

Techawk Nine Wins But One Of 11 Games

Team Gains Only Victory Over Chicago University, Batting Average of .255

One victory, one tie and nine losses—that is the 1943 record of Illinois Tech's baseball team, the poorest showing in this sport in Techawk history. Two of the games were lost by one run.

Tough competition, a lack of pitchers and a rookie squad were among the reasons for the team's shortcomings. The squad achieved a .255 batting average for the season, with four players surpassing the .300 mark.

In the tenth game of the season, postponed four times because of inclement weather, the Techmen finally tasted victory when a home run by Tom Contes in the 14th inning broke a 10-to-10 game with the University of Chicago. Contes made seven hits in eight times at bat in that encounter.

IIT's only tie was the result of a game with Joliet prison, the warden calling the game after 12 innings of play.

The Techmen suffered their worst defeat of the season when Navy Pier, backed by the fast ball pitching of Perme of Major League fame, ran up a 22-to-0 score.

First defeat for the IIT squad came in the opening game of the year against Lake Forest, the latter winning 14 to 6. A questionable decision by the umpire gave Concordia a 12-to-11 decision over Illinois Tech in the first home game. Al Dambros, number one pitcher, injured his pitching hand in the opener.

Four consecutive routs followed, administered by the University of Chicago, Navy Pier, Navy of the U. of C. and Concordia, the last game resulting in a 20-to-10 defeat for IIT.

Returning to service, Dambros lost a 3-to-2 heartbreaker to Lake Forest. The 87th Street Navy school handed Illinois Tech its ninth defeat in the final game of the season.

Navy Assigns Swimming

Swimming will come in for a place on IIT's sports program this summer, but in this case for only the Navy men. All of the Navy men at IIT are required by service regulations to pass certain swimming tests while here.

Tom Contes, Freshman Outfielder, Leads Techawk Batters With Average of .414

Slamming the ball at a torrid .414 clip, Tom Contes, freshman outfielder, led the 1943 Illinois Tech baseball team in hitting, batting averages released this week revealed. Contes obtained 17 hits in 41 trips to the plate during the season just closed.

Contes' average easily rated him as the leading batsman among the 18 Techawk diamondmen. He bettered the team's average of .255 by 159 percentage points.

Only three other Techawks hit above the .300 mark. Al Dambros, captain of the Techawks, belied the old theory that pitchers cannot hit by ranking just behind Contes in batting. Dambros averaged .400 on 10 hits in 25 at bats.

Also hitting at a .400 clip was Tom Galvin; however, he was officially at the plate only five times during the season, getting two hits in these trips. The other better-than-.300 hitter for the Techawks, Ralph Johnson, similarly secured a high average on a few brief appearances at bat. Johnson got two

ATHLETES THEN

Schommer Ranks as All-time Sports Great, Winning Highest Possible Honors in 4 Sports

By MARVIN LARSON

All-time all-American in basketball.

All Western and all-American mention in football.

An Olympic selection in track.

And a leading hitter in baseball.

This is John J. Schommer, director of athletics at Illinois Institute of Technology.

Most students have heard that John Schommer was a great athlete in his day, but few realize the unusual heights which he attained.

He was the first man in history to win letters in four sports at the University of Chicago and is one of the all-time sport greats of the world.



Schommer

John received his high school education at the Central YMCA. He took only two years and one summer to complete the four year course. John was captain of the Central YMCA team which won the world's YMCA championship at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. He was high scorer of the team which defeated all comers including several university teams such as Kansas, Nebraska, Haskell and many others.

'C' for 'Championship'

When "Long Jaw" entered the University of Chicago, he didn't lose his eye for the basket. Along with the great Pat Page, John made the "C" stand for "Championship" as well as Chicago in the days of long ago. In his first game for the Maroons in the season of 1905-06,

he was high point man, scoring eight of Chicago's 25 points as they beat Oberlin 25 to 24. Said a newspaper report of this occasion, "For Chicago, Schommer, the old Central YMCA star, was the standout. His work was the best ever seen on a Western Intercollegiate court."

Schommer was the Western Conference's leading scorer for three successive seasons, 1907, 1908 and 1909. In one season, that of 1908, he scored 275 points in 19 games, an average of 14½ points per game. He frequently threw eight to twelve field goals per game, and he had a college record of 18 field goals for one game. John could shoot from anywhere on the floor and was probably the greatest long shot artist the conference has ever known.

Long-Shot Artist

In 1907 at St. Louis when Chicago was playing the Missouri Athletic Club, Schommer took a rebound from the Missouri backboard and threw a field goal the full length of the court (incidentally, the court was 90 feet long) for the longest two points ever made. He frequently threw goals from mid-court, and in one game at the old Bartlett Gym Schommer made six field goals from the middle of the floor.

In a Purdue game on the Lafayette floor with Chicago six points behind and less than two minutes to go, Schommer took the center jump four consecutive times, got the ball, and dribbled through the whole Purdue team and threw four consecutive field goals to win the game. In the playoff for the conference championship in 1908 at Madison at a crucial point in the game, Schommer outjumped the Wisconsin center, E. O. "Jumbo" Steihn, caught the ball,

With 50-Point Season Total, Haberkorn Tops IIT Trackmen; Parks Ranks Second

Leading 16 other Techawk cindermen, Jack Haberkorn emerged this spring as the top point-winner for the Illinois Tech track squad, with a total of 50 points. Bill Parks captured second place, amassing 35 points.

Seventeen Tech trackmen managed to win points. Captain Jack Tregay garnered 30 points for IIT, and Bill Cooley collected 22. Arnie Harrison and Earl Mills also ranked

in the upper bracket as far as Tech scoring was concerned, the former winning 17½ and the latter 17 points.

Eight Techawk cinderman won first places in 1943 competition, Haberkorn leading the field with nine firsts. Tregay finished first on four occasions, while Bill Parks took three top places. Bill Cooley and Al Purzycki each won two first places, and Harrison and Earl Mills captured one apiece.

Twelve Techmen managed to take second places in the track competition, while third places also went to 12 cinderman.

The point scoring record in track:

	1st's	2nd's	3rd's	4th's	Pts.
Jack Haberkorn.....	9	1	1	0	50
Bill Parks.....	3	1	3	2	35
Jack Tregay (Capt.).....	4	3	0	1	30
Bill Cooley.....	2	2	3	3	22
Arnie Harrison.....	1	2	3	1	17½
Al Purzycki.....	2	2	0	1	17
Earl Mills.....	1	1	0	4	12
Ed Johnston (Capt.).....	0	3	2	3	10
Tom Paulsen.....	0	3	2	2	9
Jack Eulitt.....	1	0	0	0	4
Bob Anschicks.....	0	1	0	0	3
Ralph Arboe.....	0	2	2	0	2½
Bob Bathe.....	0	1	1	0	2
Nat Ratner.....	0	0	1	1	1½
Ray Ingham (inj'd).....	0	0	1	0	1
Jurgen Schmidt.....	0	0	1	0	1
Chuck Farr.....	0	0	1	0	1

Rinehart Announces Track Workouts

While track appears the least likely of all sports to have competition this summer, it does seem that it may be the first to have action. Coach Wilmer Rinehart has announced that if possible he is going to devote some time to directing limited workouts for certain of his trackmen. He is very anxious to build toward next season and points out that this is the sure way to do it.

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dribbled back and caged a field goal from two-thirds of the length of the old Armory Gym. These and many more deeds made basketball history for the Maroons.

Recognition of the talent which Schommer displayed in the cage sport came again this spring when he was chosen by the Helm Foundation in Los Angeles as an all-time all-American basketball player.

Schommer Had 'Golden Toe'

John's prowess in other sports was just as sensational. He was all-Western end in football and a member of the championship teams of 1907 and 1908. Schommer had what football fans now call a "Golden Toe," being an outstanding place kicker, and he was also an expert pass receiver.

In baseball he was a slugging outfielder, also sometimes playing first base, leading the Western conference in hitting and home runs in 1908. He had a batting average of more than .400.

That same season he was the high point man on the Maroon track team. He and three other Maroons won the conference track championship in 1908; the four of them scored all the points, and John made six of the 22 that won the championship. He held the University of Chicago's running high jump record, as well as the standing high jump record, for many years. He was also a shot putter and discus thrower, and in his senior year ran the hurdles.

Selected for Olympics

Highest honor that can come to an American trackman was given to Schommer in 1908 when he was selected on the United States Olympic team. John was named as a competitor in seven events, the standing and running high jump, the standing and running broad jump, the hop skip and jump, the weights and the discus.

However, he didn't make the Olympic trip to London, for John, an outstanding student, stayed home to study so that he could graduate from college sooner and set another Chicago record that may still stand—that of making five and one-half majors in a summer.

In all, Schommer, a real champion of champions, was on six championship teams at the University of Chicago, three in basketball, two in football, and one in track. As a prelude to being all-time all-American center, John was all-Western center in basketball for all four of his seasons.

Won High Student Honors

At the University of Chicago he was elected to Owl and Serpent, highest student honor, and was made a University Marshall, highest honor the University administration bestows upon an undergraduate. Upon graduation, he had 14 more than the 36 majors required by the University for granting a degree. While at Chicago, John earned two-thirds of his tuition working for the University and in addition earned \$2,982 by selling advertising and other things.

John is still active in athletics, as he is director of athletics here at Illinois Tech. And, of course, every sports fan knows Schommer the football official, one of the professional league's most colorful arbitrators. However, Schommer's primary occupation is directing placement and being professor of industrial chemistry. And just to keep John as busy as he used to be when he was doubling in basketball and indoor track or baseball and outdoor track in the grand old days at Chicago, he is active as assistant to the state adviser on occupational deferments for the Selective Service System.

Varsity Plans Still in Doubt But Possible

New Softball Tourney, Golf, Tennis on Tap For All Students

"It's a military secret."

That is almost the status of the plans for summer sports activity at Illinois Institute of Technology, for at the moment John J. Schommer and his aides have no definite plans as to just how intensive the sports program at IIT will be during the summer. It is obvious to the athletic officials that much of these plans will have to be worked out with Navy officials when their men arrive at IIT.

It has been pointed out that varsity athletics could be continued in such sports as baseball, tennis and golf, if such competition were found desirable. Track would also be a possibility, but seems out because competition here would be more difficult to obtain than in the other sports.

But regardless of varsity sports plans, intramural sports enthusiasts will find a full program of activity in three sports awaiting them this summer. Full plans for an intramural program are already made, and there will be activity in softball, tennis and golf.

Softball Tournament Planned

Although the recent intramural softball tournament was not completed because of rainy weather, a new contest will begin with the summer term. Victories or losses in the spring competition will not be counted.

Each softball team will be required to submit a new list of players for the summer tournament, it has been announced. Depending on the number of participants, the contest will be conducted either as a round robin or an elimination event.

Individual competition is planned in both tennis and golf, and tennis matches will be scheduled as soon as the courts are ready for play. Further information concerning the time and place of matches and the rules of tennis and golf competition will be posted on the intramural bulletin board and will be printed in *Technology News*.

Rain Prevents Play

Water proved to be the undoing of the recent intramural softball tournament, for during the last two weeks of the semester it rained every day but one. Since Ogden field was covered with water, no games were played, and standings therefore remained the same.

Seven teams were left in the tournament, but only three squads were undefeated. Awards were not made because the tournament was not completed.

Medals will be awarded to intramural winners this summer, and in every respect intramural activity will be just as full and as intensive as any intramural program in the past.

Chance for Varsity Competition

In the event that there should be any varsity sports, it has been pointed out that there would be a chance for competition with various service teams, as well as sandlot and civic organizations sponsoring athletic units.

In considering the sports outlook at Illinois Tech for the new summer-fall team, one observer commented that it might even be possible for IIT to field a football team next fall. The Navy's educational program permits its men to compete in varsity sports and virtually all schools with Navy programs as large as Illinois Tech's are planning a football program built around their Navy men.