

Playing the Field

WITH BILLY EVANS

"You can't hit this one! That is what I say before each ball is pitched to the batter and I continue to hold to the thought until he does or doesn't hit it."

Ed Wells, then a pitcher with the Detroit Tigers, was doing the talking. At the time he had pitched more than thirty consecutive innings without the opposition scoring on him. A Detroit newspaper man was interviewing him on the secret of his success.

It was near game time and I was sitting on the Tiger bench, attired in unprintable ready to start the contest. I was merely a listener-in on the conversation.

That interview brought to Ed Wells the nickname of the "Psychology Pitcher," the tall southpaw who had proved that mind was greater than matter in pitching as well as other things.

Once the rival batters were let in on the pitching secrets of Wells they must have decided to retaliate in like manner and adopted as their slogan: "I'll murder this one; knock it out of the park."

There finally came an end to Wells' run of scoreless innings and later during the season there were times when he had his troubles getting his side out. However, he managed to finish the year with a record of twelve victories against ten defeats. Not so bad.

WHEN George Moriarty took over the management of the Tigers I know that he looked to Wells for considerable help. When I reached the training camp of the Tigers at San Antonio, in 1927, I watched for hours a star pitcher of 25 years back, "Wish" Egan, instruct Wells in a change of pace. In his day no pitcher had such a change of pace as Egan. Wells was making progress when I departed for the north.

A few months after the season opened I picked the paper up one morning and learned that Southpaw Ed Wells had passed on to the Birmingham team of the Southern League.

Unofficially, I am informed Wells was sent to the minors because on two occasions he permitted Ty Cobb to steal second while he stood on the rubber with the ball in his hands. It seems just before each game Wells had been coached on the play, was told merely to back off the rubber and throw the ball to second. He didn't and with such failure came a ticket to the bushes.

As a big leaguer, Wells always had a pretty good fast ball. His curve was just ordinary and he lacked a change of pace. Just about the time he was sent to the minors he apparently had mastered the teachings of "Wish" Egan, for all he did as a member of the Birmingham club was thirteen games while losing only one, for the remarkable average of .929.

Scouts who toured the Southern League last summer tell me that Wells has learned to mix up his assortment of stuff in great style and was a "wow" in that organization.

Wells comes back to the American League in 1928 as a member of the Washington Club. If that record of thirteen wins and one loss is any criterion of his present ability he should be a great help to Manager Stanley Harris.

TURNERS VS. ANDERSON

South Siders Clash With Devoe Remy Squad Sunday Afternoon.

Ackerson Delco Remy and South Side Turners will play at the south-siders' gym Sunday afternoon at 3:15. Several well-known former college stars will appear in the visitors' line-up, such as Benny De Vol, Graybill and Anderson.

In another feature game the Bell Telephone Commercial girls' quintet will meet the Merry Six.

VIRGINIA IS WINNER

Miss Van Wie Annexes Florida Women's Golf Title.

PALM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 25.—Miss Virginia Van Wie of Chicago defeated Miss Maureen Orcutt of Englewood, N. J., 4 and 3, in the finals of the Florida women's golf tournament Friday.

Friday Basketball Results

COLLEGE

Muncie, Normal, 40; Franklin, 38. Iowa, 41; Illinois, 37. Huntington, 45; Indiana Central, 34. Oakland, 28; Cardinals (Ill.), 32. Maryland, 26; Western Maryland, 29. Gallaudet, 46; Shepherd, 33.

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196 Three-Year-Olds Nominated for Historic Kentucky Derby

Purdue Battles Badgers Tonight

By Times Special

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Feb. 25.—Buffeted about in an arduous schedule Purdue's basketball quintet dropped from a clear claim to first to third position in less than a week, as a result of defeats by Indiana and Wisconsin, will make a desperate stand against Wisconsin on its home hardwood here tonight in an effort to retain what title hopes remain in the Boilermaker camp.

One Scrap Enough for Helen

By United Press

BERKELEY, Cal., Feb. 25.—Helen Wills, tennis champion, wants to see an ice hockey game and a six-day bicycle race, then she will have all seen all sporting events, she said today.

"I am glad I went," she said. "But I am quite sure I will never go to another fight. You know I have never yet seen a six-day bicycle race nor an ice hockey game. I want to see everything in sports, at least once."

BO' AT KANSAS AGGIE

McMillin to Assume New Coaching Duties on July 1.

By United Press

MANHATTAN, Kan., Feb. 25.—A. N. (Bo) McMillin, former Centre College football star, will report here July 1 to assume his new duties as head football coach at Kansas State Agricultural College.

McMillin Friday night accepted the Kansas Aggie post after obtaining release from a coaching position at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa.

NAVY FIVE PLAYS ARMY

Keen Interest Displayed in Service Basket Clash This Afternoon.

WEST POINT, N. Y., Feb. 25.—The Navy basketball team was to meet the Army quintet here this afternoon. Since no football game will be played between the Service institutions this year, unusual interest was attached to today's court contest:

HIGGINS APPROVED

By United Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa., Feb. 25.—Bob Higgins, football coach at Washington University, St. Louis, has been approved by the Penn State board of control of athletics for the position of assistant professor of physical education and assistant to Coach Hugo Bezdek in football.

Chess Tourney Talk.

By United Press

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 25.—The Argentine Chess Federation today announced plans for a South American chess congress to discuss possibility of a tournament for the national championship.

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