Even This Wouldn't Have Helped Him Win—Top-heavy favorite for the Kentucky Derby, OLYMPIA brought grief to the thousands who had wagered on his chances by "running out of gas" in the final couple of furlongs. In this picture OLYMPIA is seen getting a grooming prior to the race. Unusual posture and distorted neck are, of course, due to the camera angle.

SPORTS—& by A SIXBIT CRITIC

"Still the Peerless Jinx" is the way one correspondent comments on a recent column of ours, in which we predicted that **Olympia** might be the best colt in the Kentucky Derby. In the same envelope he—or it might have been she, (the cat)—encloses a form chart of the Deep South classic showing how the noble steed of that name finished a bang-up sixth.

* * *

("Bang-up" in this case means bang-up trying to kiss the sixteenth post, and if you want to know how far that is from the wire, just try to run it some time under your own power.)

* * *

We were rather disappointed at this comment. If we remember correctly we wrote, after calling Olympia, "now just see him bow a tendon" or words to that effect. Heck, there were no less than eight high-strung highly-bred and immensely valuable Thoroughbreds that finished a lot later than Olympia. So what does our correspondent mean by calling us a "Peerless" jinx.

* * *

If we keep up that sort of thing, 'follow Sixbits and he'll show you the soft spots in the asphalt to sleep in" will no longer have the meaning it long has been honored with.

* * *

But enough of horse-racing. Let's turn to baseball, where we find that, as usual, goons are busting out all over who are threatening to break all the hitting, fielding and pitching records ever made since Abner Doubleday got himself immortalized by taking several ancient sports known, variously, by the names of rounders, one-old-cat, and what-have-you, and synthesizing (we hope that's the correct spelling) into something really revolutionary.

* * *

The revolution came when several thousand earnest and ardent believers in world-improvement found out that by playing baseball, and even more by encouraging and paying others to play it under your auspices, you could not only make a soft living without undue toil, but also do something grand and noble for the youth and oldsters of your country.

* * *

You saw, we hope, the account of a speech which Frank Shaugnessy made at a recent baseball banquet in which he said—if not misreported by the press, that "baseball is the greatest moral force we have in America."

* * *

For the moment, after reading it, we were inclined to gag just a little and reach for the baking-soda. (For the exact brand of baking-soda, see the advertising columns.)

* * *

But then we remembered how various ardent hockey apostles have been getting away with similar lawn-spread at banquets and elsewhere, also how much we boys in the press boxes used to get out of watching "Shag's" lower limbs form a perfect "O" every time one knee passed the other, so our nausea spent itself.

* * *

Although we have eked out a fair part of our existence for the past 25 or 30 years by writing on, about and around sport in various ways, we still think that sport—especially the professional variety—is the most over-played thing we have on this side of the Atlantic, and it might go for the other sides as well.

Still, in spite of this decidedly sourish diatribe, we hope it won't stop any of our readers—especially the younger generation—from playing any sort of game they really enjoy. But only so long as they really enjoy it.

* * *

For one of our most cherished memories was one afternoon when the late Lou Marsh and ourself were side by side at a jam-packed stadium watching an important game, the exact nature of which we won't divulge, only it was a Dominion final. Outside the Stadium we could see a bunch of kids, in a nearby open space, having a game of their own.

* * *

"Six," said Marsh, "you go out and tell those kids to come on in and see the big game, and I'll be at the pass-gate to see that they get in." Just as bored as Lou undoubtedly was, we assented to the proposition. "Heck, mister," said the leader of the kids when he presented the invitation, "we're having too much fun right here to go and watch a game that sounds as lousy as that one inside." Lou Marsh laughed his head off when we told him; and we've been laughing over it every time we've thought of it since

WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

GERMANY

On May 5th, the Russian Government made what appeared to be, on the face of it, a really striking gesture in the direction of European peace. It was in the form of an agreement to lift the blockade which, for ten months, had cut off all land and water communication between the Western zones and the German capital, Berlin.

Within just a few days, however, there was increasing doubt as to whether this gesture was a move toward a real settlement, or just another move in the great international game which had come to be known as the "cold war."

These doubts arose out of the fact that, as part of the bargain to lift the blockade, the Big Four Council of Foreign Ministers were to meet in Paris toward the end of May to discuss the entire German question; and there was no doubt that such a meeting would have a huge task to face it.

There was the possibility that, at this meeting, the Russians might launch a new and militant attack aimed at achieving their immediate goal in Germany—the killing of a Western German State. British, American and French diplomats foresaw real danger, in spite of the Russian gesture, they could see no indication that there had been any fundamental change in the conflict between Communism and the West. On the contrary, the Communist victories in China would seem to indicate a stiffening of the conflict in the Far East.

But in spite of all these doubts, the agreement to lift the blockade sounded a note of hope on both sides of the "iron curtain." The most dangerous point of East-West friction was thereby removed; and in Russia, as reported in the Red-controlled radio and press, there was unrestrained joy in the public reaction. The warmth of the Russian response was taken as a sign that the heightening tension over the Berlin blockade had caused internal unrest which the Kremlin boys felt just had to be calmed.

GREAT BRITAIN

After seven lean years the rationing of candy—or "sweets"—came to an end in Britain and the general public, especially the youngsters thereof, started in on a grand orgy. Long queues soon emptied the shelves, and the shopkeepers were faced with such a demand that they had to start a sort of unofficial rationing.

One London schoolboy, reporting, to NEWSWEEK, gave this rather striking account of how things stood.

"At school I was happy to see every boy and girl in the whole darn school stuffing candy into already overstuffed mouths and the teachers telling the class 'Anyone sucking or eating sweets, please spit it out before the class begins.'"

Evidently, from such reports, an elegant time was enjoyed by one and all!

THE UNITED STATES

The United States national wage "pattern" is set in the four major industries in which labor is solidly unionized. This pattern directly affects over three million in other industries.

The four unions, together with their timetables for the year, are as follows:

United Mine Workers whose contracts expire on June 30. Wage negotiations are scheduled to start early in that month.

United Automobile Workers. What happens to the negotiations at Ford's—where the contracts expire on July 15—are expected to show just about how "the cat will jump" at General Motors and other big organizations.

United Steel Workers: Talks on reopening contract begin around June 15, with strike action possible any time after the middle of July.

United Electrical Workers: Whose contracts were due to be opened toward the end of May.

Since the war these unions have won three "rounds" of wage increases—each increase being an effort to bring wages into like with steadily rising costs of living. But this year, things are different. Cost of living has declined. In many lines production has caught up with demand to such an extent that there have been several real layoffs. As a result the unions' "fourth round" discussions have been emphasizing long-range security rather than increased hourly wages.

Labor's position is about this; security for the workers means stable purchasing power, and stable purchasing power is insurance against a depression. Also, says labor, companies can well afford to pay the cost out of their record profits.

Management's position, on the other hand, is something like this; higher costs can only be met with higher price; and at a time of increasing buyer resistance would mean slackening sales, lower production and widespread unemployment.

In face of management's stand against increased labor costs, there has been much speculation as to the mood of the workers. Some think that because of a general feeling of insecurity, the workers will be reluctant to force their demand to the striking point. But on the other hand, others think that insecurity will make the workers even more than ordinarily aggressive. This latter theory seemed to be borne out by what happened at Ford, where a technical grievance under the present contract brought about a strike which shut down the huge Rouge River plant at Dearborn and which, at the time of writing this, was spreading slowly through the entire Ford empire.

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ISSUE 21 — 1949

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