



SPRING 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 Pritz's 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 "Cigar" Soliday, a former Western league product who covets around the second sack in grand style, were the men signed to wear Hammond uniforms this season. The acquisition 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 see what the newcomers will do.

President Pritz, 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 goes without saying.

"Our entire outfield has been renovated as already stated in THE TIMES, and I want to say," added Parduhn, "that my outfielders are shoo-ins for the Ty Cobb style. The pitching staff, consisting of Pete Henning and Coach Keeney of the Hammond high school and formerly of the Virginia State teams, 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 us go."

Mahoney, who will probably share the burden with Clarence Thompson, is an Indiana boy hailing 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 stands 6 feet one inch, 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 Texas product 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 20 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 "Cigar" from Knox. Last season Soliday added himself by running the ball team at Knox, but Parduhn's big offer swayed the thing over with the result that the man of the splendid habits with a fighting sort of disposition will be seen in a local uniform.

Without knowing on what date the Chicago city players would open the baseball season THE TIMES carried a story in Tuesday's edition that the local season would open April the 22nd at the directors' meeting Wednesday evening. The schedule makers decided on the date mentioned by THE TIMES so that the Roseland Eclipse club would furnish the opposition on the opening date.

ALL STARS LINING UP

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

Pritz 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. Church, Nastie, 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 Fins, will also don the

mask and get in for the back-stopping job.

The following players have signified their intentions of joining the All Stars: Nagle, Jr.; M. Thompson, of S. Handy, Jr.; Pollard, Jr.; O'Rourke, 2d; Barman, ss; Tague and Brennan; of Flynn and Morrow, Jr.; Grunwick, Jr. The Stars will start their season on Sunday, April 8, when they face Parduhn's Hammond club in a practice game.

MEMORIAL DAY SPEEDWAY RACES ARE CALLED OFF

War or no war, there will be no automobile race at the Chicago Speedway on Memorial Day. This was the announcement made by David F. 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 conference with men in the confidence of government officials, I am convinced the postponement of a race on May 30 would be the worst of improprieties," 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 acts or demonstration of some kind."

The management of the Cincinnati 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 contract 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 1916 race but advertised for sale 600 cars—two Peugeots and three Premiers.

POSTPONE MOVE FOR WOLVERINES' "BIG 9" RETURN

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 31.—Nothing was done by the board regents 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 at 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.

Coach Stagg
Against the Plan to Stop Athletics.

CHICAGO, Ill., March 31. Director A. A. Stagg 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 Stagg 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.

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out of many matters dealt with" said Regent Victor M. Goss of Benton Harbor.

BEN REUBEN IS WINNER OVER MEYERS ON MAT

CHICAGO, Ill., March 31.—Ben Reuben, product of Chicago Hebrew Institute, qualified to challenge for the midweight 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 4:10 with a combination head and leg lock, taught him by Earl Caddock, heavyweight title contender. Meyers put in a real fight for the second fall, but finally conceded fall and bout after 2:02:00.

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 Mat Hinkel is too small. Darcy announced that he has wired New Orleans promoters, asking that the date of the match with Bill Denly be shifted to May 4. He planned to go to Atlanta in April.

Who Won This Fight?
CHICAGO, March 31.—Clint Flynn

FIGHT DECISIONS

Decisions of fight representatives are:
At Fort Wayne—Johnny Coulon fought draw with Frankie Mason (10).
At Milwaukee—Johnny McCarthy beat Eddie Mohr (10).
At Hot Springs—Jack Dillon knocked out Jimmy Barry (3).
At New York—Patsy Cline beat Leo Johnson (10); Paul Doyle knocked out Luke Salton (4); Young Joe Kirk knocked out Paddy Flannigan (2).

JOHNNY COULON BATTLES FRANKIE MASON TO DRAW

FRONT 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 had a slight lead up to the seventh. From then on Mason gradually shared honors. The local boy carried the fight 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 mother 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 now are you. School is lots of fun, your undying nephew, Billy."—Kansas City Star.

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