

Athlete Then, Professor Now, Is John Schommer's Career

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.

John received his high school education at the Central YMCA. He took only two years and one summer to complete the four year course.

'C' for 'Championship'

When "Long Jawn" 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."

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.

Recognition of the talent which Schommer displayed in the cage sport came two years ago 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 Chi-

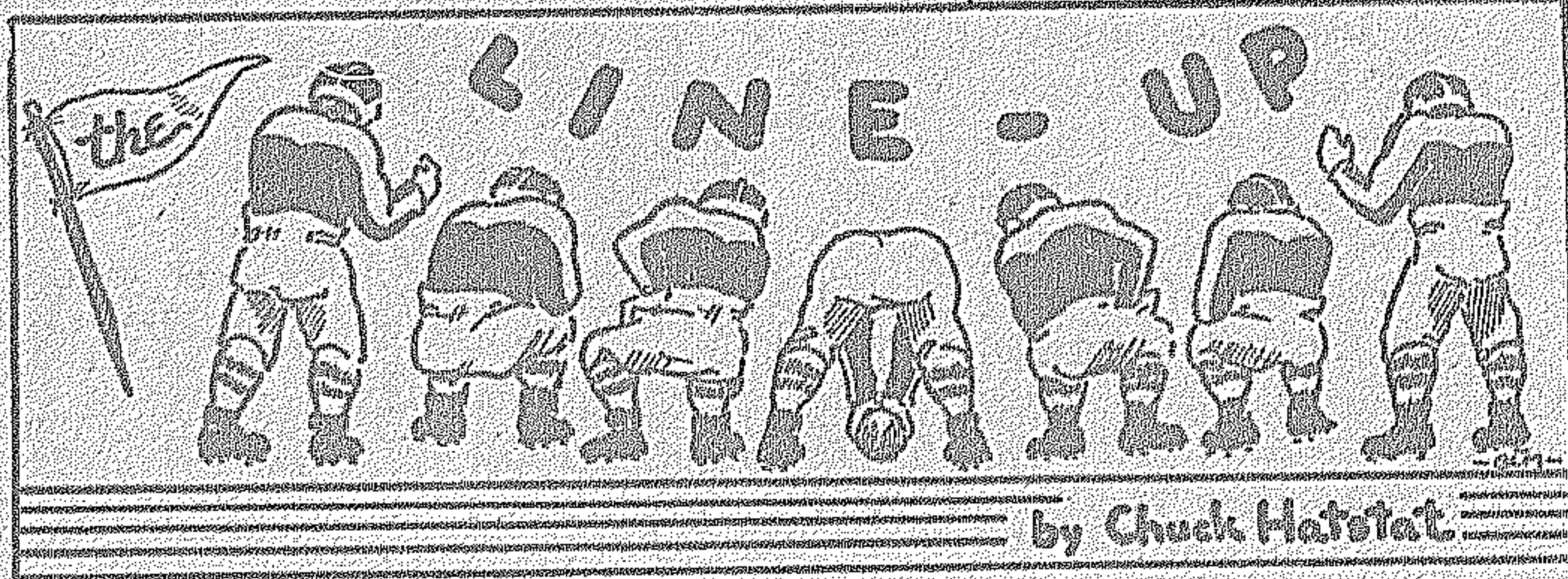
cago record that may still stand—that of making five and one-half majors in a summer.

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 has been active as assistant to the state advisor on occupational deferments for the Selective Service System.



With the rain battering 1,000 this week, sports activities on the campus were non-existent. Being the particular season of the year when IIT athletics are confined to intramurals and interfraternity clashes, strictly local, the rain on Ogden Field was all that was needed to wash out schedules made last week.

Ogden Field's necessity to the limited sports curriculum thus became apparent. With the Institute's expansion due to cover much of the field, and the new combined track and baseball diamond along 31st Street to be laid out somewhere in the distant future, the intramural sports picture is a gloomy one.

Getting back to the present. Big battle of the week is the Wednesday softball clash between the top Sigma Alpha Mu aggregation and the up-and-coming Delt. The Sammys have played a total of four games, with no losses, and the Deltas have two wins and a loss to their credit. With the battery combination of John Shore and Al Migdal playing their usual heads-up game, the Sammys look like the favorites in this high spot of the week.

The Pi Kaps and the Deltas are in a third place deadlock, each holding two victories and a loss. The engagement Thursday looks like the Pi Kaps' on the basis of the scores each team rolled up on the Triangle squad two week ago. The Deltas pushed across 18 tallies against 10 for the Triangle, showing hitting power and fielding weaknesses.

When the Pi Kaps locked horns with the Triangle, it was a free-for-all slugfest for the Pi Kaps, as they galloped unhampered to a 23 to 5 win. Unless the Deltas show considerable improvement, Jack Capron should run into little trouble in putting them down.

Gene Evers will return to the mound Friday when the second-place Alpha Sigs meet the Pi Kaps. With one defeat chalked up against them so far in five tussles, the Alpha Sigs, backed up by the hitting of Roy Schimmelpfenig and Mel Stidham, should take this one, even though the Pi Kaps have Jack Capron and Len Donarski swinging a heavy bat.

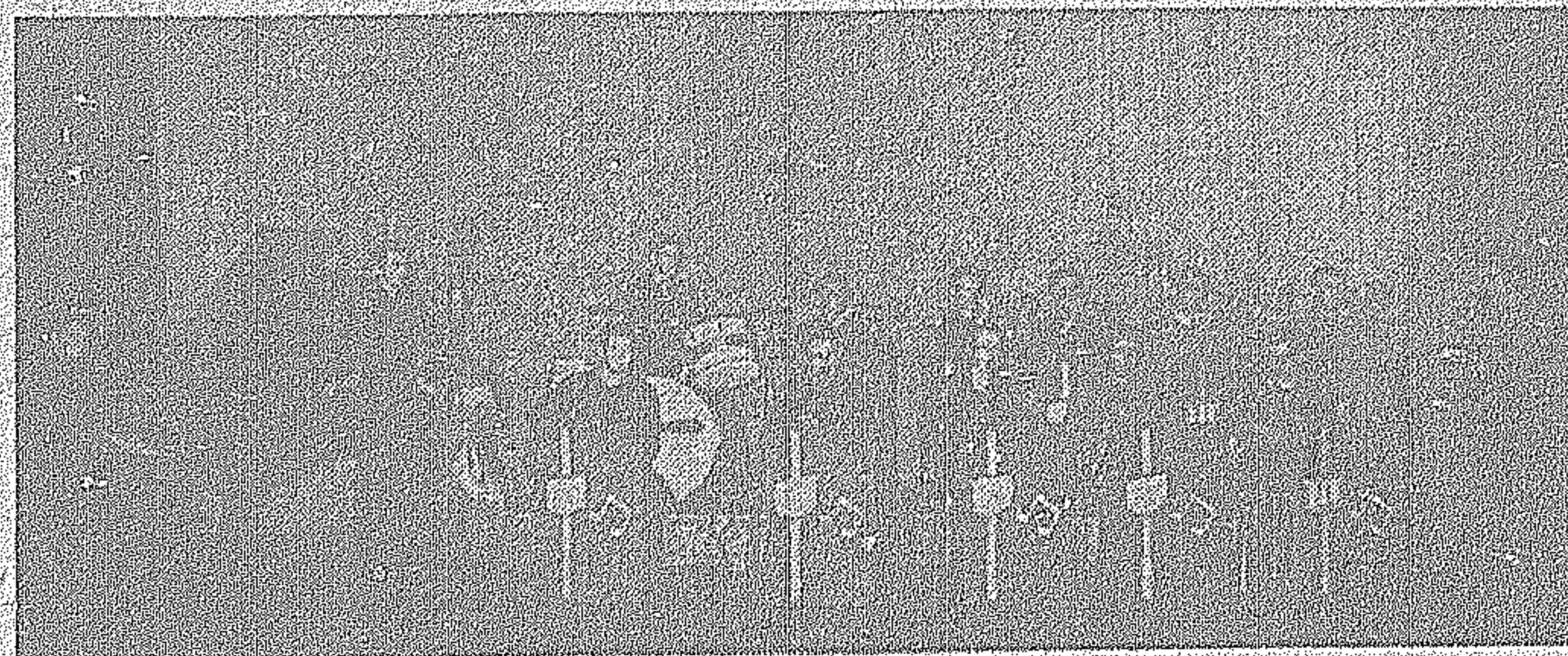
The intramural touchball schedule brings up two newcomers: the Quarters #3 Demons, and the NRO Sophs, in a game Monday. Neither team has been tested and the clash may throw light on the outcome of the tourney. The NRO's have what appears to be a powerful outfit and should emerge near the top of the pile.

With the tournament barely under way and schedules held up a week by rain, favorites are hard to pick. The freshman Mech-Elecs and the Senior Mechs, however, looked like championship material in their first games.

The Fresh toppled the Senior Chems and the Mechs took over their junior counterparts in the first games of the season. When they meet Tuesday, it should be the big battle of the week.

The Fresh passing combination of Markado and Dedina carried the Mech-Elecs all the way in the contest with the Senior Chems. Put them against Negele, Browning, Evers and Schimmelpfenig of the Senior Mechs and the sparks should fly.

Hard Time Converters



DANCE BAND—Scheduled for Wednesday, Bob Harmon's Dance Band will play for the sophomore Hard Times Party. The dance begins at 7 p.m. and is admission free.

Scouting Group Pledges Seven

Seven men have recently been pledged to Alpha Phi Omega, national service fraternity. They are: A/S H. G. Rivkin, Don Black, Jack McClow, Henry Kudenholdt, A/S Robert Vreeland, and A/S Jack Gilman.

Requisites for membership are based on scholastic achievement, character, and previous membership in the Boy Scouts. The main object of the fraternity is to render service to the student body.

As pledge duties, each pledge must devise and carry out a project which will benefit the rest of the students on the campus.

As pledge duties, Black, McClow, and Kudenholdt are bringing up to date the large service flag which now hangs above the stairway, first floor Main building. Schrotzberger and Gilman are preparing a directory of senior students to be presented to alleighth term seniors, while Vreeland is working on a music project with O. Gordon Erickson, musical director at IIT.

Seven Men Pledged To Musical Honorary

The pledges for Pi Nu Epsilon, musical fraternity, were selected recently. They are: Roland Fischer, Bill Sirvatka, Tom Feehery, DeWitt Pickens, Ken Holtz, Tucker Matzek, and Charles Pigue.

The pledges are to carry a 6 ft. x 2 ft. treble clef upon which they must get the signatures of all the actives, stated Norbert Vojta, pledge-master. The pledges are to begin their duties today.

INTERFRATERNITY SOFTBALL SCHEDULE	
TUESDAY, Oct. 2, 5 p.m.	Pi Kappa Phi vs. Theta Xi
	Triangle vs. Sigma Alpha Mu
WEDNESDAY, Oct. 3, 5 p.m.	Delta Tau Delta vs. Sigma Alpha Mu
	Theta Xi vs. Praetorians
THURSDAY, Oct. 4, 5 p.m.	Pi Kappa Phi vs. Delta Tau Delta
	Triangle vs. Praetorians
FRIDAY, Oct. 5, 11 a.m.	Pi Kappa Phi vs. Alpha Sigma Phi
	Delta Tau Delta vs. Praetorians

Fraternities & Sororities

Dance at Midland Held By Sigma Alpha Mu

Sigma Alpha Mu held a dance last Saturday at the Midland Hotel, Dearborn and Adams streets. Highlight of the party, according to A/S William Berk, were a play enacted by the pledges and a community sing led by A/S Marshall Sager.

A/S Ben Barisch, athletic director, stated that the fraternity hopes to win the intramural softball tournament by winning the rest of the games on their schedule.

Tom Feehery Elected President of Triangle

Tom Feehery was elected president of Triangle fraternity for the coming term. He will assume the duties of Joe Delaney who is president for this term.

The other officers elected are:

INTRAMURAL TOUCHBALL SCHEDULE	
Monday, Oct. 1, 5 p.m.	Qts. #3 Demons vs. N.R.O. Sophs.
Tuesday, Oct. 2, 5 p.m.	Sr. Mechs vs. Mech Elecs.
Wednesday, Oct. 3, 5 p.m.	Senior Chems vs. Senior Electrical #s1
Thursday, Oct. 4, 5 p.m.	Junior Electricals vs. Junior Mechs.
Friday's Games to be posted on BULLETIN BOARD	

Soph Dance To Be Wednesday

The all school hard times dance will be held this Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Bob Harmon and his dance band will provide the music. The dance will be held in the auditorium of the Student Union and will be admission free.

All Techmen and dance club members are invited. Frank Janik, president of the sophomore class, said that there will be girls from several nearby colleges for those fellows who cannot bring their own dates. John Schmidt, of the Dance Club, said that there would probably be no shortage of girls and urged all fellows to come out to the dance.

The decoration committee, headed by Leo Schmidt, social chairman, and George Zavodny, treasurer, will take care of decorations in the building. Also on the committee are Henry Kudenholdt and Ken C. Bennetto.

Money for the dance will come from the unused profits of the Snow Ball dance held last February. The sophomore and freshman class were co-planners of the dance.

At the intermission of the dance, three judges will pick the worst dressed couple. A prize will be given both to the fellow and the girl. The judges are Leo Schmidt, Grant Medin, and Harold Esser. After the prizes are awarded refreshments will be served downstairs in the cafeteria.

Senior Commencement To be Held October 20

Senior Commencement has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 20, stated Dean Charles Tibbals. The auditorium of the Museum of Science and Industry is where about 50 IIT seniors will graduate.

The Rev. Harold W. Ruopp, honorary chaplain of IIT, will give the Baccalaureate Sermon.

Harold Esser, vice president; Walter Luehrs, treasurer; Leo Schmidt, secretary; Martin Gabriel, chapter editor; Richard Lund, athletic chairman; Winsor Fisher, steward.

Triangle is holding a senior farewell dinner-dance at the Marine Dining Room of the Edgewater Beach Hotel this Saturday.

Pi Kapp Pledges Hold Informal Initiation

A reported "gala" informal initiation was experienced Saturday evening by the pledges of Pi Kappa Phi. The affair was climaxed with "excursions" to various points of interest within the city by the pledges.

A formal initiation followed by a dinner will be held next Sunday afternoon and evening.

There will be meetings of both the active chapter and the pledge class Wednesday at 5 p.m.

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