



SPORTING PAGE



HAMMOND DRAFTS NEW BALL SHARKS

By IRVING CHAYKEN.

A double deal that should strengthen the Hammond baseball club for the Chicago city league campaign the coming season, and for the coming short series of practice games with Harry Portz' All Stars, were closed today by Captain and Assistant Manager Bill Howard upon authority given him by President Paul Parduhn.

First baseman Tom Mahoney, formerly with the Evansville club in the Central league, and "Clear" Soliday, a former Western league product who converts around the second sack in grand style, were the men signed to wear Hammond uniforms this season. The negotiation of either would have been considered a lucky deal to a good advantage by Captain Howard, but to sign two stars with reputations in one day is of good fortune, and it now remains to be seen what the newcomers will do.

President Parduhn when interviewed today stated that he believed the last rounds to make the Hammond ball team a star aggregation has been finished and that the team is ready to go without saying.

"Our entire outfield has been renovated as already stated in Tom Tomez, and I want to say," added Parduhn, "that my outfielders are sluggers of the Ty Cobb style. The pitching staff, consisting of Pete Henning and Coach Kovacs of the Hammond high school and formerly of the Virginia State league, are the best that I could possibly get, both men have demonstrated their worth in the big show. All we are waiting for now," stated Parduhn laughingly, "is the opening of the season and then watch 'em go!"

Mahoney, who will probably share the burden with Clarence Thompson, is an Indiana boy having from Winchester, from which club he graduated into the Central league ranks. Mahoney is a left-handed batter and has a good piece of thinking machinery which he works at every stage of the game. Tommy, as he is better known, is exactly 21 years old and weighs 175 pounds, weighing to a trust extent of 175 pounds. Mahoney has an awful whip and is considered the best first sacker around the down state teams.

Soliday, whom the local management has been trying to get for the past two seasons, hails from Knox, the little metropolis in this state, and is at present the city clerk of that fair city. Soliday has been playing the second cushion since Knox was built and is a corker at the keystone position, having played in the New York State league and the Western Association should give the fans a great deal of pepper which will come in handy when the ball comes sailing around.

The Knox boy is a hard hitting type of a second baseman. He is a young man well under 30 who has many years of good baseball left in him, even though he is a politician that will not hamper him in the opinion of Billy Daniels, who discovered the "Clear" from Knox. Last season Soliday enjoyed himself running the ball team at Knox but Parduhn has offered away the thing ever with the result that the man of the splendid habits with a fighting sort of a disposition will be seen in a local uniform.

Without knowing on what date the Chicago city league would open the baseball season The Times carried a story in Tuesday's edition that the local season would open April 12 and at the directors' meeting Wednesday evening. The schedule makers decided on the date mentioned by The Times coop that the Roseland Eclipse club would furnish the opposition on the opening date.

Hammond fans will be interested to know that Harry Portz, who for the past few years has been running all-star baseball teams, will have another in the field this season and according to Portz this year's aggregation of stars should make plenty of trouble for all teams around Chicago.

Portz in his lineup has practically all of the former players, who played in the city league in 1915, and should Haines report to the All Star tribe the roster will be complete. Chuck Sault, the individual who beat the mighty Kowalski in West Hammond by his daring grandstand plays, will be one of the players to travel with the stars, while Eddie Brennan last year with the Hammond City Cubs, will also don the

mask and get in for the back-stopping job.

MEMORIAL DAY SPEEDWAY RACES ARE CALLED OFF

War or no war, there will be no automobile races at the Chicago Speedway Memorial Day. This was the announcement made by David P. Reid, president of the Speedway Park Association, who applied for the Memorial Day date when the management of the Indianapolis Speedway forfeited it by calling off the 1917 international sweepstakes.

"After a trip east and conferences with men in the confidence of government officials, I am convinced the postponement of a race on May 30 would be the worst of imprudence," he said. "Under the existing conditions commercialized sport has no place on the Memorial Day calendar this year and the Chicago Speedway can be used to much better advantage as a stage for patriotic fete or demonstration of some kind."

The management of the "Greenest" Speedway, which also applied for the May 30 date, has taken the same stand. This means that for the first time in automobile racing there will be no classic run on Memorial Day, which for the past seven years has been assigned to Indianapolis by the central board of the American Automobile Association.

Chicago Speedway officials have not despaired of holding the third annual derby on June 3, the date originally granted them, however, and the entry blanks will be printed and sent out next week. They do not think conditions warrant them following the example of the Indianapolis Speedway management, which not only has abandoned its 1917 race, but advertised for side-by-side cars, two Fours and three Fives.

POSTPONE MOVE FOR WOLVERINES' "BIG 9" RETURN

ANN ARBOR, MICH., March 31.—Nothing was done by the board members of the University of Michigan yesterday relative to the proposal that Michigan make application for readmission to the western intercollegiate conference. A great deal of time was taken up in the meeting of the regents in the discussion of military training for the university and other questions which the board regarded as more important. "The conference question was the least important of many matters dealt with," said Robert Victor M. Gore of Benton Harbor.

Coach Staggs Against the Plan to Stop Athletics.

CHICAGO, ILL., March 31.—Director A. A. Staggs does not agree with the Eastern coaches and professors who have expressed their intention of stopping all athletic activities if war is declared. The coach of the University of Chicago feels, on the contrary, that athletic activities are more conducive than anything else to preparation for war.

Coach Staggs expressed himself in an interview yesterday as an enthusiast for preparedness, but not an advocate of promiscuous enlistment at present. He stated that, in line with his conviction that every means ought to be employed now to place the Union in a condition where it is ready for whatever may happen, physical discipline should be emphasized more than ever before, since this is the fundamental factor in preparing for war.

BEN REUBEN IS WINNER OVER MEYERS ON MAT

CHICAGO, March 31.—Ben Reuben, product of Chicago Hebrew institute, qualified to challenge for the middleweight wrestling championship of the world by beating Johnny Meyers in two straight falls at the Haymarket last night. Reuben started the first bout with a rush and pinned Meyers in 4:30 with a combination head and leg lock, taught him by Earl Caddock, heavyweight title contender. Meyers put up a real fight for the second fall, but finally conceded fall and bout after 2:00:00.

DARCY CALLS OFF BOUT WITH CHIP

CLEVELAND, O., March 31.—Leslie Darcy announced yesterday that he will not make his American debut in Cleveland. The Australian has called off his match with George Chip, scheduled for April 19, claiming that the club operated by Matt Hinkel is too small. Darcy announced that he has wired New Orleans promoters, asking that the date of the match with Earl Smith be postponed to May 4, he planned to make a debut in April.

Who Won This Fight?

CHICAGO, March 31.—Clint Flynn

POLARINES CLOSE SEASON TONIGHT

Revenge on Michigan City Will Satisfy Them Till Next Year. (By GUM.)

WHITING, IND., March 31.—Tonight the Polarines will close their strenuous basketball season by endeavoring to take a fall out of Michigan City Y. M. C. A. After losing to the "Y" boys by only four points on their own floor and their referees the Whiting boys feel confident that they can beat their opponents by at least a few points.

Manager Young of the Y. M. C. A. boys writes that they will arrive about 5 p. m. with a number of fans who after seeing the game at home refuse to remain there while their team is battling in the oil town. The Y. M. C. A. lineup will be Young and Loomis, forward; Dithamer, center, with Precious and Grosskopf, guards.

FIGHT DECISIONS

Decisions of fight representatives are: At Fort Wayne—Johnny Coulon fought draw with Frankie Mason (10). At Milwaukee—Johnny McCarthy beat Eddie Moha (10). At Hot Springs—Jack Dillon knocked out Jimmy Barry (3).

JOHNNY COULON BATTLES FRANKIE MASON TO DRAW

FORT WAYNE, IND., March 31.—Frankie Mason of Fort Wayne held Johnny Coulon of Chicago to a draw in ten fast rounds. Coulon was the aggressor during the earlier stages and held a slight lead up to the seventh. From then on Mason gradually shared honors. The local boy carried the milking to Coulon in the ninth and tenth and had the Chicago fighter hanging on repeatedly in these two periods.

Perennial Relative. Billy, six months old, wrote to his aunt the other day, and his mother thought best to read the letter before she mailed it: "Dear Aunt Gertrude: I go to school every day and take my lunch. I am well how are you. School is lots of fun, your undying nephew, Billy."—Kansas City Star.

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