

## Breaks Of The Game

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By

W. N. Cox



They rate the "E." . . . The Sporting News has been better than ever in spite of wartime handicaps and now the organization has really gone and done it. . . . I am reading the first edition of the Overseas Edition of the famous baseball newspaper which will be sent by the thousands to all the fronts across the water. . . . It is a glorious piece of work. You can't buy this edition of the Sporting News. . . . It's not for money. . . . It's for your boy across the water, a weekly letter from the home sports front and since you'll have to take my word for it I assure you that it is just the grandest thing imaginable in this line. . . . Your boy will love it.

The Sporting News is printing the Overseas Edition in tabloid form. . . . The first edition has eight pages and owing to transportation difficulties it probably will be held to eight pages as standard policy.

However in the eight pages of the Overseas Edition your boy will get box scores of major league games, stories and scores on all the minor league games, pictures, comment, breezy shorts, editorials, the Sporting News' popular reprints under "Scribbled by Scribes" and a wealth of lore and chatter about baseball. . . . The Overseas Edition also will give your boy summary stories on all important sports events. . . . Here's one on boxing, another on track and here's one on ice hockey.

The Overseas Edition also will have the column "From Service Front" and no doubt it will be a source of great pleasure to your boy. . . . He will be able to keep track of the athletes in the service and perhaps he will be able to locate a lost pal or two in the column.

I'm satisfied that you grasp the tremendous possibilities in such a newspaper for a great piece of work. And I'm satisfied that knowledge of the fact that a sports publication is doing it fills you with pride. . . . Seriously to me it is the heftiest lift I've had in this line since we first started pitching for keeps against those vile people who hate us in every way and who view our sports as evidence of a way of life suited only for morons.

### Another Side

All of which is well and good and it will be splendid for as long as the Sporting News has enough material from the home front to go into the Overseas Edition. . . . The situation appears none too good for a long run of Overseas Editions, and it is a pathetic situation.

Here we have a grand piece of work, paid for no doubt by the Government, and no plan of action to assure one and all, both the home front and the boys at the front, that there will be enough sports to warrant publication of an Overseas Edition or any sort of edition for that matter.

I can only repeat what I've said here a dozen times. . . . The sports situation in this war has been bungled. . . . It has been ignored. . . . The sports front has been shorn of any standing in the war plan, and minus any sort of weapon to defend its life has been tossed into a battle for life. . . . The sports scene can't survive the pressure under such conditions.

It would seem that if the Government feels that it is worthwhile to have an Overseas Edition of the Sporting News assembled and transported in vast quantities for the fighters on the fronts, well it would seem that the Government could make a few small moves designed to keep sports alive on the home front.

The deferment until October 1 of not more than 2,000 men would have enabled every baseball league from Class C up to operate this summer. . . . As it stands now, South Carolina, Florida, East Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, to mention a few States, have no baseball. . . . There are two leagues of high rank in the entire South, the Southern Association and the Piedmont.

It could have been different. . . . That's under the bridge now. . . . The serious side is that what's left is running out of gas. . . . If the Government wants the Overseas Edition to keep on going to the fighters something will have to be