

LAST MATCH IN CALIFORNIA

Contest on Twenty-Second May Be Last Held in State.

PROHIBITIVE LAW IN MARCH

Pugilistic World Is Casting About for a New Place in Which It May Hereafter Hold Its Contests.

By W. W. NAUGHTON. SAN FRANCISCO, February 8.—More than ordinary interest attaches to the lightweight contests that are to take place in San Francisco and Los Angeles on Washington's birthday.

It is very evident at this stage of the game that those who derive a sustenance from the pugilistic industry are on the anxious seat. It isn't like the old days up in the city where the lawmakers foregather every once in a while.

Future Arena Problematic. It is to be wondered whether the championship bouts of the future will take place if a halt is called in the Golden State.

Of course, on a pinch, a championship bout could be arranged for at some point in Nevada, but it would have to be a superattractant to draw the supporters of boxing from the big centers of population in the sagebrush country.

With Los Angeles and San Francisco off the map, where would Willie Ritchie defend his title when he felt like resuming ring activity?

It might be as well, however, to heed the old advice against the folly of attempting the passage of a bridge until you come to it. It will be time enough to look around for a new convincing ground for champions when the curtain is rung down in this neck of the woods.

One hears discussions as to which of the coming February 23 bouts would take precedence in the matter of importance. Of course, the Los Angeles sports claim that the Rivers-Knockout Brown affair ranks above the Murphy-Mandot go, while the San Francisco patrons of the game argue the opposite way.

Both Contests Interesting. To a man free from local prejudice the contests seem on a par. There is no denying, of course, that Rivers and Mandot are the top liners of the birthday program, and the score stands so even between the two Joes that if each of them triumphs in the coming fights there will be an insistent demand for a meeting between the Mexican and the New Orleans lad.

Knockout Brown will surely prove a big box office attraction when he faces Rivers. "The Fighting Dutchman," as Manager Dan Morgan persists in calling him, obviously, apparently, to the fact that Wolgast had already claimed the sobriquet in question, is certainly the best advertised lightweight who ever wended his way west.

So much has been said for him in connection with his two short bouts back east with Wolgast that Los Angeles sports are particularly anxious to see him in action.

At the same time it is thoroughly safe to predict that Rivers will be made a strong favorite in the wagering which precedes the birthday scrap. This, because the opinion had in respect to Brown is that while he injects plenty of action into his ring work he is none too accurate in his aim, whereas Rivers is not only a sure fisted fellow, but a damaging hitter and a quick finisher.

Mandot in Better Shape. It is claimed for Mandot that he has benefited greatly by the lay-off he enjoyed after his last affair with Rivers at Los Angeles. Manager Coleman in a letter to the writer, said:

"When I said that Mandot was stale from continuous fighting and training at Los Angeles, I was not merely framing an excuse for Joe. I felt that what I said was true and I took Mandot back home and turned a deaf ear to all offers for two full months. I would have refused this San Francisco match too, if I had had the least doubt about the boy's condition. He is all right again, though, and here in New Orleans we are looking for him to win from Murphy inside the twenty-round limit. This sounds boastful, in view of Murphy's ability to hold up his end in terrific battles, but that's the way we feel about it. We think that Mandot, in the contention he is in at present, is the kingly lightweight of the world."

While a high opinion of Mandot is entertained in San Francisco, it must be said that the local sportsmen are not as enthusiastic over his chances as they are in New Orleans.

Murphy has a host of friends in this city. He is looked upon as one of the greatest trial horses for top notch lightweights at present before the public. His fondness for breast-to-breast fighting, his assimilative qualities and his manner of holding himself together and continuing heavy net matter how hot the pace, are things which impressed the folks out here and judging from what is being said just now he will sell favorite over the southerner.

Grandstand Sold. The grandstand at the present park of the New York Americans has been sold to the Jersey City club of the International league and will be removed and set in the Jersey City park. Fair progress is being made on the new park for the New Yorkers. A big job of filling has to be done.

Kling Thinks Twice. John Kling admits that he had designs on becoming a Western league magnate as owner of the Topeka club, but when he learned the price he couldn't see it. The idea of paying out good money for an enterprise that has not been profitable did not appeal to his business instincts.

Jewel Has on First. Manager Gear of Topeka announces that he expects to see Jewel Has on first base. Has played second in the Texas league, but he is a big fellow and Gear thinks he will develop into a high class first sacker.

CLARKE HAS GREAT RECORD

Manager of the Pirates Keeps Team Near the Top.

M'GRAW FEARS PITTSBURGH

Fans Say Clarke Is the Man Moggie Will Have to Beat to Land the Pennant for New York Giants This Year.

Table with columns: Year, Club, W, L, Pct. Rows include 1900-1912 seasons for various clubs.

Records of the "Big Three." Year, Won, Lost, Pct. Clarke, McGraw, Chance.

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Eyes of All to Be on Thorpe



PHOTO BY PAUL JOHNSON

Here in the large picture is Jim Thorpe, the most widely discussed athlete in the world today. After reaching the pinnacle in the world's amateur sports, achieving the highest honors in the Olympiad at Stockholm, the great aborigine is now shown of all his amateur honors and trophies because he has confessed that he played base ball for money in a little league in South Carolina.

Friends of the great Indian are said to have organized in an effort to have him reinstated as an amateur, but their efforts will doubtless be unavailing, as Thorpe recently signed a contract in New York to play with the Giants this coming season.

AMES MOURNS WATSON

Going of Veteran Trainer to Iowa City Cause of Regret.

WONDER UPON THE TRACK

Able to Develop Raw Material in Short Time with Wonderful Success—His Successor Not Yet Named.

Clyde Elliott Thinks Minnesota Philosophy All Wrong

(Continued from Page One.)

Defend the coach, that is right; no one is attacking his ability; the attack is being made on the men who let him go ahead, struggling to become the master of men who are given every advantage for getting winning teams, every advantage that they need.

Many of the better coached eleven give their supporters a sense of confidence; let them feel that a certain number of games are going to be won; make them know that victory is more certain than defeat; not so with the Cornhuskers. In minor struggles the Nebraska always have been looked upon as certain winners, but never in any of the major struggles.

Look back in 1908, when the Cornhuskers, after licking Iowa and Ames, dropped a game to Kansas. Go back to 1911; the Ames game looked easy, it was a terror and the Cornhuskers drew only a tie. Back to last fall; Missouri was doped "easy," and it went to the last two minutes before taking defeat. Again, look at the Kansas and Oklahoma games, and consider the material the Cornhuskers had.

It was not the players who were to blame, it was the system that did not bring out of them all that should have come.

Not Properly Trained. They had not been properly trained; they were not learned enough in many points of the game. Stehm, alone, could not teach them all they should have learned. He needed help, and he did not have it. It is but reasonable to state that under the same conditions next fall, or any other season, the Cornhuskers will do no better. Stehm is a young man yet, below 30; he not only needs assistant coaches, but he also needs advisers, men who have played football and who know the game thoroughly. He must have the suggestions of men who have been in the game and have met emergencies that he will be forced to meet from time to time.

Coach Stehm, still young in coaching, is sensitive to comment made about his teams; he should pay no attention to what newspapers say about him or his eleven. He is at the head of Nebraska athletics to get good results. He should go ahead and at his task he should have assistants and advisers and then he should go at his task and try to please the students and the men who hire him, and not the men who handle the stylus.

Wrestling Unfits a Man for Future Pugilistic Work

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—Charley Cutler, manager of Jess Willard and a former wrestler and boxer of ability, states that a successful wrestler can never succeed in the ring. This expression of opinion was brought out as the result of the announcement that Jesse Westergard had decided to try his luck as a white hope in pugilism. Cutler said: "The whole question turns on the fact that wrestling brings into play an altogether different set of muscles from that utilized in the giving and taking of punches.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN THINKS FARMING FINE OCCUPATION

BOSTON, Feb. 8.—John L. Sullivan says that farming is real fun and that he wouldn't exchange it for any other line of business, not even moonlighting, which he does just for variety.

McNulty Recovers.

Empire Jack McNulty of St. Louis, who was reported as dying of lockjaw as the result of running a nail in his foot, is up and about as good as ever and still hoping he will land a place on the Pacific Coast league staff.

Not Money Enough.

The state Board of Education would not raise Watson's salary, which is considerably above \$2,000. His resignation is effective August 31, when he goes to the University of Iowa to be trainer and coach of track, at a noticeable increase in salary.

Who will be Watson's successor is not intimated, and very likely it is a matter that will not be settled for several months. The settlement is strongly in favor of seeing the promotion of Clyde Williams, foot ball coach, to the general directorship of athletics in the new physical education department, which was created by the board of deans with the completion of the new gymnasium. No appointment the state board could make would half way meet the wishes of the students as would the promotion of Williams.

A week ago Coach Watson issued the first track call. Fifty men, the largest that ever reported for track, came out. There is a lot of material. Track schedule follows: Nebraska dual April 28, Drake dual May 2, Iowa dual May 10. Then Missouri Valley meet at St. Louis some time early in June.

Base Ball Man in Senate.

Judge William M. Kavanaugh, president of the Southern league, who has been elected to the United States senate from Arkansas, will continue to hold his office in the Southern league. He is already filling posts of importance in a dozen big enterprises and another office more or less will not be allowed to interfere with his base ball duties.

Armour Likes Women.

William R. Armour does not appear to object to women in base ball. After serving a term with Mrs. Britten he connects himself with the Milwaukee club, owned by Mrs. Havenor.

Members of Winter Ball League Try to Start Young Debate

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—The members of the winter league have made one last and astonishing effort to open a debate before the season really commences and all hope dreams are relegated to the past. One of the prominent supporters of the league, by reason of a guilty conscience or too much Welsh rarebit, was unable to fall asleep in his usual prompt manner the other night, and, his thoughts reverting to his favorite topic, something impelled him to try to pick out a team made up of players whose names all began with the same letter. He was successful and the next time he met the other rabid rooters at the usual place he told them what he had done.

Then, proving that two heads are better than one, a second brain conceived the brilliant idea of forming an eight-club league from the alphabet. After much discussion and poring over record books it was decided by the majority that the eight strongest base ball letters in the alphabet were B, C, D, H, L, M, S and W. For instance, the B team selected was: Bradley first; Bush, second; Barry, short; Baker, third; Bender, left; Bates, center; Birmingham, right; Brennan, catcher and Benton, Bender, Bedient and Bunting, pitchers. Byrne and Burns were selected as substitutes for this team.

Taking the positions in the same order the other teams were as follows: The C's—Chase, Collins, Cuthaw, Cree, Clarke, Cobb, Crawford, Cady, Coomb, Cheney, Crandall and Caldwell; subs, Devlin and Derrick.

The H's—Hobbitzel, Huggins, Hauser, Herzog, Hummel, Hoffman, Hartzog, Henry, Hendrix, Harmon, Hall and Hamilton; sub Houser and Hyatt.

The L's—Luders, Lajole, Loudon, Lohert, Lewis, Lord, Leach, Lapp, Lavender, Lake, Lange and Letfield. The S's, Laporte and Livingston.

The M's—Merkle, McInnis, McBride, Mawrey, Marsans, Murray, Mitchell, Meyers, Mathewson, Marquard, Moore and McConnell. The subs, Miller and Magee.

The W's—Witte, Heine Wagner, Honus Wagner, Weaver, Williams, Wheat, Hout, Wilson, Walsh, Wood, White and Wharton. Subs, Wingo and Wickens.

Of course, the managers would be Brennan, Chance, Doolin, Huggins, Lajola, McGraw and Honus Wagner. Some people might tell you that Witte could not play first base, Bush second, Cuthaw short or Weaver third, but as a matter of fact, these men can make a good deal better than an average showing at these positions.

Of course, after the teams were selected there was a hot discussion as to which would win the alphabetical and mythical pennant. This dispute is still going on, and it seems improbable that any conclusion will be reached which will satisfy every one concerned before the real teams start south and the rooters get some actual base ball news.

Against Nicknames.

Manager Chance objects to the various nicknames applied to the New York Americans and has suggested to President Farrell that writers be asked to call the team just the "New Yorks."

MAY CHANGE RULES ON BALLS

Evers Will Introduce Amendment Reducing Limit to Three. TO STOP STEALING SIGNS

Some of the Best Known Club Owners Are Anxious to Stop Practice of "Stealing Signs" Among Players.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—When the joint rules committee, representing the major leagues meets this month, two radical changes in the code will be suggested for consideration. John J. Evers, manager of the Chicago Cubs, believes for various reasons that the number of called balls should be reduced from four to three, and that men on second and third bases should move up when a pass is purposely handed to a heavy batsman. Other base ball men advocate a measure expected to do away with the practice of "stealing signs." The Cubs' enterprising manager explains the idea in this way:

"When a pitcher intentionally gives a base on balls to a heavy hitter to get a weaker one to the plate, base ball crowds usually cry out in protest. It is often the case that players will reach third and second bases with a strong batsman coming up. The latter is passed purposely, and the next man, a comparatively poor hitter, is disposed of easily.

"Under the rule I intend to submit to the joint committee this practice should be abolished. If the pitcher walked a big hitter with a man on third the latter would be permitted to score a run, while a man on second would go to third. It is my idea that a pitcher should be compelled to put the ball over the plate under these conditions, if only to improve the batting and run making.

"The foul strike rule has increased the effectiveness of the pitchers to an alarming degree so that, in my opinion, they should not be allowed to tighten their grip on the batsman. That is why I will suggest that the number of called balls be reduced from four to three. Then it would be impossible for a pitcher to waste balls to handicap the chances of base runners."

Several of the men who discussed Evers' suggestions seemed to think that the three ball idea might find favor, as it would tend to lessen the effectiveness of the boxmen, but they also argued that if the "intention" of a pitcher in giving a pass was left to the judgment of an umpire wrangling on the ball field would be greatly increased.

The "stealing of signs" has come to be an evil which some of the best known club owners are anxious to squelch. The term "stealing the signs" doesn't always mean that the coaches on the lines detect the signals in the catcher's mitts for the guidance of the men in the box. It is often the case that keen observers among the players observe certain peculiarities in the delivery used by a pitcher which tips off the kind of ball to look for at the plate. The Athletics perfected this method of "stealing the signals" some time ago, the belief being that Chief Bender was a wizard in this respect when stationed on the third base coaching line.

But the magnates who think that the catcher's signs are easily read by the coaches at first and third bases have a remedy in the shape of a rule that will move the coaching lines back at least six feet further away from the base paths, so that it will be physically impossible to get in a line of vision with the interior of the backstop's glove. It was made a serious offense two years ago to rig up a signal tipping bureau behind the outfield fence from which, with the aid of powerful glasses, a man could see the catcher's signs and then "telegraph" them to the batsman. In the American league it is understood that expulsion must be the fate of a manager under whose auspices a tipping bureau is conducted, whether he admits that he knows of it or not.

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Advertisement for Sunny Brook Whiskey. Features a bottle of whiskey and text: 'SUNNY BROOK The PURE FOOD Whiskey "The Inspector Is Back Of Every Bottle" A PURE HEALTHFUL TONIC The Grotte Brothers Company Wholesale Distributors 1206 Farnam St., OMAHA, NEB.'