

Sporting Personalities

By JOSHUA M. BRAUER

No. 9—MAURICE VANDERCAR

IT was at Grey's College, Bloemfontein, some nine years ago, that a brilliant young athlete impressed the competent judges and was regarded as a potential champion. This young man was full of promise; and the prophecy of those critics has been accurately borne out by the passage of time. Maurice Vandercar is a strong bidder for a place in the South African team to visit Australia for the Empire Games next year. Competent authorities count him as one of the most improved athletes in the country. He has fulfilled his promise, and his youth—he is only 22—combined with his stamina, serves to prove that he will go very far in the sporting world.



Maurice spent his early days on the Van Ryn Estate, Benoni. He was educated at Van Ryn Deep Government School, and later at Grey's College, Bloemfontein, where he showed promise as an athlete. At the age of 13 he was already a strong runner. On completing his education he returned to the Rand and captained the Pirates under 19 rugby team. In 1934 he played for the Pirates first and second teams.

Joining the Benoni Harriers Athletic Club in 1935 he turned heart and soul to running, and in the following year represented Southern Transvaal in the South African Trials at Port Elizabeth. He was a member of the team that broke the South African Mile Relay record. He put up a fine performance and won his spurs as a runner.

He was not chosen for South Africa; but, frankly, that is a

mere detail. Maurice was a great athlete, and he knew it. Since then he has won smashing victories. He has beaten several of the Springboks who went to Berlin. He has done the 100 yards in 9.8 secs.; the 220 in 21.7 secs. and the 440 in 49.3 secs. He beat Grimbeek, the South African champion, in the 220. And he is going from strength to strength. Watch him do great things at the National Championships at Bloemfontein this weekend.

AMBITIOUS PERFORMANCE OF THE JOHANNESBURG SYMPHONY SOCIETY

AN exceptionally interesting concert took place recently at the Wanderers Hall when Mr. Joseph Traunek and the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra presented an outstanding programme. The performance opened with that grandiose Third Symphony of Brahms in F Major, continuing with Mozart's delightful serenade for strings, "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik," and followed with the same composer's Piano Concerto in C Minor.

The Brahms' Symphony, an ambitious work, was handled with a clear understanding of its emotional depth. The technical difficulties of the first two movements limited the ultimate conception at which Mr. Traunek was aiming. However, the beauty of the third movement and the exhilarated fourth conveyed that breadth of feeling and individuality which we associate with the works of Johannes Brahms.

Mozart's "Nachtmusik," always popular, was played with delicacy and spirit. The delightfulness of this work appealed to the audience.

The soloist of the evening, Mr. Jose Rodriguez-Lopez, a sensitive and discriminating player, made a happy choice in the Mozart Concerto. Although his tonal colouring left much to be desired, and there were times when he should have overshadowed the orchestra, soloist and orchestra created an atmosphere of exquisite beauty. Mr. Lopez was enthusiastically received and recalled several times.

Johannesburg music-lovers can always rely upon the Symphony Society and Mr. Traunek to present an interesting and polished performance.

H.F.

MACCABI WIN SUNDAY THIRD DIVISION

The cricket season closed on a high note of brilliant success for Maccabi last Sunday. Playing Regent Park in the final at New Pioneer Park, Joffe led his team with rare judgment and brought to a close a great innings. Winning the toss he elected to field. Kotzen was in fine fettle, and backed by his skipper together with wonderful fielding took 5 wickets for 28 in a devastating spell of bowling. Joffe pulled his weight and captured 4 for 32, and Regents Park were all out for 101 shortly before lunch. Teeger and Kaplan opened for Maccabi and batting brilliantly put on 56 runs before the interval.

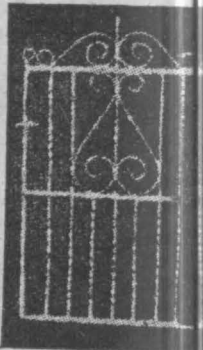
Upon resumption the two batsmen continued to play great cricket and added another 40 runs before Teeger lost his wicket after scoring a breezy 43. Gluckman joined the aggressive Kaplan and in a few minutes the game was won by 9 wickets. Kaplan carried his bat for a meritorious 52, and Gluckman was 10 not out when stumps were drawn.

Maccabi is a team of possibilities; if Dave Joffe continues to lead the side next season, there is no reason why they should not win the second division.

J.M.B.

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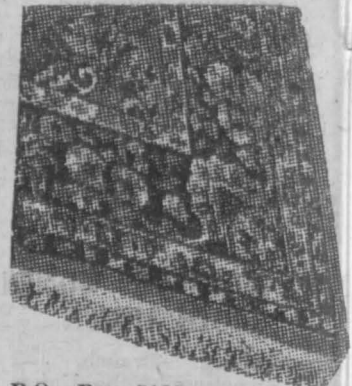
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