

RITCHIE AND WELSH AFFAIR

Preliminary Chat About the Next Lightweight Session.

CHAMPION OUGHT TO REMAIN SO

Britisher a Likely Lad, Who Has Just Had a Sprained Ankle, While Ritchie Knows His Man Well.

BY W. W. NAUGHTON. SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 6.—The next contest for the lightweight championship of the world will take place on British territory. The principals will be Willie Ritchie, the title holder, and Freddie Welsh, who is the proud possessor of the Lord Londale belt, for superiority on the English side of the water.

So far the match has had its share of tribulation and trials. September 1 was the date originally set, but owing to an accident to Welsh the plans were changed. It was a sprained ankle that kept Freddie from living up to his agreement with Ritchie, but now the wrenched foot is right again and new articles have been drawn up, calling for a bout on September 20.

If Freddie is careful, there is nothing to prevent everything going as merrily as a championship bill, although many of the harder headed sports who were skeptical in regard to Welsh's chances, have grown more skeptical still. They know that among laymen a sprained ankle is a treacherous thing, often taking months to heal. They argue that if you scuffle a fighter he is merely human, and that when it comes to a matter of twisted ligaments there is no reason for supposing that a ring man will recover quicker than a man in any other walk of life.

It May Be So.

However, there are sprained ankles and sprained ankles. It is just possible that Welsh suffered from a very light form of the visitation and that he "rounded in" quickly. He is said to be a wealthy young man, and supposing the match is what it is advertised to be, a genuine struggle for the mastery, it is hardly likely that he would risk his prestige unless he knew himself to be thoroughly sound in wind and limb.

While the writer has said, and still holds, that there among the world's lightweights, are as much entitled to a crack at the champions as Welsh, I am willing to concede that he is the flower of the British lightweight flock. He has beaten Matt Wells, who recently vanquished Hughie Mahagan, champion of Australia, and that places him at the top of the tree.

While I believe there are several youngsters in this country who could defeat Welsh if the chance came free to confess that he is more thoroughly a national representative in pugilism than Ritchie. The latter has not shown himself to be the best lightweight in America. He has sidetracked a meeting with Hazlet Tommy Murphy, on the plea that "Murphy will keep," and if there is a suggestion of reciprocity anywhere connected about the fighting game he owes Ad Wolgast a return match.

But the Welsh-Ritchie match has been annunciated, for better or worse, and it is to wait and see what comes of it.

Finest of the Champions.

There is considerable shrewdness in Ritchie's contention that "Murphy will keep." It is the sage remark of a youth who prefers talking the easier job first. For, no matter what is really in store for him when he faces Welsh in the Vancouver arena on September 20, Willie believes that defeating Welsh will prove a less strenuous task than conquering Tommy Murphy.

This much is gained from a man who was in Ritchie's confidence when the successor of Wolgast was touring the vaudeville circuit. While Ritchie has given out very little about his fine plans, he was watching the trend of affairs pugilistically and talking a good deal in private of what would happen when his theatrical engagements came to an end. Like the brainy youth he is, he classified his prospective opponents and placed them and considered the least dangerous on a return match. He promised himself that he would box Joe Rivera, Leach Cross and Freddie Welsh, if possible in the order named, and that the others "would keep." He expressed the opinion that none of the three named court hurt him, and when he said it he meant that it was not in Joe, Leach or Freddie to hurt him physically or damage his prestige. He showed himself a wise prophet, so far as Rivera was concerned, and it remains to be seen how his estimate of Welsh pans out.

Base for His Confidence.

He certainly should have known more about Freddie than either of the others named as he met him before. And he was in a position to furnish good reason for opining that it was not in Welsh to "knock him."

At a few hours' notice he took Ad Wolgast's place against Welsh in a contest staged at Los Angeles. Without training and little knowledge of the professional ring Ritchie made such a close thing of it with Welsh that there were times when Freddie's friends in the ring were looking for opportunities to hedge their bets.

Now, if Ritchie, the novice, could do well against the talented Britisher, a couple of years ago, it is far from presumption on Ritchie's part to figure that he can hold Welsh safely under altered conditions. Ritchie has had much experience since then and has all the confidence a champion should possess, while Welsh is thought to be less dashing than he was at the time of the last meeting.

But you can't always tell. Welsh, while he has had a few setbacks as far as health is concerned, has been going strong for several months. His performance with Welsh is sufficient to show that Freddie is far from a weakling, for Welsh is as rugged a fellow as the lightweight division boasts.

Cornell Summons Its Gridiron Men to Be on Job on September 15

ITHACA, N. Y., Sept. 6.—For the first time in the chronicles of athletics at Cornell university the men who will work on the track for the Red and White have been summoned to report for training on September 15. There is need for an early start in training, the coaches think, if Cornell hopes to win the intercollegiate track trophy cup and if they have any hope of retaining the cross-country title, which they lost to Harvard last fall. The hill and dale championship was especially hard to lose, as Cornell had won it for ten years successively. As for the track meet, Cornell and Pennsylvania each have four victories to their credit, and the local colleges hope to clinch their superiority over the Quakers this season.

BASE HIT OF CINCINNATI

Whys and Wherefores of the New Feature of Base Ball.

BATTER SHOULD HAVE CREDIT

Man Who Advances Runners and Is Not Himself Retired Deserves Some Sort of Recognition.

BY W. W. NAUGHTON. NEW YORK, Sept. 6.—The "Cincinnati" base hit is a much abused and little understood stranger in base ball. Its mission was all well enough; the trouble is that the majority of our scorers refuse to get properly acquainted with it. A few days ago the publisher of one of New York's sports writers asked one of his sports writers to explain the "Cincinnati" base hit. The writer flunked. He didn't understand it himself.

That is one of the great troubles. At the Polo grounds within the last few weeks I have seen hits slipped to favorites where the rankest sort of errors had been committed. I do not think that any of the scorers intentionally favored the batter.

It was a case of unfamiliarity with the sense of the new scoring rule. Common sense after all is pretty fair guide to a proper solution of every problem. The "Cincinnati" base hit as the name implies—originated in the home city of the field. Sporting writers of Garry Herrmann's town believed that under certain conditions when a batter helped his running mates to advance without himself being retired, he should be credited with a base hit and not charged with a time at bat and nothing to show for it, as prevailed when the play was formerly designated a "fielder's choice."

How It Happens.

Here was the proposition, pure and simple. The old fielder's choice was just what the name implies. With one or more base runners on the paths when the ball was batted to a fielder the latter had the choice of making a play at any one of several batters. If a force play resulted or if the batter was retired at first base there was no question about the batter being credited with a time at bat and nothing more. Naturally, when there appeared time for the play it was always policy to try to force the man who had progressed farthest round the bases. Often long chances would be taken with him where an out at first would be a dead certainty.

But if the play were made other than at first base it always left open to argument the question as to whether or not the batsman might have beaten the ball to first base. It was maintained by the advocates of the "Cincinnati" base hit that there was no way to tell for sure in the absence of the play at first base whether the hitter would or would not have been retired. It was maintained that the runner should be given the benefit of the doubt. Furthermore, it was argued that the skill of a base runner in avoiding retirement in the face of a possible "rebound" should reflect to the credit of the batsman.

Part of Team Play.

Team play is one of the most necessary essentials of a winning club. Harmony between batter and base runner must prevail at all times in order to establish this characteristic. In the interests of the base runner the batter must often take chances on hitting balls at which he would not offer if left to his own initiative, or if no base runner preceded him. Working in conjunction with the runner and having to jeopardize his chances of hitting safely thereby it has been argued that whatever return the base runner may give is nothing more than fair and just to be credited toward the joint cause of the two.

The Cincinnati base hit was never intended to be abused the way it has been. It was not the sense of the rule to credit the batter with a hit every time the opposing side failed to register an out. Every athlete figures prominently in this play as in any other. No one is given a base hit if a ground ball is mishandled. The fact that the play may be made to some other than first base does not eliminate a fielder's liability to err.

How It Works Out.

Recently at the Polo grounds a double play was missed because a fielder failed to tag second base before making his relay. That shows up the Cincinnati base hit, said an old scribbler. But it didn't show up anything of the kind. The fielder who failed to touch second base was in no way at fault. In my estimation, as if he had dropped the ball. He should have made sure of retiring the furthest advanced runner. Of course most scorers do not give an error when an out is registered. Still there is an example where the common sense of the base ball rules should make the charge of a misplay inevitable.

The more one considers the Cincinnati base hit the more fair it seems. A batter is not charged with a time at bat when he sacrifices or intentionally advances a runner a base to his own disadvantage. Why should he be charged with a time at bat and not given a hit when he not only advances one or more runners, but likewise reaches first base safely himself? Certainly he has done more for the common cause than the fellow who hits the more fair it seems. A batter is not charged with a time at bat when he sacrifices or intentionally advances a runner a base to his own disadvantage. Why should he be charged with a time at bat and not given a hit when he not only advances one or more runners, but likewise reaches first base safely himself? Certainly he has done more for the common cause than the fellow who hits the more fair it seems.

Iowa Football Men Being Rounded Up

IOWA CITY, Ia., Sept. 6.—(Special.)—The arrival of Captain McGinnis in the city during the last week marked the real beginning of active preparation for the coming football season at Iowa. McGinnis reported in good condition, and has taken on twenty pounds weight since the close of the 1912 season, which should make him a much more formidable line plunger.

The captain reported Conn, a big freshman from Iowa, as an ineligible, which means further trouble for the coaches in building up a line, as Conn was one of the few heavy men available. Two regulars are also ineligible, but these men have but one condition each, and are expected to be square with the faculty by the time the season opens.

McGinnis will put in much of his time until the beginning of school in traveling over the state in an effort to induce promising candidates to return to school. After spending the first part of the week in Chicago in conference with Coach Hawley, the captain went to Ottumwa to investigate a report that Max Wilson, a star freshman lineman of 1912, would not return to school. He plans another trip or two to look after other men who are said to be wavering in their intentions to return.

English Golf Professionals Bitter Toward Americans



HARRY VARDON. EDWARD RAY.

NEW YORK, Sept. 6.—Unless the plans are materially changed, Harry Vardon and Edward Ray, the professional English golfers, now in this country, will play on only one course in the vicinity of New York. They are scheduled to play at Baltusrol on September 12, and both say that this is the only Metropolitan course on which they will appear.

Base Ball Situation in Omaha Reviewed

(Continued from Page One.)

chorus on the home team, can easily make a deal with Pa Hourke.

About a franchise in the American Association: Omaha is not in the American Association for about the same reason that the writer of the anonymous letter doesn't own the Union Pacific railroad; it hasn't a chance. The weakest member of the circuit of the American Association is Toledo, and the Toledo franchise is held at \$200,000. Owner Somers of Cleveland, who also owns Toledo and seven or eight other clubs in different circuits, put up a grandstand at Toledo that cost him \$100,000 to build. Last fall, when the National Association was in session at Milwaukee a bona fide offer was made to Mrs. Havenor for the Milwaukee franchise of \$100,000 cash and 10 per cent of the gate receipts for six years, and the offer was turned down. The other towns in the American Association circuit are Minneapolis, St. Paul, Columbus, Indianapolis, Louisville and Kansas City. Will the gentlemen who do not sign his name to the letter please determine which of these cities is the one to give up its franchise in order that Omaha may enter?

In order to get into the American Association circuit, Omaha must first get permission from the Western League and then from the American Association, and each of these leagues must get permission from the National Association of Base Ball Clubs, and from the National Commission to make the needed changes in the circuit. And in addition to this, Omaha must get one of the present cities out of the American Association. Did the anonymous writer stop long enough to think of this phase of the situation? It is provided for by base ball law.

A base ball circuit is rated on the population of the cities that compose it. Here the comparison between the American Association and the Western League circuits, the figures on population being taken from the New York World Almanac for 1913, and there given as the estimated population for 1912:

Table with 2 columns: League/City and Population. Rows include American Assn. (Columbus, Indianapolis, Louisville, Kansas City, St. Paul, Toledo) and Western League (Cleveland, Detroit, Washington, St. Louis, New York).

A glance over those figures ought to convey some notion of what would be expected of Omaha if it were admitted to the American Association. Base ball is not a game of sentiment any longer; it is a business proposition. Team owners frankly expect to make money on their investment; they must have money to pay players, to defray the ordinary running expenses of a team, and something for themselves, or they cannot stay in business. Each year for the last ten has found the expense of maintaining a base ball team in "organized" ball increasing. This has forced owners to increase charges to the public. Profits are not the enormous figures popularly supposed. Ban Johnson recently made the public statement that the Philadelphia Athletics, with all their great prestige and drawing power, had not paid 1 per cent on the investment. This will answer the assertion that "with the Bourkes the Omaha franchise is clearly a commercial proposition." It is, and the fact that the Bourkes have been able to keep a team in the field during the last summer with the almslike patronage bestowed upon it, and the beat of the knocker never ceasing, is a tribute to their acumen as business men and to their resources.

By the way what position will Omaha be in when it goes to the magnates of the American Association and says: "Gentlemen, please give me a franchise in your circuit; almost 90,000 of my people paid to see the game during the last season." This in the face of the fact that the American Association cities are accustomed to carrying for attendance in the neighborhood of 20,000 each during the season. Those men are business men, too, and Omaha will have to give them

Base Ball Situation in Omaha Reviewed

more, perhaps, than the American Association. The main difference in the two leagues is that in the Western most of the players are going up, while in the American Association most of them are going back.

One of the best ways to help Omaha get into faster company is to make it appear to the magnates that the town is worthy of the place; that is to make the paying attendance look attractive.

McGugin Picks Out Ty Cobb as Man Who Could Play Foot Ball

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 6.—In the opinion of Dan McGugin, the famous Michigan foot ball player and present coach at Vanderbilt university, Ty Cobb would have made just as great a name for himself as a foot ball player as a diamond star had he stuck to the gridiron game. The reason why Cobb has become a base ball star, says McGugin, is because he made a careful study of the game. Some years ago Ty was at Nashville and tried out his hand at foot ball. The first couple of weeks he was a joke, but later, after he had learned something, he was dropping kicking better than any man there. Ty wasn't a natural foot baller, but he used his brains. And that's what has made him the great ball player he is today, says McGugin.

Not Much Change in Washington's Team for the Coming Year

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 6.—When the Washington club goes south next spring it will have a slim number of new players. Clarke Griffith is pretty well satisfied with the men he has on his club's roster at present. So far as he knows, Spencer, the outfielder secured from Petersburg early in the spring, will be the only outfielder recruit to be added.

American League Averages

Club Batting table for American League Averages.

Club Fielding table for American League Averages.

Batting Averages table for American League Averages.

Leading Pitchers table for American League Averages.

Western League Averages

Club Batting table for Western League Averages.

Club Fielding table for Western League Averages.

Batting Averages table for Western League Averages.

Leading Pitchers table for Western League Averages.

to Griffith's team next year, yet there is a chance that Ryan and Kahoe, both of whom are out scouting, may dig up something in the way of gardeners. Griffith, by the way, heard some flattering reports about Williams, the pitcher he purchased from Helena. He is reported to be an immense fellow, with arms longer than Walter Johnson's. He is said to be very green, however, and will need a lot of coaching before he will be up to the major league caliber. But Griffith wants this kind of pitcher, so long as he has been overworked he will last that much longer.

Western League Averages

Club Batting table for Western League Averages.

Club Fielding table for Western League Averages.

Batting Averages table for Western League Averages.

Leading Pitchers table for Western League Averages.

Club Batting table for National League Averages.

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