

## TALKING IT OVER

BY JOE WILLIAMS

NEW YORK, March 30.—I don't know what's coming over me here lately. I almost went fishing with a fellow down in Florida a few weeks ago. And the other night, in a mind no more irrational than it usually is, I went to see a ping pong match. I suppose the next thing you hear I'll be sitting on a park bench feeding pigeons. And cooling at 'em.

Still I'm not really in such an awful bad way. After all I didn't go to that time, and the ping pong I saw was played in the third round of the men's national singles championship. Goffman that off. Goffman! The men's national singles championship!

You see, they've taken ping pong out of the man's sport. Teeming with virility, robustness and primitive emotion. Of course, the game is still there, but the masculinity is not what it used to be back in the days of the early 1920s. Many strange trivities have for the men's sport in this day and age. But as to that

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I simply wish to report that the national ping pong championship is in session in the ballroom of the Hotel Pennsylvania and that when I dropped in on the earlier afternoon, the champion of the title, Paul Derringer, was at his best. He was hitting balls about with great earnestness and power, and at frequent intervals there would come from the gallery, graced around the long row of green and white tables, ear-piercing shouts and boozing salutes attesting both to high excitement and unstinted appreciation.

To a number of people who may be wondering, I can assure you that the whooping things up at a ping pong tournament is akin to tendering a thunderous ovation to the flea circus, but such blasphemy is ignored by the true believers, the dyed in the wool, the down in the bottle ping pongists.

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Hasn't it been down through the ages? Didn't they laugh at Fulton, sneer at Marconi, ridicule Edison and yell "Yoo Hoo" at the first bird that ever walked down Main street with a tennis racket?

The chief was at his peak of form and looked the part of the best hurler on the lot. The real Redskin fanned three in the five innings and retired the side in one-two-three order in three of the stanzas.

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None of these days they will be playing ping pong in the Yale bowl," prophesied Leonard Hall, an authority on the subject of domestic pings and pongs. Some crude person, suspected of Harvardian leanings piped up to say he had been under the impression that was all they ever played in the bowl, a remark that was promptly stricken from the records as irrelevant, unimportant and pretty sour, anyway.

The current tournament has all the trappings and settings of an authentic show, including high chairs in which shiny-faced radio girls read the scores, and a press box where bright young men smoke cigarettes and hammer away at typewriters.

Anybody with a ping pong paddle—an instrument resembling a small sized waffle iron—was eligible to enter, and the entry fee was only \$1. An added obligation was that all players had to wear colored shirts. It's hard to follow the sight of this little white balls against a white shirt background.

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One young man appeared in a white shirt on opening night. "You can't play shirt on opening night," he said. "I'm going to be the only shirt I've got," he pleaded. And I am happy to say that this tremendous crisis of the moment and sympathetic understanding ruled.

En Route to Spencer

ST. LOUIS, March 30.—Accompanied by L. C. McEvoy, vice-president of the St. Louis Brown, the body of Byron Bancroft Johnson, founder and former president of the Cleveland Indians, arrived here Sunday night from Rochester, Minn., where he died suddenly Friday.

Funeral services are to be held here Tuesday afternoon at the Masonic Temple. The eight presidents of the American League will be pallbearers as will be K. M. Landis, commissioner of baseball; General Manager William Evans of the Cleveland Indians; Walter H. Machnicols, business manager of the Indians, and John A. Heyder, president of the National League.

Johnny Layton

Performs Here

Johnny Layton, former three-cushion billiard champion, opposed Harry Cooley this afternoon in the first of two exhibition contests at Cooley's parlor. He will meet Harry Rubens in a fifty-point match at 8 p.m. tonight.

Layton still is ranked as the best in the three-cushion billiard business, despite the recent loss of his crown.

## Rookie Hurters May Shine in Spring, Vets Are Dependable

BY BABE RUTH

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 30.—It takes a training camp to make even ball player realize what a difference there is between young and old pitching. You see young fellows report when camp opens, get into shape quickly and show an amazing lot of speed or a wonderful curve. Then you hear that they have been sent back for more experience. Some of them you never hear about any more.

The answer is that all the stuff in the world is no guarantee that a pitcher will make the big league grade. The woods are full of young pitchers who seem to have everything they need to win success.

We had a fellow with us one time who had the greatest curve ball I have seen since I joined the Yankees, but it did him no good. He stuck around for a while, then went back to the minors, came back again and finally was turned loose. He couldn't control it and he did not know how to use it, anyway. It

LOUGHREAN SEEKS BOUT

Tommy Confers With Garden on Sharkey Scrap.

By United Press

NEW YORK, March 30.—Tommy Loughran, who defeated Tuffy Griffith in Chicago Friday night for his seventh consecutive heavyweight victory of the year, was in New York today to confer with Madison Square Garden concerning a June match with Jack Sharkey.

Loughran was knocked out by Sharkey in his first start as a heavyweight and is anxious for a second chance with the Boston sailor.

HONOR NATE LEWIS

By United Press

CHICAGO, March 30.—Nate Lewis, matchmaker of the Chicago Stadium and for thirty years a figure in Chicago's sporting world, will be guest of honor at a testimonial dinner Tuesday night at the Sherman hotel. Jack Dempsey and Max Schmeling are expected to attend along with many other sporting, theatrical, business and political leaders.

Ax Attack Victim Dead

By United Press

HONOLULU, Territory Hawaii, March 30.—A triple funeral was planned today for Dudley W. Wallace, New York stockbroker, and his two sons, Dudley Jr., 13, and Donald, 9. Wallace attacked his sons with an ax, then shot himself with a rifle.

## CARDINALS LATEST BIG LEAGUE VICTIM OF TRIBE

### Four Home Runs Help Indians Trounce Birds

Narlesky, Walker, Montague and Andrus Connect for Circuit in 12-to-3 Triumph Over National League Champs Sunday; Daney Shines.

BY EDDIE ASH

Times Sports Editor

SARASOTA, Fla., March 30.—Knocking over the big leaguers in Florida is a cinch for Johnny Corridon's Indians, if you take the spring training statistics and sum up the figures. They have been doing very well in the grapefruit league, and on Sunday the upset the dole by trouncing the St. Louis Cardinals, National League champions, 12 to 3. The contest was staged in Sarasota and the Hoosiers were at their best on the home lot.

It was a home run barrage with the Tribesmen doing all the shooting for distance, and they made the short right field fence appear as though it was just beyond second base. Narlesky, Walker, Montague and Andrus cleared the barrier with drives and the Cardinals were very much put out by the fact they were outhit, 15 to 7. Manager Gabby Street roared in his customary manner and there was no denying that he lost his temper after the Indians rallied in the eighth inning.

Thirteen batsmen faced Paul Derringer in that stanza and the action was wild and woolly as the Cardinals wallop out hits that meant runs. The big feature in that rally was Bill Narlesky's home run with the bases loaded.

Bill Burwell and Lee Daney operated on the mound for the Indians and the Cardinals scored in only the first and sixth rounds. Burwell was touched up rather lively at the start, but after four innings he retired with a big lead and turned the game over to Lee Daney, who proceeded to the mound and turned in a high class exhibition of twirling by allowing only two hits in five frames.

Narlesky

The chief was at his peak of form and looked the part of the best hurler on the lot. The real Redskin fanned three in the five innings and retired the side in one-two-three order in three of the stanzas.

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Editor's Note.—This is the seventh of a series dealing with 1931 prospects of the various major league baseball clubs.

THE contests Sunday probably broke a record for fast ball for exhibition games in Florida, as was run off in one hour and nineteen minutes.

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