

# ROUND THE PLAYING FIELDS



**Snappy "Pars" about Sport and Sportsmen.**

**By ERIC KILDARE.**  
(Captain of St. Jim's.)

**S**PORTS' DAY has been observed annually at St. Jim's since the reign of good Queen Bess. A feature of the old-fashioned Sports' Day was the archery tournament, in which the scholars tested their skill with bows and arrows. A football match was also played, but the "football" was a monstrous sphere, which had to be shoved and pushed, and the "pitch" was several miles in length. The whole school took part in the game, and the tactics employed were none too gentle, judging by the number of names which used to appear on "ye sickle lyst" after the fray!

In 1879 the Sports' Day programme was carried through in spite of a severe thunderstorm and a tropical deluge of rain. Needless to state no records were broken on such a day.

A silver cup is presented annually to the best senior sportsman, and one to the best junior sportsman. The senior cup came to me this year, after a stern tussle with

Darrell and Monteith. And Tom Merry won the junior cup, though hard pressed by Talbot, Figgins, and Redfern. The cups were awarded to those winning the greatest number of events.

The 100 yards record (seniors) is held by George Darrell, who covered the distance in ten and one-fifth seconds. George Figgins holds the junior record, his time being ten and four-fifths seconds.

The inter-House tug-of-war contest has been won by the School House for seven years in succession. We don't believe in giving the New House too much "rope"!

The finest long-distance runner at St. Jim's is Baker, who has a wonderful action, and seems never to tire. Of the juniors, Tom Merry and Talbot are probably the best runners over long distances. The best sprinter is Figgins, whose long legs carry him over the turf at a terrific pace.



Baggy Trimble, clinging grimly to the handle-bars, crawled along at a snail's pace.

Even Baggy Trimble, the fat and fatuous, has managed to take a prize on Sports' Day at last. Baggy won the slow bicycle race. Clinging firmly to the handle-bars he crawled along at a snail's pace, and, try as they would, the other competitors could not get behind him! Trimble came in last, and was therefore accounted the winner. So the race is not always to the swift!

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The real bicycle race was won by Jack Blake, after a thrilling tussle with Tom Merry and Harry Noble. The course was five miles, and Blake was slightly behind

at the last lap, but with a final burst of speed he just managed to overhaul his rivals, winning an exciting race by a matter of inches.

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The annual boat-race on the river between School House and New House had a sensational finish, the two boats dead-heating. This is the first result of its kind since 1899. It was decided to share the honours rather than re-row the race; so we must wait till next year to determine which is "Cock House of the River."

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Since the commencement of this contest eighty races have been rowed. Of these the School House has won forty, the New House thirty-eight, while two have been declared void.

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