

DRESSING ROOM CHATTER

By
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Nevins Making Rounds of Training Camps: Marshall S. Nevins, Sr., local business man, has just one major hobby—athletics. He likes sports so well that he is spending his vacation visiting the training camps.

Nevins writes that Kenny Sears is taking with the Yanks at St. Petersburg about as well as a kid takes to an ice cream cone. The porky one has already made an indelible impression on Manager McCarthy and is attracting the autographers as a result of his long distance polling against righthanders.

While Sears isn't hitting so hard against the southpaws, they expect he'll improve under the expert schooling that the Yanks are giving him.

Nevins saw him catch for Wes Ferrell and Lefty Gomez in batting practice. The former Rugmakers backstop also took his regular turn at the plate and was stationed at first base when not receiving.

When Nevins saw him, Sears worked out with the regular infield which included Gordon, Knickerbocker and Dahlgren. Rolfe and Crosetti had not reported then and Red Ruffing and Joe DiMaggio had just reached the training camp.

The Amsterdam observer says that Lou Gehrig did not seem to be in shape, the Yankee swatsmith playing in a sweat shirt, and then only for a few minutes at a stretch.

We don't know how many of them that Nevins will take in, but his schedule includes the Washington Senators at Orlando, the Montreal Royals at Lakeland and the Kansas City Blues at Lake Wales.

This dugout hopes that Mrs. Nevins likes baseball, for it looks as though she is to be fed a lot of it on that Florida trip.

This and That: The Rev. Harold J. Martin, president of the Canadian-American League, has announced that tryout schools for the league are to be conducted at Bristol, Conn., Waltham, Mass., and Easthampton, Mass., with Utica and Oswego getting first pick of promising players. That should bolster up the lineups of these two independent clubs.

We called another shot for you when we said that Frank Ventura, brother of Vince, Amsterdam pitcher, would be the business manager of the Utica club—and so he is.

Bill Leonard, the A. A. U. president in this district, informs us that he gave a 30-minute talk in Spanish at Buenos Aires while coaching the United States team in South America. The Gauchos liked the way he put it across.

Bob Kane, the assistant track coach at Cornell, has just completed an interesting booklet as a tribute to Jack Moakley's 40 years of coaching cinderpath teams high above Cayuga's waters. It's a fine testimonial to a grand man, one who has produced some really great teams. Big Red hill and dale combinations have run their way to 17 cross-country championships and to 10 intercollegiate track titles. Cornell possesses an ICAAAA trophy, being one of two colleges in the country ever to receive such an award. It has taken more team awards and more individual prizes in cross-country than any other college.

Moakley came to Cornell in 1899, being hired by Allen Haynes, then track manager at Cornell. The silver-haired veteran of many an intercollegiate campaign is always giving vent to new ideas. He lives strictly in the present and his methods are about as newfangled as the zipper.

Yours truly had the opportunity of meeting Moakley a few years back at the Canadian nationals in Toronto. That day one of his athletes, figured a rank outsider by most everyone but Moakley, finished second to Glen Cunningham. That chap was Art Martin, who has run here on many occasions. Then, too, Lou Gregory, the Olympian who won the 20-kilometer championship of the United States here last Summer, received much of his teaching from Moakley—and how Gregory admires that man.

But for Cornellians, it is enough to merely mention the name of that great miler, John Paul Jones, to bring back memories of the 1913 era when Jones and the other Cornell harriers fought it out principally with Brown's power runners.

The interscholastic wrestling tournament, sponsored by St. Lawrence University for five straight years, has shifted to Little Falls, where it will be held on March 24 and 25. This event, which the writer has witnessed two or three times, pairs up 110 schoolboy grapplers. Little Falls and Van Hornesville have each won championships through the years. Got to hand it to Wilbur Crisp for getting this outstanding attraction for his Mohawk Valley city.

Amsterdam might consider the gridiron plan in vogue at Herkimer High—Spring football classes. While the state rules forbid training, it is not out of order to provide instruction. One of Coach Elmer Morgan's classes at Herkimer will be devoted to an explanation of football strategy and the other to fundamentals of the game. Now you know why Herkimer turns up year after year with punts and passes that take them over the goal line—to say nothing of Morgan's hidden ball magic.

Bill Sodd, Cleveland's rookie outfielder, has petitioned Baseball Commissioner Landis for freedom from the Indians. Sodd, who came into organized baseball from the University of Texas, bases his claim on an alleged violation of the rule forbidding a major league club from optioning a player to a minor league farm more than three times. He says that he spent two seasons at the Indians' former farm in Zanesville, O., and two with the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., club.

Oswego Signs Two: The Netherlands of the Canadian-American League aren't letting grass grow under their feet any more. Although Oswego agreed to continue in organized baseball only three days ago, the business manager has already contracted two erstwhile players. Sherley Stone, who pitched for Logan of the Mountain League the past two years, will report to the Lake-Port City for Spring training if this Winter will let up long enough for such a thing. Stone won 13 and lost five games for Logan in 1937 and hurled 14 victories and seven losses in 1938. The big boy from the mountains has an assortment of curves and marvelous control.

The other player under contract is Charlie Wrenn, a catcher who was with St. Augustine of the Florida League last season. He batted close to .300.

Henry Lukas of Buffalo, who expects to return to Oswego, where he winged his way to a pay check for two years, plans to bring along a first-base prospect who can hit the "apple."

Canajoharie Bowlers Place: Pete's Tavern, thundering keggers in Canajoharie's Industrial League, won fourth place in a national bowling sweepstakes. The members of the up-county team who will each get a share of the prize melon are: F. Mowrey, Capt. A. Putman, D. Rose, W. Pelligrini and P. Rose.