

PICKED UP ON THE SPORTING FIELD

IS SIX DAY BICYCLE RACE REALLY A SPORTING EVENT?



Photos by American Press Association.
 1—Jackie Clark reading about sprints between the making of them. 2—Dupuy having a stiff knee rubbed. 3—Taking a nap in a bunk beside the track. 4—Verri eating a meal. 5—Bobby Walther ready to relieve his partner.

By OSCAR DOYLE.
SHOULD a six day bicycle race as now conducted be called a sporting event? Various answers would be returned to the query if it were put to sporting writers, and many of them would be in the negative. Indeed, there are many sporting editors over the country who poke fun at the bicycle race just as they do at chess and checkers. They say it lacks the elements necessary to a sport.

There can be no doubt that the six day bicycle races have been largely commercialized. The same riders with few exceptions take part in the races in Boston, New York, Kansas City, Denver and other cities. They ride in teams to conform to state laws which prohibit contestants in athletic events from putting in more than twelve hours

out of twenty-four. The arrangement of the teams is some times done by the riders and often is arranged by the managers of the races. In many cases the surviving members of two disrupted teams will be united to form another team.

Until a dozen or fifteen years ago riders in these six day events plucked away individually, and in those races the condition of the men was pitiable after four or five days of the weary grind. Some of the men remained on their wheels for twenty hours out of the twenty-four, drinking soup and munching sandwiches as they tolled

along, often falling from their wheels when they dropped into a coma, but in those days there was the test of stamina and endurance, and if the leader left the track for sleep he was likely to return to find he was not the leader, and to regain first place meant more heart-breaking efforts at sprinting.

Now all this is changed. Twelve or fifteen teams enter the race and for two or three days go along on even terms; then in a sprint two or three of the weaker teams are lapped and as a result they often drop out, for their chance of regaining the lost lap is small. If the riders who have lost the

lap stay in the race, it is merely for the daily wage promised them if they finish. This sum is seldom less than \$25 a day, and it may be \$50 or \$75. The promoters of the race, have to give these guarantees in order to insure a bunch of riders that will maintain interest in the event and draw a paying attendance.

Several innovations introduced in the race in Madison Square Garden, New York, this year served to maintain interest in the event. By offering special prizes for sprinting, the prizes usually being \$10 for the rider who was first at the conclusion of a specified mile,

interest in the race was maintained, and these successions of sprints caused the records to be broken continuously. For these special sprints a total of \$2,100 was divided among the riders. The riders altogether received about \$26,000.

The Goulet-Grenda team received \$1,600 for finishing first. Lawson and Drobach received \$1,000, Moran and McNamara got \$750 for finishing third, and the Egg-Verri and Fogler-Hill teams, tied for fourth place, made an even split of \$500, while Cameron and Kaiser collected \$350 for sixth place.

In addition to these sums every rider received a bonus for every day he was on the tracks. Goulet got \$250 a day for six days, and Fogler received \$200 a day.

The riders earned their money, especially those who did not win a prize and got only their wages. During the six days of the contest the men had only broken cat naps, mostly obtained in bunks constructed alongside the track, into which they tumbled with their clothes on ready to be dragged out at a minute's notice if a sprint started and it looked as if the partner was unable to maintain the fast pace.

As a rule the partners changed places at intervals of four hours, but this was possible only when both men had been carefully trained. Teams that had not been put in condition were unable to maintain the lively pace for more than an hour, and often they shifted every twenty or thirty minutes. They ate their meals in bites and were often interrupted when the necessity for relieving a partner became urgent. Capable cooks prepared these meals in kitchens arranged underneath the track, and rubbers provided with liniments were on hand to keep soreness and stiffness out of weary legs.

Freddie Hill, who with his partner, Joe Fogler, finished fifth in the New York race, was an easy winner in the matter of eating. Early in the grind he developed an appetite of abnormal proportions, and as the week went along his capacity for food increased. His trainer declared that he wanted something to eat every time he left the track, and sucking half a dozen eggs was merely an appetizer. Each day he consumed three dozen eggs, four pounds of chops, the same quantity of steak, four bunches of celery, fifteen cups of coffee, half a dozen bottles of ale, a dozen apples and more rice pudding than the cook could estimate. Despite this enormous quantity of food he stayed in good condition, and he declared that he could keep awake only by eating all the time.

Jimmy Moran, who, with his partner, McNamara, finished third in the New York race, announced that with the completion of that struggle he was to retire from the racing game. He is nearly forty-three years old and has taken part in more than thirty six-day races. During these races he has made much money and has saved and invested it until he is worth \$100,000. Most of his money is invested in a farm near Chelsea, Mass., where he raises hogs and thereby makes \$10,000 a year. He has been racing for a quarter of a century, beginning as a sprinter. Moran is in perfect health, and he declares that if a man is in good condition the struggle of grinding away on the track for six days will not be harmful.

UNIVERSITY PUTS BAN ON ROWING RACES

THE University of Wisconsin crew has been prohibited from taking part in intercollegiate boat races by the board of regents. The action of the regents sustains the recommendation of the university faculty. This action followed a recommendation of the athletic council based upon a careful study of the health condition of the boating squads made by the medical clinic. The study covered the men who have participated in crew activities for the years 1911-14.

Of the fifty-nine candidates for freshmen crews in the years 1910-13 the clinic obtained medical records of fifty-six. Six had cardiac hypertrophy before they began rowing. During one season's training twenty-two developed cardiac hypertrophy, making a total of twenty-eight freshmen oarsmen with this trouble.

"The records of the varsity crew candidates," says the report of the athletic council, "are essentially subsequent histories of these men, as the

varsity is almost completely recruited from the freshmen crews. These crew records show that of a total of fifty-six men training for the crews seven had cardiac hypertrophy before beginning training and thirty-three acquired the condition as a result of such training. Included in this list are twenty-three 'W' men, of whom four had hypertrophy before making the crew and sixteen developed it, giving a total of twenty-out of twenty-three 'W' men."

The following report of the situation was made by the faculty of the medical school: "The faculty of the medical school believes that the data presented by the clinical department show conclusively that the severe training deemed necessary for preparing crews for intercollegiate contests puts so severe a strain on the heart that an undue proportion of men are seriously injured and that, therefore, a continuation of intercollegiate rowing is indefensible from the health standpoint."

Has Been a Great Year For Upset of "Dope"

THIS has certainly been a great year for sporting upsets. The surprising and impressive way in which the Braves trounced the Athletics and turned the trick in the shortest number of games in world's series history, too, is only the climax of a series of events in which the "dope" was given a most severe jolt.

Ranking next to the success of the Braves against the Athletics is Boston's phenomenal rise in the National league from the position of guardian of the cellar to winner of the pennant. Baseball critics all over conceded the championship of the older league to the Giants, but the stars willed otherwise, and Messrs. McGraw, Matty, Marquard et al. were forced to take on the Yankees. In addition to the sudden jump of the Braves there were several minor upsets in the National league. St. Louis finishing third, whereas it had been accustomed to bring up a last place or pretty near it.

The season of surprises got off to a great start with the playing of the international polo series. America was regarded as a 2 to 1 shot, but the "big four," very much after the manner of the Athletics in the world's series, went 4 to 0 pieces and the Britons romped away with the cup.

Lawn tennis has also furnished its big upsets. Maurice E. McLoughlin, champion of the world by virtue of victories over Anthony F. Wilding and Norman E. Brookes in the Davis cup challenge round, went into the national final a 3 to 1 favorite over E. Norris Williams 3d, the Harvard youth. The result is tennis history now. Williams disposed of the Californian in straight sets. Then Mr. Williams went off to

the intercollegiate championships to clean up and was cleaned up himself by a young man from Princeton, George W. Church by name.

Now for boxing. Willie Ritchie, lightweight champion of the world, took on Freddie Welsh in London in what was expected to be an American triumph. Welsh outpointed the Yankee entry in no uncertain manner, and another upset was chalked up for the topsy turvy year 1914.

Right here in America George Chip, fresh from winning the middleweight championship by twice knocking out Frank Klaus, took on Al McCoy for the purpose of showing how hard George could hit. Chip didn't show much. He was knocked out in the first round.

Is It Time to Suppress Ty Cobb?

EITHER the national commission or the Baseball Writers' association should promulgate some definite rule with regard to the leading batsman of the leagues. It is not fair for Ty Cobb to be awarded this honor year after year when he participates in so few games, comparatively speaking. This year Cobb was not in many more than half the games, while such players as Eddie Collins and Joe Jackson were in nearly every contest. Eddie missed only one game this year; hence he deserves more for batting .355, for example, than Cobb does for hitting at the rate of .365. Some definite number of games should be set—100 would not be too many—and if a man did not play in that number of contests he should not be considered.

Thoroughbred Horse Coming Into His Own Again

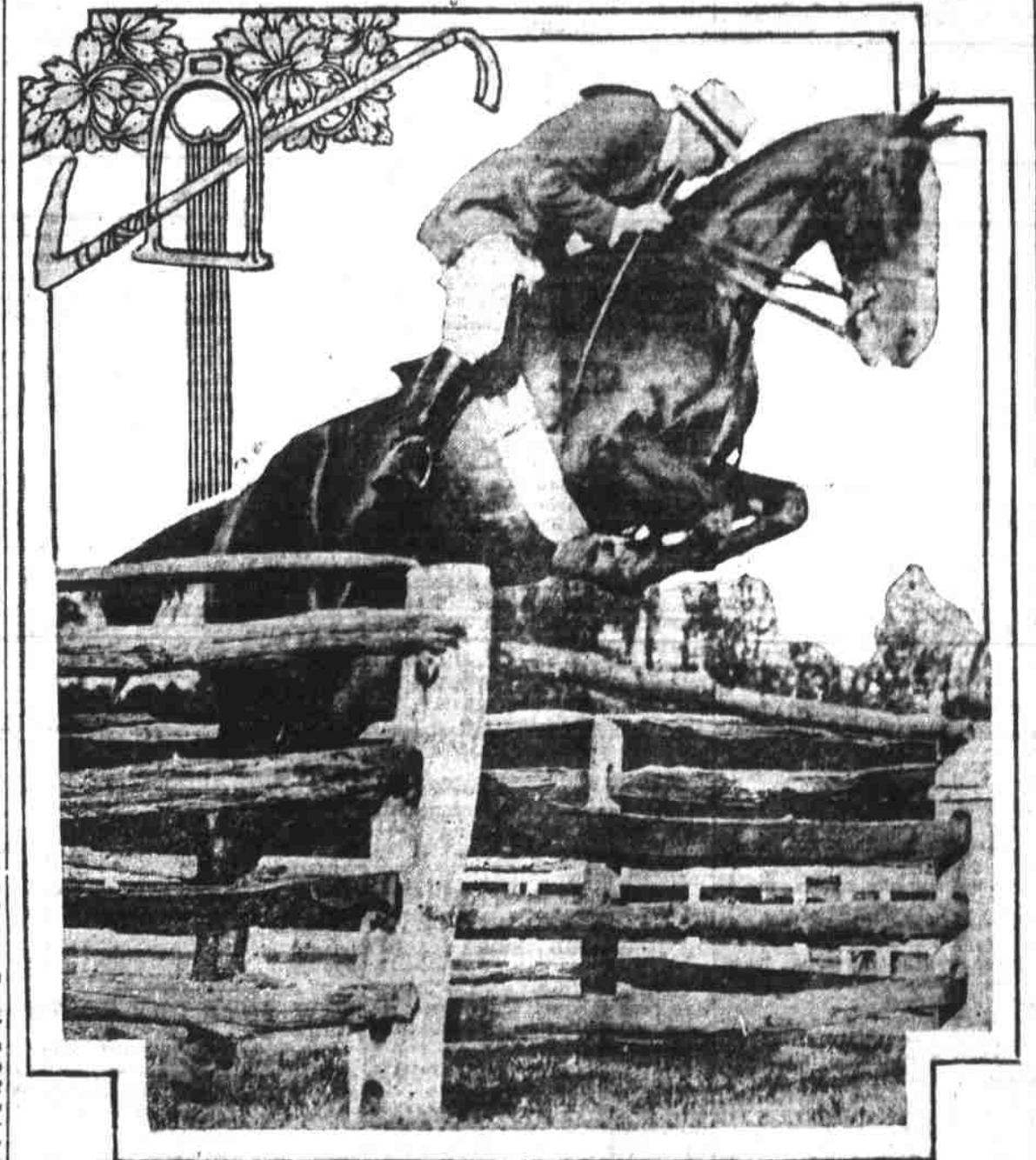


Photo by American Press Association.

KING HORSE is coming into his own again. The closing of most of the large race tracks of the country gave the Thoroughbred a setback, and many breeders believed that the end of the equine racer was in sight. The development of the automobile industry also had its effect, and for a time the outlook was certainly blue.

Conditions have begun to change. The closing of the big tracks at Saratoga, Brighton, Gravesend and other well known places has been followed by the starting of smaller meets. There is hardly a state now in which there are not local meets that have proved successful. Next year there will be more than sixty such meets around

New York city. These meets attract true lovers of horses, men who prize the Thoroughbred for his worth and his beauty and with little regard for his ability to win prizes or defeat book-makers.

Steeplechase races are popular features of these local meets, and as a result the breeders of hunters are finding

the demand for their animals growing. This style of racing, long popular in England and France, has not been developed in the United States as its merits deserve, and the movement to make it more popular and general is a step in the right direction.

Oddly enough the European war has also given a boom to the business of the breeders of Thoroughbreds. So long as men will fight they will need horses to help in the war game. Aeroplanes and autos serve their own purposes, but they do not take the place of horses, and cavalry will always be an important part of any military organization. War serves few useful purposes, and not the smallest of the gains to be derived from the European slaughter will be the increased demand for horses that possess merits other than as draft animals.

Shortstop is Hardest Position

SHERWOOD MAGEE, who has played every position except pitcher, was recently asked what position on the diamond he regarded as hardest to play. He did not hesitate an instant, but replied, "Shortstop." When asked to explain further he said:

"The shortstop is moving every minute of the game unless the pitcher is striking them all out. The shortstop has the longest throw to make and he has to make it in a hurry and from any odd position. Say there's a man on first base; it's the shortstop who has to prepare to cover in case a steal is attempted. Suppose the runner is on second; the shortstop has to keep hustling over to force the opponent to hug the bag. In fact, he has to go over to take nearly all the throws at the middle cushion.

"The good shortstop is supposed to cover a world of ground. If it's a hard hit ball to the left field side of the third baseman the shortstop is supposed to get it. If it's a hot one over second the fans expect the shortstop to dig it up. If it's a slow roller to the right side of the pitcher or a ball that hops over the hurrier's head the old reliable at the shortstop position is the man who must be on the job. Sometimes he'll be on one ear, again he'll make a contortionist envious, but he always is expected to make a good heave to first and get the runner, or, if it's a forced play, he probably has to toss to second, though he is facing dead away from that bag. And all the time, you understand, he has the longest throw and consequently has less time to pick up the ball and set himself than any other infielder.

"Remember, too, that the shortstop is expected to run into the outfield and get fly balls which are too far in for the left and center gardeners. He frequently has to catch them with his back toward the diamond, but he's expected to get them all."

"SAILER" BALL A WONDER

GROVER CLEVELAND ALEXANDER of the Philadelphia National league team has been experimenting with the "sailer ball," which was successfully used by Ray Keating of the New York Americans until a rule was promulgated barring it. Keating had a small piece of emery paper in the palm of his glove which he used to make a rough spot on the ball.

In discussing the ball, which he calls the "sailer," Alexander said: "I tried it the other day, and I want to say that if they'll only let me pitch that 'sailer' I'll never lose a game. It will take two catchers to hold me, however. It will go down, up, in or out for a yard. It depends upon how you hold the rough spot. The air catches that rough leather and the friction forces the ball in the opposite direction from the side where the emery paper was used.

"When I was trying the 'sailer' at our park recently I started the ball for the catcher's toes with the rough side held underneath. He actually had to jump in the air to get the ball, but, naturally, the 'sailer' has been legislated against and the poor pitcher will have to go on depending upon his curve, his fast one and his noodle to fool such sluggers as Cravath and Magee.

"As a matter of fact, I am convinced that the great secret of pitching is brain work, combined with a good arm, of course. If the batter guesses what you are going to throw him, he hits it. If you outguess him he misses it. The man who simply throws up a fast one or a curve according to his catcher's signals or a 'hunch' will be hit hard when the wise batsmen begin to figure out what is coming."

Horse Show For Charity

THE Red and White Cross horse show will be held in Madison Square Garden, New York, during the week of Dec. 7. In addition to the 121 classes of new special prizes have brought the value of the premiums to be awarded to an excess over those in competition at the 1913 national horse show, which is supplanted for the present year by the charity feature.

It has been decided to hold the twelve mile endurance race from Van Cortlandt park to the garden, for army or militia mounts, on the first day of the show, rain or shine. The route will bring the horses and riders through Central park and Fifth avenue and furnish an exciting finish within the show ring. The judge will be General Mills, U. S. A. of Washington, and Major Charles T. Benton, a veteran of General Phil Sheridan's campaign, will serve as starter. He will scratch from the race any horse that is not in good condition and sustain the contest.