

FRISCO MAY LOSE THREE PLAYERS

If Draft Rules are Annulled Waner, Rhyme and Valla Will be Lost in Twinkling of An Eye.

By JOHN R. FOSTER
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New York, Feb. 6.—Probably the only thing that will hold the San Francisco Club together in 1925—if the owners wish to retain its personnel—is the fact that the modified draft does not permit players who have been developed by a minor organization to be selected by lot by the major clubs. And now some of the majors are working to annul that provision and make the draft wide open.

There are three players on the San Francisco Club who would be lost in a twinkling if the draft rules did not hold them for the coast champions. They are Waner, Rhyme and Valla. All three, however, as it is understood here, are strictly San Francisco property. Pete Kliduff is not, and it isn't a bit sure that San Francisco will keep him another year as he is a better second baseman right now than four that can be named in the big leagues.

When the San Francisco team won the championship last year some of the coast owners who did not win, moped around and said that they might have had a chance had they been allowed to borrow players from the big leagues—a pretty sorry way of saying that baseball is not a game but a show.

Perhaps Waner will do so well in 1924 that he will be put on the market by San Francisco. It looks as if a free for all draft is impending. San Francisco would almost be forced to do the best it could for itself, preparatory to losing him. Then would come Rhyme and then Valla, and that would leave San Francisco pretty well stripped.

It seems impossible to convince some of the inexperienced baseball men that the disintegration of minor league strength will bring baseball exactly to the condition where it was when Brooklyn made their famous draft and nearly tied up every minor league in the business. Then everybody had a sudden rush of virtue to the head, farming was abolished, the majors were politely labelled hogs, and limits were talked about. The limit now gives the majors 640 players and they wanted eighty more the last time they thought about the subject.

The Southern Association is beginning to feel that adoption of the modified draft by the American Association and the Pacific League has put them in much the same plight as the International League. The latter doesn't favor the draft and can't get any players on loan. The Southern Association does favor the draft but suddenly has found that the big boys are passing them up and will put all the players they can into the American Association and the Coast league, both of which are loaded up with major league material.

The Southern Association now realizes that it was holding the bag when it talked so glibly for the draft, and that unless it hustles around for players it will not have anything to draft. And what good is the draft if there is nothing around the premises that anybody wants to take out of the First National Bank in your stocking?

TIME FOR FIRPO BEGIN GET BUSY

Needs Experience With Heavyweights to Meet Dempsey Again and No Time Like Now to Get It.

By FAIR PLAY
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New York, Feb. 6.—When Luis Firpo gets through with that set up proposition, to wit Farmer Lodge, and then essays to catch the supposedly elusive Spalla, and flatten him, he had better comply with Hughey Gartland's plan for him to jump to the country and begin to sharpen himself up for Dempsey.

Luis has been having a pleasant time in Buenos Aires for going on five months now. Time flies and if he wastes much more time it will be too late to gain all that experience which he said he intended to carry into the ring with him when he meets Dempsey again. He will need it for Wills, for that matter, if Gartland succeeds in swaying Luis against the wishes of Tex Rickard.

Such experience as Firpo needs is to be had only against the ablest American heavyweights and the sooner he begins accumulating it the better it will be for him.

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ORGANIZE FOR POLO
Hickory, Feb. 6.—Members of Troop B, and the Squadron headquarters who meet in the armory weekly have organized a polo association. The organization will be known as the Hickory Polo Association and will be officered by the following men for the year 1924: Wade V. Bowman, president; Bryan Wilfong secretary and treasurer; Jack Edwards, field manager; and Charles Lauder, assistant field manager. The necessary equipment is already on hand and practice will begin at once. It was stated. Property for a polo ground has been leased and it is hoped that a good team will be had by early spring when other teams of the State will be played. Members of the National Guard and Organized Reserves are eligible for membership.

Father May Coach Against His Son

Dick Glendon, Senior and Junior, Will Probably Prepare Crews For Navy Event

By LAWRENCE PERRY
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New York, Feb. 6.—If present plans are carried out the Navy owing situation this season will involve the dramatic spectacle of father coaching against son. Young Dick Glendon (Richard J.) will of course attend the development of the regular varsity eight, while Richard A. Glendon, crew coach at Annapolis for so many years, will coach an eight made up of men who swung sweeps for the Navy in recent seasons, provided arrangements are carried through for the organization of such an outfit.

In such event both the regular and graduate crews would participate in the Olympic tryouts in Philadelphia in May. At first glance it would appear that Glendon senior would have the easier task, inasmuch as the scheme is to recall to the academy members of the famous 1920 eight who won world honors at the Antwerp Olympics.

If all these veterans were available, Glendon would, as the saying is, sit pretty indeed. But King, the stroke, and three of his comrades are now in the service, thereby leaving a nucleus of four Olympic heroes whose number would be supplemented by outstanding members of other recent crews.

Even granting that these men are—or were—all fine oarsmen and that Frawley, who stroked the 1921 and 1922 crews, was no less proficient than King, there may be no assurance that an alumni eight could be developed that would bear comparison to the 1920 combination, or even be qualified to defeat the 1924 varsity for which will be available six members of the strong 1923 crew.

Individual stars do not of themselves insure a great crew. In no sport do such delicate factors as perfect coordination and the blending of all physical elements figure so importantly. A coach may

work for weeks and months over eight men who seem to fill every physical requirement and yet never evoke that vague, albeit utterly important, essence that must appear if a crew is to be great.

It is purely psychological and its mysteries come more properly before the professor of metaphysics than the rowing coach. Frank Cavanaugh, in writing of this element in another sport, football, calls it the "essential nexus," which has a sound appropriate for something so subtle, and, in point of fact, describes it very well.

Thus the elder Glendon may find to hand a set of men whose physique and experience any coach might envy and yet never be able to set them, so to speak, on fire. As a matter of fact this lies within the men themselves! At least this seems a plausible theory. Whether it comes from the coach, wholly or in part, or from the oarsmen, one fancies that it is less easily induced in alumni oarsmen than in undergraduate graduates.

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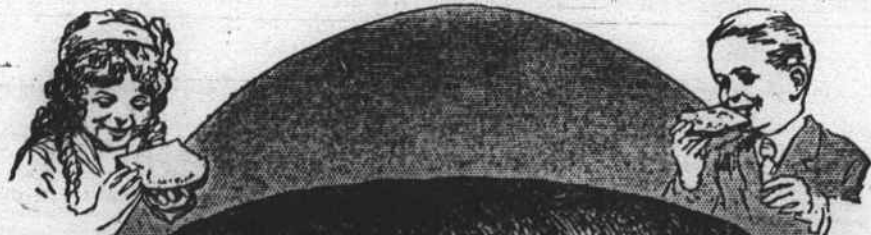
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