

# SURE JIM THORPE PLAYED BASEBALL

## Umpire Upchurch Says He Fears for Man Who Ex- posed the Wonderful Indian

Special to The Inquirer.

RALEIGH, N. C. Jan. 26.—That Jim Thorpe, Olympia star, was the star of Rocky Mount and Fayetteville teams of 1909 and 1910 is the conclusion of the five contemporaries of his now living in Raleigh, the opinion of Charles McDonald, former sporting editor of the News and Observer, who wrote daily of him, and of Umpire Upchurch, who held the indicator behind him.

All the fans of Raleigh and the Eastern Carolina circuit have given it up with a sense of indignation towards the man who dropped the remark that set in motion the investigation. Umpire Upchurch said tonight:

"I have never seen Thorpe since I used to umpire, and did not see Thorpe who won at Stockholm. I wish I could do something for him and I wouldn't do anything against him. They may be two men. I hope they are. But the pictures are of the same man, and there doesn't appear a chance in a million for him. I fear for the man who exposed him."

Thorpe's playing with Clancey the latter part of the 1910 season on Fayetteville, a season and a half after he played with Rocky Mount, gave Clancey full knowledge of him. Since Thorpe, who won at Stockholm, was announced winner, North Carolina papers have had his pictures often and called him a Carolinian. Yerkes, Boston American second baseman, Fullenwelder, New York Giant recruit, and Hearn, St. Louis Nationals, played against him in the same league.

The new charges are backed up to a certain extent by the official baseball records for the seasons of 1909 and 1910. These records show that a player by the name of Thorpe was a member of the Rocky Mount team of the Eastern Carolina League during those years. He ranked eleventh in individual batting average. He played in forty-four games, was at bat 138 times, made eleven runs, thirty-five hits and had an average of .253. As a pitcher he figured in nineteen games, winning nine and losing ten for an average of .474.

In 1910 the league was divided into two sections and there was a Thorpe playing for Fayetteville in one section and also a Thorpe playing for Rocky Mount in the other section. These teams were winners in their respective sections and at the close of the season played off for the championship, which went to Fayetteville for four games out of five. Thorpe of Fayetteville batted .350 for sixteen games and the Rocky Mount Thorpe .231 for twenty-seven games. The Fayetteville Thorpe was a first baseman, while the Rocky Mount Thorpe was, as in the previous year, a pitcher, winning ten games and losing a like number. So far no picture of the team has been brought to light showing Thorpe among the players.

The absence of any denial from Thorpe himself gives the A. A. U. more than enough reason to make a thorough investigation of the charges. There may be some question of jurisdiction in the matter as Thorpe is a registered athlete in the Middle Atlantic Division. It may evolve upon the local officers to conduct the investigation which naturally will require the taking of testimony of those in the Carolinas who played on the baseball teams with Thorpe. However, if Thorpe is guilty of professionalism, he will doubtless make his own confession and save a great deal of trouble and expenses.

It is hinted in some quarters that Thorpe's exposure was made to force him into professional baseball. Pittsburgh has been anxious to secure him. Thorpe is quoted as saying he would play for Pittsburgh if he decided to play professional ball. So far, Thorpe has not signed with any club.