



OFF THE BACKBOARD

By J. E. O'BRIEN

SHORTRIDGE'S VISIT to Columbus this evening should keep the keeper of the scoreboard occupied. Coach George Boots' entertaining Bulldogs, front-runners in the South Central, are a speedy, high-scoring bunch, while Coach Kenneth Peterman's red, white and blue uniformed Devils don't profess to be a deliberate, tight-fisted crew.

Tonight's game is the first of two Columbus has scheduled with Marion County teams who were muffed in last week's tournaments. The Bulldogs are Southport's guests on Friday evening.

WHITING AND Horace Mann of Gary combined to score 48 points in the second half last night after neither had shown a willingness to count points in the first 16 minutes. The halftime score was: Whitling, 13; Horace Mann, 10, and it ended: Whitling, 41; Horace Mann, 30. Frankfort was the evening's high scorer, pouring 62 points to South Bend, John Adams, 22. At Evansville, Central gained revenge for some of those football defeats by handing a 42-21 lacing on Memorial in a game set back from early December.

NOBODY is safe yet in the Central Indiana Conference, where Burris of Muncie leads Elwood and Peru by a half-game. Alexandria is at Elwood this evening for a league affair, while Friday's conference contests pair Burris against Wabash and Peru against Rochester. Tipton and Wabash get together the following evening. The standings:

	W.	L.	Pct.
Burris	4	0	.000
Elwood	4	1	.800
Peru	4	1	.800
Plymouth	2	1	.667
Huntington	3	2	.600
Wabash	3	2	.600
Tipton	3	2	.600
Warsaw	2	3	.400
Rochester	0	5	.000
Alexandria	0	6	.000

The Central Indiana

These Misses Are Hits in Badminton



This trio of champions will play in the "A" division of the city badminton tournament that gets under way tomorrow at the Indianapolis Athletic Club. They are Virginia Cooney, "B" division city ladies singles champion (left) and Katherine Carver and Marie Risk, the ladies doubles queens of Indianapolis.

Yankees Have to Be Stopped In Spring, Fred Haney Says

By HENRY McLEMORE

United Press Staff Correspondent

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 22.—If the American League wants to have the closest battle in its history this year, what it has to do is to arrange for Fred Haney to be placed in charge of the draft.

Not the baseball draft, mind you, but the selective service one. The first thing Haney, who, as you know, manages the St. Louis Browns, would do would be to see that Bob Feller, Hank Greenberg, Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams and Bobo Newsome got into the Army, and in a hurry.

"Those are the fellows," Haney told me, "who make for the balance of power in the American League. Take them off their teams and Cleveland, Detroit, New York, too, wouldn't have a great deal on the rest of us. And, if you distributed those players to the weaker clubs, well, we'd be in there knocking all the way."

One Chance to Stop Yanks

On the off chance that he wouldn't be placed in charge of the draft, and that the stars named would start the 1941 season at their old stands, I asked Haney how he thought the American League would go this year; asked him to guess the October order of finish.

He gave me this lineup: New York, Cleveland, Boston, Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago, Washington and Philadelphia.

"There is only one chance to stop the Yankees," Haney said. "And that's a pretty slim one. But it's a chance just the same. We must beat them to death in the spring. Get on them and lick them before they get a chance to settle down. He McCarthy is bringing in a lot of new players. He must experiment. If he happens to find the club that clicks during spring training or in April, there'll be no holding him.

The only team with a real chance to lick the Yanks is Cleveland. The Indians are a helluva ball team. An team with Feller in there throwing for it is a helluva team. He is the No. 1 man in baseball. Not only is he a great pitcher, but he is a nice, quiet boy, who minds his own business and doesn't cause trouble. But the Indians lack the will to win."

Red Sox, Tigers Not Great

Boston and Detroit Haney dismisses as teams with enough to be good but not enough to be great. As a matter of fact, in listing them above his own Browns, he didn't sound too sincere. When I was in San Francisco, a pretty fair judge told me that the Browns would be the surprise of the American League this year. I told Haney this and asked him what he thought.

"Well," he said, "I gave us fifth place and that's pretty good. But to be honest with you, I feel we have an outside chance to climb even higher. For several reasons, one being that our players don't

Bowling

John Steele tacked a hefty 280 game on the back of games of 221 and 196 and wound up with a fat 900 in weight in the City Bowling League at the Pritchett Alley.

Second place went to Chuck Markey, with a 679 in the St. Philip No. 1 League, while Carl Moxley was third with a 663 in the Pennsylvania Recreation League.

John Steele, City 907

Chuck Markey, St. Philip No. 1 679

Carl Moxley, Penn Recreation 663

Bob Brand, Penn Recreation 656

Ken Cravens, Community 649

Jerry Brothers, West Side Classic 645

Marge Hoffner, Mass. Ladies 641

Al Menezes, J. A. C. Classic 637

Bob Driscoll, West Side 637

Lou Fouts, West Side Recreation 635

Lou Fouts, West Side Classic 635

C. Rasmussen, West Side Classic 630

Ken Christopher, City 624

Howard Cott, Speedy 624

Bollinger, West Side Classic 623

Lee and Gisela, West Side Classic 620

Jess Smythe, City 618

Larry Harman, Gym 617

Al Jones, Union, No. 2 618

Tommy, West Side 616

Hamilton, Community 614

Bob Jones, Union, No. 1 612

Woods, Penn Recreation 611

Christensen, Penn Recreation 610

Eugene Brown, Indians Recreation 607

Bob Clegg, Penn Recreation 607

Lee Clegg, Penn Recreation 605

Bob Kirby, Commercial 602

Charles Fisher, Sahara Grotto 601

Charles Fisher, Sahara Grotto 600

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All Eyes on Cubs' Rookie

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (U. P.)—It'll be five weeks from today before the major leagues call out their pitchers and catchers for advanced spring training but talk already has swirled around to nominating Lou Novikoff, Chicago Cubs' newcomer, as the likeliest rookie of the year.

Novikoff, who hits like Joe DiMaggio and fields in the best Babe Herman tradition, comes up to the Cubs with an impressive batting record and a talent for eccentricity never seen in any league—his club may be the surprise of the year. Certainly Rookie Novikoff will be.

The Cub has been relegated to the National League's second division for 1941 by most of the baseball oracles but if Manager Jimmy Wilson can steer Novikoff's batting close enough to his remarkable minor league record—never under .350 in any league—his club may be the surprise of the year. Certainly Rookie Novikoff will be.

Novikoff was one of 13 children in the family of two Russian immigrants and played softball under the sobriquet of Lou Nova. One of his feats in over six years of softball was a 352-foot Homer with a 13-inch softball. That led to a trial with Los Angeles of the Pacific Coast League.

Nicknamed "stupor-man" for some of his early fielding antics, Novikoff cut a wide swath through the batting averages to become the minors' batting "super-man." With Ponce City he tore into Western Association pitching for an average of .351; soared to .367 with Moline in the Three-I circuit in 1938 and next year led the Texas League with .368. Brought up to the Pacific Coast League for 36 games he

Lose Riska

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Jan. 22.—Loss of Capt. Eddie Riska, high-scoring forward for an indefinite period, will hamper Notre Dame's chances of keeping a five-game winning streak alive against Michigan State here Saturday night. The Spartans, who broke winning chains of Creighton, Long Island, and Temple, have won six straight themselves.

Riska was injured in the first half of the Syracuse game in which Notre Dame won, 54 to 49, in overtime. Monday night, X-rays on his return revealed a fracture in his left foot. It is believed he will be unable to play for four weeks.

climbed to .452 with 61 hits on the coast.

Last year he practically took the Coast League apart in 174 games. He drove in 171 runs, scored 147, hammered out 259 hits, including 41 homers, six triples and 44 doubles for an average of .363. Meanwhile his fielding improved steadily.

Off the records, he can hit any kind of pitching and can't miss a big leaguer.

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