

In the SPORTS FIELD WITH Percy Taylor



One can imagine that coaches and captains of the various League football teams slept fitfully last night. Their minds would be visualising all sorts of possibilities and unusual positions, and they would be trying to prepare a plan for any eventuality in the opening games to-day.

Who are these coaches and captains? They are one person at Carlton, the premier side—Brighton Diggins—and he is a brewery employee. Collingwood has "Jock" McHale, a famous personality, as coach, and Harry Collier as captain, and both work in the same establishment as Diggins. Jack Baggott, the coach of Essendon, is a school teacher, and his captain is Dick Reynolds, who conducts his own grocery business.

At Fitzroy, Gordon Rattray is a traveller and Frank Curcio, the captain, is a professional musician, playing the bass violin in an orchestra. Joe Kelly, Footscray's coach, is a clerk in the Railways Department, and Roy Evans, the captain, is an engineer.

The captain-coach of Geelong is Reg Hickey, who is associated with the wool industry. Hawthorn's captain and coach, Len Thomas (formerly of South Melbourne) is a clerk in a city office. "Checker" Hughes, the Melbourne coach, is an hotelkeeper, and the captain, Alan La Fontaine, formerly a University student, is employed at the Vacuum Oil Co.

North Melbourne's captain-coach, Keith Forbes, is employed at the munition works at Maribyrnong.

Percy Bentley, captain-coach of Richmond, is a bag manufacturer with his own business in Brunswick. Ansel Clarke, who has the dual position at St. Kilda—he played for years with Carlton—is employed by the Melbourne City Council. Herb Matthews, who is coach and captain of the South Melbourne senior side, is employed by the Railways Department.

Lovelock or Wooderson?

Who is the greatest mile runner of all time? Attention to this question has been raised by the proposed meeting of the record holder, Stanley Wooderson, of England, and the former holder, Glen Cunningham, of America. They are to meet

land, and the former holder, Glen Cunningham, of America. They are to meet at Princeton (U.S.A.) on June 17, when Archie San Roman and Charles Fenske will also be in the field.

Wooderson is the holder of the world records for 880 yards and 800 metres, as well as of the mile. For this reason he must be considered one of the greatest athletes of all time. Yet when it is considered that Wooderson made all his world records in special races in which he was paced, one wonders if he is as great as Jack Lovelock, the New Zealander.

The mile world record stands to Wooderson at 4min. 5 4-10sec. The British runner had pacemakers to draw him out. Lovelock made his record of 4.7 6-10 in defeating Bill Bonthron (U.S.A.) at Princeton in 1933. He made his 1,500 metres record in winning his Olympic title at Berlin in 1936 against the world's best runners.

Lovelock defeated Cunningham and other Americans in the "mile of a century" in 1935, but the time was only 4.11 1-5. American critics said that Lovelock did not record better time because he did not have to do so to win. They class him as the greatest master of pace judgment in history, or as the best competition miler.

Glen Cunningham recorded 4.6 7-10 in making his record in 1934, and he holds the indoor record of 4.4 4-10. English experts believe that Wooderson can record

4min. 4sec. Some critics consider that a four-minute mile is not beyond him. But to be regarded as Lovelock's equal he must defeat Cunningham on June 17.

"Twinkletoes"

"The boy with the twinkling feet," was the description applied yesterday by a Carlton official to Jack Skinner, the only new player who was able to force his way into the premier side for the opening match of the League premier side to-day.

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day.

Skinner, who is aged 21 years, comes from Bacchus Marsh, which is rich, not only in its soil, but in the quality of the footballers it produces.

Shea and Vallenge, two famous Carlton players, came from that district, and Marcus Whelan, a Collingwood champion, also had his first game there. On the Carlton list at the moment is Watkins, from the same town, a young player who should soon be a regular player.

Hearing of the prowess of young Skinner, the captain-coach (Brighton Diggins), and the secretary (Mr. Newton Chandler, whose experience as a wing player for Carlton has taught him to recognise a player), visited Bacchus Marsh last year. They went up again early this year, and were able to beat off the opposition League clubs and secure his services.

Those who have not seen the Carlton practice games have probably wondered how Skinner was preferred to some excellent players from the seconds. In every practice game, however, Skinner has demonstrated his prowess. He will wear Shea's old number (No. 8), and will be watched with interest to-day.

First Life Member

The time passed long ago when table tennis was only a parlour pastime and when one of the champions could be defeated by a good eye and a carving knife.

Now the players dress specially for the game, and contort themselves in every possible manner in their endeavours to return the small white ball. The champions have to be as fit as boxers, and be masters of speed, spin, and defence.

The Victorian Table Tennis Association, with its 12 affiliated associations and dozens of affiliated clubs, is a highly organised and competent body. Last week, at the annual meeting, it created its first life member in Angus Taylor, the "Ivor Montagu" of the game here.

Taylor was virtually the founder of a controlling body in this State, being the first secretary in 1924. Later he was treasurer, vice-president, secretary again in 1934, 1935, and 1936, and he is now a vice-president again. For his indefatigable efforts for the game, he is a worthy life member.

He was once runner-up to Hector Oakley, of cricket and tennis fame, for the State singles title, and he won the doubles about four times. He played pennant lawn tennis for St. Kilda for several years, being club champion once. Last year, Taylor did not lose a game in C grade in-squash rackets, playing for the South Yarra club.

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