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SPORT

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TENNIS AT LOWEST EBB NORTH AMERICA

U. S. Thinks Little Hope
of Capturing Davis Cup
for Many Years.

NEW YORK, Aug. 12—The fading hope of recapturing the Davis Cup for several years, has stirred depths of controversy in American tennis circles. There is a preponderance of opinion that the game here is fast slipping. "Look at it any way you like, we are now reduced to one lone player of the international calibre. That player is Donald Budge. The United States must laboriously build a new team. The sooner those governing the game realize this the better," remarked a professional to the writer.

"In the first place, there are too many invitation tournaments," he replied to the question as to why the American class, formerly leading the world, has become so poverty stricken.

Players who fail to give their names upon the preferred list, in the opinion of the professional, soon lose their interest in tournament competition.

"They have no incentive to devote serious attention to perfecting their strokes," he said. "Either they play for the fun of it occasionally on club courts, or they drift completely away. The faulty system has lost players—I could name several—who potentially were of international rank."

Dwindling Tournament List

"Interest in American tennis, on the part of players, has dropped because of fewer tournaments and favoritism," continued the speaker. "In the last few years there has been far too much separation of the sheep from the goats, so to speak. The Eastern Lawn Tennis Association has been negligent in not seeing to it that players of this district enter into the invitation and larger important tournaments. Complaints of this character have been dinged into my ears each season. The complaint is more general than many are aware. There is no incentive for the younger player to keep going. He gets just so far, and the barricade of favoritism stops him. We can never work up much enthusiasm by operating in that way."

"Go over the ranking list of this section or the national group for the past few years. You will at once discover that names of promising tennis players are missing. Why is this, you ask? Several explanations in addition

Bars Mexican Trip for Senators

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12—Earl Mack, Philadelphia Athletic's coach, who is rounding up a team of major league baseball players to tour Mexico this fall, reckoned with Clark Griffith, Washington owner, when he signed up three Senators for the trip. Now he must do some more recruiting.

Griffith today laid the law down to Earl Whitehall, pitched, Heinie Manush, outfielder, and Ralph Kress, infielder, prohibiting any off-season tours.

to that of favoritism may be offered. True enough, a limited number are no longer able to compete because of the obligations of business. But the majority could easily be brought into action again by concerted effort to seek them out and invite them to compete in such tournaments as formerly held high place on the schedule. Let us have wide open tournaments and fewer of the specialized class for favorites. That will start something that will be surprising, unless I am totally wrong."

Question of Funds

"Of course clubs cannot be expected to lose a lot of money by holding tournaments. Even so the Eastern Association should not allow an important club to drop a tournament solely because of lack of funds. Given the proper direction and with the Eastern Association doing its part, it should be possible to supply money necessary to prevent the game dying of starvation as it is."

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SPORTS WRITER GOES ON A VACATION

Gets To Thinking of Crabs and Train of Thought
Leads Into Many Channels — Loafing on
Vacation

(By Richards Vidmer)

The boss said: "Take a vacation. Get a good rest and forget about sports for a while. It'll do you good to get away from it all."

So I went down to Point Clear, Ala., where they told me there was nothing to do but just lie around and loaf. They said I couldn't even think about business or hear what was going on at Madison Square Garden, the Polo Grounds, the West Side Stadium, Belmont Park or Meadow Brook.

They said: "You'll get a good rest and forget all about sports. It'll do you good to get away from it all."

So they got me up at 5.30 in the morning to go crabbing. I don't know just why it had to be so early unless they had to sneak up on the crabs before they were fully awake, like they sneaked up on me. Anyway, I got to thinking about crabs.

They used to call Johnny Evers the Crab... And John McGraw was another when it came to baiting umpires... I guess Charlie Dressen, of the Reds, is the fightingest manager in the major leagues today... Miller Huggins was something of a crab, too, and I remember the story about the umpire who chased one of the Yankees off the field after an argument and as little Miller came off the bench with irate objections the umpire turned to the banished player and with a nod towards Huggins called: "Take a bat boy with you!"

The Harvard crew caught more crabs unintentionally than we did, but we came back with twenty — eight caught, a dozen bought. Then they said we were going to take a swim.

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That made me think of the greatest swimmers and how all of them turned to the films... First there was Duke Kahanamoku, the Hawaiian, and then Johnny Weissmuller, the original Tarzan, and Buster Crabbe... Eleanor Holm, who married Art Jarrett, also has decorated the screen... Remember Aileen Riggin? She married a doctor out in California, but doesn't go in for studio work... Though, goodness knows, she's decorative enough... Poor Gertrude Ederle... They filled Wall Street with confetti when she came home after swimming the English Channel... And now she's very deaf and very sad as she serves as swimming instructor in a Brooklyn pool.

Looks Like Giants and Tigers

They gave me a chance to relax for a few minutes after breakfast, so I picked up the paper to get away from it all and I was glad to see that the Giants had won another... I can't see how anybody is going to beat them out of the National League pennant... But I'm not so sure about the Yankees... They're up and down like an elevator... Remind me of Uncle Robbie and now when you asked him how things were going he'd say: "Same as usual—win one, lose two—what the hell!"

The Tigers are in a swell spot... They've come from behind at just the right time... They haven't had the strain of setting the pace all season and have to hold their lead for only a month and a half.

I wasn't surprised that Frankie Parker won the Southampton tournament... Bill Tilden recommended him for the Davis Cup team in 1934... By 1936 he and Donald Budge ought to make a strong challenge... So they have matched Buddy Baer with Jack Doyle... Well, it ought to prove whether either, both or neither is a bum... And they've cancelled Primo Carnera's passport on the ground that his showing in the United States is a dishonor to Fascist sport... Well, they ought to refuse to give Max Schmeling a passport... He doesn't want to fight; he just wants to grab whatever money is in sight... Besides, a Baer-Louis bout would be a greater Fall attraction than any bout in which Schmeling is involved. These reflections were interrupted by the announcement that a stiff breeze had sprung up and we were

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going for a sail... The breeze was stiff, all right; in fact, it turned into a squall when we were some four miles offshore, and it took all the ingenuity of a Vanderbilt and a Charles Francis Adams to get in safely... I suggested hoisting a protest flag, but was informed that the wind wouldn't pay any more attention to it than the International Race Committee did at Newport last summer.

After struggling with the elements for an hour we finally came to anchor and just had time to make a quick change into dry clothes—because they were off to the Mobile Country Club for a golf match. That's where they played the state championship a couple of weeks ago... And Arie Ball, the youthful pro, is Bobby Jones' protege... He, in turn, has three youngsters coming along of whom he predicts great things... One of them is Dick Crawford, jr., a sixteen-year-old with championship promise... I was urged to remember the name for future reference.

Speaking of Golf Courses

The most impressive thing about the course is the texture of the greens, which are of Bermuda grass and as deceitful as a normal stomach on the high seas... And I was reminded of a couple of other clubs I ran into recently... The Golf Club of Pittsburgh, which is the oldest club in the city of smoke, the most pretentious, with fine squash courts, swimming pool, billiard room—but no golf course... And Rolling Rock, another Pittsburgh club, which is the private course of Andrew Mellon and whose membership is by invitation only... Mr. Mellon invites about forty friends every year to join and everything connected with the club is on him... He's the perennial president.

Of course we had to have another swim before dinner, and a couple of sets of tennis was suggested.

"It's too bad there isn't a fight or a wrestling match tonight," I remarked. "It's good to get away from sports for awhile. This is what I call a complete rest."

"Well, we had planned to go gigging for flounders about 10 o'clock," I was informed.

But by 10 o'clock I was in bed. Loafing had become a habit.

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Joe's New Car Snarls Traffic

DETROIT, Aug. 12—Traffic on MacDougall Avenue was tied up for a short time today while the traffic officers shooed crowds away from the new automobile parked in front of the home of Joe Louis, Detroit's Negro heavyweight.

When Louis returned from Chicago after his two-minute polishing off of King Levinsky the first thing he did was to buy the biggest, blackest car in town.

Joe paid \$7,200 for a twelve-cylinder Lincoln sedan and put into it all the special equipment that can be crammed into an automobile.

RECRUITS ARE MAKING A GOOD SHOWING

By Sam Murphy
(The Old Scout)

From the sandlots, the campus and bushes are coming players these days to try for place on teams that are not doing so well in the major league races. Both Philadelphia teams are testing players while the battle is still raging.

Connie Mack, who says he has the hardest hitting outfield in the Athletics' history and an infield that compares favorably with his championship inner defense men, is bending efforts to acquire pitching talent.

Wherever the leader of the A's hears about a young pitcher he puts his ivory agents to work looking him over. Rookies report at Shibe Park for trial and immediately receive a chance to display their skill.

Some of the youngsters fail utterly what their boosters claimed for them, as in the case of Wedo Martini. Wedo did some surprising pitching on the Philadelphia sandlots. His strong point was reported to be control.

Mack's Luck

Frank Navin said the other day that no other manager in baseball ever had the luck of Mack in picking up two or three young pitching aces at a time. Other clubs have had their share of outstanding stars, but the Philadelphia team has run into such groups as Waddell and Coakley, Bender, Plank and Coombs, Groves Earnshaw and Walberg. They rendered years of service.

The Phillies are luckier with their most recent sandlot candidate than were their Philadelphia city neighbors. When Jose Gomez, Mexican semipro player, was touted for a try-out with Jimmy Wilson's team, his exceptional fielding feat were stressed. In the few games played so far he has shown skill as an infielder with an accurate throwing arm. Wilson believes that Gomez will stick in the big show.

Outlook for Pittsburgh
Looking ahead for next season Pittsburgh is checking on its minor league farm hands.

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