

then, if lambs and horses were nowadays impractical, the obligation still remained and the aid to happiness had to be given in some way. Daddy believed he had found the right way, and when they had all agreed, and learned to what purpose he had been thinking—trying to do in this generation what his father had done in his—gathered up the insurance policy and locked it into the family safe.

"That's that," he said, twirling the combination and turning to his smoking table. And so it was.

### The Month in Sports: Can Baseball Come Back?

By CARROLL D. ALCOTT

A prominent local fan, Miguel Cuaderno, told the writer not long ago that in his opinion athletics of all descriptions are visibly fading in the Philippines, with the exception of golf and a few of the amateur sports. Mike said: "A dozen years ago, baseball was being played throughout the provinces. One could not take a Sunday motor ride without passing through barrio after barrio without finding baseball games in progress. Today, one can motor for hours without hearing the whack of a bat."

Mike had no concrete reason to offer for this apparently deplorable state of affairs. He chose to regard it as something unavoidable and let the matter drop. Others questioned presented varied opinions as to what is wrong. They were principally interested in baseball and boxing and the amateur sports held little attraction for them. Most of them dispatched the matter with the belief that "folks are more interested in tea parties than in athletics, so why bother if both causes one to lose sleep?"

Not having lived in the Philippines ten or twelve years ago, it is impossible for the writer to ascertain accurately whether or not the moans one in the sport writing profession listens to every day are merely pipe dreams, hang-over ravings or well-meaning wails.

It is true that baseball needs some sort of a severe jolt to awaken it, but what it requires more than anything else is new faces. Unless something is done to develop the talent in the Philippines on a wholesale basis, the national pastime of the United States as concerns these islands will remain much as it is. An effort is now being made to place the amateur league on a permanent foundation and a step has been made in the right direction by entering a team composed of American youths.

If the amateur league is successful, it may produce an ivory mart in the Philippines that will improve the professional game. After all, baseball is fundamentally a professional sport. But it will be two or three years at least before the amateurs can be expected to produce another Birtulfo or a youth with the promise of a Regis.

The success with which the Philippine Baseball League was conducted this year indicates that it will not be a difficult problem to reorganize in November for the 1928-1929 season.

last half of the scheduled will be endured by all public spirited persons who attend the contests.

The series held last month between the Daimai and selections from the Philippine league proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that the game can be placed on a paying basis almost overnight when new competition and new faces are brought to town. It is the same on any other spot of the globe. The first three games of the series were witnessed by crowds that filled Nozalela park to overflowing. Even after the Daimai



All-Filipino Team Which Outplayed the Daimai

The army this year, as in 1927, has proved the backbone of the loop with one of the four teams flying the banner of Fort McKinley, and another, the Eagles, largely composed of army men. Of all the Filipino talent in the city, which is good, what there is of it has been able to produce but one good club, viz., Meralco. It would have

been discovered to be below the standard of the local teams, large crowds continued to turn out until the fatal eighth game, when the All-Stars fell victims to the jingle of silver and then failed to realize their ambition of playing before a packed grand-stand on the last day. The Daimai won that hectic encounter, 9 to 5. Regis mis-

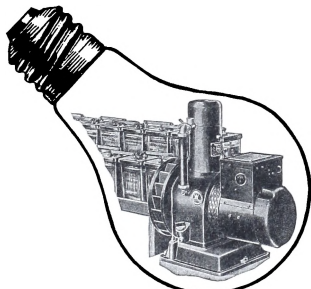


The Daimai (Japanese) Team: Good Players and Lots of Sportsmanship

been an impossibility to find another local group of players outside of Bilibid of equal ability, when Judge Ingersoll and Colonel Gambrell were organizing the loop last year. It will be the same way at the start of the coming season. In brief, the fans will watch the same men, with but one or two exceptions, play ball against the same competition they faced this year, and the usual agony that starts about the middle of the

judged a pop fly over first for the first time in months, and complained that the sun was too strong for his eyes. Bernales muffed four, Cruz bungled two, and the Daimai won handily. Even the umpires, after not rendering a break decision in favor of the Daimai during the seven previous games, caught the spirit of the party and acted accordingly.

In spite of the few unconventional events of the series, it might be profitable in more ways



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than one to stage a similar series each year. Let a local team be sent to Japan once a year under the banner of the Philippine Baseball League. It should not be a hard matter to secure a Japanese baseball team to play here year after year. The best teams in the country could be obtained, and, with the exchange of hospitality and hostilities, the game would be given a decided boost.

With such a series in sight, the impetus given the ambitious youth of the Philippines should work out exactly as it does in American colleges where making the team means trips that could not possibly be made otherwise. It would furnish a reason for local youngsters to put forth some effort in their ball playing, hence the benefits reaped would not only be financial, but productive of new talent as well.

Another plan that might work out satisfactorily would be the conducting of series with out-of-town teams. Baguio supports a baseball league from which an All-Star team can be formed that should compare favorably with the Manila clubs. Camp Stotsenburg and Corregidor contain plenty of good material and have produced fair teams in the past. I realize that many problems would confront such a move. However, it is only a suggestion, if an earnest one.

Returning to the first paragraph of this effort, relative to the decadence of athletics in the islands, which many say exists, baseball and boxing are not the only forms of sport that are prominent in the Philippines. They were the first two sports introduced at the start of American Occupation and naturally they thrived for more than twenty years. With the rapid expansion of the public school system, appeared the need for forms of sports other than baseball and boxing. Playground substitutes were provided that could be participated in by all. Track and field gained prominence, the amateur world thrived. Today, the Philippines are actually producing better all around athletes than they did a few years ago, a fact proved by the constant lowering of amateur records.

Tennis has gained such a foothold that it is now the most popular sport among the masses in the Islands, and, judging from the countless meets that are being held, it has supplanted baseball in the provinces. The net sport is probably the real reason for the condition described by Cuaderno.

On the whole, the condition of athletics in the islands is not so deplorable as many believe. The masses have taken to sports in keeping with the school programs; although baseball has lost some of its popularity, tennis, golf, and track and field are gaining in strength. Boxing, here as in any country in which it has been introduced, will make money for its promoters.

**Boxing.**—Last month produced one outstanding event in the fist game. A fun-loving negro boy from Buffalo engaged in a fistful duel with a local product, Irineo Flores, and won by miles. Hall is the best boy in the boxing line who has visited this particular city in months, and has received all credit due him. In other words, the local sporting fraternity has accepted him without dispute, and if he maintains a normal balance outside the ring, he should prosper in a financial way during his stay in Manila.

Hall lived up to all the nice things that were said about him. He out-boxed Flores in a fashion that made the Manila's most ardent followers admit his superiority. His greatest asset, judging from the showing he made against Flores, is his ability to work his way out of an attack by clever manipulation of the ropes. Essentially, he is a rope fighter, the man who attempts to beat him at his own game is out of luck. He started playing the strings at the very start of his brawl with Flores and kept up the same tactics throughout.

There are many remarks that can be made relative to the Buffalo youth's ring talent, but they are hardly necessary. It is enough to say that Hall, although not a champion, is the type of fighter who can fight all champions in his divisions, lose probably, but look good every minute of the scrap. He is a master showman.

**Swimming.**—Another outstanding event in the local spotlight last month was Dan Sal-

vador's sensational swim from Cavite to Parañaque beach. The plucky Filipino youth, who developed his art in the United States, covered approximately twenty kilometers, being forced to change his course because of fish traps, in three hours and fifty-one seconds, a record that will stand for a long, long time.

When Salvador returned to the islands two months ago, after several years in the United States, where he was of some concern in Pacific coast circles, few took his threats to swim Manila bay very seriously. The sages shook their heads and argued that the sharks would probably finish his swim before he was half way across the stretch. Taking the advice of Parañaque fishermen, Salvador constructed a huge wire cage, twelve feet in depth, twenty feet long and ten feet wide, which was towed by a banca and launch. Salvador swam in the enclosure free from the worry of the man-eating sea mammals.

Now that he has negotiated the distance between Cavite and Parañaque with no ill

effects, the skeptics have changed their attitude and have accepted him with the credit he deserves. His threat to swim from Corregidor to Parañaque is not being taken as an idle boast. He may do it.

With this month's issue, Carroll D. Alcott terminates his brief connection with the *Journal*, for which he conducted the sports department. Alcott left Manila May 26 to return to the United States and to newspaper work in New York. The *Journal* considers him a first rate newspaper man, and his work in Manila proved the value of his metropolitan experience in America. He was here two years, as a member of the editorial staff of the *Bulletin*. His colleges are South Dakota State and South Dakota School of Mines. He has been in newspaper work nine years. In the *Journal's* opinion, Alcott covered sports in the Philippines better than any other man who has delved in that trying field. Young as he is, his judgment was ripe and usually accurate, the great desideratum in a sports editor. If we can fill his place satisfactorily, we will; and if not, since our sole aim is to promote the interests of sport strictly from the amateur viewpoint, we shall close the department until a suitable man shows up.—E.P.

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