

FRANCO-YANKO RALLY ROUTS HUN TWIRLERS

I roofed for him from the bleachers... "A power of defense critics called him— And he held the 'varsity line."

He now leads his soldiers to battle. This athletic school-mate of mine— "He's one of our best," says the chief of The Franco-American line.

THE SPORTING PAGE GOES OUT

This is the last Sporting Page THE STARS AND STRIPES will print until an Allied victory brings back peace.

The reasons for the decision to discontinue an ancient institution are almost as numerically great as Allied shells crashing into German lines.

They are at least sufficiently thick to pulverize or blot out any objections that might be offered by those who have yet failed to see the light.

This paper realizes the great aid sport has given in the past in developing physical stamina and enduring morale among thousands of those now making up the nation's Army.

It recognizes the value of such training for the future. It was sport that first taught our men to play the game, to play it out, to play it hard.

But sport as a spectacle, sport as an entertainment for the sidelines, has passed on and out. Its glamor in a competitive way has faded.

THE STARS AND STRIPES appreciates in full sport's abiding value and the countless thousands of well trained men it has sent into the line.

There are tennis and golf champions, football players galore, track stars without number, boxers and ball players who have traded the easy glory they knew at home for the hard, unglorified grind of the S.O.S.

Neither is there space, entertainment or policy in attempting to handle the scores of hundreds of ball games played all over France.

What, then, is left, in the main, for a sporting page printed in France within hearing of the guns? Such headlines as these— "Star Players Dive for Shipyards or Farm to Escape 'Work or Fight' Order."

There is but one Big League today for this paper to cover—and that league winds its way among the S.O.S. stations scattered throughout France and ends at the western front.

When it finally came to a point where any number of able-bodied men were rushing into various occupations at the point of the boot, when the Secretary of War was forced to produce a ruling that would make hundreds of these men "work or fight" as the squabble and scurry grew day after day.

There is no space left for the Cobbs, the Ruths, the Johnsons, the Willards and the Fultons in the ease and safety of home when the Ryans, the Smiths, the Larsens, the Bernsteins and others are charging machine guns and plugging along through shrapnel or grinding out 12-hour details 200 miles in the rear.

Back home the sight of a high fly drifting into the late sun may still have its thrill for a few. But over here the all absorbing factors are shrapnel, high explosives, machine gun bullets, trench digging, stable cleaning, nursing, training back of the lines and other endless details throughout France from the base ports to beyond the Marne.

Sport among the troops must go on—for that is part of the job. Sport among the youngsters back home must go on—for that, too, is part of the training job.

But the glorified, the commercialized, the spectacular sport of the past has been burnt out by gun fire. The sole slogan left is "Beat Germany." Anything that pertains to that slogan counts. The rest doesn't.

KHAKI OR OVERALLS FOR BALL PLAYERS

Secretary of War Can See But One Big League—in France

OLD GAME REALLY DOOMED

Only Few Men Left to Clubs by Late Ruling With Small Chance to Continue Race

AMERICA, July 25.—The Secretary of War's ruling that baseball is a non-essential occupation has caused the magnates without number, though weather prognostications had been decidedly bad for a long while.

The magnates either trusted to luck or couldn't find good umpires. They are now sick abed or wiggling feebly for the funeral to proceed.

Secretary Baker gave out no half-way decision. He went on to say that ball players are men of unusual physical ability, dexterity and alertness.

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Cleveland First to Answer

The ruling fell with the crash of a 10-inch shell among players and magnates alike. President Ban Johnson immediately telegraphed all American league club owners to know whether they would abide by the Secretary's decision.

A brief glance at the few players unaffected by the order shows what havoc will be wrought by the ruling.

Eastern League Through

The Eastern League will suspend next week, and the Southern has already suspended, so there is some talk of gathering left-overs from disbanded minor leagues and making a stab at continuation of the game.

Practically ever star will be whipped—Cobb, Sister, Johnson, Collins, Speaker, Ruth and others who have gained fame in past years will be lifted from the diamond by the new ruling and sent to khaki or overalls.

"How much is a pennig?" "Somewhere around a sou."

"And how much is a mark?" "There's only one mark—the Kaiser."

WORLD'S STAR BATSMAN A TEN PER CENT PLAYER

Unhonored and unused, the greatest natural batsman that the big leagues ever saw is now living somewhere in obscurity.

Probably not 100 persons in the United States even know that he was the greatest hitter because his career in the big show was short and his ability to flatten the pill was considered by the fans as more or less sporadic.

Bill Kay is his name. His present whereabouts cannot be divulged to the breathless reader because the writer doesn't happen to know.

The crown of the world's greatest hitter was bestowed upon Bill Kay by the late Adlie Joss, one of the best pitchers that ever lived.

All alike to Kay

Joss's fast ball was a thing of beauty in those days. It sneaked up on the batter and was past him before he knew it was coming.

Then Adlie tried the curve. And it was a curve, too; not one of those round-house affairs thrown over the thumb but a real quick-breaking hook.

So he tried the spitter, the knuckle ball, the slow one, the change of pace, the fade-away and a few other things he knew how to throw, but seldom used, because the curve and the fast one usually sufficed.

The results obtained through use of the slow ball were particularly disappointing. Somebody who had played with

Bill Kay in the minors told Joss confidentially that Bill couldn't hit a floater.

"He'll break his back swinging on a slow one, Adlie," said this tipster.

"Well," said Joss, in describing the resulting experience, "instead of breaking his back on my slow one, he hit one so hard that it nearly broke Bill Bradley's leg. I thought that it might have been an accident, so I tried another. This time he didn't hurt anything—unless some pedestrian in the street might have been in the line of flight."

But for all this talent in hitting, Kay couldn't stick in the league. As a fielder he was hopeless and on the bases a clog. Every time a fly went out to his territory, the men on the bench prayed that he wouldn't get it on top of the head.

This was before the day of tin helmets. If he got a base hit, it took a long run to put him around. His throwing was nothing to brag of either.

So the Washington manager came to the conclusion that Bill would lose more games by his defensive and base-running shortcomings than he would gain by his batting and fielding.

There he stayed, a million-dollar player and a 10 per cent ball player.

THE CUBS defeated the PHILLIES in a 21-inning game on Thursday of last week by a 2 to 1 count. Tyler and Watson were the opposing twirlers.

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WILLARD THE MOST UNPOPULAR CHAMP

Heavyweight Title Holder Exact Opposite of John Lawrence Sullivan

John Lawrence Sullivan, the big Boston Howitzer, was far and away the most popular champion boxing has ever known.

Naming the most unpopular champion the game has ever drawn is just as easy. His name is Jess Willard, and Willard has smashed his way into being more unpopular than Sullivan was the other way.

It is not the fact alone that Willard has boxed only ten rounds since he stopped Jack Johnson over three years ago.

Willard has made no effort to contribute his services except on rare occasions where he was practically dragged into action for some short interval at some public exhibition.

Willard's case is not forgotten through the war. It will be still less forgotten when the war is over. His hide may be thick, but it is fairly sure to be punctured when the day of reckoning arrives.

WITH THE MITT WIELDERS Johnny Summers, well known English welterweight, is recovering from a wound received several months ago in Germany.

Joe Borrell, well known Philadelphia boxer, has reached France with the American Forces.

Jack Monroe, veteran Canadian boxer, who was wounded in the war and is now a recruiting officer back home, celebrated his 41st birthday last month.

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BIG BOXERS CLASH TO RAISE WAR FUND

They Almost Split Madison Square Garden in Various Bouts

George Ashe and Billy Miske hammered each other for fair.

Camp Zachary Taylor sent up a middleweight wonder in Sergeant Ross, who went in against Augie Ratner.

There is a rumor that Jack Dempsey and Fred Fulton will at last get together this month, but the fans refuse to be come excited and want to be shown.

Is there any AMERICAN BARBER SHOP in Paris? Yes, there is a very good one with American reclining Barber Chairs

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