

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

It is a difficult matter to summarize the games played Monday and Tuesday between the Maine Central Institute nine and the Nationals. The one fact that sticks right out is that our boys were twice defeated—once by 11 to 6 and again by 7 to 6.

On the first day, the Nationals did little batting and much miffing, especially in the eighth inning, when, they being a run ahead, the game was lost by the visitors' heavy hitting and a sickening series of disgraceful errors.

For seven innings, Christie had pitched an excellent game, but in that disastrous eighth he had hard luck, and though he braced again in the ninth it was too late to do any good. Whitenet's support of him was simply magnificent. Bell and Milligan played perfect ball and White made but one bad break. Robinson led the nine at the bat, though Whitenet's three-bagger, which brought three men home in the second inning, was the most effective of all the stick-work.

I did not see Tuesday's game. The score shows that Robinson won it—for the visitors—sending four men to first on balls in the first inning. The balls that Robinson pitched in every first inning, at least, are a terror to gods and men. It might steady him if Whitenet should get under the bat.

The above is the orthodox remedy that I heard suggested Tuesday night. There is a better one yet. I usually speak my mind, even if the ceiling falls, and I propose to do so on this occasion. I say, give Robinson the bounce!

Like every other member and friend of the C. and A. club, I have given Robinson more than a fair chance, but the time has come when justice to the other players and the public must be regarded first. When a man arrives at such a pass that he doesn't care whether his nine wins or not; when he is tonguey, insolent, overbearing, insubordinate and obey orders only when they give him a chance to display himself; in short, when he is looking out for No. 1 and caring not a rap for his club—it is time for him to go.

In return for the concessions made Robinson and the kindnesses shown him, he is pursuing a course of conduct that is demoralizing the nine. It is impossible for any man to play ball if, when he goes on the field, he knows there are ten chances to one that the pitcher will throw away the game. Therefore, turn him out!

Give Christie a back-stop in whom he will have perfect confidence and he will pitch all around Robinson, every day in the year. If another pitcher is wanted, the woods are full of 'em.

Anyway, let us have no more of this fooling. The patrons of the game are sick of it, and the continued prosperity of the game in St. John depends on its being put an end to.

The Bowdoin being unable to play the Nationals here, July 2, it is quite probable that our nine will go to Halifax and play the Socials. Brace up, boys, and win the game, for the credit of the town.

The Atlantis visit us Monday, July 2, and play the Shamrocks on the Barracks. It will be the first game of the season for the latter and I wish them luck. The Atlantis are good men though and our boys will have to do some great work. Take our advice and get in lots of practice. We want two games to St. John's credit that day—one here and another in Halifax.

Let me make a suggestion. The races are booked for the afternoon of the 2nd; why not have the ball game in the morning and take in the races in the afternoon? There are lots of people who want to see both. Try and accommodate them.

Judging from all I hear, a man who wished to safely umpire a game for the Royals of Fairville ought to stand off a mile and view the field through a telescope.

I don't think I ever saw a larger or more enthusiastic crowd on the Barrack square than that which attended the Thistle-Clipper game Wednesday. A good game was expected and nobody went away disappointed. The Thistles found it hard work to get on to Connolly's curves, but when McGlinchey struck her out for a home run all the rest of the team seemed to find out how it was done.

Connolly is a good man, but in my opinion he is too light to pitch nine innings, especially when he has to deal with a team like the Thistles. Kearns, on the other hand, seemed to do his best work towards the last of the game.

Murphy of the Thistles is a great base runner. He is daring and generally gets there. He can go half way from second to third while the pitcher is getting ready to deliver the ball and Connolly does not waste much time in this particular. Lowe of the Thistles is a good man, but his playing, Wednesday, was anything but good.

It was not until late in the game that he had any success in holding the ball on second. Patterson of the Thistles was always reliable on second and made only one error during the game.

Both teams had good first basemen and every ball that came anyway near was held. The Thistles have a jewel in P. Mills. He is a reliable man all round. Behind the bat he scoops everything and only had one passed ball yesterday. McCullough is also a good catcher. He watches the ball and base runner well and is a sure throw to second. He did a bad thing Wednesday when he threw the ball to first while such a base runner as Murphy was on third.

Considerable money changed hands when the game ended. I heard of one man who won about \$100, which he had up in various ways, and know of others who had large bets up. It was a very uncertain game to have money on, though.

The Thistles are now the leaders, although the Clippers have played only three games. These two clubs are undoubtedly the best in the league, although the Lansdownes are now a rattling team. I do not see why they ever put O'Shaughnessy at short, though, in their last game, when they had such a player as Tufts. Tufts is about as good a batter as the Lansdownes have and a sure man in the field, while O'Shaughnessy seldom hits the ball, or catches it either.

I don't know whether the Lansdownes have been practising since their last game or not. If they have not, they deserve all they get. Their pitcher, Stewart, is a good one, but I think he grows down-hearted when the Lansdownes get behind.

There are good players in the Emeralds and Franklins, but their batteries are weak. I hope to see them improve before the end of the season.

The C. and A. club sports, last Saturday, were fairly successful, but the only feature of the day was the work of Frank White, who paralyzed the pool-box, so to speak, winning two events in which Warlock was heavily backed. White has the best style of any of our athletes and he is always in training. Moreover, he is a good fellow and a gentleman and, though I sympathize with the losers, I am always glad to see him win anything.

The one thing I regret is that Clare Ferguson refused to take part in the event for which secretary Barker had entered him. It was a case of misplaced confidence, I somehow think—but which of them misplaced it?

The Maritime team which will face the Irishmen will include fifteen cricketers and you can bet your last cent they will be good ones. Of ten good men selected from our club seven will be chosen and they without prejudice. The best men will get on the team.

They will of course have to be our best men. The Wanderers and Garrison can bring five men to make up the fifteen and St. John must keep up her end.

I clip the following from a Halifax paper: Mr. A. L. Karney is desirous that his friends shall not back his pony General Babcock in the races on Thursday without being fully informed as to the animal's condition, and requests us to state that the pony has not been well for several days, and while he will probably start he will not be in as good condition as he might be.

A few square acts like this would do more to give horse racing greater popularity than any thing else.

The Fredericton meet, July 11, will draw a crowd without fail. There are three purses: \$100 for 3-minute class; \$125 for the 2.40 and \$125 for the running race. The entries close July 7.

There is no finer track in the country than the Fredericton Park association's. The association made a hit when it got the grounds and followed it up by capturing the good will and horses of the local government. The fact that this great importation is kept on the grounds gives them a prestige which is worth deucats.

I am glad to know that Mr. E. W. Elliott, of Elliott's hotel, proposes to put that promising five-year-old of his to Harry Wilkes. The mare is of Messenger and Warrior stock, a handsome bay with black points, and though she has never had any track training, can beat 2.35 all to pieces. Unless all signs fail, the colt ought to be a flier.

In a letter of June 4, W. F. Todd of St. Stephen writes the Horseman:

We are now getting the track ready, and will probably have a meeting here next month. The horse interest is increasing, and with my stock to build from I expect to see a very great improvement in a few years. My horses are doing nicely: the stallions' books are full. Augusta Schuyler, 2.26, is the mare I am breeding to Chimes, Carrie R. and Rachel C. are to be trotted and then bred to Lumps, 2.21. Ray Gould, 2.29½, has been already bred to him. Next season I shall breed two of old Emeline's daughters to Bell Boy. I have only two colts as yet; one from Lady Messenger Chief, sire Viking; a chestnut colt, white

hind legs and white stripe on face, large and healthy, foaled May 25. The other, a bay colt, is by Mambrino Russell, out of Alice Blackwood.

"There," exclaimed an inexperienced young woman at the Polo grounds, as Welch landed the ball in the pit of the batter's food department, while the latter lay down and tore up handfuls of grass, "he has hit him at last. Does that win the game?"—New York Sun.

In the *Sporting Life*, this week, the veteran Henry Chadwick, Tim Murnan and Anson hold a sort of dialogue on the playing points of base ball and the result is the greatest collection of valuable hints that I ever saw. There is no apology to be made for printing it almost entire, for every line of it is worth a dollar to a player or a man who would be posted in the great game. Omitting preliminaries, here it is:

"If you are booked for the infield practice on fast and slow grounders, making a point to throw the ball as quickly as possible. Holding the ball and then throwing hard may look well, but it is very poor form and should never be indulged in. Several professionals have a bad habit of this kind." In this he is quite correct, for throwing to attract the grand stand, people's attention is a very bad habit. Tim also says:—"Always have your mind made up what to do with the ball before you get it." That is a strong point with well-trained players like the Chicago. The moment they get the ball in their hands away it goes without any hesitation to the very point required. Harry Wright's team also do this. Here is a good point which Tim makes. He says:—"If you have a good lead on a club it is poor policy to play in close to catch a runner going in from the third base. Play for the batter, as the chances are largely in favor of getting him."

How frequently you see the infielder playing in close, ready to field a short hit ball intended to let in a runner from third, at a time, too, when the field side may be said to have the game in their hands, they thereby giving the batsman a fine chance to tap a ball safely to short outfield. He says:

"The battery should understand every sign, and should have two sets, as the opposing nine may catch on." The catcher should sign the pitcher when to pitch and when to throw to bases."

Good advice, Tim, that of having two sets of signals, but the two sets should be very distinct, as otherwise things might get mixed. This system of signals between catchers and pitchers should be as familiar to each as A B C, or otherwise the code will not work well. There can be no team work by battery players without a well-arranged code of signals for strategic points of play.

Tim adds another good point when he says, "Always back up the basemen, as it often saves runs." Backing is the very life of good fielding, and there can be no possible team work without it. Especially is it essential in infield play. There should, if possible, always be one player or another behind the point in the infield the ball is thrown to, to back up in case of a poor throw by the base player or catcher. This is the very life of short-stop work.

Tim points out a weak spot in some teams' play when he says, "Always run hard to first base whether you hit fair or foul." As a Boston correspondent of the New York Sun very pointedly says in regard to this weakness, "Many a man has been put out because, in getting away after hitting the ball, he turns his head to see where it has gone or where it is coming, or because he thinks it a certain out and does not take the trouble to 'run it out.' A little wholesome discipline in this respect would do a vast amount of good. A player should give his whole attention, after hitting the ball, or after his third strike, to reaching first base, and should never relax his effort until he hears the umpire decide him out or until the captain gives him the word."

In referring to a point in base-running, Tim says: "If the bases are clear and you hit a long one to the out field, it is generally safe to keep right on to second base." This is sound. Nothing is more likely to make an outfield nervous about a catch than to know that while he is going after the flying ball or trying to get under it the runner is working his way home. By running, if the catch is made, nothing is lost; while, if the ball is dropped, you gain more than expected.

Tim quotes Capt. Anson as saying that "all pitchers must put the ball over the plate, and 'tis the batsman's funeral if he can't hit it," and Anson is right. The fear of being punished by base hits spoils many a pitcher's record. The great point on the part of the pitcher in this respect is to judge his batsmen well. Of course, there are exceptional times; when it is not safe to put balls over the plate, but the rule is as Anson points out. It keeps the batsman watching and working up to quite a nervous tension, whereas if he has time to wait by having wide balls sent in after a strike he has a chance to recover himself.

Here is some excellent advice to base-runners. Tim says: "In taking ground off first base a player should be very careful. A little dodging back and forth will worry the catcher, and often the pitcher also. Now and then take a big lead off, but be sure the pitcher has the ball in his left hand at the time, and you can get back before he changes it and throws you out. In getting away from the first base a player should have the distance he can take on the different pitchers down fine. Swing the body a little. If you get the advantage of the swing, go; if not, you wait until you do, for the secret is in the start. When you have once started never look up. Always watch the ball carefully and take advantage of any slip. Get away quickly, and when you have once started run hard and take chances. Run up well from third base every time the ball is pitched; in case the catcher has a passed ball you can get home before the pitcher. Always hold third base on a fly ball, no matter how safe it may look. If it is dropped you can come, and if caught you can touch your base and get home. Coming home from second base on a hit, a runner should be guided by the coacher, who should stand near the third base and signal with his cap either to go in or stop; in no other case should a runner be coached. The fastest runners are not always the best base-runners; good judgment tells."

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Outstanding Assurance.....483,029,562 00  
Paid Policy Holders in 1887 10,062,509 81  
Paid Policy Holders since organization 106,610,293 34  
Total Income.....23,240,849 29  
Premium Income.....19,115,775 47  
Increase in Assets.....8,868,432 09  
Assets to Liabilities, 127 1-2 per cent.

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ASSETS.....\$84,378,904 85  
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The conveyance to be made by a seaworthy and commodious passenger steamer of sufficient power and capacity to perform the round trip in twelve hours, including a reasonable detention at Digby or Annapolis for the exchange of mails. The vessel employed in this service to be subject to the approval of the Postmaster General in regard to safety, accommodation for passengers and rate of speed.

The mails to leave St. John on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week at 8 a. m., reaching Digby at 12 noon, or Annapolis at 2 p. m.

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The mails are to be conveyed between the steamer and the post offices at St. John, Digby and Annapolis at the expense of the contractor.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the post offices at St. John and Halifax and at this office. The Postmaster General will not necessarily accept the lowest or any tender.  
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