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MONUMENTS

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In the World of Sport

BASEBALL BRIEFS

Joe Rodriguez, the young Cuban first sacker who will be sent by New York to Rochester this year for further seasoning, is one of the most sensational fielders John McGraw has had on his club in many a day. The little Cuban is remarkably agile and saved the other recruit fielders from many wild throws by his phenomenal catches and pick-ups. Rodriguez's hitting is not on a par with his fielding, but all his hits are clean and sharp, as he takes a nice cut at the ball. Joe was with New "Attaboy" and "Come on kid!" at his team-mates. He will be a great drawing card on the International League circuit.

Military training for baseball players is one of the best things ever designed to help out in the spring training, according to Charles A. Comiskey, owner of the Chicago Americans. The players, he said, enjoyed it, and the drill and discipline will be of benefit to them in their playing.

Fielder Jones, manager of the St. Louis Americans, will not use George Sliker as a pitcher this season unless his staff becomes demoralized. Jones said he considers Sliker already is the greatest first baseman in the league, and fears that alternate work in the box and on the base might ruin his arm.

Billy Cristall, the Toronto south-paw pitcher, will be with the Alton club of the Three I League this season.

Frank Navin, of Detroit, is all out of luck this spring. Any day of the present week could have been picked by the schedule-makers for his opening. And they hit on what appears to be the only one on which it would be possible to draw the 25,884 record crowd. Having handed him that, the weather man at once resumed serving out the iceberg brand.

"Rube" Schaner, Giant twirler, carries the private-life name of Dimitri Ivannovitch Dimitrihoff. Schaner doesn't do that justice. Why not Cloudburst?

"The best ball club in the world," is the way James C. Dunn, owner of the Cleveland Americans, refers to his players this season. The club, he says, is 30 per cent. stronger than in 1916. "Cleveland will be a strong contender for the championship from the start," Dunn said. "I am tickled to death with the whole combination. We have a fine set of players and great harmony combined. Morton is apparently as good as ever, and everybody feels that Joe Wood is due for a come-back. Chapman is a different ball player from what he was a year ago. He looks like the Chapman of 1915."

George Davis, shortstop of the Chicago Americans in the days of its pennant-winning fame, probably will become coach of the St. Louis team of the American League. Manager Jones has made the veteran an offer, and hopes he will accept. Jones and Davis formed an unbeatable combination of brain power in the pennant drive of the Chicago club in 1906. Jones, as manager, used Davis as his first lieutenant. Davis now is coaching at Amherst College.

George Moriarty, appearing as an umpire in the opening contest at Detroit, had the distinction of officiating on the very first day, on which a game was played subsequent to his appointment and of working in the only championship contest on record in which three umpires took part. They have four in the world series. Moriarty in this game did the work of two of them, roaming the outfield to give decisions on balls hit into the crowd.

The Brooklyn Nationals have released Pitcher Edward Appleton to Baltimore.

Oscar Vitt may rejoin the Detroit Tigers this week. Hughie Jennings is beginning to realize that the absence of his star third baseman would prove a blow.

International Baseball League critics are already conceding second division berths to the Montreal Royals and Toronto Leafs. Lajoie's team looks fair, but that of Sammy Lichtenhein would probably have difficulty, as now constituted, in winning the Montreal City League club.

The Providence Grays have purchased Shortstop Jimmy Cooney from the Worcester Club.

IN QUEEN'S BATTERY

Several Prominent Athletes Have Been Signed Up For Overseas.

The Ottawa Citizen has the following: Another well-known Ottawa athlete has joined the colors. He is Wren Birkett, a son of Thomas Birkett, Jr., and a popular star at hockey, baseball and other sports. Wren has signed up to go with the 72nd (Queen's Battery), which is being recruited in Ottawa and elsewhere, by Sergeant Roy Anderson. Gunner Birkett goes to Kingston shortly to take his training course. When played football with the Ashbury College and Collegiate Institute teams, and showed promising form at both games, as he proved a great runner and readily adapted himself to the difficulties of both games. Many Ottawa friends of the young soldier athlete will wish him every success overseas and a safe return.

Sergeant Ernie Lynch, who was looking after recruiting for the 72nd Battery, has been transferred to the Ammunition Column, under Lieut. Shaughnessy, so Sergeant Anderson has succeeded him at the local base in gathering men for the Queen's Battery. The 72nd will go into camp about May 15th and will probably go overseas a month or so afterwards.

Many well-known Ottawa athletes in the 72nd among them being James Grimes, Bertie Burke, Joe Tubman and Ivan Royt. Some of the boys are already in England, while others are training at Kingston.

FINE CHINESE PLAYER

Seattle Will Have Yellow Chap at Shortfield.

When Bill Leard jaunted over to the Hawaiian Islands and signed a Chinese ball player to a Seattle contract the wise ones tittered and declared that Vernon Ayau would last about as long in baseball as a five-cent plug in the United States navy. But it seems as if the scrappy Seattle manager made a ten-strike when he grabbed the Honolulu sensation to play shortstop this season. Riley Allen, editor of a Honolulu newspaper for several years, has watched the progress of the Chinese star with interest. In a letter Allen says Ayau will prove a sensation.

JOIN RED CROSS

President Navin and Detroit Players Contribute to Fund.

The members of the Detroit American league baseball club have all become members of the Red Cross organization. President Navin and Manager Jennings yesterday made substantial contributions to the society, after which the list was swelled by contributions from every player. It was also announced that the Detroit team will continue its military training and will give exhibitions in each of the baseball parks where it will play this season.

SEPPALA'S WOLFHOOUNDS WIN

All-Alaska Race Third Straight Year.

Leonard Seppala, driving a team of Siberian Wolfhounds, won the All-Alaska sweepstakes dog race for a purse of \$2,500. Time 113 hours. Victor Anderson was second. There were four starters. The race was over a course of 412 miles, from Nome to Candie and return. The start was made April 9th. Seppala's winning team also won the races of 1915 and 1916.

Dick McGee Convalescent.

Word has been received that Capt. W. K. (Dick) McGee, of Ottawa, who went overseas with the 77th Battalion and who was wounded in one of the big battles a few months ago, is progressing favorably. Capt. McGee, who was awarded the military cross for conspicuous bravery in leading his men against the Germans on the Western front, has been recuperating in London. Many Kingston friends will be glad to know that the popular footballer and oarsman is again in good health.

Pitcher "Pie" Way and Infielder "Runt" Walsh have jumped the Rochester team, refusing to sign their contracts. Walsh is coaching a Baltimore semi-professional team. Wilbert Robinson, of the Dodgers, frankly admits that his team is handicapped in the catching department. He has Miller, Meyers and young Wheat, but the club will miss McCarthy greatly.

SPORTING NOTES.

Carl Morris and Jim Coffey have been matched to fight a ten-round bout at New York on April 23rd. Twinner will afterwards negotiate for a bout with Jess Willard.

The Irish-American Athletic Club has sent a resolution to President Wilson endorsing his declaration of war. They have suspended operations until peace is declared.

Optional rowing will continue at Yale with Coach Nickalls in charge. He will drill a big squad daily. The intercollegiate races are off, but Yale will keep the men in trim.

They're still playing hockey in New York. Last Friday night the St. Nick's ladies' team played the Brooklyn girls at the Brooklyn ice palace.

Jack Johnson is one prominent citizen of Uncle Sam who has not yet offered to go to the front as a private.

The Newark Indians are having trouble in securing Firstbaseman Joe Agler and Infielder Eldred. Other clubs are blocking the deals.

Gusto, the Indians' new firstbaseman, has been doing some great fielding this spring, but his batting has not been on a par with his defence.

Rochester have sold infielder Babbington, the Brown University star, to Manager George Wilete, of the Reading State League club.

Homer Baker Injured.

Homer Baker, American half-mile champion of 1913 and 1914, and also a winner of the English half-mile title, was severely injured by stepping between the cars of a subway train and the Brooklyn Bridge platform last week, and in all probability will never be able to compete again.

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Darcy Barred in Louisiana. The boxing bout that was scheduled for April 23rd between Les Darcy and Jeff Smith. The cancellation by the Governor is the result of his receipt of numerous appeals for cancellation from Louisiana Auditorium at New Orleans, ordering the cancellation of state.

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