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When Prim Harry won at Havre de Grace Saturday and paid \$295.80 on a \$2 ticket, it was the highest price ever paid on a winning horse in Maryland.

The Boston Red Sox pitchers, Yankee catchers and infield and the Detroit outfield would make quite a ball club, good enough for any league. What?

BRINGING UP FATHER



In The World Of Sport

Baseball Briefs

SHOCKER HAS AN UP CURVE.
One of Few Pitchers With a Shot That is an Enigma.

Pitching is the most highly developed art in baseball. Perhaps those in the stands see nothing but a strong arm and a sharp breaking curve. Back of the curve, the slow ball and the knuckle ball there are all the brains and cunning, the generalship and quick thinking of the game.

Occasionally, it is true there comes some man so endowed physically that for a season or two his speed and curves make him unhittable. But the pitcher who stands among the winners has more than that. He has some shoot that is an enigma.

That is just what Urban Shocker, two seasons ago with Toronto, has; a puzzler that causes the baseball men to wonder what it is. Shocker's curve is looked upon as an "up curve," if there is such a thing.

Talking of Shocker, Fielder Jones said that the youngster had in his box of tricks a bit of legerdemain that was going to cause lots of trouble in the American League this season. It's the box wizards with the funny shoots who have made the game's greatest pitchers, said the "Original Miracle Man."

At Oriskany the only man with the exception of Shocker, who might be said to have an "up curve," used slippery elm, which he applied to the fingers and, throwing underhand, used the ball to jump upward. They used to say that Oriskany was a "curveless wonder," but he had a shoot that was as effective as a curve, said Jones.

Elmer Stricklett, discovered the overhand to cause the sharp down break. Ed Walsh, who perfected it, used slippery elm and other substances. He was the greatest of the spitball pitchers. He was to baseball what John L. Sullivan was to the prize ring.

Clark Griffith used to knock the dirt from his spikes by striking the ball against his shins. Not many know it, but Griffith in the old days was a member of the St. Louis Browns. Griff would strike the ball sharply against his spikes and cut two small abrasions in the hide, grip his fingers in them and pitch his famous slow ball. He learned the trick from Charlie Radbourn, one of the greatest of them all.

One day while trying to wing the ball Griffith discovered by accident that on some diamonds the grit from his heel adhering to the ball made the sphere act strangely in the air. He was pitching a "sail ball" as long ago as 1896. Yet there was considerable talk about this very ball last year. It is nothing new, as I have shown you.

Bert Briggs, a great pitcher, now dead, used emery powder, which he carried in his hip pocket, and his "sail ball" took the most extraordinary "hops," some of which fooled his catchers.

The custom of sewing bits of sandpaper inside the pitching glove, or wearing them inside the shirt and, of having the first baseman or catcher use the emery or sandpaper are old tricks that crop up every now and then.

In the old days when the pitchers were permitted to rub the ball in the dirt these things were easy. At some parks there was a spot to one side of the pitcher's box where the home pitchers rubbed the ball—and came up with it "scuffed" and winged until no matter how thrown it would jump or ride the air.

WILLARD IS DUBIOUS
"Looks as Though I Won't Get a Chance to Fight Fulton."

Jess Willard, heavyweight champion, is skeptical regarding his proposed little bout with Fred Fulton, the Minnesota heavyweight. On his return to Chicago, Willard said:

"The difficulty encountered by Col. Miller in arranging for the bout at Minneapolis makes it look as though I won't get a chance to fight Fulton after all."

A permit to stage the fight will be granted or refused after a joint hearing by the Minnesota Public Safety and Boxing Commissions, at St. Paul on May 4th.

Evers Not For Skeeters.
Johnny Evers, the poppery Trojan and storm centre among the latter-day ball players, is likely, after many years' absence, to return to the Chicago Cubs, according to authoritative information. Evers has been offered a chance by Fred Mitchell to rejoin his old club, and there he is most likely to land.

If the Trojan goes to Chicago, and there is little doubt he will, it may mean the release of Otto Knebe, who is now acting as coach for Mitchell. Evers is not likely to accept the management of Jersey City, or any other minor league club.

Warning To Amateur Players.
The view of the increasing interest in amateur baseball and its thorough organization throughout the province, it is important for players to remember that by the rules of the governing bodies disqualification from recognized amateur competition will be the decision against a player who goes through what is known as the "trying-out process" with a professional team. The regulation has been in effect for some time, but its reputation is timely with the opening of every season in order that players who desire to remain amateurs may not forfeit their qualifications.

ATHLETES GOING TO FRANCE

Stars of Track and Diamond Will Coach U. S. Soldiers.

Not only are American soldiers in France encouraged to engage in athletic sports, but it has become known that they may perform these sports correctly and proficiently. One hundred and thirty men, each a recognized star in some line of physical endeavor, are at this time preparing to join the boys over there.

Under supervision of Dr. George J. Fisher, director of the Y. M. C. A. War Draft Council, the men, all above draft age, have been selected.

Included in the list are found such names as Dave Fultz, Brown's great baseball player and at one time a member of the New York Americans. Brown also contributes Archie Hahn, for several years athletic coach at Providence and former University of Michigan star.

William H. Robertson, known as the Old Sparrow, and America's one-time greatest long distance runner, has also contributed his services and long experience.

Yale is represented by Frank Quinby, former baseball coach. Bowden contributes its coach, Jack McGee, and Platt Adams, jumper of renown, closes a prosperous business to help over there.

John J. Deigan, leading athlete of the A. A. U.; Tom Kelly, of the Irish-American A. C.; Fred Jack-fitch, former catcher for the Boston and other National League clubs, are only a few of the men prominent in the world of sport who will devote their time and energy to the welfare of the boys in France.

GOAL CLUBS IN U.S. GO RIGHT AHEAD

The Cessation of Operations on Account of War Held Wrong Policy.

Ottawa Citizen: Davie Black, president of the Professional Golfers' Association of Canada, and professional to the Rivermont Golf Club, is back in the capital after spending the winter in Southern California, where he was instructor to the members of the Riverside Golf Club.

Black states that all the big American clubs are going ahead with their usual plans, despite the war and the fact that many of their best players have been called to service. Tournaments are being held for championships and patriotic purposes and the game is booming as enthusiastically as ever. Black discussed the situation with some of the best-known American golfers and they appeared to share the opinion that it would be a big mistake to call off their operations on account of the war.

Canadian Baseball League.
Hamilton Spectator: The question as to whether the Canadian league is to be or not to be will be answered this week when Tom Nelson and Knotty Lee finish their missionary work in Niagara Falls and Lockport. Prospects of a team in St. Catharines do not look any too bright, as there are no suitable grounds in that city. The only diamond available is owned by the city and when the park was taken over it was on the understanding that it would be for amateur sport only.

George A. Hesley, advertising manager of the Niagara Falls Gazette and a former Hamilton player, thinks that professional ball would prove popular in the Falls with the proper men behind it and he will make a few suggestions to Lee. Just what the suggestion is, he will not be known until Nelson and Lee look the ground over, but it is likely that if Niagara Falls takes the proposition, Lockport will fall in line. If St. Catharines cannot see its way clear to enter a team, there is a chance that it will come in, as there are many Americans living there and it is figured that twilight games would prove popular.

No Canadian League.
"Knotty" Lee has abandoned the idea of trying to re-organize the Canadian League. He says that Niagara Falls and Lockport, the New York State towns, are not prepared to enter a league this season, and the project has therefore been abandoned. The war situation and the lack of Sunday ball in the Empire State are also contributory factors to the decision not to attempt to operate, Lee says.

"St. Catharines is ready for baseball and so are London, Hamilton and Brantford, and I was in favor of operating a four-club circuit, but could not get the co-operation of some of the other magnates," said Lee.

"The territory in Ontario is very promising, and next season there is almost certain to be an International League with four cities in this province and four in the old Michigan State League."

Soccer Survives War Stress.
The Montreal Herald says: Baseball in Montreal has been fattened to the general outline of a pan-cake; lacrosse has been ground almost into dust; Rugby football has been nearly wiped off the map; horse-racing is gone from among us—and yet a thousand athletes play soccer in this city every Saturday, if the figures of the P.Q.F.A.'s propaganda department are to be accepted.

This looks very much like an answer to the ever-recurring question of what's going to be Canada's big game after the war. The fact that soccer can give the number of men it has done to the greater game, and still leave enough enthusiasts behind to form twelve leagues of eighty-five teams in one district alone is highly significant of the changes which are being wrought in Canadian sports. Soccer is a coming game—if not the coming game.

Cincinnati critics are loud in their praise of the playing of "Lena" Blackburne, the former Leaf, at short-stop.

Sam Crawford has made a fine start with the Los Angeles Club of the Pacific Coast League. His fielding, throwing and batting were features in the first game that he worked.

Benny Meyer, the former Leaf outfielder, is playing with the Waco club of the Texas League.



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By GEORGE McMANUS,