of Acme-Delco today.

Ward, with 17 point, and Wright, with 10, were high point makers for the Girls and Boys, respectively, of Tabor City. For Acme-Delco, Bigford of the girls and Allen and Clayton of the boys were all tied with scores of four points each.

Tabor City, 25 Acme-Delco 18  
Wright, f ----- Ganey, f  
Ward, f ----- W. Williams, f  
R. Strickland, f ----- Wehrhahn, f  
Putnam, g ----- Bigford, f  
Cox, g ----- Blake, f  
Turberville, g ----- March, f  
Soles, g ----- Heath, f

Tabor City, 22 M. Williams, g  
Soles, f ----- Wehrhahn, f  
Spivey, f ----- Quisenberry, f  
Wright, c ----- Peterson, f  
Ward, g ----- Clayton, c  
Papps, g ----- Crawford, g  
Long, sub ----- Bordeaux, g  
Stevens, sub ----- Marks, g  
Referee: Truitt and Roberts.

The two lone first string backs returning for another fling at the rough-and-tumble sport are Louis "Bubba" Sykes and Jimmy Piner. Sykes, the best broken field runner and ace passer of the 1945 club, expects to star in '46 in his full-back position, but may be shifted to quarterback. Piner, who took over the quarterback job last season after three boys had failed at the job, is still considered the top prospect for the signal calling post even though he can not boast a good passing arm.

In the line, Jap Davis, the coach of that department, has Buddy Bridges sure of one end and the other flankmen, who do not stay in the backfield. Billy Quarrels is a good prospect for end as the lanky griddler has grabbed every pass coming his way in practice, but the other six odd lads may push him into the background.

The tackles are the weak spots in the forward wall, for Davis has only "Butch" Swart and Bobby Haas in the first rank. There are no experienced reserves except those from the Jayvees such as Dillon. Ervin Gore retains his guard spot on the first team with Lloyd Honeycutt as the probable replacement for Graham "Trap" Barefoot, who is a senior this year. Long Don Hyatt finds tough rivals in "Tinkey" Rogers and Harry Mathis for center as the whole pivot crew turns from last season's eleven. Jim Thorpe, no relation to the great football player, also is looking at the pivot spot with envious eyes.

## Sturgeon Creek Yields 35-Pound Rock Bass

Frank Stone and B. A. Widenhouse, New Hanover county fishermen collaborated yesterday to hook a 35 pound Rock bass at Sturgeon Creek. Stone hooked the almost three-foot catch in its fin and Widenhouse helped pull it in after a 10-minute struggle. Widenhouse is a resident of Lake Forest, while Stone lives at 412 South 15th street.

In Australia failure to vote without good reason is punishable by a fine up to \$7.

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## JOCKEYS BANNED FROM TURF FOR BETTING COUP

### Seven Ruled Out For Life As A Result Of Pimlico 'Fix'

By JOHN LANGDON  
United Press Sports Writer  
BALTIMORE, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Seven steeplechase jockeys and a trainer today were barred from Maryland tracks for life for fixing a race at Pimlico last Nov. 30 and betting on the horse that couldn't lose.

The Maryland racing commission ruling automatically bans all participants in the betting coup from any other track in the United States because of an agreement among commissions of the various states to recognize each other's suspensions.

The other involved in the fixed race Jockey Agent James F. Byrne—drew a one year suspension. In a hearing yesterday, the commission heard testimony that two unidentified gamblers placed bets for the riders indicating a cleanup of at least \$8,000 on the winner, Mamie's Lad.

How much the gamblers made could not be determined, but enough cash was dumped on Mamie's Lad to drive down the price on him from 10 to 1 in the morning line to 8 to 5 at post time. Mamie's Lad paid \$5.20 in the mutuels.

The seven jockeys ruled out were William Owen of Chicago, leading steeplechase rider for the last three years who was up on Mamie's Lad; Douglas Banks, Bethesda, Md.; Howard Cruz, The Plains, Va.; Vern Haines, Hialeah, Fla.; Sidney O'Neill, Aiken, S. C.; Francis Passmore, Aiken and Scott Riles of Richmond, Va.

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