

FEMALE BASEBALL CLUB ORIGINATOR IN TOMBS

New York Police Nab Him on
Charge of Abduction.

MAY GET TWENTY YEARS

Mother of Young Girl He Hired for
Basketball Team Is the
Complainant.

Special to The Boston Journal

New York, June 28.—Arrested on a warrant charging him with abduction, Sylvester F. Wilson, alias Frank W. Hartwright, alias W. B. Franklin, and a dozen other names, but best known as the originator of the female baseball club, spent today in the Tombs. Having served a term in prison for a similar crime he is liable, if convicted again, to get a 20-year sentence under the second offense law.

Last January Wilson advertised for a partner with \$500. L. L. Bachlom answered and put up the money. Then Wilson advertised again as follows:

GIRLS FOR THE STAGE—Age 16 to 20; now rehearsing; no experience, but good looks and figure necessary; call after 8 Sunday. Watkins's hall, 23 Manhattan ave.; Monday afternoon, Colonial Hall, 101st st. and Columbus ave.

Detectives on Track.

The advertisement was so like the one Wilson had printed over the name of Frank Watkins several years ago, asking for young girls to play baseball, that the Children's Society promptly started an investigation. Detectives Piarras and Fogarty soon learned that the advertiser was Wilson, who had assumed the name of Hartwright. They also learned that the young women were wanted to play basketball and that those already engaged were practicing at Brady's Dancing Academy, 135-137 West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street, and at other places.

On May 21 Piarras and Fogarty followed Wilson and nine young girls to Peekskill, where the female basketball teams were advertised to play for a week in the park and then to make a championship tour of the State.

On the night of May 27 the first week's salary of the basketball players fell due. Wilson put them off until morning and at 3 o'clock on the morning of the twenty-eighth was seen going down the railroad tracks. In the morning Bachlom refused to pay the week's board bill and salary and started out to find Wilson.

Officers Jubilant.

The hotel proprietor where the party stayed forgave the young women their board bill and paid their passage back to this city. Piarras and Fogarty found Maggie Dean, 15 years old, of 1832 Park avenue, one of the girls deserted by Wilson, and on her testimony, corroborated by that of the Foley girl, Wilson was indicted last Monday.

The officers of the Children's Society were jubilant yesterday over Wilson's arrest. "He is the worst offender, they said, that they have on their books.

In August, 1891, Wilson brought Libbie Agnes Bunderland, 14 years old, to New York from Binghamton and lived with her five years in Sing Sing and \$1000 fine for abduction was his sentence.

On August 14, 1892, he was arrested in Philadelphia, charged with enticing young girls from home. He was convicted and sent to Moyamensing for one year.

Since his conviction in Philadelphia the police heard nothing of Wilson until he advertised for the "female basketball team" in January.