

BIG LEAGUES ARE GETTING BIGGER

And Minors Are Getting Smaller With Consequent Gain in Speed on Part of Players in Lesser Leagues.

By JOHN FOSTER
(Copyright, 1924, By The Advance)
Savannah, Ga., April 9. —The big leagues are getting bigger and the lesser leagues are getting lesser—in size of players.

This is the testimony of Fred Merkle, leading batter and first baseman of the Rochester Club of the International League, which has been working out in practice games in the South against the big leagues.

"Little by little," says Merkle, baseball is becoming more and more of a big man's game. We are having more and more trouble getting men who are physically large. Almost all the big league club players are large men. That's why the minor leagues have trouble getting the larger players. The result, however, is that the minor leagues are getting all the speed, although their players may not hit as well as the big fellows."

Speaking of the series which the Rochester club played with the New York Yankees, Merkle declared Rochester should have won two of the games it lost.

"We have a better hitting team than we had last year," he said, and if the fielding comes up to expectations, the Rochester Club should be able to give Baltimore a good fight for the International League pennant."

The Rochester Club is strong at first base, of course, and seems to have an infield that will back up good pitching. The team is stronger in pitchers than it was last year, judging by the spring training in Savannah. The Rochester players had plenty of chance to face the Yankee pitchers and figure that they are strong enough to bat against Huggins' youngsters but they hold up their hands when the old fellows are talked about.

It is interesting to note their opinion of Yankees, so far as the pitchers are concerned. In the games they played against them in the South, they found Bush in tip-top shape and think that he will be as good a pitcher this year as ever. They say Shawkey is ready to start but Pennock will have to wait some time before he is in condition.

George Stallings, manager of the team, thinks he picked up a fast outfielder from Wichita but of course Stallings will miss Archdeacon, who has gone to the Chicago White Sox.

"I think that my outfield at the end of the season," said Stallings, "will be so good that it will compare favorably with any outfield in any league and my players will be desirable to those who wish good outfielders. If they will only handle Archdeacon in the right way at Chicago he should turn out to be for them another Willie Keeler. He is very fast, faster than most players imagine and I think he will hit well enough for the big leagues."

The Rochester team as a whole is being shaped up to meet Baltimore for the coming race. Of course the International League has had its troubles in Newark and Jersey City, and no one knows exactly what will come out of the predicament. On that account the Rochesterers are making every effort to put together something that will be strong enough to down the champions who have won the pennant so many years in succession. As a matter of fact manager, George Stallings and the secretary, Walter Haggood, are tremendously pleased over the showing the Rochester Club made against the Yankees. It looks as if Rochester will be a contender in the pennant fight all the year.

erty of entering the ring and either knocking someone out or being knocked out, has begun to lose its charm.

Jack Stone, who is a pretty rugged wallop, didn't last long with Paul. Which goes to show that Berlenbach is the sure enough king of the flatfooters. Any boxer who thinks he has a punch and walks around on all parts of his feet at once is easy prey for Berlenbach.

But when he faces the lad who is shifty, who is on his toes every minute and keeps moving here and there, he is at a loss. Any seaman gunner can hit a target when it rests upon a smooth sea, but the lad who gets the rating is the one who can figure out a target moving restlessly in a pucker up seaway. Delaney is just the sort of man Berlenbach has got to train to meet before he will ever get into the championship class.

Descampes is on record as saying that if Carpenter beats Tunney, he is perfectly willing to take on Tommy Gibbons a few weeks later. Well, he would be. If Carpenter can stow Tunney away, no one will deny him at least a good fighting chance against the puncher from St. Paul. But no one here figures Carpenter as having any sort of a chance against the American light heavy champion who has been making rapid improvement in the past year.

Charley Weinert thinks he has a good chance to hurdle Ad Stone and get once more into the money class. But if Al is as good as he seems to be, Weinert's course will be under, instead of over, the hurdles.

Stribling and Jimmy Slatery, of Buffalo, are to do a six-round exhibition bout in this city next month. Stribling says he will be better prepared for the Buffalo mauler than he was last time they met.

The Sportsman
By Walter Camp
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New York, April 9.—The great debate over the proper size and weight of the standard golf ball still ranges—and seems to get nowhere. Jess Sweetser is one of the lat-

est to enter the forum, with the statement that once a player gets used to the proposed lighter ball, "he will derive as much pleasure from the 220-yard drive as he does now out of a swat of 300 yards or thereabouts."

Come on, all you 300-yard drivers, and see what fun it is to hit the proposed ball 220 yards. And the other 95 percent of the golfers may meekly hang their heads while their more powerful cousins talk in yard figures reminiscent of recent financial conversations in Germany.

Fore! Get out of the way and let the stars pass through over the course for which you may have tens of the cost and upkeep! If you can't smite the present ball at least 250 yards, you have no right to express any opinion, or to delay those mighty swatters in their career.

Robert Edgren, the sports writer, says: "The U. S. Golf Association has tested out golf balls of various sizes and weights to determine upon a standard ball. The news reports say that the test 'has the approval' of the British golf authorities. That makes it all right. When our graduates drew up their Declaration of Independence they forgot to include golf. Britain still rules us there. Our golf authorities would not dare to shock dear old England by insisting upon any independent thought or ruling." Bob may be a bit severe on our ruling body, but he voices a general feeling that we should make our laws with a view to the great rank and file of players here, and not be led astray into the field of legislating for the favored few who play the game more hours than they devote to the humdrum work of earning a living.

Not so many years ago, one could count on the fingers of one hand all the really formidable eight shell crews in the country. It's not that way any more. This coming rowing season looks like the best one in history. At least a dozen crews con-

sider themselves good enough to enter the Olympic try-outs at which America's representatives at the great international games will be picked. The entrants to date include Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Pennsylvania, Syracuse, Washington, Duluth, Union Boat Club, Bachelors Barge Club and West Philadelphia Boat Club. There will be several others.

Americans were more than usually interested in the Oxford boat. The Oxford crew in a recent time trial rowed nearly a minute and a half faster than it did at the same stage of the season last year. As Oxford won last year, it looked bad for the Cambridge chances. The light blue had only one man in its boat who rowed last year. But the younger crew sprang a surprise and took the race.

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BERLENBACH WILL RETIRE FOR REST

Young Boxer Feels He's Going Stale and Having Disposed of Jack Stone Will Fight No More for Season.

By FAIR PLAY
(Copyright, 1924, By The Advance)
New York, April 9. —Having knocked out Jack—not Ad Stone, Paul Berlenbach is going to retire for a well-earned rest. The rest he received at the hands of Jack Delaney evidently didn't suffice. Paul feels he is going stale and the nov-

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