

# The Weekly Almanian

VOL. 1. NO. 25.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1908.

PER COPY 5 CENTS.

## THE OPENING LECTURE

Prof. Frank N. Notestein Gives a Discourse on the History of Astronomy.

The Chapel lecture for the opening of the spring term was given by Professor Frank N. Notestein, acting President. Professor Notestein took for his subject the history of astronomy and delivered an intensely interesting discourse. It is to be regretted that many of the students had not returned to college in time to hear his opening lecture.

We reproduce below a few of the interesting portions of Dr. Notestein's lecture. "In its theories Astronomy reaches back to a period long before the Sun, in his golden mantle clad, rent the curtain of darkness to welcome into his genial embrace his daughter Earth; and with its prophetic finger points forward to the time when 'the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll.' It is above all others a science that cultivates the powers of imagination and arouses a feeling of awe and reverence. Yet its theories are based upon the most rigorous mathematical calculations and demonstrations. As a study it possesses at once the beauty and fascination of poetry and the exactness of mathematics. "In considering this subject we must bear in mind that its progress is most closely connected with that of our race. It has always been the foundation and life of geography and navigation and the very soul of chronology. It is a well known fact that some of the leading advances and discoveries in abstract mathematics have been made in its service; also the methods of observation and analysis once peculiar to its use now furnish the firm basis upon which rests the group of sciences we call physics.

"The introduction of the Copernican System, took place about the middle of the 16th century. It is said that Copernicus noticed how when we are riding rapidly we forget our motion and think the trees are gliding by us in an opposite direction. He spoiled this thought to the movement of the heavenly bodies and saw how beautifully simple it rendered the celestial phenomena. He now saw it was possible for the sun to be the center of the solar system and how the earth revolved annually around the sun instead of the sun around the earth. He also saw how, instead of the whole starry universe revolving about the earth in twenty-four hours, the earth simply rotates on its own axis. Copernicus left his system very imperfect. It was the discoveries of Kepler, Galileo and Newton that forever settled this question. Kepler adopted the Copernican System and the prevailing and romantic idea that the circle is the most beautiful figure in nature, the symbol of perfection, and hence the only form worthy of God, and there-

fore He must have used it for the orbits of the worlds He had created. Being imbued with this idea he commenced a rigorous comparison of the position of Mars as observed by Tycho Brahe, with the places as stated in the best constructed tables on the circular theory. For a time they appeared to agree, but at length the observations of Brahe would not tally with the computed position by eight minutes of arc. Kepler exclaimed: "Out of these eight minutes I will construct a new theory that will explain the movements of all planets." He abandoned the circle and adopted the ellipse, but unfortunately placed the sun at the center, and again followed Mars on his course only to meet with failure. At last he determined to place the sun at one of the foci and once more hunt down the theory. For a whole year he joyfully traced the planet along its orbit and found that it coincided exactly with its computed positions. Thus after 17 years diligent toil the truth was discovered and Kepler gave to the world his first great law, viz: Planets revolve in elliptical orbits with the sun at one focus.

"Galileo the great Florentine Philosopher and contemporary of Kepler, constructed the first telescope and on the night of January 8th, 1610 he turned his telescope upon Jupiter and saw his moons.

Here was presented to the view of the great philosopher a complete miniature Copernican System, suspended in the sky for all to behold and examine for themselves. Newton by the discovery of the law of gravitation in the 17th century, laid the foundation of physical astronomy. Astronomical science has been making great strides since the beginning of the 18th century. The names of Lagrange and Laplace shine forth from the galaxy of great names of his period like stars of the first magnitude. The analytical methods introduced by them for solving the most intricate astronomical problems, marks a new era in mathematical and physical astronomy. In the present century Young, Langley, and others by means of the spectroscope seize a slender ray of light as it comes to us from the sun, stars or nebulae and compel it to write out the names of the substances which enter in the constitution of the luminous body from which it proceeds. Time will not permit reference to the names and achievements of the scores of noble workers who are constantly contributing something to the progress of one or more branches of the science. We seem to be standing on the very threshold of a new era in the progress of astronomy. Observatories, the watch towers of science now cover the whole earth and the sentinels never sleep. No star or constellation can ever set. It escapes the scrutinizing gaze of one astronomer to meet the equally piercing glance of another. As we review the records of the past and attempt to grasp the capabilities of the future we feel our selves lifted into another realm of being. The limitations of earth and material existence are left behind and we dwell gifted with a sort of omnipresence, in the immensity of God's universe."

## C. E. SCOTT, '98.

Chas. Ernest Scott, '98, who now is a missionary in China sends the following interesting program of the athletic contests in which his, the Temple Hill School, took part. Mr. Scott says that the mission schools are making a great change in the ideas of the Chinese, as Confucianism teaches them to detest bodily exercises and development.

### PROGRAMME.

The Second Semi-Annual Sports of the Chefoo Schools Will be held on the Temple Hill English School Grounds Saturday, November 9th, 1907. Squad drills 10 to 11:30 a. m. Other events 1 to 4 p. m.

### COMPETING SCHOOLS:

NAVAL COLLEGE  
TEMPLE HILL SCHOOL  
YANG JING SCHOOL  
TUNG MU SCHOOL.

There will be two classes. There will be three prizes for each event.

The school that gains the most marks in a class will receive a banner.

	Marks	1st	2d	3d
1. Squad drill (at least 20 men)	7	5	3	
2. 100 yards dash	3	2	1	
3. Relay race	5	3	1	
4. High Jump	3	2	1	
5. Backward dash	3	2	1	
6. Pole vault	3	2	1	
7. 220 yards race	3	2	1	
8. Tug of war	5	3	1	
9. Long jump	3	2	1	
10. 440 yards race	5	3	1	
11. Horizontal	3	2	1	
12. Throwing the hammer	3	2	1	
Consolation race (200 yards)				
2nd Class (Boys under 16)				

### Events in Order.

1. Squad drill (at least 20 men)	7	5	3
2. 100 yard dash	3	2	1
3. Arithmetic race	5	3	1
4. High jump	3	2	1
5. 100 yards race hopping	3	2	1
6. Pole vault	3	2	1
7. 220 yards race	3	2	1
8. Pitcher & catcher comp.	3	2	1
9. Long Jump	3	2	1
10. Nut race	3	2	1

Consolation race (200 yards)

Judges: Messrs. Wan Kwen San, Chang Cheng King, Li Sheng Hsuen, Scott (Alma), Murray, Cameron, Liu Jin Chen.

Executive Committee: Chairman, Mr. K. C. Sen; Secretary, Mr. Ni Hsien Ting; Treasurers, Messrs. G. Cornwell, and Tung Kwan I; Mr. Basset, Mr. Luk Ping Wa, Chen Chi Yun.

The much talked about and long looked for caps and gowns have at last appeared in public. Last Friday morning the grave and reverend Senior class assembled in the college office and marched in solemn procession into the chapel. Owing to some contingency the special music and exercises appropriate to the occasion were not provided. Doubtless the class president was too much weighted down by the cares of the world to see that people were doing their duty in this regard. However, let us trust this oversight will not occur next year when the Seniors make their grand robed appearance.

## SPRING TRAINING

Men are Out on Davis Field Now —Baseball and Athletics Are Starting.

With the opening of the spring term the baseball and track men have settled down to a steady drill in preparation for the heavy season opens April 15th. The condition of Davis Field is something of a draw back but Harper hopes to have the work of refitting the track and diamond completed by next week.

There is no question that the baseball squad will be far stronger than last year and Alma fans will have the opportunity to see any amount of fast playing as eleven games will come to the homefield. The team has already been placed in positions and each man is getting a drill in his individual place. Hoben, a very clever player from Adrian, who enrolled for the second semester, will take the place behind the bat and his size and speedy work promise to make him a better back stop than was Captain Campbell last year. Roy will go to center field if Hoben holds the place. "Hal" and "Sandy" are lined up for the heavy box work of the season although Bradfield and Stanly Johnson may get a look in, in some of the minor games. Both are good men and will stand a chance of winning their letters again this spring. "Big Steve" Hill will stake his claim around first sack and no one will offer any objections. His last year's work was without a fault, especially with the stick as he leads the batting average. Captain John Campbell holds second and Ehlers will take Helmer's place at short. That the Ann Arbor boy is clever no one can deny and he covers his ground as well as "Hal" did on the championship team. Dan Duncanson has been placed on third where he promises to make good. The two open places in the field will be taken by members of the pitching staff. As utility man Roy Phillips of Cass City is in the lead and will surely get a place during the season. The heavy schedlan of 19 games will call for extra men and Harper has a squad of twenty-five from which he can draw.

Weights are flying in a promising manner. The discuss is covering 120 feet, daily, while three or four are after a second place with 90 to 100 feet. The shot has been thrown 35 feet 6 inches and a couple of week's work will see some good distances. The coach is drilling some of the squad on the hammer throw with rather unfavorable results but hopes to find some one who can at least get a first or second in the coming field meet.

Owing to some oversight the Almanian failed to mention the fact that through the kindness of Mr. George Sharrar the windows in Professor Mitchell's rooms have been entirely refitted with new shades.

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the Weekly JHmanian

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE ALBANIAN PUBLISHING CO. ALMA, : : MICH.

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Entered ns Second Class Matter. Sept. at, 1907 Act. of 1870. Alma. Mich.

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A L M A H K P O U I ) P R T C S S

MOTTO: BOOM ALMA.

What is the purpose of a school paper? Have you ever stopped to consider Y If not. stop now and think it over. It is reasonably certain that we shall lnd a great many differing ideas. And yet we should eventually come to a common agreement in regard to the matter.

Positively a school paper should lie the medium through which)the ideas^of the school are given circulation. It should lie a chronicle of the school events It should he a forum for the discussion of matters affecting the life of the school. It should he an agency for calling attention to school activities. It should he a means of crystalizing school sentiment and making it effective. It should he the center around which movements may organize. Whatever is for the good of tbo school, for the creating of true school ideals, for the betterment of school conditions and for the extending "of the influence of the school, should "determine the policy and the content of the real school paper.

But there is a negative that should likewise lie considered. The school paper is not designed to serve the interests of any particular party at the expense of the whole. It is not intended to give undue prominence to any particular line of activity. The claims of one individual cannot k? made superior to those of another. One article cannot bo given the place of prominence and another more important crowded out, even though some one department may so desire it.

Naturally a school paper must have an editor or at least, someone to select and prepare the matter for publicaion. Most of these editors are human lieings. subject to all the faults and frail\* ties of the genus man. As a human being this editor is subject to human limitations of time and place, and liable to disagree with you'on matters of minor importance. Whatever suggestions you can make to him after considering everything entering into the situation, will, no doubt, ^be thankfully received. Whatever you know of

local happenings which tbo editor cannot know you should toel under obligations to tel! him. If you are dissatisfied with the arrangement of the pajier think how much more so must the editor l>e. If matters please you tell your neighbors about it; if you are displeased. put on a smile, walk in, and talk it over with the editor Hut look at the matter on all sides, and be sure are doing your part—Normal News.

With the opening of the spring teim comes to many of the students the concionsnss that it is their last of college life. To the majority of these students the years spent at Alma have been both pleasant and profitable, "tilled with hard work and seasoned with a reasonable amount of collegiate honors They are going into the world to do the work which their life here has been fittng them for. and while in that work they will still he loyal to their Alma Mater, sending hack new recruits to the old school. They are going to go for the most part with broader minds, and greater capabilities than they possessed when they first came to Alma. If they do not go thus their college life has been a failure.

Among the pleasant reflections aroused by this proximity of commencement time isone which cheers the Almanian staff to no little degree, i. e. that the weekly publication of the college paper has added something to life in Alma that makes it lietter worth living. True it is, that our mistakes have been embarassing and frequent; that the work has been hard and full of responsibility; and that we have not always been successful in maintaining a policy of unswerving loyalty to the school, although it has been and will always be our purpose to maintain such a policy. But on the whole the staff may console themselves that they have done some good to the institution by their work. Many of our subscribers, in fact, have signified their approval of the Almanian; hut (to mingle a vein of sordid commercialism with our loftier sentiments) it is true that on the patt of others there has been only an ominous silence. And now, with heavy printers' hills staring us in the face we begin to worry exceedingly whether or not those who have promised to pay their subscriptions are really going to do so. If the Almanian gets through the year it is absolutely necessary that EVERY SUBSCRIBER WHO IS AT PRESENT IN ARREARS SHOULD PAY UP AT ONCE. This is not a pleasantry, not a joke; we must have the money or the staff mist go down in their own pockets for the good dollars a^d the possibility of a weekly for next year will bo precluded. We think you wantfa weekly next year, and wo think you are willing to pay your subscriptions. Please lie prompt.

Last term the interest of the whole school was centered on oratory and debating The enthusiasm manifested was an evidence that on the whole ability in those lines is being developed here. Alma came out of the state oratorical contest with a better record than ever before, and the spirit engendered this year will be likely to carry ns on toward victory next year. But with the opening of the spring term our attention must turn toward base-

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ball and track athletics. Does every-one realize that the M. I. A. A. Field Meet conies to Alma in June and that we have a fair chance to win that meet? That chance of winning will be much brighter if every student wakes up to a consciousness of the importance of that meet to Alma. We will help things along by getting out on the field with the weights, with the tennis rackets, and with the running shoes; and we can heln also by being Intensely interested. Has anyone forgotten the great wave of spirit that swept through us at the time of the M. A. C. game last fall when we held them to a scoreless tie. That spirit and that rooting helped. We I want some more of it this spring. We want songs to support our champions, wo want yells to cheer them "on, and we want to get season tickets so we can go to every game of the eleven that will be played here. The men who won the cup last spring want to hold it this spring, let the student body show that they want the same tiling.

complished nothing new and very little of that. Pressed for an explanation he replied that it was entirely the fault of the English language.

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CAMPUS GOSSIP.

The landscape effect of these 'Merry Widow" hats is superb.

Boh Craig says that all the places where Norm Angell talked on local option went dry.

Big Mac has a girl at last. Met her over in Tuscola County 'during the spring recess. Ask him

Inglis employed his vacation period in literary research, discovering J. M. Barrie's famous Arcadia Mixture.

George Anderson lost a hat last winter. He thinks some of the girls have it. Offers a reward in case it is returned.

Hunt up the Detroit Free Press for April 0 and see what Stanley Graves did to the column headed 'Breakfast Table Chat."

Frank Locker will not return to college until next vear on account of illness in his home. His address is 53 Sycamore street, Detroit, Mich.

In European History class Chase made the statement that Necker ac-

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MUCH MORE ADO.

The students who gave the city and college such a literary treat last fall by

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You are Interested In—What They are Doing.

The Alpha Theta girls have purchased nevv'pins. The design is a new and original one, possessing a great deal of beauty\* The pins consist of a monogram Alpha to which is appended a Theta, the two letters thus being made into a very a effective pin.

Last Friday evening Miss Lois ^Fraker, CH entertained a party of students at her home on West Superior Street from eight to ten. Much excitement was created by blowing mammoth soap bubbles, after which aprons were donned and the guests busied themselves pulling taffy. A Mash-light was taken of the taffy-pullers.

### ALUMNI TALK.

An Alma reunion was hold at Milan Monday evening, April 5. There were present eleven Alma students and graduates. Miss Beryl Kefgen 'Li. and Miss Minnie Kinnaird, '07, were the hostesses.

In the death of Miss Eva C. Palmer, of Milan, Michigan, Alma mourns the loss of a Kindergarten alumna whom many here now remember and are glad to count in their list of friends. She was born at Hudson, Michigan. May 14, 1887, but spent most of her life at Milan, where a host of friends bear witness that where she was beat known she was most highly esteemed. After finishing her course in the highschool there she came to Alma in the fall of '05 and entered the kindergarten department. During her college course she won for herself our lasting regard. After two years she received the diploma of the kindergarten department with a state teacher's life certificate and the diploma of the scientific department of the academy. In the fall of 'H7 she accepted the position of the teacher of the kindergarten department in the public schools of Ithaca which position she held until illness necessitated her withdrawal last January. Her case, at not considered serious, developed alarming complications and in spite of the best medical treatment that could be obtained she passed away Monday, March 80. She was buried from her home. Wednesday April 1, at 1:30 p. m. A large number of Alma friends were present at her funeral, among them being the Misses Inez Pollard\* Ha/Ol Blair, Luu Alien and Bofa Alexander. Messrs. Paul Allured, Blake McDonald, Mark Mothersill, Charles Sill and Herman Morse. Miss Dora Alexander furnished very beautiful music at the services.

Roy Campbell, and M. L. Marshall preached in Allegan county during vacation. At one place Campbell in introducing Marshal said: "Ladies and Gentlemen. I take great pleasure in presenting to you Mr. Margaret —" Question: What did Roy have on his mind?

Ado" in such a sprightly manner are on the eve of delighting us once more with h play. While nothing definite has been decided, upon, in an interview issued by one of the prominent members of the "Much Ado" cast it was stated that a meeting of the cast had teen held and a play selected for the near future. The title of the play is "The Shakespeare Water-Cure." As indicated by the name it is a comedy developed along broadly farcial lines, and it deals with some of the postmortem events in the existence of certain Shakespearean characters as Ophelia. Portia, Shvlock, Lady Macbeth, Macbeth, Othello and many others.

It has been rumored that the production will take place on some moonlight evening in the ;naturai;amphl-theatre formed by the college grove. Those who attended the performance oi "Much Ado" will remember the high grade acting of the cast and the favorable comparisons made upon their work with the work of the Ben Greet; players. Therefore it is safe to predict that this projected out-of-door performance will be nothing short of charming, and that it will he a strong drawing card.

Y. M. C. A.

The new committees of the associa- tion have been announced as follows:

Bible Study—Roy Campbell, chairman, Prof. Jay Clixbe. Albert Henderson and James Hogg.

Missionary Study—Stanley Johnson, chairman, Allan McFadden and James Hogg.

Sunday Schools—Norman Angel, chairman, Frank Bartholomew. Henry Lathers, Charles Hunt and Oren Osborne.

Membership—Eugene Brown, chairman. Norman Angell, Gerald Hutton and Moses Champney.

Social—Stanley Graves, chairman, Arthur Henderson, Irwin Bradfield and Allen McFadden.

Z Religious Meetings—Allan McFadden, chairman. Prof. James Mitchell, Stanley Graves and David Inglis.

Finance Stephen Hill, chairman, Maynard Cook. Floyd Rix and Ernest Sehring.

Music—Harlow Whittemore, chairman, Eugene Brown, Bryon Chapel and Roy Phillips.

Fall Campaign—Irwin ^Bradfield chairman, and chairmen of other com- mittees.

Niagara Ccnference—Alexander Duncanson chairman, Roy Campbell, Harry Marsh and Frank McComb.

LHand Book—John Campbell chair- mai), Dan Duncanson and Harlow Whittemore.

To those who met Prof. Carleton of Albion while he was at Alma as judge, on the intersneietv debate the follow- ing clipping from the Pleiad may prove interesting: "They say that Dr. Carle- ton was almost beside himself for joy for the double victory of our orators. When—unless the sun was unusually bright he would almost HAVE to be to Ireally cast a respectable shadow.1

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**BASEBALL SCHEDULE.**

The improvements on Davis Field are now in the process of being made. Work is going on rapidly under Coach Harper's supervision.

The track is being covered over once more with cinders so that when it is completed it will be in first class shape. A water main is being laid into the field and the lumber for the bleachers is being hauled, probably they will go up soon. The complexion of the diamond is changing somewhat from its former yellow clay color to a deep rich brown on which sod is expected to grow readily. The old tennis courts are being overhauled and the preparations for the two new ones are under way.

Baseball men have changed from from the gymnasium, where practice has been going on all winter, to Davis Field. Practice in base-running, batting and a little in-field work is the program to which are added nightly quiz classes. The pitching staff is double the size of last year, and Southpaw Duncanson will not be under the heavy strain of last spring although he will no doubt be relied on to serve up puzzling twisters in more important games.

Almas' schedule is now complete. It schedules nineteen games in all. The track schedules also completed and the weight, distance, and the dash men are all desperately busy getting ready to make a try for first place in the M. I. A. A. meet which comes here June 5 and 6.

The complete baseball schedule:

- Apr. 18. Mt. Pleasant Indians and Normal team
- 22. Mt. Pleasant Indians at Alma
- 25. Ferris Institute at Big Rapids
- 28. Mt. Pleasant Normal at Alma
- May 1. Kalamazoo at Alma.
- 2. M. A. C. at M. A. C.
- 6. Mt. Pleasant Indians at Alma
- 9. Hillsdale at Alma
- 12. Mt. Pleasant Normals at Mt. Pleasant.
- 15. Ypsilanti at Ypsilanti
- 16. U. of M. at Ann Arbor
- 19. M. A. C. at Alma
- 22. Lake Forest at Alma.
- 23. Olivet at Alma.
- 26. M. A. C. at Alma.
- June 1. Mt. Pleasant Indians at Mt. Pleasant
- 6. First M. I. A. A. game at Alma
- 13. Ypsilanti at Alma.

The track schedule:

- May 2. M. A. C. at M. A. C.
  - 23. Olivet at Alma
  - June 3. M. I. A. A. field meet at Alma
- Season tickets will be sold for the schedule.

Monday, April 13th, was the 165th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson. "The Sage of Monticello" and special exercises were held in the chapel commemorative of the event. Miss Adele Bayly, '11, read a very interesting character sketch of the "Sage" describing his beautiful home and his eventful career. Mrs. Sebring, '11, gave a number of extracts from Webster's noble eulogy on Jefferson and Adams, rendering them in a clear and pleasing manner. The concluding number was given by Professor Jas. E. Mitchell on the "Political Philosophy of Jefferson." Professor Mitchell, according to his custom, created a great deal of amusement at his own expense and proceeded to give a very able elucidation of the Jeffersonian principles of government and their bearing on the problems of the present time.

The debate with Olivet has been postponed until May 1, by the wish of Olivet. Judges for the local debate with Olivet have been secured.

**STUDENT LIFE.**

(By Pres. A. T. Hadley.)

"For the most part the lines of activity of the American students, the student organizations,—literary, musical or scientific,—correspond to those of other lands, and I need not describe them more fully. But there is one branch where, in America, as in England, things have developed in a special way. I refer to the competitive tournaments or athletic sports. From his cradle the American likes to play ball, and even as a child he admires every boy who can play the game well. In the schools the game is organized, in the colleges this organization is carried still further. Many complain that far too much time is wasted on this game, that might otherwise be devoted to intellectual development. But the advantages accruing from it are far greater than the disadvantages. In the first place it is not from the cult of the Muses but from the cult of Bacchus as a rule that these games turn the efforts and thought of the students. Again, it is such games that train men not alone to be physically strong and skilful, but, more than that, to learn how to subject themselves to a very strict discipline, a thing which is of the most importance in our American life. Furthermore the interest in these games brings the graduates back to their Alma Mater, as nothing else could attract them, whereby the fraternal student-comradeship becomes not merely a thing of a few years only but lasts throughout life."

Israel Himmelhoch, one of the most popular students in '04-'05, writes an interesting letter to the Almanian. Mr. Himmelhoch, while at Alma was a member of the college debating team, and won second place in the local oratorical contest. He recently graduated from Columbia and is now enrolled in the Harvard Law School. He says: "Am glad to read of Alma's good work in athletics and of the keen rivalry among the societies. May I offer a suggestion about one way of improving Alma. It concerns the library. The library ought to be the center of the intellectual life of the college, but how many have ever done any serious work there? So far as I know it is mostly used as a place where the latest magazines may be read. It may be that it is because Alma hasn't the books that should interest students. I don't know because I never used it very much except the excellent division on political science. We ought to have more scientific works, especially on evolution and more fiction and dramatic works by authors of the modern realistic school. With an improved library and keeping it open evenings Alma will undoubtedly graduate more scholarly men than she has heretofore.

With best wishes for the success of the Weekly,

I am, Cordially yours,  
Israel Himmelhoch.  
Hastings Hall, Cambridge, Mass.

- Somebody will have to:—
- Get out and watch baseball practice.
- Write some new songs for the baseball season
- Concoct some ginger-fizz yells
- Be a rooter
- Be a bug
- Be a fan
- Practice for the long distance runs
- Win the tennis championship
- Put the shot
- Energize
- Dig in
- Learn how to throw the hammer
- Try for a record in the hurdles
- Get very busy

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