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Bates College

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April 15
1915
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BASEBALL REMINISCENCES

BASEBALL is the oldest sport at Bates, in fact for many years it was the only one, the first track meet being held in 1880, tennis dating from 1883, and football not being firmly established until about 1892, though a single game was played as early as 1878.

In the earliest days of baseball at Bates games were mostly limited to contests with local town teams. I have recollections of seeing a game played, in which the late Hon. Frank L. Noble '74 pitched for Bates, on the campus in front of Parker hall, in the midst of the small trees which had but just been set out there. This must have been prior to 1874.

The earliest game of which I have distinct remembrance of witnessing was played May 26, 1875, with the Androscoggin of Lewiston, and my sole recollection of that is the dispute in which it ended. In Bates half of the ninth, with the Androscoggin two runs in the lead, none out and men on second and third, a fly was hit to right field. My recollection is that Hon. T. F. Callahan, recently state auditor of Maine, was playing that field for the town team.

He made a great try for it, but in my opinion at the time, and in that of all the Bates men, he picked it up instead of catching it. At any rate he threw to first in an attempt to catch the runner, instead of to second or third to double up the runners, who had gone home. The umpire delayed his decision until the runners had crossed the plate with the runs which tied the score, and then called the batter out on fly caught. The ball was immediately thrown to third and second, resulting in a triple play and giving the Androscoggins the game. Bates made a vigorous protest but it availed nothing.

I am unable to tell when the first game was played with Bowdoin. The first of which I have personal recollection, and the first that I can find recorded in the files of The Student, was the famous 3-0 game won by Bates on May 20, 1876. The Bates pitcher that day was Henry W. Oakes of Auburn, a better pitcher never faced a batter in Maine, and O. B. Clason, whom every Bates man knows, was at first base. I believe that a return game was played at Brunswick on July 3, resulting in a victory for Bowdoin, 4-3.

I remember also seeing that famous Bates team, with Oakes and Record as battery, defeat the Androscoggins, then a professional team which included in its ranks Tim Keefe, afterward for many years a star pitcher for the old New York Giants, and Mutrie, who afterward managed the New Yorks. This was on July 4, 1876.

That 4-3 victory of Bowdoin's on July 3, 1816, was the last one Bowdoin won from us prior to the spring of 1880. Indeed in the spring of 1877 they refused to play at all, saying it was useless in face of certain defeat. In the fall of '77, after Oakes, Clason and their mates had graduated, Bowdoin plucked up courage enough for a game, and were beaten 8-2. Given '79, now principal of Newark, N. J. Academy, doing the pitching. Given and Parsons '81, were able to follow up the work of Oakes with sufficient effect to win all games played up to 1880.

When Bowdoin did win again, however, they did it well. In 1880 a series of four games was arranged with Bowdoin, and they resulted in a tie; Bowdoin winning the first at Brunswick 16-3, Bates the second at Lewiston, 16-6, Bowdoin the third at Lewiston, 7-4, Bates the fourth, a ten inning game at Brunswick 6-5. The tie was played off at Portland and Bates won easily, 10-2.

Up to this time neither Colby or Maine, then the State College, was considered of much account. An occasional game was played with them, but the only real rivalry was with Bowdoin. From 1880 to 1886 the game was at a low ebb here, chiefly owing to lack of battery material. The latter year, however, was one of those years that all Maine collegians hold in memory.
All four teams were strong, and the fight was warm throughout. Two of the players in later years rose to fame not only in this state but in the nation. The Colby pitcher was Forrest Goodwin, who but a few years ago represented the 3rd Maine district in Congress, and the Bates catcher was Frank W. Sandford, the famous leader of the Holy Ghost and Us colony at Shiloh in Durham. The schedule called for nine games, and when Bates came to the ninth game, with Colby, the two colleges were tied with five victories and three defeats each. Unfortunately Mr. Godwin was too good, and Colby captured the final game.

The next team which stands out in the memories of “old graduates” is “Ike” Cox’s famous team of 1889. Cox, now a prominent newspaper man at Manchester, N. H., was manager, and at the close of the season stole the team and took it to New Brunswick for a series of games, without the knowledge or consent of the college authorities. Among the players were W. F. Garcelon ’90, whose career later as a hurdler and later still as graduate manager at Harvard, and whose deep interest in everything pertaining to Bates is well known. Bates lost the first game to Colby 19-8, and the second to Bowdoin, 21-5, and then turned to and won six straight and the championship.

Since then Bates has had its fair measure of success. At first limited to games with local teams, the sport has been developed until Bates has had teams able to defeat Columbia and Harvard, and they are now recognized as worthy opponents by all colleges of New England. Best of all Bates men have never had cause to blush for their teams, whether they win or lose, for they are modest in victory, and sportsmanlike in defeat, and are gentlemen always.

—John L. Reade ’83.

TWENTIETH CENTURY BASEBALL

Baseball, the most popular and sane athletic sport, may be presented to us this year with some new aspects if, by removing the coach from the bench during games, the responsibility of directing play is centered in the captain. Last year our students in assembly voted to oust the coach from the bench when competing with a college team operating on the above plan. It is understood that the other Maine colleges have approved this plan, which allows a team to win or lose under the sole leadership of its captain.

Years ago the track coach was forbidden to make suggestions to or direct in any way his pupils during actual competition. The status of the football coach during games has been changed from time to time in order to prevent his charges from becoming mere puppets, until he now with the other subs modestly decorates the side line seats, while the quarterback and captain assume responsibility and direct the play of their team. Is this not a fitting time for college men to again assert their birth-right, and invite the baseball coach also to become a spectator in the grandstand during the actual progress of the game?

A few calamity howlers and professional coaches decry the plan and argue that the dear public is sure to be disgruntled by the lowering of present playing standards and that essential receipts with support of influential alumni will be lost.

To obtain more consideration for the player and less for the spectator; to make the spectator an incident of the game rather than its sole subject and its practice something of a pastime rather than a commercial venture; to hold the standards of the game within the reach of more men by discouraging training and playing under forced conditions; to add more pleasure to the drudgery of ‘varsity men are ideas worthy of careful consideration at this stage of development of college athletics.

That college men are responsible and capable of leadership has been proved too often in the past to doubt their ability to meet the demands of this situation. Every boy of force craves to express the stuff that is in him. Boy nature craves achievement and action that brings responsibility and honor. Boys are shut out from the achievements of the day. Modern achievements are intellectual and professional and are beyond the reach of most college men. In student body activities, especially athletics and debating, however, youth finds its own peculiar field and under proper supervision should be allowed, when possible, definite leadership.
There are several problems which will have to be worked out anew if this plan is to be a real success. The team must select their leaders with more care. Friendship and fraternalism must be subverted for the good of the cause. Co-operation, self-subordination, and loyalty to the college must prevail. The coach must be alive to the situation and while he may be as useful as before in teaching the game, he must actively prepare and train the captain for proper team leadership. If these conditions are met fairly and squarely the present playing standard of the game should not be lowered to any great extent.

Along with this important change in the status of the baseball coach come other things to consider which do not diminish the virility of the game or lessen individual skill, team work, or strategy. Vocal baseball or "yapping" with its limited and often senseless vocabulary is on the wane and will either be eliminated by faculty regulation or, what is better still, by mutual agreement of contestants as it was during the last Harvard-Yale baseball series.

High ideals in sport will never decrease the efficiency of a man or a team. Bates men should be alert to catch the trend of modern athletics. It is interesting to remember that competitors in the early Grecian Olympic Festivals swore before the temple of Zeus to use no unfair means to secure victory.

The following recommendations by the National Collegiate Athletic Association of America, with an enrollment of more than one hundred and twenty-five colleges, of which Bates and Bowdoin of the Maine colleges are members, sets the pace in ideals for all thinking college men:

First. The catcher shall not, during actual play, speak at all to the batsman, except where occasion requires a bona fide word of caution, and in speaking to the pitcher he shall not use words reflecting or calculating to reflect upon the batsman or any member of the opposing team.

Second. No member of either team shall call or shout during the game to any member of the opposing team, except to caution him against some danger, nor behave in any indecorous or unseemly manner.

Third. There shall be no oral coaching from the bench.

Fourth. The so-called "encouragement of the pitcher" from the outfield shall be stopped, or at least minimized, since we believe that the shouting of remarks in endless iteration is not only disagreeable to the spectator, but is disconcerting rather than helpful to the pitcher. In general, it amounts merely to senseless noise and is quite unworthy of college-bred men. Whatever "encouragement" or "support" the pitcher may need can be quietly given from the infield.

Fifth. The umpire shall warn any player violating any of these rules, and, on second offence, shall exclude him from the game.

Sixth. That in general the attention of the students be called to the importance of courtesy, which will forbid such cheering, singing, or chatter as is designed at critical moments to "rattle" the visiting team.

A baseball game is a splendid contest of skill between two opposing nines before an academic throng of spectators; it is not a contest between a visiting team and a local team assisted by a disorderly rabble. It is fine when, as often happens, a good play by the visiting team is as heartily applauded as a similar play by the home team.

—Royce D. Purinton.

TRIAL MEET

The seventh interclass track and field meet since Coach Ryan has had charge of the team was held last Saturday on the sidewalk and field in front of Roger Williams Hall. No handicaps were given and all the men were started from scratch in order to get a line on the team which will compete in the Bowdoin dual on the 21st of this month.

Quimby, '18, was the star of the meet, capturing first place in both hurdle races and in the discus and hammer throw. Pinkham, '16, showed unusual form in the high jump, clearing the bar at five feet and six inches. Butler won both dashes in very fast time.

The summary:

High hurdles—won by Quimby, '18; Boyd, '16, 2nd; Benvie, '16, 3rd. Time, 17 1-5 sec.
Low Hurdles—won by Quimby, '18; Boyd, '16, 2nd; Benvie, '16, 3rd. Time 26 3-5 sec.

If we have pleasant thoughts, even when alone, we have good company.
Don't forget to talk about the debates coming April 23.

The social problem at Bates still faces us. How can it be solved? We have been looking for the presentation of some plan, either from the faculty or the students themselves. We have looked in vain. If conditions exist as they are now it means that a great many of the Bates men and women will go through their entire course with acquaintanceships confined to their class alone. Bates is a small college and the whole student body should be acquainted. When we get out into the world situated in various places we will appreciate this fact more. The world is so small that many of us will meet again.

How sad not to have been acquainted in college! The more we enjoy common experiences today, greater will be the pleasures of friendship in the future. Bates needs more social life.

But we need the right kind. We have plenty of social organizations among the men and also among the women. Our problem is to create a situation in which the men and women of Bates may come together in an informal and friendly way for the cultivation of friendships such as should exist between members of our Alma Mater.

With this purpose in view there might be arranged an informal social each month of the college year. This could be done and, we believe, made very successful, nor would it be necessary to rely on "spinning the platter" or "who's got the button" to furnish entertainment for the evening. We have faith in the ability of Bates students to keep something real appropriate doing all the time.

There are a variety of ways that this problem may be faced. We suggest two. First, the matter could be turned over to the four classes. Let each class provide two socials during the year, a committee from the class or the class itself taking charge of the arrangements. These socials are to be for the entire student body. The class which provides the best informal, getting-acquainted social should receive suitable recognition.

Under this plan the problem is not a difficult one, when the co-operation of all the classes is assured.

The second plan we suggest is that there be appointed a definite social committee made up of members from the various classes. This committee should then proceed to arrange the socials. Membership of the committee should be considered an honor and a decided responsibility.

We feel that this matter should be carefully considered. Comments on the plans suggested, or any solution of the problem will be heartily welcomed.

HINTS FROM THE CAPTAIN

The college baseball season has begun now in this state and the interest of all our students should be with the team to the end of the season. Bates was represented last year by a championship team and prospects this year are fully as good, if not better than
then. Good weather conditions and the cooperation of the men have helped make fast progress. Now we want the support of every Bates student; we want to feel that there is something behind us, and that we truly represent our college and its student body. That brings out the "fight" and makes the everyday grind enjoyable.

We would much rather hear knocks than have no interest at all, but "boasting" never hurt anyone, and it surely does help in the work of a baseball team. A crowd brings out the best there is in a man, but there is a question about the attitude of those who come out just to "kid" another fellow, who is really trying to do something. There is much to be done on the field at all times and everyone could help a little. We like to have the crowd there for it shows interest and is an encouragement, an inducement to work. Everyone connected with Bates should feel that it is their team and try to help at least a little, and not leave all the work to a few.

—Geo. K. Talbot.

INTROSPECTION

The ball team starts a schedule Monday that is longer and much harder than Bates has had in the past. This means that the team must be of the highest order if it is to have a successful season. Fortunately weather conditions have been such that the team is in much better shape at this early period than usual.

Thru graduation two pitchers, and two infielders have been lost from the championship team. The strength of the team this year will depend chiefly on how well these positions are filled.

Moore '15 is the only veteran among the pitchers and will probably do most of the pitching. Davidson '18 and Fowler '18 will be the other members of the staff and should show up well as both have a lot of stuff, lacking only experience.

The fight for first base is an even one between Swift '15 and Witham '15. For the third base vacancy there are several promising candidates including Keaney '16, Mars-ton '16, O'Connell '16, Shattuck '18 and Thurston '18.

Fuller '15 and MacDonald '17 will play second base and short stop, and should be even better than last year when they were selected for these positions on the "All-Maine" team.

Capt. Talbot '15 and Butler '17 will be two of the outfield while the third will probably be Swicker '16 or one of the many candidates who are fighting it out for third base. This outfield will be better in all respects than the majority of college outfields.

Lord '16 will be the mainstay behind the bat.

Everything considered, the team this year should be the equal of past teams in fielding and should exceed them in batting.

MRS. LIVINGSTON'S ADDRESS

Mrs. Deborah Knox Livingston, superintendent of the department of franchise in the National W. C. T. U., addressed the students at the chapel exercises last Friday on the subject of Woman Suffrage. She said that three factors have led up to the desire of women for the ballot: fundamental religious training, educational training, and the opportunity offered to woman in the industrial world. Continuing, she said: "The great problems of the day are felt by the women equally with the men, but the women are handicapped because all organization is surrounded by politics or government. There is no argument for the ballot in the hands of men that does not hold good for women. Men have injected the material development in helping to solve great problems, but it is necessary to inject moral development. This the women will do by their own training if given the ballot. We believe that women should have the ballot because it is just and right. We do not want the men to lead us. We do not want them to be behind. We want to strike hands with them in the solving of the problems for the betterment of humanity. The strongest argument for woman's suffrage is the Constitution of the United States."

Y. W. C. A.—CONVENTION

Activities in general were suspended among the girls over this last week end, when over fifty attended the Maine Girls' Conference in Portland. Beginning Friday evening, meetings were held and other entertainment furnished almost continuously until late Sunday evening. Throughout, the conference proved very interesting and
inspiring. The speakers were unusually good, the organ recital by Will Macfarland enjoyable, and the hospitality proffered by the Portland homes much appreciated. Then, there were the girls, one thousand of them and over, who themselves helped in providing the amusement for Saturday evening, and in making the whole conference one great success.

The weekly meeting of the Y. W. C. A. will be held on Thursday evening of this week, instead of on Wednesday evening, as usual. At this meeting Miss A. Lilian Leathers will be the leader and Miss Elizabeth Conklin of New York City, the chief speaker. There will be special music, a piano solo by Miss Evelyn Hussey and a vocal solo by Miss Mabel Googins. Miss Conklin is one of the traveling secretaries of the Student Volunteer Movement and is to be in college Thursday and Friday of this week. The will meet the Y. W. C. A. cabinet, the Student Volunteer Band and the special committees on mission work, for the purpose of arousing more interest in missions among the Bates girls. She will also be glad to have a personal conference with any girl who wishes it.

LOCALS

Arrangements are now being made for the May Festival, to be held out-of-doors on the side of Mount David, about the first of May. Votes have been deposited for the May Queen, who will be chosen from the Senior Class, and also for the Maid of Honor, who will be chosen from the Junior Class. The women of the various classes will march and dance as in past years. Miss Bertha M. Bell is in charge of arrangements, assisted by committees from the various classes.

Miss Agnes Bryant, ’16, spent the Easter recess in Washington.

Miss Laura Mansfield, ’18, visited Miss Doris Ingersoll, ’18, at her home in Portland during the vacation.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra Club, consisting of twelve members, will give a concert in the chapel, Thursday evening.
The tennis courts are ready for action. That is a compliment to Manager Parker and his assistants. This is surely a period of reconstruction at Bates and the tennis department is not behind the others in the policy of more “pep.”

Have you visited the renovated, aerated, pasteurized, Ross’s?

Prof. Robinson recently attended a meeting of the teachers of public speaking held in New York.

The thing that most needs criticizing just now is the presence of large numbers of fruit skins on our campus. We all have a very bad habit of throwing waste out of the window. This is just the time for a good resolution.

The busiest day of the spring term was last Saturday. There was something doing! People moving about the campus! It certainly looked good! Both sports were well patronized, and I guess that nobody felt that their time was wasted.

Did you know that our old friend, Chef Voyer, was in town?

Coach Ryan held another of his enthusiastic mass meetings last Thursday. Coach spoke with the same old fire, and everybody went away feeling that they “could beat anybody that was human,” the way he said Jim Thorpe did at the Olympic Games.

Haven’t heard any of those calamity howlers about pitchers since the game Saturday. No need to worry about that end if the showing of last Saturday was a fair criterion.

The dramatic club is working on a farce to be presented some time this term.

Josh Moulton, ’14, came over from Mechanic Falls to see “A Modern Eve.” Don’t blame him.

Don’t let Edmund Breese go away without seeing him. It only costs a dime, and is much more interesting than Molly, Waddy and that cute little rascal Tony.

Indoor sports have been abandoned entirely since vacation.

Everybody on hand Monday, when we wallop “the little Old New England League.”

Championship? Remember Anna Eva Fay!

ALUMNI NOTES

1879—Friends of Frank Leonard Buker, Bates, ’79, will be grieved to learn of his death at Wells Depot, Maine, on March 29th, after a short illness. He is survived by a wife and an adopted daughter, Mrs. Ola Leavitt.

1893—Rev. George Lincoln Mason has entered upon his seventh year as minister of Grace Chapel Society (Unitarian), Green Harbor, Mass. Green Harbor is a noted summer resort in the town of Marshfield. The parsonage of this society was owned by Daniel Webster. Mr. and Mrs. Mason have two sons, the older of whom is now in the U. S. Navy, cruising in Mexican waters at the present time. Mr. Mason is a warm supporter of woman suffrage and of nation-wide prohibition.

1913—Take Notice! Members of 1913, who have not received a copy of the 1915 class letter, should communicate at once with the graduate secretary. Address, A. S. Feinberg, Marshfield, Mass.

Frank C. Adams is teaching in Yamaguchi City, Japan. His work is in two schools, one of six hundred pupils of high school grade, the other of college grade. In the latter, Mr. Adams has the first year class of a hundred and twenty. He is having many interesting and pleasant experiences in Japan.

1914—The Alumni Editor hopes to receive a copy of the 1914 class letter soon, as it would be a great help in furnishing news for the column. 1914 is not the only class which is interested in knowing where its members are and what they are doing, so an early donation would be heartily appreciated.

1898—Dr. John Sturgis has recently lost his father, Dr. B. F. Sturgis, one of the prominent citizens of Auburn.

1896—Professor F. A. Knapp attended a recent meeting in Boston of the Classical Association of New England Colleges. Prof. Knapp has again been appointed representative of Bates, for three years, upon the New England College Entrance Certificate Board.
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