

BENCH TEAM MUST BE GOOD

McGraw Declares that Second Nine Should Be as Able as First.

AMOUNTS OFTEN TO PENNANT

When It Comes to a Pitch and a Star Is Forced Out of the Game It Is Then Good Substitutes Play Their Role.

By FRANK G. MENKE.

NEW YORK, June 27.—John McGraw of this town seems to have said something when he remarked that a base ball team is only as strong as its secondary defense, and that no team need have any pennant hopes unless it is equipped with a second team that can take up the first team's burden immediately and efficiently.

One of the big reasons for the success of the Giants is the fact that McGraw always has aimed to have a set of substitutes who could jump into the shoes of the regulars and perform in equal style. Many fans and managers often have thought that McGraw was wasting money when he spent huge sums simply to acquire substitutes, but the wisdom of his actions has been shown.

Fletcher, the Giant regular shortstop, sustained injuries that put him out of the game for a lengthy period this season just at a time when the Giants were fighting to hold their first place position. Fletcher was a bulwark of strength to the Giants' infield. The Giants' rivals figured that with Fletcher on the shelf the infield would become wobbly and the Giants would hit the chutes.

But they didn't—because McGraw has Eddie Grant in reserve. Grant jumped into the game and played in a way that made the loss of Fletcher almost unnoticed. He fielded in brilliant style and batted up around the .300 mark.

Merkle's Absence Not Felt.

Merkle, the Giants' first sacker, was forced out of the game on account of "charley horse." But his absence was hardly felt. McGraw hauled Snodgrass in from the outfield and placed him at first, where he is almost as good as in the gardening job, and then McGraw filled Snod's place in the field with one of the three extra outfielders that he has been carrying.

It clutters up the Giants' payroll to carry several extra outfielders, infielders, catchers and a second string of pitchers, but in the long run it returns a profit for the Giants. If the Giants' regular team goes to the hospital the second team comes to the fore and keeps the team up in the race. The business of sticking at the top or near the top always means good crowds when the Giants are one part of the attraction, and the increased attendance more than makes up for the \$15,000 to \$20,000 that is added to the annual payroll through the carrying of extra players.

Further than this, the fact that the Giants' second team can take up the fight when the first team is incapacitated has on five occasions resulted in the Giants winning the pennant and grabbing off huge slices of the world series money.

Connie Mack of Same Idea.

Connie Mack is another exponent of the strong second team idea. And Connie, as many may remember, has won so many pennants and world series flags that he's had to build an extra room in his home in which to store them. Last season Connie was criticized by some persons who figured that he was carrying too many men, especially pitchers, on his payroll. But the wisdom of it soon became apparent. When Plank and Bender, his two dependable veterans, failed to hit a winning stride early in the year Connie trotted out his youthful hurriers, and the hits came through with flying colors.

When Ira Thomas and Jack Lapp, Connie's two veteran catchers, sagged off because of overwork Connie pushed the youthful Mr. Ritching to the front. He was the same Mr. Schang that a lot of people thought wouldn't amount to a darn, and who wasn't going to be any more helpful to the Athletics than to relieve them of some of their funds every two weeks.

The Cleveland Naps are an instance of how a team that is of championship caliber will go to pieces without a strong second team. The Naps last year gave the Athletics a fight nearly all the way, and probably would have won the pennant and horned into the world series if it had been equipped with a strong bundle of substitutes.

It was during the latter part of the season when the terrific pace was being set on the Athletics and they began to wobble. Plank and Bender were going good and the team was off in its hitting and its fielding was on the bush league order. Cleveland's chances to slip into first place were of the brightest. And then injuries forced Lajoie and Birmingham out of the game.

Had No Substitutes.

The absence of Lajoie and Birmingham wrecked the Naps' chances. They did not have two men to replace their pair of disabled stars. They had only an ordinary infielder and a weak hitter to put into Lajoie's place, and only an ordinary fielder to replace Birmingham. The result was that the team that had been going along at a terrific clip began to falter. The machine work of the infield, without Lajoie, was gone. And the Naps floundered as badly as the Athletics and couldn't gain a point despite the fact that the Athletics slumped so badly for nearly two weeks that had the Naps not even just a little better than an even break in their games they would have jumped into the lead.

Pittsburgh has a wonderful first team this year, but if any of the regulars are forced out by injuries it means the breaking up of the combination, for the Pirates are not very well fortified with substitutes. It's the same way with the Tigers. Take a man out of their present infield or deprive them of any of their regular outfielders and the Tigers instead of looking like a pennant contender take on the aspect of a second-rate team.

Ritchie-Welsh Meeting Next Big Card Session Will Try Champion's Patience



FREDDIE WELSH.

Pugilistic Followers Focusing Their Interest on Coming Match.

BRITISHER EXPECTS TO WIN Says He Will Let Champion Take the Aggressive and Jab Him Short in Each Rush that is Made.

By RINGSIDE.

NEW YORK, June 27.—With the John-Jones imbroglio out of the way and marking another epoch in ring history, the gaze of the American fight-loving populace is still focused across the well known Atlantic miststream. The scene shifts from Paris to London. The principal time are an American and an Englishman.

Willie Ritchie and Freddie Welsh will be the potent factors in the production of some more ring history when they meet in the arena of the Olympia on Tuesday, July 7, with the lightweight championship of the world at stake. The prescribed duration of the bout is twenty rounds; and if it goes the limit, a new lightweight king will be crowned.

The making of the match consumed two whole days. In that time Ritchie viewed conditions from every angle—how he could get close to \$20,000 for battling an hour with a supposedly deteriorating boxer, who possessed a featherweight punch, and how safe his title would be. He figured he was not putting his earning powers and his coveted title in jeopardy by taking on Welsh. But Willie entirely overlooked the important fact that the English may not approve of his fighting methods, especially of his forte—infighting.

It apparently was not known to Ritchie that the Britons frowned down at infighting, and that any advantage he may earn by battling at close range will not be taken into consideration the while Welsh is popping over his whiplash left jab.

Welsh Expects to Win.

It is by means of this left jab that Welsh hopes to win the title he has sought so many years. Welsh informed the writer before sailing for England that he expected to win the decision by eluding Ritchie's rushes and stabbing the face with jabs, be they ever so light. If Welsh can keep away from the champion for twenty rounds and not be inveigled to engage in any interchanges, his prospects of securing the decision are exceedingly bright. In other words, Ritchie must knock out Welsh to retain the title.

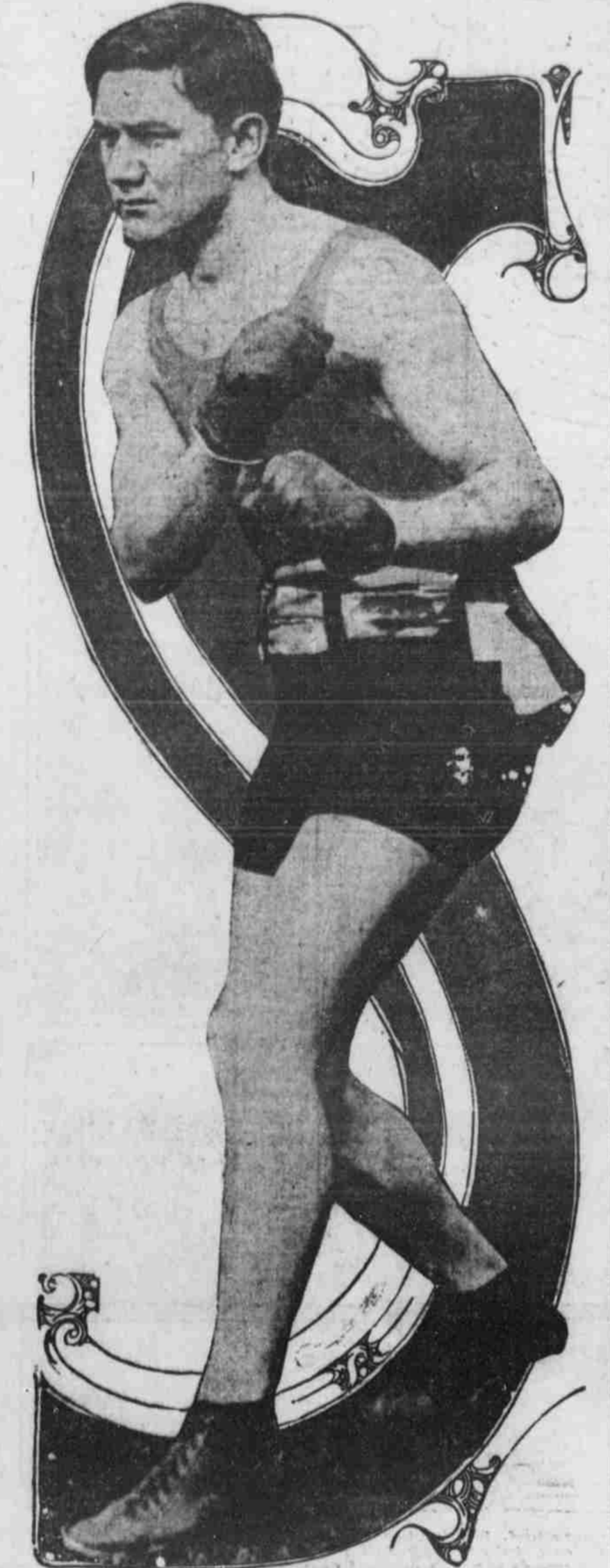
Ritchie will be handsomely recompensed whichever way the tide flows. He will receive a guarantee of \$15,000 for fighting or 50 per cent of the gross if the intake exceeds \$20,000. For disposing of his moving privileges Ritchie will receive \$10,000. There can be no question but the men will meet in a ring, combat, for each has \$250,000, \$1,000 for weight and the balance for appearance. It is stipulated that the gladiators weigh in at 135 pounds at 3 o'clock on the day of the contest. Eugene Corri, whose name was suggested by Ritchie, will referee, and an unbiased verdict may be expected.

Ritchie will combine business with pleasure while abroad. He plans to tour the continent for two months after the fight, before returning to his native land. The pair have sampled each other's ring wares once before as far back as November 3, 1911. Then Ritchie was a comparative novice, while Welsh was at the zenith of his power. Yet Ritchie taking on the match at a day's notice, substituting for Ad Wolgast, put up a creditable fight for twenty rounds. He lost the decision, "It is true, but Welsh had all he could handle to keep the ambitious lad from winning by his headstrong attack.

Ritchie Is the Younger.

In reality Geary Steffen and Frederick Hall Thomas will be fighting for the world's lightweight championship next Saturday, Mr. Steffen is one other than the eminent Willie Ritchie, while the Hon. Frederick Hall Thomas will answer to the name of Freddie Welsh, if you call him that. Ritchie is the younger of the two by five years, he being 23 years young while Welsh is 28.

Another champion—one who has been in possession of the title less than a month—will also be called upon to defend his newly acquired honors on July 3. Kid Williams, who recently decapitated Johnny Coulson from the bantamweight championship of the universe, will engage in a ten-round bout at New Orleans against Kid Herman of Pekin, Ill. As this is a no-decision affair, Williams can hardly lose his laurels, for he is a regular shock absorber and there is nothing



WILLIE RITCHIE.

RITCHIE'S TEN MOST IMPORTANT BATTLES.

Table listing Ritchie's ten most important battles with dates, opponents, places, and results.

WELSH'S TEN BEST FIGHTS.

Table listing Welsh's ten best fights with dates, opponents, places, and results.

Problem No. 23, Q-KR sq.—Solved by...

Problem No. 23, Q-KR sq.—Solved by K. E. Miller, J. G. Fort, I. A. Kilgore, F. C. Swearingen and Jacob Sasa.

Reception Proves Smith Did Not Make Mistake in His Trip

NEW YORK, June 27.—The remarkable reception given Gunboat Smith upon his arrival in England for his bout with Carpenter indicates that the Gunner made no mistake in going abroad. Smith is likely to score a tremendous hit in London.

Owing to the prejudice against all white hopes, Smith has not been accorded much honor in his own country. But in England conditions are very different. English critics are not so exacting. If Smith defeats Carpenter he will be given due credit for having accomplished something worth while. It will not be said that he won merely because his opponent was a dud.

Chess

A pleasant way to spend your noon hour is to play chess or checkers at the Omaha Chess and Checker club. The monthly dues are a trifle, the pastime is a clean one and will benefit you mentally and morally, and the location of the club is convenient, being on the third floor of the Continental block, Fifteenth and Douglas streets. The best players in the club will be delighted to teach you the game of chess if you are not an expert, or to beat you at it if you are.

After a tie in the inter-club tournament proper and another tie in the subsequent play-off between the teams of the Manhattan and the Progressive Chess clubs the championship of the Metropolitan Chess League will go on record as undecided. Instead of continuing the series indefinitely these two clubs have agreed to rest upon their laurels and to divide the spoils. Accordingly each club will receive a handsome chess table with engraved plate such as Prof. Isaac L. Rice had donated for second prize, and in addition the surplus of the fund for the purchase of a trophy intended for the winning club will be divided to provide suitable emblems for the adornment of the respective club rooms. Thus has a twin championship been created in the first season of the new league, which, barring the retirement of the Rice chess club at an early stage, has been one of unqualified success.

To enliven the opening of the fall season at the Manhattan Chess club several plans are afoot. The idea of inviting two foreign masters who have not yet visited the United States is being discussed with much animation. The names of Alechine, the young Russian, and Spielmann of Munich have been mentioned.

Dr. E. B. Barnett, a prominent member of the Havana chess club, while in New York recently, stated that Havana was as eager as ever for an international tournament and that there were good prospects of arranging one next winter.

Jose R. Capablanca has been transferred from the Cuban embassy at St. Petersburg to the one at Berlin, and German players will have the benefit of his presence among them for some time to come.

Following is the game that cost Capablanca the first prize at St. Petersburg:

Chess game notation showing moves for White and Black pieces.

Western League Averages

Table showing Western League averages for Club Batting and Club Fielding.

Individual Batting

Table showing individual batting averages for various players.

American League Averages

Table showing American League averages for Team Batting and Team Fielding.

Individual Batting

Table showing individual batting averages for various players.

Pitching Records

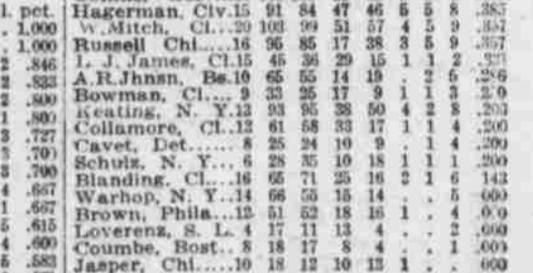
Table showing pitching records for various pitchers.

Myers Now a Scout.

Bade Myers, veteran minor league manager, has taken a position with the Cleveland club as a scout.

To Cure Salt Rheum and Scaly Skin

A Most Effective Treatment Quick in Results



It is simply great to use S. S. S. for the blood and get a fine, new, healthy skin no more salt rheum, itching, scales, eczema, tetter, nor any other skin affliction. What a world of satisfaction! Perhaps you have gresed and painted for years with many a temporary relief.

National League Averages

Table showing National League averages for Team Batting and Team Fielding.

Problem No. 23, Q-KR sq.—Solved by...

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