



JOE WILLIAMS SAYS . . .

NEW YORK, May 11.—Racing interests have a right to complain about the way they were kicked around in Washington but nothing is to be gained by continuing the controversial attitude. On the contrary, these interests should take a good look at themselves in the mirror (Mr. Parker, will you show these gentlemen the mirror, please?) and try to figure out what made them so vulnerable to an action that was nothing less than discrimination.

It isn't sufficient to dismiss the situation on the ground that racing, because of betting is always a popular target for professional reformers and the congenitally captions. To do this is to admit right that racing has done a poor job of selling itself. . . . And this, indeed, is one of the reasons I suggest the look in the mirror. Two or three looks, in fact.

There is no such thing as illegal racing in this country, though the way the business-sport was handled by administration brass hats you might have been pardoned for suspecting it combined the worst features of a narcotics ring, counterfeiting and teeing up in a sand trap.

In states where the horses run racing is just as legal as the gas and electric light service. Accordingly it needs no apology. Yet when this astonishing usurpation of power in the form of Jimmy Byrnes' "request" came, racing, a billion dollar enterprise, produced no leaders; only apologists. There was no one to make a fight or a case for the industry, certainly not an open one, not one the public could follow on its merits.

Now why was this? There are a number of fine men in racing, respected and influential. Why did they sit back, humbly take their blackouts sentence, contritely agree to keep their parks closed until Washington decided to be nice and let them reopen? Only one answer occurs to me: They seem to be ashamed of being in racing, maybe of letting you or me know they are in racing.

And there are some things about which they should be ashamed, too. One is the pickpocket privileges gently known as breakage, the odd cents the tracks refuse to give you in change, contending it is mutually inconvenient. Know how much the breakage amounted to at the New York tracks alone last season? Better than \$3,000,000. This is split 60 per cent to the state, 40 per cent to the tracks. None of it belongs to either. I'll grant you the bettors don't care whether they get the pennies or not and the tracks, their earnings narrowly limited by taxes, don't need the money. Only the state could make out any sort of case for keeping its share; to some slight extent it really does help relieve tax pressure.

Where racing overlooks an obvious good will bet here is not voluntarily turning over its share to hospitalization or some such cause, or at least leading a fight to eliminate the high-handed practice altogether. This is just one of several ways to win friends and influence people, and if racing didn't learn from its recent painful experience in Washington that it can use friends it never will.

I have just finished talking with Herbert Bayard Swope, the Man o' War of racing commissioners, and he is fidgety hopeful, now that the long-looked-for green light is in operation, that the tracks will not try to crowd in too much racing to make up for lost days.

"It might be well if some of you press box fellows lifted an admonitory finger to that effect," he urged.

I have grown weary of lifting admonitory fingers only to have them misinterpreted as signs for a fast ball or a curve but at that Mr. Swope is so right and the dangers of loose criticism so sharp, I'm sure the tracks, dumb as they are, will proceed with caution and conservatism. They may be hungry, but this is one time they are going to control their appetites. By now they must realize one of their principal jobs is a selling job, and any manifestation of greed on the part of rival tracks, geographically competitive, would be offensive.

Baksi-Wolcott Fight Is Postponed

CAMDEN, N. J., May 11 (U. P.)—A cut eye suffered by Joe Baksi in his last fight against Larry Lane in Chicago forced postponement of last night's Baksi-Wolcott bout at the Camden Convention Hall.

A requested postponement by Nate Wolcott, Baksi's manager, was granted after a New Jersey state athletic commission physician said the eye had not healed. The bout is expected to be held next Thursday night.

Wartime Bats Fail In Heavy Hitting

NEW YORK, May 11.—More bats than batting records will be broken in major league baseball this season. Due to shortage of lumber the wood used in bats has not been properly seasoned, doesn't hold up well under the impact.

It is becoming common to see a player hit the ball and break his bat. The Brooklyn Dodgers alone have broken more than a dozen wartime bats.

Games Piling Up, Managers Show Concern

By CARL LUNDQUIST
United Press Staff Correspondent
NEW YORK, May 11.—Everything looked fine for baseball when the government gave a "green light" for 1945, but no one reckoned with the weather man, who has been flashing "top signals" ever since.

Managers made no secret of their concern today over the postponements. Last year at this time only 32 games had been rained out, 16 in each league. To date in 1945, there have been 48 postponements, 24 in each league. The American has played only 64 games to date and the National 63 for a little more than one-tenth of the 616 that must be played in each league on the basis of a 154-game schedule for each team. Yet the season is about one-seventh completed, which means that about one game in three has been postponed.

During all of 1944 there were only 35 games postponed in the American and 61 in the National because of the weather.

Each game called off now means more work later on for short pitching staffs, tiring veterans and rookies who may pale at the pace. And under wartime schedules whereby each team makes only three trips a season to an opponents park, there will be frequently as many as three or four doubleheaders in a row with overnight travel trips in between.

Big Strain Later

Most postponed games will be made up on the second trip to prevent heavy accumulation of extra games late in the season when the weather again becomes rainy.

Ed Wright was slated to try for his third victory of the season against the Millers tonight and Manager "Rosy" Ryan of Minneapolis was expected to use Isidore Juan Leon, Cuban flipper.

The Chicago White Sox have had the most postponements in the American, 10, and the Boston Braves in the National, nine.

Other American league postponements are Cleveland eight, St. Louis and Detroit seven, and Boston, Washington, Philadelphia, and New York, four each. Philadelphia and Cincinnati have seven each in the National, New York and Brooklyn six, Chicago and Pittsburgh five, and St. Louis three.

Another bad factor now is that the "Florida-like" northern spring training weather put the players in excellent condition, but the siege of rain since then has caused many to complain about losing their fine edge.

There was more of the same kind of weather yesterday, causing seven postponements in the two leagues.

In the only game played, a night contest at St. Louis, the Browns made it two straight over Washington, winning, 10-to-2, on Jack Kramer's five-hit pitching. The American league champions clinched the issue in the first inning, scoring three runs on a single by George McQuinn and an error by Gil Torres. The Browns made 15 hits off Marino Peretti and Armando Roche, including a Homer by Vern Stephens, his fourth.

Yesterday's star: Mike Kreevich, veteran outfielder, who paced the Browns to a 10-to-2 victory over Washington with three singles and a double.

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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Ben Davis Has Good Record



The recent loss of the Ben Davis team to Broad Ripple was the first setback in two years for "Chuck" Stuckey's Giants. Wendell Smith, pitcher, has a record of 15 victories in 16 games over the two-year span and Ed Stegemoller has a .500 batting mark during that time. Pictured, front row left to right, Student Manager Don Wayford, Bob Hays, Stegemoller, Bob Fraderman, Bob Kearns, Kenneth Hoffman, Bob Risley and Student Manager Don Freeland. Rear row, John Yefich, Earl Stegemoller, Bill Buttum, Don Stone, Eddie Poole, Bob Hurst and Darrel Edwards.

New Players Join Redskins

Infielder Ben Geraghty and pitcher Armand Cardoni, new Tribesmen acquired from the Boston Braves, the second and third-ranking tennis players in the nation, stood cleared today of charges that they accepted excess expenses for Florida tournaments.

Holcombe Ward, U. S. Lawn Tennis association president, said he had fully investigated the charges by Edward Stillman, editor of a professional tennis magazine, and that the two players had been shown to have received proper expense money for exhibitions at Palm Beach and Pompano.

Stillman apologized to Talbert and Segura and to the U. S. L. T. A.

Broad Ripple Nine Beats Noblesville

The second one-hit pitching performance of a Broad Ripple high school pitcher within the week gave the Rockets a 14-0 triumph over Noblesville yesterday and kept Coach Frank Baird's team on the unbeaten list.

Jack Legan held the Millers hitless for four frames and then only blow came on Bill Kidney in the fifth. The line score:

Noblesville 000 000 0-0 1 7
Broad Ripple 301 523 14-0 12 0
Barker and Reddick; Legan, Kidney and MacDaniel, Kilum.

Tech Golfers Win

Tech high school's golf team was a winner at Kokomo yesterday, 15-3. Tom Schwartz of the Wildcat team was medalist with a 78, while Bob Buchanan had an 80 to be low for Tech.

**'Big State' Meet
At I. U. Tomorrow**

Times Special

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., May 11.—Approximately 114 track athletes from eight competing schools will meet here tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 o'clock in the annual running of the Indiana intercollegiate outdoor track meet, the so-called "big state" meet.

Coach Gordon Fisher, Indiana's head track mentor who is in charge, said that he has received entry lists from Purdue, Notre Dame, Indiana State Teachers college, Rose Poly, Wabash, DePauw and Ball State, besides Indiana.

Purdue and Notre Dame both will enter 23 men, Indiana 15, DePauw 14, Wabash 11, Indiana State 10, and Rose Poly and Ball State, 4 each.

Purdue, the reigning favorite in the meet, will rely for their points heavily on Boris Dimancheff and Ben Harvey, sprinters; Wallace Desterhaft and Don Weber, in the middle distances, and Dick Kilpatrick, high jump. Notre Dame's Joe Kelly, ranking favorite in the discus, and Indiana's Holton Hayes, in the discus, and John Mitchem, mile and half-mile, are among the other outstanding entries.

Newark Scrapper Has Pacific Title

WITH U. S. ARMY FORCES ON NEW CALEDONIA (U. P.)—Featherweight champion of Pacific ocean areas, including the Marshall, Gilbert, Marianas and Palau islands and the South and Central Pacific base commands is Sgt. Salvatore Scornavacca, Newark, N. J., who won his army-navy title by defeating two soldiers and a marine before 25,000 fans at Honolulu finals.

Sensation of the Hawaii tournament, the 27-year-old Scornavacca has his fists pointed toward the professional ranks once he hits the states. Beginning his amateur career at 20, Sal held the New Jersey A. A. U. championship in the 125-pound class from 1938-40, inclusive, won runner-up spot in the South Pacific eliminations at Guadalcanal on Christmas day, 1943, and repeated the performance a year later at "the canal."

**BASEBALL
VICTORY FIELD**
Indianapolis vs. Minneapolis
TONIGHT—8:30 P. M.
TOMORROW—10:30 P. M.
Tonight is Ladies' Night
For information or reservations
Call RL 4488.

Ohio Race Groups To Use Same Track

COLUMBUS, May 11 (U. P.)—Governor Frank J. Lausche has signed a bill to permit the Thistledown plant burned last fall.

down Racing club at Cleveland to use facilities of the North Randall race track this summer.

The bill did not carry an emergency clause and no meet can be held for 90 days. The Thistledown

plant burned last fall.

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