

FREDDIE WELSH GOING BACK

While a Champion, His Star is Dimming and All Recent Matches Have Been Poor.

FIGHTS NO-DECISION BOUTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Freddie Welsh, lightweight champion of the world, is the anomaly of the modern day prize ring. Here we have an undisputed titleholder whose performance since he succeeded to the lightweight championship have been mediocre. Yet his exhibitions before he attained the 135-pound pre-eminence were of the superlative order, seen good enough for a champion.

Which prompts the question, has Welsh seen his best days in the ring? One is inclined to answer in the affirmative after witnessing Freddie in his recent bouts. And the strengthening of Welsh's own words, uttered the other day, when he said he expects to retire from the ring within two years.

If Welsh is really the author of these words, they are a frank admission that the lightweight champion does not think he is capable of defending his title with that vigor which he showed in his early, crowned pugilistic life fighting only two years ago; planning only such a short time in which to capitalize his championship? It has never been done before and Freddie Welsh is not an inventive genius to start this innovation unless he has firm in his conviction that he cannot endure a champion for longer than the period he has stated.

Failed in Every Bout. It is worthy of note that Welsh has not put up one truly good battle since he came into possession of the championship. It is nothing extraordinary, yet he managed to shear Ritchie of his title. It was Ritchie's poor fighting, rather than Welsh's superior boxing ability that cost the American the championship.

Let us review some of Welsh's bouts, since that fateful day in July of last year. Freddie's first bout as a champion occurred against Matt Baldwin. Poor old Matt Baldwin, a marvel in his day, was able to hold Welsh on even terms for most of the twenty rounds, and lost the decision only when Freddie came through with two good last rounds.

A few weeks later Jimmy Duffy clearly outpointed Welsh in a ten-round bout, but as the referee was not empowered to render a decision, Freddie clung to his title. Some little time after that Charley White hooked up with the Briton for ten rounds in Milwaukee, and a majority of the so-called experts said that White was undisputedly the victor.

Then Welsh came to the metropolis and permitted himself to be shown up by Young Shugrue, who lacks Welsh's experience by something like ten years. The other day Willie Beecher, untrained, non-fat, gipsy on a bit, a few hours ago in place of Charley White, held Welsh even for the best. Then Beecher "blow" in the last few rounds, but it was Welsh's demagogic fighting that made Welsh to explode, rather than Beecher's poor condition that was responsible for his state bordering on collapse.

Shows None of Old Form. In several other bouts since he became champion, Welsh has failed to show his old brand of fighting. He has shown his ultra-clever boxing only sporadically. Most of the time he has spent in keeping his opponent from piling up too much of a lead.

For a time it appeared as if Welsh would be nicknamed "The outpointed Champion," for no less than three adversaries in a row gained the popular decision over him.

Now to harken back to go olden days, when Welsh was not a champion, yet was fighting like one. It was only one of the Welsh fights that the then great Packer McFarland two terrific bouts. The first, a ten-round affair in Milwaukee, was awarded to Packer, but the second, fought at Vernon, Cal., resulted in a draw after twenty-five brilliant rounds. That same year Welsh gained a fifteen-round decision over Abe Attell, then featherweight champion. The bout, however, was fought at catchweights, with no title in the stake.

In 1905 Welsh trounced Johnny Sammers, who was at the zenith of his power at the time. The year following the present lightweight bout fought Packer McFarland another hard draw, which went twenty rounds, before a London club. Several months later Welsh won over Jim Driscoll on a foul in nine rounds. At the time Driscoll was considered the greatest boxer in his class.

Recently Best Strife. It is well to recall that Welsh first confronted Ritchie in the ring. Welsh substituted for Ad Wolcott, then the champion, and Welsh had all he could do to outbox the unknown Ritchie. Just previous to the meeting, Welsh gained a twenty-round decision over Matt Baldwin, who was then fighting in his best form.

Just a year after the Ritchie affair, in 1912, Welsh regained what Welsh of the lightweight championship of England. Freddie spent the following ten months in outpointing inferior fighters; and then he bumped into Millburn Taylor. The exact date was October 25, 1912, a date Welsh will long remember. The fight ended in a technical in the sixth round, with Taylor claiming a knockout, and Welsh's manager producing a counter claim that Freddie was fouled.

It got into the record books as a victory on-foul for Welsh. Strange as it may seem, Welsh seemed to have lost all his effectiveness in that fight, for since that day he has not put up one really good fight, a battle up to his old standard. Yet in the champion of the world, even after virtually admitting that as champion he will not see much longer.

Four Orleans, the new boxing scene, will be the scene of an interesting twenty-round bout between lightweights in New York. Johnny Dundee, the New York "umping Jack," and Joe Mandot, the New Orleans "baker boy," are involved, and the winner has been promised a match with Champion Welsh. To Dundee's match, was originally scheduled between Mandot and Ad Wolcott, but the same unexplained reason Wolcott has been withdrawn and Dundee substituted.

Glavenek to Spokane. If Nick Williams succeeds in landing the Spokane management next year, his Glasgow, formerly of Cleveland and New Orleans, like all others in an Idaho costume. Glavenek is a California pugilist and is said to have more smolke than a Philadelphia journey. At New Orleans last year his wildness kept him in his own way. Glavenek says he has experience that fight.

Blanchard to East. Blanche Clark, champion of the new belt Lake City, who is now in an eastern tour after playing well, will visit Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington and New York to talk with major league managers. Clark is a genuine sportsman and his manager, who has been to all major league cities, has been successful.

Champion to East. The Federal league intends to have the best of the best in the world. Its schedule until the National and American leagues have made public their list of players. It is possible that the Federal will endeavor to avoid conflicts.

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MAJOR CLUBS CUT EXPENSES

All Teams Except Boston Braves Will Operate This Year with Trimmed Payrolls.

SURPLUS PLAYERS RELEASED

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—The magnates of the two Organized major leagues have wielded the axe to such an extent that they have whittled a total of over \$100,000 from the 1914 payrolls. And the axe swinging hasn't ceased.

The magnates must retrench. They lost money in 1914, and they don't want to duplicate it in 1915. There was not one way open—the trimming down of the payrolls. The Boston Braves alone will operate with an increased salary list.

The Athletics payroll in 1915 will be smaller, proportionately, than any other club in either the American or National league. The Athletics have turned loose Eddie Plank, Jack Coombs, Chief Bender and Eddie Collins. Collins, it was reported, got \$5,000, and Bender and Plank averaged no less than \$6,000 each. Coombs was drawing down something like \$4,000, if not more.

The release and sale of that quartet has reduced the Athletics' payroll by \$25,000. Other releases or sales of high-salaried Athletic stars may be made before the season opens.

Pay Not Half of Salary. Of course, the Athletics have gathered in LaLoe and his \$9,000 contract, but the story is that Connie Mack and his crowd will pay only half of the great Frenchman's salary. The other half will be paid by LaLoe's former boss—Charles Rogers.

The Cleveland Naps hope to operate with a payroll that will be about \$20,000 less than it was in 1914. The first move was the sale of LaLoe. Some of the other Nap players, who were charged with attempting to disrupt the team in 1914, are slated to go. Most of them are high-priced players. Furthermore, the Naps intend to operate during the 1915 season with the minimum number of men—a figure around twenty-one or twenty-two. In other years the Naps carried about thirty men.

Steve Yerkes, a high-priced asset who used to play second base for Red Sox, has gone. "Fleets" Wagner, the shortstop, with his \$25,000 salary, is slated for the discard. The Red Sox owners plan to cut at least two other high-priced veterans. Last year the Red Sox carried about thirty men. This season they will operate with less than twenty-five.

The Phillies will affect a big saving in 1915. Charles Doolin, one-time manager, who shook down the Phillies for \$5,000, has gone. Hans Lobert, whose salary was around \$5,000, and Sherwood Magee, drawing about the same amount, have fitted out. Patcher Marshall, with his \$3,000 salary in the Phillies' lineup. Several youngsters, whose salaries totalled around \$5,000 have gone.

Phillies Save Money. The Phillies, through the sale or release of their 1914 stars and youngsters, will affect a gross saving of \$20,000. Through trades they have acquired Milton Stock, a catcher named Adams, pitcher, and a catcher named Adams. The total salaries for these men will not go over \$10,000, make the net saving about \$10,000.

The Braves in the only team in either league that will operate in 1915 on a salary schedule higher than that of 1914. The Boston players deserved a boost for their 1914 showing—and Owner Griffith gave it to them. Salary boosts will add about \$20,000 to the payroll.

The Chicago White Sox expect to operate at a cost of about \$10,000 less than they did in 1914. "Kid" Gleason, coach of the club, "Finn" Rode, has gone back to the minors and Berger, Slight and Blackburn, have been let out. The White Sox payroll slumps about \$10,000 thereby.

The Brooklyn Dodgers released Ed Leubach, who got about \$5,000 during 1914. The Dodgers are figuring on letting two or three other veterans loose, in addition to a bunch of youngsters. The total Dodgers' saving ought to be around \$10,000.

Out Tiger List. The Detroit Tigers will not let any of their high-priced men go, but they will operate with a few men as possible. Against an average between twenty-five and thirty men last year, the Tigers will operate in 1915 with about twenty-two. That means a saving of from \$7,000 to \$10,000.

The St. Louis plan is not one or two of the leading stars, but they will let a lot of their surplus youngsters. Kopsch and his high salary having gone out to the Fed. The Pirates, all in all, ought to save about \$15,000 at the least.

Lee Magee, with a salary of \$7,200; Ivy Wingo, drawing about \$4,000, and "Pop" Ferritt, who got about \$4,000, have departed from the Cardinals. That means a saving of \$15,200. Of course, several of the Cardinals will get boosts in pay because of their great work in 1914, but the boosts won't average more than \$1,000 each. Therefore, the net saving of the Cardinals will be around \$10,000.

Giants Save a Little. The Giants payroll will be less than it was in 1914. The Giants acquired Lobert, who was getting about \$5,000. They got rid of Demaree, Stock and Adams, whose total contracts called for about \$10,000. That means a net saving of \$5,000. If Starwood doesn't come back, it means a saving of about \$7,000 more.

The Senators turned "Germany" Rehder adrift. That saves about \$5,000. The Cincinnati Reds will reduce their payroll by about \$5,000 through sales, trades, releases and dismissals, even though they have acquired Charlie Doolin and his \$5,000 salary, and Ivy Wingo, with a salary of about \$5,000.

The Cubs are planning to turn loose a half dozen veterans and at least nine youngsters. They expect to operate with twenty-one men during 1915. If they do, that means a saving of at least \$15,000.

The few changes that will be made in the salary schedule of the Browns will be toward reductions.

The Yankees will operate at a lower cost than in 1914 because they won't have Frank Chance and his \$10,000 salary; but some of the Yankee players have been given boosts in their 1914 salaries, but this will be offset by the selling off of at least six or seven surplus players.

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Quartet Whose Release Saves the Athletics \$25,000



(From left to right) Eddie Plank, Jack Coombs and Eddie Collins, and (below) "Chief" Bender. The Braves of Boston are the only team in either of the two major leagues which will start the 1915 season with an increased salary list. Retrenchment is the order of the day. The most aggressive economy exponents are the erstwhile champion Philadelphia Athletics. They began by getting rid of \$25,000 worth of talent in the persons of Plank, Coombs, Bender and Collins. Other releases may follow.

WILL BULK BEAT J. JOHNSON?

Yes, Declare Willard Men, Who Declare Jack's Defense is Useless Before Weight.

NOT GOOD AT BODY MIXING

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Measuring a fighter's chances for success by a comparison of pounds and ounces is not a very satisfactory proceeding as a general thing, especially when the men being weighed are the heavyweight class. But that is what Jess Willard's backers are doing.

"Willard now weighs 235 pounds and plans to get down to 220 before stepping into the ring with Johnson," reads a dispatch from the big white hope's training quarters. It seems that, besides growing another inch taller Willard has packed on a lot of weight since he last stalked across the canvas. As his trainer, it strikes me, is in choosing man without giving up their mental ability. They look for a star who played last season or fifteen years ago, perhaps, and didn't just because he could get over the ground or could throw all his opponents out of the way, he ought to be a good coach. A base ball manager and a foot ball coach have got to know the game from top to bottom and must have the knack of imparting that knowledge to others, and, in the bargain, must understand a whole lot about human nature. And he has got to have a sort of personality that will convince the boys that he knows what he is doing and talking about. You can't get away from that. That is the type I hear, and if that is so, he certainly ought to make things go at Princeton. The college boys, however, have got to let him alone. There's a big trouble with lots of these foot ball systems. The boys never give a coach a show to make good. If he can produce a winning team he is all right; if not, he's down and out. A coach, if he is the right sort, should get a good lengthy contract with the college he is going to coach. He will have to make good. If he sticks to his job Princeton ought to get out of its bad rut. That is, it is the type they say he is."

More than likely the real reason is that Jennings, and Johnson hates to be hit. Body fighting is simply not his style, and it will be surprising to see him change his methods at this late date.

Willard's great height may render the Johnson uppercut less harmful; it is another point worth considering. This advantage might be offset by the fact that his long drawn-out form leaves a larger target for body blows. But Johnson is not a "body fighter"; he seldom lands on a point below the chin. It is said that this is because he fears to give the referee an excuse to call a foul on him. However, this is rather an unsatisfactory and far-fetched explanation.

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Hugh Jennings Says that New Princeton Coach Has the Kick

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Hugh Jennings on John Willard, the new Princeton coach, and foot ball coaching in general.

"I've never met Willard, but I have heard a lot about him, and I guess he has got the right sort of stuff. I heard at first that Willard had never played foot ball, but I understand that he has; that is, he has played in 'prep' school and on scrub teams at college. Foot ball and base ball are alike in some ways. I don't think a man could teach foot ball very well if he had never played the game at all, but I doubt if it is necessary for him to have played on a college varsity team. If he has the right kind of brains in his head and is a good leader, he ought to do well. Where a lot of these colleges make a mistake, it strikes me, is in choosing man without giving up their mental ability. They look for a star who played last season or fifteen years ago, perhaps, and didn't just because he could get over the ground or could throw all his opponents out of the way, he ought to be a good coach. A base ball manager and a foot ball coach have got to know the game from top to bottom and must have the knack of imparting that knowledge to others, and, in the bargain, must understand a whole lot about human nature. And he has got to have a sort of personality that will convince the boys that he knows what he is doing and talking about. You can't get away from that. That is the type I hear, and if that is so, he certainly ought to make things go at Princeton. The college boys, however, have got to let him alone. There's a big trouble with lots of these foot ball systems. The boys never give a coach a show to make good. If he can produce a winning team he is all right; if not, he's down and out. A coach, if he is the right sort, should get a good lengthy contract with the college he is going to coach. He will have to make good. If he sticks to his job Princeton ought to get out of its bad rut. That is, it is the type they say he is."

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WILLARD IS ALL CONFIDENCE

Says He Will Transfer Jack Johnson's Golden Smile to One of Ashen Gray Hue.

TO LICK SHINE IS HIS AMBITION

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 12.—"I have all the confidence in the world that I can beat that shine. I hope Jack Johnson is as good as he was when he whipped Jeffries at Reno, or when he saw the best day of his life. I can beat him and could have beaten him the best day he ever saw," says Jess Willard with a confident smile. "He only has seven or twelve knockouts to his credit, while I have been knocking them out as fast as I meet them. He has never done anything that would make me believe that he is a wonderful man and I am not the least flattered by his theatrics."

"I want into the fight game solely for the purpose to whip Jack Johnson, and I am going to do it. Just write that down in black type. Every fight I have had the fans told me I would get trimmed, but I have never been knocked out, never had my nose blooded nor my eye blacked, and they have been telling me that Johnson would lick me. I know better. I am going to win this fight and return the title to the white division where it belongs."

When Willard, the big Kansan and former cowboy, steps into the ring with Johnson on March 6 at the Juarez race track, he will have realized his ambition as a fighter and fulfill the promise he made to his former cowboy associates when he first took up boxing as a profession—on day to battle with the negro for the world's title.

Has Score of Knockouts. Willard claims that he has only been boxing about thirty-four months and has at least twenty-four knockouts to his credit. His victories have not been over men of the type of Jack Johnson, and his coming battle with the black wonder will prove whether he is a real high class fighter or just an ordinary second-rater. The people of El Paso are boosting for Willard. It is perhaps due to the fact that the negro is not popular down here, but wherever the fight fans meet "one knock" always has a rooting for Johnson.

There has been no betting so far on the fight. The sports here are waiting patiently to see both men train before placing their money. Willard since his arrival has created many new friends, and the way these people size up the situation is that if Willard's heart is in the right place he has an exceptionally good chance to beat the big knock.

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The Hypodermic Needle

By F. S. HUSTON

THE MODERN CHAMPION.

They say his name is Freddie Welsh. His name is all carved in He looks as if a ton of bricks Had landed on his chin. He's finished up a battle. And as he spoke, "Oh, my poor head, And stepping from the bloody ring. He was an awful sight. But 'twas a no-decision bout. One of those modern feuds. And as he spoke, "Oh, my poor head, 'But oh, you gate receipts."

THE FARTHER THE BETTER. Nate Lewis, Chicago fight manager, will take fifteen fighters to Cuba. If Nate wants to take a hit with us he should take 'em to Cape Town. Regarding these fight bills coming up before various state legislatures, we believe a more fitting term would be fight Williams instead of fight bill.

The twilight sleep may be the greatest of modern scientific discoveries, but we won't believe it until it is demonstrated effective with these base ball magnates.

How Did He Escape? Harry Sinclair, latest Federal league angel, is said to have made \$10,000,000 in the oil business. John D., John D., where art thou?

A month is passed upon its way, And despite the flowing year, Our wondrous Walter Johnson, Has failed to j ump a sin.

We are against the agitation in Nebraska to stop the sale of narcotic drugs. For without them what would these Lincoln sport writers do?

Far be it from us to knock, but the Feds have lost their kick. Sinclair is only worth \$10,000,000.

If Freddie Welsh isn't careful he will get a match with somebody he can lick one of these days.

Not bringing up the lurid past, but for some reason or other the same fragrant scent is attached to the Willard-Johnson affair as to the Gotch-Hackenschmidt thing a few years ago.

You say for black Jack Johnson The killing will be fair, But Jack may lose at Jones By failing to get there.

We wish to