

# Baseball Turf, Boxing

# SPORTS

# Basketball Tennis and Golf

## A & M Representative Replies to Charge Of "Professionalism"

Editor Charlotte News:

Will you kindly publish this reply to an article which appeared in your paper Sunday, March 12, concerning the baseball prospects of the North Carolina colleges for the coming season. In this article written by "W. C. D." and headed in part "By One Who Knows," the direct charge is made that A. & M., Davidson, and Guilford encourage professionalism in their athletes, and it is in defence of A. & M. that I wish to reply.

In his discussion of A. & M.'s baseball prospects for 1911 "W. C. D." as "One Who Knows," after having made a general statement to the effect that A. & M.'s team along with that of Davidson and Guilford would be composed of professionals, goes on with the assertion that if Stafford, Seifer, Robertson, and Cool were taken from A. & M.'s team there would be much left; this virtually making these men the objective in his charge of professionalism against this institution.

Since the charge was made we are glad that some of our players were specified as professionals because it gives us ground for a definite defence. We can, therefore, easily prove that none of the men named by "W. C. D." are professionals.

First, because of the simple fact that none of them have ever played on a team in an organized league, i. e. one under the protection of the National Baseball Commission; secondly, because their "amateur," or summer ball playing after the close of school, has been done in company with players from the teams of Trinity, Carolina and Wake Forest colleges, which, "W. C. D." insists absolutely prohibit professionalism in all forms of athletics. If, then, these players at the other colleges are considered pure and can play and flourish under an absolute prohibition rule, why should our men be used as professionals for playing on the same summer teams with them?

Surely our players cannot be considered as being tainted with professionalism while the others are lauded for their purity? We do not consider a man who plays baseball during the summer on a small town team not in an organized league, as above described, a professional and the rules governing athletics at A. & M. do not prohibit him from taking part in any and all forms of athletics at this college. True, we know our players receive a consideration for their work, leaving it an open question as to whether men from other colleges who play on the same teams with them do or not, but we have long ago realized the futility of trying to prevent college boys from playing baseball in the summer time and the hypocrisy of pretending to enforce a set of rules that prohibit any of these boys who have received any consideration whatever for this same ball-playing, from playing on the college team. If such rules were really enforced, not in theory but in fact, they would seriously leave enough players on all the college teams of the state, collectively, to make one complete team. Let us not be understood, however, as questioning the honesty of the colleges. These rules are in effect. They are probably doing their best to prevent their men from becoming summer ball players and to exclude such players from their teams, but the rules are seldom put into practical effect, simply because it is next to impossible to find strong enough proof of amateur summer ball playing for money against a player to keep him off the college team. The players, themselves, are entirely out of sympathy with these rules; they regard them as a restraint upon their ability to do as they choose while out of school in the summer and as a source of loss of a nice way because they are so generally evaded and evaded so generally. In the absence of proof to the contrary, a player is only to state that he has received no consideration for playing ball during the summer in order to become eligible for the team at the college where these rules are in effect. And the players who will not practice what they consider a little harmless and justifiable device in order to make himself eligible is a pity. We hold that the rule is a useless one because it is so seldom in action, except theoretically, and a harmful one because it leads the players to deceit and evasion in order to make themselves eligible. Therefore, there is no clause relating to summer ball players in the athletic rules at A. & M., and such players cannot anywhere be classed as professionals except under a rule that is based upon a fallacy in regard to its effect, and by an argument that is based upon a discrimination against the students of a college who play baseball. The eligibility rules at A. & M. are in effect as follows: Any student is eligible to become a member of any athletic team of the college who is a bona fide student of the college and doing such work as would enable any student to remain in college; who has not played four years on a college team; who has not played in an organized league under the protection of the National Baseball Commission; who is not an instructor in the college; and who is not receiving any remuneration from the college for his athletic services. In order to avoid misunderstanding, it may be well to explain that the rule declaring ineligible players from an organized league was passed at the close of the baseball season last year and did not affect Sex-

ton who had played one season with Wilmington in the Eastern Carolina league. It may, of course, be charged that this rule was not passed until after Sexton had graduated and did not weaken our team. For this we can say that the necessity for such a rule was not seen until the fault that it will correct became apparent. The rule eliminates from our team this year one of its most valuable players, Freeman, Captain and center fielder, and without a peer on any college team in the state as a hitter and run-getter, is ineligible under this rule because he played last summer with the Jacksonville, Fla. team in the South Atlantic league.

In the article by "W. C. D." there also appears a statement from which we quote in part, that "Cote secured from somewhere in Cincinnati" has made the football and baseball teams in his freshman year." We choose to believe that statement was made more through ignorance of facts than with malice toward us, although the word "secured" when used with reference to a college athlete has a sinister meaning. In correction we will say that there is not now, nor has there ever been, a man in college named Cote; nor has there ever been a student at A. & M. from Cincinnati; nor is there a freshman in college who has made both football and baseball teams.

R. H. MERRITT,  
Alumni representative of Athletics, N. C. A. & M. College.

Coca Cola Hearin.  
By Associated Press.  
Chattanooga, Tenn., March 25.—Dr. J. A. Wessner, of the Columbus Laboratory, Chicago, resumed his testimony of experiments with caffeine no rabbits at the opening of the morning session of the case instituted by the government against "40 Larrels and 20 kegs of coca cola" today.

Based on the results of experiments, he gave it as his opinion that humans having acquired a tolerance of caffeine are less likely to be affected injuriously than would be the likelihood arising from doses of the drug to rabbits. He testified that rabbits fed over a period of 100 days more than a grain of caffeine a day, fattened and were found to be in normal condition when killed.

He gave his opinion as an expert that the normal human might use as many as 20 or 25 grains a day without seriously injurious effects. Dr. Wessner described his experiments on a healthy young man with caffeine. The subject was given a total of 15 grains of caffeine during six days with no ill effects.

On cross-examination Mr. Miller presented a letter Dr. Wessner had written to the coca cola company defining his first analysis of coca cola in 1907 in which he had said he found no trace of alcohol or cocaine, although in latter experiments nicotine from .48 to .59 of one per cent was found.

—Mr. Frank Herz is quite sick with grip at his home, No. 9 North Cedar street.



JAMES R. KEENE  
James R. Keene, the veteran turfman and three of his famous thoroughbreds. Mr. Keene is shown standing in a characteristic attitude while watching the finish of a race. To his right is the famous Sysonby, the greatest of all thoroughbreds; below is Maskette, one of the few remaining stars of the famous Keene stable; and at the bottom is Colin, who went through his short career without a defeat and is now in the stud in England.

## American Derby a Four-Horse Affair at Best

(By BERT E. COLLYER.)

Jacksonville, Fla., March 25.—Recent developments in the racing line makes the American Derby, to be run at Moncrief Park, April 1st, narrow down to a four-horse affair. Lahore, which until a few days ago was the heavy favorite for the event, is down with a malignant skin disease, which of late has worked such havoc among racers at this track. Should, however, the hopes of Trainer Simons be realized and the colt face the starter, he will carry top weight, 122 pounds.

Eliminating the Simons representative, the three best eligibles are Governor Gray, Star Charter and The Nigger, with Dr. Duennar a stout possibility. True, The Nigger has not shown real derby calibre in his races, but then the opinion in expert circles is that the strapping black has been carefully handled, with a view to keeping his true worth under cover.

Governor Gray's last effort, one and one-sixteenth miles, which he was defeated by Aylmer, Aldrian and Desconnets, should not be taken too seriously, and ought to be eliminated from future calculations. In his previous effort he won like a real race horse, running the six furlongs in 1.13 and finishing full of running. He is a big, long-striking chap, slow to get going, and one that does not like to be bumped or hustled during the early stages of a contest. He will probably not have to pack more than 115 pounds in the big classic, a weight well within his capabilities.

Star Charter was able to take Governor Gray's measure last fall every time they met, but lacks much now of being as good a colt as he was then, having been sick a good part of the winter. Of late, however, he has shown marked improvement, and, barring his effort when Musgrave served up his now famous, or infamous, ride, has been a keen factor in all his starts.

Dr. Duennar is in the hands of one of the cleverest handlers on the track, W. P. Burch, and if he does not make a good showing in the race it will not be the fault of his owner, who will send him to the post fit, or not send him at all. His last effort while not as impressive as those of LaMere and Governor Gray, were of a character warranted to make him a factor in such company.

True to precedent the race is not without its "dark horse." This distinction is accorded Bertis, a well-conformed chestnut colt, by Star S hoot, out of Bonnie Blue II, and which is being trained by James McCormack for Catesby Woodford. The colt was uncovered only during the past week, being beaten one length by Herbert Turner and Imprint in the fast time of 1.13 1-5. Favored with better racing luck, the colt would have won.

Several others are also named as probable starters, but it is altogether likely that the winner of the race will be found among the above-named candidates.

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The era of trouble through which the turf passed within the last few years has passed from a commercial standpoint. From a sentimental point of view the worst blow that has fallen is the practical retirement of James R. Keene from the lime light of fame. The galaxy of stars that gathered in fortunes and honors for the veteran turfman have all passed away. And the progeny of those famous stars are distributed over the wide world. It is a telling blow from which the turf will not recover quickly.

For down at his Castled Stud, Keene bred the best. The records of the turf prove this fully. It will be strange to the turfmen not to wit-

## Rise And Fall of Ball Phenoms

(By MONTY.)

There are two things in the baseball world that have happened every spring since bouncing the horsehide off a bat became a national pastime, but which are very often a source of wonder to those who are not versed in baseball matters beyond the natural interest in the game from a spectator's standpoint. One is the great numbers of "wonders" discovered in games with the bush league recruits who are given a try-out with the big leagues; and the other is the astonishing regularity with which these same recruits, when matched against their older team mates, pull down a victory—in fact the seemingly unpardonable susceptibility to defeat displayed by the "Regulars" in game with the bush league "finds" or the minor league teams of the Sunny South. One would think from Southern news dispatches that the recruits should be given the places of the former baseball stars and that the coming team ought to be composed of minor leaguers.

To begin at the beginning and show the rise and fall of "phenoms" of the bush necessitates an explanation as to the methods used by the major league teams to secure available baseball material in the minor league circuits. This is done in most cases by means of "scouts." These men are usually old major leaguers who have passed their day of active usefulness on the big teams, but whose judgment of good baseball material is a salary drawing asset. Each major league outfit has one or more of these scouts, who makes it his business to attend the games of the minor leagues and note the "ferm" in which the players perform.

At the end of the season a comparison is made between the notes of the scout and the tables issued by the minor leagues. These tables which are the result of a carefully systematized scheme, and show the average playing ability of the men, the number of hits, runs, errors made by each individual player during the year, and enable the initiator to tell almost at a glance the particular branch of the sport in which the prospective big leaguer is strong or weak. The manager of the big league team then decides which of the players he needs and negotiations with the minor league teams are in order.

The reported brilliancy with which these men perform during the early training season and with few exceptions their retirement when the season opens is explained by two circumstances. One is the presence of a salaried baseball correspondent, whose editor demands readable copy, and whose imagination is therefore under more or less strain; and the other is the fact that the recruits are usually the first to go South for training, and are for some weeks the only men on the training field representing their teams, thus becoming "stars" by virtue of the absence of the seasoned men who usually adorn the diamond.

The defeats, or at most the close victories and uniform bad playing shown by regular teams which later in the season bring thousands to their feet by a display of brilliant team work, when matched with the minor league teams of the South are playing scrub games with these bush league recruits can usually be attributed to lack of training and a "don't care" spirit. This "don't care" phase of the baseball star's character during the early spring training, might be called in other circles an "artistic temperament," and

is as prevalent among the heroes of the diamond when training as the familiar spring fever which attacks the office-bound lawyer who reads the baseball news while comfortably seated before a blazing fire in the North.

The average star of the diamond, with a long winter to live over and plenty of money in his pocket, lives a life more or less open to criticism. He is prone to take on a self-esteem, and when the time comes for five or six months hard work under a blazing sun, he is neither mentally or physically fit for the ordeal and must be driven to his task by the watchful captain and manager. Then, too, he feels his superiority over the minor league "Cubs," who have had weeks of hard practice, while he "has been saying good-bye to his friends in the North and who are in the best possible physical condition. This condition, called "sweated head," is apt to be, to get more or less of a job when the overfed and unfit "regulars" come in actual contact with the men who have been playing ball and are in good physical trim—hence the news dispatches chronicling the inability of such players as Ty Cobb, "Bugs" Raymond, "Matty," and many others to display their old form.

From now on, however, a new order of things will be apparent. The team managers will take the wise course if they have not already done so, and drive all thoughts of the "artistic temperament" from the players' minds by demanding long hours of hard and conscientious work and a training table diet. Their playing will improve, their victories will increase, and the newspaper correspondents, who have been so busily engaged in touting the new comers for major league uniforms will get back in their swivel chairs and read the harvest of news they have been so careful to sow, by chronicling the "release of Ira McSwat, the world-famed pill pouncer from the Kentucky bush, who showed such great form in the early spring, but has fallen down in his play during the past few weeks."

Yale Soccer Team Defeated.  
New Haven, Conn., March 25.—The Crescent A. C. of Brooklyn, N. Y., defeated the Yale soccer team 4 to 1, today in what was the first game since the inter-collegiate schedule started. The first half was about evenly contested, the visitors scoring only one goal. Timm, Yale's star center half, suffered an injury in the second half and the absence of two strong players from the Blue's lineup helped the locals. Armstrong featured the visiting team's play.

Lafayette Beat Trinity.  
Trinity College, Durham, N. C., March 25.—Lafayette topped the Blue on Trinity yesterday, and checked their winning streak by defeating the locals to the tune of 11 to 6. Up to the 5th inning Trinity had the game going her way, but by bunching four hits, assisted by four costly errors by Trinity, Lafayette scored six runs in that inning.

Summary Batteries, Trinity, Star Gantt and Spruce; Lafayette, Nigger, Long and Comover. Struck out, by Gantt, 4; Nugent, 1; Long, 12. Base on balls, Long, 2; Gantt, 5.

Mobile, Ala., March 25.—Mrs. Electra Semmes Colston, sister of Mrs. Luke Wright, of Memphis, and daughter of Admiral Raphael Semmes, of Confederate fame, is critically ill here.



CRACK SOX OUTFIELDER  
McIntyre, the crack outfielder, for the Chicago Sox, who is making a great showing at New Orleans, La., where the Chicago Americans are training. Mr. McIntyre's work within the stick has especially commended him to the spectators and players, and it is believed that he will develop into one of the heaviest hitters in the American circuit this summer.

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