

FRANCO-YANKO RALLY ROUTS HUN TWIRLERS

I rooted for him from the bleachers
When he was a school-mate of mine—
"A power on the field," 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. It was sport that brought out the value of team play, of long, hard training and the knack of thinking quickly at a vital point of the contest.

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. Its leading stars are either in the iron harness of war—or forgotten—until Germany is beaten.

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. But these men have given up the glory of the sporting page boost and the old action snapshot. They are not to be mentioned today because their job has taken on another hue.

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. or the bloody heritage of the western front. And their fame here belongs with the mass, not with individual mention.

Neither is there space, entertainment or policy in attempting to handle the scores of hundreds of ball games played all over France. A 40-page paper would not make a beginning. And those left out would remember the offense longer than those included would remember the space allotted them.

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"—"Cobb is Thinking of Enlisting This Fall"—"Fulton and Dempsey Haggle Over 'Purse'"—"Willard Refuses to Fight"—and so on through a countless list that doesn't make any too heroic an appeal to those grinding away upon the job back of the lines or to those living and dying in the mud and dirt of the front three thousand miles away from home.

THE STARS AND STRIPES is printed for the A.E.F., not to help perpetuate the renown of able-bodied stars, who, with unusual qualifications for war or useful work, elected to hear only the "Business as Usual" slogan above their country's call for help in the greatest war she has ever known.

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. Any work that is part of the Big Job, either in the lines or back of it, from Château-Thierry to San Francisco, is of utmost value. But "entertaining the people back home" isn't part of the Big Job, nor do we believe the bulk of them want to be entertained in any such way.

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, this paper felt that it no longer had space left for such activities—not with so many events of far greater interest taking place within sight and hearing of its working staff.

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. And that is why this is the last sporting page THE STARS AND STRIPES will print until an Allied victory brings back peace.

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 all past records by being more unpopular than Sullivan was the other way.

It is not the fact alone that Willard has boxed only ten rounds since he stepped Jack Johnson over three years ago. That part of it hasn't helped him. But the main cause of his growing unpopularity is the attitude he has adopted since America entered the greatest of all wars.

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 exhibition. When he might easily have been an immense help, even out of uniform, he has stayed so far on the outside that a trained observer with a pair of high powered field glasses couldn't find him.

Peru might be at war with Liberia for all the interest the heavyweight champion has shown.

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.

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Is there any AMERICAN BARBER SHOP in Paris?

Yes, there is a very good one with American reclining Barber Chairs

WITH THE MITT WIELDERS

Johnny Summers, well known English welterweight, is recovering from a wound received several months ago in Picardy.

Eddie Cantor, well known California boxer, died from wounds received when he accidentally shot himself on a hunting trip recently.

A. J. Hedding, father of the Wisconsin boxing bill, has decided to drive a truck during his two months of vacation this summer in order to help out in the shortage of drivers back home.

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

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, July 25.—Madison Square Garden was nearly split apart by fighters this week in behalf of the War Department's training camp activities fund.

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. This bout was a corker. Ross sent Ratner through the ropes and Ratner in turn knocked Ross galley west and crooked.

There is a rumor that Jack Dempsey and Fred Fulton will at last get together this month, but the fans refuse to become excited and want to be shown. They will have to see the two men in the ring before they believe it.

But Nelson celebrated his 36th birthday on June 6. He was born in Denmark, but he arrived in the States with his parents when still a young lad.

Benny Leonard's real name is Benny Lerner. This was discovered recently when Benny spent \$20 to telephone to his mother from San Francisco.

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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

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, July 25.—The Secretary of War's ruling that baseball is a non-essential occupation has caused the magnates without number, though whether prognostications had been decidedly bad for a long while.

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

The Edlie in the census, the Washington catcher is the census bell who brought down the rain.

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, just the type needed to help in the game of war at home or abroad.

The very plain point that people at home could very well do without a recreation that depended for its existence upon a class or type badly needed for the greater game of winning the war.

Cleveland First to Answer

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

The president of Dan of Cleveland was the first to announce that he would, but others failed to respond with Owner Dunn's alacrity.

President Tener issued a call for a National league meeting to take up the matter, but whatever the magnates may think about it, there seems to be no way out except to cash the parks for the duration of hostilities.

A brief glance at the few players unaffected by the order shows what havoc will be wrought by the ruling. The Chicago Nationals, after complying with the order, will have only four players left; the St. Louis Americans will have only three; the St. Louis Nationals four; Washington Americans, four; Detroit Americans, six; Philadelphia Nationals, two; Pittsburgh, four; and so it goes through both big leagues. All the others are liable to drift or must go to work.

"Work or fight" doesn't mean getting two-base hits or catching fly balls between the hours of four and six.

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. But there is no enthusiasm over this project, and it would be almost impossible to maintain interest or to develop any pennant race worth while.

The sum of substance of the whole matter is that whenever the magnates may try to do baseball looks to be doomed until Germany is whipped.

Practically ever star will be taken—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 pennant?" "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.

Only the pitchers that worked against him knew that he was the one and original John III, Sultan of Swat.

There is no use trying to guess this talented ballplayer's name because it will not be suggested to you in a month. You will think of Cobb and Lajoie and Ed Delahanty and old Sam Thompson and Pop Anson and the original Buck Freeman and a thousand others doubtless. Our hero is none of these celebrities.

Bill Kay is his name. His present whereabouts cannot be divulged to the breathless reader because the writer doesn't happen to know. At last accounts he was knocking all the boards off fences in the New York State league.

Crown Bestowed by Adlie Joss

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. The one of the smartest. There were very few in Joss' day that had so many different kinds of stuff as he had, and none that knew better how to use it. He was one of the half-dozen or so super-pitchers developed since the present rules and the present hurling distance have been in effect.

Adlie handed the title to Kay after a thorough and prolonged test, and not on impulse. Bill was playing with the Washington club at the time, and the Cleveland slug noticed that he was banging everything on the nose. Naturally, a pitcher likes to have a fellow that appears to be in the league on a run-check taking liberties with his best stuff, so Joss went to work scientifically to find Kay's weakness. He never succeeded.

All through one series he kept pitching different kinds of foolers to Kay so that he would be used in different spots. Bill stood up and whacked them all back so hard that the Cleveland outfielders lost flesh, and even Elmer Flick, who eventually ate himself out of the league while still in his prime so far as age was concerned, began to lag on his way to the dining room.

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.

The best hitters in the league, fellows like Cobb and Crawford, didn't care for that curve at all. Joss broke them outside and inside over the middle high and low for Kay, and still he couldn't get a good one past the terrible Washington.

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

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 ball, 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 anybody—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