

SPORTING

NEWS

LATEST LOCAL

GENERAL REVIEWS

TIMELY COMMENTS

NEW PLAY-OFF PLAN SUGGESTED

ould Give Pace Setters One or Two Goal Lead To Start.

By M. J. Rodden.

careful study of the play-off conditions that exist at present in the seasonal hockey leagues and in the amateur league must of necessity lead to the belief that the methods of deciding the championships are unfair, but to find a way of the difficulty presents another problem equally as hard to eliminate in the older days a team finished first won the championship, and was regarded as winner, but under the conditions now govern at present finishing first the regular schedule of games means nothing much except wasted energy and lost energy.

In 1924, for instance, the Ottawa team finished first place in the National League, and the Canadiens were second, yet in the play-off series the Canadiens, whose rush in the part of the season featured the team, won the title. Last winter Hamilton were first, St. Patrick's of Toronto second and Canadiens third. Hamilton defaulted, and then Canadiens proceeded to beat St. Patrick's and win the title again. This winter Montreal were second and the Ottawa machine first, but Montreal won the honors.

Not Unusual.

The same thing occurred in the Western Canada League this year, when Victoria, third in the regular season, eliminated Edmonton and Saskatoon in the final games.

Therefore, the fact that Edmonton and Ottawa finished first in the league carries little glory and reward. But the rank and file of the fans who attend the games all always be convinced that there is something wrong with a system that treats pace-setters so unfairly. Throughout the National League this season the Ottawa players remained on the top rung and in so doing sapped much of their strength. Unlike this conquerors of Saturday, the Ottawa machine lacked strong reserve strength, and weakened the regulars by using them too much— a condition that could not be eliminated. It must be admitted, however, that the Montreal team, even not so consistent as the flashy Senators, rose to great heights when opposing Ottawa. As a result, they old Ottawa to the games on four occasions, and broke even in the other contests, each winning two.

Fair Enough.

Now comes the suggestion that the team finishing first should receive a reward, and the best way to do this appears to be to concede the pace-setters a one or two-goal lead to start the final series. This would force all the teams to strive with all their power to finish in first place, and would hardly detract from the interest in the final games.

Amateur teams appear to run better to form in the play-off games than do the professionals, but the fact must not be overlooked that the professionals generally face a longer and more trying schedule. However, in the O.H.A. race this year Galt finished first and then lost to second placers, London, in the play-off series. Galt's strenuous efforts to do the leading throughout the race undoubtedly weakened some of the players, and London stepped in fresher and won the group championship.

Buried On Thursday.

Quebec, Que., March 31.—Georges Vezeina, veteran goalkeeper of the Canadian professional hockey team of Montreal, who died at his home in Chicoutimi Saturday morning, will be buried in the Chicoutimi cemetery, Thursday morning. Hundreds of friends and sympathizers already having passed in front of his bier at his home as a last tribute to the great player.

RICHARD SIGNS UP TUNNEY FOR A BOUT

But Will Not Negotiate With Dempsey Just Yet.

New York, March 31.—Promoter Tex Rickard announced he had signed Gene Tunney to a blanket contract under which the former American lightweight champion agrees to box any opponent Rickard may select for him during the 1926 outdoor season.

Although Rickard made no explanatory comment, observers accepted his action as the first official move in his announced intention of bringing Tunney and Jack Dempsey together this summer in a heavyweight championship battle. The Yankee Stadium in New York City is expected to be the scene of the proposed match as a result of the failure of the New Jersey State Legislature to pass a bill increasing the top price of admission for boxing contests to \$50.

The New York promoter now is expected to make an immediate attempt to close with Dempsey. If he fails to complete this match critics here look for a bout between Tunney and Harry Wills, Dempsey's negro challenger, who has been accepted by the New York State Athletic Commission as to outstanding contender for the heavyweight crown.

Rickard said that he would enter into no contract with Dempsey until after Aug. 3rd, when the champion's contract with his manager, Jack Kearns, expires.

MORE REAL BASEBALL AND LESS HITTING THIS SEASON.

New York, March 31.—Critics at the major league training camps forecast one radical change in the game this year as a result of defensive measures to curb the long hopes of the "jack-rabbit" ball.

From their observations of comparative pitching performances they have found no indications that the robin ball has increased the effectiveness of National League pitchers over hurlers in the American League, which voted against the return of the "foreign substance."

They do assert, however, that the epidemic of long hitting unquestionably has been checked by deadening the ball. Emphasis on old methods of attack—hitting behind the runner, use of the sacrifice, and base stealing—is predicted on the basis of offensive measures already used in training camp contests.

"We have been using scientific methods more than in the last five or six years," says John McGraw, veteran pilot of the New York Giants. "The new baseball is acting deader than the league baseball of the last seven years. This means that we will introduce a lot of the old stuff—more place hitting and bunting and hitting through the gaps.

"The ball we have been using does not shoot through the infield any more. The old 'jack-rabbit' is gone. Now we will see some real baseball."

WANTS A CHANCE.

Delaney Thinks He could Defeat Jack Dempsey.

Springfield, Mass., March 31.—The Springfield Union says that Jack Delaney, rated the uncrowned light-heavyweight champion, now spending a few days with his parents in Holyoke, near here, is eager to box Jack Dempsey on any terms for the world's heavyweight title.

"I really believe I would have an excellent chance against Dempsey," the Canadian boxer is quoted as saying. "I know I can outbox the champion, and I am confident I can hit as hard as he can. He would have a weight-advantage of about 20 pounds on me, but I expect to build up to about 183 pounds within a year, and at that weight we could box on practically even terms."

Delaney declared he is positive he can beat Paul Berlenbach, and that so far as a Dempsey match is concerned "everything is up to Pete Reilly, my manager."

For three years the Boston Braves have annually beaten the Washington club. This year it looked as if the Senators would win the last game until the Braves pulled a six-run rally. The Washington players are superstitious enough to regard the double defeat as a good omen, since they have won two pennants on such a bad start.

Joe Bush looks for a big year. He says the large outfield space at Washington and the tight defence of the club will give him should help him 20 per cent.

Instead of "Muddy" Ruel doing practically all of Washington's catching, present plans call for Tate and Severid to get a fair share of work.

MAROONS WIN 3-0.

The Montreal Maroons defeated the Victoria Cougars 3-0 last night at Montreal in the first game of the Stanley Cup series. This game was played under Eastern rules.

MARBERRY SHOULD HAVE BIG SEASON

The Washington Senators' Saviour is Getting Into His Old Form.

BY HILLY EVANS.

Tampa, Fla., March 31.—"If that fellow had been right we would never have lost the 1925 world series. On his condition depends much of our pennant chances for this year."

President Clark Griffith of the Washington club was doing the talking as he pointed his finger in the direction of Pitcher Fred Marberry.

"How soft it would have been for him to have stopped the Pirates in the last few innings of the final game at Pittsburgh.

"It is impossible to compute how valuable a fellow is who can pinch-hit like that guy."

Having umpired many of the remarkable pitching feats that Marberry has turned in as a relief hurler, I could appreciate the opinion of the Washington owner.

Realizing what Marberry means to the Senators, I watched him closely for about 10 minutes as he warmed up to pitch a few innings against the Boston Braves. He seemed to be pitching natural and showed me a good fast ball. But his 1925 debut was far from auspicious.

At the close of last season his fast ball would have scarcely broken a pane of glass, yet as he warmed up he looked like the Marberry of old.

Sent to the pitching mound to work for a few innings against Boston, he at once changed his style of ease to a rather cramped delivery. His fast ball was just ordinary. He managed to get by one inning but at the next session he was pasted for six runs and the ball game.

Marberry had previously told me that his arm felt perfectly all right. Trainer Mike Martin, in explaining the failure of Marberry to show any stuff, said it was due to the fear he has of reinjuring the arm. He doesn't seem to be able to realize that there is nothing wrong, so instead of pitching free, he uses a cramped style that keeps him from getting anything on the ball.

"It is just like learning all over again for Marberry and he won't strike his stride until he gets enough confidence in his recovery to cut loose."

Unquestionably no club in the American League needs a pitcher of the Marberry type more than the Senators, for the Washington club's veteran staff is prone to wobble late in the game.

Pitchers like Johnson, Reuther, Coveleskie and Bush often find the nine-inning route a trifle too long. A pitcher like Marberry, able to hold in practically every day and step in a one-run lead for a couple of innings, is just about the ball club. Last season he saved 15 or 20 such ball games.

Marberry says his arm is O.K., but time alone will tell the story. It's too early to make a definite prediction as to the ultimate recovery of the injured arm.

Would Break From The Quebec Amateur League

Montreal, March 31.—The Montreal Gazette in its sporting column says:

"A move is under way in amateur hockey circles in the province to establish an association, independent of the Quebec Amateur Hockey Association, to govern the Mount Royal League officers held Saturday the question of the St. Francois Xavier club and its difficulties, which finally resulted in its being barred from competition in the Allan Cup series as representatives of this province, led to the discussion concerning the advisability of forming a new association.

St. Francois Again.

"The St. Francois Xavier team is the champion team of the Mount Royal Intermediate Hockey League here and beat Sons of Ireland, senior provincial title-holders, for the right to enter the Allan Cup play-downs. They forfeited their rights in the eliminations when they refused to play the Ottawa Gunners in a sudden-death game at the Capital.

"The matter of the new association, which may be organized by bringing to life the old Eastern Canada Hockey Association, which suspended operations some years ago, will be further discussed at the annual meeting of the Mount Royal League to be held shortly.

"It is stated that 22 clubs have agreed to join such an association, many of them being from points outside Montreal. Sponsors of the proposed new association are of the opinion that teams in this province have little connection with those outside, and that there is no particular benefit to them in belonging to the Quebec Amateur Hockey Association."

Three of Mack's Discards on Braves' Infield



Manager Dave Bancroft of the Boston Braves can thank Connie Mack, pilot of the Athletics, for most of his present infield.

Outside of Bancroft, who favors at short, Burrus, first baseman; Gautreau, second, and Riconda at

third, were all dug up by the elongated Cornelius of American League fame.

Burrus and Gautreau were two of the bright spots on the Bancroft entourage last season. Riconda is expected to prove a valuable addition this year.

HITS AND JABS

By Joe Williams.

People who always have spring fever may be just naturally lazy in the summer, fall and winter.

On one of the Florida courses monkeys and alligators roam at large. . . . This is done to make the old-time nineteenth-hole golfer feel at home.

The school of hard knocks may be all right in a way but don't do too much studying with your chin.

Ty Cobb writes he used to put lead in his shoes to make him light-footed. . . . But you never hear of a ball player putting feathers in his noodle to make him light-headed.

Stanley Harris confesses he is using the McGraw system in running the Washington club. . . . And who is his Cozy Dolan?

There are always two sides to every baseball question. . . . The right side and the expert's.

HELPFUL GOLF HINTS

BY WALTER HAGEN.

Many amateurs make a practice swing before hitting the ball, but few, if any, of the pros do it. The practice swing is, of course, made in the way of preparation. One has certain things that he intends to do and to rehearse the swing beforehand. It is not a bad idea for the beginner, but I don't think it helps the star player a great deal.

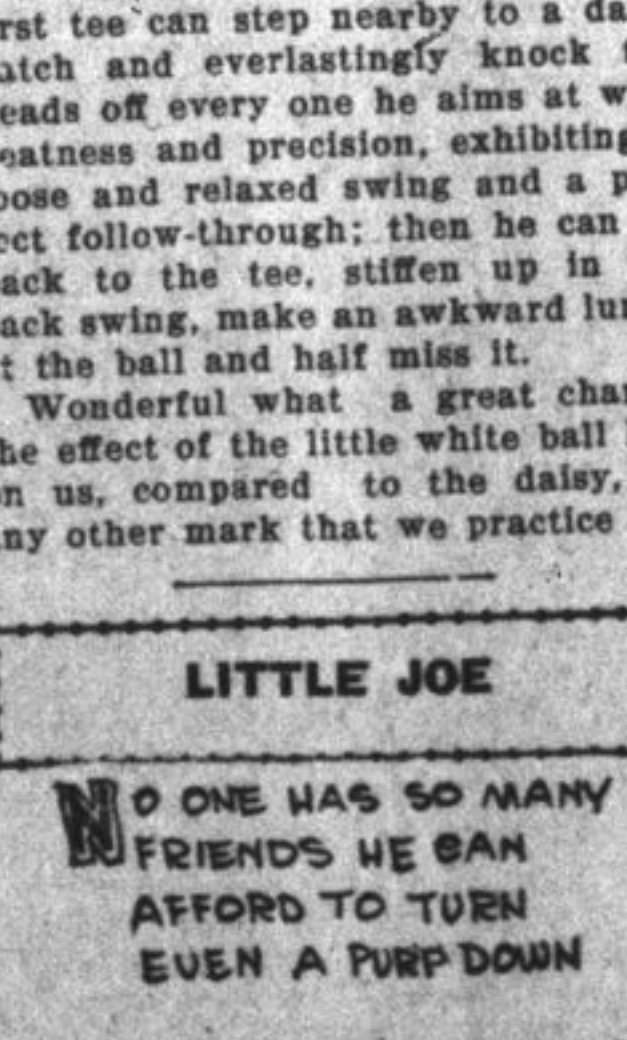
Then there is the daisy clipper. Hitting at an ancient custom, probably invented at the same time or shortly after the golf club. If, indeed, there were any daisies at that time to grace the golf course.

Many a golfer before leaving the first tee can step nearby to a daisy patch and everlastingly knock the heads off every one he aims at with neatness and precision, exhibiting a loose and relaxed swing and a perfect follow-through; then he can go back to the tee, stiffen up in his back swing, make an awkward lunge at the ball and half miss it.

Wonderful what a great change the effect of the little white ball has on us, compared to the daisy, or any other mark that we practice on.

LITTLE JOE

NO ONE HAS SO MANY FRIENDS HE CAN AFFORD TO TURN EVEN A PURP DOWN



Johnny Tobin, secured from St. Louis in the trade that brought Joe Bush, is slated to start in right field for Washington. The outfield will be Goslin, Rice and Tobin, with McNeely, Archdeacon and Joe Harris in reserve.

SPECIAL!

Just unloaded a carload 1x10 No. 1 Hemlock; 10' to 16', heavy to 12' long. Extra nice stock. Get your requirements now.

ALLAN LUMBER CO.
Victoria Street, near Union. Phone 1042

BRUNSWICK

Announces the world's greatest advance in Record Making—the new Light Ray Electrical Records.

SONGS—POPULAR and STANDARD

3004—I Never Knew. The Merry-makers
10 in. Keep on Croonin a Tune
3010—What Do We Care If It's One O'clock
Why Don't You Say So Frank Munn
3054—Wimmin' Anah.
The Wind Blew Through His Whiskers Ed. Smalle
3061—Moon Deer.
Just a Cottage Small The Blackstone Trio
3062—Sally's Not The Same Old Sally.
Yodelin' Bill (Tenor and Yodler with Piano)—
— Al. Bernard, Frank Kamplain and Sam Stept.
3065—Down by the Winegar Wok.
I Wish I Was in Peoria Ed. Smalle

TREADGOLD SPORTING GOODS CO.
88 Princess Street. Phone 529.
"The Place To Get That Record"

FRONTENAC BOWLING & RECREATION ACADEMY

COME, BOWL AND FORGET

"THE CONSTANT ROUND OF LITTLE IRRITATING CONCERNS"

CITY LEAGUE BOWLING THURSDAY NIGHT, APRIL 1st.
WATCH FOR PRIZES NEXT WEEK.

Special provision for Ladies. 11 of the finest Alleys in Canada.
Book Alleys at 'Phone 290 or 780. P. J. MORAN, Mgr.

You'll Need a Topcoat for Easter Wear

Maybe it's a nice slip-on model like the one illustrated you have in mind. Or perhaps you prefer one with raglan shoulders. But whatever the style you are set on come in and see our big range.

There are Coverts, Whipcords, Tweeds, in the cleanest cut models you ever saw.

Beautiful shades and pattern effects; wonderful tailoring and we guarantee to fit you perfectly.

\$20 to \$35

COME IN TO-DAY AND MAKE YOUR SELECTION.
"YOU'LL LIKE OUR CLOTHES"

TWEDDELL'S

RELIABLE CLOTHES FOR MEN AND YOUNG MEN
SEE OUR WINDOW DISPLAY!
131 Princess Street. One door below the Randolph Hotel.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS

FOR ALL KIDNEY DISEASES
RHEUMATISM
BRIGHT'S DISEASE
DIABETES
GRAVEL
GOUT
NEURALGIA
MIGRAINE
HEADACHE
INDIGESTION
CONSTIPATION
URIC ACID
OBST THE PAIN

House Wiring and Repairing

All Kinds of Electric Apparatus

Satisfaction guaranteed. Best work at reasonable prices.
"THE DOWNTOWN ELECTRIC STORE"

HALLIDAY ELECTRIC CO.
Corner King and Princess Streets. Phone 91.