

STIRRIN', the DOPE

By VEDDER GARD

H. S. ATHLETICS

IT is with varying emotions and conflicting thoughts that one views the latest trend in State high school athletics—that of organizing sport conferences or leagues within the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

The supposition arises that if enough of these conferences are formed they will seriously undermine the power of the I. H. S. A. A. If such a thing happens it likely will be the smaller schools that will suffer most.

The I. H. S. A. A. under the energetic and capable leadership of A. L. Trester, permanent secretary, has been largely responsible in putting prep athletics in this State on a high plane.

MUST BE A HEAD

There must be some such governing body. Each of the various conferences, if formed, will be capable of taking care of the different problems—at least that's the supposition. In actual practice it will be more difficult than it looks.

But even if the big schools are able to get along in good shape under various conferences, the little fellows would be left to run themselves in haphazard fashion if the time ever came that the I. H. S. A. A. should break up.

If such a thing should ever happen there would not be a great deal of sympathy for the smaller institutions. They have brought the present situation upon themselves by wielding the power of the majority to push through legislation favorable to the small schools and detrimental to the large. The big fellows are retaliating, that's all.

For the good of all concerned, and the public must be considered—it supports the schools—it is hoped that the Indiana High School Athletic Association goes on functioning as in the past.

BONE OF CONTENTION

It seems right now that the chief bone of contention among schools which organized the North Central conference is the plan of final basketball tournaments for the past several years.

There is much to be said on each side of the question. Many of the coaches of the best teams are against the tourney idea. They believe a team's record through the year should count more than the fireworks at the finish.

Some say that they have the choice of two courses—either to win the regularly scheduled games and forget the final meets, or to "point" their clubs to the finals, regardless of the outcome of some of the contests played through the year.

But on the other hand, there are clubs who keep up their morale through a disastrous season by the hopes of wiping defeats off the slate by a fine showing in sectional, regional and final meets.

GRAND FINALE

For many teams the grand finale of the season is looked forward to all year. It is their big chance. This is true of the smaller teams, especially. Without the "survival of the fittest" struggles only the big schools will receive recognition.

Many of the best college players have come from smaller institutions. It would be a shame to let sterling talent go unrecognized as is likely to be the case without the big show at the end of the year. Basketball would be likely to deteriorate.

There is a thrill attached to the fight of a small school against odds. The public at the final meet always has been for the "dark horses." A meet with only the well-known teams in competition would lose some of its kick for the spectators. The democracy of the whole affair always has had a strong appeal.

We have not mentioned the physical strain players must undergo in the final test. It is doubtless there. This phase of the question probably could be worked out by a different arrangement of meeting schedules—another meet slipped in—or an additional day of play.

TOO MANY TEAMS

When you get right down to brass tacks, there are just too many basketball teams in Indiana. The annual title play is getting unwieldy. There cannot help but be dissatisfaction when more than 700 teams enter a fight for supremacy. But why shouldn't P. D. C. corners have an equal chance with its big neighbor at winning the championship?

It will take the test of time to find out just how the conferences will work out. The league idea of scheduling games will be all right for the winners. But how about the clubs at the tall end of the procession?

Semi-pro baseball leagues have proved failures, for just such a reason.

BE CAREFUL!

But it does seem as though one governing body over all is needed in high school athletic activities to keep on the upward trend. Because some of the little fellows have gone to extreme there is no reason for the big ones to do the same thing.

Moderation, kind sirs, is the word. All of this will be thrashed out gradually. It is hoped that this article may help some to look at things clearly and without prejudice. There is no need of haste. There are many things to consider.

CLASSY ROOKIES IN MAJORS MAY CHANGE OUTCOME OF RACES

STEPHENSON DISPLAYING KEEN CLASS AT CAMP

Riggs Appears to Be in for a Big Season—Bush Expects 'Bear Cat' to Bust Ball.

By Eddie Ash
Times Sports Writer

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 31.—Riggs Stephenson, beefy Southern youth, the "Bear Cat" of the Tribe squad training in Hot Springs, is an amazing man. He never wears out. He's a horse for work, and usually adds extra stunts to the general routine required of the Indians daily. He does so many things, sometimes one wonders if "Steve" is training for one line of sport or four.

Riggs takes to athletics naturally. He loves to play. He takes his regular turn at bat, then dashes out into the pasture; sometimes in the outfield, at other times at second base.

Frequently he challenges a team mate to a fifty-yard dash, or a century sprint, or a distance match run around the park. He makes diving slides out on the grass like a football player trying for a loose ball. At other times he will be seen engaged in a wrestling bout.

BUILT TO LAST

This big fellow is built to last. And how he "combs" that ball with his heavy bat. He's vaccinated with the "old determination."

Stephenson has been displaying keen class here at Hot Springs and Manager Bush has named him as his choice to lead American Association sluggers this year.

The big boy is a valuable asset to the Indians, with his bustle, tremendous batting punch, and ability to play in the outfield or at second base.

Stephenson's pride was stung last year when he lost out at Cleveland and was sent to the American Association. He felt as though he still possessed big league qualities, and his heart was hurt over the demotion. Cleveland attached a string to him and transferred him to Kansas City, and later Indianapolis obtained him in the Hodapp deal with Tris Speaker's team.

College Spirit

But Riggs has the old college spirit back this spring and he is aiming to graduate once more to major league ball. He likes Manager Bush and is enthusiastic about Indianapolis and its pennant chances.

Well, there has been another upset. It occurred in the foothills of the Ozarks. The month of March came in like a lion and went out like a lion. The lamb visited on a different shift in the middle of the month, and then strayed away and got lost in the wild wood.

More rain and more stormy breeze in and around Hot Springs Tuesday and the Indians were knocked out of another ball game with Little Rock. The Tribesmen didn't attempt to make the trip to the Arkansas Capital. It was raining here and raining there.

The weather man lost control again and it was the third time he wild-pitched the Indians out of a chance to mix in a regular game with Cantillon's Travelers. As a result the Hoosier exhibition slate is unmarred. The teams will make another effort to tangle Friday, either in Hot Springs or at Little Rock.

A Lily Pond

The Tribe training park here resembled a lily pond Tuesday, but Manager Bush forced the boys to get out and hustled, anyway.

It was impossible to hold Infeld, outfield or bunting practice. Some of the pitchers warmed up while other players engaged in bunting game. Everybody tossed the ball around and finished the brief work-out by running twice around the field.

Catcher Ainsmith was in uniform for the first time after a long spell on the hospital list. He engaged in only light exercise and avoided throwing. Eddie will resume regular practice with the squad, but will not extend himself until warm weather returns.

Lloyd Christenbury, outfielder, who was returned to the Indians by Buffalo, has been sold to Decatur of the Three-I League.

Red Hot From Hot Springs

By Eddie Ash

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 31.—It's a little bit of heaven for the rookie ball player who gets an opportunity to make a spring training trip with a high class league outfit. Play, sleep and eat, and a fresh bath every day—expenses paid. Hook slides to the dining room three times daily, lots of service from Southern waiters, order what you want.

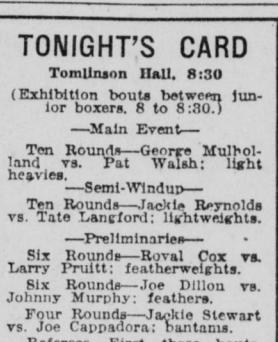
Sleep long hours, no whistle, no alarm clock. Only about three and one-half hours practice, which is little more than mere play for the young man accustomed to working in a factory six days a week. Transportation paid to camp and return.

A little bit of heaven is right, regardless of how long the rookie stays. A vacation, an outing, with expenses guaranteed. Like sweet nectar—it's hard to take!

There are many, many young men throughout the land who have it in them to become league ball players, but are overlooked. No friends with influence to recommend them. Old Lady Luck has much to do with getting the average young man an opportunity to start a baseball career. She is fickle with her smiles. Some rookies "highly recommended," own no more league baseball chance than a goat.

Moderation, kind sirs, is the word. All of this will be thrashed out gradually. It is hoped that this article may help some to look at things clearly and without prejudice. There is no need of haste. There are many things to consider.

When Owain Bush was in the prime of his baseball career he often



Dempsey Fails to Appear for Trial

By Times Special
MADERA, Cal., March 31.—Jack Dempsey's tilt with the speed laws of Madera County may develop into a major engagement, with a jail term awaiting the champion if he loses.

A warrant for the heavyweight title holder's arrest on charges of reckless driving was issued Tuesday when he failed to appear before Judge Leroy Bailey, as ordered at the time of his citation last Thursday.

Dempsey's car, driven by his chauffeur, Robert Gates, was said by Traffic Officer M. A. Harrison to have been traveling about 80 miles an hour.

Defenses were filed by his manager, Robert Gates, and by his attorney, Max Clegg.

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