Soccer Football Really Big Business

Statistics from the sparkling 1948 baseball season in the United States reveal that a record total of 20,849,824 fans attended the games of the American and National Leagues. If, for every one of those people, you substitute two, then you will have some idea of the enormous popularity of Association Football in England.

Huge crowds are attending the week-by-week fixtures of clubs engaged in the championship of the English League. Attendances before World War II were 750,000; they soared to 1,000,000 on the resumption of league soccer in 1946; and since then the graph line has shown a non-stop upward trend. On a recent rainy Saturday afternoon the officials count was 1,171,732. This topped the previous best, 1,164,014, established at the beginning of the new season last August.

The English soccer season lasts for approximately 36 weeks, and so, by a simple calculation, it will be seen that the seasonal aggregate for 1948-1949 is likely to be nearly 40,000,000, or just about twice that of the United States baseball rally. For those who would like to go into the comparison a little more deeply, it should be explained that in the English soccer leagues there are, in the four divisions, 88 teams which each contest 42 engagements, while in baseball there are 154 games.

Following a recent decision by the National Arbitration, to which the delegates of the Players' Union took their case after disagreement over wages with the Football League Committee, the professionals in the English clubs now receive a minimum weekly wage of £7 ($28) when working at top pressure during the season and £5 in the summer. The maximum was advanced to £12 in the season and £10 in the summer. These financial limitations apply equally to the national cup tournaments, with the exception that a club may pay men an extra £2 each for taking part in a third round match and subsequently increasing amounts to £12 for a final. The total maximum is £24.

* * *

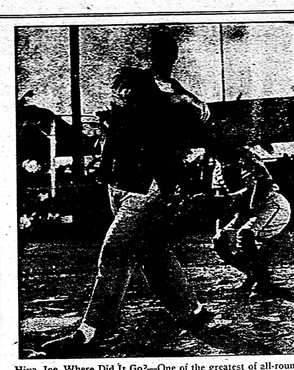
The reason for this relatively insignificant remuneration for the chief performers in a game show is that it is considered to be in the best interests of what is essentially a team game. Those in control say there is no such player as a "match winner." Unsupported, no player, however skillful, could win a match, and, as a rule, a great deal of any star's luster is derived from the cooperation of teammates on the field of play. Also, insist the soccer authorities, it is only a wage limitation which makes possible the maintenance of professional soccer clubs all over the country. If clubs were allowed to pay what they could, the game would obviously become an affair only for big clubs in populous areas.

Against this the players retort that the team is an intricate mechanism, and that if the machine is to be geared to high-power efficiency then the constituent parts required must be appropriately paid for. The players are also aware of the substantial profits the big clubs are making—despite entertainment tax —and although they know that in many cases these profits are plowed back into the game, they feel they should have a say into which field the plowing should be done.

The present code of rules were framed in the days before soccer became big business, and a major cause of discontent among the players is that although a club can receive as much as £20,000 as a transfer fee for a professional, the player himself has no say in what happens to this money and can still continue to draw only his basic salary of £12 a week.

Under the existing rules, once a player signs on the dotted line the club, if it so wishes, can tie down that player for the rest of his career. When the yearly agreement ends, the club may offer him terms for another year's service, in which case he is not able to sign and play for another club in the rest of Britain or in any other of the 60 countries affiliated with the Federation International de Football Association. A player can refuse to sign — in which case he receives no wages — or he can request a transfer. The club may grant or refuse the request as it wishes. The players want to introduce an agreement whereby they are free to join any club they choose any time after their agreement ends.

The league management's reply to this is that if players are free to come and go as they wish, there can be no effective team building. If at the end of the season the professionals are allowed to go to the club making the biggest offer, then obviously the wealthiest would have the best and the championship would automatically go to them. No small club would have a chance of building a side and winning prizes. Unable to do this, they would gradually fall from favor and ultimately be compelled to withdraw from the league to the disadvantage of the players. There is no real bad feeling between the players and officials, most of whom have the interests of the game at heart, and there is a real desire to face up to the problems wrought by modern times.



Hiya, Joe, Where Did It Go?—One of the greatest of all-round, all-time ball players, Joe DiMaggio—after his customery post-season trip to the hospital—unlimers his potent batting swing during a benefit game for a Children's Home. The scene is Florida, and from this angle there doesn't seem to be anything wrong with that swing, although Di Mag appears in no hurry to start heading for first.

WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Bloch

GREAT BRITAIN

Although it never attained anything like the popularity of its predecessor of twenty years before, "Tipperary", one of the most widely sung ditties during the early part of World War Two was "Lili Marlene".

It is now almost forgotten. But memories of that song were revived by a recent anecdote regarding Winston Churchill.

Not long ago the great British War Leader had a vacation at Monte Carlo. One evening, while dining at the Hotel de Paris, he asked the orchestra leader to play "Lili Marlene".

The orchestra obliged. But next day Churchill issued new instructions. "Please never play that song again while I'm present—I made my dream all night of Rommel."

Rommel—El Alamein—and all the rest of it—how long ago it seems!

FRANCE

Although most of the French people fear—and with good reason —the idea of a revived Germany, with the possibility of further German aggression and perhaps another war, there are thinking people in the frat-named country who are coming to take a different view of the matter.

These people believe that the further weakening of German industry and the dismantling of the great Ruhr Valley industrial system will be a real mistake. In their opinion the only way to make another Franco-German war impossible is to develop such strong bonds between those two, and other Western European nations, that another European conflict would be as unthinkable as one between—for example—France and Britain, or Britain and the United States.

This is the view taken in an article appearing in one of the greatest and most authoritative of French newspapers—Le Monde, Paris—and to onlookers in other countries it same as something of a shock. But to many of the more far-seeing among the French it represents a little noticed, but highly significant, change in public thinking in their country. And to the Germans it appears as a glimpse of reason at a time when the dismantling of their great industrial system seemed to nothing but vindictive revenge on the part of the victors in the last World War.

The article in the Paris paper appeared late in November. It took on greater significance when the French Foreign Minister—Robert Schuman—gave out a semi-official statement just before leaving for a two-day conference in London with his British "opposite number" Foreign Minister Bevin. Schuman said that hatred and vengeance had been removed from French policy toward Germany with a speed that would have been impossible following World War One.

To many thoughtful observers—especially in Britain—Schuman's statement came as a real gleam of sunshine on a cloudy and troubled sky. They have been, as one reporter puts it, "for many weeks searching for some sort of basic formula that would bring Germany and Western Europe together." For years, the Foreign Ministers—Robert Schuman—gave out a semi-official statement just before leaving for a two-day conference in London with his British "opposite number" For-

SOUTH AMERICA

Latin America has long been known as a land of many revolutions. But recent happenings down that way make one wonder whether the latest of these represent just the keeping up of an old South American custom, or if, in those parts, there is a concerted movement against democracy and the democratic form of Government.

Last October a military revolt overthrew the popularly elected Government of Peru. In November a swift-moving group of army officials quietly but efficiently snatched the reins of Government from the elected President of Venezuela, Romulo Gallegos. During December a military clique in El Salvador tossed President Salvador Castro out on his ear, while exiled Costa Ricans staged an armed invasion of their homeland.

In Chile the government managed to break up a revolution before it was well stirred, and the President of Bolivia has been having his own troubles with plotters and schemers. And in other countries there were rumors of trouble.

To a casual looker on it almost resembles the old situation of the Irishman who—observing a brawl going on—politely inquired, "Is this a private fight or can anybody get into it?" But it may be far more important than that. In most South American countries, the masses are terribly unhappy, and with good reason. Why they should be so can be seen from the situation in Venezuela, where LESS THAN THREE PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE OWN NOBODY KNOWS HOW MANY PER CENT OF THE LAND.

Trouble—really serious trouble—seems to be a-making south of the equator. And the rulers—the exploiters of the masses—seem to be trying, through their military power, to squelch that trouble before it goes too far.

ROLL YOUR OWN BETTER CIGARETTES WITH DAILY MAIL CIGARETTE TOBACCO

SPORTS &c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

Good baseball umpires are theoretically absolutely fair and unbiased in their decisions. Actually, they aren't, but lean just a trifle to the visiting club. As one veteran ball-and-strike caller—we think it was Tim Hurse—used to put it, "Yeez can do stuff in the gray that yeez can't get away with in the white."

By that he meant—as we have most likely explained before—that umpires tend to be a bit more strict with the white-uniformed home team players, and to take less easy and backtalk from them, than they do with the grey clad visiting team.

The reason for this is obvious, even though most umpires will strenuously deny that they do do anything of the sort. A home town players who argues with the umps, or shows signs of disgust at some of the arbiter's decisions, is far more likely to stir up trouble among the fans than a visitor. So, the home-towner often gets chucked out of the game for things which would get by with one of the opposition.

* * *

Continuing our unasked-for, and no doubt unwanted advice to the professional hockey folk, we would advise that the President—or whoever it is that's the real boss of the National Hockey League—should instruct the referees not to be so lenient about putting a player's cue in the-rack for the balance of the game, or even for several games, when he's guilty of actions designed to set a boil on the feelings of some of the morons who seem to attend hockey in such numbers these days.

* * *

Throwing, coins, and, torn, up pieces of paper is bad enough, but when it comes to bottles, sooner or later somebody is going to get hurt, and very badly. Yet practically all such rubbarbs get their start with some home-town players, giving the folks the idea that the referee is giving the local club all the worst of it.

* * *

A case in point—as the lawyers put it—is a recent game at which Ray Getliffe was making his first Toronto appearance as a whistle-tooter. Most of those we talked to afterwards—that is to say those whose opinions on hockey we rate worth listening to—agreed that Mr. Getliffe, although still somewhat green, had turned in a pretty fair chore.

* * *

Yet from the sounds and actions of a lot of Maple Leaf supporters, a casual visitor might very well have thought that Ray, was a direct, although slightly illegitimate-descendent of Jesse James and a whole line of bandits reaching right back to Attila the Hun, whoever he may have been.

* * *

Why did such a thing happen? Principally, perhaps almost wholly because certain Maple Leaf athletes were trying to cover up their inept—to give it as kindly a description as possible—play, by making the referee look bad. And the dumb fans —mentally dumb, that is—fell for it and fell for it hard in a manner which was a disgrace to a town where folks are supposed to know something about the game.

* * *

So, in addition to the suggestion made at the start of this piece, we have another couple to make. One is that the Maple Leafs should have, in their dressing room, a phonograph continually playing nothing but that once-popular ditty entitled, "It Isn't What You Used to Be, But What You Are Today."

* * *

The other—that the Toronto papers should be ordered to cease and desist from running any more pictures showing Conn Smyth, with a beneficient look on his face, basking in that nice Florida sunshine. If they'd print pictures showing Mr. Smythe's face showing the expression it's liable to be wearing when he comes north, and starts telling the boys exactly what alls them, it would be far more liable to secure the desired results.

* * *

For what's been happening to our beloved Maple Leafs must stop, and the sooner the better. Not already we know of several of their most ardent radio supporters who are forced to nerve themselves with three or four stiff shots of soda pop before they even dare to tune in of a Saturday night, and hear the Voice of Hockey tell of the dire things that are happening down around the corner of Church and Carlton Sts.

* * *

In conclusion we would just like to quote a few remarks regarding the game of hockey as played today, and the athletes who play it.

"They have no guts and they don't know how to skate—How can a player expect to play hockey when he strangles himself by skating bent over like a pretzel—He isn't any good for more than two or three minutes unless you attach a spare skate to the seat of his pants—In my days we used to kick'em because we liked to. For the players today it's only plain hard work—and hard cash."

* * *

Now the gentleman who made those remarks is not any Johnny-come-lately or even a disgruntled sports writer. His name is Eddie Shore, who—if he isn't Old Man Hockey" in person—comes close to being that mythical being. Mr. Shore played hockey as well as—or possibly better than—any man before or since his time. When Mr. Shore opens his mouth and gives his views on hockey, his words are worthy of consideration. So, maybe some of the rest of us haven't been so far astray after all.

* * *

A New York fortune-teller employs white mice to hold horoscope envelopes out of a box.

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Buried Cities

The Balkans correspondent, Kenneth Mathews, spoke recently about the turn of British archaeologists in Turkey, who, with the help of Turkish scholars, are trying to excavate a buried Greek city of the ninth century before Christ. Mathews observed: "This will be the first British Dig in Turkey since the British Archaeological Institute was founded in Ankara last winter with the blessings of the Turkish Government." Sir Leonard Woolley, the world famous discoverer of buried cities, is also looking for some of the tombs of the Hittite Kings. These expeditions are a sign of growing friendship between Britain and Turkey, because Turkey has been suspicious of British archaeologists. Lawrence of Arabia proved that scholars can turn into soldiers.

"The great Kemal, the father of modern Turkey," said Mathews, "gave his countrymen some directions about this type of research. 'Dig', he said, 'and learn to dig from those who know how.' He bequeathed part of his private fortune to archaeology and to day Turkey has some notable scholars in the field. The Turks already have fifteen thousand historical monuments to be dug out of the ground. We are waiting to be dug out of the ground the Greek, the Roman, the Byzantine and the Ottoman Turkish; but the most fashionable, if one may use such a word about these vanished peoples, is the Hittite... In case, like me, you have to ask who the Hittites were, they were the masters of the great plateau of Anatolia for a thousand years before the Greeks at Troy. The Turks are now preparing in Ankara a museum which will be unique. No other in the world will so completely display the sweep of the Hittite civilisation. The museum has ten domes and ceilings, and is covered gallery. It's an awe-inspiring place now, in the cathedral-like gloom under the lowest dome, to look up a great-way of an ancient Hittite city guarded by two carved lions. Inside the lower walls are lined with huge sculptured slabs of basalt and limestone; there seems nothing which is not grandiose about them. Then as you bend your eyes on the details, you dimly see the whole monstrous procession of stiffly standing Kings pouring libations; the gods with forked lightning in their hands, the bulls, the griffins and the sphinx.

There are fourteen archaeological teams digging in Turkey this year; each will hope to make some discovery, putting all earlier discoveries in the shade. Turkey is eminently possible in Turkey where several buried cities are known to exist which have not yet been found.

A Real Giant

One of the best-known giants in modern medical history was Robert Waldor of Alton, Illinois, who died in 1940 after reaching the amazing height of eight feet ten inches. His overactive pituitary was first observed by a doctor when Robert's father brought him to the hospital to find out why the boy was growing so fast.

Although he weighed only nine pounds at birth, he weighed 28 at the time he was seven months old. At a year and a half he weighed 62. At nine, he had reached a height of six feet one inch, and weighed 178.

At 18, when he entered college, Robert Wadlow was eight feet tall and still growing. Although his muscular development was beginning to slow down, Hitler's his appetite had been normal, but now it began to increase so rapidly that he had to have 8,000 calories a day, compared to the normal intake of 2,500 to 3,000.

It is easier to swim in Niagara Falls than to promote the Brotherhood of Man by inciting class hatred.

CHEER UP FOLKS, ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM THAT WAY

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!

The SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. R. Barclay Warren

Jesus Faces Opposition

Golden Text:—Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.—Romans 12:21.

Anyone who takes a leading part in public life is always the object of severe criticism. Of course leaders make mistakes which vexatious critics. But Jesus was exceptional. He never erred, yet he was intensely hated and envied and ultimately crucified.

Jesus pronounced forgiveness of sins upon the man sick of the palsy. This they termed blasphemy, for "who can forgive sins but God only?" But Jesus demonstrated that he was God by immediately healing the man. The man who had come carried by four, walked out carrying his bed.

Then they found fault because Jesus ate with publicans and sinners. He erred socially. He replied by asserting, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

The third criticism recorded in the lesson was that concerning the Sabbath. The man with the withered hand in the synagogue was probably "planted" by the Pharisees. They watched. He asked the man to stand forth, and inquired, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" They did not answer. He healed the man. Jesus was not seeking his own pleasure on the Sabbath, but was rather ministering to the needy.

Criticism did not make Jesus veer from His course, though He knew it would lead to the Cross. He continued to forgive sins, befriend the outcasts of society that he might lift them from sin and shame to happiness, and to do good on the Sabbaths.

When we are censured it is well that we examine ourselves. One has said, "My critics are the unpaid guardians of my soul." We may learn some valuable lessons from our critics. But if we are following closely the example of Jesus, let us keep on despite the unkind words that may be spoken of us. Let us "overcome evil with good".

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Be Prepared

A short time ago David Western, whose father is a London Transport fitter, went to Buckingham Palace to receive the Albert Medal for Gallantry. When David and his parents had been in the palace they told listeners to the BBC's "In Town Tonight" programme what it felt like to visit the King in his own home. "It all seems unreal now," said Mr. Western. "When we got to the Palace we were met by two ushers who took David away into another room. My wife and I were shown into a Grand Hall, and it took our breath away, I can tell you. It must be about two hundred yards long and it's covered with a red carpet. The ceiling is inlaid with gold, and there are beautiful oil paintings on the walls, and marble columns down the Hall. Then we started to breathe very noisily—like something being rattled around in a tin can. By that time I had begun to hope and—to cut a long story short—my hope was justified. Mary and I did receive but for the rest of the day he couldn't walk properly, didn't eat and couldn't raise his left leg to scratch his ear. He breathed noisily all day and was so scared all he wanted was to get out of the palace. He could not allow—you know how an animal will crawl away to a dark corner if it is sick or injured and you don't know whether it is alive or dead. So I kept Mark in the house but it meant a run to Washington Post all day—taking Mark down the cellar and bringing up the pup; then after an hour or two taking the pup down the cellar and bringing up Mark. The cat, naturally, had to be kept away from the pup until he was able to look after himself.

And what did I do to the pup? Nothing at all. It seemed had more than she had any other time —I think it was just that the cat, being asleep, was taken off guard. I believe the pup must have grabbed him near the end of his spine and he dropped like a log to the floor.

Believe me, we are certainly glad Mark recovered. Apart from the fact that he is a splendid pet, he is also more than worth his keep. No mouse is ever likely to become a grandmother while Mark is around —he is as quick as a flash.

* * *

Our next adventure was on Saturday. After dinner I was all set to go down town with an order of eggs and butter when Bob came in. "You certainly can't drive downtown yourself," he said, "Better get ready and I'll run you down in the big truck. That'll be the safest thing on the road today." I had no time to think about what Bob and I looked outside. Oh my — freezing rain and slippery as glass underfoot! I was glad enough to go in the big truck. And even that did a bit of slithering around on the road.

Later that afternoon my sister phoned — would it be all right if she came out for the weekend? "Sure it's all right." I said. And then added—"but the roads are terribly icy." She was so surprised. "But there is nothing but slush in Toronto," she exclaimed. A little later the phone rang again. Sister had missed the train. "But there is a train going to Georgetown in twenty minutes, could you meet me there?" she asked.

* * *

"We certainly couldn't — not on these roads," I answered. "You had better come out in the morning." So she did, and got a taxi from the station. On the way here the taxi-driver told her a bit about the awful driving conditions the night before. "I was very glad he did because I chicken out of it." I thought. "Poor Kitty, to think I saved you when you were sick and then you saved you die like this." However, I kept on rubbing—and Mark kept twitching. And then he opened his eyes!

Then he started to breathe very noisily—like something being rattled around in a tin can. By that time I had begun to hope and—to cut a long story short—my hope was justified. Mark did recover but for the rest of the day he couldn't walk properly, didn't eat and couldn't raise his left leg to scratch his ear. He breathed noisily all day and was so scared all he wanted was to get out of the palace. He could not allow—you know how an animal will crawl away to a dark corner if it is sick or injured and you don't know whether it is alive or dead. So I kept Mark in the house but it meant a run to Washington Post all day—taking Mark down the cellar and bringing up the pup; then after an hour or two taking the pup down the cellar and bringing up Mark. The cat, naturally, had to be kept away from the pup until he was able to look after himself.

And what did I do to the pup? Nothing at all. It seemed had more than she had any other time —I think it was just that the cat, being asleep, was taken off guard. I believe the pup must have grabbed him near the end of his spine and he dropped like a log to the floor.

Believe me, we are certainly glad Mark recovered. Apart from the fact that he is a splendid pet, he is also more than worth his keep. No mouse is ever likely to become a grandmother while Mark is around —he is as quick as a flash.

* * *

Our next adventure was on Saturday. After dinner I was all set to go down town with an order of eggs and butter when Bob came in. "You certainly can't drive downtown yourself," he said, "better get ready and I'll run you down in the big truck. That'll be the safest thing on the road today." I had no time to think about what Bob and I looked outside. Oh my — freezing rain and slippery as glass underfoot! I was glad enough to go in

HOW TO FIX IT

By Tom Gregory

Honey and Hank

By Seeg

Hen House Buddies.—Robbie Alden, 4, left, and Joseph Fergul, 4, find out for themselves how it goes with this white leghorn hen being cooped up in a metal hen house all day long. The boys were visiting a poultry exhibition and decided to try the chicken house accommodations for size.

THE CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM

by Gwendoline P. Clarke

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