

# "Thumbless" Ed Wetzel Signs Contract to Hurl for Omaha Buffaloes

**Barney Burch  
After Two Big  
League Pitchers**

**Owner of Western League  
Champions Losing No Time  
Strengthening Club for  
1925 Campaign.**

**T**HUMBLESS" Ed Wetzel is coming back to the Western league! Barney Burch, owner of the Omaha Buffaloes, announced Saturday that he had signed Wetzel, pitcher, formerly with Denver and Des Moines, to an Omaha contract. Wetzel was with Denver in 1922 and 1923. At the close of the 1923 season "Thumbless" Ed was released by the Bears to Wichita Falls of the Texas league. His arm went on the "fritz" and Wichita Falls made him a free agent. During the latter part of the 1924 season Des Moines signed him to a contract. Said contract called for a certain sum of money and if the money was not forthcoming at the end of the season Wetzel was to become a free agent. He was made a free agent.

Last week Wetzel was in Omaha for the sole purpose of conferring with Owner Barney Burch. The Buffaloes' boss sent for Ed and the result of the meeting was Wetzel's signature to a contract.

In 1922 Wetzel turned in 12 victories for Denver. He was credited with losing 13 games. His record for that year didn't set the world afire, but it wasn't such a bad record considering the strength of the Bears in 1922. Denver finished in seventh place in 1922.

The pitching staff of the Omaha club after Wetzel's signing consists of Harry Lee, Arnold Stone, Harris, Bailey and of course, Wetzel.

Burch also handed out the "info" yesterday that he was angling for two more hurlers, all of the right-hand variety. The two pitchers he has in mind have been with a major league club for the last three years and if Barney can sign them to an Omaha contract he opines that he will have the strongest hurling corps in the circuit.

As the Omaha club stands this morning Burch has Art Griggs on first base. Art will also manage the team. At second will be Munroe, late of the Houston club of the Texas league and at short will be Jimmy O'Neill. Jimmy Wilcox will take care of third base, while "Red" Wilder and Roy Luebbe will do the backstopping. If Art Swartz, the Omaha amateur, shows enough catching ability Burch says he will carry three catchers.

The outfit will be composed of "Chief" Robinson, Frank Osborn and Art King, the latter a newcomer.

## MARTIN MAY GET RING SUSPENSION

Eddie (Cannibal) Martin, champion of bantamweight boxers, may lose a trip to California, where he expected to appear under the new 12-round law as a result of his failure to fight during a contest in Brooklyn Wednesday night. Martin and his opponent, Augie Pisano, were ordered out of the ring after three rounds of pushing and mauling. The title was not at stake, as Pisano weighed four pounds more than the bantamweight limit of 118. Martin may draw a suspension from the New York state athletic commission, and yet his previous good record may react to his favor.

## GOLF CHAMPIONS WINTER IN FLORIDA

Three champions of the links will spend the winter on Florida courses. Walter Hagen, British open champion, will serve as president of a St. Petersburg's club, of which Joe Kirkwood, Australian champion, is professional. Cyril Walker, national open champion, the third of the trio, will act as professional during the winter season for a Winter Haven club, where he will be associated with Dave Kober, permanent club professional.

## New Orleans Race Officials After Better Racing

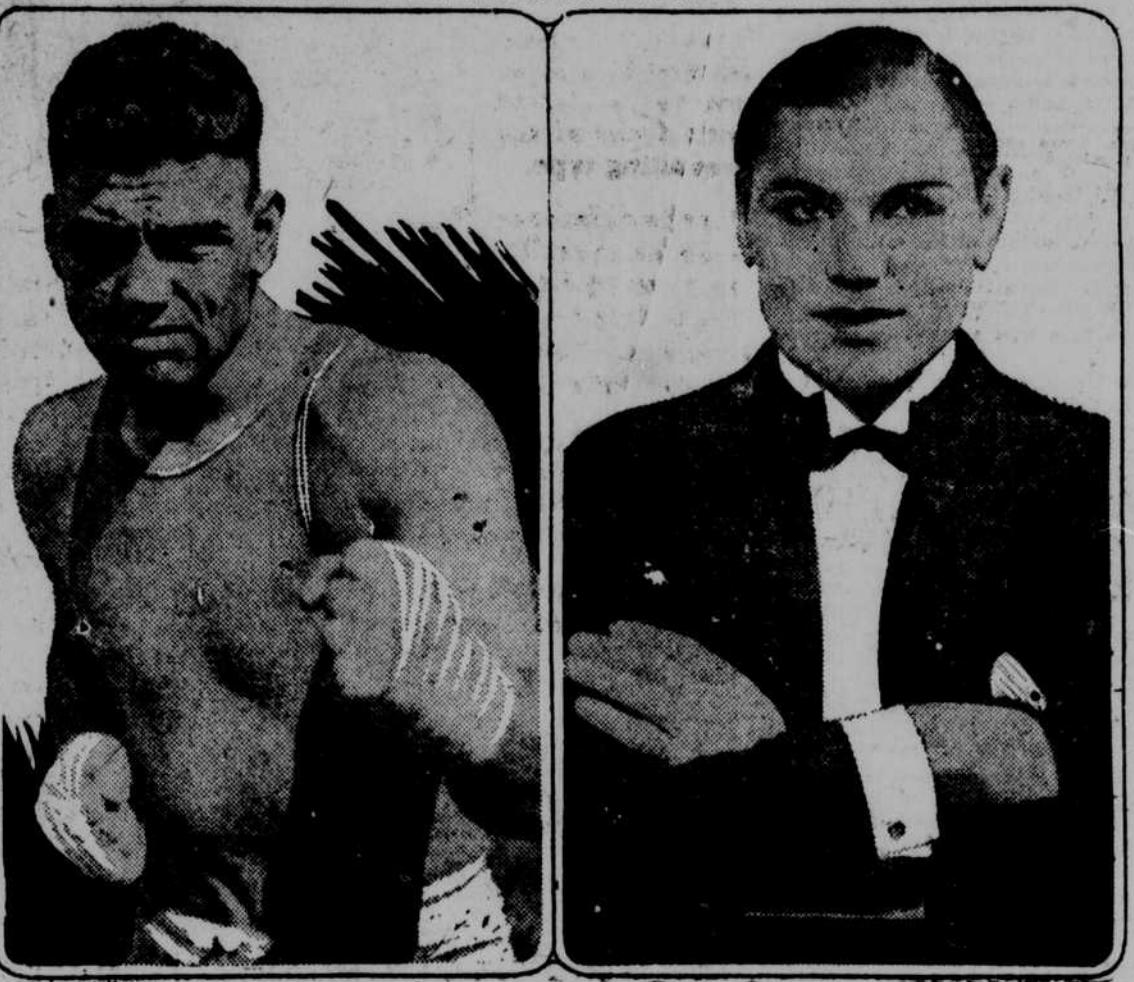
New Orleans, La., Jan. 10.—Determined to give the public clean racing here for the winter season of 1925, the stewards took quick action during the first week of the sport by setting down jockeys for apparent listless riding and warning all riders to do their best in every race, otherwise their licenses would be revoked. Owners and trainers were also called to task, with a warning that they must send their horses fit to the post.

The activity of the racing officials evidently has had the desired effect among the turf colony and the slogan, clean racing, no doubt will be carried out throughout the 47 days of racing at the Fair Grounds.

The first jockey to be punished at the meeting was Ivan Parke, one of America's premier riders. He was set down for rough riding and the racing officials intend to issue drastic rulings whenever necessary.

If He's In This Mood  
THEN WELL HAVE SOME ACTION

If He Feels This Way  
TWILL BE DULL YEAR IN BOXING



Jack Dempsey the fighter and Jack Dempsey the movie star.

A s the heavyweight champion goes, so goes the fight game.

This is an accepted axiom of the boxing world. In other words, if the king of them all is active his activities are reflected throughout the game and interest in every class is increased. If he twiddles his thumbs there is little hope of stirring up much interest in the smaller divisions.

His footwork has been confined mainly to patent-leather stuff on movie location instead of the rosin-covered canvas of the ring.

So upon Jack Dempsey's shoulders rests the fate of boxing in 1925.

In Dempsey's case this is more true than ever before. He is one of the most colorful fighters in the realm of fisticlana. His work every time he steps into the ring. He carries with him into the ring but two things—love for the game.

Dempsey is a fighting wildcat when he enters the ring. He carries with him into the ring but two things—the hardest body-punching machinery ever discovered and the desire to lay his opponent low. A heavyweight champion must be a man-killing demon to be popular.

When Dempsey was fighting his way to fame he lived constantly with but one desire—to sock somebody. He socked 'em for nothing to start with. The money was a secondary matter until Jack Kearns taught him the A.B.C.s of high finance.

Even after winning the title Dempsey harbored a desire to do battle often. Kearns played the game from the box office end.

For 16 months Dempsey has confined himself to the movie lot. He has donned togs only for hippodrome stuff in connection with his work before the films. He is much more at home in a tuxedo these days than a pair of fighting trunks.

His footwork has been confined mainly to patent-leather stuff on movie location instead of the rosin-covered canvas of the ring.

He hasn't been real peevish once in those 16 months, unless it has been at an undiplomatic taxi driver.

Has he lost the natural pugnacious, bellicose nature that made him a terror in the ring?

There is easy picking on the shelf for Dempsey. Tommy Gibbons would be willing to take a real beating for another big purse. Harry Willis is waiting patiently for a chance at the champ. Quintin Romero Rojas, much talked of Chilean heavy, may be a challenger timer by late summer. There's time for one or two other men to come to the front before another Labor Day rolls around.

The opportunities are there. Will Dempsey fight or fiddle?

If he fights leave considerable space in the year's diary for doings in the boxing world. If he continues his movie work hang some crepe on the page.

Is he in a mean mood or inclined to the Upstick and rogue?

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Football Expert Predicts Grid Game to Become Standardized

EW YORK, Jan. 10.—Robert F. Kelley, football expert, says that football, for the last 10 years, the victim of changes in its rules, is fast on the way to becoming a standardized game at last. The report of E. K. Hall, chairman of the rules committee, to the National Intercollegiate Athletic Association, makes this rather plain.

"Considerations like these," he said in conclusion, after quoting illustrations of the game's present state of strong health, "are responsible for the feeling on the part of your committee that the committee's task is to endeavor to hold the game as it is and

make it standardized."

Thus is the end put to the long line of changes. Football at last is made in a game which pleases the vast majority. It is pleasing to find this same viewpoint expressed by the men in charge of the rules. There is no denying the fact that there is a strong inclination toward a resentment at any additional fiddling with the fundamentals of the game.

This report of Chairman Hall would seem to be the finishing blow at the heads of those who have been demanding that the forward pass be restricted. There is an overwhelming sentiment among the coaches, players and followers of the game—the majority of them—toward halting the efforts of baseball as an outgrowth of his attempt to bribe Helene Sands. Has any action been taken against those who are associating with Cozy Dolan's poor memory?

McDonald, another Creighton Prep student, is probably the class of the guards. He was in the same boat with Fogarty and Mitchell in high school being unable to make the school team, but since joining the yearling rams from baseball as an outgrowth of the

game that he has shown with some degree of brilliance.

The center candidates for the freshman team are both former Creighton Preceptors, O'Brien and Dugan.

O'Brien was all-state center last year, while Dugan was a strong link in the state championship junior Bluejay five.

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