

1804 R

elims Tuesday Night

Both Barrels

By DAMON RUNYON

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THE lads along Broadway have a new betting diversion.

They are now going to basketball games, and betting—not on the general results, as they do in other games, but on points scored.

Incidentally, they say it is the fastest form of betting that has yet been developed by any indoor or outdoor pastime, and while some may see in this practice a menace to the welfare of the game, it is also indicative of the new and tremendous general interest in basketball.

We have recently discovered a curious fact about middle-aged fellows raised around New York. About 50 per cent. of them played a bit of basketball in their youth. About 60 per cent. of the youth now growing up in New York are playing basketball.

When you talk about national pastimes, you will have to give some consideration to this strictly American institution, which is younger than baseball, but is now played by more youngsters, male and female, than Abner Doubleday's diversion.

We were aware that basketball is a major sport out around the Middle West, but we never suspected that many big towners had been raised upon the game until we got to inquiring

in both instances is supposed to be more powerful, more finished.

MR. GALLAGHER A FAN

ONE of the greatest basketball bugs we have ever encountered is Mr. Bill Gallagher, of horse racing fame. He is a bland, rotund man, of middle years, and of considerable means, who is well-known around the racetracks as the owner of a big stable.

He is a great fight fan and a hockey fan, but no one ever suspected that Mr. Bill Gallagher's real sports heart throb is basketball, until he popped out with a team of his own, called the New York Whirlwinds. Then we discovered that Mr. Bill Gallagher, in his youth, had much local note as a basketball player.

His team includes no less than six former captains of New York college basketball teams. They are Bill Nash, Columbia, '35-'36; Tony De Phillips, Fordham, '35-'36; Willie Rubenstein, N. Y. U., '35-'36; Sol Kopitko, C. C. N. Y., '35-'36; Lou Bender, Columbia, '32; Lou Spindell, C. C. N. Y., '31.

Mr. Bill Gallagher's team must hold some sort of record for number of ex-college captains, anyway. Basketball can't be anything else but a hobby with him, because he has nothing to advertise, nothing to sell, and doesn't care for personal publicity. He just dotes on basketball.