

JUDGMENTS

FOR the first time in two decades America has a man who can throw any other man in the world—the champion wrestler. For the first time since the days of the invincible Muldoon, a native son of the United States has arisen and beaten the best man the old world had to offer.

A call for the preliminaries to the formation of the American team for the London Olympics is out. Tryouts will be held in different sections of the country during the next two months.

Omaha is sadly deficient in one respect. Not enough attention is given to purely amateur sports here.

Much regret is felt that the base ball season is to open with no serious effort to do away with the deadly spikes on the player's shoes.

Bill Armour notes the passing of the rowdy rouser as well as the rowdy player.

Fapa Hill's boys are rounding in good form for the season's start.

When one pauses to think of M. Thomas Burns on the Atlantic and the American fleet on the Pacific one cannot be blamed for feeling proud of one's oceans.

It was Yankee pluck against imported brown at Chicago, and the result surprised only the wise ones who bet their money on the browns.

Gotch didn't keep the toe hold on Hack, but he certainly clinched one on those expert, name-strapping prophets that hold them for awhile.

Denver is to have a "boosters' club." Hope it will outnumber the knockers who have sat on the game so long over there.

Hackenschmidt became the strongest man in the world by practicing on lifting heavy weights. He had the wrong hunch.

Being a prophet is a hazardous undertaking with Cuba in the base ball world and Gotch on the mat, eh Denver?

Just to allay all anxiety, we may note that Frank Owen is pitching for Mr. Coniskey's nine this year.

New York having won both pennants, it will scarcely pay Chicago to bother about Jack Pfeister.

Just think of the good American dollars that will not go to London. That helps some, too.

Hack's yellow streak must be as big as the rest of his anatomy.

Does Tom Jenkins still think he would like to wrestle Gotch?

Gotch is now entitled to a romp in the lagoon patch.

Fazner Burns is something of a prophet, too.

BASE BALL CROWDS QUIETER

And the Players Must Set the Example, Says an Owner.

ARMOUR ON PASSING OF ROWDYISM

Explains How Cleveland Was Reform—Boston, He Thinks, is the Fairest—Too Fair, Players Say.

Bill Armour, once the manager of the Cleveland ball club, later in charge of the Detroit club, and now manager and part owner of the Toledo club, recently philosophized a bit about the state of the national game.

"The days of rowdiness on the ball field, as well as among spectators at ball games, are about over, I think," he said.

"There was a time, and not so long ago either, as seasoned fans will remember, when the rowdiness of the rooters in some of the major league cities made it positively uncomfortable for decent, well behaved fans to attend the games.

"The attendance of women at the games fell away almost to nothing. Well behaved Cleveland fans who liked to see a game of ball played on its merits, without any rag chewing on the lot or ruffianism on the part of the spectators, gave the Cleveland ball park the go by.

Timely Tips for Automobilists

Charlotte, N. C. has 125 cars. The Cleveland chauffeurs' club now has nearly 150 members.

There are about 60 automobiles in Mexico, the majority of them of European make.

Seventeen entries have been received for the tour de France event for light cars and motorcycles.

Although only recently formed, the Mount Vernon (N. Y.) club already is arranging a hill-climbing contest.

The King of Saxony has ordered a five-acre long-distance machine storage outfit from an Indiana concern.

Two carloads of Ramblers and one of Mitchell runabouts were received at the Rambler saleroom this week.

The Automobile Club of California already is planning for a four-day event in September, covering Labor day.

The Delaware Automobile association has decided to undertake the task of marking the roads throughout the state.

More than 125 sign posts have been erected in Hamilton county, Ohio, by the Cincinnati Automobile club, which now has 250 members.

A club has been formed at Little Rock, Ark., and a state organization allied with the American Automobile association is under way.

Moving pictures of auto races and aeronautical achievements are being utilized by several clubs to add zest to their smokers and banquets.

A campaign is on to secure good roads leading into Kalamazoo, Mich., backed by prominent motorists of that city and of Western Michigan.

Maps showing ninety-eight routes are included in a handbook recently issued by the state committee of the Minnesota State automobile association.

A feature of the annual Cording show at London was a section devoted to a display of recently invented appliances to facilitate motoring.

William K. Vanderbilt has given assurance that he has no intention of withdrawing as a director of the American Automobile association.

In accordance with the plan it has followed for the last two years, the Albany (N. Y.) club will hold a five-day run this summer, beginning June 20.

Mr. J. Wort of the firm of Wort Bros. of Pleasanton, Neb., purchased a two-cylinder Rambler touring car in Omaha and drove it home to his home.

The show which will be held at Memphis, Tenn., April 18 to 23, the local dealers here are promoting it as the first ever held in any of the southern states.

The fair mindedness of Boston motorists has been well shown by their support of the bill providing for the taxation of automobiles and motor-driven carry lights at night.

Spartanburg claims to have more saved cars than all the other cities of South Carolina combined, obtained largely through the employment of convict labor.

There is every indication that the bill providing for the taxation of automobiles on a sliding scale will receive favorable consideration by the Massachusetts legislature.

"A state is not civilized until it has established a system of good roads," was the recent declaration of State Senator F. W. Ward of Ohio, an ardent good roads legislator.

With true patriotism San Francisco motorists have placed 10 automobiles at the disposal of Admiral Evans and the officers and men of his fleet during their stay in that city.

The Australian Diet is considering a proposition to tax automobiles \$30 a year and motorcycles from \$10 to \$25 as a compensation for the damage said to be done to highways.

Bran thrown into a leaky radiator will find the hole, no matter how small, and plug it until a more permanent repair can be made. It also is less liable to pack a pump than sawdust.

players in this matter. The fans began to buck up and behave just as soon as they saw that the players were going to be on their good behavior.

Helped in Pittsburg.

"Pittsburg adopted this system too. Everybody knows what a tough gang of baseball fans Pittsburg used to have, and I think it because the Pittsburg players, particularly in their relationship to the New York club of the National League—which wasn't blameless itself, remember—conducted themselves like hoodlums on the field, and often enough off the field.

"A certain amount of ruffianism still lingers with the Chicago fans, but the campaign against the bully boys who start something at a good many of the games out that way has been a pretty warm one of late, and it's a pretty good gamble that the up to date, modern spirit of good behavior and fairness will take hold of its Chicago crowds during the coming season.

Bottle Throwers in Chicago.

"The Chicago and St. Louis fans used to be the great bottle tossers. In Chicago particularly, where bottled beer has always been sold to patrons of the game in stands and bleachers, this practice prevailed among the toughs who were seized by the irresistible impulse to damage up somebody in the ball yard who displeased them.

"But the Chicago fans showed them how they had learned to restrain themselves. All at the same instant, it seemed to me, they just tossed their bottles out on to the sandy Chicago lot, without trying to land on the umpire. The sound of several thousand beer bottles thudding on the sod at practically the same instant was as curious a thing to listen to as it was, in its way, entertaining to watch.

"As to the comparative fairness of the fans, I think Boston is entitled to stand at the top of the list in this respect. In fact, the Boston players of both major league clubs declare that the Boston fans are inclined to carry their sense of utter fairness to an extreme.

Example of the Boston Spirit.

"A few years ago, when I was managing the Detroit team, I saw a remarkable demonstration of this fact. The game was played on the afternoon of Bunker Hill day, a holiday in Boston, and there was an immense crowd at the game.

and that, too, was before the American league team had hit the toboggan. But if they were surprised the Boston fans certainly were not sore. That game on the afternoon of Bunker Hill day and in the fourth and last of the series and in the ninth inning the score was a tie at 5 to 5.

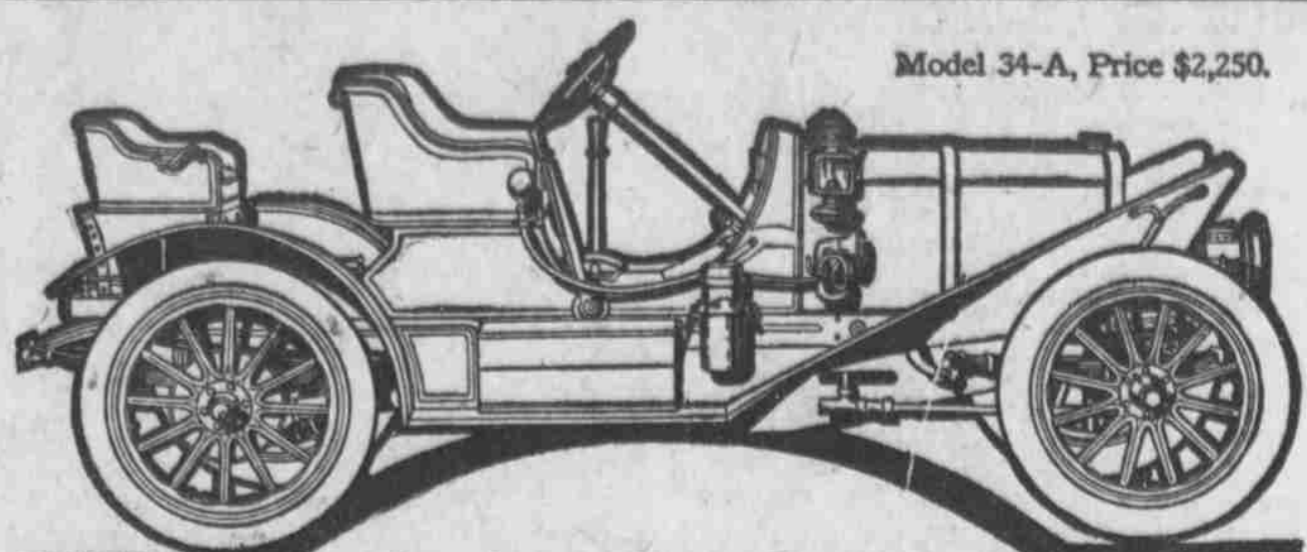
"Now, here was a swell chance for the Boston fans attending the game to stand pat and whoop with delight over the umpire's decision. As I say, the Boston club had lost three straight games, and there were tied in the ninth for the fourth game, with a bumper holiday crowd watching the contest.

"The spunky Silk stood pat, of course, and fired me a number of my players from the lot when we kicked. The Boston club went ahead and copped the game, 5 to 5, before the close of the inning, and yet the crowd of fair-minded Boston fans were so sore over the way the good had been handed to the Detroit club by that scooping-up decision that they surrounded Silk menacingly at the close of the game, and Silk wasn't displeased when a dozen or so burly cops surrounded him and gave him escort from the lot.

"Unfortunately, there isn't any practicable way to deal with some types of base ball rooters. There are some rooters at nearly every ball game who, while not of the rowdy type, are utter nuisances because of the complete pointlessness and flatness of their would-be wit. When a base ball rooter is really funny he contributes to the entertainment of the crowd.

"But the mere imitators of the really clever rooters, especially those who take seats in the main stand apparently for the express purpose of showing off their wholly imaginary brightness, are capable of arousing a lot of suffering folks to deep and sometimes aggressive resentment."

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